

**Bible Study Series “Singing the Unsung”
Session Six - Christian Music Around The World**

“The future of the world will not be determined so much as to whether we have a nuclear war, but whether we overeat ourselves or over-pollute ourselves, or over-exhaust the world, and - for our children - leave a devastated... earth.”

Three forums described in scripture:

- angels in heaven
- church on earth offering its praise
- the whole of creation

We are guardians of the song of the earth

What is being rediscovered is a deep biblical seam of the affection of God for the universe and the way in which the earth and its destiny is tied up with how fairly humanity interacts with the soil on which we walk.

Where do we sing about creation? Not many songs lift this up as part of Christian discipleship which we have to take seriously.

“There is a degree to which we will not take as part of the ‘given’ of the witness of the church that which we do not sing about”

We don’t sing a lot of songs from the southern hemisphere - it is changing, but our liturgical life could reflect our global identity more. “There was a time when the only song from the southern hemisphere that we sang was ‘Kumbaya.’”

song: “I Am Glad” (Central America)

Melody connecting a person to their roots, cultural heritage

song: “God who made the earth” (Korea)

Customs from Hawai’i

- processing Bible around during acclamation to receive the blessing of the community to share the scriptures
- used tea tree leaves to take sacrament to those who weren’t able to join in in-person
- liturgical dance

song: “Ka-ma-na’ o ‘i ‘o” (Hawaii)
“...faithful, faithful is our God”



For discussion:

The destiny of the earth and its interconnectedness with humanity is “an aspect of Christian discipleship which we have to take seriously.” How does what we sing inform our awareness of Creation’s plight?

Why is it important to sing songs from outside of our cultural experience?