Walk Lightly
On
The Earth

Lyrics with Guitar Chords
by
John Pitney
Walk Lightly Song Titles

Learn To Live Simply
What On Earth Are We Doing?
Where Will My People Lay Their Heads?
Song for the Vineyard
Fresh As Dew
There’s No Such Place As Away
Yahweh’s Garden Faire
Song for the Wise Ones
Get Down and Get Dirty
This Is Your Land
To Know the Dark
Walk Lightly On the Earth
Learn to Live Simply

Words & Music by John Pitney

REFRAIN: Learn to live simply so others can simply live
Learn to live simply so others can simply live
Learn to live simply so others can simply live
Learn to live simply so others can live.

Come everyone who has thirst
Those who have nothing come buy.
Why spend your labor for things
That simply do not satisfy?

The bread in your cupboard belongs to one who is hungry out there
And the coats in your closet unused could warm up the ones who stand bare.

See how the wealth you admire/acquire is borne on the backs of the poor
Whose children beg daily for food, whose land feeds your child who wants more.

Your children who “need” their own rooms, lament that the forest will die
And those who would join field to field must stop long enough to ask “Why?”

God chose the weak of the world to shame the way of the strong.
Learn how to live from the poor. Their wisdom will help us belong.

Do not conform to the world. Be certain that better’s not more.
Contentment will transform your need, awakening what God has in store.

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WHAT ON EARTH ARE WE DOING?

Words & Music by John Pitney

D               D         A
Oh what on earth are we doing? Oh what on earth is the plan?
D                                             G            D             A                 D
We're trashing up space here on God's holy face and we're being as gross as we can!

G     D  A                D
REFRAIN: Singin' high ho diddle dee dee!
G       D         A                  D
High ho, consumers are we!

There's a big pile of junk all around us full of plastics and toxins and scum.
We must think that this stuff makes Americans tough
But our God only thinks it is dumb!

There are holes in our thin ozone blanket and our big cars make thick CO2.
Our summers are hotter, what's left of our water
Is poisoned and brown like a stew!

We want kiwi fruit in mid-December; pink tomatoes the whole year around.
We bring hamburgers home wrapped in thick styrofoam
That will not decompose in the ground!

Oh we want what we want when we want it! And we want to have most of the most.
To keep others the poorest, the tropical forest
Is cut down and burned coast to coast!

Oh this whole thing just seems really crazy. Think of what we demand of God's earth.
We are mining the fields just to get better yields
And we go broke to show what we're worth!

And isn't this just a bit scary, can't we see what we do to God's lands?
All the oil's near gone and we keep goin' on
Like our destiny's in our own hands!

Now it's time that we learned to recycle and to live with much less, that's for sure.
Buy good food from your neighbors, pay well for their labors
And look for good things in manure!

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**Where Will My People Lay Their Heads?**

Words & music by John Pitney

Am G Am

**REFRAIN:** Where will my people lay their heads?
C Dm Esus-E
Oh where will my people lay their heads?
Am C
They'll lay their heads on sidewalks
Dm C Am Esus
While the wealthy have their warm, warm beds.
Am G Am
Oh where will my people lay their heads?

C Em Am C Fmaj7 Em Am
A rich man came to Jesus and he thought that he could buy
C Em Am C Fmaj7 Em Am G
A lifetime full of happiness, but then came Jesus' straight reply:

Jesus said for rich to enter happiness 'tis nye
Much harder than a camel passing through a needle's tiny eye.
Am G Am Am G Am
Then who can be saved? Who can be saved?

For we have left our homes for you, our families and lands,
Our mothers and our brothers giv'n reluctantly into your hands.

**REFRAIN:** Give up your home and follow me.
All Creation is your family.
This treasure will be yours to keep
Through all God's vast eternity.
Oh, open your hearts and follow me.

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SONG FOR THE VINEYARD
Isaiah 5:1-10

Words & Music by John Pitney

D        A                      Bm                           G               A         D- A
Let’s sing a song for the vineyard, God's pleasant fertile land,
D                 A                Bm                     G                  A              D
All of the world is a vineyard, the vinestock of God’s hand.
G                 A               D      Bm           G          A           D- A
God’s pleasant, precious planting, the life of humankind
G     A                D              Bm             G                       A
And food for all God’s creaturedom, but let us not be blind.

For if this is such a fine vineyard, then why have we a tower
Built on the backs of the small ones to guard the Empire's pow'r?
Enslaved on land that once was theirs, their children's daily food;
Their lives to grind like grapes for wine whose vintage is not good.

Alas you must learn from my vineyard: when few add field to field
The many have access to nothing and land betrays its yield.
Then comes a cry for justice in that vineyard made by grace,
But bloodshed, waste and poverty and hunger take their place,
But now God’s people everywhere stand up & say, "We must decide
Our children’s fate and destiny! We will not be denied."

So what will we do in the vineyard, God's precious weary land?
All of the world is a vineyard, the vintage of God's hand.
First let us pray for healing, then grind the walls and towers
And with that dust turn fear to trust before the vineyard sours

So come sing a song for the vineyard, God's pleasant, fertile land.
All of the world is a vineyard, the vinestock of God's hand.
Now, let us pray for healing, then we'll grind those walls and towers
And with their dust turn fear to trust before the vineyard sours,
Before... the vine--yard sours.

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FRESH AS DEW

Words and Music by John Pitney

Hosea 14:5

Am Dm Am G
Fresh as the morning dew, Israel, Israel
Am Dm G Am
Fresh as the morning dew, I will be to you.

Sure as the rising sun, Israel, Israel
Sure as the rising sun, I will be to you.

Bright as an opening flower, Israel, Israel
Bright as an opening flower, I will be to you

Am Dm Am G
REFRAIN: Heed my command, Israel, Israel, Israel
Am Dm G Am
Care for the Land, Israel and I will be with you.

2. Live as the prairie sod
   Firm as a binding root
   Clean as the garden’s food...

3. Cool as a noonday wind
   Soft as a feeding rain
   Still as the dark of night...

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**THERE’S NO SUCH PLACE AS AWAY**

Words & music by John Pitney

Leader: One, Two, Three, Four

D

All: Throw it away!

D

Leader: Where’s away?

A D

All: There’s no such place as away!

D

Throw it away!

D

Leader: Where’s away?

A D

All: There’s no such place as away!

G D

Well, what do you think

G D A D

If you throw it out do you think it disappears?

G D G D

Oh me! Oh my!

A

Some of this stuff will stay forever.
YAHWEH’S GARDEN FAIRE          Words & Music by John Pitney
Guitars: Capo 2, Play G

G    C             G
Refrain: Scatter seeds and watch them grow.
C           G             D     Em
Tend the plants the way you know.
C            G
Share the harvest! Share the harvest!
C             D            G
Yahweh’s Garden Faire. (Shout: "GOOD FOOD!")

Pulling carrots, orange and long,
Fill each other with the song!
Munching carrots, crunching carrots
Yahweh's Garden Faire.  (Shout: "GOOD FOOD!")

Somppi's rhubarb, long and red
Grew from what we thought was dead.
In the Springtime! In the Summer!
Yahweh's Garden Faire.   (Shout: "GOOD FOOD!")

Yellow corn will soon be here.
Husk it clean and give a cheer!
Freeze it now or eat it fresh.
It's Yahweh's Garden Faire.   (Shout: "GOOD FOOD!")

Luscious Apples, here we come!
Apple sauce and pie, yum, yum!
Gravensteins or Romes...Delicious!
Yahweh's Garden Faire.     (Shout: "GOOD FOOD!")

Scrumptuous peaches make us grin,
Juice that trickles off our chin
When we bite! It's so amazing!
Yahweh's Garden Faire.        (Shout: "GOOD FOOD!")

Alternate wording: “Mother’s” Garden Faire!

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SONG FOR THE WISE ONES

Words & Music by John Pitney

Guitars: Capo 2, Play G

G     D                  C                  G
This is a song from a scene long ago

C                        G                       C                         D
When wise men were summoned for what they don't know

G                   D             C                         G
To seek for the truth in a world dark and sore,

C                    G              C                   D
Where empires took census to strangle the poor.

C              G         C                            G
As Herod of Terror, who schemed far and near,

C                    G              C             G
Was blinded by greed for his profit so dear,

C               G                    C             G
He missed the peace star that shone bright as the day,

C                          G                        C                    G
And the wise men, in dreaming, went home another way.

G     D       C     D

REFRAIN: Wise men, wise women,

G                    Bm             C                     D
Children and elders who stay and who roam,

Em               D                      C                  G
Sing a song for the wise ones who still can see visions

Em                 Bm            C          D     G
And lead all God's creatures another way home.

Justice was born in a barn full of hay
In Wisdom it happened to Mary that way.
But how could she know, she would never assume
What promise she bore as it knit in her womb.

She pondered a free world, the poor all redeemed,
A world where economies served all. She dreamed
Of land's wealth divided; no terror or war.
All people satisfied; hungry land no more.

REFRAIN: Wise men, wise women,

Children and elders compassion unfurled,
Sing a song for the wise ones who bear pangs of justice
To bring God's Shalom to a laboring world.

Shepherds surrounded by beautiful hosts
Fell on their faces as if they’d seen ghosts!
Like humble wise people accustomed to birth
Embracing the hillside and clutching the Earth.

How could these poor commonfolk, in this dark hour,
Simple by custom, naive about power,
See beauty through terror and angels that stayed
And bid them through darkness, "Now go! Be not afraid!"

**REFRAIN:**
Wise men, wise women,
Children and elders go far and come near.
Sing a song for the wise ones who still can see beauty,
Who hallow the ground and who go without fear.

So sing us a song for the wise ones unsung
Who still see God’s promise in worlds filled with dung.
As empires take census and count up their spoil,
The Earth is their refuge, their measure, their toil.

As life seems to shatter and hope wants to flee,
They look for the starlight that some cannot see,
They speak to old powers a dawn, a new day,
And imagining justice, lead home a different way.

**REFRAIN:**
Wise men, wise women,
Children and elders whoever you are,
Sing a world without terror imagining justice,
We sing for the wise ones who follow the star.

**Ending:**
Wise men, wise women,
Children and elders from near and from far
Sing a song for the wise ones who dream dreams & visions
We follow the people who still see the star.

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GET DOWN AND GET DIRTY

Words and Music by John Pitney

D                   G                   D
REFRAIN: Get down and get dirty, it’s the name of the game.

D                                                 A
Get down and get dirty, 'cause we're made from the same.

D                                                      G                            D
Yahweh* sure got down and dirty when She/He made us from the prairie.

G               D                       A                D
The fact that we are not now dirt is only temporary.

D                                                  G                            D
I wasn’t yet a-livin’ when **God made us from the soil,

D                                                       A
And ***blessed our homes and families, economies and toil

D                                            G                                 D
And every other part of life and death and earth and sky.

G                      D                 A                           D
So when we try to get away, I really don’t know why!

Our sons & daughters always knew they came up from the stewage
And every single chance they get they play in mud and sewage
Because they know these earthly ones are really next of kin.
Our children’s stinking way of life is surely going to win!

Most of us have scrubbed ourselves and gone off to the city
To keep our fingers out of soil and bodies smelling pretty.
We think exhaust of smoking cars and factories and all
Beats smelling clover in the spring and footrot in the fall.

Despair at life may smother us before the fumes that fume us,
But Yahweh’s new community is growing in the humus.
Like tiny lives in yeasting bread or worms in old manure,
The barnyard folks may see it first, but it’ll come I’m sure!

So let us sing of farmers with their noses in the stuff
And workers risking life and limb so all can have enough,
While striving to make better land and life-sustaining yields,
Out sitting on their tractors and outstanding in their fields!

Alternate language:
*Mother earth got down and dirty
** we came up from the soil
***Blessed by homes and families, economies and toil

Additional verses:
In ancient times our people lived in fear and devastation. They built the Tower of Babel so's to take a long vacation. They thought they could climb out of here, I think that's really odd. Don't we have to root around below to find our food in God?

The Hebrews crossed the wilderness and peered out over Jordan. They saw the Promised Land filled up with lyin', cheatin', hoardin'. God said, "This is your place to gave...a place of which I'm fond. You pile it high with garbage and they'll be no land beyond."

When Jesus comes into the world then God is born incarnate. Then Christ gets into everything and we are called, goshdarnit, To get our Church to die to self and go out into rubble; The seeds of Resurrection sprout up from a bed of trouble.

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This is Your land, O God of all Creation,
The land by which You give us daily bread.
This is Your land, and all eyes look to You, Lord.
From Your good earth by grace we all are fed.
This is Your land, You let us make our homes here,
And we enjoy the blessings ‘round us spread.

This is our land, but only as a trust, Lord.
We are your stewards, here to do Your will.
This is our land, but not as our possession;
Though we may tend it, it is Your land still.
This is our land, our place of earthly labor.
Our land to love, conserve, preserve and till.

You give us life on farms, in towns and cities;
All bound together, one community.
But sin and pride and greed for wealth and power
Threaten that life, destroy our unity.
Our rural life is sacrificed to idols;
To gods of war and of “prosperity”.

Let righteousness roll down like living waters,
And justice like an ever flowing stream.
Let us be neighbors, caring for each other,
Working together to preserve the dream:
A life on farms, in rural towns and cities,
God’s land and ours, community redeemed.

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TO KNOW THE DARK
Words by Wendell Berry & John Pitney*
Music by John Pitney

Guitarists: Capo 2, play Am

Am G Am Am G Am

REFRAIN: To go in the dark with a light is to know the light.
Am G Am Am G Am
To know the dark, go dark. Go without sight.
Am C D Am
And find that the dark, too, blooms and sings,
G Am G Am G Am
And is traveled by dark feet and dark wings.

Wendell Berry

Am G Am
God made Eve and Adam, made them bone from bone
Am C D Am
And gave them to each other so they weren't alone.
Am C D Am
They ate the fruit of knowledge so their eyes could see.
Am G Am
God sent them East of Eden into mystery.

Abraham and Sarah, they were called and so they went out never knowing where they were to go.
Traveling a path whose end would never be, searching for a land they would not live to see.

Moses led the people out of bondage and they wandered generations in a homeless land
Grumbling with a hunger they could not console, fed by manna's creatures they could not control.

Finally when the people neared the promise and, they saw a place where Canaanites consumed the land,
Keeping down the many by the pow'r of few. They yearned for Pharoah's bondage, well now wouldn't you?

Now Jesus found temptation in a desert plac and could've claimed the world and yet he trusted Grace
To set him on a path that few will ever dare, accompanied by some angels and the wild things there.

Now those who go before us want to live by sight, but find the things that matter seldom see the light.
So go out into darkness where God serves and keeps incredible dominion while the human sleeps.

So when the shadows lengthen and we fail to see the land of shared abundance and that Jubilee
We trust the God of wonder and we hear the lark and go out into beauty to befriend the dark.

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WALK LIGHTLY

Words and Music by John Pitney

REFRAIN:

Jesus says, “Take no bread for the journey.”

Jesus says, “Take no bag for the road.”

Walk lightly on the Earth,

Creation has made us a home,

Take nothing but love when you roam.

Travel light in life, my friends, and think of what we’re for,

Of all the things we think we “need”, when others need them more.

Like minivans and microwaves, that dream house with a view,

While sixty thousand starve each day, each one like me, like you.

Each one like me and you.

The minivan, that microwave may make the road seem right.

Your comfy dream house with the lawn may make your load seem light,

But friends the whole world craves our life and all can’t live the way we do.

The water and the power you dare keep fish and farmers too.

Enough of guilt, enough of shame, friends leave it all behind

And leave the things that no one needs that keep our conscience blind,

That make our neighbors disappear, and make us all believe the fraud

That we can live all on our own and surely don’t need God,

And even don’t need God.

Take out to the road, my friends, authority to heal

And pow’r to put a stop to lives that break the commonweal,

Compassion to annoint the wounds that scar God’s land, the people’s soul;

The strength to keep on keeping on ‘til all the earth be whole,

Until God’s Earth is whole.

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ALTERNATE VERSES ONE AND TWO:
Travel light in life, my friends, and think of what we’re for,
Of all the things we think we “need”, when others need them more.
Like SUVs our fantasies of mansions with a view,
While sixty thousand starve each day, each one like me, like you.
Each one like me and you.

That SUV, our fantasy may make the road seem right.
That dream house with the perfect lawn may make our load seem light,
But friends the whole world craves our life & all can’t live the way we do.
The melting skies Creation cries, “When will they get a clue?”
“What will those humans do?”