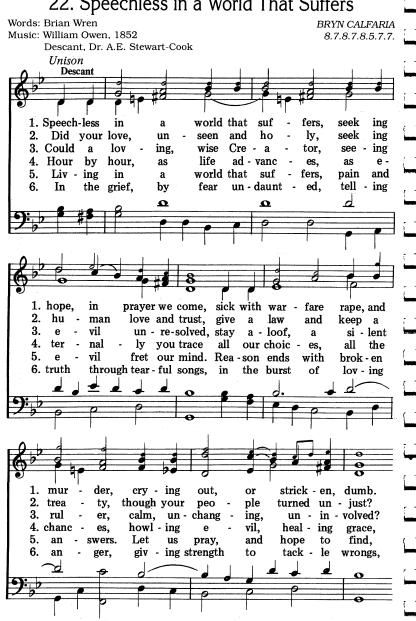
22. Speechless in a World That Suffers



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22. Speechless in a World That Suffers

Words: Brian Wren 8.7.8.7.8.5.7.7.

- Speechless in a world that suffers, seeking hope, in prayer we come, sick with warfare, rape, and murder, crying out, or stricken, dumb.
 Are you loving? Are you listening?
 Hear our hearts, crying, Why, Oh Why, Oh Why, Oh Why?
 Will you help, or pass us by?
- 2. Did your love, unseen and holy, seeking human love and trust, give a law and keep a treaty, though your people turned unjust? Did you tend them through affliction, loving still, judging, grieving, weeping, feeling loss, in a foretaste of the cross?
- 3. Could a loving, wise Creator, seeing evil unresolved, stay aloof, a silent ruler, calm, unchanging, uninvolved? Could a heart that heard the Savior, near despair, crying,

"Why, Oh why, am I alone?", sit unmoved, as cold as stone?

4. Hour by hour, as life advances, as eternally you trace all our choices, all the chances, howling evil, healing grace, far beyond our understanding, do you know, weighing every if and why and where, iov and grief beyond compare?

- 5. Living in a world that suffers, pain and evil fret our mind.
 Reason ends with broken answers.
 Let us pray, and hope to find, through each other, joined together, Christ alive, caring, bearing evil, giving joy that the world cannot destroy.
- 6. In the grief, by fear undaunted, telling truth through tearful songs, in the burst of loving anger, giving strength to tackle wrongs, in a neighbor, in a stranger, show your love, living, glowing, warming, gleaming bright, like a candle in the night.

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September 1995. Commissioned by the 1995 Chi-Rho Lecture Series, Eugene, Oregon, where Dorothee Sölle lectured on, "After the Shoah: Half a Century Later - Theological Reflections on Remembrance, Pain and Hope." Stanzas 2 and 3 may be read over quiet organ improvisation or sung as solos. I am indebted to Elizabeth Johnson, She Who Is (SCM Press, London, and Crossroad Books, New York), Chapter 12. Mark 15:34 and parallels.