



THE HYMN SOCIETY

HYMNS IN TIMES OF CRISIS

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When tragedy strikes, we often find ourselves at a loss for words to express our sorrow, rage, and helplessness. When a community needs to gather, congregational song can be a powerful force to help us express what we cannot articulate ourselves. It can be a healing, unifying force.

If your church community or a member of your community is experiencing a time of crisis due to death, natural disaster, family struggles, or any other time when singing these songs can help, The Hymn Society in the United States and Canada offers this resource of hymns with suggested tunes which can be useful at these times. The publishers, authors and composers have graciously granted permission for you to use any of the hymns in this collection at no royalty cost to you for 2 months following the crisis, and at any memorial or remembrance service held within 1 year of the event. These texts may also be used for personal devotions and group discussion. If your church is a member of OneLicense.net or CCLI, you are encouraged to report your usage there as you would customarily do.

At the end of this collection you can find indexes and copyright information for the texts and tunes.

1. A VOICE WAS HEARD IN RAMAH

A voice was heard in Ramah that could not be consoled,
as Rachel wept for children she could no longer hold.
For Herod ruled the nation, yet feared the infant King.
How great the devastation that fear and anger bring!

O God, we hear the crying for little ones of yours;
for many still are dying in conflicts and in wars—
in every troubled nation, on every violent street,
how great the lamentation when fear and anger meet!

Whenever one is weeping, the whole world suffers, too.
Yet, Jesus, as we serve them, we're also serving you.
So may we not ignore them, nor turn our eyes away,
but help us labor for them to bring a better day.

O Prince of Peace, you lead us in ways of truth and
grace.
May we be brave to practice your peace in every place—
to love each fear-filled nation, to serve each troubled
street.
How great the celebration when peace and justice
meet!

Text: Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

Meter: 7.6.7.6. D

Suggested tunes: LLANGLOFFAN, PASSION CHORALE

©2004 Carolyn Winfrey Gillette.

Themes: Suffering of children, paths to peace and
justice

2. ABBA, DELIVER THEM FROM EVIL

Abba, deliver them from evil—
children exploited and abused,
sold into lives of pain and peril,
by lust and greed betrayed and bruised.
Amma, in mercy, hear our prayer.
Save these, your children, from despair.

Abba, deliver them from evil—
women compelled to walk the street,
slaving in sweatshops, bound in brothels,
victims of violence and deceit.
Amma, in mercy, hear our prayer.
Save these, your children, from despair.

Abba, deliver us from evil—
people who shield our ears, eyes,
failing to see this world, so hostile;
failing to heed its anguished cries.
Amma, in mercy, hear our prayer.
Save all your children from despair.

Text: Mary Louise Bringle

Meter: 9.8.9.8.8.8.

Suggested tune: WER NUN DENN LIEBEN GOTT

©2007 GIA Publications, Inc.

Theme: Human trafficking



THE HYMN SOCIETY

3. AS THE WATERS RISE AROUND US

As the waters rise around us
and the winds rage overhead,
as destruction's wake confounds us
with its mounting toll of dead:

REFRAIN

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.
Hear your people's yearning cry.
Hear your people's yearning cry.

Numb with grief, our hearts are heavy,
seeking courage to endure,
as the harshest cost is levied
on the poorest of the poor.

REFRAIN

Homes and city streets are ravaged,
many lost beyond repair.
Brooding Spirit, help us salvage,
signs of life from such despair.

REFRAIN

Gracious God, your strong compassion
stilled the storm and parted seas.
Free and lead us, 'til we fashion
worlds of justice, hope, and peace.

REFRAIN

Text: Mary Louise Bringle
Meter: 8.7.8.7 with refrain 444.7.7
Suggested tune: BRYN CALFARIA
© 2005 GIA Publications, Inc.

Theme: Natural disaster, response to Hurricane Katrina

4. AS WE, YOUR PEOPLE GATHER

As we, your people, gather
with wearied hearts, O Lord,
let prayers be now uplifted
for peace to be restored.
May healing and repentance
in every land be known,
as sword is turned to plowshare
and seeds of trust are sown.

The cries of desperation,
the orphan in distress,
instill in us a longing
that words cannot express.
Yet, as the Spirit's presence
within each heart is stirred,
we find new strength and courage
in God's unfailing Word.

The prophet voices call us
to seek that promised day
when hatred and oppression
at last are swept away.
No darkness will surround us,
and all may dwell secure;
God's purpose is accomplished
when peace and love endure.

Text: Howard Maple

Meter: 7.6.7.6.D

Suggested tunes: AURELIA, LANCASHIRE, LLANGLOFFAN
© 2014 Howard Maple

Theme: Peace...for use at services for world peace



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5. BROKEN, BITTER, BRUISED WE COME

Broken, bitter, bruised we come,
needing presence, knowing none,
Angry, hurting heart and mind,
praying God is just and kind.

Unbelieving, still we come,
bodies aching, spirits numb;
back to God, our only home,
bringing all, we come, we come.

Empty, waiting to be fed;
first the water, then the bread
and the wine, God's offering:
Jesus Christ, the living spring.

Jesus, where else could we go?
Your love is the love we know,
yours the way through age and youth,
yours the words of love and truth,

As the ages come and go,
lives to you, like rivers, flow:
those who doubt and those who know,
nonetheless will find it so.

Text: Daniel Charles Damon

Meter: 7.7.7.7.

Suggested tunes: HEINLEIN, SONG 13,
BAXTER CREEK*

©2007 Hope Publishing Company

*Tune available in Dan Damon's collection, 'Fields of Mercy', Hope Publishing Company 2007

Themes: Confession, Lament, Hope, Communion

6. CAN YOU FEEL THE SEASONS TURNING?

Can you feel the seasons turning,
winds and waves grown wild and strange?
Can you feel creation groaning,
fearful of the coming change:

ice caps melting oceans rising,
homes and habitations lost?

Can you feel the seasons turning?
Can you count the bitter cost?

Can you hear the creatures crying –
lynx and otter, wolf and whale?
Can you hear the Spirit sighing
as Her children grieve and fail?

Nature's poor, the first to suffer,
pay the price of human greed.

Can you hear the creatures crying,
bidding us to turn and heed?

Can you feel the season turning
as an age of listening starts,
tuned to cries of deepest yearning,
changing minds and lives and hearts?

Sisters, brothers, bound together,
joining hands through time and space,

can you feel the season turning
toward the tender green of grace?

Text: Mary Louise Bringle

Meter: 8.7.8.7.D

Suggested tunes: EBENEZER, BEECHER, LLANSANNA,
©2008 GIA Publications, Inc.

Themes: Environmental damage, threat to species



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7. COME IN OUR DARK TIME

Come, in our dark time when spirits are desolate,
come, Word of life, to our trauma and our tears,
grow in us courage to deal with our brokenness,
hold us, enfold us in faith beyond our fears.

Move us to know that a new life awaits us,
lead us to pools of fresh quietude and thought,
rouse us to using the time that is given us,
learning, discerning what loss and love have taught.

Come, Holy Presence, to lift and enliven us,
form in us ways to refashion our belief,
turn us to see how compassion will heal us,
given, received, in the loneliness of grief.

Text: Shirley Erena Murray

Meter: 12.11.12.11.

Suggested tune: LAURA*

Words and Music © 2011 Hope Publishing Company

*Tune by Jillian Bray available in collection 'A Place at the Table', Hope Publishing Company, 2013 and as pdf at Hope Publishing Online Hymnody <http://hopepublishing.com/html/main.isx?sitesec=40.2.1.0&hymnID=5074&tuneTitleSearch=laura>

Themes: Adversity, comfort, doubt, questioning, grief, healing.

8. GENTLE GOD, WHEN WE ARE DRIVEN

Gentle God, when we are driven
past the limits of our love,
when our hurt would have a weapon
and the hawk destroy the dove,
at the cost of seeming weak,
help us turn the other cheek.

Gentle Spirit, when our reason
clouds in anger, twists in fear,
when we strike instead of stroking,
when we bruise and sting and smear,
cool our burning, take our pain,
bring us to ourselves again.

In the mirror of earth's madness
let us see our ravaged face,
in the turmoil of all people
let compassion find a place,
touch our hearts to make amends,
see our enemies as friends.

Let our strength be in forgiving
as forgiven we must be,
one to one in costly loving,
finding trust and growing free,
gentle God, be our release,
gentle Spirit, teach us peace.

Text: Shirley Erena Murray

Meter: 8.7.8.7.7.7.

Suggested tunes: IRBY, TAWA*

Words and Music © 1992 Hope Publishing Company

*Tune by Jillian Bray available in collection 'In Every Corner Sing', Hope Publishing Company 1992

Themes: Peace, non-violent action, forgiveness



THE HYMN SOCIETY

9. GIVE PRAISE FOR GOD'S STRANGE GIFT OF PAIN

Give praise for God's strange gift of pain
that tells when something is amiss,
then bid such thankfulness remain,
for healing comes through hurts like this.

Give praise for God's strange gift of grief
that rips right through our inmost parts,
then trust, as time brings some relief,
new insights will help mend our hearts.

Give praise for God's strange gift of loss,
when love withdraws, or friends betray;
such sorrows link us to the cross,
where we for pardoning mercy pray.

Give praise for God's strange gift of fears
that mind and body paralyze,
then find that, when fright disappears,
those strengths we need our God supplies.

Give praise for gifts that touch each soul,
unsought and painful though they be,
that through them we may grow more whole,
and from self-centeredness break free!

Text: Rae E Whitney
Meter: 8.8.8.8. LM
Suggested tunes: MELCOMBE, WINCHESTER NEW,
©1998 Selah Publishing Company

Theme: Gratitude, even in the face of difficulties

10. GIVE US A VOICE

When children wake to tears instead of laughter,
or find abuse when seeking arms of shelter,
give us a voice that cries out for the voiceless:
your cry of healing.

When creatures tremble, frightened and bewildered,
robbed of their homelands, cramped or caged or
slaughtered,
give us a voice that cries out for the voiceless:
your cry of caring.

When hateful words spread falsehood and derision,
and noxious fears exhale their clouds of poison,
give us a voice that cries out for the voiceless:
your cry for justice.

Christ who still grieves the fall of every sparrow,
who beckons children, bids the outcast follow,
give us your voice that cries out for the voiceless:
your heart's compassion.

Text: Mary Louise Bringle
Meter: 11.11.11.5.
Suggested tune: HERZLIEBSTER JESU
© 2005 GIA Publications, Inc.

Themes: Abuse of children, of nature, of outcast groups
victimized by hatred and derision.



THE HYMN SOCIETY

11. GOD, BLESS THE ONES WHO WATCH AND WAIT

God, bless the ones who watch and wait
through lonely vigil, constant care,
who must stay strong for those they love
for hope to shine through black despair.

Hold in your light the lives entwined
with those impaired they cannot leave,
where damaged bodies, damaged minds,
become a cause to rage and grieve.

God, bless the arms that lift the weak,
adjust a tone for deaf to hear,
who calm with love a fretful child,
who wash the ill and wipe the tear.

The towel and basin Jesus took
is for us all to take and use,
in giving respite, easing stress
and walking in another's shoes.

God, bless the ones who watch and wait
with cheerful face, though heart may bleed,
who every day commit to care,
to serve and meet another's need.

Text: Shirley Erena Murray
Meter: 8.8.8.8. LM
Suggested tunes: CANONBURY, O WALY WALY
© 2014 Hope Publishing Company

Themes: Caregiving, comfort

12. GOD IS OUR SHELTER

God is our shelter and our shield:
a sure defense that will not yield.
Though oceans rise and mountains fall,
fear not, for God is Lord of all.

The waters roil and valleys quake,
the people war and cities shake.
As nations crumble to the ground,
God's voice floods all the world with sound.

The weapons forged in warring lust
are crushed and splintered into dust.
Behold as God makes warfare cease
and fills the earth with streams of peace.

"I am your God – let go of fear
and dwell secure, for I am near.
Renounce the urge to fight and kill,
for I am your defender still."

Text: Adam M L Tice
Meter: 8.8.8.8. LM
Suggested tune: DEO GRACIAS, WINCHESTER NEW
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Themes: Conflict, war
Note: *Inspired by Robert Alter's translation of, and commentary, on Psalm 46*



THE HYMN SOCIETY

13. GOD OF FREEDOM, GOD OF JUSTICE

God of freedom, God of justice,
you whose love is strong as death,
you who saw the dark of prison,
you who knew the price of faith:
touch our world of sad oppression
with your Spirit's healing breath.

Rid the earth of torture's terror,
you whose hands were nailed to wood;
hear the cries of pain and protest,
you who shed the tears and blood:
move in us the power of pity
restless for the common good.

Make in us a captive conscience
quick to hear, to act, to plead;
make us truly sisters, brothers
of whatever race or creed:
teach us to be fully human,
open to each other's need.

Text: Shirley Erena Murray

Meter: 8.7.8.7.8.7.

Suggested tunes: ALLELUIA, DULCE CARMEN, PICARDY,
FU DE WEN-NUAN (Swee Hong Lim)

©1992 Hope Publishing Company

Themes: Freedom, justice, openness to others

14. GOD WEEPS

God weeps
at love withheld,
at strength misused,
at children's innocence abused,
and till we change the way we love,
God weeps.

God bleeds
at anger's fist,
at trust betrayed,
at women battered and afraid,
and till we change the way we win,
God bleeds.

God cries
at hungry mouths,
at running sores,
at creatures dying without cause,
and till we change the way we care,
God cries.

God waits
for stones to melt,
for peace to seed,
for hearts to hold each other's need,
and till we understand the Christ,
God waits.

Text: Shirley Erena Murray

Meter: Irregular (10.8.10.)

Suggested tune: DELGADO (Jim Strathdee).

Words ©1996 Hope Publishing Company

Music © 1998 Jim and Jean Strathdee, Desert
Flower Music

Available from Hope Publishing Online Hymnody:

http://www.hopepublishing.com/media/pdf/hset/hs_350.pdf

Theme: Protesting violence of every kind.



THE HYMN SOCIETY

15. GOD WEEPS WITH US WHO WEEP AND MOURN

God weeps with us who weep and mourn;
God's tears flow down with ours,
and God's own heart is bruised and worn
from all the heavy hours
of watching while the soul's bright fire
burned lower day by day,
and pulse and breath and love's desire
dimmed down to ask and pray.

Through tears and sorrow, God, we share
a sense of your vast grief:
the weight of bearing every prayer
for healing and relief,
the burden of our questions why,
the doubts that they engage,
and as our friends and loved ones die,
our hopelessness and rage.

And yet because, like us, you weep,
we trust you will receive
and in your tender heart will keep
the ones for whom we grieve,
while with your tears our hearts will taste
the deep, dear core of things
from which both life and death are graced
by love's renewing springs.

Text: Thomas H Troeger
Meter: 8.6.8.6.D CMD
Suggested tunes: NOEL, KINGSFOLD,
Words ©2002 Oxford University Press

Theme: Facing a time of deep grief

16. GOD, WE'VE KNOWN SUCH GRIEF AND ANGER

God, we've known such grief and anger
as we've heard your people cry.
We have asked you, "How much longer?"
We have sadly wondered, "Why?"
In this world of so much suffering,
may we hear Your word anew:
"I will never leave you orphaned;
I will not abandon you."

By your grace comes resurrection;
by your love, you cast out fear.
You give strength and sure direction
as we seek to serve you here.
You give comfort to the grieving,
and you bless the ones who mourn.
May we trust in you, believing
out of chaos, hope is born.

Hope is ours for, God, you love us!
You have claimed us by your grace.
And through Jesus, you have called us
to bring hope to every place.
In each rescue worker's caring,
in each faithful volunteer,
in each Christian's love and sharing,
God, we glimpse your kingdom here.

Text: Carolyn Winfrey Gillette
Meter: 8.7.8.7.D
Suggested tune: IN BABILONE
©2002 Carolyn Winfrey Gillette.

Theme: Anniversary of September 11, 2001



THE HYMN SOCIETY

17. HEAR US NOW, WE COME CONFESSING

Hear us now, we come confessing,
Kyrie eleison.
We, the blest, have not shared blessing,
Christe eleison.
For our selfish way of living,
Kyrie eleison.

Save us from rash condemnation,
Kyrie eleison;
lest we harm all of creation,
Christe eleison.
Keep us faithful as we struggle,
Kyrie eleison.

Curb our anger, calm our anguish,
Kyrie eleison.
Send us courage when we languish,
Christe eleison.
When we falter, redirect us,
Kyrie eleison.

As we face each unknown morrow,
Kyrie eleison;
help us tend another's sorrow,
Christe eleison.
Let our living show your loving,
Kyrie eleison.

Text: Edith Sinclair Downing
Meter: 8.7.8.7.4.4.7.
Suggested tune: UNION SEMINARY
©2001 Edith Sinclair Downing

Themes: Confession, strength, transformation

18. HERE BY OUR OWN HOME WATERS

Here by our own home waters
we have sat down and wept,
and our own inner landscapes
seem desolate, windswept;
we cannot make the music
our hearts have made before,
and drowning out the dove-song,
sound drums and chants of war.

Those horrors we thought distant,
invading our own space,
make ash and twisted metal
the busy marketplace.
How can we sing the Lord's song
in land made new and strange,
not by forced march or distance,
but terrifying change?

Do not forget the city:
its images will be
forever in our mind's eye
and burned in memory.
Oh, where is heav'n in such scenes?
Is God upon the stage
in mindless acts of terror,
in zealotry and rage?

No, our God treads the sidewalks,
and struggles and perspires,
and with scarred hands shifts rubble,
seeks life amid the fires;
and speaks in still, small voices,
or silent vigil keeps:
mid ashes with the people
our God sits down and weeps.

Text: John Core
Meter: 7.6.7.6.D
Suggested tune: PASSION CHORALE
©2001 John Core (admin. by Hope Publishing Co._)

Theme: Response to September 11, 2001



THE HYMN SOCIETY

19. HOW CAN WE SING OUR LOVE FOR GOD

How can we sing our love for God
when God seems far away,
and we are captive to the hate
that threatens us today?
How can we sing a song of hope
when fear is in the air,
and when we shake, like hollow reeds,
in streams of deep despair?

So cried the psalmist long ago
from exile in a place
where sinful people wept and mourned
their dreadful fall from grace.
Yet even in this sad lament,
the psalmist's faith is clear:
though we may suffer in strange lands,
our God is always near.

God loves us with a steadfast love,
a love that has no end,
No matter what, or when, or where,
God is our trusted friend,
and, like a friend, God feels our pain;
God hears our every cry.
God never will abandon us
in life, or when we die.

We know the Hebrews' Babylon,
for we have ours today
whenever crises threaten us
and God seems far away.
Though times are strange, by faith, we know
God's mercies never cease,
and faith transforms our sad laments
to songs of joy and peace.

Praise God for faith that lets us sing
of love that conquers hate,
and hope that overcomes the fears
of those who sit and wait.
Praise God for peace that springs from hope,
and joy that flows from love.
Praise God, all people here on earth,
and all the saints above.

Text: © 2004 Mary Nelson Keithahn
Meter: 8.6.8.6.D
Suggested tunes: KINGSFOLD, NOEL, MCDONALD*
(*John D Horman, ©Wayne Leupold).
Themes: Facing doubt, overcoming fear, faith

20. I DID NOT HEAR THE MOTHER'S CRY

I did not hear the mother's cry,
though hunger caused her child to die;
Lord, may I sense a neighbor's fear—
where I've been deaf, pray, help me hear.

I did not go to ease the stress
of someone trapped in willfulness;
but feet as well as tongues can talk—
where I've been lame, Lord, help me walk.

I did not speak where words have power,
so evil reigned that shameful hour;
Lord, use my voice to help the weak—
where I've been silent, help me speak.

I did not see the clouds of war,
nor saw what grief might be in store;
now more perceptive I would be—
where I've been blind, Lord, help me see.

Text: Rae E Whitney
Meter: 8.8.8.8. LM
Suggested tunes: DANBY; O WALY WALY; DISTRESS
© 1993 Selah Publishing Company

Themes: Penitence, sorrow, responsibility



21. IN FLOODS OF CHAOS

In floods of chaos, seas of grief,
loud rushing wind and pounding waves,
will waters drown our sure belief
that in disaster, Jesus saves?

When with one voice the people cry,
but no one hears the poor and meek.
can we believe as children die
that God is strong when we are weak?

If in the comfort of our ease
we sit and watch the chaos grow,
ignoring desperate cries and pleas,
who is this God we claim to know?

Where charity and love are found,
there God will also always be.
Love such as this cannot be drowned
by any storm or crashing sea.

Text: Adam M L Tice

Meter: 8.8.8.8. LM

Suggested tunes: WINCHESTER NEW, MENDON,
WAREHAM

© 2001 GIA Publications, Inc.

Theme : Natural disaster: written in the wake of
hurricanes Katrina and Rita

22. INTO THE HANDS THAT BLESSED THE CHILDREN

Into the hands that blessed the children
into the hands that broke the bread,
into the hands that healed the grieving,
into the hands where wounds have bled,

Into these hands we place our loved one,
trusting in what we do not know
but that Your love will never leave us;
safe in this hope, we let him/her go.

Known and unknown, his/her dearest treasures,
known and unknown, his/her faults and fears,
yet from his/her birth, Your Holy Presence
knowing his/her heart, through all the years.

Body and soul, his/her life was given;
now from our world, this life is gone,
dust into dust, this human body,
spirit to Spirit living on.

Text: Shirley Erena Murray

Meter: 9.8.9.8.

Suggested tune: ST CLEMENT

© 2007 Hope Publishing Company

Themes: Funeral & Memorial, hope, love, love for
others, trust



THE HYMN SOCIETY

23. JESUS, SHOW US HOW TO PRAY

Jesus, show us how to pray,
facing times that numb and stun.
Are there any words to say?
"Not my will, but yours be done."

When we ask our angry "Why?"
When our tears have just begun,
still, as you have prayed, we cry,
"Not my will, but yours be done!"

When our hopes are hollowed out,
all our prayers roll into one--
filled with fear and nagging doubt,
"Not my will, but yours be done!"

God, our hope is out of reach.
Hear us, as you heard your Son!
We know you respond to each
"Not my will, but yours be done."

Text: Adam M L Tice

Meter: 7.7.7.7

Suggested tune: SONG 13, HEINLEIN

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Theme: Submission to God in difficult times

24. LET FLOW OUR TEARS IN GRIEF FOR THIS

Let flow our tears in grief for this,
our little ones, now gone from us,
whom not so long ago were born,
now all that's left to do is mourn,
but we refuse to be consoled
like Rachel weeping for her children.

Our voices join with all of those
who weep to hold their children close
but cannot reach beyond their dust
to lines they drew, their little trusts
and they refuse to be consoled
these parents weeping for their children.

All death and hope are met in one
born long ago who is God's Son
whose birth provoked the tyrant's rage
who tramples wanton through our age.
Still we refuse to be consoled
like Rachel weeping for her children.

For who of us can stop the hand
of brutal demons in the land
whose fury aims to hurt and kill
the innocents whose screams are still
upon the air and unconsolated,
with parents weeping for their children.

All we can do is turn to him
who died in old Jerusalem
and wept abandoned on the cross
disarming demons there for us
so one day we might be consoled
with Rachel weeping for our children.

Text: Gracia Grindal

Meter: 8.8.8.8.9

Suggested tune: INNOCENTS*

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*Tune by Dan Damon available in collection 'New Hymns of Hope', Hope Publishing Company 2014

Themes: Grief, sorrow



25. LET MY SPIRIT ALWAYS SING

Let my spirit always sing,
though my heart be wintering,
though the season of despair
gave no sign that you are there,
God to whom my days belong,
let there always be a song.

Though my body be confined,
let your word engage my mind,
let the inner eye discern
how much more there is to learn,
see a world becoming whole
through the window of the soul.

Let your wisdom grace my years,
choose my words and chase my fears,
give me wit to welcome change,
to accept, and not estrange,
let my joy be full and deep
in the knowledge that I keep.

Let my spirit always sing,
to your Spirit answering,
through the silence, through the pain
know my hope is not in vain,
like a feather on your breath
trust your love, through life and death.

Text: Shirley Erena Murray
Meter: 7.7.7.7.7.7.
Suggested tunes: RATISBON, REBEKAH*
© 1996 Hope Publishing Company

*Tune by Rusty Edwards available in collection 'Let My Spirit Always Sing', Hope Publishing Company

Themes: Aging, growing older, graciousness

26. LIGHT SHONE IN DARKNESS AT THE WORLD'S CREATION

Light shone in darkness at the world's creation,
bathing in beauty nature's revelation.
All that has being, cry in adoration,
"Praise for the light, Amen!"

Light shone in darkness at the new creation;
Christ rose in glory, won for us salvation.
Sing, earth and heaven, hymns of jubilation,
praise for the light. Amen!

Light shines in darkness till the full creation;
Christ's Body, groaning, suffers tribulation,
longs for God's justice, global transformation,
prays for the light. Amen!

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB
Meter: 11.11.11.6.
Suggested tune: CHRISTE SANCTORUM
©2001 Sisters of St. Benedict,
104 Chapel Lane, St. Joseph, MN 56374-0220

Themes: Light breaking through darkness, hope



THE HYMN SOCIETY

27. LIKE A FLOWING STREAM

Like a flowing stream
in the wilderness,
God will come to you
in your deep distress.

Refrain:

In the garden of joy,
in the garden of joy,
God will comfort those who mourn
in the garden of joy.

Like a mighty rock
in a weary land,
God will shelter you
from the burning sand.

Refrain

Like a living song
in the morning air,
God will lift you up--
raise you from despair.

Refrain

Text: Daniel Charles Damon
Meter: 5.5.5.5 with Refrain
Suggested tune: PARSONS*
Words and Music © 2011 Hope Publishing Company

*Tune available in Dan Damon collection, 'Garden of Joy', Hope Publishing Company 2011.

Theme: Comfort

28. LITTLE ONE, BORN TO BRING

Little one, born to bring us such love,
little one, wrapped around by our prayer,
given and taken, lighting our life,
now we return you into God's care.

Hold us, dear God, as this child is held
close to your heart, to comfort our pain;
we too are children, children of time,
needing to turn and trust you again.

Cancel our anger, temper our tears,
banish the blame we keep to our cost,
tell us the words we long to believe:
never a child of yours will be lost.

Holy and tender Spirit of God,
you do not leave us struggling alone;
sleeping or waking, bless us with peace,
take him/her, enfold him/her: s/he is your own.

Text: Shirley Erena Murray
Meter: 9.9.9.9.
Suggested tune: KORU*
© 1999 Hope Publishing Company

*Tune by Joy F Patterson available in collection 'Faith Makes the Song', Hope Publishing Company 2003

Themes: Baptism, child dedication, children, comfort, faith, God - Father, grief, Holy Spirit, hope, suffering, trust



THE HYMN SOCIETY

29. LORD JESUS, WHEN MY COURAGE FAILS

Lord Jesus, when my courage fails,
when my familiar world is falling apart,
when light is lost to shades of grey,
then give to me again a trusting heart:
refresh in me the confidence to know
your love that will not let me go.

Lord Jesus, when my body fails
and inner demons bar the way to hope,
when drear depression pulls me down,
then give my struggling spirit strength to cope,
that, trustful in the good, I see God's hand
in things I do not understand.

Yours is the human face of God,
who feels with us in loneliness and pain,
yours is the alchemy of love
who changes grievous losses into gain,
you bring the Spirit's power, the Spirit's breath
that lifts us into life from death.

Text: Shirley Erena Murray

Meter: 8.10.8.10.10.8

Suggested tune: FORTITUDE*

© 2009 Hope Publishing Company

*Tune by Jillian Bray is available in collection 'A Place at the Table', Hope Publishing Company 2013

Themes: Failure of courage, aging, declining health, loneliness, trust

30. NOW IS THE TIME FOR RECKONING (Silent Spring Hymn)

Now is the time for a reckoning,
now all is flowering and flourishing,
God, help your children
mindfully listen:
soon there may be just a silent spring.

Silent the voices in bush and tree,
silent the creatures of air and sea,
God, help your children
mindfully listen:
ours are the hands that took earth for free.

We are the root of the earth's unease,
we are the pirates who dredge the seas,
God, help your children
mindfully listen:
ours is the creed doing as we please.

We are the spenders of precious store,
we are the greedy who take no score,
God, help your children
mindfully listen:
ours are the mouths wanting more and more.

We take the bounty of all you give,
we are the sorrow that makes you grieve,
God, help your children
mindfully listen,
mindfully choose how the world will live!

Text: Shirley Erena Murray

Meter: 9.9.5.5.9.

Suggested tune: HUIA*

© 2008 Hope Publishing Company

*Tune by Jillian Bray is available in collection 'Touch the Earth Lightly', Hope Publishing Company 2008

Themes: Care of Creation, global, inner peace



THE HYMN SOCIETY

31. OUR GOD WHO USES BROKEN THINGS

Our God who uses broken things,
like earth and clouds and wheat,
makes grain to grow in rained-on soil
to give us bread to eat.
And God, in broken hearts, sows seed
which grief tries to destroy,
but life persists, through brokenness,
to bring forth fruits of joy,

O God, pray use my broken things:
each thoughtless, wasted hour,
those moments spent in stupidity,
relationships gone sour;
and bury them, to enrich the soil,
till times of harvest show
that even brokenness can help
your seeds of faith to grow.

O God, we'll gather broken things
to bring to you to mend,
caused by bereavement, hurt, despair,
or falsehood from a friend;
then may such damaged lives, restored,
bear witness, through past pain,
to wholeness made from brokenness,
like loaves from scattered grain.

Text: Rae E Whitney
Meter: 8.6.8.6.D CMD
Suggested tunes: KINGSFOLD, FOREST GREEN, NOEL
©1991 Selah Publishing Company

Theme: Redemption

32. PEACE IS GENEROSITY

Peace is generosity,
peace is right and duty,
not diminishment of life
but its zest and beauty,
not the silence of the dead
nor the tears of grieving
but dynamic of a world
rich beyond believing.

Peace is not the child of fear
nor what terror teaches,
peace is quick to give and serve
where compassion reaches;
not oppression in return,
grudges unforgiven,
but the good of all for all
and the gift of heaven.

Optional final verse for the Christmas season:

Christmas calls the world to peace,
life, not death-defining;
in one baby's human cry
hope again comes shining,
when our hands are open hands,
when we share one table,
then the new day's morning star
lights the Christmas stable.

Text: Shirley Erena Murray
Meter: 7.6.7.6.D
Suggested tunes: AVE VIRGO VIRGINUM, TRIAL* (Swee Hong Lim)
Words and Music © 2012 Hope Publishing Company

Themes: Peace as generosity, compassion, embracing the other



THE HYMN SOCIETY

33. SOMETIMES OUR ONLY SONG IS WEEPING

Sometimes our only song is weeping;
our only sound is gasping breath.
Sometimes it seems that God is sleeping
while our brief lives are bound in death.
Who hears the song our sorrows swallow
and offers hope to calm our fears?
When all our words seem frail and hollow,
God heeds the prayers within our tears.

Sometimes we catch the faintest humming,
a far-off tune our hearts know well.
Sometimes we sense the Spirit coming.
Our song returns; our voices swell.
The Spirit sings though we are shaken,
and Christ has shared our heart-felt cries.
Restored, our weary souls awaken
to join God's song that never dies.

Text: Adam M L Tice

Meter: 9.8.9.8.D

Suggested tunes: WAYFARING STRANGER,
ST. CLEMENT (*using 4 verses of 4 lines each*)

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Themes: Grief, fear, strengthened by the Spirit

34. SPIRIT OF CHRIST, REMEMBER ME

Spirit of Christ,
remember me when my world is torn apart;
Way of all ways,
speak love to me;
draw me to your heart.

Spirit of peace,
remember me when your people sing of war;
Spirit of power,
enliven me;
let me hate no more.

Spirit of hope,
remember me when your people serve despair;
Spirit of life,
encourage me;
strengthen me in prayer.

Spirit of faith,
remember me when mistrust has won the day;
Spirit of truth,
return to me;
show your loving way.

Spirit of Christ,
remember me when I fear to play my part;
Way of all ways,
speak love to me;
draw me to your heart.

Text: Daniel Charles Damon

Meter: 8.7.8.5

Suggested tune: ROBINSON*

Words and Music © 1993 Hope Publishing Company

*Tune available in Dan Damon collection, 'Faith Will Sing', Hope Publishing Company 1993

Themes: Pentecost, prayer



THE HYMN SOCIETY

35. STRONG, GENTLE CHILDREN

Strong, gentle children,
God made you beautiful,
gave you the wisdom and power you need;
speak in the stillness
all you are looking for;
live out your calling to love and to lead.

Strong, hurting children,
angry and terrified,
fear not the secrets your life has concealed;
though you are wounded,
know you are not to blame;
cry out your story till truth is revealed.

Strong, knowing children,
utter your cry aloud,
honor the wisdom God gave you at birth;
speak to your elders
till they have heard your voice;
sing out your vision of healing on earth.

Text: Daniel Charles Damon

Meter: 5.6.10. D

Suggested tune: TWILIGHT*

Words and Music © 1993 Hope Publishing Company

*Tune available in Dan Damon collection 'Faith Will Sing', Hope Publishing Company 1993

Themes: Children, empowerment, healing

36. TECTONIC PLATES BENEATH THE OCEAN'S SURFACE

Tectonic plates beneath the ocean's surface,
uplifted, twisting life and limb and wave.
The landscape that was home has lost its features,
destruction means that few are left to save.

An empty chair amid such devastation
where cars like toys, are lifted, spun about;
and here we wait and pray in helpless anguish;
and 'where is God' we want to cry and shout.

Incarnate God we need your present spirit
to live within your people at this time,
to energize our prayerful words and actions,
to offer grace to life's discordant rhyme.

God, offer hope to those who feel forsaken,
to those whose lives have spun and turned around;
to those whose grief defies all consolation,
bring grace and love and hope and solid ground.

Text: Andrew Pratt

Meter: 11.10.11.10.

Suggested tunes: HIGHWOOD; INTERCESSOR

© 2011 Stainer & Bell Ltd. (admin. Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188)

Theme: Devastation of an earthquake.



THE HYMN SOCIETY

37. THE CHILDREN COME

The children come, not sure where they are going;
some little ones have seen their siblings die.
They've traveled north – a tide that keeps on growing,
a stream of life beneath the desert sky.
Their welcome here? Detention, overflowing.
O Lord of love, now hear your children's cry!

The children come in search of something better;
they've traveled here with nothing in their hands.
On one boy's belt, a number carved in leather
leads to a phone, a brother here, a plan.
They come alone – or sometimes band together;
they bring a plea that we will understand.

O Christ our Lord, you welcomed in the stranger;
you blessed the children, telling them to stay.
Be in the desert, with the tired and injured;
be at the border where they are afraid.
Be on each bus where children sense the danger,
as angry crowds are shouting, "Go away!"

God, let each one know justice, peace and welcome –
and may your gift of mercy start with me.
For unto such as these belongs your kingdom,
and in each child, it is your face we see.
May we, your church, respond in truth and action,
and with you, Lord, say, "Let them come to me."

Text: Carolyn Winfrey Gillette
Meter: 11.10.11.10.11.10.
Suggested tune: FINLANDIA
©2014 Carolyn Winfrey Gillette.

Theme: Unaccompanied minors travelling to escape
violence in their homelands.

38. THE DEEPLY PAINFUL QUESTIONS

The deeply painful questions our minds cannot resolve
are whys we boldly mention and woes we yearn to
solve.
God's purposes elude us, those truths that no one
knows,
as life and all creation, contracts, expands and grows.

God, may we step in, closer, to see continual change
not as a line unbroken, but spirally arranged:
one segment, harsh or heavy, one segment mild and
light,
one arc of change as suffering, the other arc, delight.

To sprout, unfold and flower, there follows endlessly,
birth, death and resurrection. What is brings what shall
be.
Each phase, a crucial action. No loss without a gain.
No growth without affliction. No pleasure without pain.

Joy brings its share of anguish. Fulfillment yields to loss.
Each helps us to distinguish, life with its gold and dross.
Else we would be but phantoms, instead of what is real.
And no good thing would happen, God's love we would
not feel.

God, give a new advantage to us so we may find
life from a prayerful vantage, and glimpse some of your
mind –
the arc of change is bending to start again, anew,
the ring of love unending, the springboard, God, to you.

God, you are good unchanging, flawless reality,
the spark of all beginnings, end of eternity,
the hinge of human history, all time and space above,
the truth revealed in mystery, more clearly seen in love!

Text: John A Dalles
Meter: 7.6.7.6. D
Suggested tune: AURELIA, DAY OF REST, LANCASHIRE
©2013 Wayne Leupold Editions, Inc.



THE HYMN SOCIETY

39. THROUGHOUT THE TIME THAT JESUS LIVED

Throughout the time that Jesus lived
he saw the struggling poor.
He heard the hungry beg for food
and loved them even more.
He touched the broken, lonely, sad,
compassion in his eyes.
He faced the heartbreak grimly felt
when one's beloved dies.

With each new day that Jesus lived
came moments held so dear:
the ordinary joys of life,
with loved ones gathered near;
a child embraced, a wedding blessed,
time spent alone in prayer;
the glimpses of transcendent pow'r
in meals that people share.

In later days that Jesus lived,
he bore his body's pain.
He watched companions flee his side,
too frightened to remain.
He knew firsthand the consequence
of love and trust misplaced.
Denied, betrayed, he ended life
devalued and disgraced.

God understands the ache of grief;
God feels the weight of tears.
God knows the treasures life can hold:
God comprehends our fears.
God knows the price of faithfulness,
the conflicts faced each day.
God knows because God lived it too—
and knowing this, we pray.

Text: Jacque B Jones
Meter: 8.6.8.6.D CMD
Suggested tunes: HALIFAX, KINGSFOLD, RESIGNATION
© 2012 GIA Publications, Inc.

Theme: Jesus' identification with our human
experiences – hunger, joy, abandonment, grief

40. WE HUMANS BUILD TO FRAME A LIFE

We humans build to frame a life
with meaning, love, and feeling,
but time or hate can bring collapse
and loss can leave us reeling.
Let faithful souls from rubble rise
to find new ways from sorrow,
and slowly, slowly form a shape
to welcome God's tomorrow.

For ev'rything our hands construct
will one day fall and crumble.
The God who is a carpenter
creates from scrap and jumble.
And we can join the work of God
to raise a new creation,
that what we do will long endure
upon a firm foundation.

We dedicate ourselves today
amid life's change and danger
to build with God a house of peace
for friend and foe and stranger.
Here may the peoples come and go,
delight in shared endeavor,
set free from terror, hate and war,
alive in God forever.

Text: Ruth Duck
Meter: 8.7.8.7. D
Suggested tune: ENDLESS SONG
©2001 Ruth Duck

Themes: Building with God, dedication, hope



41. WE LOOK UPON OUR ENEMIES

We look upon our enemies
and ask how would they dare
to strike a blow, cut short a life,
bring suff'ring and despair.
We need God's help to understand,
forgive, and then extend a hand.
Refrain Guide us now,
teach us how
we should forgive.
All are one and loved by You.

We have a choice: demand revenge,
our anger as our guide,
or find the will to tum a cheek,
to put revenge aside.
Forgive, but not condone the deed,
begin the healing, plant the seed.
Refrain

A day may come when some will see
an enemy in me,
for I can threaten and destroy,
cause grief and injury.
Then will my victim, feeling pain,
forgive me though the scars remain?
Refrain

Where do we find the character
to let offenses go?
We look to one who never raised
a hand or struck a blow.
Who looked tormentors in the face,
responding to their hate with grace.
Refrain Guide us now,
teach us how
we should forgive.
All are one and loved by You.

Text: Jacque B Jones
Meter: 8.6.8.6.8.8 with refrain
Suggested tune: JESOUS AHATONHIA
© 2006 Jacque B Jones

Topic: Forgiveness, forgiveness of enemies

42. WE SEEK YOU HERE AS WELL, O GOD

We seek you here as well, O God,
when wrath and vengeance rend our skies,
when buildings fall and dreams collapse
before our disbelieving eyes.

We glimpse your Servant's suffering face
in camps of fear-torn refugees
who flee the wreckage of our wars –
the squalor, torment, and disease.

We hear the prayer our Savior taught
from children starved for daily bread,
whose soft, uncomprehending cries
lament the ache of hope gone dead.

We search within our anguished hearts
and yearn to find you there as well:
the One who bore and bears our pains,
each day descending into hell.

We seek your empty cross, O God,
your present love with all who grieve,
your risen triumph over death.
Through darkness, help us yet believe.

Text: Mary Louise Bringle
Meter: 8.8.8.8. LM
Suggested tune: WINCHESTER NEW, KEDRON
© 2001 GIA Publications, Inc.

Themes: Tragedy of September 11, 2001, flight of
refugees, where is God in the midst of tragedy



43. WHAT COMFORT CAN OUR WORSHIP BRING

What comfort can our worship bring
on bleak and empty days
to those who cannot bear to sing
when pain is missed in praise?

What sorrow can we dare to own?
What anger, loss and fears?
Not just in joy is God made known,
but also in our tears.

O God, hear every longing sigh
as voices rise and strain
and meet us in that honest cry
where praise is voiced in pain.

Text: Adam M L Tice

Meter: 8.6.8.6. CM

Suggested tunes: MORNING SONG (CONSOLATION)

©2009 GIA Publications, Inc.

Theme: God in our times of lament

44. WHEN EYES THAT WE ONCE KNEW AS KEEN

When eyes that we once knew as keen,
alive to every wondrous sight,
turn inward toward some land unseen
of hidden seas and unknown heights,
grant us to look upon this face
and find the heart to take the loss,
the patience and a touch of grace
to bear this bitter, lingering cross.

When murmurs come where speech had been,
the laughter gone, the well-turned phrase,
the voice that we delighted in,
the pleasant chats of other days--
though these are stilled, may we recall
the hours we spent, the joy we knew,
the words we shared before this wall
of silence and of sorrow grew.

These hands that flitted over cloth,
that dug the garden, stirred the broth,
God, as we hold now taskless hands,
and help with clothing, care, and food,
we pray the soul may understand
the things we do in gratitude.

O God, this mind we thought so vast
contracts, and simple thoughts go wrong,
yet still it treasures music past:
a wisp of words, a snatch of song.
Within the burdens we must bear
Your grace still shines in such small things.
We trust all to Your loving care,
rejoicing that the soul still sings.

Text: John Core

Meter: 8 8 8 8 D

Suggested Tune: Candler (*Scottish traditional melody*)

© 2003 The Hymn Society (admin. Hope Publishing Company)

Theme: Aging, memory loss, dementia



45. WHEN MEMORY FADES

When memory fades and recognition falters,
when eyes we love grow dim, and minds, confused,
speak to our souls of love that never alters.
Speak to our hearts, by pain and fear abused.
O God of life and healing peace, empower us
with patient courage, by your grace infused.

As frailness grows and youthful strengths diminish
in weary arms that worked their earnest fill,
your aging servants labor now to finish
their earthly tasks, as fits your mystery's will.
We grieve their waning, yet rejoice, believing
your arms, unwearied, shall uphold us still.

Within your Spirit, goodness lives unfading.
The past and future mingle into one.
All joys remain, unshadowed light pervading.
No valued deed will ever be undone.
Your mind enfolds all finite acts and offerings.
Held in your heart, our deathless life is won!

Text: Mary Louise Bringle
Meter: 11.10.11.10.11.10
Suggested tune: FINLANDIA
© 2002 GIA Publications, Inc.

Themes: Aging, memory loss, Alzheimer's

46. WHEN OUR WORLD IS RENT BY VIOLENCE

When our world is rent by violence
and our lives are marred by grief,
when our songs of calm assurance
turn to cries of unbelief:
God, we raise our lamentation
seeking refuge and relief.

When our cities stand forsaken
and the poor must beg for bread,
when the pris'ner sits forgotten
and the homeless find no bed,
God we raise our lamentation:
waken justice from the dead!

When our lives are burnt to ashes
and our hopes fade like a dream,
When our stories lose their meaning
and despair becomes their theme,
God, we raise our lamentation:
Come, Lord Jesus, to redeem!

Raise up beauty from the ashes;
end our violence; tend our peace.
Give us visions of a future
where all captives find release,
where oppression is evicted,
and all works of hatred cease.

Text: David Bjorlin
Meter: 8.7.8.7.8.7
Suggested tunes: PICARDY, RHUDDLAN,
©2015 Hope Publishing Company
This text with musical setting may be accessed at Hope
Online Hymnody database
Themes: Overcoming violence, despair, poverty



THE HYMN SOCIETY

47. WHEN QUIET PEACE IS SHATTERED

When quiet peace is shattered
by dreadful noise of war,
and we are bruised and battered
by fighting's constant roar,
Lord, break the silence of your Word
and let your healing voice be heard.
O let your healing voice be heard.

When troubles still our love-song,
and fear beats hard within,
when anger drowns the dove's song,
and life's a noisy din,
Lord, break the silence of your Word
and let your healing voice be heard.
O let your healing voice be heard.

When clashing wills divide us,
and hearts refuse to mend,
when feelings scream inside us,
and agonies won't end,
Lord, break the-silence of your Word
and let your healing voice be heard.
O let your healing voice be heard.

Text: Mary Nelson Keithahn
Meter: 7.6.7.6. with refrain
Suggested tune: HEALING VOICE*
Words and Music: ©1993 Hinshaw Music, Inc.

Themes: Horrors of war, shock of grief, hopelessness of unresolved conflicts, hurt of broken relationships.

Note: Inspired by Edvard Munch's painting, 'The Scream'.

48. WHEN SORROW WILL NOT BE CONSOLED

When sorrow will not be consoled,
when heaven seems a fairy tale,
when life is like a shattered dream,
remember Christ felt every nail.

When joy in life is robbed by pain,
when sickness reigns and grief invades
when death defeats life all too soon,
believe in joy that never fades.

Give thanks for joys too briefly known,
give thanks for nights in love's embrace,
give thanks for days when life was full,
remember God's redeeming grace.

When hearts are sore and hope comes hard,
when unexpected turns bring pain,
when sadness seems too much to bear,
remember love can rise again.

Text: Daniel Charles Damon
Meter: 8.8.8.8. LM
Suggested tunes: O WALY WALY (Gift of Love),
MARYTON, QUEBEC (Hesperus)
© 1998 Hope Publishing Company

Theme: Grief



THE HYMN SOCIETY

49. WHEN SUDDEN TERROR TEARS APART

When sudden terror tears apart
the world we thought was ours,
we find how fragile strength can be,
how limited our powers.

Yet most of all we are aware
of emptiness and void:
of lives cut short, of pain and grief,
of confidence destroyed.

From this abyss of doubt and fear
we grope for words to pray,
and hear our stammering tongues embrace
a timeless Kyrie.

But neither tongue nor heart nor mind
can fully comprehend
what eye has seen and ear has heard
as sound and vision blend.

Have mercy, Lord, give strength and peace,
and make our courage great;
restrain our urge to seek revenge,
to turn our hurt to hate.

Help us to know your steadfast love,
your presence near as breath;
rekindle in our hearts the hope
of life that conquers death.

Text: Carl P Daw, Jr.
Meter: 8.6.8.6 CM (or CMD)
Suggested tunes: BANGOR, DETROIT, [or THIRD MODE
MELODY]
©2001, rev. 2013 Hope Publishing Company

Theme: Response to tragedy of September 11, 2001

50. WHEN TERROR STREAKS THROUGH MORNING SKIES

When terror streaks through morning skies
and fear-dazed minds grow numb,
with interceding, pray'rful sighs,
O Healing Spirit, come.

Come reach us through the mute appeal
of dust-smeared hands and face,
whose acts of valiant love reveal
an unexpected grace.

Through rubble of our ravaged past,
you held our hopes alone.
Rebuild our fragile dreams to last,
of faith and not of stone.

Redeeming God, when hatreds turn
our morning hours to night,
transform our raging hearts to yearn
for peace and healing light.

Text: Mary Louise Bringle
Meter: 8.6.8.6. CM
Suggested tunes: BANGOR, DETROIT, I LOVE THE LORD
©2001 Mary Louise Bringle

Themes: Response to tragedy of September 11, 2001,
peace, transformation



THE HYMN SOCIETY

51. WHEN THE EARTH'S WILD HIDDEN FORCES

When the earth's wild hidden forces
roar and shake and tilt the ground,
making fissures, cracks, and sinkholes
in this land that once seemed sound,
then we know a power beyond us,
part of mystery profound,
part of mystery profound.

When the earth's wild hidden forces,
crush and maim, and kill life's dreams,
taking from us those who loved us,
people that we long esteemed,
then we know a power beyond us,
greater than we ever dreamed,
greater than we ever dreamed.

When the earth's wild hidden forces,
strike our cities thought secure,
damage buildings long enduring,
till, unsafe, they stand no more,
then we know a power beyond us,
sprung forth from creation's store,
sprung forth from creation's store.

Now let earth's wild hidden forces,
show us values long ignored
in our search for passing pleasures:
life and love, and faith in God,
in the testing and the turmoil
may God's healing power be found,
may God's healing love abound.

Text: Norman E Brookes
Meter: 8.7.8.7.8.7.7
Suggested tune: PICARDY
©2010, Norman E Brookes

Themes: Earthquake or other natural disasters

52. WILL YOU HOLD ME IN THE LIGHT?

Will you hold me in the light
with prayer and song?
Hold me in the light of God.
Will you weep and cry with me?
Will you ache and sigh with me?
Hold me in the light of God.

Hmmm

We will hold you in the light
and walk with you.
Come into the light of God.
We will share your tears with you;
we will face your fears with you.
Come into the light of God.

Text: Adam M L Tice
Meter: Irregular
Suggested tune: ASSEMBLY (Sally Ann Morris)
©2011 GIA Publications, Inc.

Themes: Comfort, mutual support, grief, sorrow



THE HYMN SOCIETY

53. YOU FORMED CREATION BY YOUR WORD

You formed creation by your word
and you declared it good,
a place to nurture humankind,
though little understood.
For your creation harbors ill,
capricious forces stay,
the elements that nourish life
can then steal life away.

When fragile people lose their homes
to seething wind and waves,
when stormy nights are terror filled,
when shelters turn to graves,
when grieving children look for toys
amid the raw debris,
it is so hard to hold to faith
when hearts cry out: "Why Me?"

There was a time when water cleansed,
as token of rebirth,
and I have heard the vibrant wind
proclaim your Spirit's worth.
But wind and water join in force,
your gifts exert their will;
the paradox within your world:
that good can also kill.

Sustain me God, as I confront
the tempest that has stilled.
Help me endure the task ahead
reclaim and then rebuild.
I know that out of death comes life,
with time will come relief.
For even now, Lord, I believe.
Lord, help my unbelief.

Text: Jacque B Jones
Meter: 8.6.8.6.D CMD
Suggested tunes: HALIFAX, THIRD MODE MELODY, NOEL
©2003 Jacque B Jones

Theme: Lamenting violence in creation (*in the wake of
Hurricane Ike, September 2008*)



HYMNS IN TIMES OF CRISIS

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THE HYMN SOCIETY

HYMNS IN TIMES OF CRISIS

INDEX OF CATEGORIES AND TOPICS

AGING: Dementia, Alzheimer's

When Eyes That We Once Knew As Keen - 44
When Memory Fades - 45

CARING: Compassion, Confession, Inclusion, Lament

Broken, Bitter, Bruised We Come - 5
God, Bless the Ones Who Watch and Wait - 11
I Did Not Hear the Mother's Cry - 20
Our God, Who Uses Broken Things - 31

CARE OF CREATION: Ecological Damage

Can You Feel the Seasons Turning - 6
Now is the Time for Reckoning - 30
You Formed Creation by Your Word - 53

HOPE: Assurance, Comfort, Facing Difficult Times

Come, In Our Dark Time - 7
Give Praise for God's Strange Gift of Pain - 9
Jesus, Show Us How to Pray - 23
Let My Spirit Always Sing - 25
Light Shone in Darkness as the World's Creation - 26
Like a Flowing Stream - 27
Lord Jesus, When My Courage Fails - 29
The Deeply Painful Questions - 38
Throughout the Time that Jesus Lived - 39
Will You Hold Me in the Light - 52

NATURAL DISASTERS: Earthquakes, Floods, Hurricanes

As the Waters Rise Around Us- 3
In Floods of Chaos - 21
Tectonic Plates beneath the Ocean's Surface - 36
When the Earth's Wild Hidden Forces - 51

OVERCOMING: Division, Doubt, Fear, Restoring Faith

As We, Your People, Gather - 4
Hear Us, Now, We Come Confessing - 17
How Can We Sing Our Love for God - 19
Spirit of Christ, Remember Me - 34



PEACE: Seeking Freedom, Justice

Gentle God, When We Are Driven - 8
 God, of Freedom, God of Justice - 13
 Peace is Generosity - 32
 We Humans Build to Frame a Life - 40

PERSONAL LOSS: Grief, Loneliness

God Weeps with Us Who Weep and Mourn - 15
 Into the Hands that Blessed the Children - 22
 Let Flow Our Tears in Grief for This - 24
 Little One, Born to Bring - 28
 Sometimes Our Only Song is Weeping - 33
 What Comfort Can Our Worship - 43
 When Sorrow Will Not Be Consoled - 48

VIOLENCE: Abuse, Rejection, Migration

A Voice Was Heard in Ramah - 1
 Abba, Deliver Them from Evil - 2
 Give Us a Voice - 10
 God Weeps - 14
 Strong, Gentle Children - 35
 The Children Come - 37

VIOLENCE: Acts of Terrorism, Overcoming Despair

As We, Your People, Gather - 4
 God, We've Known Such Grief and Anger - 16
 Here by Our Own Home Waters - 18
 We Seek You Here As Well, O God - 42
 When Our World is Rent by Violence - 46
 When Sudden Terror Tears Apart - 49
 When Terror Streaks through Morning Skies - 50

VIOLENCE: Conflict, War, Overcoming Divisions

As We, Your People, Gather - 4
 God is Our Shelter - 12
 We Look Upon Our Enemies - 41
 When Quiet Peace is Shattered - 47

WORSHIP

What Comfort Can Our Worship - 43



THE HYMN SOCIETY

HYMNS IN TIMES OF CRISIS

INDEX OF FIRST LINE OF HYMNS

A Voice Was Heard in Ramah - 1
 Abba, Deliver Them from Evil - 2
 As the Waters Rise Around Us - 3
 As We, Your People, Gather - 4

 Broken, Bitter, Bruised We Come - 5

 Can You Feel the Seasons Turning - 6
 Come, In Our Dark Time - 7

 Gentle God, When We Are Driven - 8
 Give Praise for God's Strange Gift of Pain- 9
 Give Us a Voice - 10
 God, Bless the Ones Who Watch and Wait - 11
 God is Our Shelter - 12
 God of Freedom, God of Justice - 13
 God Weeps - 14
 God Weeps with Us Who Weep and Mourn - 15
 God, We've Known Such Grief and Anger - 16

 Hear Us, Now, We Come Confessing - 17
 Here by Our Own Home Waters - 18
 How Can We Sing Our Love for God - 19

 I Did Not Hear The Mother's Cry - 20
 In Floods of Chaos - 21
 Into the Hands that Blessed the Children - 22

 Jesus, Show Us How to Pray - 23

 Let Flow Our Tears in Grief for This - 24
 Let My Spirit Always Sing - 25
 Light Shone in Darkness at the World's Creation- 26
 Like a Flowing Stream - 27
 Little One, Born to Bring - 28
 Lord Jesus, When My Courage Fails - 29

 Now is the Time for Reckoning - 30

 Our God, Who Uses Broken Things - 31

 Peace is Generosity - 32

 Sometimes Our Only Song is Weeping - 33
 Spirit of Christ, Remember Me - 34
 Strong, Gentle Children - 35



THE HYMN SOCIETY

Tectonic Plates beneath the Ocean's Surface – 36
The Children Come - 37
The Deeply Painful Questions - 38
Throughout the Time that Jesus Lived - 39

We Humans Build to Frame a Life - 40
We Look Upon Our Enemies - 41
We Seek You Here As Well, O God - 42
What Comfort Can Our Worship - 43
When Eyes That We Once Knew As Keen - 44
When Memory Fades - 45
When Our World is Rent by Violence - 46
When Quiet Peace is Shattered - 47
When Sorrow Will Not Be Consoled - 48
When Sudden Terror Tears Apart - 49
When Terror Streaks through Morning Skies - 50
When the Earth's Wild Hidden Forces - 51
Will You Hold Me in the Light - 52

You Formed Creation by Your Word - 53

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