

# Gathered and Scattered

Song



John L Bell

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# Gathered and Scattered

Words & Music: John L. Bell

Tune: GATHERED & SCATTERED

## Refrain

Gath - ered and scat - tered, to - geth - er and a - lone,

God made us dif - f'rent and called us in - to one.

Gath - ered and scat - tered, to - geth - er and a - lone,

we are one bod - y in Christ.

To Verses | Last time

Verses

1. "Love one an - oth - er" - spo - ken by Je - sus  
 2. "You are my moth - er, sis - ter and broth - er,  
 3. "When I was hun - gry, un - der sus - pi - cion,  
 4. We did not call him, but he has called us

not as re - quest but as com - mand.  
 you are the ones whom I call friends."  
 and when im - pris - oned, where were you?"  
 to be his bod - y here on earth.

This is the treas - ure, this is the meas - ure  
 We are the fam - 'ly Je - sus in - tend - ed  
 Where peo - ple suf - fer, where the world wea - ries,  
 This is our priv - 'lege, this our com - mis - sion,

by which we stum - ble or we stand.  
 to mod - el love that nev - er ends.  
 jus - tice for all is o - ver - due.  
 this our de - light, and this our worth.

D.C.

*Refrain*

Gathered and scattered,  
together and alone,  
God made us different  
and called us into one.  
Gathered and scattered,  
together and alone, we  
are one body in Christ.

1. "Love one another"  
spoken by Jesus  
not as request  
but as command.  
This is the treasure,  
this is the measure  
by which we stumble  
or we stand.
2. "You are my mother,  
sister and brother,  
you are the ones  
whom I call friends".  
We are the family  
Jesus intended  
to model love  
that never ends.
3. "When I was hungry,  
under suspicion,  
and when imprisoned,  
where were you?"  
Where people suffer  
where the world wearies,  
justice for all  
is overdue.
4. We did not call him,  
but he has called us  
to be his body  
here on earth.  
This is our privilege  
this our commission  
this our delight,  
and this our worth.

The words "gathered and scattered" are part of an affirmation used by the Iona Community when members meet for worship in plenary or home groups. It seemed to me a phrase which perfectly represented the nature of the Church. Most believers meet for common worship, but spend the rest of their lives apart from their fellow congregants, living as close to God when apart as when together.

This piece was first sung at the last session of a series of Community gatherings, which enabled members and friends on both sides of the Atlantic to engage with each other on Zoom.

*John L. Bell*

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