

Dave Brubeck: The Gates of Justice (1969)

Lyrics

I. LORD, THE HEAVENS CANNOT CONTAIN THEE

I Kings 8:27–30, 41–43

O Lord, the heaven of heavens cannot contain Thee;
How much less this house that I have builded!
Yet have Thou respect unto the prayer of Thy servant,
And of Thy people Israel, when they shall pray toward this place.
Yea, hear, and when Thou hearest, forgive.

Moreover, concerning the stranger that is not of Thy people Israel,
When he shall pray toward this house, hear Thou;
And do according to all that the stranger calleth to Thee,
That all the peoples of the earth may know Thy name.

II. OH, COME LET US SING

Union Prayer Book, based on Psalms 95–98

Oh, come let us sing unto the Lord;
Let us raise our voice in joy to the Rock of our salvation.

Sing unto the Lord a new song.
Sing unto the Lord, all the earth.

Sing unto the Lord, bless His name,
Proclaim His salvation day to day.
Honor and majesty are before Him.
Strength and beauty are in His sanctuary.
Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.
Tremble before Him all the earth.
Let us sing unto the Lord.
Let us raise our voice in joy to the Rock of our salvation.
The Lord reigneth.
The world is established that it cannot be moved.
Let the heavens be glad and the earth rejoice,
Let the field exult and all that is therein.
He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples in his faithfulness.
Oh, ye that love the Lord, hate evil.
He preserveth the souls of His servants.
Light is sown for the righteous,
And gladness for the upright in heart.
Be glad in the Lord, ye righteous, give thanks to His holy name.

He hath remembered His mercy and faithfulness toward the house of Israel.
All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.
The Lord our God is holy.

IIIa. OPEN THE GATES

Psalm 118:19–23; Isaiah 62:10; 57:14

Open the gates, open the gates.
Open to me the gates of justice,
I will enter them and give thanks to the Lord.
The gate is the Lord's, the just shall enter in.
I will give thanks to Thee, for Thou hast answered me
and have become my salvation.
The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.
This is the Lord's doing, and is marvelous to behold.

Go through, go through the gates;
Clear ye the way for the people.
Make way! Cast up the highway, gather out the stones.
Clear the way.
Take up the stumbling block out of the way of the people!

IIIb. OPEN THE GATES CHORALE

Psalm 118:19–23; Isaiah 58:6–7, 9, and 12

Open the gates. Throw wide the gates to me.
Is not this the fast that I have chosen,
to loose the fetters of wickedness,
to undo the bands of the yoke,
And let the oppressed go free?
And when ye break every yoke, is it not to deal thy
bread to the hungry?

Open the doors to bring the poor that are
cast out to thy house.
When thou see the naked thou shalt cover him.
Then thou shalt call and the Lord will answer;
Thou shalt cry, and He will say, "Here I am!"
Out of the way of the people!
They shall build the old waste places.
Thou shalt raise up the foundations.
Thou shalt be called the repairer of the breach,
the restorer of the paths to dwell in.
Open the gates. When will you open the gates?

IV a & b. EXCEPT THE LORD BUILD THE HOUSE

Psalm 127:1

Except the Lord build the house
They labor in vain that build it.
Except the Lord keep the city,
The watchman waketh but in vain.

V. LORD, LORD

Iola Brubeck; I Kings: 8:27–30

Lord, Lord, what will tomorrow bring?
Today I felt an arrow stinging in a wound so deep,
My eyes refuse to weep.
What will tomorrow bring?

Lord, how can I face this day?
Each dawn I walk the city's silence with a sense of peace.

They speak!
Nigger! Whitey! Jew!
There is no peace.
They speak!
There is no peace.

What will tomorrow bring?

Lord, when will the ill wind change?
We're all just little children crying in a world
of hate for love,
and still we wait for love, and still we wait!

What will tomorrow bring?

O Lord! The heaven of heavens cannot contain Thee.
How much less this house that I have builded.
Yet have Thou respect unto the prayers of Thy servant, and Thy people, Israel,
when they shall pray toward this place.
Yea, hear, and when Thou hearest, forgive.

VI. YE SHALL BE HOLY

Leviticus 19:2, 18, 33, 34

Ye shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy.
Thou shalt not take vengeance nor bear any grudge
against the children of Thy people,
but thou shall love thy neighbor as thyself.
If a stranger dwell with thee in your land,
ye shall not do him wrong.
And thou shalt love him as thyself.

For ye were strangers in the land of Egypt.

VII. SHOUT UNTO THE LORD

Psalms 95–98; Isaiah 2:4; 50:8; 57:19; Martin Luther King, Jr.; Hillel

Come, let us shout unto the Lord!
Let us make a joyful noise to the Rock of our salvation.
Shout for joy, oh shout for joy!
Sing to the Lord and shout for joy with voice and trumpet.
Let us sound the trumpet!

With the sound of the trumpet, the sound of the cymbal,
we praise His name.
Let us praise Him with dance and the sound of the timbrel and harp.
Make a loud noise! Make a loud noise!
Let the seas roar with joy, and floods clap their hands.
Praise the Lord with the harp, with the drum!

Thou hast kept us in life.
Thou hast not let our footstep stray.
Thou hast watched over us in the night of oppression.
Thy mercy sustains us in the hour of trial.

Now we live in a land of freedom.
Let us continue to be faithful to Thee.
May Thy law rule the life of our children,
and Thy truth unite their hearts.

We must stand for freedom!
Stand!
Knowing that one day we will be free.
If we don't live together as brothers,
we will die together as fools.

We are living in a land of freedom!
Shout!
Free at last! I'm free at last!
Thank God Almighty, we're free at last!
I'm free! Free!

Who will contend with me?
Let us stand up together.
Who is my adversary?
Let him come near to me.

If the time for action is not now, when is it?

Peace to him that is far off. Peace to him that is near.
Peace!

Let them beat their swords into plowshares,
and spears into pruning hooks.
Nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
nor learn war anymore.

Make peace, not war!
Let them beat their swords into plowshares,
and spears into pruning hooks.
No more war, give us peace.
Make a loud noise, shout!

VIII. WHEN I BEHOLD THY HEAVENS

Psalm 8:4–7, 10

When I behold Thy heavens, the works of Thy fingers,
the moon and the stars which Thou hast established;
What is man, that Thou art mindful of him?

And the son of man,
that Thou thinkest of him, yet Thou hast made him
but little lower than the angels,
and hast crowned him with glory and honor?

Thou hast made him to have dominion over
the works of Thy hands,
Thou hast put all things under his feet.
O Lord, how glorious is Thy name in all the earth.

IX. HOW GLORIOUS IS THY NAME

Psalm 8:2

How glorious is Thy name in all the earth!

X. THE LORD IS GOOD

Psalm 133:1; Isaiah 60:18, 20; Psalms 100:3–5; 91:4; quotations from various popular and folk songs

Behold how good and how pleasant it is for
brethren to dwell together in unity.
Violence shall no more be heard in thy land,
desolation nor destruction within thy borders,
but thou shalt call thy walls salvation,
and thy gates praise.
And the days of thy mourning shall be ended.

It is He that hath made us, and we are His.
We are His people and the flock of His pasture.
Enter into His gates with thanksgiving,
Enter into His courts with praise!

Give thanks unto Him and bless His name.
Bless His name, for the Lord is good!
His mercy endureth forever.

And His faithfulness unto all of His beautiful people,
Where do they all come from? It's the sound of silence.
Go through the gates of justice;
then God's will shall be done.
All people are created by the same God; we are one.
And the days of thy mourning shall be ended.
Violence shall no more be heard in thy land.
He will cover thee with His pinions,
and under His wings He will give you refuge,
refuge for all when we are one,
all generations, when we are one.

XI. HIS TRUTH AS A SHIELD

Martin Luther King, Jr.; Psalm 91:5

There are knives and there are other arms.
You have called on all of us to put them away,
To bear instead, the weapon of nonviolence,
the breastplate of righteousness, the armor of truth.

His truth is a shield and a buckler.
Thou shalt not be afraid of the terror by night,
nor of the arrow that flyeth by day.

XII. OH, COME LET US SING A NEW SONG

Psalm 149 (adaptation)

O come, let us sing a new song to the Lord.
O come let us sing a new song unto the Lord!

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