



Doxecology* by Resound Worship—a new album of contemporary, congregational worship songs on themes of creation, ecology and Christian hope—will be released on 1 September 2020.

Alongside the 13-track album there are scores and charts, backing tracks and lyric videos (with streaming permission), and an accompanying book of studies with contributions from some leading scholars and practitioners in the fields of environmental concern and worship.

A review copy of the album is available for download [here](#).

Full Release Dates:

Single 1 <i>Heaven's Voice Brings The Dawn</i>	3 August 20 (YouTube video)
Single 2 <i>If The Fields Are Parched (Have Mercy)</i>	18 August 20
Full album	1 September 20

*This release date is just before the *Season of Creation* begins on Sunday 6 September.

ABOUT DOXECOLOGY

The *Doxecology* collection is the result of a two-year writing process. It began as a response to the growing climate crisis and the recognition of a disconnect between these real concerns and the language and content of our songs in church. As a songwriting team, we strongly believe that what we sing forms us as Christians and reinforces our priorities in life. We really couldn't find much else out there on this subject. And we love nothing more than to explore a gap area.

We began by reading, researching and studying – getting to grips with developments in theology, recognising that we had a lot to learn before we began to write. Some way into the project, we felt it was growing bigger than us, so we opened it up into a worldwide search for songs from other writers, for which we had 150 submissions. Several months of sifting, editing and honing later, and the final collection was assembled. Throughout the writing process, we were kindly supported by the (now retired) President of *A Rocha International*, Peter Harris.

Careful plans to record the album live at a multi-generational retreat over Easter were suddenly shelved with the arrival of Covid-19. We had to quickly develop a new approach and a new sound. Producer, Matt Weeks, drafted in musicians with their own studios and recording facilities who could work within the lockdown conditions. This opened up new possibilities for contributors, including the acclaimed producer, conductor and percussionist Troy Miller (Amy Winehouse, Laura Mvula, Gregory Porter) on drums and Mark Edwards (Katie Melua, Ben Castle, Stuart Townend) on piano. As is the usual style for Resound – who operate

more as a team of songwriters than 'artists' – guest vocalists contributed to most of the tracks. These include Gemma & Timo Scharnowski (*The Forest Feeling*), James Martin, Matt Tinsley, Paul Zach (*The Porter's Gate*), Silla Mosely, Ryan Flanigan (*Liturgical Folk*) in addition to Resound's own Andy Clark & Geraldine Latty. Group vocals were provided in lockdown by many participants in our 12 Song Challenge, a monthly songwriting initiative.

The accompanying *Doxecology Study Guide* includes 13 chapters of Biblical reflection to accompany the album, a resource which we hope will be used as a devotional by individuals, and a study primer for small groups. In addition to members of the Resound Worship team, contributors include Jeremy Begbie (*Cambridge/Duke University*), David Taylor (*Fuller Seminary*), Dave Bookless (*A Rocha International*), Rachel Wilhelm (*United Adoration*), Sara Hargreaves (*Engage Worship*), Jack Wakefield (*Tearfund*) and Jeremy Williams (*Christian Climate Action*). The book concludes with three *Doxecology* service outlines, created by *Engage Worship*, including prayers, poetic readings and all-age worship activities.

'*Doxecology*' is a portmanteau of *doxology* (praise) and *ecology*. We stumbled across it when playing around with album title ideas, back in 2018.

"As Christians with a growing awareness of the environmental crisis, and as worship leaders in our own churches, we were increasingly aware of the need for these two areas of worship – loving God, loving his creation – to come together in song. We know that the words of our songs are powerful, they influence our theology and they shape how we see the world. It is all too easy for worship songs to lapse into a dualist message where the earth is something to be escaped and heaven the prize, when the true Biblical narrative is of an eternity on a restored earth with Christ. We set out to write songs that would feel at home in a typical contemporary service, not overstating the themes to a point of awkwardness, but weaving them into the styles and language of our regular worship. For us, this has been a transformative process, a journey of revelation, confession, and hope. Our prayer is that these songs would lead others on that same journey."

Joel Payne, Resound Worship

"Doxecology is such an important and significant initiative. We truly are what we love, and in worship our triune God draws us to love all that he loves. He cares for all life on earth and can turn our hearts from destruction. He cares for the poor who suffer most from the current crises his hand-made world is facing. In these times of widespread assault on his creation all over the world, may these new hymns and songs of worship renew the passion of God's people to live the good news, to lament, and to renew our hope in Christ."

Peter Harris, A Rocha

"The Psalmists remind us that creation praises God before we do, and here is a chance to celebrate just that. Just as important, it's a chance to lament that humans are now stifling that praise in shameful ways. Doxecology re-centres us on Christ, in whom the world's deepest catastrophe has been dealt with, and a new future opened up. May it renew our faith, hope and commitment to all that God has made."

Jeremy Begbie, Duke University

"We are very much in need of new worship songs celebrating and reflecting on God's creation. This project is therefore timely and very welcome."

Richard Bauckham

"Those who write songs and hymns for worship can easily get stuck in a groove and forget the larger message of the gospel of God's kingdom. This splendid project will go a long way towards remedying that and enabling the next generation more fully to glorify the God of creation and new creation"

Tom Wright

'I believe it is vital and urgent that our sung worship should tell God's big story of the world, from creation to new creation, and equip us to sing into our hearts and daily lives a Christ-centred vision and response to the enormous challenges the world is facing today.'

Graham Kendrick

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ABOUT RESOUND WORSHIP

Established in 2006 *Resound Worship* is a ministry of the *Song & Hymn Writers Foundation*, a charity which also includes the hymn writing group *Jubilate*. This is the third studio album from the team, with a live album produced in addition last year. Writers are drawn from local churches throughout England and work in a collaborative style built around group critique. In addition to regularly writing and publishing songs, they also produce the [Resound Worship Songwriting Podcast](#) each month, with a community of 150 songwriters worldwide taking part in the *12 Song Challenge*.

www.doxecology.org

www.resoundworship.org

www.shwf.org

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Resound Worship is a working name of the Song & Hymn Writers Foundation, a charity registered in England & Wales no 1170493.

LYRICS

1 HEAVEN'S VOICE BRINGS THE DAWN

Heaven's voice brings the dawn,
out of chaos is born
new creation
exploding with wonder;
planets spin into space,
earth and sky find their place,
all of nature
awakes to its maker.

You say everything you've made is good:
the sun, the moon,
the stars that shine above.
You say everything you've made is good:
the land, the seas
and all that lives and breathes.

*We sing praise to the maker,
to our King, our creator:
praise to Almighty God.
All creation together
singing one hallelujah:
praise to Almighty God.*

We are formed from the dust,
with your image in us,
given life by the breath
you are breathing;
called to work and to care,
called to nurture and share;
called to serve you
and walk where you're leading.
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2 GOD OF IMMEASURABLE MIGHT

God of immeasurable might,
whose hands shaped the sun in the sky;
on solid foundations established creation
and gave it life.
Everything made by design,
crafted with wisdom divine;
painted with purpose on your living canvas,
making the world come alive!

*Praise the Lord, my soul!
God, you are wonderful!
All of creation breathes because of you.
You have poured your heart
into this work of art
and, with breath you gave,
the world responds in praise:
thank you for all you have made!*

You are the giver of life,
sustainer of all in your sight;
you care for the needs
of the creatures beneath
your watchful eye.
You're our creator and King,
your goodness surrounds everything;
ruling with kindness and walking beside us,
reigning in majesty.
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3 NATURE SHINES WITH BEAUTY

Nature shines with beauty,
bringing us a revelation
of the Maker's glory,
leading us in adoration.

*O God who made the stars
and formed us from the dust,
your plans are over ours
and all your ways are love.*

Nature groans in labour,
longing for the revelation
of the Maker's children
on the day of liberation
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4 HEAR THE SONG OF OUR LAMENT

Hear the song of our lament,
we grieve a dry and broken land;
hearts have turned from your intent
and earth is ravaged by our hand.

Oceans weep for beauty lost,
and forests plead for your return,
fields are drenched in tears and blood;
all nature groans beneath sin's curse.

*Have mercy, have mercy,
have mercy on us, Lord.
Renew us, restore us,
have mercy on us, Lord.*

Peoples rage and nations rise
to war and waste for senseless gain,
turning from creation's cries
and trading glory in for shame.

Lead us in your Eden call
to live as those who bear your name;
show us how to love your world
until the day you come again.
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5 GOD THE MAKER OF THE HEAVENS

God, the maker of the heavens,
and the planet that we share,
show us how to live, like Jesus,
lives of gratitude and care.
Make us mindful of the footprints
from the lives that we pursue.
Make us partners in your mission:
you are making all things new.

God, the gardener of Eden,
teach us how to tend this earth,
learning from the changing seasons,
times of fallow and new birth.
Lord have mercy when we're careless,
rich resources we misuse.
Use our hands to heal creation:
you are making all things new.

God of labour and vocation,
Lord of science, trade and art,
take our efforts and our passions
make them mirrors of your heart.
Every habitat and creature
loved and valued, God, by you.
May our lives reveal your Kingdom:
you are making all things new.

You are making all things new,
you are making all things new,
all things renewed!
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6 WE ARE THE TENANTS OF THE KING

We are the tenants of the King,
we are the workers in his garden,
so we will live and love and care
for this the planet that we share.

We bear the image of our God
and we are sharing in his mission,
so we will follow as we serve,
to see the healing of the Earth.

*As we wait for the dawning of the day
when the King is coming,
we will live for his glory
and his praise.*

For in the victory of the cross
we have a hope of restoration,
all things together under Christ,
a world of flourishing and life.

So fill us up and lead us on
to see the coming of your kingdom,
and we will labour as we sing
for we're the tenants of the King.
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7 LET ALL CREATION SING (NATURE PROCLAIMS HIS NAME)

*Let all creation sing before the Lord
and every nation of the earth rejoice,
let all the trees lift a shout of joy
for the Lord is King.
Let the deep waters of the sea resound,
let every mountain, every hill sing out,
let all the fields make a joyful sound
for the Lord is King.*

Mighty river, barren desert,
howling wind and stormy weather,
every canyon every valley,
sing your praise and give him glory.
Nature proclaims the glory of our God,
nature proclaims his name.

Every star and constellation,
every wonder in the heavens,
silver moon and supernova,
sing a shining hallelujah!
Nature proclaims...

Honey bees and weeping willows,
grizzly bears and armadillos,
every narwhal and sea otter,
every son and every daughter.
Nature proclaims...

La la la la la la - All the earth, praise the Lord
La la la la la la - All the earth, praise the Lord
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songs@integritymusic.com)

8 IF THE FIELDS ARE PARCHED (HAVE MERCY)

If the fields are parched
and the trees are felled
will the rocks cry aloud on their own?
If the birds are starved
and the beasts are killed
will the bones in the dust lift a song?

*Have mercy, Lord,
have mercy, Lord.
Forgive our broken ways.
Have mercy, Lord,
have mercy, Lord.
Renew the world you made.*

As the oceans rise
and the wells run dry
do we care if disaster is near?
If our children starve
will they cry to God?
will they curse us for closing our ears?

Still a day will come
when the Lord returns
and the earth will be perfect again
No more greed or war,
no more tooth and claw,
for the wolf and the lamb will be friends

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9 BE STILL MY SOUL

Why are you downcast, O my soul,
so full of fear where once was hope?
Remember God still loves the world:
be still, my soul.

Beneath the shadow of each storm,
in all the sorrow and despair,
Remember God still loves the world:
be still, my soul.

*Be still, my soul, trust in your God,
his perfect ways, his endless love.
Be still and know he reigns above the earth.
Be still, my soul, be still, my soul.*

In all your striving, find his peace,
become a shining light of grace
and show that God still loves the world:
be still, my soul.

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10 LET THE EARTH FIND REST

As the seeds are planted,
let them yield a harvest,
when the crops are gathered:
let the earth find rest.

As the workers labour,
they deserve their wages,
let them feast with gladness:
let the earth find rest.

*Let the earth find rest
as the Lord provides,
till the day of perfect peace;
for the Lord is good
and his love endures
and his mercies never cease.*

When the wealthy prosper,
may their hearts be generous,
let them hate injustice:
let the earth find rest.

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11 YOU SAW THAT IT WAS GOOD

At your bidding there was beginning,
at your summons this world was formed,
all things living brought into being
by the power of your word.

You saw that it was good,
you saw that it was good,
help us give you thanks
with the praise and awe we should.

*For all your ways are good,
yes, all your ways are good;
God of all creation,
all your ways are good.*

In this garden that you have given,
we were hungry for all its fruit,
so we plundered the earth and oceans,
seizing more than we were due.
We stole from what was good,
we stole from what was good,
help us face the truth
with the honesty we should.

For all your ways are good...

As the planet longs for redemption,
spoiled and reeling from nature's loss,
we remember the source of healing
flowing out from Jesus' cross.
You came down for our good,
you came down for our good,
help us look to you
with the hope and faith we should.

For all your ways are good...

If we bow down and seek your mercy,
will you hear us and still forgive?
Holy Spirit, make us determined
to reshape the way we live.
Restore all that is good,
restore all that is good,
help us change our hearts
so we show the care we should.

For all your ways are good...

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13 GREAT DAY

God, the Word of life, created all,
sun and moon and galaxies beyond,
giving life to all that lives and breathes,
grace and love supplying every need.
Yet we wait for the day.

*In Christ we hope,
by faith we know
our redemption is close,
but still the earth groans.*

God, our hope, has heard creation call,
pouring out his mercy on the earth,
giving us his one and only Son
rescuing the world he loves so much.
Yet we wait for the day.

The earth will be healed,
creation set free,
in the great day of the Lord.
The whole earth restored,
in beauty and awe,
in the great day of the Lord

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12 WHERE ARE YOU IN THE STORM

Where are you, in the storm,
in the chaos can you hear
our desperate call?
Water rising, are you sleeping:
are you Lord after all?

Where are you, in the rain?
Earth is crying
for an end to all its pain.
We are sinking, heaven weeping:
will we see light again?

*In the storm, you're the anchor,
you are our hope, you are the shield.
Every rainbow a promise:
you love this world,
all of creation will be healed.*

O speak your mighty word;
raging waters will bow down
before their Lord.
Peace commanding, promise keeping:
of a planet restored.

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