**Surely There Is Still a Song**

The dark door of time, of the future, has been thrown open. The one who has hope lives differently; the one who hopes has been granted the gift of a new life.

* **Pope Benedict XVI, *Spe Salvi***

Father of All Peoples,

As shadows lengthen, I despair in my task.

For in my work, how can I not see how the world is broken?

The darkness, like a wolf, preys upon the weakest.

The cold chills the wanderer in her travels.

And hunger gnaws at the poor man.

But amid all this, you have delivered us into this season

Not of darkness and despair

But of hope for the one who waits.

Of all good things being possible.

Of an angel’s message, so transcendent

That a young woman

Alone and beset by scandal and nearly forgotten by the world

Can sing a song of the lowly being exalted,

Of the hungry being filled,

Of loving mercy for all who call on God,

Of God himself being born into the world.

Surely there is still a song within me

For it is mine to serve to the Lord.

The dark door of time has been thrown open

And one who has hope lives differently.

God of hope, hear our song!

Maranatha! Come, Lord Jesus, come!

**Amen**