

Body of Christ

About the song: I woke up with this song one morning last year, after a weekend of grieving the dismantling of a faith community very dear to me. Before I'd had my first cup of coffee, the lyrics were written down, and I was playing it on the piano, an instrument that I'm barely conversant with. A year later, the song still rings for me as a lament for all members of the Body who struggle against injustice. It is dedicated to the Spiritus Christi community of Rochester New York, and to the new spirit that has sprung forth from the resurrected body.

Body of Christ so battered and broken,
the words are spoken the judgment set
To bruise your bones and make you to stumble,
but you will walk in glory yet.

Body of Christ my heart is broken
when you must suffer and I'm far from you
I think of your face and I'm weeping with you
Cause I am part of the body too.

Body of Christ your table's open
with words of welcome abundant food
Sinners draw near to embrace the lowly
and feed the hungry with hearts renewed.

Body of Christ your head is wounded,
your shoulders aching, your feet are tired
The road is rough and it will be long one,
but your heart's a strong one where God abides.

Body of Christ I'm walking with you,
your words still reach me across the miles and years
I preach in your name and I honor your memory
in song and story and now in tears.

Repeat verse one

Barbara Ballenger ©1998