

CELTISH h o m e

- 1 : Prelude : Prayer of Aidan (Instr)
2 : The Lord is my Light (Psalm 27) 3 : In Heavenly Love Abiding
4 : Do Not Worry 5 : Darkest Day (Julie's Dream)
6 : The Great Reunion Pt I : Healing (Instr) Pt II : Comfort Pt III : Welcome
7 : My Jesus I Love Thee 8 : Beautiful Home (Heaven's Shores)
9 : Eneirele Me Holy Trinity 10 : Prayer of Aidan (Alone with my God)
11 : Interlude : Healing (Part 2) / Do Not Worry (Part 2)
12 : From Generation to Generation
13 : Postlude : Prayer of Columba (What Need I Fear?)



Recorded at Raindance Studios, Stourbridge, England | Produced by Nigel Cameron & Chris Smith

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NIGEL CAMERON & JULIE CAMERON-HALL



CELTISH h o m e

Nigel Cameron & Julie Cameron-Hall

CELTISH h o m e



NIGEL CAMERON & JULIE CAMERON-HALL
FEATURING PHIL HART & DAVE BAINBRIDGE

CELTISH

LEAVE ME ALONE WITH GOD
AS MUCH AS MAY BE
AS THE TIDE DRAWS THE WATERS
CLOSE IN UPON THE SHORE
MAKE ME AN ISLAND, SET APART
ALONE WITH YOU, GOD
HOLY TO YOU

THEN WITH THE TURNING OF THE TIDE
PREPARE ME TO CARRY YOUR PRESENCE
TO THE BUSY WORLD BEYOND
THE WORLD THAT RUSHES IN ON ME
TILL THE WATERS COME AGAIN
AND FOLD ME BACK TO YOU

(ANDY RAINE)
INSPIRED BY ST. AIDAN
OF LINDISFARNE

MIGEL CAMERON &

BE A BRIGHT FLAME BEFORE ME, O GOD
A GUIDING STAR ABOVE ME
BE A SMOOTH PATH BELOW ME
A KINDLY SHEPHERD BEHIND ME
TODAY, TONIGHT, AND FOREVER

ALONE WITH NONE BUT THEE, MY GOD
I JOURNEY ON MY WAY
WHAT NEED I FEAR WHEN THOU ART NEAR
O LORD OF NIGHT AND DAY?

MORE SECURE AM I
WITHIN THY HAND
THAN IF A MULTITUDE
DID ROUND ME STAND

ATTRIBUTED TO
ST. COLUMBA
OF IONA

JULIE CAMERON-HALL

home



CELTISH h o m e

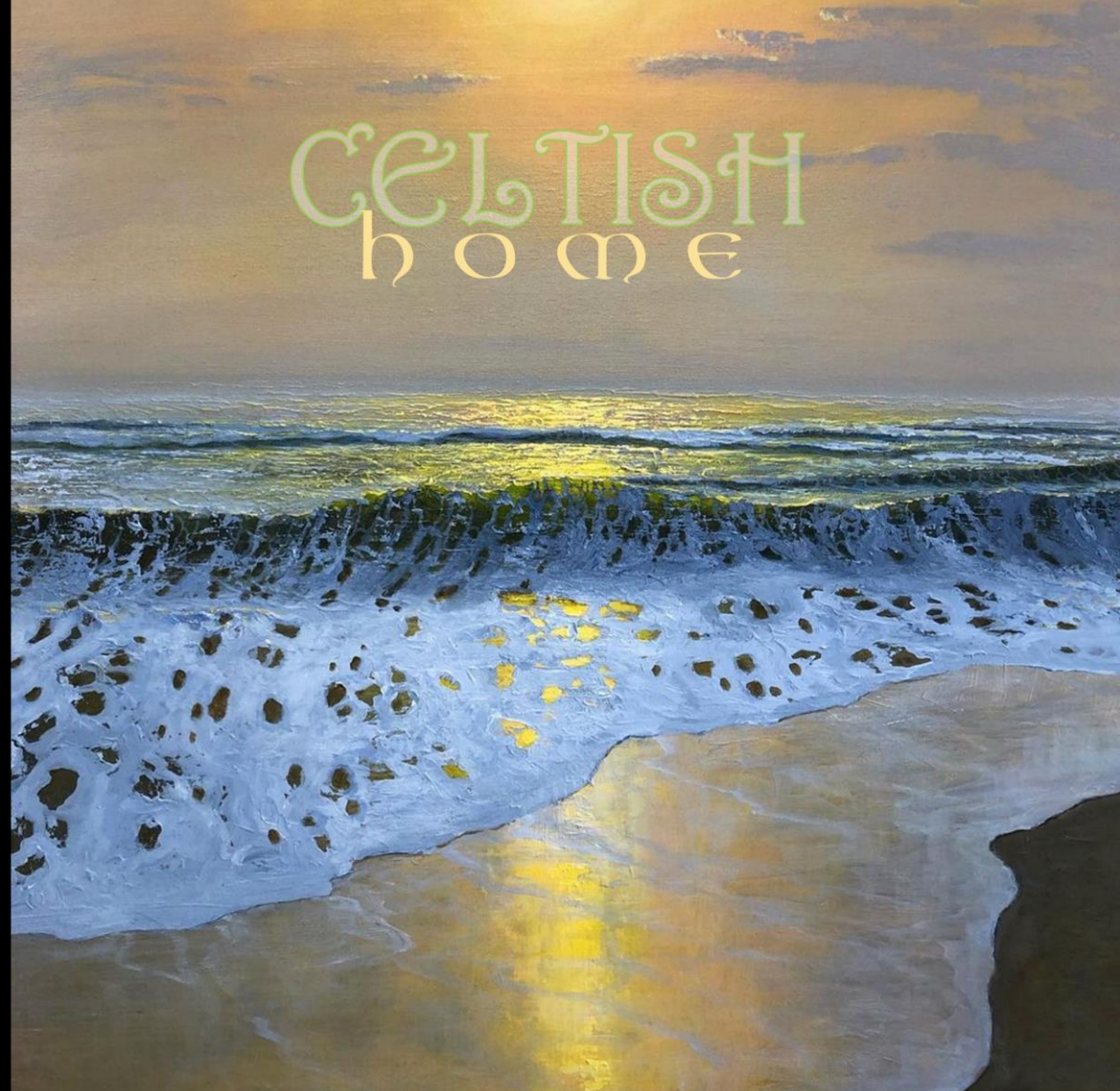
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Julie Cameron-Hall & Nigel Cameron
www.celtish.org

The beautiful seascapes 'Golden Dawn' and 'Golden Sunrise', from Tynemouth's 'Long Sands' beach, were painted by local artist Ivan Lindsay. Tynemouth is situated on England's historic Northumbrian Coastline, 60 miles south of Holy Island, Lindisfarne.

CELTISH h o m e





CELTISH home

Living through a global pandemic isn't something any of us could have envisaged, and for us it brought massive changes. From being busy travelling minstrels, we found ourselves 'exiled' in a big city, with no live performances or events, and far away from the place we call 'home.'

The big questions and priorities suddenly came into focus, and we found ourselves wanting to express those things of lasting and indeed eternal value. The need to express a voice of lament as well as hope and healing became strong, as well as the questions of what makes a 'home', and what is it that we all yearn for?

Rather like the Celtic Saints on Iona and Lindisfarne, we have found that we are able to take refuge under the care and nurture of our Creator, and receive healing from the wounds and losses of this past year and hope for the generations to come.

***One of the places where we both feel most at peace is by the sea.
May these songs wash over you, and, like the waves,
'fold you back' into the heart of Him who is our true 'home'.***

This album is dedicated to our wonderful grandchildren, who we love and miss so much: William & Ezra Verheul; Caleb & Skye Hall; Michaiah Ashcraft... and those yet to be born!

PRELUDE : PRAYER OF AIDAN (INSTR)

Julie Cameron-Hall & Nigel Cameron, 2020

THE LORD IS MY LIGHT (PSALM 27)

Music: 'Women of Ireland' (Irish traditional)

Lyrics: Nigel Cameron (adapted from Psalm 27), 2020

The Lord is my light and my salvation
Of whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the stronghold of my life
So why should I even be afraid?
When the wicked advance and my enemies attack
As they stumble, He will set me high upon a rock

One thing I will ask, this only I seek:
To dwell in Your house
All the days of my life in your temple
To gaze on the beauty of the Lord
Though a war break out against me, I am confident
He will hide me in the shelter of his sacred tent

My heart says of you: "Seek his face!"
Your face, Lord, I seek
So hear my voice when I call, Lord
Be merciful and answer me
I will sing and make music to the Lord with shouts of joy
In this land I will see the goodness of the Lord

*I will sing and make music to the Lord with shouts of joy
Sing and make music to the Lord with shouts of joy*

Be strong and take heart, and wait for the Lord

IN HEAVENLY LOVE ABIDING

Music: 'On Raglan Road' / 'The Dawning of the Day'
(Irish traditional)

Lyrics: Anna L Waring, Wales (1823-1910)

Verse 3 from 'The Lord's My Shepherd'
Music: 'Crimond': Jessie Seymour Irvine, Scotland (1836-1887)
Lyrics: Francis Rous, England (1579-1659)

In heavenly love abiding, no change my heart shall fear
And safe is such confiding, for nothing changes here
The storm may roar around me, my heart may low be laid
My Father's arms surround me, how can I be afraid?

Wherever He may guide me, no want shall turn me back
My Shepherd is beside me and nothing can I lack
His wisdom is forever, His sight is never dim
His love deserts me never and I will walk with Him

And I will walk with Him

Yea, though I walk through death's dark vale
Yet will I fear no ill, for Thou art with me
And Thy rod and staff me comfort still

Green pastures are before me
Which yet I have not seen
Bright skies will shine with glory
Where threatening clouds have been
My hope I cannot measure, my path to life is free
My Saviour has my treasure, and He will walk with me

And He will walk with me
And I will walk with Him
And we will walk with Him

Deut 31:8; Ps 23; Luke 8: 22-25; John 10:1-18

DO NOT WORRY

Music: 'Three Boys' (Extract) by Phil Hart (Northern Ireland), 2019

Lyrics: Nigel Cameron, 2020

Sometimes I feel afraid for my family
Sometimes I worry about the safety of our children
But then You remind me of Your promises
I need not fear, just be still

Do not worry. Do not be afraid
Know that I am God. Trust in me

Be still and do not worry....

Ps 46:10; Ps 56:3; Ps 62:1; Ps 112:7

Ps 143:8; Matt 6:31; Phil 4:6

DARKEST DAY (JULIE'S DREAM)

Music: Irish traditional

(Arrangement inspired by 'Stone Grey Pier' by Stockton's Wing)

Lyrics: Nigel Cameron, 2020

I have seen children playing on golden paved streets
In my dream, they were calling and asking of me
Can you tell us of our families?
Help us sing for them sweet melodies
Songs of healing love and forgiveness
Of a new day dawning when we'll meet again

Many tears have been shed over daughters and sons
There are fears, such deep longings for every one
He who formed them in the secret place
He can see them through the darkest day
Though there's grieving for every lost one
They are receiving a welcome home

There is healing love and forgiveness
A new day dawning when we'll be as one

Though there's grieving for every lost one
They will receive us when we are welcomed home

2 Sam 12:22-23; Ps 139:11-16; 1 Thess 4:17-18

THE GREAT REUNION

Pt I – Healing (Instr) / Pt II – Comfort / Pt III – Welcome

Music: Phil Hart (Northern Ireland), 2019

Lyrics: Nigel Cameron, 2020

All who mourn, those who grieve
Who feel despair - I will comfort them
Those who grieve in Zion will receive a beautiful crown
Oil of joy instead of mourning, a robe of praise adorning

Welcome home - faithful ones
Face to face - all who've run your race
Gone the past - you are home now at last

No more death, no more crying or pain
Former things, they have all passed away
No more death, no more sorrow
Every tear He will wipe from their eyes
Beauty's crown instead of ashes
Mourning turns into dancing

No eye has seen, nor ear ever heard
Nor mind conceived what the Lord has prepared
Things prepared for those who love him
All His Spirit has revealed now to us
When Christ appears, we will be like Him
As He is, we shall see Him.

Welcome home, faithful ones
Gone the past. You are home now at last

Based on: Ps 30:11; Is 61:2-3

Rev 21:4; 1 Cor 2:9-10; 1 John 3:2

My Jesus I Love Thee

Music: 'The Meeting of the Waters':
Thomas Moore (Ireland), 1779 – 1852
Lyrics: William Ralph Featherston (aged 16)
Canada, 1848–1875

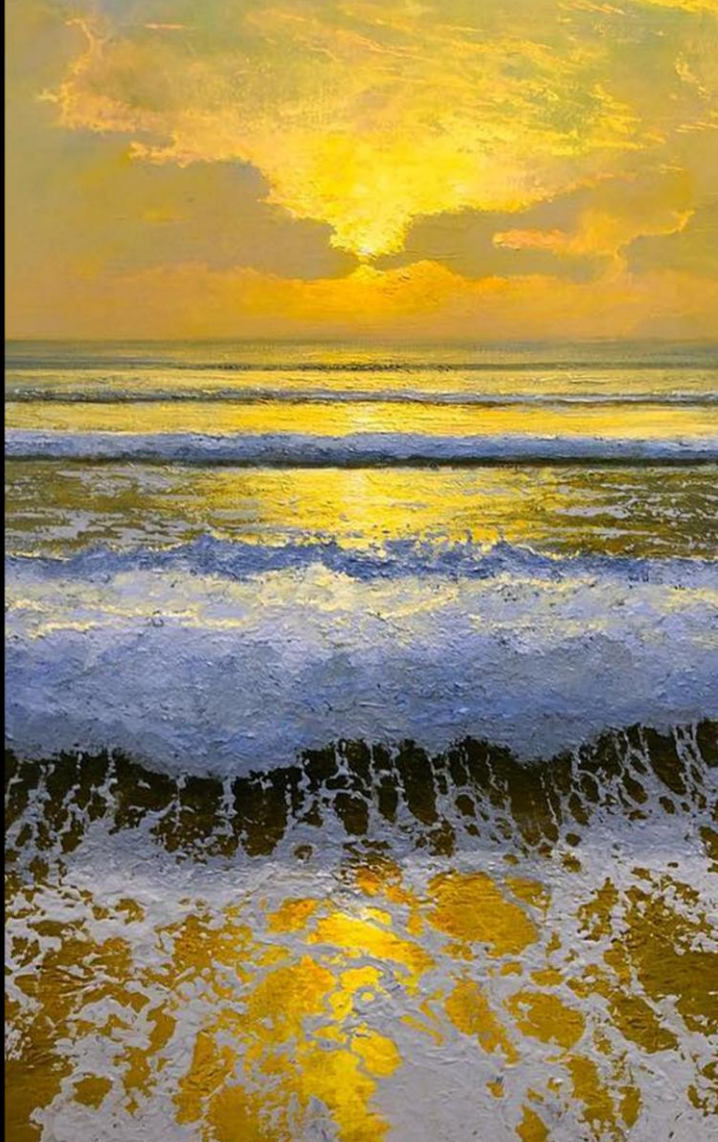
My Jesus, I love Thee, I know Thou art mine
For Thee all the follies of sin I resign
My gracious Redeemer, my Saviour art Thou
If ever I loved Thee, my Jesus, 'tis now
If ever I loved Thee, my Jesus, 'tis now

I love Thee because Thou hast first loved me
And purchased my pardon on Calvary's tree
I love Thee for wearing the thorns on Thy brow
If ever I loved Thee, my Jesus, 'tis now
If ever I loved Thee, my Jesus, 'tis now

I'll love Thee in life, I will love Thee in death
And praise Thee as long as Thou lendest me breath
And say when the death-dew lies cold on my brow
If ever I loved Thee, my Jesus, 'tis now
If ever I loved Thee, my Jesus, 'tis now

In mansions of glory and endless delight
I'll ever adore Thee in heaven so bright
I'll sing with the glittering crown on my brow
If ever I loved Thee, my Jesus, 'tis now
If ever I loved Thee, my Jesus, 'tis now

Deut 6:5; John 14:2; Gal 3:13; 1 John 4:19



Beautiful home

Music: 'Heaven's Shores' by Phil Hart
(Northern Ireland) 2020
Lyrics: Barney E Warren, USA (1867-1951)
Adapted and additional lyrics by Nigel Cameron, 2020

Land of delight, where the angels dwell
Beautiful home, beautiful home
Joy that is waiting, no tongue can tell
Beautiful home above

Joy which eternally fills my heart
Thinking of home, thinking of home
Wakens the music in every part
Thinking of Christ above

*There's a crown with jewels of sparkling light
In that glorious home above
Shining brighter than the stars of night
Is that glorious home above*

Peace like the flowing of ocean-tide
Beautiful home, beautiful home
Purified saints with the Lord abide
Beautiful home above

*There's a crown with jewels of sparkling light
In that glorious home above
Shining brighter than the stars of night
Is that glorious home above*

Face to face with You: I Am
God Almighty and the Lamb
The Beginning and The End
There forever we shall reign

Revelation 21-22:5

Encircle me holy Trinity

Music & Lyrics: Wytze Valkema, The Netherlands, 2015
Adapted from 'Emerald' album by The Worship Company

Encircle me, Holy Trinity
Holy Father, Spirit and Son
Spring up, Fountain of Life
Make Your presence known

*Come and open the ancient wells
Of Your presence*

Open up the Heavens, Let Your will be done
As it is in Heaven, So be done on earth

Come and open the ancient doors

King of Glory, show Your glory

Gen 26:18; Ps 24: 7-10; Jer 2:13

PRAYER OF AIDAN

Music: Julie Cameron-Hall
Lyrics: Andy Raine (Northumbria Community), England
Inspired by St Aidan of Lindisfame
Adapted by Nigel Cameron (Used by permission)

Alone with my God, leave me here more and more
As the tide draws the waters close in upon the shore
Alone with my God, set apart, out of view
Make me an island, holy to You

As the world rushes in with the turning of tide
You prepare me to carry Your love far and wide
Beyond to the world
May Your presence break through
'Till the waters again fold me back into You

Interlude : healing (part 2)

/ DO NOT WORRY (part 2)

Music: 'Three Boys' & 'The Great Reunion' (Extracts)
by Phil Hart (Northern Ireland) 2019

FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION

Music: 'Three Boys (Extract)' by Phil Hart (Northern Ireland) 2020
Lyrics by Nigel Cameron & Julie Cameron-Hall, 2020

*From generation to generation
You are good. You are good*

When I think of all You've done for me
My heart sings, my heart sings
May all our children and their families
Know Your blessing

I will sing a new song to the Lord
We will sing a new sing to the Lord

Let every generation sing a new song
(Sing a new song to the Lord)

My heart sings because You are faithful

Ps 52:9; Ps 96:1; Ps 100:5; Ps 145:13; Luke 1:49-50

postlude : PRAYER OF COLUMBA

Music: St Columba (Irish traditional)
Lyrics attributed to St Columba of Iona

Alone with none but Thee, my God
I journey on my way
What need I fear when Thou art near
O Lord of night and day?



Thankyou to all the musicians who
contributed to this album :

Chris Smith, Nic Burrows, Phil Hart, Dave Bainbridge
Gareth Davies-Jones, Russ Sargeant, Colin Henry
James Stevenson, Martin Crossin, Wytze Valkema
Kevin Burns, Shane Neary

Epiphany string quartet (epiphanymusic.org.uk) :
Shirley Richards, Rebecca Whettam

Richard & Susan Williamson. (Arrangement: Peter Richards)

And to our international family choir :
Netherlands: Rachel & Paul Verheul USA: Brittney & AJ Ashcraft
England: Daniel & Hannah Hall, Peter & Ellie Hall
Ireland: Caitlin & Caleb McFarland

Recording* & Mixing :

Chris Smith & Nic Burrows (Drums)
www.raindance-music.com

*Nigel, Julie, Chris, Nic & Wytze recorded at Raindance Music, Stourbridge
All other musicians and singers recorded their parts at 'Home'
(Shane Neary recorded by Andrew Dougherty at Sonic Visuals Recording Studio, NI)
Additional editing & mixing (track 8) by John Sloan

Mastering :

Denis Blackman
www.skyemastering.com

Graphic Design :

Nigel Cameron
www.scenesofwonder.org

Seascape Paintings :

(Used by permission)

Ivan Lindsay, Juvan Arts (Tynemouth)
www.instagram.com/juvanarts

Photography :

Luca Quadrio (Iona Sunset photo)
www.lucaquadrio.it

Rodney Burton (Lindisfarne Sunrise photo)
(Both used by permission)

Kieron Forbes & Nigel Cameron (Photos of Nigel's 'Home' land
by the Mourne Mountains, Northern Ireland)

1 . PRAYER OF AIDAN (Instr)

Nigel: Whistles & Rainsticks; Julie: Fiddle
Chris Smith: Keyboards; Dave Bainbridge: Electric Guitar

2 . THE LORD IS MY LIGHT (PSALM 27)

Julie: Lead Vocal & Fiddle; Nigel: Whistles & Backing Vocals
Chris Smith: Keyboards & Piano; Dave Bainbridge: Electric
Guitar, Bouzouki, Mandolin, Hammond Organ & Additional
Keyboards; Gareth Davies-Jones: Acoustic Guitar
Russ Sargeant: Bass; Nic Burrows: Drums

3 . IN HEAVENLY LOVE ABIDING

Nigel: Lead Vocals, Whistles, Shaker & Rainstick
Julie: Vocals & Fiddle; Chris Smith: Keyboards, Piano &
Programming; Gareth Davies-Jones: Acoustic Guitar, Mandolin
& Mandocello Russ Sargeant: Bass; Nic Burrows: Drums

4 . DO NOT WORRY

Nigel: Vocals & Whistles; Julie: Vocals & Fiddle
Phil Hart: Acoustic Guitar; Chris Smith: Piano & Keyboards
Colin Henry: Dobro; James Stevenson: Cymbals

5 . DARKEST DAY (Julie's Dream)

Julie: Vocals & Fiddle; Nigel: Vocals & Whistles
Chris Smith: Keyboards; Dave Bainbridge: Electric Guitar,
Bouzouki, Mandolin & Additional Keyboards
Gareth Davies-Jones: Acoustic Guitar
Russ Sargeant: Bass; Nic Burrows: Drums

6 . THE GREAT REUNION

Pt I : Healing (Instr) Pt II : Comfort Pt III : Welcome
Nigel: Vocals & Whistles; Julie: Vocals & Fiddle
Phil Hart: Acoustic Guitar; Chris Smith: Piano, Keyboards,
Bass & Electric Guitar; Colin Henry: Dobro
James Stevenson: Drums

7 . MY JESUS I LOVE THEE

Julie: Lead Vocal; Nigel: Whistles & Backing Vocals
Phil Hart: Acoustic Guitar; Chris Smith: Keyboards
Rebecca Whettam: Cello; Richard Williamson: Viola
Shirley Richards & Susan Williamson: Violins

8 . BEAUTIFUL HOME (HEAVEN'S SHORES)

Nigel: Vocals, Whistles & Tongue Drum; Julie: Vocals & Fiddle
Phil Hart: Acoustic Guitar; Chris Smith: Keyboards, Bass &
Programming; Martin Crossin: Whistles & Uilleann Pipes
James Stevenson: Cymbals

9 . ENCIRCLE ME HOLY TRINITY

Nigel: Lead Vocals & Whistles; Julie: Vocals & Fiddle
Wytze Valkema: Piano, Drums & Djembe; Dave Bainbridge:
Electric Guitar, Bouzouki, Hammond Organ & Keyboards
Chris Smith: Acoustic Guitar & Additional Keyboards
Kevin Burns: Irish Wooden Flute & Whistle
Russ Sargeant: Bass; Shane Neary: Bodhran

10 . PRAYER OF AIDAN (ALONE WITH MY GOD)

Nigel: Lead Vocals & Whistles; Julie: Fiddle
Chris Smith: Keyboards; Dave Bainbridge: Electric Guitar
& Additional Keyboards

11 . HEALING (PT 2) / DO NOT WORRY (PT 2)

Nigel: Whistles & Vocals; Julie: Fiddle & Vocals
Phil Hart: Acoustic Guitar; Chris Smith: Keyboards
Colin Henry: Dobro; James Stevenson: Cymbals

12 . FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION

Nigel: Vocals & Whistles; Julie: Vocals & Fiddle
Phil Hart: Acoustic Guitar; Chris Smith: Piano, Keyboards &
Bass; Colin Henry: Dobro; James Stevenson: Drums;
Dan & Hannah Hall, Paul & Rachel Verheul, Pete & Ellie
Hall, AJ & Brittney Ashcraft, Caleb & Caitlin McFarland:
Family Choir Vocals

13 . PRAYER OF COLUMBA (WHAT NEED I FEAR?)

Julie: Lead Vocals; Nigel: Whistles
Chris Smith: Keyboards & Electric Guitar

STORIES BEHIND THE SONGS...

THE LORD IS MY LIGHT (Psalm 27) *'The Lord is the stronghold of my life, so why should I even be afraid.'*

When the Psalmist wrote these words, his enemies were trying to destroy him from every side. In 2020 when we were first confronted with the fear of the deadly virus, many of us found refuge in the words of the Psalms.

I (Nigel) wanted to encapsulate the essence of Psalm 27 into a song with a strong Celtic melody and was reminded of the Irish folk song Women of Ireland, famously recorded by Kate Bush but more familiar to me from a version by Mike Oldfield. The Psalm lyric *'I will sing and make music to the Lord with shouts of joy'* seemed to resonate, especially at a time when churches were closed because of the virus and many of us missed singing together in worship. We are so thankful that we could still sing at *home* and record our music in the studio, even if that meant following social distancing guidelines. I felt sure that our version of this Psalm would be a powerful declaration of war against fear and maybe even an arrow fired into the very heart of our invisible enemy - Coronavirus itself. This was confirmed when Dave Bainbridge told me he felt drawn to a specific guitar to play his solo for this track – a *Corona Stratocaster!*

DARKEST DAY (Julie's Dream) It was in 2019, when I (Julie) was on a retreat when I had very vivid dream of walking down a narrow, ancient cobbled street in what looked like the old city in Jerusalem. I remember seeing that the cobbles were semi-transparent, and thinking, *'Oh, I must be in heaven!'* Reaching the bottom of the hill, I was surrounded by happy, eager children, who were all asking me: *'Do you know my mommy? Do you know my daddy? You must know them...you come from the same place.'* I realised in the dream that these were children who had never been born on earth, but still had a great attachment to and love for their earthly parents. The scene changed in the dream to a nursery school (I used to do music classes in nursery schools!) and I was sitting with my guitar, with the children at my feet. One of the children said *'teach us a song we can sing for our mummies (parents)'* and I knew they wanted to sing a song of blessing for them. The dream affected me deeply and for a while I couldn't share it without crying... but somehow knew the story could be healing for those who have lost unborn children, whether through natural or deliberate circumstances... that the children still loved their parents deeply, were happy and full of love and forgiveness. So, Nigel sensitively set the story into a song, with a powerful traditional tune he has always loved which holds a note of lament as well as hope. Nigel explained the story to Dave Bainbridge before he added his several instrumental layers, which certainly fulfilled the brief very powerfully. We hope the song can be used to heal many who have gone through this trauma of losing their little ones, and also that it will bring comfort to any who have lost a loved one.

DO NOT WORRY This song, together with *'From Generation to Generation'* started out as one long guitar instrumental entitled *'Three Boys'*, by our regular contributor Phil Hart, from Belfast. He composed the music as a prayer for his three teenage sons. Phil had already suggested that some of his instrumentals could do with lyrics but this one had eluded me (Nigel) for some time because, although I wanted to honour the sentiment behind the music, I didn't think I could write a song about Phil's children! Then, something very unusual happened: In July 2020, Julie and I were visiting family in Brussels and, one afternoon, while we were babysitting our grandson William, I took time out to see if I could get inspiration for lyrics, and thought to myself: *'if I was writing something for my own daughter and her family, what would I write?'* With headphones on, pressing play on Phil's *'Three Boys'* track, I started singing spontaneously with the music and the first thing that came out was *'Sometimes I feel afraid for my family. Sometimes I worry about the safety of our children, but then You remind me of Your promises'*. No sooner had I written those lines down when I heard something above the music in my headphones – it was someone shouting, and it was coming from upstairs where Julie was babysitting. As I got up to investigate, I realised it was Julie repeatedly calling William's name in a very alarming way. William had disappeared! We were in a very tall building and we started to wonder what could possibly have happened to our three-year-old grandson, who was clearly no longer in the room. Thankfully the stair-gate was still locked so he couldn't have escaped downstairs, and the windows were shut, so there had to be a logical explanation. Then I noticed a door on the landing that was slightly ajar. This door led upstairs to the loft, but still no sign of William and no response to our calls. There was another door leading into a small loft bedroom and on further investigation, there on the bed, was a lump, underneath the bedclothes. The lump was our grandson William, who was hiding, quiet as a mouse! With some major sighs of relief, and after calming down, I realised how significant this was and I told Julie about the lyrics I had just written. We had been immediately tested and our natural human reaction was to be very afraid indeed. However, the sense of peace that prevailed after this episode reminded us even more how *we can put our trust in God, even when nothing around us makes sense.*

FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION As I returned to continue writing the lyrics I was drawn to the passage in Luke 1 where Mary was *'greatly troubled'* by the news that she was about to become the mother of Jesus, but the angel said to her, *"Do not be afraid, you have found favour with God."* She then responds with a song, 'The Magnificat', in which she proclaims *'His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation.'* Mary's song and Phil's upbeat music inspired my own song of thankfulness *'When I think of all you've done for me, my heart sings'*, then as I discovered other verses on the theme of God's goodness to all generations, the song was almost complete. However, it was Julie's lyric *'May all our children and their families, know your blessing'* that gave us the idea of asking our children and their spouses to sing the four different parts on the end section of the song. So, Paul & Rachel (Netherlands), Brittney & AJ (USA), Dan & Hannah and Pete & Ellie (England) all agreed to record their voices at *home*. With our grandchildren still too young to record, the voices of Nigel's great-niece and nephew, Caitlin & Caleb (Northern Ireland) represented their generation. We are so excited to have three generations of our family all singing together as one, on this powerful declaration that *'He is faithful'* and *'We will sing a new song to the Lord!'*

THE GREAT REUNION When Phil Hart composed this piece of music for acoustic guitar, he was thinking of that great day in the future when we will be reunited with lost loved ones in our eternal *home* in heaven. There is a lot of healing and hope in this music, so I (Nigel) thought if lyrics were going to be written to it, they would have to reflect that journey and speak about heaven. When I started to look at some passages in Revelation for inspiration, I just couldn't believe what happened, as one by one, the phrases seemed to jump off the pages of my Bible to fit exactly with the melodies that Phil had written. Section by section, the lyrics were flowing seamlessly and the whole song was written in a few hours. When we first recorded our vocals and sent the song to Phil for approval, he wept, and later assured me that this was *'in a good way'*. We genuinely believe that the **Holy Spirit** inspired Phil with the exact melodies that would later be used for these lyrics. We love collaborating with Phil and the Holy Spirit!

BEAUTIFUL HOME The same thing happened again when I was looking for a traditional hymn on the theme of heaven that might fit Phil's beautiful melody **Heaven's Shores**. The title *'Beautiful Home'* was one of the first ones that caught my eye, but I didn't need to look any further as the lyrics fitted perfectly with the theme and title of our album and were very easily adapted.

IN HEAVENLY LOVE ABIDING Many years ago I discovered that this traditional hymn was the perfect fit to the beautiful Irish air **Raglan Road**, also known as **The Dawning of the Day**. The lyrics offer hope instead of fear, but on singing them afresh I was moved by the lines *'I will walk with Him'* and *'He will walk with me'* which in turn echo **Psalm 23's** *'Yea though I walk through death's dark vale'*. Thus, the idea was born for a medley of these **Irish** and **Scottish** melodies, with **Welsh** and **English** lyrics and we hope our Celtic arrangement lights up the truth about our Shepherd who will never leave or forsake us.

ENCIRCLE ME HOLY TRINITY We have produced two albums now by our European group **The Worship Company**, which has a very similar line-up to *Celtish*, but features the songs and lead vocals of **Wytze Valkema** from the Netherlands. We believe in his songs so much that we wanted to re-work this track (with his permission) from the album **Emerald**. It is a heartfelt prayer for the *'Fountain of Life'* to spring up again where layers of dead religion have blocked the ancient wells, especially in these islands from where Celtic Saints once sailed to spread the Gospel far and wide.

MY JESUS I LOVE THEE Back in February 2020 (pre-lockdown) we were having a few days break in County Wicklow, Ireland. As we were having breakfast one morning overlooking the stunning view of where two rivers meet, a friend asked if we had ever sung the song **The Meeting of the Waters** inspired by the very place where we were staying, Nigel knew there was a song of that title, but it was only when he researched the original folk song to listen to it that he remembered the tune from a setting of the hymn *'My Jesus I Love Thee'* he once played at a men's conference in Ireland. Julie loved the melody and, as we read the lyrics of the hymn together, we both got the goosebumps and vowed to record this on a future *Celtish* album. In July we were reminded of this song again when a friend of Julie's sent an encouraging word for us about **'two rivers meeting and flowing together'**. Little did she know when sharing the picture that we had just returned to 'The Meeting of the Waters' for Julie's birthday and were literally standing looking out over the two rivers! After laying down the simple structure for the song, our friend **Peter Richards (Epiphany)** agreed to score an arrangement for string quartet. However, when the live strings recording had to be cancelled due to COVID19 restrictions, **Richard Williamson** (viola) successfully facilitated each person recording their own part individually from their *homes*.

PRAYER OF AIDAN Inspired by our time on 'Holy Island', **Lindisfarne** (Northumbria) in 2019, on this album we wanted to honour the Celtic Saint, Aidan, whose monastery was established there in the 7th Century. Aidan was a man of great humility and compassion who lived out the Christian message as well as preaching it. He treated and valued everyone, rich or poor, in the same way, welcoming them *'home'*. His life and teaching was the inspiration for *Prayer of Aidan* written by **Andy Raine** who is based on Lindisfarne and is a founder member of the Northumbria Community. With Julie's beautiful melody and Andy's lyrics (adapted by Nigel), we pray that this song and its instrumental **Prelude** version (track 1) will carry you *'home'* to a place of sanctuary, like Holy Island still does for many pilgrims to this day.

PRAYER OF COLUMBA, which closes the album, is attributed to the 6th century Celtic Saint from Ireland who founded a monastery on the Scottish island of **Iona**. He speaks of the nearness of God as being the basis of not fearing the future - a very important truth for this time! He was a seer and received beautiful prophetic visions from God, all out of his time being *"alone with none but Thee my God"*. **May our season of being 'hidden' at HOME bring similar fruit in our own lives.**



CELTISH
home

NIGEL CAMERON & JULIE CAMERON-HALL

compact
disc