God is working his purpose out Hymnal 1982 no. 534 Irregular metre

(Melody still in copyright)

God is working his purpose out

as year succeeds to year:

God is working his purpose out,

and the time is drawing near;

nearer and nearer draws the time,

the time that shall surely be,

when the earth shall be filled

with the glory of God

as the waters cover the sea.

From utmost east to utmost west,

wherever foot hath trod,

by the mouth of many messengers

goes forth the voice of God;

give ear to me, ye continents,

ye isles, give ear to me,

that the earth may be filled

with the glory of God

as the waters cover the sea.

March we forth in the strength of God,

with the banner of Christ unfurled,

that the light of the glorious gospel of truth

may shine throughout the world:

fight we the fight with sorrow and sin

to set their captives free,

that the earth may be filled

with the glory of God

as the waters cover the sea.

All we can do is nothing worth

unless God blesses the deed;

vainly we hope for the harvest-tide

till God gives life to the seed;

yet nearer and nearer draws the time,

the time that shall surely be,

when the earth shall be filled

with the glory of God

as the waters cover the sea.

Words: Arthur Campbell Ainger (1841-1919)