

Here in This Place

401

Gather Us In



1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing; now is the dark-ness
 2 We are the young, our lives are a mys-tery. We are the old who
 3 Here we will take the wine and the wa-ter; here we will take the
 4 Not in the dark of build-ings con-fin-ing, not in some heav-en,



van-ished a-way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings
 yearn for your face. We have been sung through-out all of his-tory,
 bread of new birth. Here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ters,
 light years a-way: here in this place the new light is shin-ing;



brought here to you in the light of this day.
 called to be light to the whole hu-man race.
 call us a-new to be salt for the earth.
 now is the king-dom, and now is the day.



Gath-er us in, the lost and for-sak-en; gath-er us in, the
 Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty; gath-er us in, the
 Give us to drink the wine of com-pas-sion; give us to eat the
 Gath-er us in and hold us for-ev-er; gath-er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a-wak-en;
 proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low-ly;
 bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash-ion
 make us your own; gath-er us in, all peo-ples to-geth-er,



we shall a-rise at the sound of our name.
 give us the cour-age to en-ter the song.
 lives that are ho-ly and hearts that are true.
 fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

The "you/your" mentioned in every stanza is never identified, but this 1979 hymn is clearly a corporate prayer to God on behalf of the diverse congregation who have assembled for worship, longing to be transformed and used as God's witnesses and for God's purposes.

Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive 444

Capo 5: (Am) (Dm) (Am) (C) (Em) (Am)
 Dm Gm Dm F Am Dm



- 1 "For - give our sins as we for - give," you taught us, Lord, to pray,
- 2 How can your par - don reach and bless the un - for - giv - ing heart
- 3 In blaz - ing light your cross re - veals the truth we dim - ly knew:
- 4 Lord, cleanse the depths with-in our souls and bid re - sent - ment cease.

(F) (Em) (C) (Dm) (Em)(Am)
 B^b Am F Gm Am Dm



but you a - lone can grant us grace to live the words we say.
 that broods on wrongs and will not let old bit - ter - ness de - part?
 what triv - ial debts are owed to us, how great our debt to you!
 Then, by your mer - cy rec - on - ciled, our lives will spread your peace.

Few petitions of the Lord's Prayer are as difficult to pray as this one, and we would not dare to pray it if we had to depend on ourselves rather than the example of forgiveness we are given in Jesus Christ. The shape note tune sets these words with appropriate sparseness.

Hope of the World

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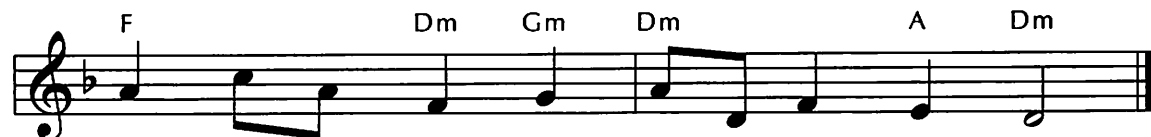
1 Hope of the world, thou Christ of great com - pas - sion:
 2 Hope of the world, God's gift from high - est heav - en,
 3 Hope of the world, a - foot on dust - y high - ways,
 4 Hope of the world, who by thy cross didst save us
 5 Hope of the world, O Christ, o'er death vic - to - rious,



speak to our fear - ful hearts by con - flict rent;
 bring - ing to hun - gry souls the bread of life:
 show - ing to wan - dering souls the path of light:
 from death and deep de - spair, from sin and guilt:
 who by this sign didst con - quer grief and pain:



save us, thy peo - ple, from con - sum - ing pas - sion,
 still let thy Spir - it un - to us be giv - en
 walk thou be - side us lest the tempt - ing by - ways
 we ren - der back the love thy mer - cy gave us;
 we would be faith - ful to thy gos - pel glo - rious;



who by our own false hopes and aims are spent.
 to heal earth's wounds and end our bit - ter strife.
 lure us a - way from thee to end - less night.
 take thou our lives and use them as thou wilt.
 thou art our Lord! Thou dost for - ev - er reign!

This winning entry by a groundbreaking woman theologian was selected from over five hundred others in a search for a hymn to be used at the Second Assembly of the World Council of Churches in Evanston, Illinois, in October 1954. The theme of the assembly was "Jesus Christ, Hope of the World."