

Songs for Reflection

Be Exalted, O God

(Brent Chambers. Recorded by John Michael Talbot.)

I will give thanks to thee, O Lord, among the people I will sing praises to thee among the nations.

For thy steadfast love is great -- it is great to the heavens And thy faithfulness, thy faithfulness to the clouds.

* Be exalted, O God, above the heavens Let thy glory be over all the earth. Be exalted, O God, above the heavens Let thy glory be over all the earth.

Bread That Was Sown

(Gregory Norbet. Recorded by The Monks of Weston Priory.)

* Bread that was sown in our hills and valleys
Now harvested becomes one
From all the earth gather your people, O Lord
Into the feast of your love.

With grateful hearts we sing our joy for knowing Spirit within, among us all Life and knowledge revealed through your Word Jesus, the Christ, Emmanuel.

Leaven and wheat, so let us be for others Nurturing good with earnest care Bringing to birth new life where hope has gone stale Faith-giving moments to share.

Christ Has No Body Now But Ours (Prayer of Teresa of Avila)

(John Michael Talbot. Recorded by John Michael Talbot.)

Christ has no body now but ours
No hands, no feet on earth but ours
Ours are the eyes through which he looks
Compassion on this world
Ours are the feet with which he walks to do good
Ours are the hands with which he blesses all the world.

* Ours are the hands
Ours are the feet
Ours are the eyes
We are his body.

Christ has no body now but ours
No hands, no feet on earth but ours
Ours are the eyes through which he looks
Compassion on this world
Christ has no body now on earth but ours.

Come Worship the Lord

(John Michael Talbot, 1979. Recorded by John Michael Talbot.)

* Come, and worship the Lord

For we are his people, the flock that he shepherds

Al - le - lu - ia.

Come, let us sing to the Lord
And shout with joy to the One who saves.
Let us come with thanksgiving
And sing joyful songs to the Lord.
Come, let us bow down and worship
Raising our hands before the Lord our Maker
For we are his people
We are the flock that he shepherds.

The Lord is God, the mighty God
The King over all the earth
He holds in his hands the depths of the earth
And the highest mountains as well.
He made the sea, it belongs to him
The dry land, too, was formed by his hand.

The Dark Night of the Soul

(Loreena McKinnett / St. John of the Cross, 1994. Recorded by Loreena McKinnett.)

Upon a darkened night the flame of love was burning in my breast

And by a lantern bright I fled my house while all in quiet rest. Shrouded by the night, and by the secret stair I quickly fled The veil concealed my eyes while all within lay quiet as the dead.

* Oh night thou was my guide
Oh night more loving than the rising sun
Oh night that joined the lover to the beloved one
Transforming each of them into the other.

Upon that misty night in secrecy beyond such mortal sight Without a guide or light than that which burned so deeply in my heart

That fire 'twas led me on and shone more bright than of the midday sun

To where he waited still

It was a place where no one else could come.

*

Within my pounding heart which kept itself entirely for him He fell into his sleep beneath the cedars all my love I gave. From o'er the fortress walls the wind would brush his hair against his brow

And with its smoothest hand caressed my every sense it would allow.

*

I lost myself to him and laid my face upon my lover's breast And care and grief grew dim as in the morning's mist became the light.

There they dimmed amongst the lilies fair.... There they dimmed amongst the lilies fair.... There they dimmed amongst the lilies fair.

Every Grain of Sand

(Bob Dylan, 1982. Recorded by Bob Dylan.)

In the time of my confession, in the hour of my deepest need When the pool of tears beneath my feet flood every mood unseen.

There's a dying voice within me reaching out somewhere Toiling in the danger and in the morals of despair.

Don't have the inclination to look back on any mistake Like Cain, I now behold this chain of events that I must break. In the fury of the moment I can see the Master's hand In every leaf that trembles, in every grain of sand.

Oh, the flowers of indulgence, and the weeds of yesteryear Like criminals they have choked the breath of conscience and good cheer.

Like the sun beat down upon the steps of time to light the way To ease the pain of idleness, and the memory of decay. I gaze into the doorway of temptation's angry flame And every time I pass that way, I always hear my name. Then onward in my journey I come to understand That every hair is numbered like every grain of sand.

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I have gone from rags to riches in the sorrow of the night In the violence of a summer's dream, in the chill of a wintery light

In the bitter dance of loneliness fading into space
In the broken wheel of innocence on each forgotten face.
I hear the ancient footsteps like the motion of the sea
Sometimes I turn, there's someone there... other times, it's
only me.

I am hanging in the balance of the reality of man Like every sparrow falling, like every grain of sand.

For Those Tears I Died

(Marsha Stevens, 1972. Recorded by The Children of the Day.) You said you'd come and share all my sorrows You said you'd be there for all my tomorrows I came so close to sending you away But just like you promised, you came here to stay... I just had to pray.

* And Jesus said, "Come to the waters, stand by my side I know you are thirsty, you won't be denied I felt every teardrop when in darkness you cried And I long to remind you that for those tears I died."

Your goodness so great, I can't understand But dear Lord, I know that all this was planned I know you're here now and always will be Your love burst my chains and in you I'm free... But Jesus, why me?

Jesus, I give you my heart and my soul
I know that without you I'll never be whole
Savior, you opened all the right doors
And I thank you and praise you from earth's humble shores...
Take me, I'm yours.

*

Hallelu

(John Michael Talbot, 1974. Recorded by John Michael Talbot.)

I've gazed into the stars,

I've followed where the Eastern light does show

I've tried to find a light to fill my aching soul.

I've looked into the oceans

I've walked upon the mountain top

I've trusted in my guardian, tried to set my spirit free

And then the Son of Man he beckoned me

The Spirit of the light came in true love.

And like a gentle summer breeze

So comforting, so free

He gave the light of freedom within me.

He is the Morning Star

He causes all the lights to shine

He walks within the garden beside me

And from the depths of the seas

Beyond the highest mountain top

He causes all the universe to be.

And I sing hallelu! Sing praises to my Lord!

I sing hallelu, Hallelu!

I sing hallelu! Sing praises to my Lord!

I sing hallelu, Hallelu'....

In the Stillness

(Gregory Norbet. Recorded by Gregory Norbet.)

In the stillness of the night

Places of our lives, of our world

Long to have you touch them

Healing ancient wounds

Come, o loving God, give us peace.

Silently you move, bringing grace

Giving us the courage to care

For another moment, for another day

Guiding hand of God, loving Friend.

Stay with us, o Spirit of God

Lead us on the path to true life

Keep us from all harm

Stir compassion's flame

Be our guest throughout day and night

Keep us from all harm

Stir compassion's flame

Be our guest throughout day and night.

In This Day, O God

(Gregory Norbet, 1977. Recorded by The Monks of Weston Priory.)

In this day, O God... Having known the rising of

The lifting of the light of your sun

The grace of being alive... The joy to be ever thankful

And the call to prayer for all of these and more

The bread of our lives and for our hope

In the resting of today, the rising of tomorrow

We thank you, Giver and Source of all the good

We know to be from your hands... O God.

Let our weary hearts... Find their calm in list'ning

To the voice of one who stirs from deep within

Calling us to feel our life as song and dance

A people born to rise and rise again

Open all the good... You see to be within us

Freeing it to be for others to share

May the stillness of the night sing of peace for all

That our hopes may find new strength in the morning

O God, our hope and our peace... for all times.

Little Pilgrim

(Chuck Girard, 1972. Recorded by Love Song.)

Little Pilgrim... walking down the road of life

I find that in your heart, you're just a lonely one

For you see... upon that very road

My search for good and truth had it's beginning

You take a little turn to the left

And you see what that path has to offer you

Then you gotta make it back to the main road anyhow

And you have all that lost time to make up for.

And it's a sad thing... to realize...

That you're all alone... that you're on your own... again.

Little Pilgrim... walking down the road of life

Can't you see that there are many others who are just like you

I was looking... in that same direction

But all I ever found were others who were searching just

like me

And we didn't find the way or the answers

To the questions that were buried deep down in our souls

We just found that the ways of men have no answers anyhow.

Oh... don't you wonder now, what you're trying to do?

Oh... don't you wonder now, where that path is taking you?

Little Pilgrim... walking down the road of life

I know that deep down in your heart that you are just like me

What you're seeking... is a better way

And you're reaching out for temporary resting places

And you're glad to find a little peace of mind here and there But it won't last, no, no,

Cause you'll have to move along some day

'Til you're resting in the arms of the only one who can help you

'Til you give your heart, and your soul and your body And your mind and your life

To the Lord.

And it's a glad thing ... to realize
That you're not alone ... that you found your way ...
Back home ...

Back ... home.

Lord of the Starfields

(Bruce Cockburn, 1976. Recorded by Bruce Cockburn.)

Lord of the starfields / Ancient of Days
Universe Maker / Here's a song in your praise
Wings of the storm clouds / Beginning and end
You make my heart leap / Like a banner in the wind.

* O love that fires the sun keep me burning...

Lord of the starfields / Sower of life
Heaven and earth are / Full of your light
Voice of the nova / Smile of the dew
All of our yearning / Only comes home to you.
O love that fires the sun keep me burning...

Make Me a Channel of Your Peace (Prayer of Francis of Assisi)

Make me a channel of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me bring your love,
Where there is injury, your pardon, Lord,
And where there's doubt, true faith in you.

* O Master, grant that I may never seek So much to be consoled as to console, To be understood, as to understand, To be loved, as to love with all my soul.

Make me a channel of your peace.
Where there's despair in life let me bring hope,
Where there is darkness -- only light,
And where there's sadness, ever joy.

Make me a channel of your peace.
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
In giving to all that we receive,
And in dying that we're born to eternal life.

O the Deep Joy

(Gregory Norbet. Recorded by Gregory Norbet.)

O the deep joy resounding clearly Within each fiber of my whole being Lifting burdens, yes, healing every wound So that I rise and soar with eagle's wings.

With all my heart, O God I lift my voice in praise

For ev'ry way your love abounds in all creation.

You my sisters, and you my brothers We are blessed share this present moment Form a chain of love, all children 'round the earth Give your hands to those beside you now.

May there be peace for all, let it begin with me Our lives in harmony, respecting differences May there be food and joy and gracious sharing of The wonders of this earth to nourish all.

O the deep joy resounding clearly Within each fiber of my whole being Lifting burdens, yes, healing every wound So that I rise and soar with eagle's wings So that I rise and soar with eagle's wings.

Only In God Is My Soul At Rest (Psalm 62)

(John Michael Talbot, 1980. Recorded by John Michael Talbot.)

Only in God is my soul at rest In him comes my salvation He only is my rock My strength and my salvation.

* My stronghold, my Savior I shall not be afraid at all My stronghold, my Savior I shall not be moved.

Only in God is found safety
When an enemy pursues me
Only in God is found glory
When I am found meek, and found lowly.

Only in God is my soul at rest In You comes my salvation.

The Power of Your Love

(Recorded by Darlene Zschech)

Lord, I come to you, let me heart be changed, renewed Flowing from the grace that I found in you.

Lord, I've come to know weaknesses I've seen in me

Will be stripped away... by the power of your love.

* Hold me close, let your love surround me Bring me near, draw me to your side And as I wait... I'll rise up like the eagle And I will soar with you, your Spirit leads me on In the power of your love.

Lord, unveil my eyes, let me see you face-to-face The knowledge of your love as you live in me. Lord, renew my light as your will unfolds in my life In living everyday... by the power of your love.

Spirit Alive

(Gregory Norbet, 1977. Recorded by The Monks of Weston Priory.)

* Spirit of God... be for us joy Healing gift of love, creating a new heart Longing to be... Spirit alive Very life of God, be rooted within us.

Voice which calls us beyond scattered dreams, barren days To receive the gift of God's love.

May you kindle our hope in the morning of life May you bring us peace with day's end.

In contemplative silence you nurture our souls Grant us insight, vision and hope.

Tho' exalted, our hopes, no less real shall they be In compassion, faithfulness thrives.

Setting of the Sun

(John Fischer, 1974. Recorded by John Fischer.)

The rocks are in their places... the seagulls look for theirs The flowers wait expectantly... forgetting all their cares The curtain clouds roll back to let you know the show has just begun

We're about to see the setting of the sun.

The sky has turned a yellow-gold... with fading signs of blue The ocean green has turned to gray... with a shining path breaking through

A lonely seal swims by the screen diving just for fun He has come to see the setting of the sun.

Though the sun must set each day... and come back again There will be a new sun soon... whose day will never end

He's the maker of it all... the light of everyone Soon we'll see the glory of the Son The real one...

Still Life

(John Fischer, 1974. Recorded by John Fischer.)

Still life... we were always meant to live a still life But somehow we got trpped into the fast life The cast life... where everyone plays a part.

You lose yourself in the fast life in the fast pace of the rat race

Where no one knows who you are... and nobody cares If there really is a God, and he has something to say We would never hear it... 'cause the noise is in the way.

Still life... we were always meant to live a still life Where everyone can see our real life.

Be still and know who is God.

Simple Pleasures

(John Fischer, 1974. Recorded by John Fischer.)

Sitting by the ocean with nothing to do but talk to you Sitting here listening to the whispering waves telling me it's true

Hiking to the top of a mountain, drinking water from a cool clear stream

Watching the sunset and talking to God and knowing he loves me.

* These simple pleasures are everywhere in great measure I just open my eyes and I can see...

The richest things I have are free.

I always wished I had a little cabin alone in the north country I'd sit there in the morning writing a song with the fire warming me

But it ain't that hard, and it's not that far

One look in your face and I realize... my cabin is in your eyes.

Everybody's buying and trying to keep up with the cost of life Getting paranoia when the prices annoy ya, you can't see the light

When real simple pleasures are everywhere in great measure Why, just open your eyes and you can see...

The richest things in life are free.