

The Still Small Voice

Hymns by

Patricia Blaze Clark



Selah Publishing Co.

The Still Small Voice

by Patricia Blaze Clark

Selah Publishing Co., Inc.

Pittsburgh, Pa. 15227

www.selahpub.com

© 2005 Selah Publishing Co., Inc. All rights reserved.

Permission must be obtained from Selah Publishing Co., Inc., or the respective copyright holder to reproduce—in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, or otherwise—what is included in this book.

Most all of these hymns are also available for use through the C.C.L.I., Licensing or OneLicense.net copyright licensing programs.

First edition

2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 09 08 07 06 05 04

Catalog no. 125-441

Printed and bound in the United States of America
Printed on recycled and acid-free paper



Contents

Introduction	4
Foreword	5

Hymns

Welcome	6
Creation	7
Incarnation	11
Initiation	20
Refreshment	25
Discipleship	29
Resurrection	36
Indexes	42

Introduction

This collection represents my first attempts at hymn-writing. It all began when, as a seminary student, I was given the assignment: “Write a Hymn.” The guidelines were rather flexible and the professor indicated that we might use a favorite scripture passage as a starting point. I chose the 1 Kings passage that tells of the “still, small voice” of God. It appealed to me because that is how I have always perceived divine inspiration getting my attention. When it came time to choose a title for this publication, I sought my husband’s counsel. He asked me what I called my first hymn and there it was: “The Still Small Voice”!

I credit the initial encouragement in this endeavor as having come from my seminary liturgical music professor, Russell Schulz. After he read my hymn text—having covered the page with ubiquitous suggestions—he further suggested that I should do more of it. I was later encouraged by Carl Daw, when I attended a hymn-writers’ workshop, and by Brian Wren, during a continuing education summer program. All along the way I have been supported and cheered on by family and friends (especially my husband), as well as colleagues in the hymn-writing business. The latest affirmation came from David Schaap who approached me about putting together this collection for publication. To him and to all who have brought me to this day, I am grateful. And, in no small degree, I owe eternal thanks to “The Still Small Voice” that continues to sing in me.

Patricia Blaze Clark
Austin, Texas

Dedication

To my husband, the love of my life,
whose generous and loving support
affords me the leisure to play at my craft.

Foreword

That Patricia Blaze Clark named this collection *The Still Small Voice* comes as no surprise. The holiness of modesty and of ordinary things is one of her favorite themes. Every one of her hymns grows out of a faithful hope in the people who sing them—ordinary folks let loose in the real world, called by God to attempt being the church.

Pat Clark writes directly, because she intends to find people where they are and help them sing their faith. She inevitably will choose real character over pretension and she trusts theological clarity over the rush of inspiration. She's glad if her hymns are more precise than exuberant, more joyous than cheery, more thoughtful than breathtaking, because she banks on the participation of the singer's interior still, small voice.

Here is a hymn-writer who is imaginative and works out her ideas with a steady and facile hand. She never forgets who will use her finished product. She respects them and gives them something good. Hers is a voice we need amidst the present whirlwind of congregational song.

With one accord,
made in God's image,
come in community, welcoming all.
(“People of God,” page 20)

Welcome to *The Still Small Voice*.

Russell Schulz
Austin, Texas

Welcome

Welcome

11 11 11 11

Welcome to the garden, all in life's first glow;
creature meets Creator, love and mercy flow.
No one is excluded, all endowed with choice;
choosing good or evil, each must find a voice.

Welcome to the stable, all who see Love's star:
seraphs, seers and shepherds, come from near and far.
No one is excluded, low or high estate;
all must bend to enter through the lowly gate.

Welcome to the fountain, all who feel Love's grace:
sinners, saints and seekers, find the holy place.
No one is excluded, healthy or in pain;
all must brave the water to be born again.

Welcome to the table, all who taste the feast:
hungry, harried, hurried, lost and last and least.
No one is excluded, whether rich or poor;
all receive full measure, hungering no more.

Welcome to the mountain, all who hear Love's call:
doubters and believers, follow one and all.
No one is excluded, faith- and fear-filled folk;
all must bear the burden, wear the easy yoke.

Welcome to the garden, all who smell Love's peace,
fresh and fragrant flowing, joys that never cease.
No one is excluded, first and last to come;
all may grasp the treasure of the empty tomb.

Text by Patricia B. Clark, 2002

The stanzas, in order, depict creation, incarnation,
initiation, refreshment, discipleship, and resurrection.

Possible tune: ADORO DEVOTE

Lectionary/Season: Christmas cycle, Easter cycle

Scripture references: Genesis 1-2; Matthew 1-3, 26-28;

Mark 1, 14-16; Luke 2-3, 22-24; John 19

Topics: Creation, Discipleship, Free Will, Incarnation,
Inclusion, Initiation, Refreshment, Resurrection

We Name You Triune God

SM

We name you, triune God,
 pure mystery unnamed:
 the Father's love brings forth the Son;
 the Spirit binds as one.

We find you, triune God,
 pure mystery unfound:
 in life and light and love we see
 your Holy Trinity.

We claim you, triune God,
 pure mystery unclaimed:
 our Giver, Given, Giving still;
 in you we have our fill.

We bind you, triune God,
 pure mystery unbound:
 in Mind and Word and Wisdom shown
 as three yet one alone.

We hail you, triune God,
 pure mystery untamed:
 the sacred dance of persons three
 in one community.

Text by Patricia B. Clark, 2002

Possible tunes: AREND (Thomerson), FESTAL SONG,
 NAMING (Prins), TRIUNE GOD (Smith)

Lectionary/Season: Trinity Sunday

Topics: Holy Spirit, Mystery of God, Trinity,
 Wisdom, Word of God

O God You Sang Creation into Being

11 10 11 10

O God, you sang creation into being
and then embraced it in the sacred dance.
You breathed your harmonies into its spirit;
enchanted restless forces with a glance.

Divine Musician, you played us an Eden,
you filled its silences with notes divine.
But we grew deaf from discord we engendered
and heard no more your musical design.

Your melodies still hover in our beings
like tunes that echo through a hollow reed;
your Spirit's voice sets ready heartstrings ringing,
that choruses long buried might be freed.

Make us your instruments, tuned for your service;
call forth a symphony of grateful praise;
arrange our lives in rhythm with your music;
sing us a new creation for these days.

Text by Patricia B. Clark, 1995

Possible tunes: DIVINE MUSICIAN (Hamill), HOEY (Schulz-Widmar),
NEW HARMONY (White)

Scripture reference: Genesis 1–3

Topics: Biblical Names and Places (Eden), Dance,
Holy Spirit, Music

Maker of Creation

665 665 786

Maker of creation,
 God of every nation:
 hear our cry to you.
 We have spoiled your vision,
 brought about division;
 form creation new.
 Guide us in our common task,
 help us to regain the treasure,
 giving without measure.

Living Word descending,
 humankind befriending:
 come into our life.
 We have been unhearing,
 blind to your appearing;
 heal us in our strife.
 Open now our ears and eyes,
 that your image may astound us
 in the faces round us.

Life-sustaining Presence,
 light-imparting Radiance:
 in our hearts abide.
 We have marred your beauty
 and ignored our duty;
 draw us to your side.
 Strengthen us, direct our way;
 let our love and living show you
 that your people know you.

Text by Patricia B. Clark, 2003
 Possible tunes: JESU, MEINE FREUDE,
 MAKER OF CREATION (Thomerson)
 Lectionary/Season: Christmas, Lent, Trinity Sunday
 Scripture references: Genesis 1–2, John 1
 Topics: Creation, Healing, Love (of God),
 Social Concerns, Trinity, Word of God