

RETURN TO EARTH / DEATH CREEPS SLY

Jason John 2005

<http://scotschurch.org.au/eco>

To the tune: God has spoken by his prophets (TIS 158)

Verses 1-4 make up "Death creeps Sly"

Verses 4-7 make up "Return to Earth"

I liked the idea of singing a hymn in consecutive weeks where the verses actually overlap each other. Some of the lines are a bit obscure as they relate to what I preached (or planned to).

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Death creeps sly upon all creatures

It will claim us, every one-

As is now it has been always

Since the day that life begun

(It) fills us with despair and turmoil

When it comes upon us fast

(Or) if the battle is protracted

And we fight it to the last

We will die as did Christ Jesus

When at last our time has come

Its the sad part of the story

Then the joy when babies come

It's the key to evolution

Life from death 'ere time began

Whether creatures or whole species

Death was here before humans

Paradise is not behind us

How could God have cursed her Earth?

Yet at times we can imagine

(she) may lament our human birth

With the warring of our nations

Poisoning land sea and sky

Well may other creatures ask her,

"Human beings! Oh dear God why?"

Come now brother, sister, hear me

God calls us- "return to Earth"

Do not seek escape in heaven

Live your life for all its worth

Christ has shown us what's required

How to live this human life

How to love our siblings, cousins

How to put an end to strife.

We need love and we need freedom

So does every mammal too

Does the pig or chicken have it?

Should we all eat kangaroo?

We must balance love and freedom

and make sense out of it all

This is our true Christian journey

Not recovery from the Fall.

Are we poor, already blessed

Or the rich in deep peril?

Leper, beggar or Zacchaeus

Poor widow or the rich fool?

Jesus came to save the powerful

Or that's what our preacher thinks

He hopes we find the next verse helpful

Even if the sermon stinks

We're part of the resurrection

When we do what Jesus did

Behold the image of our maker

Let it shape the life we live

See the image all around us

Its in me and its in you

We can see it in each other

And in every creature, too.