

Lyric sheets for *All That Matters* by Bryan Field McFarland
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Track # 1 ~ Open the Gift

words and music: Bryan Field McFarland
John Knox Center, Kingston, TN - 2005

We open our eyes that we may see / We open our ears that we may hear
We open our lips that we may sing your praise
You give us the choice, the liberty / You give us the voice, the ability
To open our eyes, open our ears, open our lips.

We open our minds that we may learn / We open our hearts that we may love
We open our hands that we may serve today
You give us the choice, the liberty / You give us the voice, the ability
To open our minds, open our hearts, open our hands.

We open the Word of Life from you / We open the world around us too
We open the way we follow you today
You give us the choice, the liberty / You give us the voice, the ability
To open your Word, open your world, open our way.

We open our steps that we may move / We open the door that we lets you in
We open the gift you offer us each day
You give us the choice, the liberty / You give us the voice, the ability
To open our steps, open the door, open the gift. [2X]

- STORY-BEHIND-THE SONG -

Originally intended as the third in a chain of three songs (*You Are/Help Us/Open the Gift*), *Open the Gift* is my way of expressing a contemporary Celtic Christianity.

With all due respect to the writer/composer of *Open the Eyes of My Heart*, I'd sung/led that song too many times. While I believe that we need our eyes opened by God, I also believe that MOST of our life is spent needing to open what we've already been given. So, *Open the Gift* is not only about counting our blessings, but waking up to what we have and utilizing it for the good of us all.

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Track # 2 ~ All That Matters

words & music: Bryan Field McFarland
Mt. Juliet, TN - 2006

All that matters to the bottomline / Is that it all adds up to more
All that matters to the waterline / Is how it laps upon the shore
All that matters when we've run our race / Before the living from us scatters
Are all the facets of amazing grace / Love is truly all that matters

Side to side and up & down - This right relationship
Turned about and turned around - This gift, this life, this flip
Us & them and you & me - Climbing all life's ladders
Love is woven thoroughly - And love is all that matters

Jesus gave us this decree (Love each other)
"Do this and my friends you'll be" (Love each other) [reference.....]
"Be at home here in my love" (Love each other)
"Here on earth as up above" (Love each other)
Love is patient, love is kind (Love each other)
Love is in and through the daily grind (Love each other)
Love endures beyond the chatter (Love each other)
God is Love and love is all...that...matters. [reference....]

Side to side and up & down - This right relationship
Turned about and turned around - This gift, this life, this flip
Us & them and you & me - Climbing all life's ladders
Love is woven thoroughly - And love is all that matters

- STORY-BEHIND-THE SONG -

The title track for the CD, *All That Matters* brings together a 20 year career in professional ministry. I have served local congregations, campus ministries, and now as presbytery staff in a Hunger Action position in the PCUSA. In all of that service, but mostly in my family I have learned (and still need to learn) that "God is love and love is all that matters."

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Track # 3 ~ Lyrical Freedom Riders words & music: Bryan Field McFarland bridge lyrics: **We Shall Overcome**
Mt. Juliet, TN - 2006

It was Spring, 1961 - overdue change had yet begun. / It was time to test a federal law that stated...
"Public transit will admit all persons who are riding it / Regardless of color - no longer segregated."

But heads were turned when anger vented - the law was rarely implemented
Despite requests to enforce Court ruling.
The [CORE](#) launched [Freedom Rides](#) in May / that broke the ground and paved the way
To integrate this land, however grueling.

*All through the day / Into the night Nothing had ever felt so right.
It was almost theirs / And almost gone.
All through the night / Into the day Freedom to ride, freedom to stay.
They were almost there / And almost gone.*

In Anniston on May 14 fury flared like they'd foreseen
Beating the riders and bombing a bus with fire.
They had trained to not retaliate - to bear the blows, absorb the hate.
And from this road they never would retire.

Then, a student's call from Nashville came for more to ride in Freedom's name
And nation-wide came fearless Freedom Riders.
Hundreds rode so ALL could ride - they took a stand seated side by side
Freedom songs from lyrical Freedom Riders *CHORUS*

*Singing "We shall overcome / We shall overcome / We shall overcome...someday
Oh, I do believe / Deep in my heart / That we shall overcome...someday"*

By June they'd been detained, arrested - their spirits sapped, their testing tested
Even then... resolve was not decreasing.
From Parchman's cells they sang the songs / With "eyes on the prize" to right the wrongs -
Freedom songs of good news never ceasing.

Through hunger strikes & dungeon chatter / on they sang, & gettin' louder
Singin' it out - "THERE ARE NO OUTSIDERS!"
And oh, some hearts were finally altered / by those who fell and seldom faltered.
Bound by the songs these lyrical Freedom Riders. *CHORUS*

- STORY-BEHIND-THE SONG -

Coming soon. These things take time! :)

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Track # 4 ~ Blacktop River

words & music by Bryan Field McFarland

Massanetta Springs Conference Center in Harrisonburg, VA & Mt. Juliet, TN - 2006

I'm on a highway through the Shenandoah - sky so blue that it hurts my eyes
I've got a cedar-topped box bound with koa
Packed in the back with a week's supplies
I see construction cones in the lane ahead and it looks like I'll have to merge
So I'm signaling right like a ton o' lead These other captains won't let me converge

***I'm on a rippling ribbon through the world today
I've got my windows rolled down and my hopes up high
I'll let this blacktop river roll my blues away
And I won't even need to know why
Yeah, it's a great day to live...a great day to die***

Out on the road sometimes it gets so lonesome - all I can do is feel the wind
The way stretched out in front of me can be so awesome
Sometimes it seems like my only friend
I see instruction in the heat off the highway like the Spirit is settling in
Riding this knife edge - going my way. Life could stop. Life could begin.

Chorus

***Death is just a door, just a passageway, just another part of being
All the lore ain't gonna scare me away
And it's not that I'm foreseeing.
I'm good to go, but I would rather stay,
Cuz there's more here for me to get done
I've got this feeling now that death's my friend,
Not some frightening oblivion***

I took a walk last night down by the river The stinging stars up in the Milky Way
And as my leaf crunch steps made me shiver
I caught a whiff of death in the Fall decay
I see destruction looming in the days ahead These trees are gonna be so bare
I'm reminded of what [Quoheleth](#) said.
No, there's "nothing new" anywhere! [[Ecclesiastes 1:9](#)]

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Track # 5 ~ Enough For Everyone

words & music: Bryan Field McFarland

On I-40 between Greensboro and Clemmons, NC - 2007

The world would have us believe there's a scarcity.
Not enough for all of "them" AND you & me.
And the world would keep us afraid so we'll hoard it all.
While the truth we rarely see, but this is what we believe...

There's enough, there's enough / Enough for everyone
More than enough, enough for us / Enough for everyone [repeat]

How long will it take till "us" means ALL OF US?
Planetary, universal – ALL OF US!?
How long before we see what we throw away..
And that thousands of children die each & every day... WHEN **CHORUS**

Yes, our cup IS overflowing, but we plow crops back into the ground.
We can live our faith by showing, yes, we can turn this all around because... **CHORUS**

- STORY-BEHIND-THE SONG -

Upon learning about [Enough for Everyone](#) of the [Presbyterian Hunger Program](#) at a 2006 training event I thought, "Wow, that phrase sings!" Then, in early 2007, I re-read Walter Brueggemann's excellent article "[The Liturgy of Abundance, The Myth of Scarcity](#)" and the *Enough For Everyone* phrase had some potential material for verses.

While driving to work one morning the chorus of this song hopped outta me and into my digital recorder. The gift of that chorus brought about the construction on the verses and bridge all the while asking, "What would Brueggemann sing?"

God willing, Brueggemann WILL sing this song along with others as we work to make a difference in this all-too-hungry world.

Here's a phrase that DOES NOT SING! Over 800 million people remain chronically hungry even though the world produces enough food for everyone. One of the numerous sources supporting this is [Institute for Food and Development Policy - Food First](#).

It makes NO SENSE that we throw away so much food while there are - by even conservative estimates - 30,000 people who die each day from hunger/malnutrition. This is unacceptable in a world with enough!

Providing backing vocals on the live, field recording are some of the Presbyterian Hunger Program's [Hunger Action Enablers](#) at a March 2007 gathering in Caguas, Puerto Rico!

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Track # 6 ~ The Broken Way

words: Tommy Brown & Bryan Field McFarland music: Bryan
Hungtington, WV & Boone, NC - 2005

They walked the road off to Emmaus
Any road outta Jerusalem was really what they took
It all had crumbled into chaos
Breaking away meant getting on and getting off the hook

Lost in conversation as they travelled
Surprise and speculation as fear drove them away
Hopes and plans had all but come unravelled
Broken dreams that shattered now scattered them away

***And they broke away - they broke away - broke away ----
And they broke away - they broke away - broke away (a way)***

There upon the road they met a stranger
He seemed so unaware of the news back on the street
A King cut down deposed and killed in anger
His Broken tomb - once rumored now starting to repeat

The stranger spoke with calm and clear conviction
Surprised at what they said and what they still just could not see
Pointing out each passage had prediction
Breaking down assumptions their minds began to free **CHORUS**

As they reached the outskirts at the crossroads
They asked if he would join them - at least to come inside and eat
Sitting at the table passing bread loaves
blessed - broken - given - open eyes - sight complete

Suddenly he vanished from their presence
Back and forth they chattered as their hearts beat and burned.
Now that he was gone so was their absence
Breaking for home was all that they could do, so they returned. **CHORUS**

Quickly they returned to the Eleven and their friends
Hearing wild stories - even Simon said, "Me too!"
Some stories never finish and others have dead ends
This Broken Way continues on and on with me and you
On and on with me and you (repeat)

- STORY-BEHIND-THE SONG -

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Track # 7 ~ Call That Christmas words: Tommy Brown & Bryan Field McFarland music: Bryan
Mt. Juliet, TN - 2005

She took a yellow construction paper star from the tree at the Outlet mall
Tugged at my pants and at my heart with a request so sweet & small, and said
"Dad we have so much already. There's not a thing I really need.
And there are so many stars on this tree.

**Let's take 'em all and call that Christmas.
Let's take 'em all," she said to me.
"Let's take 'em all and give what they need
And share the love we've seen
Let's take 'em all and call that Christmas."**

What could I say - except okay - we took every single one of those stars
She brought them home - this was not hers alone - her excitement catching fire
She worked all week - friends pitching in - giving up "Nintendo" time
There were more important things on their minds **Chorus**

*Christmas had become a time of getting what I think I need
Of shopping more in crowded stores - of specials, sales, and greed
It took a tug of tenderness and an innocent appeal
For Christmas to become again what's real*

Like the smile on a face and warm embrace
Giving thanks for family & friends
Finding that those needing food and clothes aren't that different from us in the end
We thanked God for life's good gifts - remembering the reason
With sights, sounds, and songs of the season

**Let's sing 'em all and call that Christmas
Let's sing 'em all - Don't you agree?!
Let's sing 'em all - give what they need
And share the love we've seen
Let's sing 'em all - and call that Christmas**

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Track # 8 ~ You Are

words & music: Bryan Field McFarland
John Knox Center in Kingston, TN - 2006

You are our energy, our life, our religion
You are the songs we sing and life's deep definition
You are the reason why. You are at every core.
You are the soul's supply. You are the evermore.

***You are All in all. You are God above.
You are Life itself. You are perfect Love.***

You are our confidante, our breath, our truest treasure.
You are our home, our jaunt, our life, our Lord, our leisure.
More than some bearded, old dude enthroned upon a cloud.
You're in the shared, the solitude. You're in both low and loud, cuz... **CHORUS**

You're in the cry of babies young. You're in the play of youth.
You're in sorrows as yet unsung. You're in our search for truth.
You're in our times of deep despair. You're in our aging eyes.
You're in our jump from here to there. You're in that next surprise, cuz... **CHORUS**

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Track # 9 ~ Help Us

words & music: Bryan Field McFarland
Mt. Juliet, TN - 2006

Help us find our rhythm while we walk this road
Help us keep it level while we bear this load
Hope springs up inside us from the many seeds you've sowed
Help us find our rhythm while we walk this road

Help us, Lord, help us!
Help us, Lord, help us!

Help us hear your quiet. Still and small your voice
Help us keep a diet with each daily choice
Dreams convey your message 'midst the latest noise
Help us hear your quiet. Still and small your voice **Chorus**

Help us when we're broken – your healing streams abound
Help us before we've spoken the right words to have found
Root us to the present when we find no ground
Help us when we're broken – your healing streams abound **Chorus**

Help us see the sunrise - new each dawning day
Help us wake and be wise - no longer to delay
Love is here to guide us whatever comes our way
Help us see the sunrise - new each dawning day **Chorus**

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Track # 10 ~ Get Back Behind Me lyrics: Todd Hester & Bryan Field McFarland music: Bryan
Montreat, NC - 2005

Jesus and his disciples out for a walk one day
And Jesus asked, "Who do folks say I am?"
"Some say John the Baptizer. Elijah others say."
Peter said, "You're anointed by the Great I AM."

Jesus said, "Not a word 'bout this, keep it quiet, try to take it in."
Then he proceeded to tell them all how it would be.
And with Jesus talkin' 'bout trial, rejection and sufferin'
Peter hollered, "No way!" Jesus said, "Get behind me."

***Get back, get back there. You better get back, get back there
You better get back. Get back behind me. [repeat]***

Now, folks we keep a-thinkin' it's all about Easy Street.
Road signs pointing up and out of our pain.
Cuz all life's highways leave us with tired and blistered feet.
But there's an even high-er way where loss is reckoned gain. [Phillipians 3:7]

Life ain't about the power, the money or the fame.
It's about the things that we can't lose that easily
Oh, those who lead in times like these follow in Jesus' name.
We look back & say, "No way!" Jesus says "Get behind me!" **Chorus**

So, Jesus and his disciples out for a walk one day
Still talking about how everything's gonna be.
And Jesus says he ain't some path where troubles just melt away.
"Get ahead," promises Easy Street. Jesus says, "Get behind me." **Chorus**

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Track # 11 ~ What I Want

words & music: Bryan Field McFarland
Huntington, WV & Gallatin, TN – 2004 & 2005

*Late one night there in my bed asking God for daily bread
I asked God what God would want instead. And this is what God said...*

I want joy. I want peace. I want the knowledge of my diversity to increase.
I want home. I want love. I want to know that I'm generally well thought of.
And I want families to thrive. For all to know that I'm alive.
And I want food, clothing, and shelter for all people.

***That's what I want...thanks for asking.
That's what I want... thank you for asking.***

I want you. I want them. I want that new video by REM.
I want the Cubs to win it all.
I want folks to recognize there's more to life than NASCAR and football.
I want war to go away. I want sunsets by Monet.
And I want fireside warmth for everyone who's chilled.
I want the taste of honeydew. I want my black belt in Kung Fu.
And I want pay that's right in line with someone's skills. **CHORUS**

I want green. I want shining stars.
I want the best possible gas mileage from brand new cars.
I want life. I want smiles.
I want everyone to know the difference between gators and crocodiles.
I want greed to go to hell. I want a nice White Zinfandel
to sip at night with friends around the hearth.
And I want yes to mean yes. I want no to just mean no.
And I want the best for all creatures on the earth. **CHORUS**

I want songs. I want art. I wanna understand the philosophy of Rene Descartes.
I want love to win the day. I want hope to be felt by everyone in every way.
I want cooperation plus between the peoples of this earth.
'Cause no one's got it all right. No, not one.
And I want dreams to goad you on, to take you down the road you're on.
And I want all to know I love them come what may. **CHORUS**

I want joy. I want peace. Hmmmmm, I want....

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Track # 12 ~ Lyrica (Celtic Prayer)

words & music: Bryan Field McFarland
St. Meinrad, IN - 1999 and Greensboro, NC - 2006

God above you to guard your head.
God beneath you - the path you tread.
God within you and through you to be.
God without you in all that you see.
 God before you to light your course.
 God behind you - your ever present Source.
 God around you in kindred and kirk.
 God astound you in culture and work.

Christ in our teaching. Christ in our cares.
Christ in our preaching. Christ in our prayers.
Christ in our wounds. Christ in our pain.
Christ in our losses. Christ in our gain.
 With Christ we abide. With Christ we are pleased.
 With Christ crucified. With Christ released.
 With Christ we're perfected. With Christ unafraid.
 With Christ resurrected. With Christ we're remade.

Through Spirit we learn allegiance. Through Spirit gain our voice.
Through Spirit, an end to violence. Through Spirit, the gift of choice.
From Spirit comes deliverance. From Spirit comes our best.
From Spirit comes our confidence. From Spirit peace and rest.
 For God is Salvation, our Hope and our Friend.
 For Christ, a celebration and praise without end.
 For Spirit we bring our difference, our time, talents, all.
 For God we sing our reverence. For God is All in all.

God above us to guard our head.
God beneath us - the path we tread.
God within us and through us to be.
God without us in all that we see.

- STORY-BEHIND-THE SONG -

Coming soon. These things take time! :))