

Oil spill hymn

Heidi Schlumpf | Jul. 7, 2010 NCR Today

The Gulf oil spill probably doesn't make you feel like singing, but a hymn written for the occasion calls for contrition and stewardship.

Written by Presbyterian minister [Carolyn Winfrey Gillette](#) [1] in response to the ongoing oil spill from the Deepwater Horizon offshore drilling rig, "O God, the Great, Wide Seas Are Yours" laments:

*Forgive us when we disobey
And fail to care for what you've made.
Consuming more than what we should,
We harm the waters you call good.*

Its final verse implores:

*God, may we hear your call anew
To care for all these gifts from you.
May we protect the sea and shore
By using less, conserving more...*

Liturgists can (and will) argue the merits of such a hymn and the lyrics of this particular one, but I, for one, admire Protestants for being on top of current events. The entire hymn is on the [website](#) [2] of Church World Service, a cooperative ministry of 36 Christian denominations and organizations (and organizer of the CROP Hunger Walk.) Can you imagine this song in a Catholic church?

Source URL (retrieved on 07/25/2017 - 23:54): <https://www.ncronline.org/blogs/ncr-today/oil-spill-hymn>

Links:

[1] <http://www.carolynshymns.com/index.html>

[2]

http://www.churchworldservice.org/site/PageServer?pagename=resource_worship_hymns_o_god_the_great_wide_seas