



**Be Still and Know**

Intercessory Prayer based on Psalm 46

GATHERING

*Following a time of silence, the hymn below is sung softly three times.*

## Be Still and Know

The image shows two staves of musical notation for the hymn 'Be Still and Know'. The first staff is a treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and a 4/4 time signature. It contains two measures: the first measure is marked with a '1\*' and the second with a '2'. The notes are: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), G4 (half). Below the staff are the lyrics: 'Be still and know that I am God.' The second staff is also a treble clef with the same key signature and time signature. It contains two measures: the first measure is marked with a '1\*' and the second with a '2'. The notes are: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), G4 (half). Below the staff are the lyrics: 'Be still and know that I am God.' There is a fermata over the final note 'God.' in the second measure of the second staff.

\* *May be sung in canon*

Text: Psalm 46:10

Music: BE STILL AND KNOW (BELL), John L. Bell, b. 1949

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The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

We have gathered to pray.

Our prayer is woven of silence, scripture, and song.

The lights are dimmed,  
Inviting us to be still in the presence of God  
as the Holy Spirit opens our hearts  
to receive the Word that is our refuge and strength.

The music is simple and easily learned.  
In our singing, and in our sighs too deep for words,  
We are breathing prayer to God.

In a while, you will be invited to kneel, sit, or stand by the cross to pray.  
Candles are placed there for you to light,  
a sign of your prayer before God.

Be still now.  
Rest in the darkness and silence of the evening.  
God is near.

*Silence.*

## WORD

The hymn below is sung and will be used as a refrain during the reading of Psalm 46.

### Though the Earth Shall Change



The image shows four staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below each staff. The lyrics are: 'Though the earth shall change, though the mountains tremble, though the waters rage, you, God, are here. Though the nations war, though the peoples battle, though the empire falters, we will not fear.'

Text: Rolf Vegdahl, b. 1955, and Tom Witt, b. 1957, based on Psalm 46

Music: WE WILL NOT FEAR, Tom Witt

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## Psalm 46

God is our refuge and strength,  
a very present help in trouble.

Therefore we will not fear,  
though the earth be moved,  
though the mountains shake  
in the depths of the sea;  
though its waters rage and foam,  
and the mountains tremble with its tumult.

### *Refrain*

There is a river whose streams  
make glad the city of God,  
the holy habitation of the Most High.

God is in the midst of the city;  
it shall not be shaken;  
God shall help it at the break of day.

The nations rage,  
and the kingdoms shake.

God speaks,  
and the earth melts away.

The Lord of hosts is with us;  
The God of Jacob is our stronghold.



Though the earth shall change,      though the moun-tains trem-ble,



though the wa - ters rage,      you, God, are here.



Though the na - tions war,      though the peo - ples bat - tle,



though the em - pire fal - ters,      we will not fear.

Come now, regard the works of the Lord,  
what desolations God has brought upon the earth;

behold the one who makes wars to cease  
in all the world;

who breaks the bow,  
and shatters the spear,

and burns the shield with fire.

“Be still, then,  
and know that I am God;  
I will be exalted among nations;  
I will be exalted in the earth.”

The Lord of hosts is with us;  
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

*Refrain*

*A time of silence is kept for reflection upon the word.*

INVITATION TO THE CROSS

God never stands far off, but is close at hand.  
In Christ Jesus, God draws near to us,  
offering grace upon grace, mercy beyond measure,  
and life without end.

You who are troubled or in distress,  
you who feel separated from God's love,  
come to the cross where Christ receives your burdens and gives you rest.  
*(brief pause)*

The God of hosts is with us.

Come, you who are filled with fear or anxiety,  
you who tremble when the earth is moved  
and your world begins to crumble.  
*(brief pause)*

God is our help in trouble.

You who comfort those who weep  
and you who wait with those near death,  
come to the One who is our hope and final home.  
*(brief pause)*

God is our solace and shelter.

Come, you who are burdened with pain or grief,  
you who are bound by guilt or shame.  
*(brief pause)*

God is our river of mercy.

You who cry out for wars to cease and violence to end,  
come to the One who will crush our weapons of war  
and turn our hearts toward peace.  
*(brief pause)*

God alone is our defense.

Join in singing as the chant begins.  
When you are drawn, come to the cross.  
*(brief pause)*

Be still and know that God is near.

*Silence.*

## PRAYER AT THE CROSS

Hymns below are sung softly while people come forward to pray. Sing each hymns four times.

34

### Peace, Be Still

Peace, be still. Peace, be still. The  
storm rag - es. Peace, be still.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major. The first staff contains the melody for the first two phrases: 'Peace, be still. Peace, be still. The'. The second staff contains the melody for the next two phrases: 'storm rag - es. Peace, be still.' The notes are simple, with some rests and a final double bar line.

Text and music: Stephen Iverson

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### O Lord, Hear My Prayer *The Lord Is My Song*

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: when I call, an - swer me.  
OR *The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise: all my hope comes from God.*

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: come and lis - ten to me.  
*The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise: God, the well-spring of life.*

The image shows two systems of musical notation. Each system has a vocal line in treble clef and a piano accompaniment line in bass clef. The key signature is G major. The first system includes the lyrics 'O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: when I call, an - swer me.' followed by an alternative line in italics: 'OR The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise: all my hope comes from God.' The second system includes the lyrics 'O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: come and lis - ten to me.' followed by an alternative line in italics: 'The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise: God, the well-spring of life.' The piano accompaniment consists of chords and simple rhythmic patterns.

Text: Psalm 102:1-2; Taizé Community, adapt.

Music: HEAR MY PRAYER, Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994

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## CLOSING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Lord, it is night.

The night is for stillness.

Let us be still in the presence of God.

It is night after a long day.

What has been done has been done;

what has not been done has not been done;

let it be.

The night is dark.  
Let our fears of the darkness,  
of the world, and of our lives rest in you.

The night is quiet.  
Let the quietness of your peace enfold us,  
all dear to us,  
and all who have no peace.

The night heralds the dawn.  
Let us look expectantly to a new day,  
new joys, new possibilities.

In your name we pray.

**Amen.**

**SENDING**

Almighty God bless us, keep us, and grant us peace.

**Amen.**

You may leave quietly or stay awhile to pray.

When you go, go in peace. God is near.

*The room stays quiet and dark until all have finished praying.*

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