

Genesis 1:20-28 (one)
All creatures great

5 GOD'S CREATURES FROM THE DEPTHS UNKNOWN

1 God's creatures from the depths unknown
with which the seas are swarming
make music of their very own,
and dances for performing.

Beyond all human skill
they keep their secrets still;
when they become our friends
we start to make amends
for all the grief we bring them.

2 And monsters tread among the trees
or roam the wide savannah;
we hear the voice of such as these
and catch their loud hosanna.

If humbly we can learn
that trust is what we earn,
then we shall never need
the policies of greed
which hunt them to extinction.

3 And birds which soar through open skies,
great wingspans of high heaven:
they too can serve to make us wise
with minds that God has given.

Within a Father's care
they rule the upper air;
to watch them in the wild
we wonder like a child,
and bow before their Maker.

4 Yet, Lord, we see your truest face,
your true but wounded image,
in human beings, honoured race,
with our eternal lineage.

So let us never spoil
the air, the sea, the soil;
your likeness, Lord, restore
in us, to love you more
and treasure all creation.

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Scriptures: Gen 1:20-28 Job 40:15--41:34 Ps 69:34; 104:21-26; 107:23-24; 148:7-13
Jonah 1:17 Matt 6:26; 12:40

Written: Herne Hill, SE London, 1-19 Sept 2016

This began with the amazing sea creatures of whom I had been reading, in a history of 'Greenpeace' by its co-founder Robert Hunter. The text then grew to include earth, sky, and the human beings who were made to rule God's world. A large theme seemed to require a large tune, for which I had written only once before.

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