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## How Big Are Your Arms, O God?

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# How Big Are Your Arms, O God?

by Carol M. Meier

## ABSTRACT:

Expansive images and expressions of God invite us all to experience God's steadfast, faithful, and unconditional love in our lives. Out of this deep sense of belovedness, we are called to embody God's loving presence. "How Big Are Your Arms, O God?" urges a broader imagination of God's compassion and a more inclusive expression of that love in this world. As both a proclamation and a reminder, this song explores our understanding of and response to "the breadth and length and height and depth...[of] the love of Christ" (Ephesians 3:18, NRSV).

## SYNOD:

"How Big Are Your Arms, O God?" was originally submitted to The Hymn Society's 2017 call for "Hymns and Songs of Hospitality to Refugees and Immigrants" and was included in their online collection, "Singing Welcome." As Christians, we are not only called to address the complicated issues surrounding the needs of immigrants and displaced people, we are also called to respond compassionately to all situations of division, oppression, and injustice. Amidst growing polarization in our communities, nation, and world, the church is compelled to love as God loves us: without conditions, borders, or limits.



# How Big Are Your Arms, O God?

Carol Meier

§ (for verse 2)

Chord progression for the first line of music:

A<sup>b</sup> D<sup>b</sup>/A<sup>b</sup> E<sup>b</sup>/A<sup>b</sup> D<sup>b</sup>/A<sup>b</sup> A<sup>b</sup> D<sup>b</sup>/A<sup>b</sup> E<sup>b</sup>7/A<sup>b</sup>

1. How big are Your arms, O God? —
2. Could You be found in these, —
3. Your love, it knows no bounds, —
4. Help us to live in love, —
5. We are Your arms, O God; —

8 E<sup>b</sup>/G A<sup>b</sup> D<sup>b</sup>/A<sup>b</sup> E<sup>b</sup>/G F m

— How wide is Your wel - come here?  
 — the im - mi - grant, ref - u - gee?  
 — no gen - der, no race, no creed.  
 — with all who would dis - a - gree;  
 — yes, we are Your wel - come wide.

12 E<sup>b</sup> A<sup>b</sup> D<sup>b</sup>/A D<sup>b</sup>/A C M<sup>a</sup>j

— How far will Your grace reach out to em -  
 — Could we wel - come in as neigh - bor and  
 — Much strong - er than hate, Your love is bor -  
 — to lay down our pride, all fear, cast a -  
 — We go in Your name; Your love, we pro -

16 F m B<sup>b</sup>m E<sup>b</sup> sus E<sup>b</sup> A<sup>b</sup>

brace the stran - ger both far and near? D.S. (to verse 2)  
 kin those yearn - ing to be made free? to refrain  
 gate: this world and Your king - dom meet. to refrain  
 side: May love be our u - ni - ty. to refrain  
 claim. Let all find a place in - side! to refrain

20 Refrain A<sup>b</sup> D<sup>b</sup> E<sup>b</sup> D<sup>b</sup>/F E<sup>b</sup>/G A<sup>b</sup> E<sup>b</sup>/G

Your — love reach - es be - yond our

## How Big Are Your Arms, O God?

24 F m E $\flat$  D $\flat$  E $\flat$  D $\flat$ /F E $\flat$  D $\flat$ /F

walls, how vast, how wide, how deep, how

28 E $\flat$ /G D $\flat$  E $\flat$  D $\flat$ /F E $\flat$ /G A $\flat$  E $\flat$ /G

high! Your love em - pow - ers, com - pels, and

32 F m E $\flat$  D $\flat$  E $\flat$ sus D $\flat$ /A $\flat$

calls. Like You, may we love all. after verse 2, 3, 4

36 D $\flat$ /A $\flat$  A $\flat$  F m Last time F m E $\flat$

all. Like

40 D $\flat$  E $\flat$ sus D $\flat$ /A $\flat$  D $\flat$ /A $\flat$  A $\flat$ 2

You, may we love all.

