

Justice, Like a Base of Stone

Augsburg Fortress

Contents

4	Introduction/Singing Together
5	As God Provides
6	Be with Us Now
8	Blessed Are You
9	Build Up a New Foundation
12	Image of God
13	Justice, Like a Base of Stone
16	Lake of Mercy
18	Make Me an Instrument
20	May You Rest
23	Mercy, We Abide in You
25	Our Calling Is Clear
28	People Give Thanks
30	Remember the Sabbath
31	Shout Unto God
35	Shower Your Spirit upon Us All
38	Sing We All on This Day
40	Sing with Creation
43	Stand in Awe
46	We Have Died
50	Song Notes

Introduction

This collection embraces many of the important themes of the life and teaching of Jesus: justice for all people, inclusive community, peacemaking, healing, the ordinary reign of God, and a loving, invitational Spirit. These themes (with the addition of ecology) reflect my life's evolving faith journey. I hope these songs will be useful to communities wrestling with these same issues.

The tunes are mostly new, with a few old hymn tunes thrown in. Even the “new” tunes contain, in many cases, fragments of older, familiar melodies, or are patterned on traditional song structures, such as call and response. Most of these melodies can work in a number of different styles, tempos and instrumentations. Please don't be limited by either my suggestions or my arrangements, which are meant only as starting points.

The lyrics are frequently based on or inspired by other texts. I have noted these references where I was aware of them. Throughout, I've tried to use a variety of nouns, verbs and adjectives to describe the work of the Spirit. I hope these new images feel inviting and inclusive to you. Speaking of *new*, many of these songs are structured such that short, new verses may easily be created. Please feel free to insert and/or adapt words so that the songs speak to the particulars of your situation. I always do.

Singing Together

These songs are written for community singing, rather than performance. Some of them involve a dialogue between a cantor/soloist and the congregation. (The choir may also play the role of cantor.) In order to facilitate everyone's participation, try using a song leader to teach and later to lead the singing. Ideally, someone besides the accompanist should play this role, someone who is free to lead using hand gestures.

A good technique for teaching songs is to use one unaccompanied voice. People can follow a human voice more easily than an instrument. Here's one way I go about it: “During today's service, we'll be singing a song that's new to most of you, so I'd like to take a moment now, before we begin the service, to run through it once. (Refer to worship aid, if necessary.) I'll sing each line once, and you sing it right back to me.” With simpler tunes, it's possible to say, “I'll sing the chorus once alone, then join me the second time through.” Remember to leave out the accompaniment during teaching (or keep it very sparse if you need the chords).

Bret Hesla

As God Provides

Offertory

B.H.

Bret Hesla

With vigor

As God pro-vides a - bun-dant - ly the rich - es of the earth, as

sun and rain dis - tin - guish not a - mong each gar - den's worth, we a -

ban-don ev - 'ry cau - tion as our a - bun-dance free - ly we be -

stow. Cre - a - tion stream - ing gra - cious - ly shall lead us in the

*** Slower**

flow. In grat - i - tude these gifts we bring.

*Verse may be repeated *ad lib* before proceeding to the ending.

Be with Us Now

B.H.

 Bret Hesla
 arr. Rachael Trelstad-Porter

Driving

1 God of earth and ev - 'ry crea - ture,
 2 God who moves a - cross the wa - ter,
 3 God who grieves the death of na - ture,
 4 God who weaves each gold - en sun - set,

C G C G

God of wind and God of sky,
 God who moves a - cross all time,
 God who grieves this poi - soned land,
 God who weaves the web of life,

C G C D

God of old and new cre - a - tion,
 God who moves with - in my walk - ing,
 God who grieves at our in - dif - f'rence,
 God who weaves us all to - geth - er,

D⁷ G C G

Build Up a New Foundation

B.H.

Bret Hesla

Swing eighths

Leader:



1 How shall we pur - sue the dream?
(2) pas - sion's emp - ty with - out deed.
3 Doubt - ing the of - fi - cial word.
4 Cross - ing bor - ders of the heart.
5 Hope, but nev - er sit and wait.

All:



On the rock, build on the rock of jus - tice.

Piano accompaniment for the first system. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff, both in G major and 4/4 time. The right hand plays chords and single notes, while the left hand plays a steady bass line. Chord symbols G, C, G, C, G/D, D7, and G are placed above the treble staff.

G C G C G/D D7 G



Build - ing true e - qual - i - ty
Ac - tion's what the af - flict - ed need
Let - ting ev - 'ry voice be heard
Pow - er shared right from the start
Learn to use the tools of change



'til we build up a new foun - da - tion.

Piano accompaniment for the second system. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff, both in G major and 4/4 time. The right hand plays chords and single notes, while the left hand plays a steady bass line. Chord symbols C, G, C, D7, and G are placed above the treble staff.

C G C D7 G

Justice, Like a Base of Stone

B.H.

Bret Hesla

1 How shall we pur - sue the dream: build - ing true e - qual - i - ty?
 2 We who come from man - y lands wel - come all with o - pen hands.
 3 Learn - ing from each oth - er's songs, know - ing that we all be - long.
 4 Stand - ing at the bolt - ed door ques - tion - ing the sta - tus quo.
 5 Lis - ten to the Spir - it's call crum - ble the di - vid - ing walls.

Put down, put down in the deep - est ground

jus - tice, like a base of stone.

Us - ing our u - nit - ed pow'r,
 Lis - ten to the Spir - it's call,
 Man - y from a - mong us lead.
 Fair - ness o - ver - com - ing fear,
 Hope, but nev - er sit and wait.

Make Me an Instrument of Your Peace

St. Francis of Assisi, adapt. B.H.
Spanish lyrics, José Antonio Machado

Bret Hesla

Piano introduction in G major, 4/4 time. The right hand features a melody of eighth notes and quarter notes, while the left hand plays a steady eighth-note accompaniment. Chords are indicated as G, Em⁷, Am, and D⁷.

Refrain

Make me an in - stru - ment of your peace. O God, fill me with love.
Haz - me un in - stru - men - to de tu paz, O Dios, da - me tu a - mor.

Musical notation for the first line of the refrain, including vocal line and piano accompaniment with chords G, Em⁷, and Am.

Make me an in - stru - ment of your peace. O God
Haz - me un in - stru - men - to de tu paz, O Dios,

Musical notation for the second line of the refrain, including vocal line and piano accompaniment with chords D⁷, G, and Em⁷.

Last time to Coda ⊕

make me an in - stru - ment of your peace.
haz - me un in - stru - men - to de tu paz.

Musical notation for the final line of the refrain, including vocal line and piano accompaniment with chords Am, D⁷, G, and D⁷.

Our Calling Is Clear

B.H.

THE ASH GROVE
arr. Bret Hesla

1 Come raise a new song in the day that is dawn - ing. Let
 2 This world we have plun - dered, so much we have squan - dered that
 3 Our lives seem so dis - tant from God's heal - ing vi - sion, we've

G D G Am D

hearts all be cheer - ful and spir - its u - nite. As
 late - ly we've won - dered if life can en - dure. God's
 so much to risk and we've so much to lose. We

G C G D G

sun rays come stream - ing, as fields swell with green - ing, as
 will is re - vealed now: in each fail - ing field now, this
 join now to - geth - er and help one an - oth - er to

G D G Am D

Sing with Creation

B.H.

Bret Hesla

1 Sing with cre - a - tion, all that is good, an - cient and
 2 Flash - es of col - or dance in the day. Green is the
 3 Nights full of mu - sic pierc - ing the dark: the pul - sing of
 4 Spark - ling sun - light cov - ers the fields, show - er - ing

D G D A

ho - ly, dai - ly re - newed. Sing of the fab - ric not made with
 grass and brown is the hay. Ros - es are red and vio - lets are
 crick - ets, the song of the lark. Some - where a voice comes o - ver the
 pow - er, al - low - ing the yields, warm - ing the earth and giv - ing us

Bm A/C# D A D G

As God Provides (offertory, Matthew 5:45)

Nature is the best teacher. “See how the sun shines equally on the good and the ungood.” It also shines equally in every direction of space. I suspect the earth gets something like one millionth of the sun’s light, the rest casting out into the void of space. It’s a pretty extravagant lesson in unconditional giving.

As with several of the tunes in this book, I started off with a familiar fragment and quickly veered off onto a new path, waving to some “old friends” along the way.

Be with Us Now (gathering, call to worship)

Is anybody else out there tired of the excluding metaphors of the white male sky god: *heavenly Father, Lord, only Son, he, light, King?* I’m also tired of the verbs, adverbs and adjectives of divine discrimination: *almighty, jealous, judge, all-powerful, heavenly*, etc. When did all this power-based, in-crowd imagery get calcified anyway? Why? This language pattern is both a bad habit and a straitjacket. Let’s change something—quick! The songs in this book reflect my attempts to find alternative and expansive images for the action and presence of the Spirit.

Here’s a gathering song, or perhaps a call to worship. The tune is related to the old tune “The Water Is Wide.” It can work as either a slow ballad or a driving, “rock and roll” style song. The lyric’s structure easily lends itself to the creation of new verses. I hope you feel free to add them.

Blessed Are You (Matthew 5)

I began writing this song when preparing a Sunday school lesson for third graders studying the beatitudes. I brought in a form with lots of repetition, and together we tried to work in the various “blesseds” as best we could. Since then, I’ve kept tinkering with it, wrestling with the messages that are at once comforting and unsettling. Take it nice and slow.

Build Up a New Foundation (Isaiah 58)

For information on the origins of this song, please see the notes for “Justice, Like a Base of Stone.” If you want to do this song without passing out printed copies, use a soloist on the changing lyrics and have everyone else sing the repetitive parts of the verse, as well as the refrain.

Image of God (gathering, inclusive community)

This gathering song celebrates *everyone*; it’s meant in particular for those of our sisters and brothers, parents and children, friends and neighbors who happen to be lesbian, gay, transgender and bisexual. I hope the singing of this can also empower and embolden us to build inclusivity into our communities of faith, not quietly or apologetically, but loudly and joyfully.

One approach to this song would be to use a pretty heavy beat to go with the singing. Try adding drummers to “rev the engine” a little. A penny whistle or piccolo would sound nice over the voices and drums. If the Spirit draws the group into some straight downbeat clapping, that would help. Don’t force the clapping, though; if it’s forced, it’s always awful.