

This Beautiful Earth

This beautiful earth that our God has created

Is ours to be fed by and ours to sustain

This beautiful earth that hangs like a jewel

Is a gift from the one Lord, forever the same

We need to take, the time to look around

We need to take, the time to sit down

And drink in the presence of God through creation

In a forest cathedral, with the mountain its spire This beautiful earth

A space for the heart to grow into stillness

Is a space for the heart, to open to God

A space for the words of our mouths to be silenced

And in the silence of God to be fed by the Word This beautiful earth

We must nurture the earth that nurtures its people

And treasure the earth and keep it from harm

We must nurture the mystery and not lose the wonder

Of a seed, of a forest, of a star of God's love This beautiful earth

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'The Bill Comes at the End'

One day, most certainly
we will get the bill
for the sunshine
and the whispering of the leaves,
the tender lilies of the valley,
and the dark evergreens,
the snow and the wind,
the flight of birds and the grass
and the butterflies,
for the air
we have breathed,
and our view of the stars,
and for all the days,
the evenings and the nights.

One day it will be time
for us to get up and pay;
let me have the bill, please.
But we were forgetting
about the innkeeper:
I have been your host,
he says and laughs,
as broad as the earth:
It was my pleasure!²

From 'No Irrelevant Jesus'

Gerard Lohfink