

WE PRAY

FREEDOM

ORAMOS

LIBERTAD

WE PRAY

FREEDOM

Song Sheet

*Titles of Songs are hyperlinked to audio / video of songs

** This song sheet also notes in which setting a song will work best: March, Rally, Vigil, Sit In, Organizing Meeting...

I Remember, I Believe

By Sweet Honey in the Rock

Organizing Meeting / Event

This song was written by Bernice Johnson Reagon after listening to a sermon by her pastor, Reverend A. Knighton Stanley, in Washington, D.C. His message was clear: none of us exist as isolated individuals—we are the result of the dreams, struggles, hope, and determination of those who came before us.

I don't know how my mother walked her trouble down
I don't know how my father stood his ground
I don't know how my people survive slavery
I do remember, that's why I believe

I don't know how the rivers overflow their banks
I don't know how the snow falls and covers the ground
I don't know how the hurricane sweeps through the land
every now and then
Standing in a rainstorm, I believe

I don't know how the angels woke me up this morning soon
I don't know how the blood still runs through my veins
I don't know how I rate to run another day
Standing in a rainstorm I believe

My God calls to me in the morning dew
The power of the universe knows my name
Gave me a song to sing and sent me on my way
I raise my voice for justice I believe

We Get There Together /No One is Getting Left Behind (This Time)

By Joshua Blaine

Joshua wrote this song in 2022 as part of a We Cry Justice artists collective project and was inspired by Dan Jones' chapter from We Cry Justice, "A Mixed Multitude." He also drew from the poem by Aurora Levins Morales, "Red Sea," in which she challenges us to ask: what happens this time if we all cross together? This song has become an important song sung in protest spaces and gatherings calling for a ceasefire in Gaza. For a longer story behind the song, see the link above.

No one is getting left behind this time
No one is getting left behind
No one is getting left behind this time

We get there together or never get there at all
We get there together or never get there at all
We get there together or never get there at all

I'm Gonna Lift My Sister Up

By Faya Rose Touré, Recorded by Charon Hribar, Jamel Coy Hudson, and Pauline Pisano

This song was written by Faya Ora Rose Touré. She is an American civil rights activist and lawyer. She was the first Black female judge in Alabama. Faya is a founder of the National Voting Rights Museum in Selma, AL and helped coordinate the annual Bridge Crossing Jubilee to mark the anniversary of Bloody Sunday.

I'm gonna lift my sister up she's not heavy
I'm gonna lift my sister up she's not heavy
I'm gonna lift my sister up she's not heavy
If I don't lift her up
We will fall down

I'm gonna lift my brother up
We're gonna lift our siblings up
We're gonna lift our children up
We're gonna lift our people up

Our Liberation

By the Peace Poets

"Our Liberation" is a powerful anthem born in the heart of the Occupy Wall Street movement, rooted in the ancient truth that our destinies are bound together. Written by The Peace Poets in the streets of New York City, the song proclaims, "my liberation is your liberation, and your liberation is my liberation"—a mantra that affirms our shared humanity and defies the forces that try to divide us. Sung in protests, vigils, Pride marches, and quiet moments of reflection, this song is a soulful call to collective freedom, resistance, and love.

Your liberation is my liberation
And my liberation is your liberation
So let me hear the people say
Let's Get Free (Let's Get Free)
Let's Get Free (Let's Get Free)

Were You There

African American Spiritual

Adapted by Moses Hernandez McGavin and Charon Hribar

Traditional Lyrics

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Oh! sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Were you there when they buried all the poor...

2025 Lenten Adaptation

Were you there when they ripped us from our homes?
Were you there when they ripped us from our homes?
Oh these times, these times
Are calling us to rise up, to rise up
Oh these times, these times
Are calling us to rise up, to rise up

Were you there when they left us sick to die?
Were you there when they left us sick to die?
Oh these times...

Were you there when they destroyed our homes?
Were you there when they destroyed our homes?
Oh these times...

Were you there when they made our love a crime?
Were you there when they made our love a crime?
Oh these times...

Were you there, when they razed all of our towns?
Were you there, when they razed all of our towns?
Oh these times...

We Remember You

By the Flobots

We remember you
We remember you

We Remember You (the Rap)

By Jamie Laurie

Written as a tribute to Dr. Vincent Harding

We remember you...

I was on a date when I learned you had passed
Through an email when I checked my phone in the
bathroom
Short of breath when I was stepping out
I apologized and went to Stephen's house
Man, we knew it had to happen someday
But on May 19 somebody snatched the sun away
Reflecting on which path we wanted to take
Took a step back and saw that you'd already shown the way
Cause even after death we knew what you'd say
We didn't have to guess or resuscitate
We could feel your presence from beyond
Cause your message to the young activists never fluctuates
Every time you told us you believed in us
You breathed another breath into each of us
Reaching up with gratitude since you died
Cause we never could imagine you remained so alive

We remember you...



Ricardo Levins Morales

We Are Soldiers In the Army

Adapted by Briann Moye

This song made popular by the Civil Rights and Welfare Rights Movements was adapted by Briann Moye, a leader of PPF! PA and the NVMA to lift up Erro Willynd as a Freedom Fighter, among other great Freedom Fighters who taught us how to fight for life and to fight for justice. It was shared at multiple NVMA memorial services and events to honor Erro's leadership.

We Are Soldiers in the Army
We are soldiers in the army
We've got to fight, although we have to cry.
We've got to hold up the blood stained banner.
We've got to hold it up until we die.

Well, Martin was a soldier.
He kept his hands on the freedom plow.
He said, I might not make it,
but I'll give my life to fight on anyhow.

Chorus

Johnny Tillman was a soldier.
Kept her hands on the gospel pile.
One day she got old and couldn't fight anymore
And she said, I'll stand here and I'll fight anyhow

Chorus

Now Erro, was a soldier,
kept their hands on the gospel plow.
One day they got sick and couldn't fight anymore.
And they said, I'll stand here and I'll fight anyhow.

Courage

**South African Anti-Apartheid movement song
used to learn the names of political prisoners*

Courage, my friend
You do not move alone
We will, move with you
And sing your spirit home

Justice, my friend
You do not cry alone
We will, cry with you
And sing your spirit home

Palestine, my friend
You do not move alone
We will, move with you
And sing your spirit home

Freedom, my friend
You do not pray alone
We will pray with you
And sing your spirit home

1-2-3 Lift Up

By Adam Thiesen

This song was written by Adam Thiesen, a movement leader with the IL Poor People's Campaign and the National Union of the Homeless. At the time he wrote the song he was living in Maine. This song is connected to a project of survival that Adam and Katie Thiesen were a part of in Maine.

When the people united get in step
Ain't no hill too high for us to climb
Now too few have had too much for too long
I can't think of any worse crime

(Chorus – after each verse)

We need people who stand up to get in step
Grab the bottom 1 2 3 and lift up
Lift up and look up to the lowly
Grab the bottom 1 2 3 and lift up

We got churches that feed people to feel good
We got people who got no place to sleep
Who need more than a meal and a handshake
Who need more than a smile that's skin deep

(Chorus)

It's not enough to stand up
We gotta move our feet to move up
Locked arms, lockstep we won't back up
Grab the bottom 1 2 3 and lift up

God Loves Us All

Adapted by Charon Hribar

The simple tune of this old English folk round has been reimagined by social movements to proclaim the universality of God's love and God's call for justice. On December 10, Human Rights Day, this song rang out at the U.S.–Mexico border as faith leaders from diverse traditions gathered for a powerful religious ceremony in solidarity with asylum seekers. The “Love Knows No Borders” action called for an end to immigrant detention and deportation, respect for the right to migrate, and the demilitarization of the border. Kneeling in prayer before border guards and military troops—and within earshot of families on the Mexican side—clergy and community members sang songs of love and resistance. Their presence was a public witness to the sacredness of every human life.

Love love love love
Sisters this is our call
We will not bow to injustice
God loves us all

Brothers this is our call
Siblings this is our call

Do You Hear What I Hear?

Remixed by Ana Hernandez, Charon Hribar, Ciara Taylor,
Jose Vasquez, Molly Dowell, Pauline Pisano, and Vahisha
Hasan

“In order to write poetry that isn't political, I must listen to the birds, and in order to listen to the birds; the warplanes must be silent” — Marwan Makhou

Said the night wind to the little child
Do you see what I see?
(Do you see what I see?)

Sleeping on the streets, little child
Do you see what I see?
(Do you see what I see?)

The birds, the birds dancing in the night
Casting shadows in firelight
Casting shadows in firelight

To a homeless girl said a little boy
Do you hear what I hear?
(Do you hear what I hear?)

Ringing through the sky, little one
Do you hear what I hear?
(Do you hear what I hear?)

The bombs, the bombs high above the trees
raining down on land and on sea
Raining down on land and on sea

Said the children to the people everywhere
Listen to what we say! (Listen to what we say!)
Pray for peace, people, everywhere
Listen to what we say! (Listen to what we say!)

To the homeless children sleeping in the night
We will bring them shelter and light
We will bring them shelter and light

Said the children to the people everywhere
Do you know what we know? (Do you know what we know?)
March for peace, people, everywhere
Do you know what we know? (Do you know what we know?)

When hearts unite there'll be peace everywhere
We can end this world of despair
We can end this world of despair



Claire Rabkin

We Belong Together

By Anu Yadav

Love is an action
A place to sleep
Love is to rise up
Standing with me
Love is together
Righting the wrong
Knowing there's a place
You always belong

We belong we belong we belong
We belong we belong together

Out of the mud
The lotus blooms
Hearts wide open
With the truth
Seeking justice
Seeking peace
Linking arms
We're gonna get free

Chorus

Break the lie of loneliness
Break it with love
There's a place for you
There's a place for us
A place for you
Here in my heart
Come right home
To the truth of my arms
To the truth of my arms

Chorus

We are not broken
We are not too much
We are powerful
We are enough
We are enough

Chorus

(Bridge)

Together we can, together we will

Together we stand, together we build
A whole new world, it's time to get real
There's something inside I know we all feel
The power of love they try to conceal
So don't hide it in a bush; time to put it on a hill
Cause hand in hand's the way that we heal
And hand in hand I know that we will
Cause they can never tear us apart
When we're living from the love that is in our heart

Say they can never tear us apart
When we're living from the love that is in our heart
So fill our hearts with holy fire
Unite us with our sole desire
Cause we are of our family
Time together in unity

Cause we belong we belong we belong
We belong we belong together

Not In Our Name

By Chelsea MacMillan & Brendan MacMillan

When the fires
And the seas rise
Not in our name
We say not in our name

When the oil burns
And your stocks rise
Not in our name
We say not in our name

When you choose greed
And tell us lies
Not in our name
We say not in our name

When the gas burns
And the planet dies
Not in our name
We say not in our name

Ella's Song

By Dr. Bernice Johnson Reagon

Ella's Song was written by Dr. Bernice Johnson Reagon to honor the life and work of civil rights activist Ella Baker. Baker was a key figure in the Civil Rights Movement, serving on the boards of the NAACP, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, and the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee. She was a leader who believed in young people's ability to shape their own strategies for social change.

We who believe in freedom cannot rest
We who believe in freedom cannot rest until it comes

Until the killing of Black men, Black mothers' sons
Is as important as the killing of white men, white mothers' sons

That which touches me most is that I had a chance to work
with people
Passing on to others that which was passed on to me

To me young people come first, they have the courage where
we fail
And if I can but shed some light as they carry us through the
gale

The older I get the better I know that the secret of my going
on
Is when the reins are in the hands of the young, who dare to
run against the storm

Not needing to clutch for power, not needing the light just
to shine on me
I need to be one in the number as we stand against tyranny

Struggling myself don't mean a whole lot, I've come to
realize
That teaching others to stand up and fight is the only way
my struggle survives

I'm a woman who speaks in a voice and I must be heard
At times I can be quite difficult, I'll bow to no one's word

We who believe in freedom cannot rest
We who believe in freedom cannot rest until it comes

Never Alone

By the Peace Poets
Organizing Meeting

"Never Alone" is a powerful anthem born from the No Separate Justice campaign, which held monthly vigils outside the Metropolitan Correctional Center in New York City to protest the inhumane treatment of Muslim detainees in the post-9/11 era. Rooted in the belief that we carry our ancestors, teachers, and communities with us in the struggle for justice, the song offers a deep affirmation of collective strength and spiritual solidarity. Sung across movements—from immigrant justice to climate action—it reminds us that even in the face of isolation and repression, we are never alone.

I have not come here alone
I carry my people in my bones
I have not come here alone
If you listen you can hear them in my soul

Ancestors Watching

Jonathan Lykes and Black Youth Project 100

This song/chant, shared by Jonathan Lykes, was taught to BYP100 members at the Atlanta National Coordinating Council Convening in December of 2015, where CFreedom, the inaugural co-chair of the New Orleans chapter, gave BYP100 the chant/song. Say Her Name was a trans- and femme-led national Movement for Black Lives campaign response to the Sandra Bland police murder that took place on July 13, 2015. This became an outcry chant to lift up the names and voices of Black femmes impacted by systemic violence. "Black girl magic" was a term popularized by Cashawn Thompson in 2013. She created the term to represent the joy, beauty, power, and resilience of Black people living on the margins. This chant declares the importance of Black magic, led by Black women, to be conjured up by movement organizers, tapping into a radical imagination, and created through faith, love, and joy.

I know they're watching,
Ancestors watching,
I know they're watching, I know, I know

Say her name, Say her name,
Say her name, Say her name

Black Magic, Black Magic Raining Down,
Black Magic, Black Magic

Power of Love

By Steff Reed

In January 2017, amid the division and hate-fueled rhetoric following Trump's presidency, Steff Reed wrote a song to bring people together around the universal value of love—a mantra that transcends politics, religion, and class. First sung at a New Orleans high school art exhibition on police brutality and anti-Blackness, the song offered hope as students united in its message.

Verse 1

It's the match that sparks the flame
It's the action that inspires change
Power to the people in this holy war
And no weapon formed against it shall prosper.

Pre Hook

Hope and love can conquer anything
All you've gotta do is plant a seed of faith.

Hook

I believe in the power of love (2x's) Whoa—oh—oh—whoa
(2x's)
I believe in the power of love.

Verse 2

It's liberation for everything
It's the reason the caged bird sings
It shines light, drives out the dark
It's the dream of freedom that Martin taught.

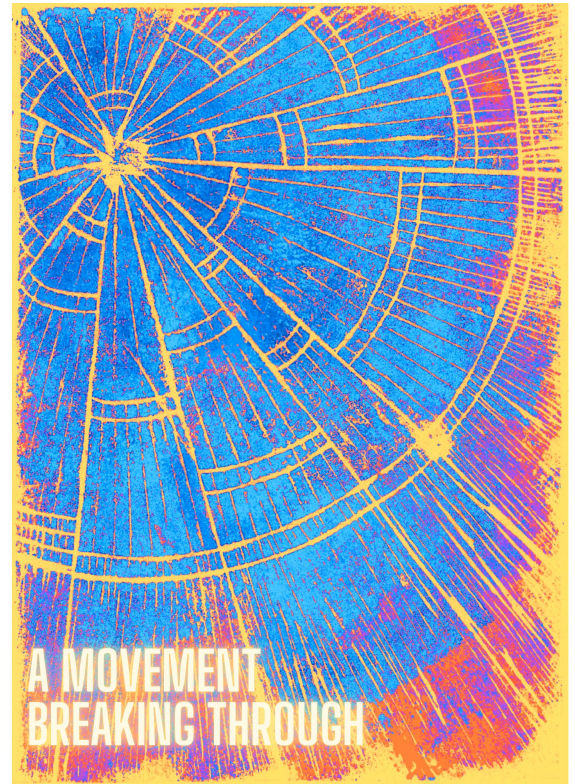
Pre Hook

Hook

Bridge

We're on a mission, fighting these conditions
The world is ours to live in and we can't let it fall
No bans, no borders. We're breaking down the wall
They can't divide us all if we believe.

Hook



Shailly Gupta Barnes

May This Body Be a Bridge

By Te Martin

Te Martin wrote this song after being at Standing Rock for several months in 2016 to stand with Indigenous water protectors from over 200 tribes to protest the construction of the Dakota Access Pipeline. Said Abdallah, a Palestinian friend of Te's, had joined the protests at Standing Rock and shared the connections he saw between the militarized violence at Standing Rock and the occupation of Palestine. He said that he wanted his "body to be a bridge for liberation of his Palestinian homelands." These words and the persistence of the water protectors at Standing Rock inspired this song.

May this body be a bridge
For the healing of this land
May the river flow through us
Cleansing greed from our hands

We are, we are born from the water
We are, we are made from the land
Teach us, teach us oh Great Mother
To bring, to bring peace to this land

Os Pido Posada

By Grupo Caleb Venezuela

Os Pido Posada is a song by Caleb that was created in 2021 for the We Cry Justice Cultural Arts Project is a collection of visual arts and musical resources that help movement leaders, students, congregations, artists, and people of conscience develop a deep understanding of and take up core concepts that undergird the We Cry Justice devotional.

D Em – A7

Venimos desde lejos con toda nuestra esperanza

Em A7 D

Atrás dejamos nuestra tierra, familia y casa.

B7 Em

Tras mucha lucha hoy tenemos un nuevo hogar

A7 D

Es nuestra casa abierta, para la hermandad.

Estrofa 2 (Igual que estrofa 1)

Allá en Belén recordamos, María y José

Que como nosotros muchas puertas tocar

Unos que vivían muy bien no quisieron ayudar,
tenía que nacer, algo se pudo hacer...

D F#7

Os pido posada

G / Gm

En nombre del Cielo

D - E7

Porque viene al mundo

A7

Nuestro redentor.

D F#7

Nuestro cuerpo espera

G / Gm - D

Un sitio de descanso

D - A7

Solo hemos venido

D

Por un lugar mejor.

Estrofa 3 y 4 (Música de Estrofa 1)

En cada navidad, celebramos Las Posadas

Nos organizamos para anunciar la vida.

Estamos buscando que renazca nuestro Dios

En medio de su Pueblo, que hoy clama justicia.

Compartiremos canciones, poemas e historias

Testimonios de todo un año de luchas.

Recorriendo cada casa con nueva esperanza.

Nuestra fe renace, Hoy Dios nos escucha.

Estribillo 2 (Música Estribillo 1)

Os pido posada

En nombre del Cielo

Porque viene al mundo

Nuestro redentor.

Nuestro cuerpo espera

Un sitio de descanso

Estamos construyendo

El Reino de Dios.



Iglesia del Pueblo + Freedom Church of the Poor Las Posadas 2023 NYC

Abrid vuestras Puertas

By Grupo Caleb Venezuela

Abrid vuestras Puertas, by Caleb is a song that was created as part of the We Cry Justice Cultural Arts Project (WCJ) in 2021. WCJ is a collection of visual arts and musical resources that help movement leaders, students, congregations, artists, and people of conscience develop a deep understanding of and take up core concepts that undergird the We Cry Justice devotional.

Estrofa 1

G Em

En el nombre del Cielo

G Em

Os pido posada

G G7 C

Para esta familia que viene a cambiar la historia

Am D7

Abrid vuestras puertas, vuestros corazones

G

Para que nazca Jesús entre los pobres.

Interludio

G – Am – Bm – C/D7

G – Am – Bm – C/D7

Estrofa 2

G Em

En nombre de la Paz

G Em

Os pido posada

G G7 C

Para estos migrantes que vienen desde muy lejos

Am

Los dejaron sin tierra

D7

Abrid vuestras casas

G

Que son gente del pueblo.

Interludio

Estrofa 3

G Em

En nombre del Amor

G Em

Os pido posada

G G7 C

Para esta pareja que los vienen persiguiendo

Am

Traed sus tambores

D7

se unen a la lucha

G

seguiremos venciendo.

G - Em G-Em

Os pido posada para esta familia

G - Em G-Em

Os pido posada para estos migrantes

G - Em G-Em

Os pido posada para esta pareja



Union de Vecinos - Las Posadas en CA

Mothers and Children for Peace

By Holly Haile Thompson

This song was written by Rev. Holly Haile Thompson of the Shinnecock Nation. It is deeply rooted in the lived experiences and reflections of the Shinnecock people and intersects other Indigenous communities and poor folks who must counter the violent, death-dealing practices of patriarchy, capitalism, and white supremacy. In March 2003, during a time of heightened global tension and imminent conflict, Rev. Holly led prayers for peace in two yoked neighboring non-Native congregations. Just three days later, the United States invaded Iraq.

You may not have, you may not have

You may not have my son

and smear his hands with blood

You may not have, you may not have

You may not have my daughter, dear,

and smear her heart with hate.

The plans for war, the thirst for blood

The cruel revenge is staged to prolong the fear

The thought of peace, the love of life

The vision of our children living side by side

Chorus

Time passes by, days filled with tears

Years languish on for all who lose their

dearest loved ones

My treasured child, not born to die

But born to live and lead us to the hope

that is tomorrow

Chorus

My sons and daughters, all growing children,

They will not kill for you, Makers of the Bombs!

My children breathe, their strong hearts beat

And they will teach us how we can live in Peace.

We Are the Children

by Ashore Tosihwe

Part of the Voices of Resistance Medley

We are the children of the ones who did not die

And we are the children of the people who could fly

And we are the children of the ones who persevered

We are fearless we are strong and we ready to carry on

Ad libs / repetitions:

And we ready to carry on

Fearless! fearless! Fearless!

And we ready to carry on