

22. Speechless in a World That Suffers

Words: Brian Wren

Music: William Owen, 1852

BRYN CALFARIA

8.7.8.7.8.5.7.7.

Descant, Dr. A.E. Stewart-Cook

Unison

Descant

1. Speech-less in a world that suf - fers, seek ing
2. Did your love, un - seen and ho - ly, seek ing
3. Could a lov - ing, wise Cre - a - tor, see - ing
4. Hour by hour, as life ad - vanc - es, as e -
5. Liv - ing in a world that suf - fers, pain and
6. In the grief, by fear un - daunt - ed, tell - ing

1. hope, in prayer we come, sick with war - fare rape, and
2. hu - man love and trust, give a law and keep a
3. e - vil un - re - solved, stay a - loof, a si - lent
4. ter - nal - ly you trace all our choic - es, all the
5. e - vil fret our mind. Rea - son ends with brok - en
6. truth through tear - ful songs, in the burst of lov - ing

1. mur - der, cry - ing out, or strick - en, dumb.
2. trea - ty, though your peo - ple turned un - just?
3. rul - er, calm, un - chang - ing, un - in - volved?
4. chanc - es, howl - ing e - vil, heal - ing grace,
5. an - swers. Let us pray, and hope to find,
6. an - ger, giv - ing strength to tack - le wrongs,



1. Are you lov - ing? Are you lis - tening? Hear our
2. Did you tend them through af - flic - tion, lov - ing
3. Could a heart that heard the Sav - ior, near de -
4. far be - yond our un - der - stand - ing, do you
5. through each oth - er, joined to - geth - er, Christ a -
6. in a neigh - bor, in a strang - er, show your



1. hearts, cry - ing Why, Oh Why, Oh Why, Oh
2. still, judg - ing, griev - ing, weep - ing, feel - ing
3. spair, cry - ing, "Why, Oh why, am I a -
4. know, weigh - ing ev - ery if and why and
5. live, car - ing, bear - ing e - vil, giv - ing
6. love, liv - ing, glow - ing, warm - ing, gleam - ing



1. Why? Will you help, or pass us by?
2. loss, in a fore - taste of the cross?
3. lone?"; sit un - moved, as cold as stone?
4. where, joy and grief be - yond com - pare?
5. joy that the world can - not de - stroy.
6. bright, like a can - dle in the night.



* Use B \flat on descant stanza only.

22. Speechless in a World That Suffers

Words: Brian Wren

8.7.8.7.8.5.7.7.

1. Speechless in a world that suffers,
seeking hope, in prayer we come,
sick with warfare, rape, and murder,
crying out, or stricken, dumb.
Are you loving? Are you listening?
Hear our hearts, crying,
Why, Oh Why, Oh Why, Oh Why?
Will you help, or pass us by?
2. Did your love, unseen and holy,
seeking human love and trust,
give a law and keep a treaty,
though your people turned unjust?
Did you tend them through affliction,
loving still, judging,
grieving, weeping, feeling loss,
in a foretaste of the cross?
3. Could a loving, wise Creator,
seeing evil unresolved,
stay aloof, a silent ruler,
calm, unchanging, uninvolved?
Could a heart that heard the Savior,
near despair, crying,
"Why, Oh why, am I alone?",
sit unmoved, as cold as stone?
4. Hour by hour, as life advances,
as eternally you trace
all our choices, all the chances,
howling evil, healing grace,
far beyond our understanding,
do you know, weighing
every if and why and where,
joy and grief beyond compare?
5. Living in a world that suffers,
pain and evil fret our mind.
Reason ends with broken answers.
Let us pray, and hope to find,
through each other, joined together,
Christ alive, caring,
bearing evil, giving joy
that the world cannot destroy.
6. In the grief, by fear undaunted,
telling truth through tearful songs,
in the burst of loving anger,
giving strength to tackle wrongs,
in a neighbor, in a stranger,
show your love, living,
glowing, warming, gleaming bright,
like a candle in the night.

Words © 1996 by Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved.

September 1995. Commissioned by the 1995 Chi-Rho Lecture Series, Eugene, Oregon, where Dorothee Sölle lectured on, "After the Shoah: Half a Century Later - Theological Reflections on Remembrance, Pain and Hope." Stanzas 2 and 3 may be read over quiet organ improvisation or sung as solos. I am indebted to Elizabeth Johnson, *She Who Is* (SCM Press, London, and Crossroad Books, New York), Chapter 12. Mark 15:34 and parallels.