

HYMN - GOD'S UNITY FOR HIS CHURCH & THE WORLD

COMMENT

This was written for Trinity Sunday when my local church is saying good-bye to a Finnish student who has been with us for a year. She asked that 'Finlandia' be sung at her final service, so I wrote some new words for it.

I wrote to stress Unity at three levels:

- i) The Unity within God himself – Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- ii) The Unity of all who are 'in Christ'
- iii) God's purpose of unity for his divided world

I saw the Christian Family united with God, called to be united among themselves, and chosen as God's instrument for the reconciliation of the world.

While it was written for a local and once-off situation, I worded it in such a way that it could be used much more widely.

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Suggested Tune: *Finlandia*, by Jean Sibelius (1865-1957)
Metre: 11,10,11,10,11,10.

1. **Almighty Lord, the Father, Son and Spirit,
Three-person God, united three-in-one;
Pour forth your unity in every nation
Upon all those for whom your only Son
Is Lord of all.
So shall all unbelievers
See in such lives what Jesus Christ has done.**

2. **We thank you Lord for Christians of all nations
Whose witness to our Risen Lord is strong.
All one in Christ, we celebrate our friendships,
That space and time can't break - however long.
Such joy and unity is but a foretaste
Of our eternal praise to you in song.**

3. **So send us out, encouraged by your Spirit
Into the world that you have made and love.
Among all nations, cultures, creed and classes
We'll go to reconcile and bring your love.
Then will the Father, Son and Holy Spirit
Be praised on earth, and in the realms above.**