

### **I vow to thee, my country**

I vow to thee, my country,  
    all earthly things above,  
Entire and whole and perfect,  
    the service of my love;  
The love that asks no question,  
    the love that stands the test  
That lays upon the altar  
    the dearest and the best;  
The love that never falters,  
    the love that pays the price,  
The love that makes undaunted  
    the final sacrifice.

And there's another country,  
    I've heard of long ago,  
Most dear to them that love her,  
    most great to them that know;  
We may not count her armies,  
    we may not see her King;  
Her fortress is a faithful heart,  
    her pride is suffering;  
And soul by soul and silently  
    her shining bounds increase,  
And her ways are ways of gentleness,  
    and all her paths are peace.

Cecil Spring Rice (1859-1918)

### **Magnificat Now!**

Sing we a song of high revolt;  
make great the Lord, his name exalt!  
Sing we the song that Mary sang  
of God at war with human wrong.

Sing we of him who deeply cares  
and still with us our burden bears.  
He who with strength the proud disowns,  
brings down the mighty from their thrones.

By him the poor are lifted up;  
he satisfies with bread and cup  
the hungry ones of many lands;  
the rich must go with empty hands.

He calls us to revolt and fight  
with him for what is just and right,  
to sing and live Magnificat  
in crowded street and council flat.

*Fred Kaan (born 1929)*

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