

# O Britain, praise thy mighty God

1

Paraphrased by Isaac Watts (1674-1748)

*Renshent anon.,  
from the IOM Edward Taggart MS (1855)  
Edited by Francis Roads*

## Psalm 147 part II; A song for Great Britain

[♩=160]

Soprano [Air]

1. O Bri - tain, praise thy migh - ty God, And make his ho - nours  
2. *Thy chil - dren are se - cure and blessed; Thy shores have peace, thy*  
3. Thy chang - ing sea - sons he or - dains, Thine ear - ly and thy  
4. *With hoa - ry frost he strews the ground; His hail des - cends with*  
5. He bids the sou - thern bree - zes blow; The ice dis - solves, the

Alto

Tenor

1. O Bri - tain, praise thy migh - ty God, And make his ho - nours  
2. *Thy chil - dren are se - cure and blessed; Thy shores have peace, thy*  
3. Thy chang - ing sea - sons he or - dains, Thine ear - ly and thy  
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5. He bids the sou - thern bree - zes blow; The ice dis - solves, the

Bass

Keyboard

4

S

known a - broad; He bids the o - cean round thee flow; Not bars of brass could  
*ci - ties\_ rest; He feeds thy sons with fin - est wheat, And adds his bles - sing*  
lat - ter\_ rains; His flakes of snow like wool he sends, And thus the spring - ing  
*clat - t'ring sound: Where is the man so vain - ly bold That dares de - fy his\_*  
wa - ters\_ flow: But he hath no - bler works and ways To call the Bri - tons

A

T

8

known a - broad; He bids the o - cean round thee flow; Not bars of brass could  
*ci - ties\_ rest; He feeds thy sons with fin - est wheat, And adds his bles - sing*  
lat - ter\_ rains; His flakes of snow like wool he sends, And thus the spring - ing\_  
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wa - ters\_ flow: But he hath no - bler works and ways To call the Bri - tons

B

Kbd.

## O Britain, praise thy mighty God

8

S  
guard thee so, Not bars of brass could guard thee so.  
to their meat, And adds his bles - sing to their meat.  
corn de - fends, And thus the spring - ing corn de - fends.  
dread - ful cold, That dares de - fy his dread - ful cold?  
to his praise, To call the Bri - tons to his praise.

A  
guard thee so, Not bars of brass could guard thee so.  
to their meat, And adds his bles - sing to their meat.  
corn de - fends, And thus the spring - ing corn de - fends.  
dread - ful cold, That dares de - fy his dread - ful cold?  
to his praise, To call the Bri - tons to his praise.

T  
guard thee so, Not bars of brass could guard thee so.  
to their meat, And adds his bles - sing to their meat.  
corn de - fends, And thus the spring - ing corn de - fends.  
dread - ful cold, That dares de - fy his dread - ful cold?  
to his praise, To call the Bri - tons to his praise.

B  
guard thee so, Not bars of brass could guard thee so.  
to their meat, And adds his bles - sing to their meat.  
corn de - fends, And thus the spring - ing corn de - fends.  
dread - ful cold, That dares de - fy his dread - ful cold?  
to his praise, To call the Bri - tons to his praise.

Kbd.

6. To all the isle his laws are shown,  
His gospel through the nation known;  
He hath not thus revealed his word  
To ev'ry land: praise ye the Lord,  
To ev'ry land: praise ye the Lord.  
CHORUS

The original has no indication of text, and the present one may well not have been that chosen by Manx singers. Its choice does however to some extent overcome the problem of the accent on the first syllable of some lines. The sentiment of verse 6 was true in Watts' time, but might be considered inappropriate nowadays.

The Taggart MS includes frequent evident copying errors, and the following emendations have been made:  
Alto bars 1 and 2; original has e' a' a' a' e' d' c#';  
Tenor bar 2; original has c#' b a;  
Two evident rhythmic errors are also corrected;  
Pause on bar 4 last note deleted;  
Transposed down a tone.

## O Britain, praise thy mighty God

11 CHORUS

S  
Hal - le - lu - jah, Hal - le - lu - jah, Hal - le - lu - jah,

A  
Hal - le - lu - jah, Hal - le - lu - jah, Hal - le - lu - jah,

T  
Hal - le - lu - jah, Hal - le - lu - jah, Hal - le - lu - jah,

B  
Hal - le - lu - jah, Hal - le - lu - jah, Hal - le - lu - jah,

Kbd.

14

S  
Praise the Lord, Hal - le - lu - jah, Praise the Lord.

A  
Praise the Lord, Hal - le - lu - jah, Praise the Lord.

T  
Praise the Lord, Hal - le - lu - jah, Praise the Lord.

B  
Praise the Lord, Hal - le - lu - jah, Praise the Lord.

Kbd.