**'He Is Not Here'**

**(c. Axford & Robinson 2024)**

The deepest silence held

As I walked to the grave

I had no more to give

To him who always gave

Too late, I found the words

I know I should have said

And now that he was gone,

I knew that love was dead.

The trees I passed were bare

A memory of leaves

I saw with my mind's eye

My Lord between two thieves

But then the rocks and stones

All seemed to hold their breath

As if they knew that life

Had broken free from death

*Chorus:*

*What do you seek?*

*He is not here*

*Come see the place*

*Where Christ has cast out fear*

*The world you knew*

*Has passed away*

*Rise up and claim*

*This resurrection day*

Outside of earthly time

I sensed this garden stood,

As if a living shoot

Had grown from winter's wood.

I only came to mourn,

To tend this fallen bloom

But found new signs of life

Inside an empty tomb.

*What do you seek?...*

I cannot hope to grasp

What lies beyond my reach

I strain to find the words

That lie beyond my speech

It was my master's voice,

And hanging in the air

The scent of unseen flowers

Seemed to linger there.

*What do you seek?....*

Then from the grave I walked,

And in the morning sun

I found new hope in him

And all his pain had won

I saw a world still touched

By early morning dew

With heaven in my eyes

I say these words to you

*What do you seek?…*