

A Bsus B to Chorus

You've burned this truth on our lips.

Coda E A B Repeat as desired E

earth. He is Lord of heav-en and earth.

320 The Church of Christ in Every Age

1 The church of Christ in ev - ery age, be - set by
 2 A - cross the world, a - cross the street, the vic - tims
 3 Then let the ser - vant church a - rise, a car - ing
 4 For Christ a - lone, whose blood was shed, can cure the
 5 We have no mis - sion but to serve in full o -

change but Spir - it - led, must claim and test its
 of in - jus - tice cry for shel - ter and for
 church that longs to be a part - ner in Christ's
 fe - ver in our blood, and teach us how to
 be - dience to our Lord: to care for all, with -

her - i - tage and keep on ris - ing from the dead.
 bread to eat, and nev - er live be - fore they die.
 sac - ri - fice, and clothed in Christ's hu - man - i - ty.
 share our bread and feed the starv - ing mul - ti - tude.
 out re - serve, and spread Christ's lib - er - at - ing word.

In this challenging text by a British Methodist minister, the odd-numbered stanzas develop the image of "the servant church," while the second surveys the many needs and the fourth describes the true source of strength for the task.

712 As Those of Old Their Firstfruits Brought

1 As those of old their first-fruits brought of vine-yard, flock, and field
 2 A world in need now sum-mons us to la-bor, love, and give,
 3 In grat-i-tude and hum-ble trust we bring our best to-day,

to God, the giv-er of all good, the source of boun-teous yield,
 to make our life an of-fer-ing that all may tru-ly live.
 to serve your cause and share your love with all a-long life's way.

so we to-day our first-fruits bring, the wealth of this good land:
 The church of Christ is call-ing us to make the dream come true:
 O God who gave your-self to us in Je-sus Christ your Son,

of farm and mar-ket, shop and home, of mind and heart and hand.
 a world re-deemed by Christ-like love, all life in Christ made new.
 help us to give our-selves each day un-til life's work is done.

This text by a Presbyterian pastor in California expresses the conviction that being a good steward is an essential part of the Christian life, for self-giving is God's own nature. The tune is named for the village in Surrey where the arranger collected this tune in 1903.

713 Touch the Earth Lightly

Capo 3: (G) (Dsus) (D) (Em) (Bsus)
 B^b Fsus F Gm Dsus

1 Touch the earth light-ly, use the earth gent
 2 We who en-dan-ger, who cre-ate hun
 3 Let there be green-ing, birth from the burn
 4 God of all liv-ing, God of all lov

(C) (D7) (G) (Am7) (Dsus)
 E^b F7 B^b Cm7 Fsus

nour-ish the life of the world in our care
 a-gents of death for all crea-tures that live,
 wa-ter that bless-es and air that is swe
 God of the seed-ling, the snow, and the sun,

(G) (Dsus) (D) (Em) (Bsus)
 B^b Fsus F Gm Dsus

gift of great won-der, ours to sur-ren
 we who would fos-ter clouds of di-sas
 health in God's gar-den, hope in God's chil
 teach us, de-flect us, Christ re-con-nect

An Australian aboriginal saying opens this gentle hymn from New Zealand on the stewardship "Clouds of disaster" in the second stanza refers to the testing of nuclear devices then occurring in the Pacific Ocean, but the concern for all created things is timeless.

35 Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty

1 Praise ye the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre -
 2 Praise ye the Lord, who o'er all things so won-drous - ly
 3 Praise ye the Lord! O let all that is in me a -

a - tion! O my soul, praise him, for he is thy
 reign - eth, shel - ters thee un - der his wings, yea, so
 dore him! All that hath life and breath, come now with

health and sal - va - tion! All ye who hear, now to his
 gen - tly sus - tain - eth! Hast thou not seen how thy de -
 prais - es be - fore him! Let the a - men sound from his

tem - ple draw near; join me in glad ad - o - ra - tion!
 sires e'er have been grant - ed in what he or - dain - eth?
 peo - ple a - gain; glad - ly for aye we a - dore him.

This very strong 17th-century German hymn employs many phrases from the psalms, especially Psalms 150 and 103:1-6. It did not receive an effective English translation until the mid-19th century, but has remained popular ever since, thanks in part to its stirring tune.

36 For the Fruit of All Creation

1 For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be
 2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will
 3 For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be

For the gifts to ev - ery na - tion, thanks be
 In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will
 For the good we all in - her - it, thanks be

For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while
 In our world - wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry
 For the won - ders that as - tound us, for the truths that

sleep - ing, fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be
 spair - ing, in the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will
 found us, most of all that love has found us, thanks be

Originally called "Harvest Hymn," this text is much more comprehensive than that title implies with stewardship, thanksgiving, and God's endless gifts that continue to astound us. It is set to a Welsh tune whose name means "throughout the night."