

People of God

A tapestry of
new hymns, prayers,
reflections, and scripture
for
public worship and
personal devotions

from the series:
**Fresh Views of
Timeless Truths**

Ken Bible

LNW *hymns*.COM

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The Big Picture: Chosen

Father, the People of God were born
in Your heart,
out of Your overflowing love,
out of Your deep desire to share Yourself with us.

You are a holy people to the Lord your God; the Lord your God has chosen you to be a people for His own possession out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth. The Lord did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any of the peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples, but because the Lord loved you. (Deuteronomy 7:6-8, NASB)

“If you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be My own possession among all the peoples, for all the earth is Mine; and you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.” (Exodus 19:5-6, NASB)

[Christ Jesus] gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds. (Titus 2:14, NASB)

Chosen

"You did not choose Me but I chose you, and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit." (John 15:16, NASB)

God chose us as He chose Israel in the Old Testament.
Our coming to God, our relationship with Him, was entirely
His idea,
His choice,
His purpose,
His intention, and
His doing, out of
His love and by
His personal sacrifice.

Israel proved unworthy of His choice.
God's purpose for them, His destiny for them
was fulfilled only in Jesus Christ.

So it is with us:
our worthiness,
our destiny,
our chosen-ness
is in Jesus Christ alone.

Like Israel, we were chosen,
not for special privilege,
but for a special purpose.

We were chosen,
not *instead* of unbelievers,
but on their behalf,
so that God might
reach them,
bless them, and
draw them to Himself.

We were chosen, not because He loved us more,
but because of His burning, tireless love for them.
He chose us to show them how much He loves them.

We were chosen to be
His personal possession,
His special treasure.
We were chosen to be uniquely, totally His.

We were chosen to be holy,
to be set apart completely to Him.
We were chosen for a life of obedience.
We were chosen for a life of self-sacrifice,
just as was our elder brother, Jesus Christ.
We were chosen to be God's children,
to live and love like our Father,
to bring Him glory and praise.
We were chosen to share the Father's
beautiful,
intimate,
seamless relationship with Jesus Christ,
now and forever.

Hymn recording: [Chosen in Jesus](#)

Chosen in Jesus

TUNE: Ride On, King Jesus

Deuteronomy 7:6-9; Isaiah 42:1; 43:1-4; 49:6; John 15:11;
Romans 8:14-17; 2 Corinthians 5:14-15; Ephesians 1:3-6;
2 Thessalonians 2:13-15; Titus 2:11-14; 1 Peter 2:9

♩ = 88

Refrain

C $\frac{G^7_{sus}}{D}$ C E FM7 $\frac{Em}{G}$ Am $\frac{Am}{G}$ C $\frac{C^6}{G}$ F $\frac{F}{G}$

Cho - sen in Je - sus! Cho - sen, we are set a - part,

C $\frac{G^7_{sus}}{D}$ E sus Em Am $\frac{CM^7}{G}$ F6 C $\frac{C}{G}$ Am7 G^7_{sus} G7 C 4th time: Fine

Chil - dren of the Fa - ther, The treas - ure of His lov - ing heart.

C $\frac{Em^7}{B}$ $\frac{Fadd^9}{A}$ C $\frac{C}{G}$ F $\frac{Dm^6}{F}$ $\frac{Cadd^9}{E}$ C Dm7 $\frac{F}{A}$ $\frac{C_{sus}}{G}$ $\frac{F}{G}$ $\frac{F}{D}$ $\frac{F}{G}$

1. By the Fa - ther's deep de - sire, We are cho - sen in Je - sus.
2. Driv - en by our Fa - ther's love, We are ser - vants of Je - sus.
3. Look - ing to our Fa - ther's hand, We are trust - ing like Je - sus.

C Dm7 $\frac{C}{E}$ Am F $\frac{C}{E}$ Am $\frac{Am}{G}$ FM7 $\frac{Fadd^9}{A}$ C $\frac{C}{G}$ Am7 G^7_{sus} G7 C D.C.

His through dark - ness, flood, and fire, We walk se - cure in Je - sus Christ.
Draw - ing need - y hearts a - bove, We live and die in Je - sus Christ.
Dy - ing at His love's com - mand, We share the joy of Je - sus Christ.

WORDS: Ken Bible
MUSIC: Spiritual and Ken Bible

RIDE ON 2
7.7.7.8.w.Ref.

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The Big Picture: Called Together

Father, as You called Abraham out of his father's homeland,
as You called Israel out of Egypt,
as You call each of Your children out of darkness into light,
You call us together
week by week.
You call us together
as the People of God.

*Come, let us worship and bow down,
Let us kneel before the Lord our Maker.
For He is our God,
And we are the people of His pasture and the sheep of His hand.
(Psalm 95:6-7, NASB)*

You Call, and We Come

Father, You have called, and
we come.

As we gather, You gather with us:

“Where two or three have gathered in My name, I am there in their midst.”
(Matthew 18:20, NASB)

When we gather,
You speak to us.

The same voice that spoke the universe out of nothing
speaks to us and
in us.

As You speak,
we listen and
respond
in silence and
in song,
in prayer and
in obedience.

Then You send us back out
in Your name and
in Your service,
still engulfed in Your mighty presence.

Thank You, Father!

Hymn recording: [Come, Children, Come](#)

Come, Children, Come

$\text{♩} = 60$

Em B⁷_{sus} Em Em D⁹ Dadd⁹ CM⁷ G/B

1. Come, chil - dren, come. I the Lord am call - ing.
 2. Pray, chil - dren, pray. I the Lord am list - 'ning.
 3. Go, chil - dren, go. I the Lord have sent you.

D A⁷_{sus} D D D/C Gadd⁹ G/B Am⁷ D

Gath - er to me. Lift your praise to - geth - er.
 Bring me your needs. Bow and lift each oth - er.
 Live in my love. Pour out my com - pas - sion.

Em B⁷_{sus} Em Em D⁹ Dadd⁹ CM⁷ G/B

O - pen your hearts. Hear my Spir - it speak - ing.
 O - pen your hearts. I will hear and an - swer.
 Rest in my strength. I am al - ways with you.

D D D/F# Em Em

Come, chil - dren, come.
 Pray, chil - dren, pray.
 Go, chil - dren, go.

WORDS: Ken Bible
 MUSIC: Traditional Folk Tune and Ken Bible

O SINNER MAN
 4.6.4.6.4.6.4

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The Big Picture: Called to Oneness

Father, You call us together,
not just to share the same space for a few hours a week,
but to share in You,
deeply,
constantly.
You want us to be one with You.
And as we are all one with You,
we are one with each other.

If there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any consolation of love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion, make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose.

Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.

Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men.

Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. (Philippians 2:1-8, NASB)

Give Me the Mind of Christ

Based on Philippians 2:1-8

Father, I treasure the word of Christ,
 constantly guiding and encouraging.
I treasure the comfort provided by Your love,
 ministered through Your children.
I treasure sharing in Your Holy Spirit,
 who draws all of us together into You.
I treasure Your mercy and Your compassion, which You pour out richly
 to us and through us.

Therefore, Father, flush out all my petty pride, and
 replace it with the sweet freedom of humility.
Free me from anxious self-seeking and
 turn my heart toward the rich blessings of unity.
Too long I have craved a glory that is meaningless and empty of all reality.
 Instead, fill my life with the pleasure of sharing Your love.

O Father, give me the mind of Christ!
Give me His Spirit, His heart, His joy!
He gave up far more than I have or am,
 and He chose the pleasure of pleasing You.
Even as He faced a brutal and humiliating death,
 His heart eagerly embraced You.

That is what I want, Father.
Give me His mind.
Grow in me the single-minded trust and wholehearted love
 of an obedient Son
 for His loving Father.
Unite us completely and forever in Jesus Christ!

Hymn recording: [Philippians 2:1-8](#)

Philippians 2:1-8

♩ = 66

G $\frac{G}{B}$ C A m^7 D 7 D $^7_{sus}$ D 7 G $\frac{G_{sus}}{D}$

1. Thank You for the truth of Christ Spo-ken thru His ser-vants here.
2. Cleanse our hearts and search our ways. Free us from our pet-ty pride.

G $\frac{G_{sus}}{A}$ $\frac{G}{B}$ C $\frac{Em^7}{B}$ A m^7 D D $_{sus}$ D 7 G $\frac{G}{B}$ $\frac{G_{sus}}{D}$

Thank You for these lives of love, Grow-ing faith, re-plac-ing fear.
Make us all we are in Him: All one bod-y, all His bride.

Refrain
E m $\frac{B^7_{sus}}{E}$ B 7 E m $\frac{B^9_{sus}}{E}$ B 7 C A m $\frac{C}{D}$ D 7

Ho-ly Fa-ther, in Your good-ness, Give the mind of our Sav-ior,

G $\frac{G}{A}$ $\frac{G}{B}$ C $\frac{Em^7}{B}$ A m $\frac{Am}{C}$ $\frac{G}{D}$ D 7 G

All His Spir-it, all His love. Make us one in Christ!

WORDS: Ken Bible

MUSIC: German Folk Tune and Ken Bible

GAUDEAMUS 2
7.7.7.7.w.Ref.

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The Big Picture: Sharing His Spirit

What makes us the People of God?

We each and all share
the Spirit of God.

The one who joins himself to the Lord is one spirit with Him. (1 Corinthians 6:17)

*By one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks,
whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.
(1 Corinthians 12:13, NASB)*

*Through [Jesus Christ] we...have access in one Spirit to the Father.
(Ephesians 2:18, NASB)*

*You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon You; and you shall
be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to
the remotest part of the earth. (Acts 1:8, NASB)*

The Holy Spirit in Acts

As you read the many
fascinating,
surprising,
challenging stories in the book of Acts,
don't miss the big picture.

Acts is a sweeping panorama of the Holy Spirit –
the Spirit of the transcendent Father,
the very Life of the incarnate Christ.

We watch as His resurrection power
grows God's people and
grows in God's people,
calling,
cleansing,
uniting,
empowering,
equipping,
emboldening,
guiding,
teaching, and
filling them completely.

Though God's people remain
thoroughly human,
the Holy Spirit enables them to
know what they couldn't otherwise know and
do what they couldn't otherwise do.

He still does –
for all those who simply
trust
Him.

Hymn recording: [Almighty Life](#)

Almighty Life

The Holy Spirit in Acts

TUNE: The Streets of Laredo (alt.)

♩ = 112

C⁷ F F^{sus} F C⁷ C C⁷ F C⁷/_F F C C⁷

1. Al - might - y the life of our ris - en Re - deem - er! Al -
2. Your glo - ry, Your pres - ence, Your pow - er for serv - ice, Your
3. You call and e - quip us, You grow us to - geth - er, Now

F FM⁷/_G F/A C A^m/_C C⁷ F C⁷/_F F C C⁷

might - y the Spir - it of Je - sus out - poured! The
con - fi - dent bold - ness through life and through death, Your
lead - ing, now teach - ing, now form - ing each one. You

F F^{sus} F C⁷ C C⁷ F C⁷/_F F C C⁷

wind and the fire are the fruit of His prom - ise, The
love and Your glad - ness, Your wide - o - pen giv - ing, The
help us to know what is far be - yond know - ing: The

F FM⁷/_G F/A G^m/_{Bb} F/A G^m F/C C⁷ F F/C F

sign, the as - sur - ance, the proof He is Lord.
won - der, the beau - ty of breath - ing Your breath -
life and the love of the Fa - ther and Son.

WORDS: Ken Bible

MUSIC: Traditional Folk Tune and Ken Bible

LAREDO 2
12.11.12.11.w.Ref.

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Refrain

B \flat B \flat C 7 F F_{sus} F C E C 7 F E C C C 7
D E

Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Spir - it,

B \flat E A F G $_m$ 7 B \flat M 7 C 7 F
C

Fill ev - 'ry per - son with all that You are!

The Big Picture: Christian Brothers and Sisters

God reveals Himself to us and
ministers His loving presence among us
through our Christian brothers and sisters.

I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always offering prayer with joy in my every prayer for you all, in view of your participation in the gospel from the first day until now. (Philippians 1:3-5, NASB)

The Touch of Christ

Many heroes in the Old Testament
 give me glimpses of the coming Christ.
They foreshadow some aspect of Him –
 people like Noah, Moses, Joshua, David, and others.
As I watch the way God works through them,
 I get a little taste of the way He will shine through Jesus Christ.

But I also see Jesus in many dear people God has sent across my path:
 my spouse,
 parents,
 teachers,
 fellow workers, and
 a host of wonderful brothers and sisters in Christ.
Though their likeness to Him is still partial and imperfect, it is
 unmistakable and
 beautiful.
In them, He is
 warm,
 caring, and
 absolutely human.

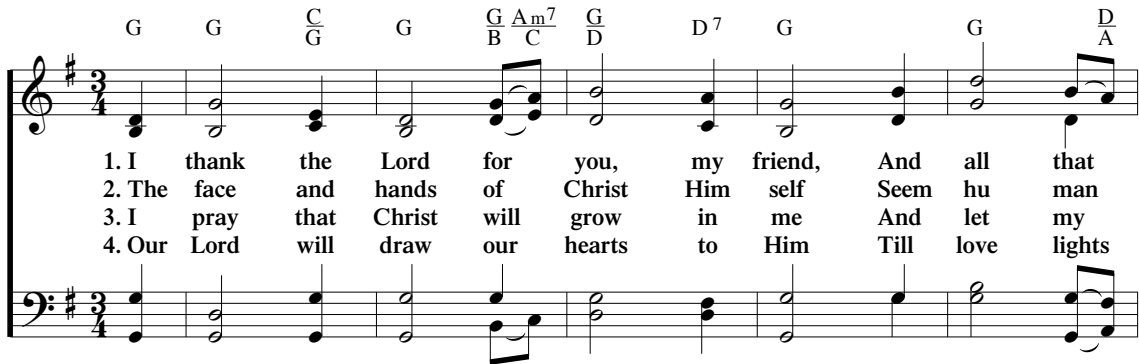
The unseen Jesus has become
 more real and
 more present to me
because He has touched me
 through the life of a friend.

Hymn recording: [I Thank the Lord for You](#)

I Thank the Lord for You

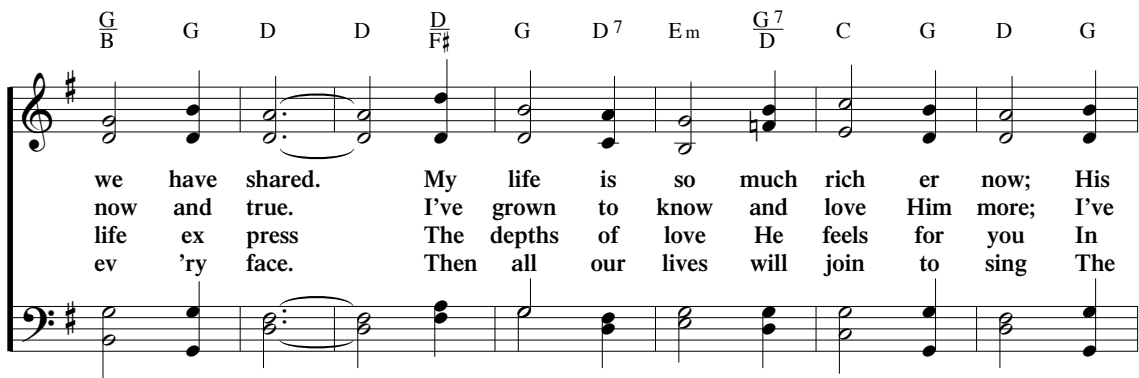
TUNE: Alas! and Did My Savior Bleed (MARTYRDOM), with repeat
Philippians 1:3-11

G G C G G $\frac{G}{B}$ $\frac{Am7}{C}$ $\frac{G}{D}$ D⁷ G G $\frac{D}{A}$



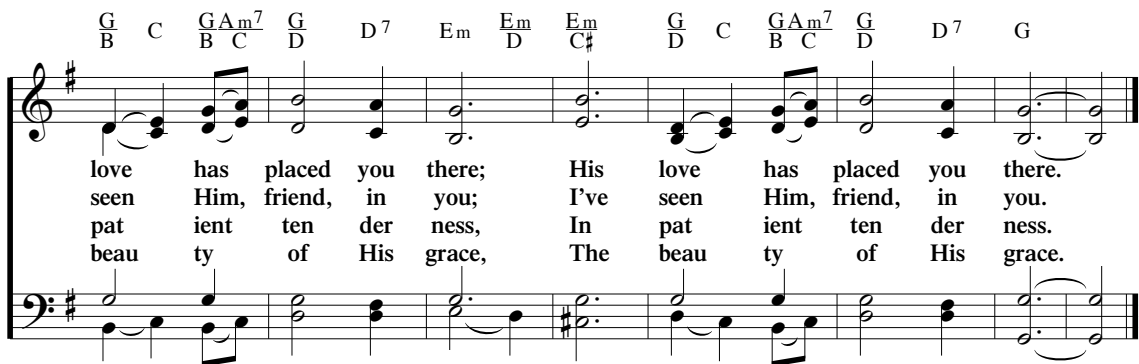
1. I thank the Lord for you, my friend, And all that
2. The face and hands of Christ Him self, Seem hu man
3. I pray that Christ will grow in me And let my
4. Our Lord will draw our hearts to Him Till love lights

$\frac{G}{B}$ G D D $\frac{D}{F\#}$ G D⁷ Em $\frac{G7}{D}$ C G D G



we have shared. My life is so much rich er now; His
now and true. I've grown to know and love Him more; I've
life ex press The depths of love He feels for you In
ev 'ry face. Then all our lives will join to sing The

$\frac{G}{B}$ C $\frac{GAm7}{B C}$ $\frac{G}{D}$ D⁷ Em $\frac{Em}{D}$ $\frac{Em}{C\#}$ $\frac{G}{D}$ C $\frac{GAm7}{B C}$ $\frac{G}{D}$ D⁷ G



love has placed you there; His love has placed you there.
seen Him, friend, in you; I've seen Him, friend, in you.
pat ient ten der ness, In pat ient ten der ness.
beau ty of His grace, The beau ty of His grace.

WORDS: Ken Bible
MUSIC: Hugh Wilson

MARTYRDOM, alt.
C.M.

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The Big Picture: Love One Another

How does God want His people to respond to His great love?

He wants us to share it with each other, through

patience,
forbearance,
forgiveness,
kindness, and
acts of service.

Jesus said:

“A new commandment I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” (John 13:34-35, NIV)

Love One Another

What would you most want to say to your loved ones
as you prepared to leave them in this world?

Compare your list to what Jesus says to His disciples in John chapters 13 through 16.

One of the things I would say is this:

My loved ones, I ask you, I beg you,

love each other—

deeply, actively, totally,

more and more every day!

Never forget it!

Never grow lax in it!

Never let anything take its place!

Your love can express a portion of the love I have for each of you,
the love I would show you if I were there.

In my absence, friends, I ask you with all my heart:

love each other!

That is one of the first things Jesus tells His disciples
to prepare them for His departure.

Love one another,

even as I have loved you. (John 13:34, NASB)

Later He comes back and says it all again.

We are Christ's presence in this world.

He longs for us to deeply,

daily,

totally,

actively

express His love for those who are so dear to Him.

Do you love Jesus Christ?

Do you care what matters to Him?

Then *love one another.*

Hymn recording: [Love One Another](#)

Love One Another

♩ = ca. 90

John 15:12; Romans 13:8-12; 15:1-7; Galatians 5:13

Em Bm Em Bm Em Bm Em

1. Lis - ten, hear our Fa - ther call: Love one an - oth - er.
 2. Christ in love ac - cept - ed you— Love one an - oth - er.
 3. Live for more than just your - self— Love one an - oth - er.
 4. Time is short, the day is near— Love one an - oth - er.

Em Bm Em Bm Em Bm E sus Em

In our clut - tered hearts He calls: Love one an - oth - er.
 Oth - ers need His mer - cy, too— Love one an - oth - er.
 Give your days for some - one else— Love one an - oth - er.
 Keep your pur - pose strong and clear— Love one an - oth - er.

G $\frac{G}{B}$ D Em $\frac{Em}{G}$ Bm

In our dark - ness, love is light. In our wrong-ness, love is right.
 See the ones for whom He died? See, His arms are o - pened wide.
 Lift your eyes— the needs are real. Live a love that they can feel.
 We are one— we share His life. We are one— we lift the light.

Em Bm Em Bm Em Bm 1, 2, 3 E sus Em 4 E sus Em

In our weak - ness, come, u - nite— Love one an - oth - er.
 Move be - yond your fear and pride— Love one an - oth - er.
 On - ly speak to help and heal. Love one an - oth - er.
 We are one in Je - sus Christ. Love one an - oth - er.

WORDS and MUSIC: Ken Bible

WATCHORN
7.5.7.5.7.7.5.

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The Big Picture: Take Up Your Cross

God calls His people to share His love,
not only with other believers,
but with the whole world.

This will involve sharing in Christ's
suffering and
self-sacrifice.

Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me." (Matthew 16:24, NASB)

The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him. For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us. (Romans 8:16-18, NASB)

God's Persecuted People

Jesus, You are our Savior,
our Sacrifice,
the Faithful and True Witness,
the Lamb slain for our salvation.

We are Your followers,
Your servants,
Your friends,
Your bride.
Loving Savior, we are Your own Body.

We share Your glory, and
we share Your shame.
We share Your honor, and
we share Your suffering.
We share Your strength
and Your weakness,
Your joy
and Your sorrow.
We share Your death and
Your everlasting life.

Our desire
and our destiny
is to share in all You are.
As You depended on the Father
and were complete and sufficient in Him,
we depend on You
and are complete and sufficient in You.

Lead on,
omnipotent,
conquering Savior!
We love You!
We trust You!
We take up our cross and
follow wherever You lead!

Hymn recording: [Hymn for the Persecuted Church \(HYMN TO JOY\)](#)

Hymn for the Persecuted Church

TUNE: Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee (HYMN TO JOY)

Matthew 5:10-12; 16:24; Luke 1:78-79; John 8:12; 17:13; Acts 5:41; Romans 5:3-4; 6:8; 8:17-18;
1 Corinthians 12:27; 2 Corinthians 2:14; Ephesians 6:10; Philippians 1:12-14; 3:7-11;
2 Timothy 2:11-12; Hebrews 12:1-3; James 1:2-4; 1 Peter 1:3-9; 4:12-14; Revelation 22:16

♩ = 104 G G^{sus} G $\frac{G}{D}$ $\frac{A_m}{D}$ $\frac{G}{D}$ $\frac{D}{C}$ $\frac{G}{B}$ $\frac{D^7}{A}$ G $\frac{G}{D}$ D



1. Dy - ing Sav - ior, as Your bod - y What a joy to share in You
2. You are joy in all its full - ness, Rich sup - ply for ev - 'ry need,
3. Bro - thers, sis - ters still are suf - f'ring For the Lord they glo - ri - fy.

G $\frac{C}{G}$ G⁷ C^{sus} $\frac{A_m}{C}$ $\frac{G}{C}$ $\frac{A_m}{C}$ $\frac{G}{D}$ D⁷ $\frac{G}{D}$ D⁷ G



Shame and suf - f'ring, yet re - joic - ing, Death, yet life for - ev - er new.
Strength when we are weak and wea - ry, Light if we but let You lead.
Bathe them in Your ho - ly pres - ence As they bow to lift You high.

D $\frac{G}{D}$ D⁷ $\frac{G}{D}$ D⁷ $\frac{G}{D}$ D⁷ $\frac{B_m}{D}$ D⁷ $\frac{B}{D\#}$ B⁷ E_mE_m⁷ A D



Christ, our Light in all this dark - ness! Shine, O Bright and Morn - ing Star!
Pres - sured, yet we march tri - um - phant, Trust - ing One for - ev - er true,
May we share their to - tal giv - ing, All we are and all we own,

G $\frac{C}{G}$ G⁷ C^{sus} $\frac{A_m}{C}$ $\frac{G}{C}$ $\frac{A_m}{C}$ $\frac{G}{D}$ D⁷ $\frac{G}{D}$ D⁷ G



Soon the dawn - ing, soon the morn - ing, Soon the sun of all You are!
Lov - ing, pa - tient, per - se - ver - ing, Meek, but tall and strong in You.
One in heart and one in pur - pose, Giv - ing all to make You known.

WORDS: Ken Bible

MUSIC: Ludwig van Beethoven; arr. by Edward Hodges

HYMN TO JOY
8.7.8.7.D.

Alternate Tunes: HOLY MANNA, HYFRYDOL, JEFFERSON 2, PLEADING SAVIOR

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CCLI Song #7112532. For CCLI information call 1-800-234-2446.

The Big Picture: Varied, yet One

Father, You picture the relationship between
Your Son and
Your people

in a number of beautiful ways.

We are Your temple, with
Christ as the chief cornerstone.

We are fruitful branches in
Christ, the true vine.

We members of His body,
with Christ as the head.

We are many.

We are varied.

We are one –

one with Him and
one with each other.

You are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.
(Ephesians 2:19-22, NASB)

Jesus said:

"I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing." (John 15:5, NASB)

Just as we have many members in one body and all the members do not have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. (Romans 12:4-5, NASB)

Blossoming

It started with one Chinese man, a medical research scientist who came to our Sunday School class at the invitation of a co-worker. Soon his wife was attending with him, then two more couples, fellow scientists from mainland China.

They were spiritually and culturally curious. They wanted to learn more about the life and language of America. But having been raised in an atheistic society, they also came with spiritual questions.

We soon found that because of their limited language skills and biblical knowledge, our regular Sunday School class wasn't enough for them. So we began meeting with them an hour before class. It was Bible 101. We started by introducing them to the scriptures from the ground up. Then we watched the *Jesus* film together, discussing each scene one by one. At the end, our version of the film addressed dozens of basic questions about the Christian faith. We used those questions to lead our friends into a greater understanding of life in Christ. Next, we began reading through Genesis together, talking and teaching as we went.

Those two-and-one-half years were memorable in so many ways. I remember our first Christmas with them. We brought in a small manger scene, and from us they heard that magnificent story for the very first time.

I remember the Sunday we encouraged them to pray the sinner's prayer along with us. With all the barriers of language and spiritual understanding, we wondered how much had gotten through to them.

But I particularly remember one man blossoming in his faith. In spite of a horrendous work schedule, Jinyu began praying daily. He read the Bible on his own, bringing in questions that showed he was thinking about it broadly and deeply. He began witnessing to his Chinese friends. He asked us about ancestor worship, knowing that when he next gathered with his family in China, they would expect him to participate.

But my favorite memory is the morning he came in beaming, saying that he had been asked to read scripture in our main worship service. We were pleased along with him, but also surprised. Jinyu was a gentle, sweet-spirited man who struggled with his English. Our church was large, and scripture readers were chosen for their speaking ability. We wondered how well his reading would be understood.

That morning service focused on missions. It included a parade of flags, special music, and a missionary speaker. When it came time for the morning scripture reading, a half dozen or so people came forward. Together they read Psalm 98, each one reading selected verses in a foreign language.

Jinyu read, not in English, but in Chinese, and we were stunned! We had only heard him speak in English, his second language. His speaking was always halting and broken. We had never heard the man who read that morning. He was bold, strong, and fluent. He was eloquent! He was speaking in his own native language. He was at home. He was fully himself.

As I reflect back on that morning, I think about the Body of Christ. I think about all the personalities and cultures that make it up, in all their God-given diversity. What would the Body be like if each of its members were fully, completely themselves? What if all that individuality could blossom into the beauty and variety intended by our Creator, yet still remain one in Christ? Squeezing living things into narrow, artificial molds is constrictive and stifling. It is unnatural. Becoming all our Creator intended us to be is wonderfully freeing and enriching, both to the individual and to the Body. An eye makes a better eye than it does an arm.

That freedom, that blossoming is coming. In fact, it is happening right now as the Holy Spirit nurtures and renews each individual. He assures us that the One who began this good work in us will complete it (Philippians 1:6). Each flower will blossom into its full uniqueness, lovingly nurtured by its Creator. Together, what a garden we will be!

Each of us will speak our own native language, fluently and eloquently. And in Christ all those individual expressions will blend into one universal language: the language of truth; the language of pure love.

At last we will be all that His love purposed us to be: His holy bride, stunningly beautiful, radiant in all His glory, perfectly prepared for an eternity of oneness with Him.

Hymn recording: [How Precious Are Your People](#)

How Precious Are Your People

♩ = 63

Bm Bm $F\sharp^7_{sus}$ Bm E_m^6 Bm Em Bm

1. How pre - cious are Your peo - ple, Your peo - ple, dear Je - sus. How
2. You're mov - ing now to touch us, To teach us, to draw us. You're

Bm $F\sharp^7_{sus}$ Bm E_m^6 Bm Bm D F# Em7 F# B_{sus} F# Bm

love - ly is Your bride, Lord - This fam - 'ly of faith. Tho'
speak - ing now to bless us, This fam - 'ly of faith. O

F# $F\sharp^9$ E $F\sharp$ Bm D $F\sharp$ C# Bm Bm D F# $F\sharp^9$ E $F\sharp$ Bm Bm⁹ D

on - ly two or three are here, You come to serve Your grace. You
Je - sus, Lord, we lift our hands And raise our need - y hearts. Be

G B G D $F\sharp$ D Em Bm F#

breathe Your love thro' each and all And speak it face to face. How
glo - ri - fied in all we do As each one plays a part. How

WORDS: Ken Bible

MUSIC: Traditional Scottish Melody; arr. by Ken Bible

CHARLES

Irregular

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CCLI Song #3918469. For CCLI information call 1-800-234-2446.

Bm $F\sharp^{7sus}$
 B Bm $E\flat^{6}$
 Bm Em Bm

pre - cious are Your cho - sen, Your sis - ters, Your broth - ers. How
 dear is ev - 'ry per - son, The young ones, the old ones. How

Bm $F\sharp^{7sus}$
 B Bm $E\flat^{6}$
 Bm $B\flat$
 D $F\sharp$ $E\flat^7$ $F\sharp$ B^{7sus}
 $F\sharp$ Bm

pre - cious are Your peo - ple- This fam - 'ly of faith.
 pre - cious are Your peo - ple- This fam - 'ly of faith.

The Big Picture: The Bride of Christ

Perhaps the most beautiful and intimate picture scripture draws of God's people is this:
the Bride of Christ.

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her, so that He might sanctify her by the washing of water with the word, so that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she should be holy and blameless.
(Ephesians 5:25-27, NASB)

Psalm 45 speaks to us as to the bride of a great King – the King of Kings. It urges us to focus completely on our new role, on who we are and who we are becoming in Christ:

*Listen, O daughter, give attention and incline your ear;
Forget your people and your father's house...
In place of your fathers will be your sons;
You shall make them princes in all the earth.* (Psalm 45:10, 16, NASB)

The Apostle Paul drew on the same picture when he warned the Corinthians:

I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy; for I betrothed you to one husband, so that to Christ I might present you as a pure virgin. But I am afraid that, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds will be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ. (2 Corinthians 11:2-3, NASB)

Christ in Psalm 45

As God's Church,
 what is our destiny?
 For what is God preparing us?
 What is the goal toward which He is leading us?

Our future is full and perfect union
 with His holy, human Son,
 Jesus Christ.

We are engaged to Him.

As His people, we are
 His betrothed,
 His fiancé.

Our destiny is to be
 His beautiful bride,
 joyfully one with Him,
united in heart,
 in mind,
 in purpose.

We will fully, eternally share
 His life,
 His love,
 His radiant glory, and
 His intimate presence.

So let's remember who we are and
 live like it.

Let's share His heart.

Let's love as He loves,
 serve as He serves, and
 sacrifice ourselves as He sacrificed Himself,
 freely and without reserve.

Let's live and love as
the future bride of
 Jesus Christ,
 the King of all Kings.

Hymn recording: [Christ in Psalm 45](#)

Christ in Psalm 45

TUNE: O Breath of Life (DET AR ETT FAST ORD, alt.)

$\text{♩} = 54$
Unison N.C. A^\flat C^\flatm $\text{E}^\flat 7$ $\text{E}^\circ 7$ Fm D^\flat

1. O Bride of Christ, look to your Bride - groom, The King of
 2. O Bride of Christ, His throne is jus - tice, His throne is
 3. O Bride of Christ, His heart is kind - ness. With ev - 'ry
 4. O Bride of Christ, He is your fu - ture. E - ter - nal

A^\flat F G $\text{E}^\flat 7$ A^\flat D^\flat $\text{D}^\flat\text{M} 7$ A^\flatsus A^\flat $\text{A}^\flat\text{add}^9$ A^\flat

Kings, God's ho - ly Son. Your high - est good, your joy, your
 truth and glo - rious light. His reign is peace and ho - ly
 breath He gives Him - self. His love is rich, e - ter - nal
 joy is now be - gun! He is the dawn of love's per -

D^\flat $\text{B}^\flat\text{m} 7$ A^\flat $\text{E}^\flat 7\text{sus}$ $\text{E}^\flat 7$ A^\flat

glo - ry: To live and breathe in Him as one.
 free - dom. Join Him and burn for truth and right.
 treas - ure. O give your days to noth - ing else!
 fec - tion. Walk in His light till we are one.

WORDS: Ken Bible
 MUSIC: Joel Blomquist (1877) and Ken Bible

DET AR ETT FAST ORD
 9.8.9.8.

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The Big Picture: Wedding Day

As the Bride of Christ,
our wedding day is coming,
 our full, eternal joining with
 Jesus Christ.
What a sight it will be!
What a celebration!

*Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth
passed away, and there is no longer any sea.*

*And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God,
made ready as a bride adorned for her husband. (Revelation 21:1-2, NASB)*

Our Joining

The crown of the new creation
will be the crown of the first creation:

Your people,
made in Your own image,
breath of Your own breath,
life of Your own life.

We who were once
stained by sin,
bound by death,
rebellious,
far away and
unfaithful,
will be the pure and glorious bride of
Your own dear Son.

As His bride, we will not arise from the earth but will
descend from heaven itself,
perfectly prepared and
beautifully adorned
by You.

In Jesus Christ, Your holy Son, we will be
lovingly,
intimately joined with You
in perfect, constant, eternal union,
with all trace of separation gone forever.
One with You, Father.
One in Your Son, Jesus Christ.

O Lord, how we long for His return!
How we yearn for our joining!

Hymn recording: [Christ and His Bride](#)

Christ and His Bride

Revelation 21:1-11

♩ = 60

Unison

F C⁷_{sus} G C⁷ G C⁹ G C⁷ G F A B^b C⁷ G F

1. See, see her com - ing down, Robed in all His
2. God, God is now with us. We are joined for -
3. "See, see the morn - ing dawn O - ver earth and

C G⁷_{sus} C B^b F A Gm⁷ B^b F C⁷ E Am⁷ E

splen - dor. Christ takes His bride! Christ takes His
ev - er. One with our God! One with our
heav - en! All now is new! All now is

F F N.C. B^b F A G⁷_{sus} G⁷ G⁷ D

bride! See how He loves her, So ra - diant and
God! Dark - ness and sor - row Dis - solve in - to
new! I am life's full - ness, Its foun - tain and

WORDS: Ken Bible

MUSIC: George Frederick Handel and Ken Bible

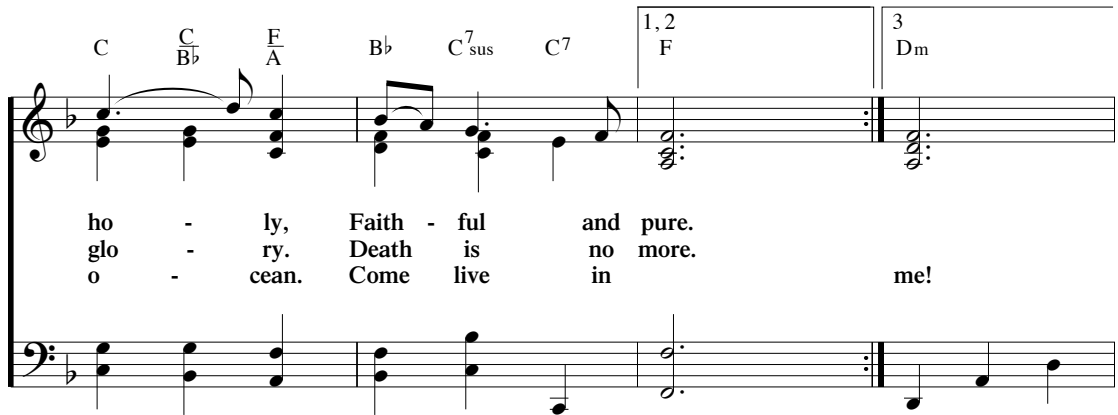
LARGO

6.6.4.4.5.6.4.

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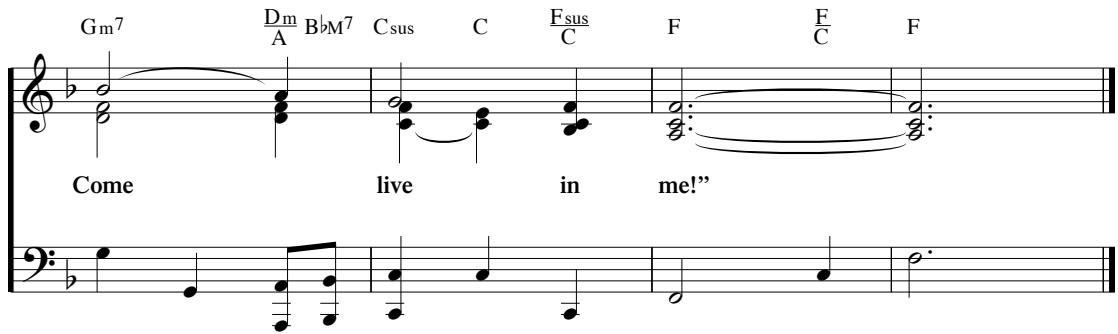
CCLI Song #5609972. For CCLI information call 1-800-234-2446.

C $\frac{C}{B\flat}$ $\frac{F}{A}$ B \flat C⁷_{sus} C⁷ 1, 2 F 3 Dm



ho - ly, Faith - ful and pure.
 glo - ry. Death is no more.
 o - cean. Come live in me!

Gm⁷ $\frac{Dm}{A}$ B \flat M⁷ C_{sus} C $\frac{F_{sus}}{C}$ F $\frac{F}{C}$ F



Come live in me!"

The Big Picture: The Bride Takes Her Place

As the Bride of Christ, we will take our place in God's glorious, new creation.

As you read John's description of the New Jerusalem, think of it not as buildings, but as a people –
the Bride of the Lamb,
the People of God.

Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and spoke with me, saying, "Come here, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb."

And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, having the glory of God. Her brilliance was like a very costly stone, as a stone of crystal-clear jasper. It had a great and high wall, with twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels; and names were written on them, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel. There were three gates on the east and three gates on the north and three gates on the south and three gates on the west.

And the wall of the city had twelve foundation stones, and on them were the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

The one who spoke with me had a gold measuring rod to measure the city, and its gates and its wall. The city is laid out as a square, and its length is as great as the width; and he measured the city with the rod, fifteen hundred miles; its length and width and height are equal. And he measured its wall, seventy-two yards, according to human measurements, which are also angelic measurements.

The material of the wall was jasper; and the city was pure gold, like clear glass. The foundation stones of the city wall were adorned with every kind of precious stone. The first foundation stone was jasper; the second, sapphire; the third, chalcedony; the fourth, emerald; the fifth, sardonyx; the sixth, sardius; the seventh, chrysolite; the eighth, beryl; the ninth, topaz; the tenth, chrysoprase; the eleventh, jacinth; the twelfth, amethyst.

And the twelve gates were twelve pearls; each one of the gates was a single pearl. And the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass. (Revelation 21:9-21, NASB)

The Jewel

Revelation 21:9-21

Father, in the new creation
Your splendor in
Your Son
will be
the Light of the world and
the glory of all the universe.

We Your people,
redeemed from every age and nation,
will be fully formed as
Your dwelling place.
We will be expertly prepared,
pure and transparent, so that
Your blazing glory,
the light of all You are, will shine
within us and
out through us
unhindered.

Your presence within will make us
glow and
sparkle
like a precious jewel.

We will be perfectly fashioned to radiate
Your love,
Your life,
Your holiness,
Your boundless joy.

All the universe will bask in the beauty of
Your presence in
Your people.

Hymn recording: [Revelation 21](#)

Revelation 21

♩ = 92

C G C C $\frac{C^{sus}}{D}$ $\frac{C}{E}$ $\frac{G^7}{D}$ $\frac{C}{E}$ F $\frac{C}{G}$ A m $\frac{D^7}{A}$ G sus G

1. See the peo - ple love cre - at - ed, See the bride of Christ the Son!
 2. God now lives a - mong His peo - ple. See His glo - rious pres - ence here,
 3. All cre - a - tion now is bask - ing In the fire of all He is.

C $\frac{C}{B}$ $\frac{Em^7}{B}$ A m F M7 F6 Cadd9 $\frac{C}{E}$ Dm7 $\frac{C}{G}$ G⁷ sus G⁷ C

See the world all pure and glo - rious, See what bound - less grace has done!
 Shin - ing, spark - ling thro' His peo - ple Pure, trans - par - ent, crys - tal clear.
 All the beau - ty, all the bril - liance, All the glo - ry now is His.

A m E7 $\frac{E^7}{G\#}$ A m E sus E m Fadd9 F $\frac{C}{E}$ D7 $\frac{D^7}{F\#}$ G sus G

No more sin or sep - a - ra - tion- All their root and fruit are gone.
 What a jew - el! What a ra - diance! See tran - scend - ent glo - ry shine
 He is life and joy and splen - dor, Love in all its depth and height

C $\frac{C}{B}$ $\frac{Em^7}{B}$ A m F M7 F6 $\frac{Cadd9}{E}$ $\frac{C}{E}$ Dm7 $\frac{C}{G}$ G⁷ sus G⁷ C

All is new, and all is ho - ly! Night is past! O what a dawn!
 Thro' a peo - ple heav - en - fash - ioned, Glow - ing with His life di - vine!
 Shin - ing thro' a ho - ly peo - ple Blaz - ing with His ho - ly light.

WORDS: Ken Bible
 MUSIC: Joachim Neander and Ken Bible

I AM
 8.7.8.7.D.

Alt. Tunes: AUSTRIAN HYMN; PLEADING SAVIOR; HYMN TO JOY

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The Big Picture: Commitment

Our Father God has
planned and
prepared
a magnificent, eternal future for the us.
But we each have a choice to make:

Whom will we serve,
the false gods of money, comfort, and human glory, or
You, the true and living God?
Will we commit to being the
People of God?

*"If it is disagreeable in your sight to serve the Lord, choose yourselves today
whom you will serve...but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."
(Joshua 24:15, NASB)*

Our Creator has lent us
life,
strength,
time, and
resources.
How will we use them?

People of God

So you sing well...or teach well...or are good with children. Your abilities are helpful to the Church. They are good tools, and you know how to use them.

If you were having a house built, would it be enough that the contractor had good tools and knew how to use them?

Or would you also want a builder with dedication to the task, who put you first, not some selfish agenda? A person with attention to detail, who didn't cut corners, who was willing to put in the time and effort to make the job right. A person who approached the project with love and enthusiasm, not obligation.

God is building a temple, a holy people. He is looking for fellow workers – workers with the heart of a servant, dedicated to His agenda. Workers with attention to detail, willing to put in the time and effort to do the job right, no matter what. Workers who approach His task with love and enthusiasm.

Remember, in God's service each song is more than a song. Each detail is a part of His plan of salvation. His desire is to save every lost and dying person, and He is calling us to be His fellow workers (1 Corinthians 3:9). He is calling us to be His people.

Hymn recording: [We Will Be Your People](#)

We Will Be Your People

Joshua 24:15

♩ = 96

E♭ B♭ C_m C_m/B♭ A♭ A♭/G F_m⁹ F_m⁷ B♭ B♭/A♭

1. We will be Your peo - ple- We have made the choice.
 2. We will be Your peo - ple, We will trust Your Word.
 3. We will be Your peo - ple; You will be our God.

G_m⁷ E♭/G F_m⁷ B♭⁷ C_m F_m/A♭ E♭/B♭ B♭B♭sus B♭⁷ E♭

We will be Your Bod - y, Heart and soul and voice.
 Fear is not our mas - ter; Com - fort is not Lord.
 You will go be - fore us As we sow the Word.

C♭/E♭ C♭/D♭ C♭ A♭_m⁶ E♭ C♭/E♭ C♭/D♭ C♭ A♭_m⁶ E♭

We will be Your pres - ence; We will be Your hands,
 We will lay be - hind us All that weighs us down,
 You will give a har - vest Time can - not des - troy.

E♭/G A♭ B♭/A♭ G_m⁷ E♭/G A♭ E♭/B♭ B♭sus B♭⁷ E♭

Al - ways glad - ly giv - ing All that love de - mands.
 Run the race with cour - age Till we share Your crown.
 Plant - ing lives of serv - ice, We will reap Your joy.

WORDS: Ken Bible
 MUSIC: Chretien Urhan; arr. by Ken Bible

RUTHERFORD, alt.
 6.5.6.5.D.

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