

While I was seeking inspiration for this hymn, I spent a life-changing week with Habitat for Humanity in the Jimmy Carter Work Project. As people from many places and backgrounds united to rebuild a community, I discovered new meaning for “family,” and I thought, “This is what church worship should be like—serving together with strangers only to discover they are part of God’s family.”

As we worship together in community, we are mutually taught, challenged, and inspired. We spend time together with the Creator, and only then can we adequately care for God’s creation.

Singing, especially, unites us. We strengthen and encourage one another even as we lift up the One who calls us to worship and gives us reason to sing. The language of music speaks to us in ways no other language can, especially in times of pain and grief. And it is the song of faith, both literally and figuratively, that we take with us into the world after the congregation has scattered.

“Fill This Holy Place with Music” begins by affirming the central importance of corporate singing in worship. Wherever two or more people gather together becomes holy because God is present, as are all the saints and angels who join our song. Then the text turns inward: even when we are struggling to cope with life and do not feel like singing, we are encouraged to sing. Music can offer comfort, lead us to experience God’s grace, and help us to find our joyful song again.

The third stanza turns outward: we should fill each day with music so that everything we do becomes a song that reflects God’s love and grace to others. As the Habitat experience reminded me, worship does not end when the last “Amen” is spoken; in fact, worship has just begun. Both worship and service look toward the day when all people live in peace and all creation joins to sing a song of praise to its Creator.

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# Fill This Holy Place with Music

BY MARK HILL

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Fill this holy place with music, songs of joy and hymns of praise.  
Giving glory, thanks, and honor, joined as one, our anthems raise.  
Telling of your might and power, singing of your love and grace,  
with the hosts of saints and angels, may your music fill this place.

Still our restless hearts with music, calm our fears and soothe our pain.  
Though we toil with heavy burdens, may we join the glad refrain.  
When our song gives way to silence, may your music peace impart.  
Grant us hope and strength and courage. Let your music fill each heart.

Permeate our lives with music, with your song each moment fill.  
Far beyond the benediction, may your music linger still.  
May our hearts and hands and voices, everything we do and say,  
sing your praise through work and service. Let your music fill each day.

Let the earth resound with music, highest mountain, deepest sea,  
till all people, all creation, live and sing in harmony.  
We will never cease to praise you, shout with voices clear and strong,  
till all nations bow before you, till the whole world sings your song.

# Fill This Holy Place with Music

MARK HILL

C. HUBERT H. PARRY (1848-1918)

1. Fill this ho - ly place with mu - sic, songs of  
2. Still our rest - less hearts with mu - sic, calm our  
3. Per - me - ate our lives with mu - sic, with your  
4. Let the earth re - sound with mu - sic, high - est

3  
joy and hymns of praise. Giv - ing glo - ry, thanks, and  
fears and soothe our pain. Though we toil with hea - vy  
song each mo - ment fill. Far be - yond the be - ne -  
moun - tain, deep - est sea, till all peo - ple, all cre -

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ho - nor, joined as one, our an - thems raise. Tel - ling  
bur - dens, may we join the glad re - frain. When our  
dic - tion, may your mu - sic lin - ger still. May our  
a - tion, live and sing in har - mo - ny. We will

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of your might and pow - er, sing - ing of your love and  
 song gives way to si - lence, may your mu - sic peace im -  
 hearts and hands and voi - ces, ev - 'ry - thing we do and  
 ne - ver cease to praise you, shout with voi - ces clear and

12

grace, with the hosts of saints and  
 part. Grant us hope and strength and  
 say, sing your praise through work and  
 strong, till all na - tions bow be -

14

an - gels, may your mu - sic fill this place.  
 cour - age. Let your mu - sic fill each heart.  
 ser - vice. Let your mu - sic fill each day.  
 fore you, till the whole world sings your song.