



CHRISTIAN CLIMATE ACTION SONGBOOK

Hymns and songs for climate action

*The kingdom of God is justice, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit
Romans 14:17*

This is a songbook put together by Christian Climate Action. Our faith leads us to fight to protect the planet that was entrusted to us by our creator.

As people of faith we believe that prayer and worship is a powerful weapon. As we face the collapse of ecosystems, human and animal societies and the extinction of species we must turn to God to help us in our struggle for climate justice. We believe a prayerful, nonviolent presence is essential for the changes that will help us live together for justice, peace and care for creation.

Throughout generations, people of faith have written hymns, songs and chants that both inspire and comfort. Collected in this songbook are some of the most powerful. We have included ancient hymns, modern songs and chants.

We have also included some songs which have been shared with us by our friends of various faiths, and some secular songs that communicate a love for the world. This is an opportunity to join around a common cause, celebrate our similarities and respect our differences.

These songs are how we worship our Creator and celebrate our world. We invite you to join in or simply observe as you feel comfortable.

Peace be with you.



Contents

Christian

- 1 Amazing Grace
- 2 All creatures of our
God and King
- 3 I, the Lord of Sea and Sky
- 4 How Great Thou Art
- 5 All things bright
and beautiful
- 6 Christ Be Our Light
- 7 This Little Light Of Mine
- 8 We shall not be moved
- 9 As I Went Down To The
River To Pray
- 10 We Are Marching In The
Light Of God
- 11 Ubi Caritas Et Amor
- 12 O Lord Hear Our Prayer
- 13 Within Our Darkest Night
- 14 We shall overcome
- 15 Aint gonna let nobody turn
me round

Jewish

- 16 Kol Ha'olam Kulo Gesher
Tsar Me'od (The Whole World
Is A Narrow Bridge)
- 17 Baruch haba b'shem adonai
- 18 Your People Are My People
- 19 Volt Ikh Gehat Koyekh
- 20 Eli, Eli

Buddhist

- 21 Mandala (Dharmavidya)
- 22 Live in Peace (Dharmavidya)
- 23 Om Mane Padme Hung

Islamic

- 24 Listen
- 25 Qad Kafani 'ilmu Rabbi

Other

- 26 River Chat
- 27 Round and Round The
Earth is Turning
- 28 The Earth
- 29 Chief Seattle's Speech





1. Amazing grace

How sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost but now I'm found
Was bound, but now I'm free

'twas grace that taught my heart to fear
And grace, my fears relieved
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed

Through many dangers, toils and snares
I have already come
'tis grace has brought me safe thus far
And grace will lead me home

The Lord has promised good to me
His word my hope secures
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures

When we've been here ten thousand years
Bright shining as the sun
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we first begun

John Newton 1779



2. All creatures of our God and King

Lift up your voice and with us sing

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thou burning sun with golden beam

Thou silver moon with softer gleam!

O praise Him, O praise Him!

Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia!

Thou rushing wind that art so strong

Ye clouds that sail in heav'n along

O praise Him! Alleluia!

Thou rising moon, in praise rejoice

Ye lights of evening, find a voice!

Thou flowing water, pure and clear

Make music for thy Lord to hear

O praise Him! Alleluia!

Thou fire so masterful and bright,

That givest man both warmth and light

And all ye folk of tender heart

Forgiving others, take your part

O praise Him! Alleluia!

Ye who long pain and sorrow bear

Praise God and on Him cast your care!

Let all things their Creator bless,

And worship Him in humbleness,

O praise Him! Alleluia!

Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son

And praise the Spirit, Three in One!




St. Francis of Assisi 1225 Paraphrased: William H. Draper



3. I, the Lord of sea and sky

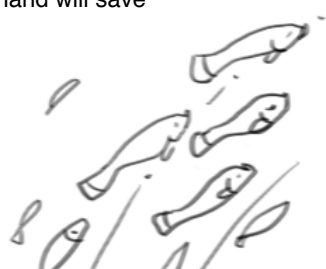
I have heard My people cry
All who dwell in dark and sin, my hand will save
I who made the stars of night
I will make their darkness bright
Who will bear My light to them?
Whom shall I send?

*Here I am Lord, Is it I Lord?
I have heard You calling in the night
I will go Lord, if You lead me
I will hold Your people in my heart*



I, the Lord of snow and rain
I have born my peoples pain
I have wept for love of them, they turn away
I will break their hearts of stone
Give them hearts for love alone
I will speak My word to them.
Whom shall I send?

I, the Lord of wind and flame
I will tend the poor and lame
I will set a feast for them, my hand will save
Finest bread I will provide,
Till their hearts be satisfied
I will give My life to them.
Whom shall I send?



4. How Great Thou Art

O Lord, my God, when I in awesome wonder
Consider all the works Thy hands have made
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder
Thy power throughout the universe displayed

*Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to Thee
How great Thou art, how great Thou art
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to Thee
How great Thou art, how great Thou art*

When through the woods, and forest glades I wander
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees
When I look down, from lofty mountain grandeur
And see the brook, and feel the gentle breeze

And when I think that God, His Son not sparing
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in
That on the Cross, my burden gladly bearing
He bled and died to take away my sin

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
And claim his own, what joy shall fill my heart
Then I shall bow with humble adoration
And then proclaim, my God, how great Thou art

Carl Gustav Boberg. Translated: Stuart K. Hine 1949

5. All things bright and beautiful (adapted with apologies to Cecil Frances Alexander)

*All things bright and beautiful
All creatures great and small
All things wise and wonderful
Are we destroying all?*

With chainsaws in rainforests
That harm our butterflies
With each more block of oil-palm
Another species dies

As glaciers are melting
And polar ice grows thin
Each year the air gains carbon
Three parts per million

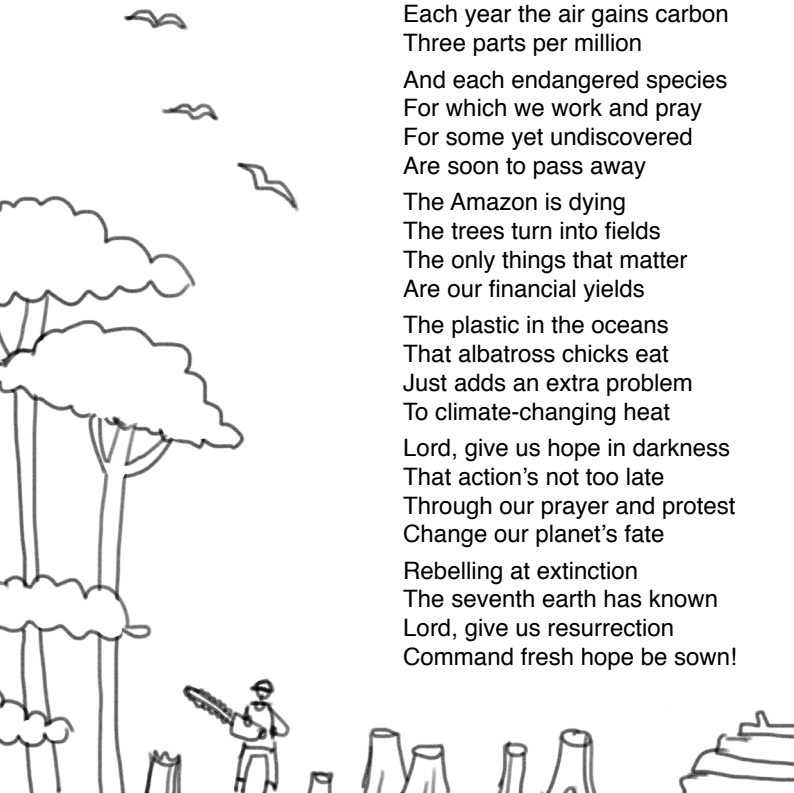
And each endangered species
For which we work and pray
For some yet undiscovered
Are soon to pass away

The Amazon is dying
The trees turn into fields
The only things that matter
Are our financial yields

The plastic in the oceans
That albatross chicks eat
Just adds an extra problem
To climate-changing heat

Lord, give us hope in darkness
That action's not too late
Through our prayer and protest
Change our planet's fate

Rebelling at extinction
The seventh earth has known
Lord, give us resurrection
Command fresh hope be sown!



6. Christ be our Light

Longing for light, we wait in darkness
Longing for truth, we turn to you
Make us your own, your holy people
Light for the world to see

*Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts
Shine through the darkness
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today*

Longing for peace, our world is troubled
Longing for hope, many despair
Your word alone has pow'r to save us
Make us your living voice

Longing for food, many are hungry
Longing for water, many still thirst
Make us your bread, broken for others
Shared until all are fed

Longing for shelter, many are homeless
Longing for warmth, many are cold
Make us your building, sheltering others
Walls made of living stone

Many the gifts, many the people
Many the hearts that yearn to belong
Let us be servants to one another
Making your kingdom come

Bernadette Farrell 1993



7. This Little Light Of Mine

I'm gonna let it shine

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine

Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine

The light that shines is the light of love

Lights the darkness from above

It shines on you and it shines on me

and it shows what the light of love can do.

I'm gonna shine my light both far and near

I'm gonna shine mine light bright and clear

Where there's a dark corner in this land

I'm gonna let my little light shine

On Monday he gave me the gift of love

Tuesday peace came from above

Wednesday he told me to have more faith

And on Thursday he brought me the gift of grace

And then on Friday he told me "Watch and pray"

And then on Saturday what to say

On Sunday he gave me the power divine

To let my little light shine

Everywhere I go...

Even when I'm afraid...

On this London bridge...

On this London street...

Horace Clarence Boyer 1992

Traditional Spiritual





8. We Shall Not Be Moved

We shall not, we shall not be moved
We shall not, we shall not be moved
Just like a tree that's planted by the water
We shall not be moved

We're young and old together, we shall not be moved
We're young and old together, we shall not be moved
Just like a tree...

City and country together, we shall not be moved
City and country together, we shall not be moved
Just like a tree...

We're fighting for our children, we shall not be moved
We're fighting for our children, we shall not be moved
Just like a tree...

We're all of us together, we shall not be moved
We're all of us together, we shall not be moved
Just like a tree...

We'll build a mighty union, we shall not be moved
We'll build a mighty union, we shall not be moved
Just like a tree...

Traditional Spiritual





9. As I went down in the river to pray

Studying about that good old way
And who shall wear the starry crown
Good Lord, show me the way!

*O sisters, let's go down,
Let's go down, come on down
O sisters, let's go down
Down in the river to pray*

*O brothers, let's go down...
O siblings, let's go down...
O children, let's go down...*

Author unknown, traditional spiritual

10. We Are Marching in the Light of God

We are marching in the light of God x2
We are, marching, marching marching oh-oh!
We are marching in the light of God x2
We living in the love of God...
We moving by the power of God...
Siyahamb' ekukhanyen' kwenkhos'...

Andries Van Tonder, Zulu folk song





11. Ubi Caritas et amor

Ubi caritas deus ibi est

Translation: Where there is charity and love, God is to be found

The Community of Taizé 1979



12. O Lord Hear Our Prayer

O Lord hear our prayer
When I call, answer me
O Lord hear our prayer
O Lord hear our prayer
Come and listen to me

The Community of Taizé 1982



13. Within Our Darkest Night

You kindle a fire that never dies away
Never dies away
Within our darkest night
You kindle a fire that never dies away
Never dies away

The Community of Taizé 1991

14. We shall overcome

We shall overcome

Some day

Oh, deep in my heart

I do believe

We shall overcome

Some day

We shall live in peace...

We shall all be free...

We are not afraid... (today!)

Charles Albert Tindley 1900

15. Aint gonna let nobody

Turn me 'round

Turn me 'round

Aint gonna let nobody

Turn me round

I'm gonna keep on walkin'

Keep on talkin'

Marchin into freedom land

Aint gonna let no Johnson...

Aint gonna let no jailhouse...

Aint gonna let no

policeman...

Aint gonna let no...

Taditional spiritual





16. Kol Ha'olam Kulo Gesher Tsar Me'od (The Whole World Is A Narrow Bridge)

Kol Ha'olam kulo
Gesher Tsar me'od
Gesher Tsar me'od
Gesher Tsar me'od
Kol Ha'olam kulo
Gesher Tsar me'od
Gesher Tsar me'od

Veha'ikar, veha'ikar
Lo lefached, lo lefached klal
Veha'ikar, veha'ikar
Lo lefached klal

*The whole entire world
Is a very narrow bridge
Is a very narrow bridge
Is a very narrow bridge
The whole entire world
Is a very narrow bridge
Is a very narrow bridge*

*But the main thing to recall
Is to have no fear
Have no fear at all*

Lyrics: Rav Nachman of Bratslav





17. Baruch haba b'shem adonai

Hallelujah

Baruch haba b'shem adonai, hallelujah

Baruch haba b'shem adonai

Baruch haba b'shem adonai, hallelujah

Origin: Psalm 118:26

"Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord"

18. Your People are My People

Where you go, I will go, beloved

Where you go, I will go

Where you go, I will go, beloved

Where you go, I will go

And your people are my people

Your people are mine

Your people are my people

Your Divine my Divine

Where you go, I will go refugee...

Where you go, I will go, Mother Earth...

Where you go, I will go, children...

Shoshana Jedwab 2018

19. Volt ikh gehat koyekh

Volt ikh gelofn in di gasn
Volt ikh geshrign sholem
Oy sholem, sholem, sholem
If my voice were louder
If my body stronger
I would tear through the streets
Crying peace, peace, peace

Chassidic song in Yiddish, adapted by Adrienne Cooper

20. Eli, Eli

Helo yigamer leolam
Hachol vehayam
Rishrush shel ha mayim
Berak ha shamayim, t'filat ha'adam
Hachol vehayam
Rishrush shel ha mayim
Barak ha shamayim, t'filat ha'adam
My G-d, my G-d
I pray that these things never end
The sand and the sea, the rush of the water
The crash of the heavens, the prayer of our hearts
The sand and the sea, the rush of the water
The crash of the heavens, the prayer of our hearts

Music: David Zehavi

Lyrics: based on a poem by Hanna Szenes



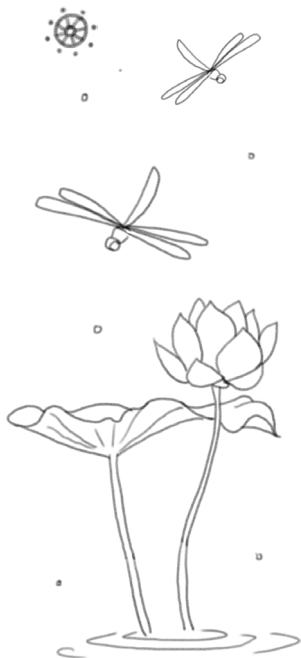
21. Mandala (Dharmavidya)

The mandala of Buddha
Extends through all of space
And drawn into its centre
Our lives are fill'd with grace
The mandala within us
A world that's full of light
Blissfully will win us
The garden of delight

The Buddha heart unites us
We are its one body
The Dharma door invites us
The Truth at once to see
We have no hesitation
We are of one accord
Through purest contemplation
Is peace of mind restored

The rays of Buddha's wisdom
Set everybody free
The pure source that he comes from
Is plain for all to see
The golden light is flowing
From the One Pure Mind
Hear! It makes our hearts sing
Makes us all grow kind

Amida Shu and Order of Amida Buddha





22. Live in Peace (Dharmavidya) ***(Tune: All People That on Earth Do Dwell)***

All beings that in peace do live
Can share as one this holy sphere
So let us learn to care and give
Let us now build a pure land here

The Pure Land is not far away
The Dharma Truth is close at hand
So let us show it day by day
Let us now deeply understand

The Buddha's path is quite secure
Protecting all who live and breathe
So let us make our lives quite pure
Let us now words of Truth believe

We are at one, we share one fate
The Truth's not hidden from us now
So let us walk a path that's straight
Let us before the Buddha bow

Amida Shu and Order of Amida Buddha

23. Om mane padme hung **Om mane padme hung**

Translation: The jewel is in the lotus
Words: The Fourteenth Dalai Lama of Tibet

24. Listen

Listen, dear one, My voice is within you
Listen, dear one, My voice is within you
I've called you so often and you have not heard me
I am the will between the seen and the Unseen
Through Me you find yourself, why do you flee Me?
Others love you for themselves, not who you really are
Love Me, love Me alone, love yourself in Me
I am the fragrance within every fragrance
I am the savor within every savor
You have not smelled Me and you have not tasted
Let nothing possess you, nothing in any world
Be Mine, be for Me, as you are in Me
Dearly beloved, this way leads to union
All separation dissolves like a shadow
Let's go hand in hand into the court of Truth
Let Truth place its imprint on us forever

Lyrics suggested by Ibn Arabi

25. Qad kafani 'ilmu rabbi

Qad kafani 'ilmu rabbi
Qad kafani 'ilmu rabbi
Qad kafani 'ilmu rabbi
Min su'ali wa khtiyari

My Lord's knowledge is enough for me
My Lord's knowledge is enough for me
My Lord's knowledge is enough for me
For choosing or for asking

*Lyrics: Imam Abdullah al-Haddad
Arrangement: Pearls of Islam*





26. River Chat

River, river, where do you flow
With your water the colour of tea?
Golden red in your sandy bed
Do you flow to the wide, green sea?
No, said the river, I flow inland
Sink down deep among the rocks and the sand
Under the gidgee and the mulgar tree
Where the desert people can drink me

*Earth belongs to all
She belongs to no-one
She belongs to herself*

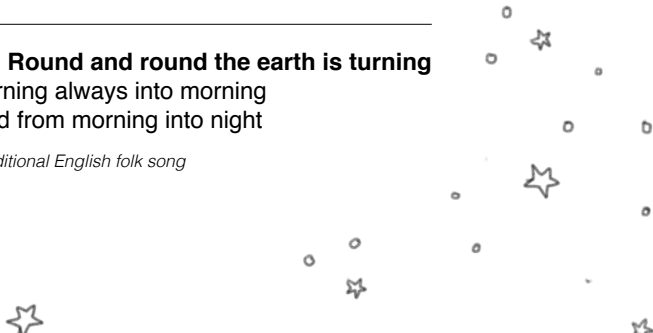
*Earth belongs to all
She belongs to no-one
She belongs to herself*

John Warner 1996

27. Round and round the earth is turning

Turning always into morning
And from morning into night

Traditional English folk song





28. The earth

The air

The fire

The water

Return, return, return, return

Unknown

29. Chief Seattle's speech

Every part of the earth

Is sacred to my people

We are part of the earth

And it is part of us

This we know

The earth does not belong to us

We belong to the earth

If the beasts were gone

We would die

Of a great loneliness of spirit

Our god is the same god

Our god is the same god

Words: Chief Seattle 1854

This songbook was compiled by Charlie Wheeler, Emily Cade and Grace Gay, with enormous thanks to Ruth Jarman, Holly Peterson, Jenny Morgans, Jeremy Williams, Brother Finnian SSF, Brother Hugh SSF, Neil Scott Grant, Caroline Harmon, Katharine Harrison, Rehena Harilall, Satya Robyn and everyone else who shared their ideas, their time and their music with us.

Illustrations by grace.eliz.art

For more information about us please visit
www.christianclimateaction.org