

Hymn for the Millennium

Tune: "Durlston"

Rilla Paterson

This piece was written in 1999 as an entry to a Millennium Hymn competition run by St Paul's Cathedral.

The rules required that entries be submitted either as text or as music, but not both together. The meter format was to be 8, 7, 8, 7, (double).

This hymn can therefore be sung to various well-known tunes, such as those which normally accompany Love Divine, All Loves Excelling, or to any of the tunes written for the Competition.

One such tune, submitted by the author, is entitled Durlston.

Although intended originally for the Millennium, the hymn can be sung on any closing occasion such as the end of a year.

Note added 29th March 2020:

It may also be appropriate for occasions where a new beginning is called for, such as the aftermath of what has now become the great threat posed by Covid-19 to the future of nations throughout the world.

HYMN FOR THE MILLENNIUM

Father, as we stand before you,
Hear us in this twilight hour;
Holy Spirit, we implore you,
Fill us with your vital power.
As the golden orb of Heaven
Closes in a million rays,
Shall the years of past endeavour
Bid farewell to foolish ways?

Still the gods of war are calling
Ev'ry nation to the sword,
Still the flower of youth is falling,
Death and pain our stark reward.
Rags and riches, food and famine,
Health and sickness, side by side,
Such is now your perfect Garden,
Laid to waste by mortal pride.

Yet the earth is ever-growing;
You have furnished all we need;
May your mercy overflowing
Feed the will to curb our greed.
Teach us to preserve and nurture
All your creatures, all your trees,
Guarding our abundant future,
Oceans, mountains, plains and seas.

Gazing through the prison window,
Kneeling by a lonely grave,
Sleeping in an open doorway,
Here we find the Son you gave.
Here, amid the toil and sorrow,
Bringing joy by easing strife,
Help us build the new tomorrow;
Fit us for a better life.

Great the task that bears upon us,
For we know what must be done;
Send your Grace to dwell among us
'Till we see your Kingdom come.
Mighty Giver, bind together
Ev'ry pledge and ev'ry vow;
Keep us sharing, loving, caring
Twenty thousand years from now.

Rilla Paterson

Hymn for the Millennium

"Durlston"

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Maestoso

Soprano

Alto

Tenor

Bass

Maestoso

Piano

mf 1. Fath - er, as we stand be - fore you, hear us in this twi - light hour,
 2. Still the gods of war are cal - ling ev' - ry na - tion to the sword,
 3. Yet the earth is ev - er grow - ing, You have furn - ished all we need;
p 4. Gaz - ing through the pri - son win - dow, kneel - ing by a lone - ly grave,

4

S.

A.

T.

B.

Pno

Ho - ly Spi - rit, we im - plore you, fill us with your vi - tal power. As the gold - en orb of Hea - ven
 Still the flow - er of youth is fal - ling, death and pain our stark re - ward. Rags and rich - es, food and fa - mine,
 May your mer - cy ov - er - flow - ing, feed the will to curb our greed. Teach us to pre - serve and nur - ture
 Sleep - ing in an op - en door - way, here we find the Son you gave. Here, a - mid the toil and sor - row,

D.C. Vv 1-4 only

7

S. *clos - es in a mil - lion rays, health and sick - ness side by side, all your creat - ures, all your trees, bring - ing joy by eas - ing strife,* *Shall the years of past en - dea - your bid fare - well to fool - ish ways? Such is now your per - fect Gar - den, laid to waste by mor - tal pride. Guarding our a - bun - dant fu - ture, o - ceans, moun - tains, plains and seas. Help us build the new to - mor - row; fit us for a bet - ter life.*

A. *clos - es in a mil - lion rays, health and sick - ness side by side, all your creat - ures, all your trees, bring - ing joy by eas - ing strife,* *Shall the years of past en - dea - your bid fare - well to fool - ish ways? Such is now your per - fect Gar - den, laid to waste by mor - tal pride. Guarding our a - bun - dant fu - ture, o - ceans, moun - tains, plains and seas. Help us build the new to - mor - row; fit us for a bet - ter life.*

T. *clos - es in a mil - lion rays, health and sick - ness side by side, all your creat - ures, all your trees, bring - ing joy by eas - ing strife,* *Shall the years of past en - dea - your bid fare - well to fool - ish ways? Such is now your per - fect Gar - den, laid to waste by mor - tal pride. Guarding our a - bun - dant fu - ture, o - ceans, moun - tains, plains and seas. Help us build the new to - mor - row; fit us for a bet - ter life.*

B. *clos - es in a mil - lion rays, health and sick - ness side by side, all your creat - ures, all your trees, bring - ing joy by eas - ing strife,* *Shall the years of past en - dea - your bid fare - well to fool - ish ways? Such is now your per - fect Gar - den, laid to waste by mor - tal pride. Guarding our a - bun - dant fu - ture, o - ceans, moun - tains, plains and seas. Help us build the new to - mor - row; fit us for a bet - ter life.*

Pno

10 *mf* **Verse 5 (Descant)**

S. *V.5. Great the task that bears up - on us, for we know what must be done; Send your Grace to dwell 'till we*

A. *V.5. Great the task that bears up - on us, for we know what must be done; Send your Grace to dwell a - mong us,*

T. *V.5. Great the task that bears up - on us, for we know what must be done; Send your Grace to dwell a - mong us,*

B. *V.5. Great the task that bears up - on us, for we know what must be done; Send your Grace to dwell a - mong us,*

Verse 5

Pno

13 *cresc.*

S. see, we see your King - dom come. Bind to- geth - er ev' - ry pledge and vow,

A. 'till we see your King-dom come. Might - y Giv - er, bind to - ge - ther ev' - ry pledge and ev' - ry vow,

T. 'till we see your King-dom come. Might - y Giv - er, bind to - ge - ther ev' - ry pledge and ev' - ry vow,

B. 'till we see your King-dom come. Might - y Giv - er, bind to - ge - ther ev' - ry pledge and ev' - ry vow,

Pno *cresc.*

16 *ff* *rit.*

S. Keep us shar - ing, lov - ing, car - ing Twen - ty thou - sand years from now.

A. Keep us shar - ing, lov - ing, car - ing Twen - ty thou - sand years from now.

T. Keep us shar - ing, lov - ing, car - ing Twen - ty thou - sand years from now.

B. Keep us shar - ing, lov - ing, car - ing Twen - ty thou - sand years from now.

Pno *ff* *rit.*