

O Britain, praise thy mighty God

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 shorshave peace, thy*
 3. Thy chang - ing sea - sons he or - dains, Thine ear - ly and thy
 4. *With ho - 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

8

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 2. *Thy chil - dren are se - cure and blessed; Thy shorshave peace, thy*
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Bass

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
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 wa - ters flow: But he hath no - bler works and ways To call the Bri - tons

B

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

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

T

B

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,

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.

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