

## A Worship Minute...

Richard Gillard (b. 1953), author of “*Brother, Sister, Let Me Serve You*” (*The Servant Song*) was born in England and brought at age 3 to New Zealand, where he has lived since on the northern island. His faith background is a mixture of the Anglican Church on his mother’s side and the Pentecostal Church on his father’s side of the family.

“*The Servant Song*” began in 1977 when Richard Gillard jotted down v. 3 on a piece of paper which, on returning from travels in Britain, Europe and Israel, he found in his guitar-case. He completed the song, the original first line of vv. 1 and 6 being ‘Brother, let me be your servant.’” Since then, the text has been altered to be more inclusive. The song was first recorded in New Zealand and has been sung around the world, appearing in many hymnals.

**Matthew 20:26b-28** provides the primary scriptural background for the song: “. . . *Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave—just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.*” (NIV)

Stanza two speaks of “pilgrims” on a “journey” and encourages us to “*walk the mile and bear the load,*” reminiscent perhaps of **Matthew 5:41**: “*If anyone forces you to go one mile, go with them two miles.*”

Stanza three speaks of “*holding the Christ-light . . . in the night-time of your fear.*” We are called to reflect Christ’s light in the world. Several passages come to mind including **Matthew 5:14** and, of course, many passages in John, including **John 1:4-5; 3:19; 8:12; 9:5**.

Stanza four is one of empathy—weeping, laughing and sharing together. One is reminded of **I Corinthians 12** in general, but perhaps especially verse **26**: “*If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.*” (NIV)