715 The Earth Belongs to God Alone

1 The earth belongs to God alone; hard
clay, rich soil, fine sand. Give thanks wherever
food is grown on borrowed holy land.

2 The fertile ground through years of toil has
cried for Sabbath rest—a time of peace for
worn-out soil so land can be refreshed.

3 All life belongs to God alone, in
wilderness and fields. From fallow land, or
plowed and sown, God gives the good it yields.

4 Till God endows the earth once more with
Eden's state of grace, may we endeavor
to restore all land as sacred space.

This text emerged from a study of the attention in Levitical laws to the well-being of the land, especially by calling for fallow periods, or “land sabbaths,” to preserve the soil. 2 Chronicles 36:21 even suggests that the Babylonian exile may have resulted from abusing the land.

TEXT: Adam M. L. Tice, 2006
MUSIC: William F. Rowan, 1992
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