Wild and Lone the Prophet’s Voice

1. Wild and lone the prophet’s voice echoes through the desert still,
calling us to make a choice, bidding us to do God’s will:
Quitting all the sins you prized, yield your life to God’s control.

2. “Bear the fruit repentance sows: lives of justice, truth, and love.
Trust no other claim than those set your heart on things above.
then will flames the chaff devour; wheat alone shall fill God’s store.”

3. With such preaching, stark and bold, John proclaimed salvation near,
and his time-less warnings hold words of hope to all who hear.

“Turn from sin and be baptized; cleanse your heart and mind and soul.
Soon the Lord will come in power, burning clean the threshing floor:

While all four gospels identify John the Baptist with the prophecy of Isaiah 40:3, this text (well set to a vigorous Welsh tune) draws on the report of his preaching in Matthew 3:1–12. The final lines recall that he was the first to name Jesus “the Lamb of God” (John 1:29, 36).
Glory to God
Gloria, gloria

Chords:
Capo 3: (Bm) (Em) (A) (D) (chords continue)

*D May be sung as a canon.

Prepare the Way of the Lord

Chords:
Capo 1: (D) (G) (D) (chords continue)

*D May be sung as a canon.

All three synoptic gospels identify John the Baptist as the forerunner of the Messiah (Matthew 3:3/Mark 1:2-3/Luke 3:4) in accord with Isaiah’s prophecy (Isaiah 40:3b). Because the latter part of the text (Isaiah 52:10b) has yet to be accomplished, this is still our mission today.

TEXT: Taizé Community, 1984
MUSIC: Jacques Berthier, 1984

Prepare the Way
7,7,6,7
Come to the Table of Grace  507

1. Come to the table of grace. Come to the table of grace. This is God’s table; it’s not yours or mine. Come to the table of grace.

2. Come to the table of peace...
3. Come to the table of love...
4. Come to the table of hope...
5. Come to the table of joy...

The simple, formulaic nature of this song makes it especially suitable for use during the communion portion of the Lord’s Supper. Because it can be learned readily and does not require reference to a printed source, it frees people to sing before and after receiving the elements.

TEXT and MUSIC: Barbara Hamm, 2008

TABLE OF GRACE
7.7.10.7
I Come with Joy

Capo 3: (D) (G) (A) (D) (Bm)
F Bb C F Dm

1 I come with joy, a child of God, for-giv-en, loved, and
   free, the life of Je-sus to re-call, in
2 I come with Chris-ti ans far and near to find, as all are
   fed, the new com-mu-ni-ty of love in
3 As Christ breaks bread and bids us share, each proud di- vi-sion
   near, is in such friend-ship bet-ter known, a-
4 The Spir-it of the ris-en Christ, un-seen, but ev-er
   done, we’ll go with joy, to give the world the
5 To-geth-er met, to-geth-er bound by all that God has
   love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.

Chords:
- (Asus) (Am) (G) (F#m) (D)
- Csus Cm Bb Am F
- (Em) (D/F#) (G) (A) (Am7) (D)
- Gm F/A Bb C Cm7 F

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

This text affirms that Christian unity is not achievement but gift, one renewed each time we gather for the Lord’s Supper. Each of us enters as an “I” and leaves as part of “we.” The unadorned language of this text is well matched to the simple shape note tune that sets it here.

TEXT: Brian Wren, 1968; rev. 1993
MUSIC: American folk melody; arr. Austin C. Lovelace, 1977
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