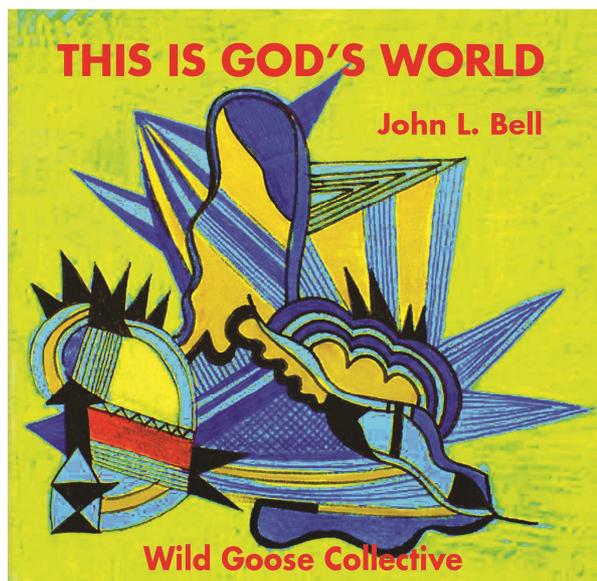


THIS IS GOD'S WORLD CD

John L. Bell & the Wild Goose Collective



Additional song information and song texts

1) THIS IS THE DAY

At daily worship in Iona Abbey, the closing responses begin with the words, 'This is the day that God has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.' This song celebrates the potential of each new day.

*Guitar, Bass Guitar: **Phill Mellstrom**
Percussion: **Jane Bentley***

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

1. This is the day that God has made;
grace, truth and beauty are displayed.
No day will ever be the same
so let's praise God's holy name:
2. This is the day when we can see
God's passion for diversity:
colour and culture, landscape, race
different contours, each in place.
3. This is the day when we may find
nourishment for both soul and mind:
insights and wisdom, calls to care,
food enough for faith and prayer.
4. This is the day in which we know
kindness and love are meant to grow:
love to the stranger, to the friend,
to the world - love without end.

5. This is the day we will rejoice,
stretch our horizons, raise our voice,
join in earth's symphony of love
improvised for heaven above.

An alternative second verse for use on Sundays

2. This is the day God meant for rest
through which the world and we are blessed:
rest from our work and all we crave,
rest from all that can enslave.

*Words & Music: John L. Bell
Tune: LENBEO*

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2) ALL PEOPLE LIVING ON THE EARTH

Psalm 100 is a song of praise, though sometimes sung as a dirge. This lively tune is by Swee Hong Lim, a Chinese Singaporean and professor at Emmanuel College, Toronto.

Piano: Richard Michael

1. All people living on the earth,
sing to the Lord with cheerful voice;
serve joyfully, sing out God's praise
and in this place rejoice.
2. Know that the Lord is God indeed
whose parenting is firm and fair;
God shepherds us, calls us his own
and shows us constant care.
3. Where we now stand is heaven's gate,
so enter in with songs of praise;
give thanks and bless God's holy name
in endless words and ways.
4. For God is good, God's love shall last;
God's faithfulness is always sure;
to generations yet unborn
God's kindness will endure.
5. Amen! Amen! Alleluia!
Let praise to God be given.
Amen! Amen! Alleluia!
Let earth be one with heaven.

*Paraphrase of Psalm 100 & Arrangement: John L. Bell
Melody: Swee Hong Lim*

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www.wildgoose.scot*

*Melody copyright © 2000 Swee Hong Lim,
administered by the General Board of Global Ministries t/a GBGMusik.*

3) WHAT IS THIS PLACE?

Originally composed for the opening of a refurbished church, the song asks the legitimate question as to the purpose of such a place.

*Solo: Carol McArthur
Piano: Richard Michael*

1. What is this place,
this room where we are meeting:
 a house for God
 or for the human race
 or both,
since everyone bears God's image
and shows God's trace?
2. What is this place,
this private room for Sunday:
 a holy hall
 or very public space
 or both,
since all life is blessed and bounded
by God's embrace?
3. What is this place
this refuge from life's trouble:
 a safety net
 or temporary base
 or both,
since all things must change 'til later
we see God's face?
4. What is this place? -
a canopy of grace,
 an open door,
 a storehouse of surprise,
 a taste
of what God intends, a measure
and gift of grace.

*Words & Music: John L. Bell
Tune: CAUSER*

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4) IN CHRIST WE LIVE

Another song about the potential of a worshipping congregation and its building.

*Percussion: Jane Bentley,
Margaret McLarty*

IN CHRIST WE LIVE AND IN CHRIST WE DIE AND IN CHRIST WE RISE UP AGAIN.
LET HEAVEN BE GLAD AND LET EARTH REJOICE AND SING, "ALLELUIA, AMEN!"

1. This is God's house, holy ground for God's people,
hallowed by singing and silence and prayer;
blessed by the presence and power of the Spirit,
founded on faith in the Saviour we share.
2. This is the place where the Church as Christ's body
meets as a family where all have their place:
stalwart and stranger, speaker and seeker -
each needs the others and all need God's grace.
3. This is the time when desires and intentions
find interaction with God's holy word:
trouble and treasure, business and pleasure,
all are redeemed and restored by the Lord.
4. This is the purpose of God in creation:
all shall be changed for the Gospel is true -
sickness to health, apathy to caring,
doubt to commitment and old into new.

*Words & Music: John L. Bell
Tune: BEGJNHOF*

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5) LONG HAVE YOU LOVED ME

Within this text is a remembrance of St Augustine's hesitation to commit himself fully to God.

*Solo: Jane Bentley, Margaret McLarty
Piano: Richard Michael*

1. Long have you loved me, Holy God:
in love my life was knitted,
my self was shaped, my soul was weaned,
my fate and future fitted.
2. Long have you loved me, Holy God,
and freely did you fashion
my mind, my heart, my will, my skill,
my hesitance and passion.
3. Long have you loved me, Holy God,
and yearned for closer bonding
that through naught else but love, my love
to yours might come responding.
4. Long have you loved me, Holy God;
too long have I resisted.
Now late I come, though from the start,
my life in yours existed.
5. So take and make me yours, through Christ
in whom all are perfected;
and reap the harvest of the seed
you sowed and resurrected.

6. Long will I love you, Holy God:
more yet will I discover
of who I am and who you are,
my destiny and lover.

*Words & Music: John L. Bell
Tune: YEARNING*

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6) THERE IS A BALM IN GILEAD

The spirituals, like the Psalms, have a wide vocabulary of emotion allowing for the expression of discouragement as well as delight.

Solo: Margaret McLarty

There is a balm in Gilead
to make the wounded whole;
there is a balm in Gilead
to heal the sin-sick soul.

1. Sometimes I feel discouraged
and think my work's in vain,
but then the Holy Spirit
revives my soul again.
2. If you cannot preach like Peter,
if you cannot pray like Paul,
you can tell the love of Jesus
and say, "He died for all".
3. Don't ever feel discouraged
for Jesus is your friend;
and if you lack the knowledge
he'll ne'er refuse to lend.

*Words & Melody: Traditional African American
Arrangement: John L. Bell*

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7) NOW WE ARE NOURISHED

This is a great pentatonic tune by a young liturgical music student in South Korea. He does a lot with only five notes.

*Violin: Suzanne Butler
Flute: Margaret McLarty
Guitar, Bass Guitar: Phill Mellstrom*

1. Now we are nourished by Jesus our Lord,
now we are strengthened to live by his word,
now we are summoned to love and obey,
now we will walk in his way.

HALLELUJAH! HALLELUJAH!
JESUS WHO FEEDS US
KNOWS WHERE HE LEADS US:
NOW WE WILL WALK IN HIS WAY.

2. Now Christ has turned us from strangers to friends,
now we affirm that his love never ends
now for God's kingdom we'll work and we'll pray,
now we will walk in his way.
3. Now that our journey of faith has begun,
though some may stumble while others might run,
Jesus precedes us into each new day;
now we will walk in his way.

*Words: John L. Bell
Melody: Ryu Hyung Sun, Korea
Arrangement: John L. Bell, Iain McLarty & others
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Melody copyright © Ryu Hyung Sun
Arrangement copyright © 2020 Iain McLarty and WGRG, Iona Community, Glasgow, Scotland.
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8) LORD JESUS, I'M EAGER TO ANSWER YOUR CALL

This tune was heard being sung by a group of students in Ho Chi Minh City. Though it sounded very Asian, it was subsequently identified as a Swedish folk tune.

*Recorder: Margaret McLarty
Shruti Box: Iain McLarty*

Lord Jesus, I'm eager to answer your call
and to honour your name every day.
So, take me, remake me, and call me your own
as I follow your will and your way.

*Words: John L. Bell, derived from the Vietnamese Loi Nguyen Cau
Melody: Swedish traditional
Arrangement: John L. Bell
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9) THE LORD OF THE EARTH

The words represent some of the main themes in the teaching of the great Salvadorean Oscar Romero who was martyred for speaking truth to power.

*Piano: Richard Michael
Bass Guitar: Phill Mellstrom
Flute: Margaret McLarty
Clarinet: Carol McArthur
Percussion: Jane Bentley*

1. The Lord of the earth is a holy God
whose passion and purpose are sure,
and those who are summoned to share God's love
respond to the cries of the poor.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
God's holy purpose is sure.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
The Lord hears the cries of the poor.

2. The words of the prophets whom God inspired
cannot be just silently read.
Their summons to action must be obeyed;
our lives should reveal what they said.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Prophets cannot just be read.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Our lives should reveal what they said.

3. In Jesus our saviour we clearly see
the Church must be keen to forgo
its comfort and privilege and self-esteem
till Christ's is the lifestyle we show
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Privilege is what we forgo,
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Till Christ's is the lifestyle we show.

4. With all of creation we join to sing
in praise of the Lord of the earth
who teaches that some things must change or die,
and new life be brought to its birth.
Alleluia! Alleluia,
Sing to the Lord of the earth.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
New life must be brought to its birth.

Words: John L. Bell, based on texts of Oscar Romero

Music: John L. Bell

Tune: ROMERO

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10) THIS IS GOD'S WORLD

We have plenty of hymns and songs about the beauty of the earth, but in this era we need to sing in favour of, and in commitment to, its preservation.

Solo: Paul Clelland, Kim Long

Piano: Richard Michael

Bass Guitar: Phill Mellstrom

Percussion: Jane Bentley

THIS IS GOD'S WORLD GIVEN ON LOAN;
NO OTHER EARTH SHALL BE OUR HOME.
SO LET US BLESS, HONOUR AND TEND
WHAT GOD IN LOVE CREATED.

1. Who dare disorder the song of the earth,
silence a concert of infinite worth?
Creation's music is meant for its Maker above,
out of love.
2. Who dare demand or presume or require
earth to fulfil every selfish desire?
No wealthy nation should steal what the future will need
out of greed.
3. Shall justice favour the powerful few
protecting all that they own, want and do?
Or, under God, shall that justice be equal for all,
great and small?
4. God grant us love that the world might survive,
everyone prosper, the climate revive,
let deeper listening and sharing be hallmarks of care
everywhere.

*Words & Music: John L. Bell
Tune: GOD'S WORLD*

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11) GOD GIVE THEM PEACE

In 1998 four out of five young men crossing on a boat from Mull to Iona lost their lives in a freak squall. Three belonged to Iona, an enormous loss to the island from their generation.

*Solo/Duet: Emily Walker,
Caroline Spratt*

1. God give them peace
whose hearts are seared with pain,
who've lost a friend,
a lover or a son,
who sense their living is so much in vain,
when death has stopped what hardly had begun.
2. God give them peace
who constantly ask why;
no straw to clutch,
"if only" they repeat,
and now rehearse the words they would have said
had they but known the last time they would meet.
3. God give them peace
but not a fragile peace,
more like the peace
Christ knew despite the storm,
convinced that nothing in the height or depth
could kill the soul created in God's form.

4. God give them peace
whose voices now are still,
whose touch is gone,
whose laughter rings no more.
In your great purpose find a place for them,
a safer sea, an ever friendly shore.

*Requiem æternam dona eis, Domine. (Eternal rest give to them, O Lord.)
Lux perpetua luceat eis. (Let perpetual light shine upon them.)*

*Words & Music: John L. Bell
Tune: SILVER SPRAY*

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12) WE ARE COMING, LORD, TO THE TABLE

A stunningly beautiful song for singing as people prepare physically and spiritually to receive the sacrament of Holy Communion.

*Solo: Iain McLarty
Percussion: Jane Bentley, Margaret McLarty*

We are coming, Lord, to the table.
We are coming, Lord, to the table.

With the gift of bread, we are coming, Lord.
With the gift of wine, we are coming, Lord.

Oh, sing it over.
Oh, we are coming, Lord.
We offer you the gift of bread.
Oh, we are coming, Lord.
We offer you the gift of wine.
Oh we are coming, Lord.
Oh, sing it over.
Oh, we are coming, Lord.

We are coming, Lord, to the table.
We are coming, Lord, to the table.

To receive the bread, we are coming, Lord.
To receive the wine, we are coming, Lord.

Oh, sing it over.
Oh, we are coming, Lord.
We're coming to receive the bread.
Oh, we are coming, Lord.
We're coming to receive the wine.
Oh we are coming, Lord.
Oh, sing it over.
Oh, we are coming, Lord.

*Words & Music: Sierra Leone traditional
Transcription & Arrangement: Greg Scheer
Arrangement copyright © 2008 Greg Scheer*

13) WITHIN THE CIRCLE OF YOUR FRIENDS

A song for Holy Communion to celebrate the gift of the sacrament and the invitation to receive it.

Flute: Margaret McLarty
Guitar: Phill Mellstrom
Cello: Tim Cais
Shruti Box: Iain McLarty

1. Within the circle of your friends,
you found a place for me.
Beside those whom I often meet,
near people whom I've yet to greet
I'm privileged to be.
2. Within your commonwealth of love,
you found a place for me
to listen, heal, disturb or care,
seek words to sing, find truth to share,
let life be full and free.
3. Around the table you prepare,
you found a place for me
where, breaking bread and pouring wine,
you tell us all, "This means you're mine,
and mine you'll always be."
4. Now brother, servant, saviour, Lord,
I make a place for you.
Called to your feast, among your friends,
and keen to live as God intends,
I come to be made new.

Words: John L. Bell
Tune: REPTON, C.H.H. Parry (1848-1918)
Arrangement: Iain McLarty & others
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Arrangement copyright © 2020 Iain McLarty

14) GOD AND PARENT OF ALL PEOPLE

A baptismal song set to a beautiful tune by a famous Scottish fiddler and composer.

Solo: Kim Long, Neil Young, Emily Walker
Violin: Fiona Campbell
Viola: Iain McLarty
Cello: Tim Cais

1. God and parent of all people,
maker of both heaven and earth,
praise and gratitude we offer
for the world you brought to birth.
Nature in its finest clothing,
science in its richest find
witness your surpassing goodness,
meant to nourish humankind.

2. Jesus Christ, eternal Saviour,
once a child on Mary's breast,
born to save the saint and sinner,
destined to reveal God's best,
you found praise in children's voices,
you blessed babies by your touch;
you declare for every infant
how God loves each one so much.

3. Holy Spirit, sent among us,
binding earth to heaven above,
you inspire that selfless beauty
seen where people share their love.
For the fruits of human passion
in the womb, the world, the heart,
we express, as Christ's own family,
gratitude in every part.

4. God, be present in our worship,
welcoming the one we bring;
as we baptise, through your Spirit
seal the grace of which we sing.
Let our prayers and heaven's intention
hallow water, sign and vow;
bless this child whose life is offered
to embody your life now.

Words & Arrangement: John L. Bell

Tune: CRADLE SONG, James Scott Skinner (1843-1927)

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15) GOD LOVED THE WORLD SO MUCH

A song of the incarnation set to a superb North American melody.
Verses 1, 2, 5 & 6 are recorded.

Solo: Graham Maule

1. God loved the world so much - this we know, this we know;
God loved the world so much - this we know;
God loved the world so much, the world and not the church,
that Christ came into touch, into time, into view
declaring he would make all things new.

2. When people heard his voice, all were changed, all were changed;
when people heard his voice all were changed;
when people heard his voice, some rankled, some rejoiced:
he came to vindicate what was right, what was right,
expose deceit and share truth and light.

3. The wretched of the earth he embraced, he embraced,
the wretched of the earth he embraced;
the sick and sad and poor he led to heaven's door,
and there, beside the fearful and flawed, overawed,
they felt the warmth and welcome of God.

4. On earth itself he sowed seeds of peace, seeds of peace;
on earth itself he sowed seeds of peace;
and for the world, its health, its wisdom and its wealth,
he broke the bread of heaven and he shared it around
that justice might become common ground.
5. Shall we who bear his name, stay the same, stay the same?
Shall we who bear his name stay the same?
Or shall we turn our face towards a different place
and, hearing words of grace meant for all, meant for all,
respond to Jesus' promise and call?
6. To God we give ourselves, body, mind, heart and soul;
we give our body, mind, heart and soul.
O Jesus, now instil a passion for your will
to love all people and, in our care of the earth,
walk in your way and cherish our worth.

Words & Arrangement: John L. Bell

Tune: WONDROUS LOVE, North American traditional

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16) GO, HEAL THE SICK

The text draws from words found in Matthew chapter 10 when Jesus sends out his young disciples.

*Flute: Margaret McLarty
Guitar, Bass Guitar: Phill Mellstrom
Percussion: Jane Bentley*

1. Go, heal the sick and raise the dead,
restore the broken, banish every demon;
and do all this without a charge
for liberation comes freely from God.

THIS IS OUR COMMISSION, THIS IS JESUS' OWN WORD,
THIS THE EXPECTATION OF OUR SAVIOUR AND LORD;
THIS IS WHAT HE ASKS OF THOSE WHO FOLLOW HIS WAY,
AND WHO TAKE TO HEART ALL THEY HEAR HIM SAY.
HEAVEN IS NOT AFTERLIFE UNLESS IT IS NOW,
GOD IS FOUND IN SILENCE AND IN SUFFERING AND ROW;
UNDISTURBED DISCIPLESHIP IS NOT TRUE TO FORM,
JESUS' PEACE IS FOUND IN THE STORM.

2. Forget your purse, forget your pack,
one change of clothes is all you will be needing.
I send you out like sheep to wolves;
be wise as serpents and gentle as doves.
3. Be on your guard when brought to court
to speak before the merciless and mighty.
But take no thought for what you'll say;
the words will come when God's moment is right.

4. You must not think I came to soothe;
I brought a sword to hasten provocation.
If you confess my name on earth,
I'll mention yours in the presence of God.
5. No one is fit to come with me
who does not lift the cross and follow after.
If, for my sake, you lose your life,
I will restore it with honour and love.

*Paraphrase of Matthew Ch. 10 & Music: John L. Bell
Tune: RAMIREZ*

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17) MURASSALA

This song from Sudan reminds us that we are all called to mission and makes for a joyful sending song.

*Solo: Iain McLarty
Guitar, Bass Guitar: Phill Mellstrom
Percussion: Jane Bentley*

Murassala nina kulumurassala.
Murassala nina kulumurassala.
Murassala nina kulumurassala.
Nina kulumurassala le Yesu.

Shukuru Alaa nina kulumurassala.
Shukuru Alaa nina kulumurassala.
Shukuru Alaa nina kulumurassala.
Nina kulumurassala le Yesu.

Hallelujah! Nina kulumurassala.
Hallelujah! Nina kulumurassala.
Hallelujah! Nina kulumurassala.
Nina kulumurassala le Yesu.

*Words & Music: as taught by Beatrice Mukhtar Mamuzi, South Sudan
Copyright © All Saints' Cathedral, Juba, South Sudan*

18) CANTICLE OF THE TURNING

This vigorous paraphrase of the Magnificat presents Mary as a country girl who is more than a meek maiden.

*Whistle: Caroline Spratt, Emily Walker
Violin: Suzanne Butler
Banjo: Margaret McLarty
Mandolin: Phil White
Guitar, Bass Guitar: Phill Mellstrom
Bodhran: Jane Bentley*

1. My soul cries out with a joyful shout that the God of my heart is great,
and my spirit sings of the wondrous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight and my weakness you did not spurn
so from east to west shall my name be blest. Could the world be about to turn?

MY HEART SHALL SING OF THE DAY YOU BRING.
LET THE FIRES OF YOUR JUSTICE BURN.
WIPE AWAY ALL TEARS, FOR THE DAWN DRAWS NEAR,
AND THE WORLD IS ABOUT TO TURN.

2. Though I am small, my God my all, you work great things in me,
and your mercy will last from the depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
Your very name puts the proud to shame; and to those who would for you yearn,
you will show your might, put the strong to flight, for the world is about to turn.
3. From the halls of power to the fortress tower, not a stone will be left on stone.
Let the king beware for your justice tears every tyrant from his throne.
The hungry poor shall weep no more, for the food they can never earn;
there are tables spread, every mouth be fed, for the world is about to turn.
4. Though the nations rage from age to age, we remember who holds us fast:
God's mercy must deliver us from the conqueror's crushing grasp.
This saving word that our forebears heard is the promise which holds us bound,
'til the spear and rod can be crushed by God who is turning the world around.

*Paraphrase of Luke Ch. 1, Adaptation & Arrangement: Rory Cooney
Tune: STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN, Irish traditional
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19) I LIE DOWN WITH GOD

This ancient prayer was shared with Graham during his illness and as he died.

I lie down with God, and God lies down with me.
I lie down with Jesus Christ, and Christ lies down with me.
I lie down with the Holy Spirit, and the Holy Spirit lies down with me.
God and Jesus and the Holy Spirit,
all three with me.

*Words: Ancient Celtic Prayer
Music: John L. Bell
Tune: GRAHAM*

*Words transcribed and translated by Alexander Carmichael (1832-1912),
Carmina Gadelica, Floris Books, Edinburgh 1992.
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