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For All Of Life

Lyrics: Allyson Sawtell

Tune: Lasst Uns Erfreuen 1623 (“From All That Dwell Below The Skies”)

For all of life that’s yet to be,
For all we hope and yearn to see: Alleluia! Alleluia!
For all we dream and dare to strive.
For all that keeps our hope alive: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

The work is hard, despair so near.
God, often we give into fear. Alleluia?? Alleluia??
But even so, we’ll dare to sing!
Together, let our voices ring! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Still, God, it feels so strange to sing
These alleluias that we bring. Alleluia! Alleluia!
But we will sing them anyway.
And work and love, rejoice and pray! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

This song was originally written for my Lenten resource “A Journey from Separation to Community, for the Love of Creation”.

It is part of a ritual used there, where the tradition of “burying the Alleluias” during Lent was discussed, and an alternative proposed, one of “planting seeds and singing Alleluias”.

Even though this song could be sung at times other than Lent, the context of “singing Alleluias” in the face of lament, as an embodiment of hope, needs to be explained before presenting this song.



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