

# When Hands Reach Out

O WALY WALY LM (“Though I May Speak” Presbyterian Hymnal #335)

When hands reach out and fingers trace  
The beauty of a loved one’s face,  
We thank you, God, that love relies  
On gifts of grace not seen with eyes.

When fingers spell and signs express  
Our prayer and praise and thankfulness.  
We thank you, God, that hands can sing;  
You bless the silent songs we bring.

When broken bodies will not mend,  
We thank you, God, for Christ our Friend.  
In him, our healing can begin:  
He welcomes all the wounded in.

And when the ways we learn and grow  
Are not the ways that others know,  
We thank you, God, that we have learned  
Your love’s a gift, and never earned.

Your Spirit gives us differing ways  
To serve you well and offer praise.  
When all are joined as one, we’ll be  
Your able, strong community.

Tune: English folk melody. Harmonization ©1999 John Weaver. All rights reserved.

Alternate Tune: TALLIS’CANON LM by Thomas Tallis, Adapt. Parker’s Whole Psalter, c. 1561  
(PH #542: “All Praise to Thee, My God, This Night”)

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This hymn was commissioned by the Second Presbyterian Church in Little Rock, Arkansas for a 2001 conference on disabilities.