

“Songs on What Friends Believe”  
FGC Workshop 2018 – Gray Cox

Goals of Workshop: Do you feel called to walk lightly over the Earth answering to that of the divine by singing? The aim here is to learn a new set of songs that seek to witness to social and environmental concerns and hold Others and all of Creation in the Light. The songs invite singing along and work well at social gatherings, intergenerational events, marches, rallies and preludes to worship sharing. The aim is that you will leave knowing the tunes, carrying copies of the lyrics and having links to recordings of them for future reference. This is an intergenerational event and all instruments are welcome.

All of these songs are ones I have written with the exception of the melody for “The Donkey will Eat Bluegrass” and the classic lyrics of “Walk in the Light” by Sydney Carter which have been adapted with an extra chorus and a different melody. Samples of these songs can be heard at: <https://graycox.bandcamp.com/album/just-down-the-road-a-peace> or at the urls listed at the songs. For more information or help in using the songs, feel free to write or call me at [gray@coa.edu](mailto:gray@coa.edu) or #207-460-1163.

**I’m Gonna Slow Right Down – in D**

(available at: <https://graycox.bandcamp.com/track/im-gonna-slow-right-down>)

(Sung through three times. First time Gray only, then everyone else joins in.)

I’m gonna slow right down, so I can get there sooner.

I’m gonna slow right down, so I can get there today.

I’m gonna slow right down, maybe even come to a full stop.

Maybe if I come to a full stop I’m gonna get there right away.

**The Donkey Will Eat Blue Grass (in G)**

(NOTES: The leader can line out the first line of each verse before singing.)

She'll be ridin' on a donkey when she comes.

She'll be ridin' on a donkey when she comes.

She'll be ridin' on a donkey,

she'll be ridin' on a donkey,

she'll be ridin' on a donkey when she comes.

And she'll come bearin' a baby when she comes.

And there'll be no room at the inn when she comes.

And a dictator will want her disappeared.

And she'll have to flee to Egypt when she comes.

And she'll be a refugee when she comes.

And she'll be seekin' Sanctuary when she comes.

And who'll go out to greet her when she comes? (We all will!)

(Hannah starts playing spoons for donkey clops.)

And the donkey will eat blue grass when she comes.

**350 to Save the Sky** -- (in D with open tuning of D, A, D, F#, A, D)  
(available for download at: <https://graycox.bandcamp.com/track/350-to-save-the-sky>)  
(in the key of D)

Now I was born with a great desire to set my share of the world on fire.  
To set my share of the world alight and share in the flicker of the flame at night.  
But with all the candles I did burn, at both ends, I did learn,  
To share in the settin' of the world alight and share in the flicker of the flame at night.

CHORUS:

So come ye now join in with me, we'll clap our hands, we'll stomp our feet, : We'll lift  
our voices in a cry: Three Fifty to Save the Sky!

Other Verses:

Now some would like the world to turn on the energy of the coal they burn  
And let the climate change go on till most of Bangladesh is gone  
From New Orleans to New York's Coast up to Alaska's permafrost  
They'd rather sell their ancient oil than love our land and save our soil.

CHORUS

We'll buy back our ancient rights and stop consuming day and night,  
We'll invest more and consume less and tell our worried children yes!  
Yes we love you! Yes we care! Yes we'll give you your fair share!  
Put half our income all aside to stop the storm and turn the tide.

CHORUS

We'll store up our energy by digesting some calories  
And when it gets all dark at night we'll wind a crank and make some light.  
And if the weather does get cold we'll all put on a few more clothes  
And for when we would move at great speed we'll harvest sunlight that we'll need.

CHORUS

We prefer to all invest in things that give the earth a rest  
Cut our consumption right in half and spend our time in greater laugh . . .ter  
Ha ha ha ha ha ha ha, Ha ha ha ha ha ha ha  
Ha ha ha ha ha ha ha, Ha ha ha ha ha ha ha

CHORUS

Politicians all do seem to spend their lives in some strange dream,  
They'd rather go and pass the buck till someone else runs out of luck.  
But we the people really care and we'll not stop till they run scared.  
We'll make our leaders save the sky -- and kick their butts till they cry:

CHORUS

CHANT: (go directly to chant, starting at a whisper and building to a crescendo)  
Three Fifty to Save the Sky!

**Todos Somos Otros (in C with capo at fifth fret played like in G)  
(available at: <https://graycox.bandcamp.com/track/todos-somos-otros>)**

CHORUS:

Yo sé que los otros, cada uno y una,  
Yo sé que vosotros, cada uno y una,  
Yo sé que nosotros, cada uno y una,  
    todos, todos, todos somos hijas e hijos de Dios, hijos de Dios y la luz – AHHH!!!.  
    todos, todos, todos somos hijas e hijos de Dios, hijos de Dios y la luz.

Tal vez, un día, tu mamá te dijo a tí que:  
"Ellos son diferentes, no son como nosotros.  
¡Son indios! ¡Son blancos! ¡Son negros!  
    ¡Son evangélicos! ¡Son católicos!  
    ¡Son . . . jo jo jo jojos!"  
Pero . . .

CHORUS

Tal vez, un día, tu papá te dijo a tí que:  
"Ellos son diferentes, no son como nosotros.  
¡Son capitalistas! ¡Son communistas!  
    ¡Son Zapatistas! ¡Son imperialistas!  
    ¡Son feministas!  
    ¡Son blablablajistas!  
Pero . . .

CHORUS

Maybe one day, your neighbor will come to you and say:  
"Those guys, they're not like us. They're Others. They're different!  
    They're . . .  
    (improvised responses ending with "uhhh they're, they're uhh . . . uhh they're . . .  
they're uhh, uhh they're . . . Other!!! They're Other!!!! )

Pero . . .

CHORUS

**The Chigger Gatha**

I have an itch I want to scratch; I ask who that would help to hatch.  
My scratch would help the blood to flow and help the eggs of bugs to grow.  
But by an act I do not do, I help the bug not reproduce  
and both shall live until we die, in peace and one-ness, bug and I.

**“Breath on the Water: An Air For Buddhists and Other Animals”**  
(available for download at: <https://graycox.bandcamp.com/track/breath-on-the-water> in the key of C, to be sung as a round)

Take this air and pass it on, reach down breath it all the way in.

Pass it on and share and share again.

It's all breath on the water; it's all breath on the water.

Ommmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmm. (5x)

*~Animal calls.(5x)*

**Hold On Because a Change is Comin’**

(available at: <https://graycox.bandcamp.com/track/hold-on>)  
(key of D)

Hold on because a change is Comin’!

Hold on because a change is Comin’!

Hold on because a change is Comin’!

We’re makin’ a change right here at home!

Hooooooooommmme!

Let’s get goin’, well there’s no need to wait! [3x]

Because we’re makin’ a change right here at home! Hommmmmme!

And if we’re goin’ together then we’re gathered in love! [3x]

Because we’re makin’ a change right here at home! Hommmmmme!

If we’re gathered in love then we’re already there . . .

If we’re already there then sing Happy Day . . .

Happy Day, Happy Day . . .

Freedom and justice for all for real . .

And health and food and shelter are all basic human rights . . .

(sing more quietly) Kids are all happy and safe in school . . .

Hold on because a change is Comin’

## Comin' Like a Hurricane

(available at: <https://graycox.bandcamp.com/track/theres-a-change-thats-a-comin>)  
(key of Am)

PART 1: There's a change that's a comin (3x) . . . soon  
And it's comin' like a hurricane, comin' like a drought  
And it's comin' like a glacier melting . . . (*mouth clicks as water drops*)

PART 2 : Cause they say it's gonna be, gonna be at least 2 degrees (3x) . . . soon  
And they say it may be much more (3x) . . . than 2  
But we all, we all, won't let it  
Cause we all, we all, finally get it, and we all, we all, are gonna make a change!!!!

PART 3: Like the nineteenth century end of slavery -- we'll end fossil fuel dependency!  
Like the fff<sup>2</sup>-all of the Berlin Wall -- we'll make a change!  
Like an old time spiritual revival – Or a youtube video gone viral!  
With a billion of us on bicycles -- make a change!  
Hey! Hey! Hey! (6x) ---- Heyyyy!  
Cut by half our material consumption -- Invest in real creative destruction!  
Start a political eruption -- make a change!  
With piles of political donations – campaigning door to door in conversations,  
We'll take back the governments of our nations -- make a change!

PART 4: Yes there's a change that's a comin (3x) . . . soon!  
Cause we're comin', comin' like a hurricane!  
We're comin', comin' like a hurricane!  
We're comin', comin' like a hurricane! Soon!!  
Yes! We're comin', comin' like a hurricane!  
We're comin', comin' like a hurricane!  
We're comin', comin' like a hurricane! Soon!!

### RHYTHM INTERLUDE

PART 2

PART 3

PART 5: There's a change that's a comin (3x) . . . soon  
Cause We're comin', comin' like a hurricane!  
We're comin', comin' like a hurricane!  
We're comin', comin' like a hurricane! Soon!!  
Yes! We're comin', comin' like a hurricane!  
We're comin', comin' like a hurricane!  
We're comin', comin' like a hurricane! Soon!! Two! Three! NOW!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

## While in the World

(played with alternate guitar tuning DADGAD)  
DADA/GDGA/DAAA/DAAA/GAG A

While in the world folk wait in haste  
to celebrate some holiday,  
some with a calendar more plain  
celebrate every day  
with music in their breath  
and dancing in their steps  
and gestures that do ornament each motion of their lives.

So sing we now a merry song  
and let our laughter ring.  
Lift our hearts with joy  
and make the rafters sing  
with music in our breath  
and dancing in our steps  
and gestures that do ornament each motion of our lives.

And some await a hallowed day  
to eat a fattened beast,  
but every day is holy  
and every meal a feast!  
with music in our breath  
and dancing in our step  
and gestures that do ornament each motion of our lives.

So sing we now a merry song  
and left our laughter ring.  
Lift our hearts with joy  
and make the rafters sing  
with music in our breath  
and dancing in our steps  
and gestures that do ornament each motion of our lives.

For while in the world folks wait in haste  
to celebrate some holiday,  
some with a calendar more plain  
celebrate every day  
with music in their breath  
and dancing in their step  
and gestures that do ornament each motion of their lives.

**George Fox (in a Jazzed Up Gospel Light ;-)  
(original lyrics by Sydney Carter copyright 1964,  
additional lyrics and all music by Gray Cox)**

THREE PART REFRAIN -- MUSIC ONLY

There's a light that is shining in the heart of a man,  
a light that is shining since the world began.  
a light that's shining Friend in me and in you  
It is shining in the Turk and it is shining in the Jew.

Ohhhhhh, walk in the Light wherever you may be.

Walk in the glory of the Light said he.

In my old leather britches and my shaggy, shaggy locks

-- I am walking in the glory of the Light . . . said

Fox.

A	B	
- This little light, this light of mine, this little light, gonna let it shine.	Walk in the light!	
- This little light, this light of mine, this little light, gonna let it shine.	Walk in the light!	Shine, shine, shine, shine on me!
- This little light, this light of mine, this little light, gonna let it shine.	Walk in the light!	Shine, shine, shine on me!
- This little light, this light of mine, this little light, gonna let it shine.	Walk in the light!	Shine, shine, shine on me!
- This little light, this light of mine, this little light, gonna let it shine.	Walk in the light!	Shine, shine, shine on me!

C

"With a book and a steeple and a bell and a key  
they would bind it forever but they can't," said he.  
"Oh rhe book it will crumble and the steeple will fall  
and the Light will be shining at the end of it all."

CHORUS

"If we give you a pistol will you fight for the Lord?"  
"But you can't kill the Devil with a gun or a sword!"  
"Will you swear on the BIBLE? \* I will not," said he.  
"For the Truth is more holy than a book to me."

CHORUS

And there's an ocean of darkness and I drown in the night  
till I come through the darkness to the ocean of light.  
And the light is forever and the light is free  
and I'll walk in the glory of the Light . . . " said he.

CHORUS

THREE PART REFRAIN

### **Smilin' All the Time**

Once I had an enemy and oh did I feel bad!  
Hate just ate me up and I was always hoppin' mad!  
But then I learned to love the world and my neighbor as my self  
-- and now I found a new kind of wealth.

CHORUS: And I am smilin' all the time [I love you!]  
smilin' all the time.

Then I learned to love the world and my neighbor as my self  
and now I'm smilin' all the time.

And once I had a fancy house and oh did I feel fine!  
I thought I had the kind of wealth that made my face to shine.  
But then I learned to love the world and my neighbor as my self  
-- and now I found a new kind of wealth!

And once I had a . . .



### **Simple Pleasures (Bm)**

Simple pleasures -- smiling, breathing  
-- simple pleasures are all it takes.  
All we need are simple pleasures, when we are so wide awake.

Simple pleasures -- breathing, walking . . .  
Simple pleasures -- walking, talking . . .  
Simple pleasures -- talking, laughing . . .  
Simple pleasures -- laughing, smiling . . .  
Simple pleasures -- smiling, breathing . . .

### **Reduce, Reuse, Recycle**

Use it up, wear it out, make do or do without,  
Stingy can be good.  
Use it up, wear it out, make do or do without,  
Stingy can be good.  
Reduce, reuse, recycle, once again and  
Reduce, reuse, recycle, once again and . . .

### **Smile and I'll Be There**

When the sun has set like a memory,  
and the fire has lit up like a flare,  
In the warmth and the laughter and the melodies,  
smile and I'll be there.  
Smile and I'll be there again,  
smile and I'll be there.  
In the warmth and the laughter and the melodies,  
smile and I'll be there.

La de da da da da da da da da da  
la de da da da da da da da da  
la de da da da da da da da da da  
la da da da da

You and I are smiling now,  
it's a smile that we always will share.  
In the warmth and the laughter and the melodies,  
smile and we'll always be there.

REPEAT ALL

## Regime Change Begins at Home

We're dropping bombs in a foreign land  
Without a purpose and without a plan. (2x)  
but

*CHORUS: Regime change begins at home. [4x]*

Hundreds of billions that our taxes go for,  
Hundreds of billions for this unending war. [2x]

CHORUS

OTHER VERSES: We'll stop this war that goes on and on.

We'll stop the taxes that pay for the bombs. [2x]

Neighbor to neighbor, we'll go door to door,

Turn out the vote like never before! [2x]

Practice resistance now more and more!

We'll change the Congress, we'll stop the war! [2x]

We are not actors paid to make fake news.

We, the People, we are speaking the truth.

### Close By and By

We need not search up in the sky.

We need not wait until we die.

We need but turn towards the light.

God is right here, close by and by.

CHORUS: Close by and by, close by and by,

God plays no game of run and hide.

We need but turn towards the Light.

God is right here, close by and by.

Wherever two or more of you

gather to pray mid night, mid day,

there is a Presence by your side.

God is right here, close by and by.

We need but seek and we shall find.

God plays no games of run and hide.

We need but knock upon the wall,

the door shall open for one and all.

Many's the trial, many's the care,

Many's the burden that we must bear,

But we need not bear them all alone.

God's closer than our own backbone.