

La Paz de la Tierra

The Peace of the Earth

Trad. Guatemalan
Vocal arr. John L. Bell

La paz de la tierra este' con tigo, la paz de los cielos tambien.
La paz de los rios este' con tigo, la paz de los mares tambien.
La paz profunda cayendo sobre ti.
La paz profunda creciendo en ti.

The peace of the earth be with you, the peace of the heavens, too.
The peace of the rivers be with you, the peace of the oceans, too:
Deep peace falling over you,
God's peace growing in you.

John L. Bell is a hymnwriter and composer based in Glasgow, Scotland where he works as part of the Wild Goose Resource Group of the Iona Community. In addition to many collections of original songs and anthems, he has written two books on the importance of congregational singing. Today I'm sharing his reason number one of the ten reasons that he puts forward as to why we sing.

"Why do we sing? Because we can.

Like walking, swimming, snapping fingers, gargling, turning cartwheels and whistling in the dark, singing is a human potential.....

.....Singing is a natural activity, and peculiarly suited to humans. For while birds improvise melismatic lines, donkeys bray and hyenas laugh, only humans have the ability to ally words to melody and produce songs for a community to sing.

We sing because we can."

John L. Bell, *The Singing Thing*, a case for congregational song

Until we sing together again -