

••• Song_by_song



• Artist: **Graham Kendrick**
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THERE IS A HOPE SO SURE

Is there hope for humanity at a time when hope placed in politics, personalities, programs and ideologies seems hollow? The hope Paul wrote of to the believers in Colossae was a hope of universal proportions, the unfolding of the mystery of God himself. Hope in the form of a person, Jesus Christ, God incarnate, hope that will culminate in a renewed heaven and earth, summed up in the words 'Christ in you, the hope of glory'. (Col 1: 27, Gal 2:20)

DO SOMETHING BEAUTIFUL

It has been said that the holiest moment of Christian worship is when we walk back out of the door into the world. There we find endless opportunities to express our gratitude to God by making the whole of our lives a vehicle for his love. There are many songs for the moment of gathering, not many for dispersing. Here is one, based on Jesus' words in Matthew 5, with which to propel one another back out the door again.

PRAISE TO CHRIST THE LORD INCARNATE

Much of the function and value of sung worship is its ability to engage heart and mind with the true story of God's extraordinary rescue plan for fallen humanity, and helping the words of truth 'stick' in our memories. Martin Leckebusche's text is rich with incarnational truth. I hope the tune is an effective adhesive!

GOD IS LOVE (YOUR LOVE, YOUR MERCY)

Perhaps the simplest yet at the same time most profound definition of God's nature is in three words: 'God is love.' The most profound demonstration of love is that God should give his Son for us. Tim Hughes joins me in expressing wonder at the nature of God, as seen in the beautiful character and deeds of God incarnate, Jesus Christ, the ultimate living definition of love.

JESUS THE SOURCE OF ALL OUR JOY

'No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son who is close to the Father's heart who has made him known'. So wrote Jesus' closest friend, John. Our privilege, so incredible that eternity will be too short to express adequate gratitude, is to be drawn into relationship with this God of love. James Torrance defines worship as 'The gift of participating through the Spirit in the incarnate Son's communion with the Father'

There is no greater gift in the universe! Inspired by the gospel of John chapters 1 & 17.

Fierce! Distribution

PO Box 40 | Arundel | BN18 0UQ | UK

t: +44 (0)1243 558444

f: +44 (0)1243 558455

e: info@fiercedistribution.com

www.fiercedistribution.com

IT IS TO YOU (I LOVE YOU LORD)

The prayer most often prayed every day across the world and down the ages is probably 'help!' This song is based on Psalm 116, an overflow of the writer's gratitude for getting that cry answered, even in the face of the fear of death, and a promise to express that gratitude publicly in a life of worship.

O FOR A THOUSAND TONGUES

Tradition tells of a conversation Charles Wesley had with the fiery Moravian missionary Peter Böhler in May 1739. Discussing the importance of confessing Christ, Böhler exclaimed 'Had I a thousand tongues, I would praise Christ with them all!' The words stuck with Charles and appeared in a hymn he penned to celebrate the anniversary of his conversion. Here is a fresh melody to one of the most famous worship texts ever.

MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE (Psalm 100)

The joyful noise is not the special contribution of the tone-deaf, but the equivalent in worship to the homage shout of fanfare to a king. This verse claims the world for God. We worship in the place of tension between the 'now' and the 'not yet' of Christ's kingdom calling all people to know and worship the King of Kings as we proclaim the gospel, anticipating endless generations of his just and joyful reign.

ARISE (A PRAYER FOR PEACE)

Why does God sometimes seem not to be doing anything while arrogant and evil people oppress the weak and helpless? The writer of Psalm 10 wrestles with this problem, begins to see the big picture and begins to pray for justice. I wrote this song for a prayer gathering in London called during the Afghanistan crisis, and based it on verses 12,17 and 18.

IN YOU WE LIVE

A song through which to celebrate our purpose as God's people, energised by the Spirit of Christ. The same James Torrance quoted above defines the mission of the church as: 'The gift of sharing through the Spirit in the Son's mission to the world.' The biblical metaphor is that we are Christ's body on earth, his hands and feet to complete his mission, a body united by God's Spirit across continents and oceans, growing in prayer and anticipating the transformation of all things.

HOW LONG?

An anthem for the persecuted church. In around 60 countries Christians are currently persecuted for their faith, and a friend who heads up an organisation dedicated to their support challenged me to write a song expressing solidarity with them. I drew inspiration from the prayer of the martyrs in the Apostle John's vision in the book of Revelation. The song was launched at a prayer event sponsored by Release International and Christian Solidarity Worldwide.

TWENTY NINE – bonus track

Not so much a song as a spontaneous musical scripture meditation! I have found that the improvised singing of scripture, often accompanied by instruments, poets, dancers and artists of various kinds, is a beautiful gateway to adventures in prayer, worship and ministry. This was originally sung straight 'off the page' (NRSV version – hence the slightly archaic 'ascribe' which simply means 'to give') and I have included it not only as a journey through Psalm 29 (which begins by calling the angels to declare the greatness of God) but also to encourage others to have a go!

For more information and any promotional material, please contact.

Jonathan Brown

Fierce! Distribution

+44 (0) 1243 558444 or jonbrown@aol.com

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t: +44 (0)1243 558444

f: +44 (0)1243 558455

e: info@fiercedistribution.com

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