

## A LITANY FOR TIMES OF FIRE

O Lord, when we cry out in fear and desperation,

**Raise us up from the ashes and hear us.**

When fire swallows up our hopes and dreams,

**Raise us up from the ashes and help us.**

When our lives and livelihoods are consumed by flame,

**Raise us up from the ashes and save us.**

When smoke clouds our hope and shrouds our joy,

**Raise us up from the ashes and give us peace.**

In Christ, life springs forth from the dust and ashes.

**In Christ, our lives will be raised from the ashes. In Christ, all things will be made new**

O Lord, when fires rage and consume the land,

**Stir up in us the fire of your love.**

When homes are reduced to embers and ashes,

**Stir up in us the fire of your love.**

When families are displaced and tomorrow is uncertain.

**Stir up in us the fire of your love.**

Calm the anxiety that turns us in on ourselves.

**For in you, O Lord, is new life.**

Grant us faith to trust that even the dust will live by your breath.

**For in you, O Lord, is new life.**

Extend our lives in service that we might fan the flames of hope.

**For in you, O Lord, is new life. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

## Once We Sang and Danced



- 1 Once we sang and danced with glad-ness, once de-light filled ev-'ry breath;
- 2 All the wil-lows bow in weep-ing, all the riv-ers rage and moan,
- 3 God, who came to dwell a-mong us, God, who suf-fered our dis-grace,
- 4 Come, O Christ, a-mong the ash-es, come to wipe our tears a-way,



now we sit a-mong the ash-es, all our dreams de-stroyed by death.  
as cre-a-tion joins our plead-ing: "God, do not leave us a-lone."  
from your own heart, grieved and wound-ed, come the rich-es of your grace.  
death de-stry and sor-row ban-ish; now and al-ways, come and stay.

Text: Susan R. Briehl, b. 1952, based on Psalm 137

Music: KAS DZIEDĀJA, Latvian folk tune

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Holy God, in the wake of fires that devour and consume,

**Refresh us with the water of life.**

In the barren places of ash and dust,

**Restore us with the water of life.**

When all we can see is devastation and despair,

**Renew us with the water of life.**

In Christ, we are washed clean.

**We are refreshed.**

In Christ, we drink from the wellspring of hope.

**We are restored.**

In Christ, we dance in the fountain of life.

**We are renewed. Thanks be to God. Amen.**