IONA ABBEY music book

Songs from the Iona Abbey Worship Book

The Iona Community

Sample pages



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Foreword

The Iona Community is committed to searching for 'new ways to touch the hearts of all'. This is not a restless desire for novelty, but a willingness to be caught up in the work of the Holy Spirit. Worship is what gathered people offer to God, but it is also a means of our being moved and challenged and encouraged and changed. And our singing together is a vital part of this.

The current edition of the *lona Abbey Worship Book* is a successor to several others, each of which has included the text of a number of songs frequently used in worship in lona Abbey. In preparing each edition, the resident group on lona used folders in worship, with liturgical material in draft form. Sometimes this included sheets with tunes as well as words of unfamiliar songs. By the time the book was published, the songs had become familiar – and so the music was omitted. This also helped solve problems of space and expense.

However, the *lona Abbey Worship Book* is being used more and more widely, in congregations a long way from lona. Often it is introduced as a resource by a minister or member who has been inspired by worship in the Abbey. On lona songs are taught in a way that includes even those who cannot read music. This works particularly well with the world church songs, which come from an oral tradition. Likewise, the words of many songs by the Wild Goose Resource Group may be unfamiliar, though the tunes (often based on Scottish folk melodies) will strike a chord. Now that the Worship Book will be bought and used by those who have not visited lona or experienced the singing there first hand, the songs it includes or recommends – because of their relevance to the themes and theology of its liturgies – will be unfamiliar. It would be sad if they were to remain unused for that reason, or if folk felt less able to join in the worship.

So this music companion to the 2001 edition of the *Iona Abbey Worship Book* includes tunes for all the songs that are set out in full in the Worship Book, plus several others which, for reasons of space, were only mentioned. We feel that this is the best way of making more widely available the music used regularly in the Abbey – even if it has also been published elsewhere. And there are some songs, such as 'Let us

stay together for a time', which have not been published anywhere else – but are certainly worth singing!

This edition has not been produced just for the benefit of those who can read music and like to have it in their hands. It is hoped it will make use of the *lona Abbey Worship Book* more inclusive, enabling fuller use of its resources by more folk. For many of us find that when it is hard to articulate our theology in any other way, we can sing our faith. So this book is dedicated to the glory of God, and the encouragement of the whole people of God.

Jan Sutch Pickard Warden, Iona Abbey

God's graceful moment

Words: Kathy Galloway Music: PICARDY, French traditional



Words © Kathy Galloway.

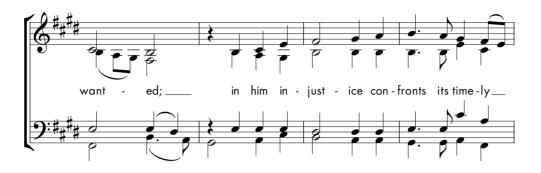
- Morning opens wide before us like a door into the light. Just beyond, the day lies waiting ready to throw off the night, and we stand upon its threshold poised to turn and take its flight.
- 2. Now the earth in all its glory springs to meet the rising sun, warms to all who walk upon it, cradling all that will be done.
 All our labour, all our loving mingle and become as one.
- We receive God's graceful moment, while the day is fresh and still, ours to choose how we will greet it, ours to make it what we will.
 Here is given perfect freedom, every hope in love to fulfil.
- 4. As we take the first step together, passing through the door of the day, may the love of Christ the Creator give us peace in all that we say, heart for all that lies before us, grace to guide us on our way.

Heaven shall not wait

Words: John L. Bell & Graham Maule Music: HEAVEN SHALL NOT WAIT, John L. Bell



Words and music © WGRG, Iona Community, Glasgow, UK.





- Heaven shall not wait
 for the poor to lose their patience,
 the scorned to smile, the despised to find a friend:
 Jesus is Lord;
 he has championed the unwanted;
 in him injustice confronts its timely end.
- Heaven shall not wait
 for the rich to share their fortunes,
 the proud to fall, the elite to tend the least:
 Jesus is Lord;
 he has shown the masters' privilege –
 to kneel and wash servants' feet before they feast.

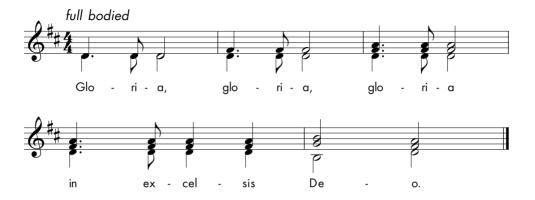
3. Heaven shall not wait for the dawn of great ideas, thoughts of compassion divorced from cries of pain: Jesus is Lord; he has married word and action; his cross and company make his purpose plain.

4. Heaven shall not wait for triumphant Hallelujahs, when earth has passed and we reach another shore; Jesus is Lord in our present imperfection; his power and love are for now; and then for ever more.

Iona gloria

Words: Liturgical traditional

Music: Traditional



Gloria, gloria, gloria in excelsis Deo.

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