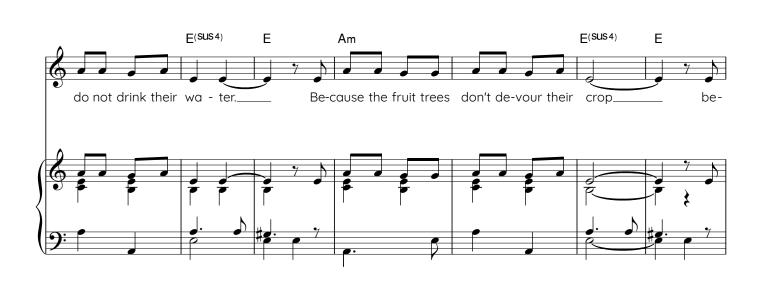


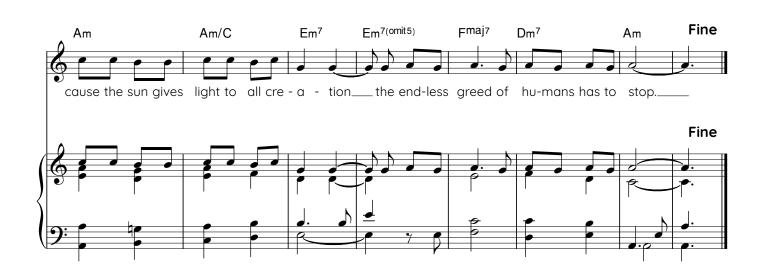
## **Because**

Porque

John L Bell April 22nd 2025









2: Because the world with purpose and with beauty produces daily liturgy for God, we have no right to sabotage the pleasure of nature off'ring worship to its Lord.

Instead we should seek harmony with nature become the willing servants of the earth, enabling it to fertilise and flourish, forever bringing life and hope to birth.

3: Because the world was living long before us and poses no threat to humanity; because its health and beauty can restore us, we must respect its great integrity.

So let us work to guarantee all people have food and freedom, health and happiness, by sharing all the good that God has given with all the faith and justice we profess.

- 4: Praise to the Lord and lover of creation,
  Praise to the Son in whom all life is bound,
  Praise to the ever active Holy Spirit,
  - One God whose gifted world is common ground.

Written and presented to SCIAF by Rev. John L Bell of the Iona Community, to mark 60 years of solidarity with our sisters and brothers across the world.

Text: John L. Bell, based on the writings of Pope Francis.

Tune: SURSUM CORDA,
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Arrangement: John L. Bell
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## 60 YEARS OF CHANGE

"I have been delighted to be part of this collaboration between SCIAF and Rev John L Bell of the Iona Community. John is an internationally recognised hymn writer and noted ecumenist. His generosity in writing a hymn to mark the 60th year of SCIAF's service to the poorest of the poor is a blessing for us all. His words place on our lips the St Francis-inspired praise of God for creation. It also commits us to care for our common home "with all the faith and justice we profess". John has beautifully based his hymn on words of Pope Francis, especially on Laudato Si'. It was finished the day after the Holy Father died. I hope the hymn will soon be sung throughout Scotland and beyond."

## Canon Michael A Hutson VG

Parish Priest St Mary's Benbecula SCIAF Board Member

