

When in our music God is glorified

Fred Pratt Green, 1972

Music: Engelberg, 10.10.10.4; Charles Villiers Stanford, 1904

I When in our mu - sic God is glor - i - fied,
we have found
a new di -
in faith and
when ut - most
Let all re -

2 How of - ten, mak - ing mu - sic,
in lit - ur - gy and song,
3 So has the Church, sus sing a psalm that night
4 And did not Je - sus tuned for praise!
5 Let ev - ery in - strument be tuned!

a - tion leaves no room for pride,
in the world of sound,
e - vil strove a - gainst the Light?
joice who have a voice to raise!

it is as wor - ship
as borne wit - ness
Then let us
And may God

1-4 Al le - lu - ia! A - men.

though the whole cre - a - tion cried
moved us to a more pro-found
to the truth in ev - ery tongue,
sing. for whom he won the fight,
give us faith to sing al - ways

Al le - lu - ia!
Al le - lu - ia!
Al le - lu - ia!
Al le - lu - ia!

This hymn is a high example of contemporary flowering of hymnody in Britain. I've seen it in at least a half dozen recent hymnals, & here reproduce it from A NEW HYMNAL FOR COLLEGES AND SCHOOLS (Yale U.P./92).

1 It's an alleluia, an Eng. transliteration (through Gk. & Lat.) of two Heb. wds. meaning "Y'all praise the LORD!" (KJV renders the Heb. imperative "Praise ye the Lord"; just "Praise the Lord" fails to reveal that the command is plural.) In Israelite worship, "the leading motif of the hymns is the summoning of the worshippers and the world to praise the Lord....especially as the response of the community of creatures before their Creator, one encouraging another in the great work which banishes pre-occupation with self and the worship of false gods and rejoices in God's triumph" (pp. 4f, THE NEW WESTMINSTER DICTIONARY OF LITURGY AND WORSHIP, ed. J.G. Davies, SCM-Westminster/86). Notice how Green has struck these notes of creation & self-transcendence.

5 Al le - lu - ia! A - men.

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2 The joyful shout of praise is appropriate to Jerusalem old & new (new, Tobit 13.18) & is to be done, as in the Lord's Prayer God's will, "on earth as it is in heaven" (heaven, Rev. 19.1, 3, 4, 6).

3 The hymn's second line uses the space metaphor to say that true adoration relieves us of the burden of self & releases us into the joy of God, self, the worshiping community, & "the whole creation."