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)

Ab
Ds/Ab
Es/Ab
Db/Ab
Ab
Ds/Ab
Es/Ab

| How big are Your arms, O God? |
| Could You be found in these, |
| Your love, it knows no bounds, |
| Help us to live in love; |
| We are Your arms, O God; |

| How wide is Your welcome here? |
| the immigrant, refugee |
| no gender, no race, no creed |
| with all who would disagree; |
| yes, we are Your welcome wide |

| How far will Your grace reach out to neighbors and |
| Much stronger than hate, Your love is the |
| to lay down our pride, all fear, cast aside |
| We go in Your name; Your love, we proclaim |

| brace the stranger both far and near? |
| kin those yearning to be made free |
| gate; this world and Your kingdom meet |
| side. May love be our unity. |
| claim. Let all find a place inside! |

D.S. (to verse 2)

to refrain
to refrain
to refrain

to refrain

to refrain

to refrain

Refrain

Ab
Ds
Eb
Db/F
Es/G
Ab
Es/G

Your love reaches beyond our
How Big Are Your Arms, O God?

walls, how vast, how wide, how deep, how high!

Your love empowers, compels, and calls. Like You, may we love all.

Last time

Like You, may we love all.