

# CHRISTIAN HOMES

(Standing)

DIX (581 H)

Praise to God, im - mor - tal praise, for the love that crowns our days!

Boun - teous source of ev - 'ry joy, let your praise our tongues em - ploy;

all to you, our God, we owe, source from which all bless - ings flow.

Eternal God, Creator of our first home, and our only true Rest, we gather as your family to celebrate our diverse homes, and to seek your blessings on them. God of relationships, you have put within our hearts a longing that only you can satisfy. Yet we need each other to learn of your steadfast love throughout all generations.

**Open our hearts, that we may learn from our biblical heritage how to manifest your love.**

(Sitting)

God our Creator, in the garden you formed our first parents, and found them good. At first in their innocence, they trusted you and helped each other, but they sinned and fell short of your purposes for them.

**Forgive us our sins and give us grace to trust you in the goodness of your creation and your design.**

You called Sarah and Abraham to go out from their homeland and begin a new nation in covenant with you. In their old age, you gave them a child whose name meant laughter. In our homes, may we live with their trust and courage, their humor, their sense of mission.

**Increase our faith and give us grace to answer your call.**

You strengthened Ruth and Naomi, in the face of grief and bitterness, to remain loyal to each other and to journey to new life.

**Encourage us and give us grace to support each other.**

When you came to earth, Incarnate God, you had no place to lay your head. God of the stable, bless the homeless, and bring them to a place of shelter.

**Keep us aware and give us grace to be family to others.**

Rejoicing Savior, you sanctified marriage by your presence at Cana in Galilee. You restored life and health and balance in the home of Mary, Martha, and Lazarus. Be a holy guest within our homes, filling our ordinary days with newness of life and mutual joy.

**Grant us the grace to recognize you as the Christ among us, and to be open to your miracles of change.**

Suffering God, from the cross you cared for your loved ones, saying to Mary: Woman, behold your son! and to the disciple: Behold your mother! And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home. Bless all families and enable them to form new bonds of love.

**Comfort us in our brokenness and give us grace to claim our relationship as your children.**

Life-giving Spirit, you came in power to form and guide the church, a family with varied gifts and graces. Grant that church and home may model for each other the nurturing of individuals and the growth of community. We recognize the difficulty of forming family with those who are different from ourselves, and with those who are like ourselves. We confess our failure to love and grow, our impatience for others to change, our blindness to one another's needs. Yet we rejoice that you have given us each other, and we dedicate ourselves to mutual support and love, trusting not in our own strength, but in your strong compassion.

**Bless and guide us, Triune God, and enable us to support and love each other.**

(Standing)

BISHOPGARTH

Who trusts in God, a strong a - bode in heav'n and earth pos - sess - es;  
We cov - e - nant in church and home this peace to show each oth - er,

who looks in love to Christ a - bove, no fear the heart op - press - es.  
to rep - re - sent your stead - fast love as sis - ter and as broth - er.

In you a - lone, dear Lord, we own sweet hope and con - so - la - tion,  
O, may we through each oth - er know your grace which fails us nev - er,

our shield from foes, our balm for woes, our great and sure sal - va - tion.  
and find at last our true a - bode with - in your house for - ev - er. A - men.

TEXT: St. 2 Lehoma Goode

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