

53 O God, Who Gives Us Life

1 O God, who gives us life and breath, who shapes us in the womb,
 2 O God, who calls your people out to venture and to dare,
 3 O God of covenant and law, re-vealed in cloud and flame,

who guards our lives from birth to death, then leads us from the tomb:
 to plumb the bleak abyss of doubt and find you even there:
 your mighty deeds evoke our awe; we dare not speak your name.

de-liver us from fears that kill the life we have from you.
 when we de-spair in wan-der-ing through wastes of em-p-ty lies,
 Yet we by faith are drawn to you and will your people prove,

Help us to know your Spir-it still is mak-ing all things new.
 re-fresh us with the liv-ing spring of hope that nev-er dies.
 as on our hearts you write a-new the cov-e-nant of love.

Christians often fail to appreciate how much we can learn about God from the Hebrew Scriptures. This text draws on a variety of passages that call attention to God's faithfulness toward the Chosen People and the promise of a new covenant written on the heart (Jeremiah 31:31-34).

I Come with Joy

515

Capo 3: (D)

(G)

(A)

(D)

(Bm)

F

B^b

C

F

Dm



1 I come with joy, a child of God, for - giv - en, loved, and
 2 I come with Chris-tians far and near to find, as all are
 3 As Christ breaks bread and bids us share, each proud di - vi - sion
 4 The Spir - it of the ris - en Christ, un - seen, but ev - er
 5 To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound by all that God has

(Asus) (Am)

(G)

(F[#]m)

(D)

Csus

Cm

B^b

Am

F



free, the life of Je - sus to re - call, in
 fed, the new com - mu - ni - ty of love in
 ends. The love that made us, makes us one, and
 near, is in such friend - ship bet - ter known, a -
 done, we'll go with joy, to give the world the

(Em)

(D/F[#])

(G)

(A)

(Am7)

(D)

Gm

F/A

B^b

C

Cm7

F



love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.
 Christ's com-mu - nion bread, in Christ's com-mu - nion bread.
 strang - ers now are friends, and strang - ers now are friends.
 live a - mong us here, a - live a - mong us here.
 love that makes us one, the love that makes us one.

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

This text affirms that Christian unity is not achievement but gift, one renewed each time we gather for the Lord's Supper. Each of us enters as an "I" and leaves as part of "we." The unadorned language of this text is well matched to the simple shape note tune that sets it here.

TEXT: Brian Wren, 1968; rev. 1993

MUSIC: American folk melody; arr. Austin C. Lovelace, 1977

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DOVE OF PEACE

8.6.8.6.6