# Singing Welcome: Hymns and Songs of Hospitality to Refugees and Immigrants



Our circle is just right. The city has an ordered mix. The school, the proper chemistry. The church, politeness re-defined. The club, propriety itself. It's good the way it is. The borders should be closed. The rules should be maintained. The limits should be clear. The sanctions should be plain. Our circle is just right . . . But God, who cares about such things, and grieves when we usurp God's place has picked some crayons from a box, and with a child-like sense of right is drawing something new. The Holy Artist laughs and sings, then calls to us, "Come look at this!" This circle brings folks in; a carousel of love and light a place where dancing folks drop hands, and take one joyful, giant step, invite the stragglers in, rejoin their hands, and dance the night away.

- John Thornburg, FHS

Recently, The Hymn Society in the United States and Canada articulated its purpose in these words:

We believe that the holy act of singing together shapes faith, heals brokenness, transforms lives, and renews peace.

For nearly 100 years, the work of The Hymn Society has included the promotion and creation of new hymns that respond to contemporary issues, inviting Christian communities to respond in worship through song. The current concerns surrounding refugees and immigrants has stimulated many expressions in song, and we are grateful to the authors, composers, and publishers who submitted hymns and songs for consideration for this collection. More than 200 submissions were received and reviewed, from which we have selected forty-six for this collection.

We envision this collection finding use in a variety of ways and in a variety of contexts. Here are a few possibilities:

- Worship planners might include a hymn preceding or following a congregational prayer that lifts up the needs of refugees and immigrants.
- A congregation might use a text for unison or responsive prayer or reflection.
- Within its customary order of worship, a church might sing one of the short, global, liturgical responses as an act of solidarity with refugees and immigrants from other cultures.
- A small group Bible study might read or sing together some of these selections alongside a scripture study on texts related to immigrants and refugees.
- A text could be introduced to a congregation by interspersing the stanzas (whether sung by a choir or congregationally) between portions of a sermon on hospitality to the stranger or other similar theme.
- A Christian Education program might offer a series of classes studying cultures from which
  refugees and immigrants are arriving, and singing songs from those cultures.
- A group of churches might collaborate in a hymn festival on themes of welcome towards immigrants and refugees. An offering might be taken to support World Relief or another NGO resettling refugees.
- Individuals might reflect on a different hymn each day as a part of a personal devotional practice.

The Hymn Society in the United States and Canada offers this resource for use by churches and individuals. The publishers, authors, and composers have graciously granted permission for use of any of the hymns in this collection at no royalty cost for a period of two months. Beyond two months of usage, copyright permission must be obtained. If your church is a member of One License or CCLI, you are encouraged to report your usage there as you would customarily do. At the end of this collection you can find copyright information.

We pray that this resource will encourage and deepen your congregation's commitment to love neighbor as self, and to act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with our God.

Singing Welcome Working Group

David Bjorlin Hilary Seraph Donaldson Delores Dufner, OSB, FHS Paul A. Richardson, FHS Eric Sarwar Benjamin Brody, convener

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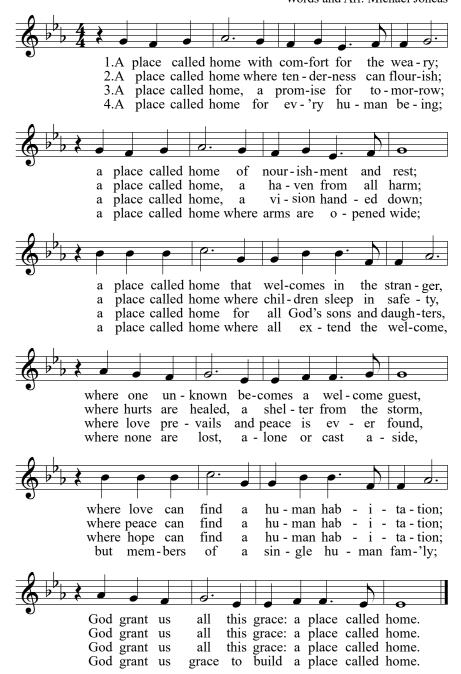
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Hallelujah (Syria)	Traditional		Syria
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Nita Mwimbiya	Asata Choir	Asata Choir	Democratic Republic of Congo
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#### A PLACE CALLED HOME

FINLANDIA Jean Sibelius, 1865–1957 Words and Arr. Michael Joncas



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## A Stranger, Starving on the Street



Words: Larry E. Schultz

Music: English Traditional; English Country Songs, 1893

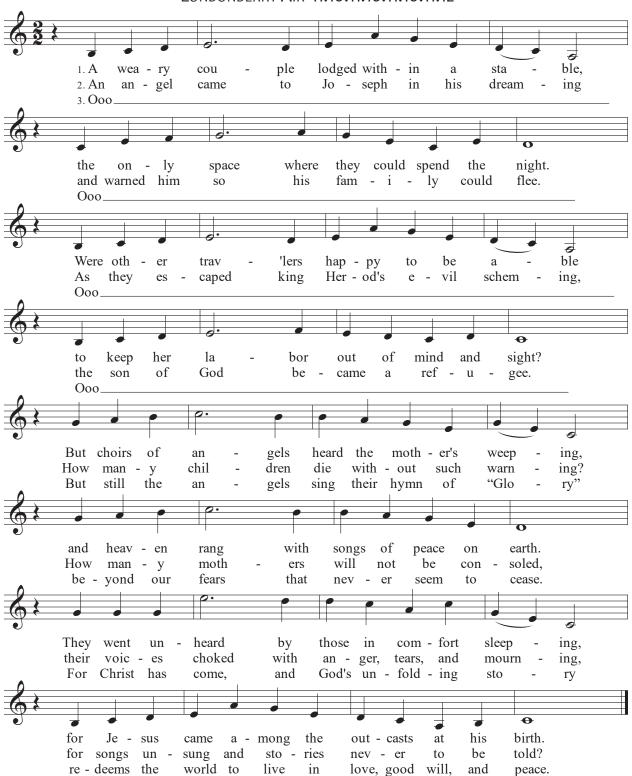
KINGSFOLD 8.6.8.6 D (CMD)

Words © 2014 Larry E. Schultz.



## A weary couple

LONDONDERRY AIR 11.10.11.10.11.12



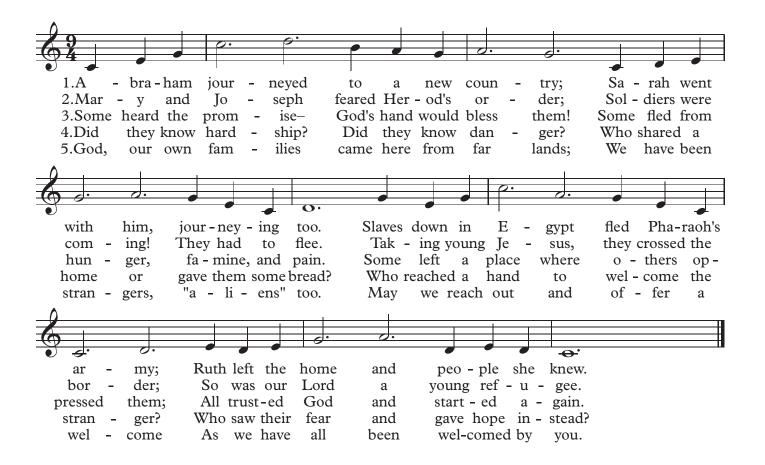
Text: Adam M. L. Tice, ©2015 GIA Publications, Inc.

Tune: Irish traditional

## Abraham Journeyed to a New Country

Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, 2010

BUNESSAN, Gaelic Melody



# All Ye Refugees

Chelsey Scott Kellie Haddock Flo Paris





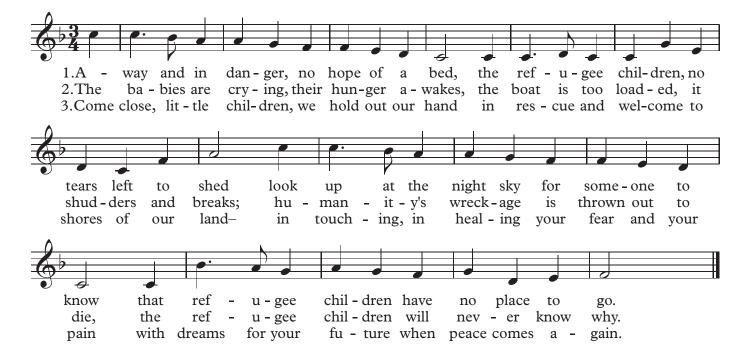
A youtube link to a recording of this piece can be found here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gpTL3by3910

## Away and in Danger

(Carol of the Refugee Children)

Shirley Erena Murray

AWAY IN A MANGER; James R. Murray, 1887



#### Author's Note:

This was written for non-churched as well as church people to sing because they knew the tune and its association. It intentionally had no Christian reference because the framework is larger than the Christian agenda.

#### Build A Longer Table



65 65 55 65

## Christ Is for Losers



Text: Adam M. L. Tice, 2006; © 2009, GIA Publications, Inc. Tune: DREAM ANGUS; Scottish folk song; acc. John L. Bell, b. 1949; © 1993, Iona Community; GIA Publications, Inc., agent

from the collection Woven into Harmony, G-7542

#### Commonwealth Is God's Commandment

Commissioned for the 30th Anniversary Gathering of the Aliance of Baptists



Shanti is the word for "peace" in Hindu and Buddhist traditions. Maslaha is a concept in Islamic law connoting the "common good."

TEXT: Mary Louise Bringle, 2017

MUSIC: William Walker's Southern Harmony, 1835

Text © 2017 GIA Publications, Inc.

#### Community of Christ



WORDS: Shirley Erena Murray (1931- ) MUSIC: Hebrew melody; arr. Meyer Lyon (1751-1797) Words © 1992 Hope Publishing Company LEONI 6.6.8.4.D.

## **From Wisdom Emerging**



#### Gentle Joseph Heard a Warning

Carl P. Daw, Jr.

PLEADING SAVIOR; Christian Lyre, 1831





MUSIC: Daniel Charles Damo Words © 2010 Hope Publishing Company Music © 2012 Hope Publishing Company



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#### God, how can we comprehend?

Caroly Winfrey Gillette

ABERSTWYTH; Joseph Parry, 1879



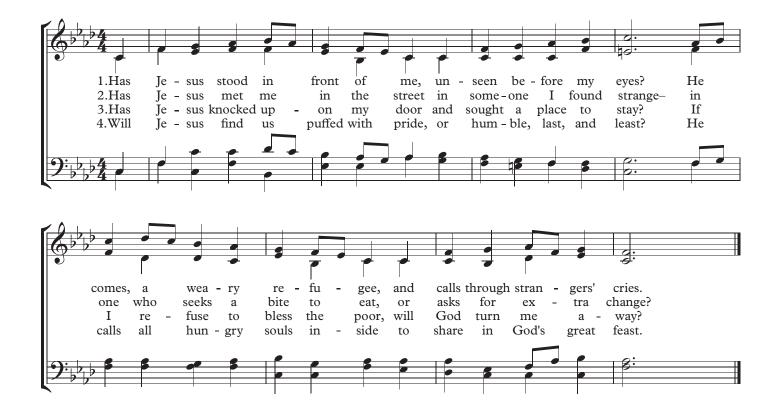


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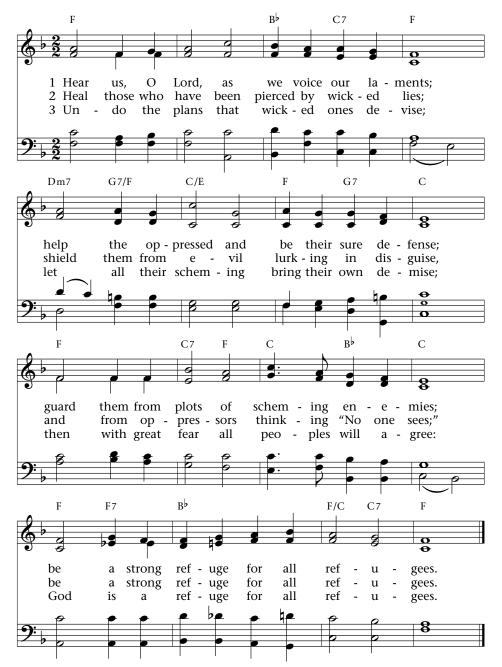
## Has Jesus Stood in Front of Me

Adam M. L. Tice

MORNING SONG; Wyeth's Repository of Sacred Music, 1813



#### Hear Us, O Lord, As We Voice Our Laments



Words: David Landegent © 2010 David Landegent Music (LANGRAN 10.10.10.10): James Langran, 1861, P.D.

#### A Prayer for Refugees

The litany may begin with the reading, chanting, or singing of Psalm 64.

Hear us, Lord, as we raise our voices;

#### in you we take refuge.

Preserve those whose life is threatened by enemies and who are the target of bitter words or evil schemes. Remember those who are vulnerable and exposed, those who are victims of natural disaster, war, and persecution, those suffering anguish and sorrow.

Bring them to safety;

#### in you we take refuge.

Give shelter to those seeking a hiding place, to those torn from their homes, those who are separated from loved ones, those who are lost or have run away.

Bring them to safety;

#### in you we take refuge.

You look with mercy and love on all refugees. Help us to welcome the stranger, befriend the lonely, and show compassion. Allow your Spirit to move in us and teach us to seek justice, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with you, telling of all your works.

Let us rejoice and give praise;

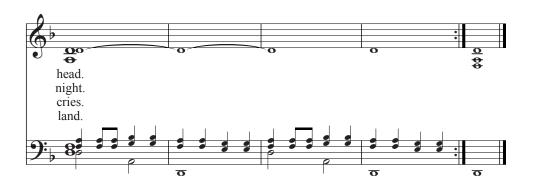
#### in you we take refuge.

Melissa Haupt, 2011, © Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike

#### Here to the House of God We Come

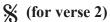


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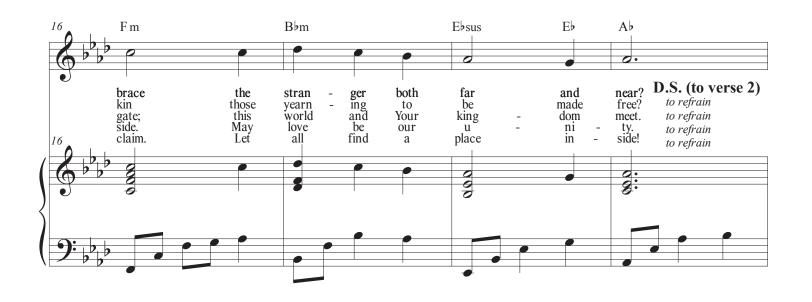
## How Big Are Your Arms, O God?

Carol Meier

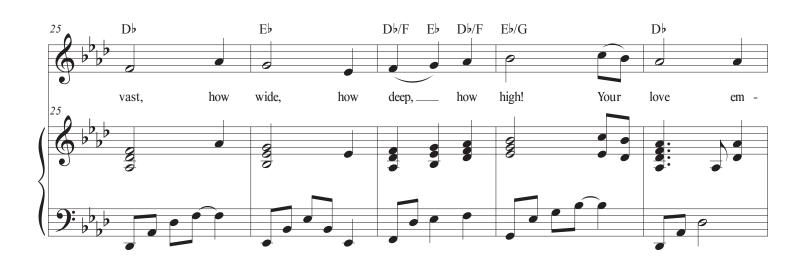


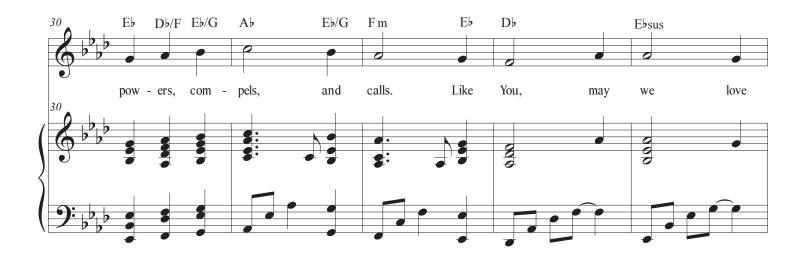




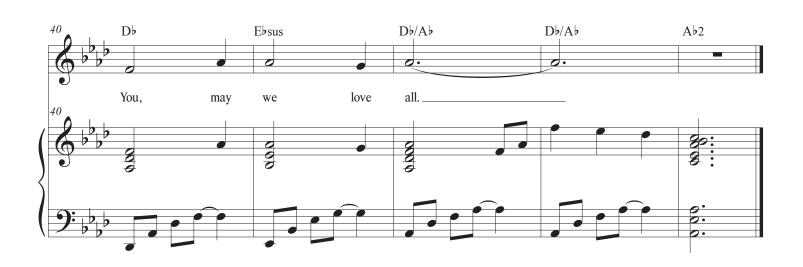












#### I Am Standing Waiting



WORDS: Shirley Erena Murray MUSIC: Traditional French melody Words © 1992 Hope Publishing Company AU CLAIR DE LA LUNE 11.11.11.11.

## **Welcome Table**

#### African-American spiritual







I'm gonna eat with my sisters and brothers...

We're gonna feast on milk and honey...

I'm gonna eat and drink with Jesus...

Here all the world will find a welcome...

#### In Every Place Where God is Praised



## Jesus entered Egypt

KING'S WESTON 65.65D



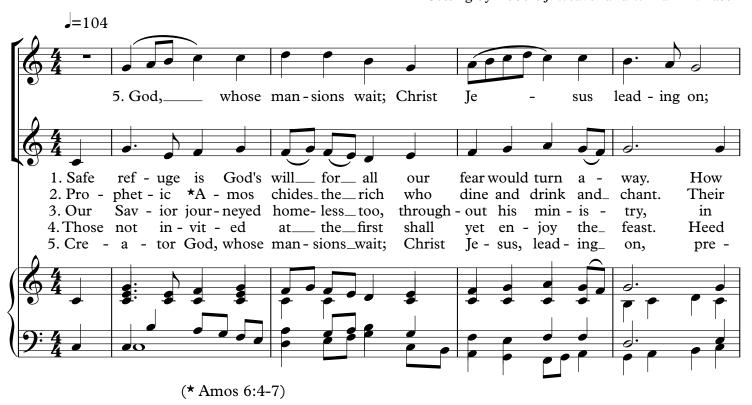
Text: Adam M.L. Tice, April 24, 2007, ©GIA Publications, Inc.

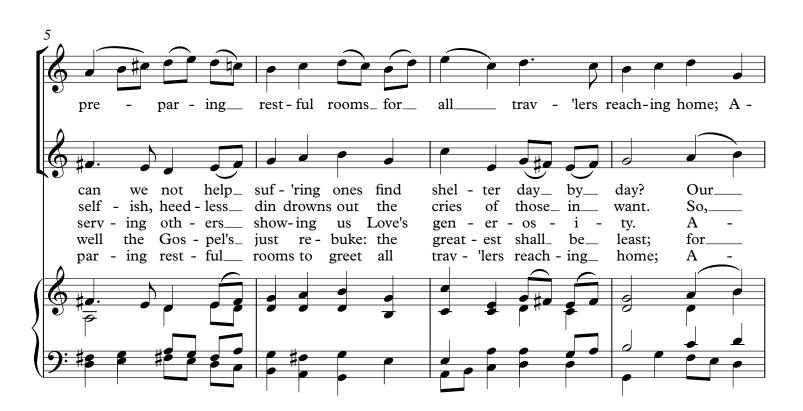
Tune: Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1925, ©1931 Oxford University Press, London

#### Safe Refuge Is God's Will for All

Text: William A. Pasch; 2005, rev. 2017

SAFE REFUGE (CMD) Setting by Robert J. Weaver and William A. Pasch









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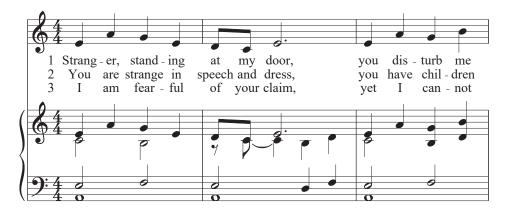
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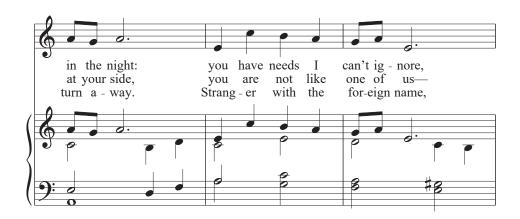
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## Stranger, Standing at My Door







WORDS: Shirley Erena Murray MUSIC: Jane Marshall

Words © 1997 Hope Publishing Company Music © 2008 Hope Publishing Company STRANGER



## The Children Come

Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

FINLANDIA; Jean Sibelius, 1899



# The Scriptures Say that Jesus Came



Tune: *Columbian Harmony*, 1825; harm. Louise McAllister, 1958 Text: John Thornburg, (c) 2007, Wayne Leupold Editions



Music: MISSISSIPPI by William Bradley Roberts, copyright © 1995 Augsburg Fortress. Reproduced by permission.

Tucson, 10.07.1993



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WORDS: Daniel Charles Damon © 2007 MUSIC: Traditional, Arr. © 2007 Daniel Charles Damon

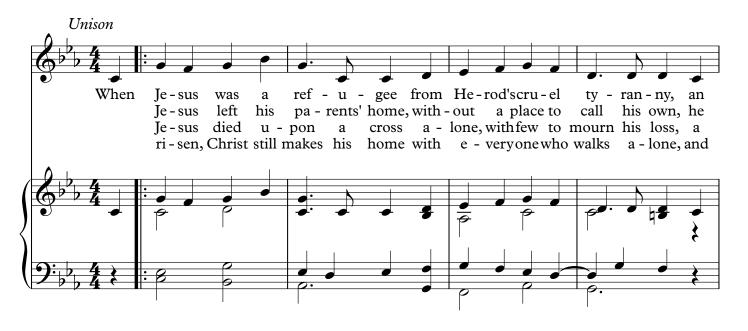
ST. JAMES INFIRMARY Irregular

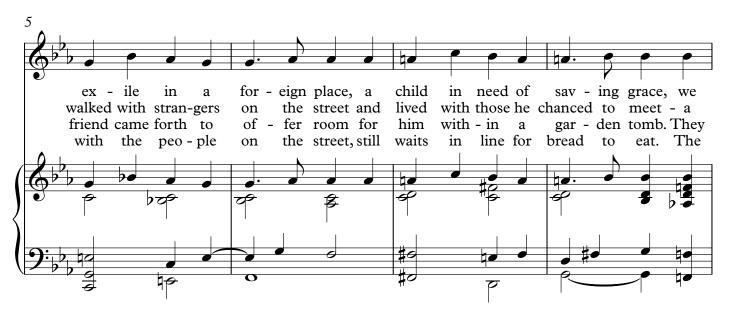
# WHEN JESUS WAS A REFUGEE

NEIGHBORS 88.88 D

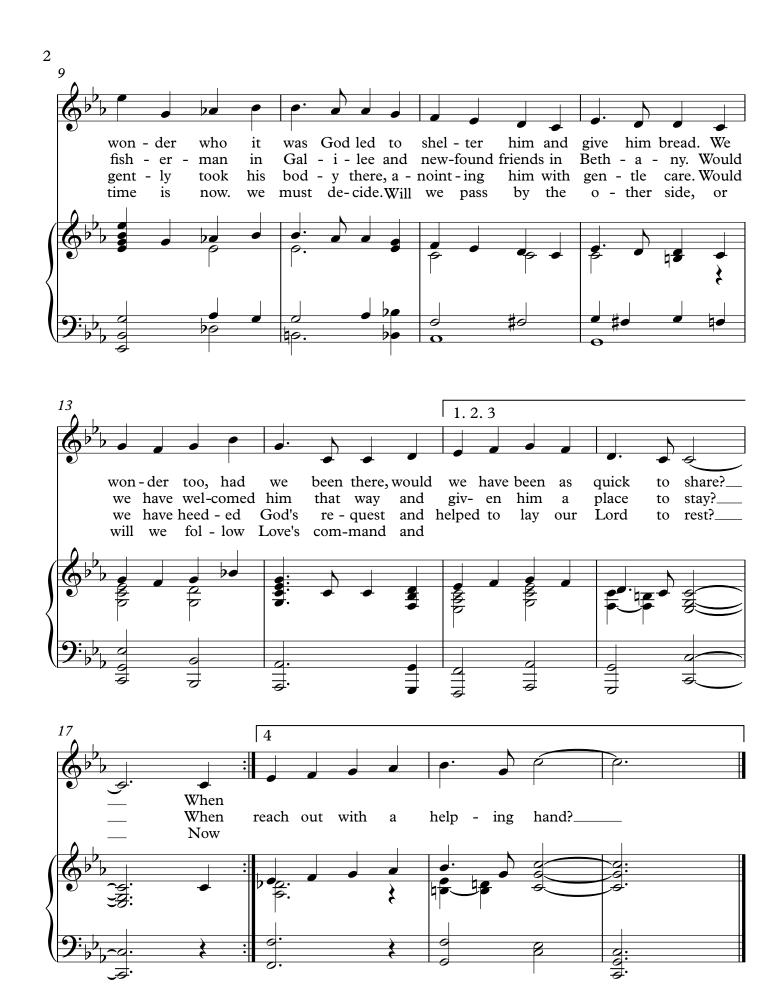
Mary Nelson Keithahn

John D. Horman





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## You Come Like the Lowliest

COLUMCILLE (DOMHNACH TRIONOIDE) 11.11.11.11



Text: Adam M. L. Tice, 2011; ©2013 GIA Publications, Inc.

Tune: Gaelic traditional

#### Singing Welcome through the Witness of the Global Church

There are many ways that congregational song can be used powerfully to express welcome. The preceding songs in this resource articulate welcome eloquently and persuasively from a largely Anglo-North American perspective. However, it can also be deeply meaningful to sing our hospitality through songs in languages other than English, which are shared with us by communities across the world. This kind of singing can have a prophetic quality: we sing toward a day when our communities will reflect the radical hospitality of the One who inspires our song. Jesus told his disciples to preach the gospel to "the whole inhabited earth;" in singing the songs of our siblings in Christ, we invite them to preach to us.

When introducing songs in languages other than English, I like to take a few moments at the beginning of worship to teach the song to my congregation by breaking it down into its component parts. I might go over the unfamiliar language first, lining-out the text in small portions and having the congregation sing it back. Then, I would teach the melody line-by-line, giving special attention to any tricky rhythmic features or melodic leaps. Many of these songs can and should be taught by rote, without tying people to a printed page; this leaves them free to embody the song through possible movement, clapping, stomping, and dancing. Consider teaching these songs to your choir first, so that in worship they can support the congregation's learning with confidence. Consider using newly introduced material several weeks in a row, to allow the new and different song to become a familiar friend. Engaging in these teaching techniques does not have to detract from the flow of worship; rather, these approaches demonstrate that learning together in community is in itself an act of worship.

-- Hilary Seraph Donaldson

To give you a better sense of these songs and how they might be used in worship, have a look at the following examples online:

### Hallelujah (Palestine)

Video: Debbie Lou Ludolph, Music that Makes Community

# Khudaayaa, raeham kar / Have mercy on us, Lord Video: Scott Weidler, Music that Makes Community

### Kwake Yesu nasimama / You're the solid rock of my life

Kenya is the location of Dadaab, a major Somali refugee camp.

Video: YouTube user logick1705

This video is quite upbeat, but I like to do this piece with a more anthemic, praise-and-worship vibe; try it out and see what approach resonates most with your community.

### Las mesas partidas / These Tables Divided

Video: World Council of Churches, Hosanna! Pilgrim Songs

### Murassalat

Video: English Congregation, Geneva Lutheran Church, Geneva, Switzerland

### Na nzela na lola

Video: https://youtu.be/i7LXFg8agqk

## Nita mwimbiya Bwana

Video: World Council of Churches, Hosanna! Pilgrim Songs

### Salaam aleikum

Video: Eastminster United Church

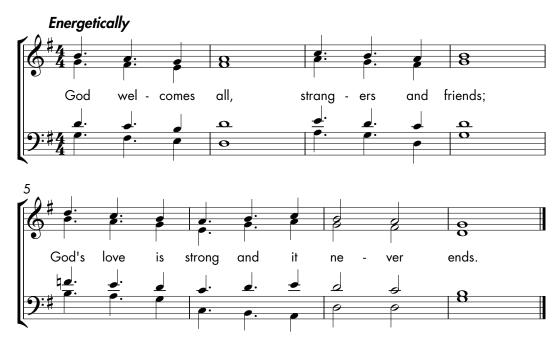
### Shukuru

Video: Hilary Donaldson, Music that Makes Community

## Ya rabba ssalami / You, God of peace

Video: <u>Amanda Powell</u>

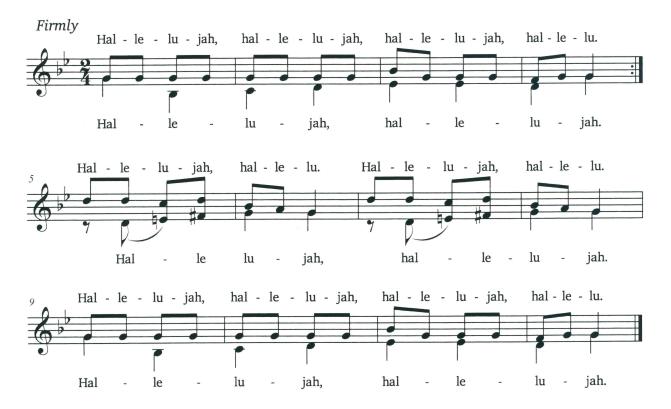
Words: John L. Bell. Music: South African traditional, transcribed by John L. Bell at the Sunrise Hospice, Themba.



Words & transcription © 2008 WGRG, Iona Community, Scotland. GIA Publications, Inc., exclusive North American agent.

# Palestinian Hallelujah

Palestine

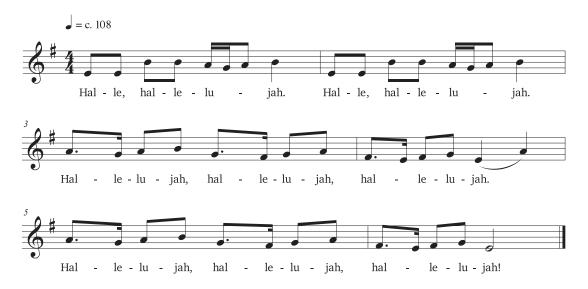


This Palestinian song is easily taught in two parts without the singers having music in their hands. Notice the AABBA structure, which means only two phrases need to be taught in order to sing the whole song. Using hand signals to indicate melodic movement up and down can be helpful.

from Sing the Circle Wide: Songs of Faith from Around the World (c 2016, Kanata Centre for Worship and Global Song, Waterloo, Canada)

# Syrian Hallelujah

Syria



To sing a song from Syria in these days when Syrians have been displaced from their homes by violence offers a reminder of the ancient and beautiful worship practices of Syrian Christians and Jews, and makes this Hallelujah both a song of praise and a song of solidarity. A simple accompaniment of drum, tambourine, and finger cymbals gives this song a Middle Eastern soundscape.

from Sing the Circle Wide: Songs of faith from around the world, published by the Kanata Centre for Worship and Global Song.

Words: Traditional Liturgical Music: Traditional Syrian

## Hola! Cómo estás?



Text: Mireya Carpinteryo, 1987, refrain adapt. Kenneth R. Hanna. Music: Mireya and Raúl Carpintero, 1987, arrang. Leslie Gómez C. © 1988 Casa Bautista de Publicaciones. Used with permission by Hispanic World Publishers-Baptist Spanish Publishing House.

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## Have Mercy on Us, LORD

(Urdhu: Khudaayaa, raeham kar)



Words: Traditional, Pakistan

Music: KHUDAA YAA; R. F. Liberius, Pakistan

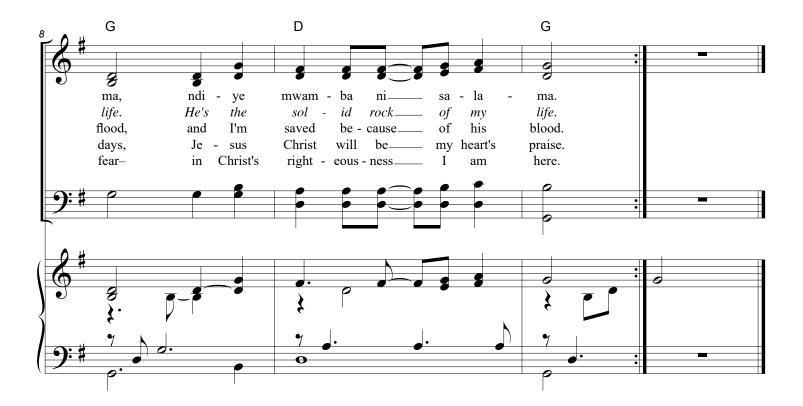
## Here on Jesus Christ I Will Stand Kwake Yesu Nasimama

from Kenya paraphrase and arr. Greg Scheer



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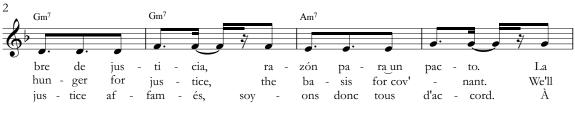
2 Here on Jesus Christ I Will Stand SATB and piano



### Las mesas partidas

### These tables divided







- 2. Ayuno ofrecido: comer compartido: acuerdos tomados: Dios va comfirmando. Comida que abraza: razón de esperanza: Justicia en el mundo: Dios va aconteciendo.
- 2. The fast that we offer, the meal that we're sharing, agreements we're making, our God now confirms them. The food that unites us gives reason for hoping because God is bringing a world that is just for all.
- 2. Le jeûne acceptable, la fête qu'on partage, l'accord l'alliance, Dieu nous les confirme. Quand nous sommes ensemble autour de la table nous goûtons le règne du Dieu de justice.

2012 WCC/RedCrearte Eng. John Thornburg with the help of Dr Roberto Escamilla; Fr. Marc Chambron http://creativecommons.org/about/licences

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### Murassalat nina kulumurassalat

We are all ambassadors



- 1. We are all ambassadors. We are all ambassadors of Jesus.
- 2. Tell it to all people that there are witnesses here, ambassadors of Jesus.
- 3. Halleluia! there are witnesses here, ambassadors of Jesus.

مراسلات كالا مراسلات نينا ليسوع مراسلات كالا نينا

مراسلات كاو شكورو الله نينا ليسوع مراسلات كاو نينا

مراسلات نینا کاو لناسی وری لیسوع مراسلات کاو نینا

مراسلات كاو بشر الإنجيل نينا ليسوع مراسلات كاو نينا

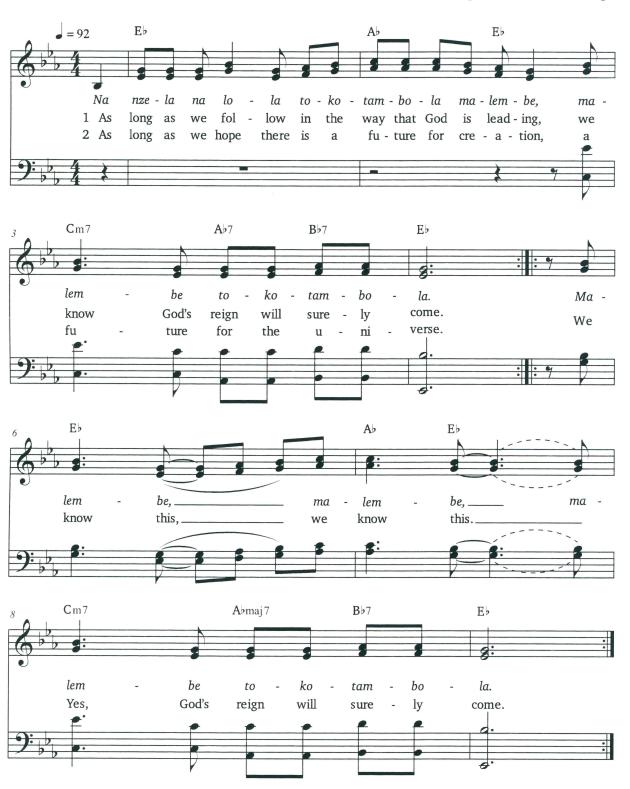
> زيدو قوة نينا كلا مراسلات ليسوع مراسلات كلا نينا

> > هلاویا نینا کلو مراسلات لیسوع مراسلات کلو نینا

# Malembe

## Na nzela na lola / We know

Democratic Republic of the Congo



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Additional verses: replace "hope" with "pray", "sing", or "act". Lingala pronunciation: *Nah zay-lah nah loh-lah toh-koh-tahm-boh-lah mah-lehm-bay* 

For Inshallah, this song has come to be a spirited song of hope, "We know God's reign (of peace and justice) will come!" If the community sings "Malembe tokotambola!" in Congolese, which is easily done by rehearsing the text first, the choir or soloists can sing the first phrase. Understanding the context out of which this song comes is a reminder that we are called to be part of that hope: to pray, sing, and ACT! It is a powerful sending song.

### Nita mwimbiya Bwana I will sing to the Lord



Asata Choir, Democratic Republic of Congo English, Spanish French and Portuguese:© WCC-COE 150, Route de Ferney P.O. Box 2100 CH-1211, Geneva 2, Switzerland

This song may be used freely as long as it is for congregational and not commercial use.

- 2. Ni-ta mwi-mbi-ya Bwa-na kwa ku-wa Ye-ye a-na ni pen-da. (Ni-ta)
- 3. Ni-ta mwi-mbi-ya Bwa-na kwa ku-wa Ye-ye a-na ni ju-wa. (Ni-ta)

### Literal translations, not for singing:

- 1. I will sing to the Lord because God cares for me.
- 2. I will sing to the Lord because God loves me.
- 3. I will sing to the Lord because God knows me.
- 1. Cantaré al Señor porque Él me cuida.
- 2. Cantaré al Señor porque Él me ama.
- 3. Cantaré al Señor porque Él me conoce.

- 1. Ich will dem Herrn singen, denn er sorgt für mich.
- 2. Ich will dem Herrn singen, denn er liebt mich.
- 3. Ich will dem Herrn singen, denn er kennt mich.
- 1. Cantarei ao Senhor porque ele cuida de mim.
- 2. Cantarei ao Senhor porque ele me ama.
- 3. Cantarei ao Senhor porque ele me conhece.

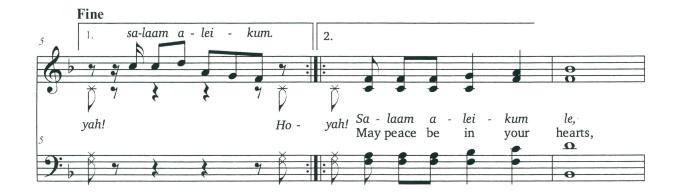
# Salaam aleikum

# May peace be with you

Ghana







Words: Traditional Ghanain (Arabic)

Music: Traditional Ghanain

Arrangement: Marc Anderson and Marty Haugen © 2006, GIA Publications, Inc. Adaptation: Marc Anderson and Marty Haugen © 2006, GIA Publications, Inc.



سلام عليكم سلام عليكم ليه

This inclusive song of peace from Ghana has helped Inshallah sing peace with Arabic speaking neighbours, learn a basic Arab greeting, sing a prayer for peace in interfaith gatherings but in a non-English language, and welcome Syrian refugees. We have learned that language can both create barriers and break them down.

## Shukuru Thanking You

Worship Chorus, Sudan Trans. and arr. Greg Scheer



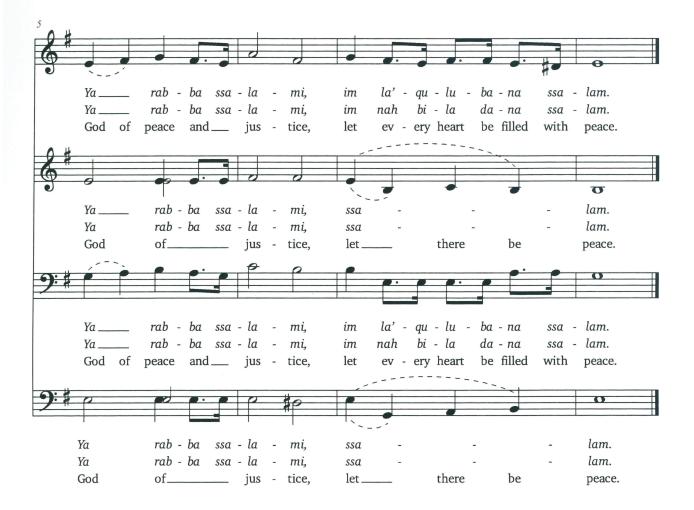
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## Ya rabba ssalami

## You, God of peace

Palestine / Lebanon





يا رب السلام أمطر علينا السلام يا رب السلام املاً قلوبنا سلام يا رب السلام أمطر علينا السلام يا رب السلام امنح بلادنا سلام

When Inshallah began singing this song in 2008, it was sung in many churches in Palestine to pray for peace. Palestinians sing this Arabic prayer in unison, while we sing the harmonized arrangement provided by John Bell. Embrace the dissonance in this arrangement as an aural experience of the conflict. Notice how the lower voices sigh into the second half of each line yearning for peace, while the upper voices carry the text. Originally composed after the civil war in Lebanon, we have sung this song over the years as an act of solidarity to pray with the Palestinian church for an end to oppression and to pray for peace and safety for all in the Middle East and around the world. This song is one example where respecting copyright dictated the transliteration of *ssalami* and *ssalam*, rather than our preferred practice.

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