

Loving God, we come before you (website only)

A hymn for the first service at which hymns are sung aloud following the Covid lockdown of 2020.

1. Loving God, we come before you
glad to offer praise in song,
thankful for the many mercies
you have shown us all along.
Months of social isolation
have not parted us from you,
and in every situation
grace and love have led us through.
2. Yet so many struggle daily,
so we ask you, Lord, to bless
all the sick, the sad, the lonely,
all who suffer pain and stress,
all who mourn the loss of loved ones,
all whose loads are hard to bear,
and all those whose calm compassion
comforts those for whom they care.
3. Father, send the world your healing;
guide and strengthen us, we pray,
so that we may keep revealing
something of your love each day.
Whether facing sin or virus,
and despite what time may bring,
we shall ask you to inspire us,
trusting you for everything.

Words: Ben Batten, Chesham Methodist Church, 2020

Metre: 87.87.D

Suggested tune: Ben writes – “Of the many tunes to which these words may be sung, [Abbot’s Leigh](#) (StF 410) seems to me to be best suited, as it gives the words a chance to ‘breathe’. This was the tune I had in mind even before the first words came.”

Alternatively, John Bell’s [Transformation](#) (StF 296) adds a different kind of flow to the words, as does the better-known [St Winifred](#) (StF 197ii). Or you may try [What a friend](#) (StF 531), where the memory of the words to which it is usually set (“What a friend we have in Jesus”) lends another layer of meaning to Ben’s words.