

God, Beyond All Names

Bernadette Farrell

VERSES 1,2,4,5: (♩=54-58)

Soprano

1. God, be - yond our dreams, you have stirred in us a
 2. God, be - yond all names, you have made us in your
 4. God, be - yond all time, you are la - bor - ing with -
 5. God of ten - der care, you have cra - dled us in

Alto

Hum

Tenor
Bass

1. mem - 'ry; you have placed your pow'r - ful spir - it in the
 2. im - age; we are like you, we re - flect you; we are
 4. in us; we are mov - ing, we are chang - ing in your
 5. good - ness, you have moth - ered us in whole - ness, you have

(Hum)

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Keyboard may double choir parts if needed. SATB does not match keyboard in songbook,
 GOD, BEYOND ALL NAMES (Ed. 9409).

REFRAIN:

1. hearts of hu - man - kind.)
 2. wom - an, we are man.)
 4. spir - it ev - er new.) All a - round us we have
 5. loved us in - to birth.)

(Hum) Hum

known you, all cre - a - tion lives to hold you, In our

(Hum)

liv - ing and our dy - ing we are bring - ing you to birth.

(Hum)

1,3 D.C.

bring - ing you to birth. bring - ing you to birth.

(Hum) (Hum)

VERSE 3:

Soprano *mp*

Alto

3. God, be - yond all words, all cre - a - tion tells your

Tenor

Bass *mp*

3. sto - ry; you have shak - en with our laugh - ter, you have

p

3. trem - bled with our tears. All a - round us we have

3. known you, all cre - a - tion lives to hold you, in our

pp

3. liv - ing and our dy - ing we are bring - ing you to birth. *D.C.*

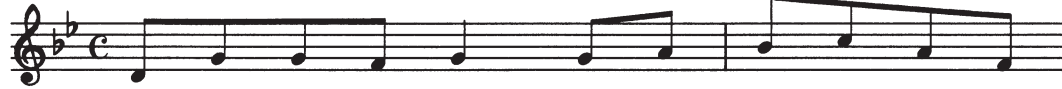
God, Beyond All Names

(Guitar/Vocal)*

Bernadette Farrell

VERSES: (♩=54-58)

Capo 3: (Em) (Bm7) (Em) (C) (Bm7)
Gm Dm7 Gm Eb Dm7



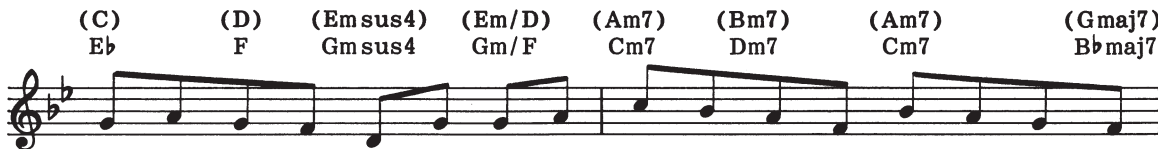
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1. hearts of hu - man - kind.
 2. wom - an, we are man.
 3. trem - bled with our tears.
 4. spir - it ev - er new.
 5. loved us in - to birth.)
- All a - round us we have known you, all cre -



a - tion lives to hold you. In our liv - ing and our dy - ing we are

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*Alternative Guitar/Vocal for use with unison/melody verses may be found in
GOD, BEYOND ALL NAMES songbook (Ed. 9409).

1-4	(C maj7)	(Bm7)	(E)		Final	(C maj7)	(Bm7)	(E)
	E♭maj7	Dm7	G	<i>D.S.</i>		E♭maj7	Dm7	G

bring - ing you to birth. bring - ing you to birth.

Performance Notes

You may choose to use this song with Cantor/Assembly, or as a Solo/SATB reflective piece. It shouldn't be labored, but light and free, taking whatever breaths are necessary. Either way, let it find its own pace and inner rhythm. It works with guitar, too.

Please note: The vocal harmony is slightly different from the keyboard accompaniment (songbook, GOD, BEYOND ALL NAMES, Ed. 9409), and is not intended to be used simultaneously. Keyboard may double the choir parts, if needed.

Our image of God is inevitably influenced by our society and its language. Studies of hymn-books reveal a preponderance of metaphors based on strength and power, together with almost exclusively male pronouns (none of which is surprising in a human-built patriarchy). And yet Christian theology recognizes a God who is beyond gender. The scriptures include feminine as well as masculine images of God. Perhaps our own understanding of what it is to be human can be affirmed and valued if our sense of God is not constricted. Through Jesus Christ, we know God to be at the heart of our human condition, in powerlessness, vulnerability and change.

This song has been used in a variety of contexts. One occasion was a time of reflection in a hospice for people suffering from AIDS. I would like to think that the words might affirm people in the process of dying in which we are all engaged at different points of the journey.

—Bernadette Farrell

Assembly Edition

GOD, BEYOND ALL NAMES

Bernadette Farrell

Verses



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3. God, be - yond all words, all cre - a - tion tells your
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1. mem - 'ry; you have placed your pow'r - ful spir - it in the
2. im - age; we are like you, we re - flect you; we are
3. sto - ry; you have shak - en with our laugh - ter, you have
4. in us; we are mov - ing, we are chang - ing in your
5. good - ness, you have moth - ered us in whole - ness, you have

Refrain



1. hearts of hu - man - kind. All a - round us we have
2. wom - an, we are man.
3. trem - bled with our tears.
4. spir - it ev - er new.
5. loved us in - to birth.



known you, all cre - a - tion lives to hold you. In our



liv - ing and our dy - ing we are bring - ing you to birth.

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