

ABOUT THE SONGS

1. At the Door of the Year ~ This text by our dear friend, Shirley Erena Murray, invites us to greet the new year with love, joy and hope. Whether our life's clock "seems too fast or goes slowly within us," we "let our faith tell the time." sing and "make a vow, that somehow, we will all create peace."

2. Light Is Shining in this Place ~ This is Jeanie's rhythmic and uptempo chorus written as a response to the "the Passing of the Peace" during Epiphany, the season of light. This liturgical moment is known to get "out of hand" in our congregation with all the "Holy hugs" and enthusiastic conversations. It is helpful to bring the Passing the Peace to a close with music that affirms the moment and draws folks back together for the scripture reading or whatever is next.

3. Miracle of Dawn ~ This is a call and response morning prayer, accompanied by a hand drum. The words are from a prayer by Macrina Wiederkehr, adapted, with additional words by Jim. Inspired by many American Indigenous tribal traditions of morning prayer, dance and song, the words of chorus are "Hey-ya, Hey-ya, Alleluia! I become a morning prayer" (song, dance). If you'd rather not use the indigenous generic prayer words, "Hey-ya, Hey-ya," you can replace them by singing "Halle-halle Hallelujah" We've had conversations with tribal leaders that we know who are comfortable with our intention and what we have created. However this may not be universally true. Please use whatever is comfortable for you.

4. Bristlecone Pine Tree ~ This is Earth's oldest tree. Some of them are 5,000 years old. They survive at 10,000 feet in the White Mountains above the Owens valley in the high Mojave Desert in California.

"Windswept and twisted in the high mountain air,
Clinging to the granite on this mountain so bare.
You learn to grow slowly over time,
Oh, my Bristlecone Pine."

Years ago, when I was in my 30s, I tried to write this song. I got the tune but could not figure out words. Later, in my 70s, the words showed up. Jeanie suggested that in my 30s I was not old enough to know what a 5000 year-old tree had to teach me. I'm now 84 and still learning.

5. Water Me ~ One of our most popular choral anthems, "Water Me" affirms our deep trust in the Holy One to be our guide as we grow and flourish. We know we are held in God's deep love that will "never, never let us go."

6. Mother Earth, Our Mother Birthing ~ These words are by Norman Habel, Australian Lutheran pastor and educator, known for his work for social justice and the environment. Jeanie's tune, beautifully supported by native flute and drum, relates the faith of Jesus to the four essential elements, Earth, Air, Water, and Fire.

7. Tuvalu ~ Part of a chain of nine islands in the South Pacific Ocean, Tuvalu is flooding due to rising tides and climate change. Currently 40% of livable land is under water. Jim Manley's poignantly beautiful song is asking all of us to work to save Tuvalu and our planet home.

8. O When I Rise ~ This is a song to greet the dawning day, with gratitude and intention—a heart filled with gladness, hands ready to labor and to heal, songs to sing for freedom and justice, work to value and care for all children. The words are set to a well known traditional Appalachian melody, *TINY SPARROW* (“Come all Ye Fair and Tender Ladies”).

9. Thank You for the Blessings *Climate Chant* ~ This is a simple call and response song accompanied by a hand drum. We thank God for the blessings of all creation, ask forgiveness for the harm we have caused, and ask God to help us save our common home.

10. Deep in our hearts ~ This song speaks of the deep common values we share with with other faith traditions. Deep in our hearts there is a common longing, a common vision, and a common theme. With words by John Wesley Oldham and music by Ron Klusmeier, this is a heart-felt and very singable hymn. We have been privileged to share this song in many interfaith gatherings over the years.

11. River Run Deep ~ This offering from Canadian singing clergymen, Ian MacDonald and Gordon Light, is a lively song of hope for our life's journey. God is with us from the waters of our birth until God will “carry me home on the rising tide,” with this constant assurance—

“River singing in you and me.
Spirit of life - deep mystery -
Catch us up in your melody
River run deep, River run free”

12. Throughout these Lenten Days and Nights ~ Jeanie's strong tune to James Gertmenian's words gives us strength and hope to travel our Lenten Journey...

"We bear the silence, cross and pain
of human burdens, human strife,
while sisters, brothers help sustain
our courage till the feast of life.

And though the road is hard and steep,
the Spirit ever calls us on
through Calvary's dying, dark and deep,
until we see the coming dawn."

13. Melt Down the Guns ~ Here in the US we have more guns than we have people. In 2023 nearly 48,000 people were shot and killed. Artists in the US and Mexico have gathered guns and other weapons and melted them down to create sculptures that express a peaceful and compassionate way of living together. These actions inspired the chorus of this song.

"Melt down the guns, melt down our hearts,
Stop all the bullets that tear the flesh apart.
Melt down the walls of hatred and fear.
O let us come together, let's do it all this year.

14. God of our Foremothers ~ Shirley Erena Murray's words, naming women's wisdom and power as "Midwife to justice and peace" are set to Jeanie's tune based on LAND OF REST with her additional chorus.

15. Holy Is the Night ~ a song to let go of the day and embrace the peace and healing that God's sweet darkness can bring to our souls. I often sing this song to myself on nights when I have trouble sleeping, (I sing this sub-vocally, Jeanie is grateful).