

There Are No Fences in the Fields of God

Hearing the Shepherd's voice

4 Easter, Years ABC

There are no fences in the fields of God,
an open country greets an endless sky;
but there are landmarks to direct a step
and vivid features to engage the eye.

We find good pasture on the highest hills
and streams between alive with water sound
and groves of trees to shade a sun-scorched back,
the rich ecology of holy ground.

No staff is raised to snatch a wandering sheep;
we are not branded, hobbled bound, or belled.
Yet when we stumble over rock or ledge
we have a certain sense of being held.

There are no fences in the fields of God,
to come and go is an abiding choice;
but like the flock before we've come to trust
the supple tether of a shepherd's voice.

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There Are No Fences in the Fields of God

Michael Hudson (b.1950)

Orlando Gibbons (1583–1625)

arr. Albert Blackwell

1. There are no fences in the fields of God,
2. We find good pasture on the highest hills
3. No staff is raised to snatch a wandering sheep;
4. There are no fences in the fields of God,

2

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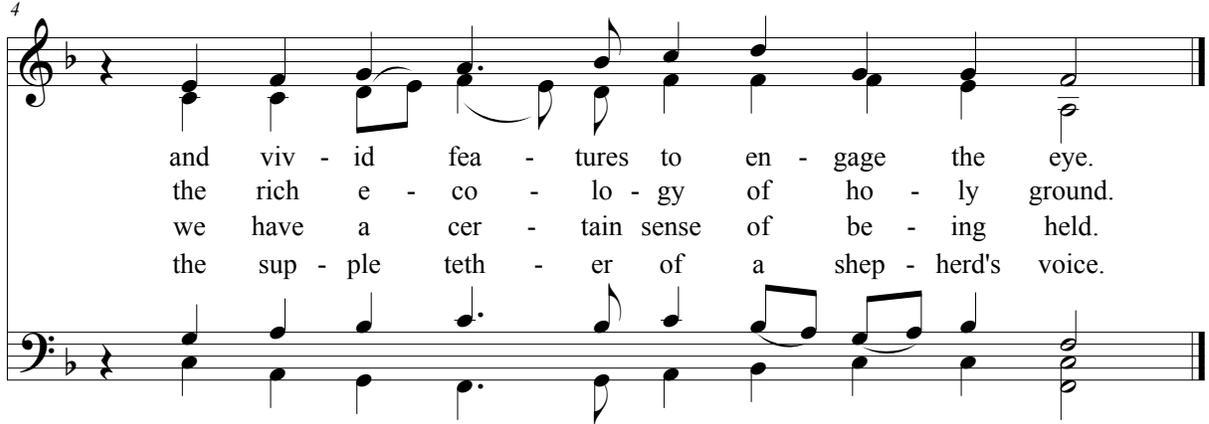
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and groves of trees to shade a sun-scorched back,
Yet when we stumble over rock or ledge
but like the flock before we've come to trust

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and viv - id fea - tures to en - gage the eye.
the rich e - co - lo - gy of ho - ly ground.
we have a cer - tain sense of be - ing held.
the sup - ple teth - er of a shep - herd's voice.