

*Glory to God: Principles for Selecting Hymns*  
Sunday, September 17, 2023

Dr. Lorraine Brugh, presenter  
Senior Research Professor, Valparaiso University

2023 is 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the publication of *Glory to God*

- 60% of content from previous 1990 *Presbyterian Hymnal*
- 13% from hymnody not previously known to PCUSA
- Includes music from 6 continents – *GG 388 Come All You People/*  
Uyaimose

### **Overarching principles in hymnal selection**

Language and its use

- Hymnal is functional, not pure art
- Preference for ecumenical texts in current use
- Revision applied to archaic, prejudicial and gendered language
- Inclusive language for humans, expansive language for God

New Hymnody Priorities

- Addition of hymns about the Holy Spirit –  
*GG 292 As the Wind Song*
- Global hymns

Creation Care

- Additional hymns recognizing our mistreatment of creation – *GG 713 Touch the Earth Lightly*

### **African Song**

- Based on oral tradition
- Common use of call and response
- Rhythm as the foundational building block
- Voice as the primary carrier of song
- Use of drum in starting song
- Additional instruments elaborate basic pulse
- Themes of Jesus as companion, God's constant care
- Polymeter

**Songs - \* priority for singing**

**\*Listen, God Is Calling/Neno lake Mungu – *GG 456* polimeter**

**Come All You People/Uyai mose – *GG 388***

**We Are Marching in the Light/Siyahamba – *GG 853***

**Praise, Praise, Praise the Lord!/Louiz le Seigneur! – *GG 390***

**He Came Down – *GG 137* - polimeter**

**Know that God Is Good/Mungu ni mwema – *GG 659***

**Come, O Holy Spirit, Come/Wa wa wa Emimimo – *GG 283***

**\*Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia – *GG 251* – call and response**

Questions and Comments

Sunday, September 24

Asian Song

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If there is no diversity in the church, no variety of ministries, no incorporation of those varieties into forms of worship, then holiness is lacking . . . Thus, the very diversity of the church can and must express the holiness of the church in faithfulness of unity in Christ.

(Marjorie Suchocki, *God, Christ, Church: A Practical Guide to Process Theology*. New York, NY. Crossroad Publ. 1989. p. 130)

### **Pacific Rim (Asian) Church Music**

- **Beauty of melodic line**
- **Pentatonic and other non-diatonic scales**
- **Use of percussion to signal cycles and phrases**
- **Ching, gong, and stringed instruments**
- **Use of vocal slide**

**Songs - \* priority for singing**

**Here, O Lord, Your Servants Gather – GG 311, PH 465**

**\*When Twilight Comes/Awit Sa Dapit Hapon – GG 195, PH 547 cyclic melodic shape**

**Give Us Light/Jyothi dho Prabhu – GG 467 vocal glide**

**Lonely the Boat/ Kahm Kahm Hahn Bom – GG 185, PH 373**

**Golden Breaks the Dawn – GG 668**

**\*Lord, Have Mercy - GG 576 – hexatonic scale**

**\*As the Wind Song – GG 292 – pentatonic scale**

**May the Love of the Lord – GG 549**

**May the Lord, Mighty God – PH 596**

**To the Hills I Lift My Eyes – GG 845**

**Sound a Mystic Bamboo Song – GG 323**

**Let Us Come to Worship God – GG 387**

**Search Me, O God – GG 426**

**\*The Rice of Life – GG 524 vocal glide, I-to Loh**

**Blest Be God, Praised Forever – GG 617**

**Lord, We Thank You for This Food – GG 660**

**\*Come Now, O Prince of Peace/O so so – GG 103**

**Questions and Comments**

**Music from other cultural contexts has the potential to express Christian experience in new ways, causing us to reflect upon our worship with a new sense of awareness. The use of international music in our worship has the potential to free us from a culturally-bound religious experience and broaden our spiritual awareness.**

**Consider the exciting possibility of living not just within the culture that currently shapes our symbols of faith, but beyond our culture as Christians.**

**(C. Michael Hawn, "A survey of Trends in Recent Protestant Hymnals: International Hymnody: The Hymn Vol. 42 No. 4. October 1991, p. 24)**