

Your Love, O God written by Anders Frostenson 1968, trans. by Fred Kaan 1972

United Methodist Hymnal #120

Your love, O God is broad like beach and meadow,  
wide as the wind and our eternal home.

You leave us free to seek You or reject You,  
And give us room to answer 'yes' or 'no'.

Refrain:

Your love, O God is broad like beach and meadow,  
wide as the wind and our eternal home.

We long for freedom where our truest being  
Is given hope and courage to unfold.  
We seek in freedom, space and scope for dreaming  
And look for ground where trees and plants can grow.

Refrain:

But there are walls that keep us all divided;  
We fence each other in with hate and war.  
Fear is the bricks and mortar of our prison  
Our pride of self the prison coat we wear.

Refrain:

O judge us Lord, and in Your judgement free us,  
And set our feet in freedom's open space;  
Take us as far as Your compassion wanders  
Among the children of the human race.

Refrain:

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Why do you think the writer wanted such a focus on the size of God's love that 5 times he repeated "Your love, O God is broad like beach and meadow, wide as the wind"? Do you see God's love that way? If not, why? How would you describe God's love? Do you feel your description limits God in any way? Why do you think you feel this way about God's love?

Psalm 37:39-40 "The spacious, free life is from GOD, it's also protected and safe. GOD-strengthened, we're delivered from evil - when we run to him, he saves us." The Message

We long for freedom where our truest being  
Is given hope and courage to unfold.  
We seek in freedom, space and scope for dreaming  
And look for ground where trees and plants can grow.

Do you feel God's protection and strengthening help to give you "hope and courage to unfold"? Why?

When we "run to Him (God), He saves us" – this means we have answered yes to God's call. Why do you think this is an important step?

But there are walls that keep us all divided;  
We fence each other in with hate and war.  
Fear is the bricks and mortar of our prison  
Our pride of self the prison coat we wear.

The writer describes walls of "hate and war", "fear" and "pride". What other types of walls might separate us? Have you experienced any of these? What causes these walls to be built?

Have you built walls? What type? Why did you build them? Do they still stand? If not, how did you bring them down? If the walls still stand, how come?

Galatians 5:13-15 "It is absolutely clear that God has called you to a free life. Just make sure that you don't use this freedom as an excuse to do whatever you want to do and destroy your freedom. Rather, use your freedom to serve one another in love; that's how freedom grows. For everything we know about God's Word is summed up in a single sentence: Love others as you love yourself. That's an act of true freedom. If you bite and ravage each other, watch out—in no time at all you will be annihilating each other, and where will your precious freedom be then?" The Message

O judge us Lord, and in Your judgement free us,  
And set our feet in freedom's open space;  
Take us as far as Your compassion wanders  
Among the children of the human race.

Do you think it's necessary for God to judge us before granting us freedom? Why? What might happen if God doesn't judge us?

In Paul's letter to the Galatians he writes "use your freedom to serve one another in love; that's how freedom grows." What does this mean to you? Do you agree with Paul? Why? Does this help us when we ask God to "take us as far as Your compassion wanders"? How?