

Background Notes.

The words for this hymn were written by Geoffrey Etherington as a poem. Found some years after his death by his widow (a member of our church) I was asked to set the words to music. It wasn't easy, since the meter changes from verse to verse, but I hope that I have done it justice. The instrumental section sounds particularly nice played on recorder or flute.

A Harvest Hymn

Words by Geoffrey Etherington

Music by Keith Miller

We bring to you these fruits of earth
The products of our toil
That we may praise your goodness
For the bounty from the soil
The golden sheaves of autumn
The harvest of the sea
This is our thanksgiving
That all your people see

For the sun-scorched parts of earth
Where famine lingers long
If only we could share our harvest
If only we could right this wrong

(Instrumental interlude)

So let us spread these gifts around
To hungry stricken lands
And give these fruits of earth
To eager stretching hands
Then may we walk this sunlit earth
With our brothers hand in hand
And share our love and harvest
And peace from land to land