

# JOURNEY SONGS

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## Rejoice in the Kingdom

Lord, give us eyes in this day's strife to see how your hand is nurturing life:  
Grieving is shared and the wounded are healed, the presence of Christ revealed.

Rejoice in the kingdom! Behold the Lord's kingdom,  
The kingdom among us, the kingdom of God!

Breaking the bread we are made one. Peace can repair what pride has done.  
Outcasts are welcomed and prisoners freed, loving in word and deed.

Rejoice in the kingdom! Behold the Lord's kingdom,  
The kingdom among us, the kingdom of God!

Keep us, O Lord, from blind despair when signs of your love are everywhere.  
Justice and mercy embrace out of sight, but all will be brought to light.

Rejoice in the kingdom! Behold the Lord's kingdom,  
The kingdom among us, the kingdom of God!

## Wildflowers *for John Case*

My heart is aching with the beauty of the wildflowers,  
cheerful daisies and the Queen Anne's lace,  
neon asters and the purple vetch entwining  
humble and regal in this unsown place.

High above them the milkweed towers,  
stalwart stronghold for the monarchs in flight.  
"Welcome, pilgrims, come and rest awhile,  
safe and sheltered on this summer's night."

Where may I find such a place  
to cradle and to comfort me?  
for I as well am on a journey of my own,  
a long day's journey home.



## Return

Return, return, return to your first love.  
I've waited, watching all the long years.  
Come, make your home at journey's end,  
In my heart of love, my spirit's fire,  
In my mercy's tears, my one desire for you,  
For you, for you: return.

Come, make your home at journey's end,  
In my heart of love, my spirit's fire,  
In my mercy's tears, my one desire for you,  
For you, for you: return.

## To The Grotto

Climbing uphill, trudging through snow,  
Winter has muffled the path that I know:  
    seeking a place for solace,  
    seeking a place for prayer.

Counting my steps heavily made,  
Finding a track that is already laid:  
    solemn and straight in a line  
    wild turkey prints lead to my shrine.

Humbled and glad so to be led  
Simple and sure by their wisdom inbred:  
    I tend to your path, I heed what you say,  
    For I see that you already know how to pray.

I tend to your path, I heed what you say,  
For I see that you already know how to pray.

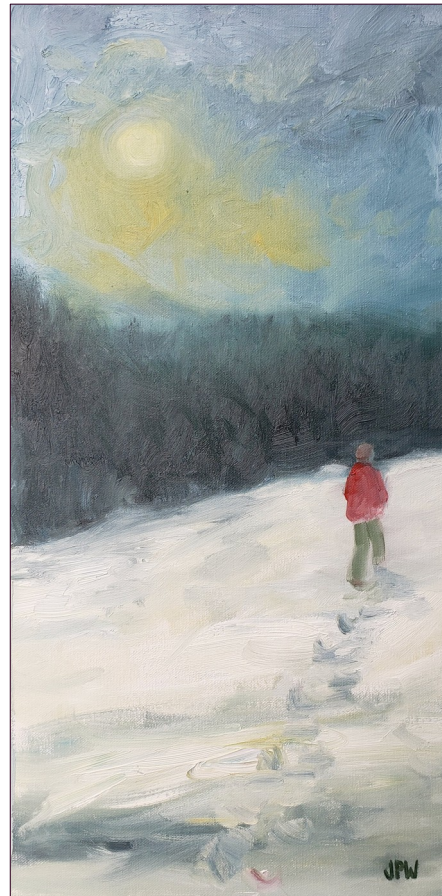
## Redeem

*for the 2019 World Vision NLC Prayer Retreat*

I will redeem your pain. I will redeem your suffering.  
I who bore the sins of the world on a bloody back and dragged them down to hell.

Precious are you to me, you who bear the price of love.  
Stay with me and share my wounds for the healing, the healing of the world.

Trust in the Lord with all your heart  
and do not lean on your own understanding.  
In all your ways acknowledge him,  
and he will direct your path.



## Meditation (Psalm 45:10-11) *for Tenacity*

Plant me in the womb of darkness.  
Nurture me with silence and emptiness.

O my daughter forget your father's house.  
So the king will desire your beauty.

## Break My Heart

Break my heart, make it new.  
May it beat only for you.

*Holy, holy, holy Lord! Heaven and earth  
are filled with the glory of God!*

Break my heart, make it new.  
May it beat only for you.

*Lamb of God,  
you take away the sins of the world:  
Have mercy on us; have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God,  
you take away the sins of the world:  
Receive our prayer.*

Break my heart, make it new.  
May it beat only for you.

## Pandemic Songs

### **God of the Storm**     *for David Grizzle*

God of the storm, keep me safe.  
Shelter me under your wing.  
Teach me your sovereignty over the tempest  
And where my provisions from you shall spring.

God of the dark, hold me close.  
Comfort me in your embrace.  
Teach me your sovereignty over all evil  
And how to endure with your power and grace.

God of the flood be my rock.  
Anchor me when I would drown.  
Teach me your wisdom and purpose in trials  
And where the true pathways to you are found.

### **Lay Down Your Arrows**     *for Terry Wager*

Lay down your arrows, your sharp-edged spears.  
Silence your pertinent words.  
Be helpless, be weak.  
The voice that you seek is not easily heard.  
Pack up your plowshares: the rain comes on.  
Feel it upon your face.  
Father, Savior, Spirit, Grace.

“Save us, O Lord.  
How can you sleep while we’re in peril?  
The waves are high and we shall drown!”

*“Be still. Be still.”*



### **Come and Sit Here**     *for Colleen Gardephe and the New Rochelle Moms in Prayer*

Come and sit here, rest awhile. Warm yourself and hide.  
Place your hand within the gash torn into my side.  
Love was the spear, and love the crown.  
Fall in my wounds where you may drown  
In the blood of sorrow and pain.

Bear with me the darkening day. Wait with me, abide.  
Know the stillness of the pause, turning of the tide.  
Open your heart to my embrace.  
See in my ruined body grace, and the birth pangs that remain.

**Morning Bouquet**      *for Gaynell Cronin*

My God has gathered me a morning bouquet of birdsong,  
birdsong and sunshine warm on my face.

*Can I set down desires that burn, the future I yearn for,  
And walk in the garden, walk in the garden?*

My God has gathered me a morning bouquet of birdsong,  
birdsong and sunshine warm on my face.

**Stronger in the Broken Part**      *For Michele Sinkiewicz*

O God, see me here: fears and sorrows, joyful songs,  
pride and envy, selfishness, distraction.

Draw me to your heart,  
For I know in the power of the resurrection of Jesus  
I can emerge stronger in the broken part.

O God, see Chris: perseverance, love for his family,  
Ravaged body, wounded spirit.

Draw him to your heart,  
For I know in the power of the resurrection of Jesus  
He can emerge stronger in the broken part.

O God, see Michele: mother's love and daughter's pain,  
Will to serve you, unknown paths.

Draw her to your heart,  
For I know in the power of the resurrection of Jesus  
She can emerge stronger in the broken part.

O God, see our country: sickness, kindness, courage, loss,  
Racist actions, lamentations.

Draw us to your heart,  
For I know in the power of the resurrection of Jesus  
We can emerge stronger in the broken part.

**Welcome Prayer**

Welcome to the morning, the fullness of the day.  
May I embrace both joys and troubles falling on my way.  
Yes, all things work together to see Thy kingdom come,  
So let me trust, as all things must,  
That Thy good will be done,  
And find release within Thy peace  
For God, our God, is one.





**“Bright star, would I were stedfast as thou art”**

Bright star, would I were stedfast as thou art—  
Not in lone splendour hung aloft the night  
And watching, with eternal lids apart,  
Like nature's patient, sleepless Eremite,  
The moving waters at their priestlike task  
Of pure ablution round earth's human shores,  
Or gazing on the new soft-fallen mask  
Of snow upon the mountains and the moors—  
No—yet still stedfast, still unchangeable,  
Pillow'd upon my fair love's ripening breast,  
To feel for ever its soft fall and swell,  
Awake for ever in a sweet unrest,  
Still, still to hear her tender-taken breath,  
And so live ever—or else swoon to death.

John Keats, 1795-1821

## **Anniversary Song**

*for Jeff on our 40<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary*

I knew you in the springtime. We scattered seeds abroad  
And pledged our lives so joyfully to each other and to God.

We walked the path before us with laughter and song.  
I loved you in the springtime and knew you were strong.

I knew you in the summer. The days grew hot and hard.  
We leaned on one another to encourage and to guard,  
And to build a place of welcome beyond just us two.  
I loved you in the summer and knew you were true.

I knew you in autumn, in gold-spangled wood.  
I loved you in autumn and knew you were good.

Now I know you in the winter. The fire is burning warm.  
We praise our God for harvest and we trust God in the storm.  
The story of our friendship and romance is so fine;  
I love you in the winter and know you are mine.