

STONES BEFORE THE OCEAN
[a worship poetry anthology]

Published by Hewson Books

This collection © Daniel Paul Gilbert 2017

Cover art by Paul Chipperfield

Find out more about his work at <http://www.themightychip.com/>

All poems in this collection, apart from those in the public domain, have been included with the permission of the poets/copyright holders. Please do not republish, record or reproduce any of their poems without their permission.

This anthology is also protected as a collection and the intention for it is to be a non-profit resource. As such you are not permitted to reproduce or re-sell this anthology. Thanks!

<http://www.stonesbeforetheocean.tk>

<https://www.facebook.com/worshippoetryanthology>

Table of Contents

Introduction

Gathering - Andy Stinson

The Life Tide - John Bannister Tabb

The Journey- Andrea Mill

Praise, my soul, the King of Heaven - Henry Francis Lyte

Divine Warrior - Tami Zacharias

O for a thousand tongues to sing - John Wesley

Fear - Steven Quantick

The Dying Christian To His Soul - Alexander Pope

Shema- based on the Jewish prayer

PAX- D.H. Lawrence

Creative Call- Sam Isaacson

Fill The Earth With Praise - Isaac Watts

A Poem that Struck a Nerve - Brian D. McLaren

Requests - Digby Mackworth Dolben

Goldmine - Fran Brady

Christ My All in All- John Mason

Here - Daniel Paul Gilbert

He fumbles at your soul - Emily Dickinson

Birds and Waves -David Russell

Antiphon - George Herbert

Poppies and Nebula - Trevor Thorn

I Am – Anon

A Father's Loss and Hope Found - Dave Wise

A Hymn to God the Father - John Donne
Come to the Table - Steve Page
Dark night of the soul - St John of the Cross
By Grace I Fall - Vanessa Johnston
Take the World, but Give Me Jesus- Fanny Crosby
Grand Canyon - Nelize van Driel
Christ Has No Body - St Teresa of Avila
The Long Way Home - Alyssa Underwood
My song for today - St Therese Lisieux
Journey Through The Wilderness - Elizabeth Trondsen
When I survey the wondrous cross - Isaac Watts
Elixir - Naomi Jurczak
A Better Resurrection - Christina Rossetti
Sing praise - Robert Grayson
Litany To The Holy Spirit - Robert Herrick
Believe - Catherine Jarvis
If I could shut the gate against my thoughts - John Danyel
Vast God Grows - Mackenzie Dwyer
A Word to the Elect - Anne Brontë
Sphere Fear - Linna Monteath
Found of Him That Sought Him Not - John Charles Earle
Prayer of the connected - Linda Maxwell
Come Unto Me - George MacDonald
Seeds of Faith - Stephanie Malley
On Love - Kahlil Gibran

Song of the Sea - Tami Zacharias
Guide me, O Thou great Jehovah - William Williams
In my father's house - Pam Robinson
Thou lovely Source of true delight - Anne Steele
Desiccated - Justin Hoste
Jesus, I my cross have taken - Henry Francis Lyte
Breathe - Gracie Knoll
In the hours of pain and sorrow - Helen L Parmelee
Minor Miracles - MK Punky
Abide with me - Henry Francis Lyte
Prayer of Illumination - Brendon Ward
Holy, Holy Holy! Lord God Almighty! - Reginald Heber
Shield of faith- Anudeep Manne
Amazing grace - John Newton
Seeking - Dorinda MacDowell
Lord of the winds - Mary Coleridge
Borrowed Breath - Ethan Hardin
The Spark - Joseph Mary Plunkett
Fraction - Jane Blanchard
Divine Ode - Joseph Addison
Father's Words - Cindy Norton
Last lines - Emily Brontë
On Gazing - Kelsey Lynn Sivertson
Easter - Edmund Spenser
Flowers after a wildfire - Sally Clark

Forgive Thy Brother - Annie Smith
Fearless - Anna Angell
Christ who knows all His sheep - Richard Baxter
Gravity of Grace - Marion MacGregor White
Make me an instrument of your peace - St Francis of Assisi
When beggars pray - Mirjam Epie Bide
Holy Spirit, Truth divine - Samuel Longfellow
Insecure, you - Briana B. Lamberson
Easter Night - Alice Meynell
Baptism - Jaco Mostert
Peace - Henry Vaughan
In this house - Steven Quantick
Ecclesiastes - Gilbert Keith Chesterton
Already given - Fran Brady
In the bleak midwinter - Christina Rossetti
Worship - James Mellor
Song of the Soul - Khalil Gibran
Recalled From the Brink - Jacques Boulet
Breathe on me, Breath of God - Edwin Hatch
Manifesto for an International Church - Steve Page
On Another's Sorrow - William Blake
The Pit - Chloe Ross
Batter my heart, three-person'd God - John Donne
Beautiful, His Grace to me - Marybeth Mitcham
That Day of Wrath, That Dreadful Day - Thomas de Celano

Time to carry me - Cynthia Jean
To Find God - Robert Herrick
Weaving - Andy Stinson
Religious Musings –excerpt - Samuel Taylor Coleridge
Awe - Daniel Paul Gilbert
O Christ come among men - Synesius of Cyrene
Single Thoughts - Naomi Jurczak
God Our Refuge - Richard Chenevix Trench
Kyrielle - Jane Blanchard
Discipline - George Herbert 152
A chagrin spirit - Briana B. Lamberson
Thy faithfulness, Lord - Charles Wesley
Easter Haiku - Sheila Donald
How sweet the name of Jesus sounds - John Newton
Wrestling at Peniel - Alyssa Underwood
The Healer - George MacDonald
Heavenly Call - Lovely Ybanez
Peace Within - St. Teresa of Avila
Rock - Marisa Rosie
Give Me Strength - Ludwig van Beethoven
Atonement - Jane Blanchard
Almighty Maker of my frame! - Anne Steele
Warrior's Prayer -Cindy Norton
Lord , it belongs not to my care - Richard Baxter
On closeness - Kelsey Lynn Sivertson

A Prospect of Heaven Makes Death - Isaac Watts
Not By Sight - Mike Wahl
Rescue the Perishing - Fanny Crosby
Come and rest here - Andrea Mill
One holy Church of God appears - Samuel Longfellow
Ancient - Ethan Hardin
A Prayer - Digby Mackworth Dolben
Everview - Mackenzie Dwyer
Initiation - Joseph Mary Plunkett
Please Hear What I'm Not Saying - Charles C Finn
Arise, my soul, arise - Charles Wesley
This must be the Love - Nelize van Driel
None Other Lamb - Christina Rossetti
At the Cross, Life Started - Carol Dee Meeks
A Hymn - Gilbert Keith Chesterton
Perfect Blue Crazy Sky - Mirjam Epie Bide
Love divine, all loves excelling - Charles Wesley
In the Stillness - Jacques Boulet
From my lips in their defilement - St. John of Damascus
How deeply blessed that I should be - Marybeth Mitcham
Here is love, vast as the ocean - William Rees/ Williams
My streams. ...in your desert - Cynthia Jean
Eternal Father, strong to save - William Whiting
In the Presence - Andy Stinson
Before the Beginning - Christina Rossetti

Within the Shelter - Doreen Mellor
During his Courtship - Charles Wesley
To Truth - Anna Angell
Christ's Restraint - Richard Chenevix Trench
The First Pentecost - Linna Monteath
I am Father - Saint John Chrysostom
The God Who Created The Cosmos - Trevor Thorn
Oh, Thou before whose radiant shrine - Felicia Hemans
New Tricks - Sally Clark
Immortal Love, Forever Full - John Greenleaf Whittier
Where is God? - Carmen VonTickner
Father of all! In every age - Alexander Pope
Forever - Jaco Mostert
The Divine Image - William Blake
Highlands - Ethan Hardin
Thanksgiving and Prayer for the Nation - Thomas Traherne
Celtica Digita - Marion MacGregor White
Jesus Prayer - from the Orthodox Tradition
A Salvation Prayer - Cindy Norton
Come, Thou Fount of every blessing - Robert Robinson
On Hunger - Kelsey Lynn Sivertson
I dared not hope that Thou wouldst deign to come - Edwin Hatch
Reflections in the wonderful morning - Briana B. Lamberson
Holy of Holies - Gilbert Keith Chesterton
The Holy Spirit's Creed- Sheila Donald

Eternal Father, who didst all create - Robert Bridges
Earthed (a Christmas poem) - Jeremy Williams
What powerful Spirit lives within! - Thomas Traherne
Set Apart - Shirley Jean Davis
The Saviour Speaks – Anon
We Belong To You - Anudeep Manne
I see his blood upon the rose - Joseph Mary Plunkett
The River of Peace - Elizabeth Trondsen
The Rock of Salvation - Annie Smith
The Bells Of Christmas - Nancy Julien Kopp
He lives! the great Redeemer lives! - Anne Steele
Fratres (Brothers) - Daniel Paul Gilbert
Morning hymn - George MacDonald
Sing a New Song - Catherine Jarvis
A Hymn to Christ - John Donne
Free Heart - Gracie Knoll
Meditation on the “Our Father”- St Francis of Assisi
Fountainhead - Alyssa Underwood
Prayer for Absolution - Robert Herrick
Christ Love - Shirley Smothers
I Thirst for Love - St Therese Lisieux
Circus Act - Stephanie Malley
Good Friday - Digby Mackworth Dolben
Innermost - Fran Brady
Hymn of The Children - John Greenleaf Whittier

Monastery of the Ordinary - Daniel J Harris
God Our Help – Anon
Dreams Lie Here - Mackenzie Dwyer
Saviour of mankind, Man, Emmanuel! - George Sandys
The War is Over - Brendon Ward
God Be My Vision –adaptation from Gaelic 8th Century
Lord of Poetry - Steve Page
The night is come like to the day - Sir Thomas Browne
It is finished - Nelize van Driel
Forth in thy Name, O Lord, I go - Charles Wesley
A Spontaneous poem - Steven Quantick
May the Light of lights come - Traditional Celtic
Celtic Storm - Marisa Rosie
The Crucifixion - Alice Meynell
Sight - Chloe Ross
A Ballad of Trees and the Master - Sidney Lanier
Of Bridges, Then - Mike Wahl
Doxology - Thomas Ken
Biographies

Introduction

This anthology was conceived a number of years ago whilst I was at University and I was looking for poetry for use in worship after picking up Spoken Worship by Gerard Kelly. As a creative writing student I was interested in the idea of using poetry within worship and Spoken Worship was a big influence on how I came to think about worship as a poet and a leader of sung worship. However, in the years that followed I never did find the book I was looking for. In the mean time I independently published my own books until I finally gained the confidence to seriously consider putting together a full anthology of worship poetry. I always intended this to be a collaborative effort and having come through the process now I feel blessed and truly amazed by the support people have given and the enthusiasm towards the idea and so I want to thank everyone who encouraged me in this effort.

I really believe that poetry has an important role in how we worship and how we come into relationship with God. Poetry gives us the words that we do not have or cannot find, poetry helps us to see differently and it challenges us in the most eloquent and simple ways, as humble words read against silence. And as a poet I feel that it is my job to try and capture something of the ineffable but not try and define it. Some of the poets featured here have written hundreds and often thousands of poems, each providing a mere glimpse of our Creator, each subsequent poem further seeking the face of God. I believe that poetry is about interacting with mysteries like love and death and religion and I think about worship in the same way. I want to embrace the mystery of God but know that as I fling my arms open in awe, know that the living God will meet me.

The poets included in this anthology are from the past and the present, from all over the world and from different traditions and different age groups. We range from vicars and scholars to scientists and doctors to teachers and carers to writers and artists to missionaries and campaigners to office managers and administrators but we all come

seeking God, hoping to bring glory to God in the small ways that we can, but in the belief that in doing so we get to see more of who God is and know God more.

I want to thank all these contributors who have generously given permission for their poems to be used here, without them this book would not be. I also thank them for getting behind the heart of the project as a non-profit venture. I love the saying “there is no money in poetry and there is no poetry in money” as this is what I had in mind for this project all along - that people would be able to download it for free or buy it for as little as possible and use it without worrying about the cost of the resource. In return I ask that you respect the time and energy that we, the poets, have invested in this volume and that if you wish to use any of these poems in recordings, books, films, etc, that you seek our permission and that you use the resource in the spirit it is given.

Finally, I truly hope that this anthology will be a blessing, that in using it you will be challenged, assured, encouraged, inspired, comforted, awed and that through using it you will come to know God deeper.

Daniel Paul Gilbert

Gathering - Andy Stinson

Each face has paced a thousand steps to gather here.
Journeys walked and lessons learnt.
Tears shed and shouts of delight cried.

As we walked, we never left your sight.
Your love abounding, surrounding,
Resounding in every recess of our lives.

At times, we have felt closer than ever before.
At times, we have felt frozen
Permafrost gripping our hearts and minds,
Wondering, will we ever find our way home?

So, let us gather here.
Called from every corner.
Pilgrims in pain,
Worshippers filled with wonder
Children of God, gathered by a Father's love.

Let our praises echo
Let our hearts be changed
As we gather now to worship God.

The Life Tide - John Bannister Tabb

Each wave that breaks upon the strand,
How swift soe'er to spurn the sand
And seek again the sea,
Christ-like, within its lifted hand
Must bear the stigma of the land
For all eternity.

The Journey - Andrea Mill

Look at the pebbles on the seashore, the grains of sand
None of them are formed in an instant
But are polished by the pounding of the waves
Heated, cooled, cracked, broken by the ever-changing weather
Processes designed by me that cannot be rushed
The beauty lies in the waiting

Wisdom is not formed in an instant
It too is a polishing process
Sanding down rough edges
Weathered by the storms of life
Just as in learning to walk, a child must fall many times
Wisdom grows in the learning

But even the young may grow weary until “true wisdom” is learned
Only those who learn to surrender their own agenda will soar on
heaven’s thermals
Only those who learn to listen to me will gain understanding
Only those who yield to my refining process will renew their strength

You ask, “How long?”
My child, look to the past and remember all I have done for you
Embrace the present waiting as opportunity to grow closer to me and
learn from me
You will be stronger in the future when you flow with my rhythm
I have all the answers you need if you just take the time to ask
Your heart will be filled with hope when you live in love with me
You need never grow faint or weary when you take time to rest in me

The question is not about the length of the trial
The answer lies in the journey of our relationship
Where you will find love, hope, peace and all the strength you need.

Praise, my soul, the King of Heaven - Henry Francis Lyte

Praise, my soul, the King of Heaven;
To His feet Thy tribute bring!
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
Who like me His praise should sing?
Praise Him! praise Him!
Praise the everlasting King!

Praise Him for His grace and favour,
To our fathers in distress!
Praise Him still the same for ever,
Slow to chide, and swift to bless!
Praise Him! praise Him!
Glorious in His faithfulness!

Father-like, He tends and spares us;
Well our feeble frame He knows.
In His hands He gently bears us,
Rescues us from all our foes,
Praise Him! praise Him!
Widely as His mercy flows!

Frail as summer's flower we flourish:
Blows the wind, and it is gone.
But while mortals rise and perish,
God endures unchanging on.
Praise Him, Praise Him,
Praise the high eternal One!

Angels, help us to adore Him;
Ye behold Him face to face:
Sun and moon, bow down before Him;
Dwellers all in time and space,
Praise Him! praise Him!

Thank You for previewing this eBook

You can read the full version of this eBook in different formats:

- HTML (Free /Available to everyone)
- PDF / TXT (Available to V.I.P. members. Free Standard members can access up to 5 PDF/TXT eBooks per month each month)
- Epub & Mobipocket (Exclusive to V.I.P. members)

To download this full book, simply select the format you desire below

