

Habel Hymns 3

Songs to Explore *The Mysteries* of Evolution and Ecology

Norman C. Habel
c. 2012

*My frame was not hidden from you
When I was being made in secret,
Intricately woven in the depths of Earth,
My mother's womb. Ps. 139.15*

(To be published in the future)

Preface

To
MOTHER EARTH
my mother
who gave birth to me
after millions of years
of labor
nurturing a long line
of Earth beings
my ancestors
in an amazing process
we now call
evolution.

How can I ever thank
my mother
for her sustenance
the air I breath
and
the plants I consume

Even more
I now realize
that she has made me aware
of the sacred in nature
of God's Presence
dwelling in her midst
making her a sanctuary
a sacred site
in the cosmos.

When I listen
To my Mother
I know who I am:
An Earth being
Blessed to be!

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The Birth of Earth
(Based on Genesis 1)
C. 2006 Norman Habel
Melody: Silent Night

Silent breath, holy breath
Floating round infant Earth,
Deep in waters dark she lies,
Waiting from the womb to rise,
Waiting for the dawn.
Waiting for the dawn.

Silent word, holy word
Impulse rising deep in God:
Change the deep and dark of night
Time has come for life and light.
Welcome to the dawn.
Welcome to the dawn.

Silent cry, holy cry,
Breaking forth from the sky:
Let the primal waters part,
Let the primal birthing start,
Let the waters burst.
Let the waters burst.

Silent word, holy word
Suring forth from our God:
Let the infant Earth appear,
Let her features all be clear,
Let my child be born.
Let my child be born.

Silent breath, holy breath,
Stirs the soul deep in Earth,
Giving birth to glistening green,
Forest tree and garden bean,
Baby Earth's alive.
Baby Earth's alive.

Silent love, holy love,
From the mid-wife we call God,
Crying when she sees her child,
Very good and very wild:
She is beautiful.
She is beautiful.

Baby Earth

C. 2009 Norman Habel

Melody: The Lord's My Shepherd

An Impulse deep in time and space
Once yearned for all to be;
A Spirit in this universe
Once set the cosmos free,

That Impulse caused a big big bang,
A cosmic womb gave birth:
An embryo of rocks and gas;
We call her Baby Earth.

Caressed by years of light and time,
The breath of God above,
An energy emerged in Earth:
The sign of life and love.

The Impulse stirring deep within
Helped baby Earth to be,
A vibrant planet filled with song,
A blue-green mystery.

From deep within the veins of Earth
Evolved new living forms,
Giraffe and deer and dinosaur,
Gold fish and baby worms.

Just how amazing is this gift
To live in time and space
And through the smile of Baby Earth
To see God's cosmic face.

I'm an Earth Being

C. 2010 Norman Habel

Melody: Morning has Broken

Born of this planet, I'm an Earth being,
Born of this planet, I'm an Earth child.
One with all beings, born of this planet,
I'm an Earth being, one with the wild.

Born of this planet, baptized with moisture,
I'm an Earth being, blessed by her rains;
Rising from oceans, flowing through rivers,
Earth's sacred waters pulse through my veins.

Born of this planet, flowing with breezes,
Children inhale Earth's infinite breath;
Earth's holy breathing enters my body,
Creating a meaning/presence deeper than death.

Born of this planet, one speck of stardust,
We feel the pulsing deep in our soul,
Mystr'y like music throbs in the landscape,
Earth like a mother, makes our lives whole.

Welcome to Country

C. 2012 Norman Habel

Melody: Morning has Broken

Welcome to country! Country is calling,
Calling from scrub and watering hole:
Sense now the sacred spirit of country,
Stirring the silence deep in your soul.

Country is calling. Know in your spirit,
Land is alive and blessed you at birth.
Celebrate now the song of your mother:
You are a precious child born of Earth.

Country is crying, crying in anguish!
Landscapes and lizards feeling the pain.
Forests destroyed and rivers polluted,
When will you care for country again?

Country is calling, stirring your dreaming,
Songs that our primal ancestors sang.
Spinning through time and all of creation,
Dreaming returns with God's boomerang.

Welcome to country! Christ at the centre
Calling for healing, holds out his hand:
Reconciled true each brother and sister,
Come now and heal our mother, the land.

A Covenant with Earth
C. 2011 Norman Habel, 2011
Melody: The Lord's My Shepherd

We hear the call of planet Earth
To come back home and see
The living presence of our God
In soil and sky and sea.

We hear the call of Mother Earth
To feel her cries of pain,
The way pollution chokes her breath
And toxins burn her brain.

We hear the call of Christ again
To celebrate the news
That Christ, the cosmic mystery,
Can heal creation's blues.

For God became a piece of Earth,
Incarnate in the son,
To reconcile a broken world
And make creation one.

We hear the call from deep within
To follow God's own cue
To make a covenant with Earth
And to her soul be true.

And with this covenant we make
A promise bold and free
To heal and care for Mother Earth,
Alive with mystery.

Mother Earth , our Mother Birthing

© 1999 *Norman Habel*

Melody: Praise my Soul the King of Heaven

Mother Earth, our mother birthing
Ev'ry creature from the ground.
Jesus too was flesh and breathing,
Kin to all that's green and brown.
Celebrate with all creation:
God has joined the web of life.

Sister Air, our sister lifting
Ev'ry creature born with wing;
Jesus shared the breath of forests,
Breath that makes our spirits sing.
Celebrate with all creation:
God has joined the web of life.

Brother Water, brother pulsing
Deep through ev'ry vein and sea,
Jesus drank the very raindrops
For our wine and in our tea.
Celebrate with all creation:
God has joined the web of life.

Father Fire, our father burning
With the sacred urge to live.
Jesus' death completes the cycle,
Bringing life beyond the grave.
Celebrate with all creation:
God has joined the web of life.

Rainbow Hymn

C. 2010 Norman Habel

Melody: Morning Has Broken

Red is the fire of God's holy presence
Filling with life the planet we share;
Here is our vow to hold the Earth sacred,
Tend it with love and covenant care.

Orange the clay that makes us all mortal
Filled with God's breath since humans were born..
Given a mission: treat Earth as partner!
Now we affirm that calling once more.

Yellow, like gold, means all things are precious,
Each with a right to sing and be free;
This is our pledge to hold all that's living,
Valued as part of Earth's majesty.

Green pulses flow through veins of creation,
Till humans clear great forests in seed;
This is our promise: keep all things growing,
We will reverse our violent greed.

Blue is the song felt deep in the ocean,
Blues are the groaning deep in the sand.
Now with our souls we promise to listen,
Publicly giving a voice to the land.

Indigo sounds a signal for danger:
Refugees facing drought and despair;
Here we respond as climates are changing,
We will take steps, find ways to prepare.

Violet announces Christ in the cosmos,
Holding our Earth in all of its pain.
Christ now invites us: join in my mission!
Cov'nant with me to heal Earth again.

Wise Up, Wise Up, You Christians

(Amid Global Warming)

C. 2008 Norman Habel

Melody: Stand up, Stand up for Jesus

Wise up, wise up, all Christians
Whose eyes are heaven bound;
God made us first in Eden
To serve and love the ground,
To work with God the Gard'ner
Whose breath in ev'ry thing
Brings life and hope and blessing
And makes our planet sing.

Be wise, be wise, like Joseph,
Before those years of drought,
The curse of global warming,
Turns human faith to doubt.
Plan now to feed the hungry
A flood of refugees,
And share our garden planet
With ev'ry life in need.

Connect with Christ the Healer,
Whose love fills land and sea,
That breathing pulsing presence
In soil and stream and tree.
Unite with Christ in healing
The wounds of planet Earth
Until creation's groaning
Becomes a song of birth.

Sing with the Sun

C. 2008 Norman Habel

Melody: Christ is Alive. LH 761

Sing with the sun, the king above,
Assigned by God to rule the skies,
Dispensing justice with the light
On rich and poor, on fools and wise.

Join with a choir of finch and dove,
Sing praises for the rising sun,
All celebrating with the dawn,
The presence of the Risen One.

Sing with the sun whose burning fire
Surrounds our God when high above,
But reaches humans far below
In golden streams of warmth and love.

Sing with the ferns and forest fronds,
Accepting light that keeps leaves green,
Imploring God to now make sure
That humans keep this planet clean.

Sing as the sundial reads the sun,
Recalling that sad fateful day
When darkness blocked the light above
And God's own son then passed away.

Join with our kin the kangaroo
Who dine in peace as suns turn red,
And share with them and Christ our Lord
The gift of life and breaking bread.

Sing with the sun in light-year time,
Exploding in from outer space,
A blazing gift from God on high
That once broke through in Jesus' face.

Black Saturday
C. 2009 Norman Habel
Melody: Amazing Grace

Amazing flames that scorch the sky,
Like hurricanes of fire,
Alive with eucalyptus oil,
Are roaring higher and higher.

These swirling balls of oil ablaze,
That leap o'er trees at will,
Descend on fields and flock and homes,
Explode and burn and kill.

Where's God in all this swirling ash?
Where's God in all this pain?
Awaiting somewhere in the sky
To one day send some rain?

The face of God is burnt and black;
The hands of God are red!
The God we know in Jesus Christ
Is bleeding with the dead.

Is this, O God, the shock we need
To face our life ahead,
Adjusting to a Greenhouse Age
When we must share our bread?

Christ, show us now your hands and feet,
The burns across you side
And how you suffer with the Earth,
By fires crucified!

Celebrating Evolution

C. 2012 Norman Habel

Melody: Battle Hymn of the Republic

Sun clouds call across the laughing mountain face,
Night birds whisper to a searching human race,
Wild stars echo from a galaxy in space:
We're all one mystery.

Come and see your world revolving,
Come, discern your kin evolving,
Come and sense your doubt dissolving,
Oh, God, what's coming now?

Star dust spins around explosions very high,
One piece settles as a planet in our sky,
Earth beings celebrate and still wonder why:
We're all one mystery.

Come and see your sun revolving
Come, discern the Earth evolving
Come and sense your doubt dissolving,
Oh, God, what's coming now?

Tidbits of matter on a planet we call Earth,
Evolved into life forms that know how to birth
Breathing and dancing and celebrating worth
We're all one mystery.

Come and see the Earth revolving
Come, discern this life evolving
Come and sense your doubt dissolving,
Oh, God, what's coming now?

Praise the God of Evolution

© 1999 Norman Habel 1999

Melody: Praise my Soul the King of Heaven

Praise the God of evolution,
Spinning stars through time and space,
Turning matter into music,
Symphonies of cosmic grace.
Celebrate your evolution!
Join the chorus of the skies!

Praise the God of evolution,
Turning light bursts into years,
Making gravity a partner
In the dance of solar spheres.
Celebrate your evolution!
Thank the stars for gravity.

Praise the God of evolution,
Swirling planets left and right,
Waiting for that special moment
When our planet came in sight.
Celebrate your evolution.
Hail the birth of baby Earth.

Praise the God of evolution,
Stirring oxygen with love
Turning gases into waters,
Wombs in tune with light above.
Celebrate your evolution!
Breathe the air of life itself.

Praise the God of evolution,
Forming embryos to view,
Turning molecules to mammals,
Birthing lives like me and you.
Celebrate your evolution!
Join the song of life on Earth.

Just as I am

C. 2012 Norman Habel

Melody: Just as I am With-out one Plea

Just as I am, by Earth defined,
Evolved to have a searching mind,
And longing in my heart to find
The mystery I am, I am!

Just as I am, evolved to be
A human with a sense to see,
A consciousness of mystery,
I wonder who I am, I am!

Just as I am, in my small place,
I'm now aware of cosmic space,
A precious song, a gift of grace
To be just as I am, I am.

Just as I am, connected free
With suns in every galaxy,
With matter dark and gravity,
A cosmic child I am, I am.

Just as I am, I sense once more,
A Spirit force within our core,
A God who makes my spirit roar,
A mystery I am, I am.

I am a Piece of Dust

C. 2013 Norman Habel

Melody: Nearer my God to Thee

I am a piece of dust, flung from the sky,
Yes, I'm your planet home, please hear my cry:
Come claim this mystery,
Just who you are,
Children of mother Earth,
Born of a star.

I am a myrtle tree, stately and strong,
Now with my forest friends, I sing this song:
Come taste the mystery
Deeper than birth.
We have evolved to be
Partners on Earth

I am a fairy wren, close to the ground,
Deep from the soil below, I hear this sound:
Come feel the mystery,
Where breezes blow,
We too evolved from earth,
In soil we grow.

.
We are the desert ants, stirring the sand,
Hoping that human minds might understand:
We know a mystery
Hidden within,
Wisdom evolved with us;
We are your kin.

I am the coral reef, live on your coast
Pulsing with crabs and krill, I hear them boast:
Come play with mystery
Here in the sea;
You have evolved from us;
Now you are free.

I am the mystery, dancing in space
I am the sacred source, sheer cosmic grace.
Come sense the mystery,
Impulse divine,
You have evolved with me,
Dancing in time.

Why? O Why this Wild Tsunami?

Norman Habel, July 2004

Melody: Joyful! Joyful! We adore you!

Why? O why this wild tsunami?
Why this cruel mystery?
Why? O why these raging waters
Sweeping loved ones out to sea?
Was our God consumed by anger
As when Noah faced his rage?
Or is there a deeper reason
Earth has taken centre stage?

Why? O why this mass compassion?
Why this change of human heart?
Why amid the graves of thousands
Do our hatreds fall apart?
Even in the poorest village,
Even where the outcasts live,
Those with something sell their jewels,
Those with nothing give and give!

Lord, you've suffered down the ages,
Waiting for a surge of love;
People of your planet hating
In the name of God above!
Now you speak in one tsunami,
Stirring what lies deep inside.
Is this how your son once suffered,
Died when love was crucified?

Is that God among the debris,
Weeping on a battered shore,
Holding in her arms an infant—
One! No, two! No, maybe more!
God made flesh knows human grieving,
God made flesh knows our distress.
Help us, God, to find you weeping
With an infant at your breast!