

Christmas

CHRISTMAS BATHED IN SUNLIGHT

Tune: SOUTHERN PRAISES

Melody: William L.(Bill) Wallace

Harmony: Francis Dennis (1929-2005)

1 Christmas bathed in sunlight!
Easter with no Spring!
How shall Southern Christians
Festive praises sing?
When we glimpse the symbols
Placed before our eyes
Can we sense their meaning?
Will new songs arise?

2 Will the blood red rata,
Matagouri's thorns, (1)
Cabbage trees' bright auras
Point to Easter morn?
Will dry Lenten landscapes,
Easter's Lacebark flowers (2)
Give our Southern spirits
Ever-greening powers?

3 Give us eyes that notice,
Hearts that ponder well;
Set our faith in context,
Let our praises swell.
Then within these islands
Framed by Treaty vows
We shall see God's beauty,
Make God's justice ours.

4 Worship is for people
Set within the land,
People in a circle
Dancing hand in hand.
Praise God in the joining!
Praise God in the mirth!
Praise God in the Treaty!
Praise God in the Earth!

Alternative Tunes: EVELYNS (AMR 225 NS 148

MHB 249 RCH 178)

CAMBERWELL(WOV170ii)

*Notes: (1) **Matagouri** or **Discaria toumatou** is a thorny much branched rigid shrub characteristic of the drier eastern side of the South Island and known from a few North Island localities
(2) While some species of **Hoheria**, or **Lace bark** flower in Summer, others flower in Autumn.*

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