

More Hymns from Littlemore

St. Mary and St. Nicholas, Littlemore

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(tune: 'An upper room...')

As I lay sleeping Love came to me
And urged me wake and walk with him
Along a steep and stony road
That seemed to lead us up to heaven.

Love lit our steps like a blazing sun,
It warmed and scorched us on the way,
I ran and flamed like melting stone
With longing for the mystery.

Love quenched my passion in cooling streams
Dissolving all my worldly pain;
I laid my life on that sure tide
And so it carried me away.

Love bore me to a bed of reeds
And there forever bade me stay;
The reeds were stirred by a holy wind
And heavenly airs began to play.

No more I'll climb the dusty road,
Nor burn to know a brighter day,
But like a reed by the Spirit blown
I'll grow and sing in Love's long praise.

(tune: St Thomas)

On you our cornerstone
Arisen Lord, we raise
An ark to bear us through the storm,
A temple to your praise.

Enfold us in your love
Who hungry, shy or poor,
In peace or persecution, seek
Asylum at your door.

From sounding wall to wall,
From tongue to fiery tongue
The generations spread your word
And join their souls in song.

Around your table, Lord,
Make all your children one
Who share your hopeful offering,
The hope of life to come.

In silver and in stone,
In silk and flower and flame,
In organ and in calling bell
Be blessed your holy name.

(tune: Nottingham)

Peace, my soul, and do not grieve
Though the world is strewn with sin;
Set your hand to sow his seed,
God will see the harvest in.

I was young and now am old,
Still my eyes have never seen
God forget the faithful, nor
fail the one who followed him.

Seal a blessing on my lips,
Songs of joy shall be their part;
Joy respond in all I meet:
Plant your wisdom in my heart.

Trust the Lord: its sweetest fruit
Proves the promise of his grace;
Heaven to earth his spirit moves,
Earth to bring in heaven's embrace.

(tune: 'Remember O thou man...', Was lebet)

Holy creator who bears us so tenderly,
Binding our flesh to the breath of our lips,
Teach us to grow in the shape of your mystery,
Show in our life what eternal life is.

Holy companion, no step is away from you,
You are the foot and the ground that we tread:
Steadfast or wanderer, seeker or sojourner,
Every one reaches your heavenly end.

Holy beloved, your passion embraces us,
Death has not vanquished the love of our hearts;
Crown our desire at the feast of your graciousness,
One body making of manifold parts.

Holy of holies, your radiance is life to us,
You are the fire by whose brightness we see;
Guide us and keep us till faith is so kindled, we
Turn to be one in eternal glory.

(tune: 'Sing Hosanna')

Sing aloud to the Lord in his greatness
Every thing that has life and breath,
For the Lord is our light and salvation,
He has freed us from the fear of death.

Chorus:

*Praise the Lord on harp and shofar,
Dance and celebrate his holy name!
Trumpet sound with pipe and tabor,
Dance and celebrate his name!*

Let the mountains rejoice in his mercy;
Let the floods clap their hands in praise;
Let the wilderness bloom to his glory,
While the nights declare it to the days.

When the prisoners walk into freedom,
When the hungry are satisfied;
When the lame dance for joy with the
grieving,
Then the world will know the Lord is kind.

God is love! Let it ring from the heavens.
God is grace! Let the earth reply.
God is all that our hearts can desire:
Alleluia to the Lord most high!

(tune: Tallis's Canon)

O holy through, within, above,
Creation's wisdom, wisdom's love,
Loving creation, by whose breath
Our souls are borne through life and death.

Your seal is fixed on every thing:
In friction binding wind and wing,
In silence parting wave from wave,
In triumph springing from the grave.

The music of our inmost heart
You give its ground and counterpart,
Enriching all that is begun,
Resolving all we leave undone.

Who safely brought us to this day
Defend us by your power, we pray,
That all we venture by your light
Be always righteous in your sight.

The broken promise of our youth
Be healed by your redeeming truth;
The scars of failure, fear and strife
Become our growing, and give life.

Holy of holies, let your ears
Be always open to our prayers.
Kindle our hearts with threefold flame
To praise and bless your holy name.