

A Worship Minute

Story Behind the Song

“We Have Sung Our Songs of Victory (How Long?)”

By: Stuart Townend

How long? is probably not the sort of song that gets used every week at church. But the cry of grief about the state of the world, of heartfelt intercession as we wait for God to act, and the hope of ultimate salvation is an aspect of worship that is very biblical and should perhaps feature more in our corporate worship than it does at present.

The song came about as a result of two disparate influences at the time. One was my study of the ‘difficult’ psalms: not the ones that elicit joyful praise with loud instruments, or marvel at the wonder of creation, but the ones that cry to God from a dark place of sorrow, even anger.

Some of those psalms are quite shocking in their expression of raw emotion, challenging God to act in difficult situations. Is it really O.K. to address God like that?

And yet the more I think about it, the more I see it as part of the profound mystery of prayer; the invitation to share in the sense of injustice, pain and sorrow that pervades our world, and to cry with all our hearts for a change, knowing that one day God will fulfill His word and put an end to the power of sin and death.