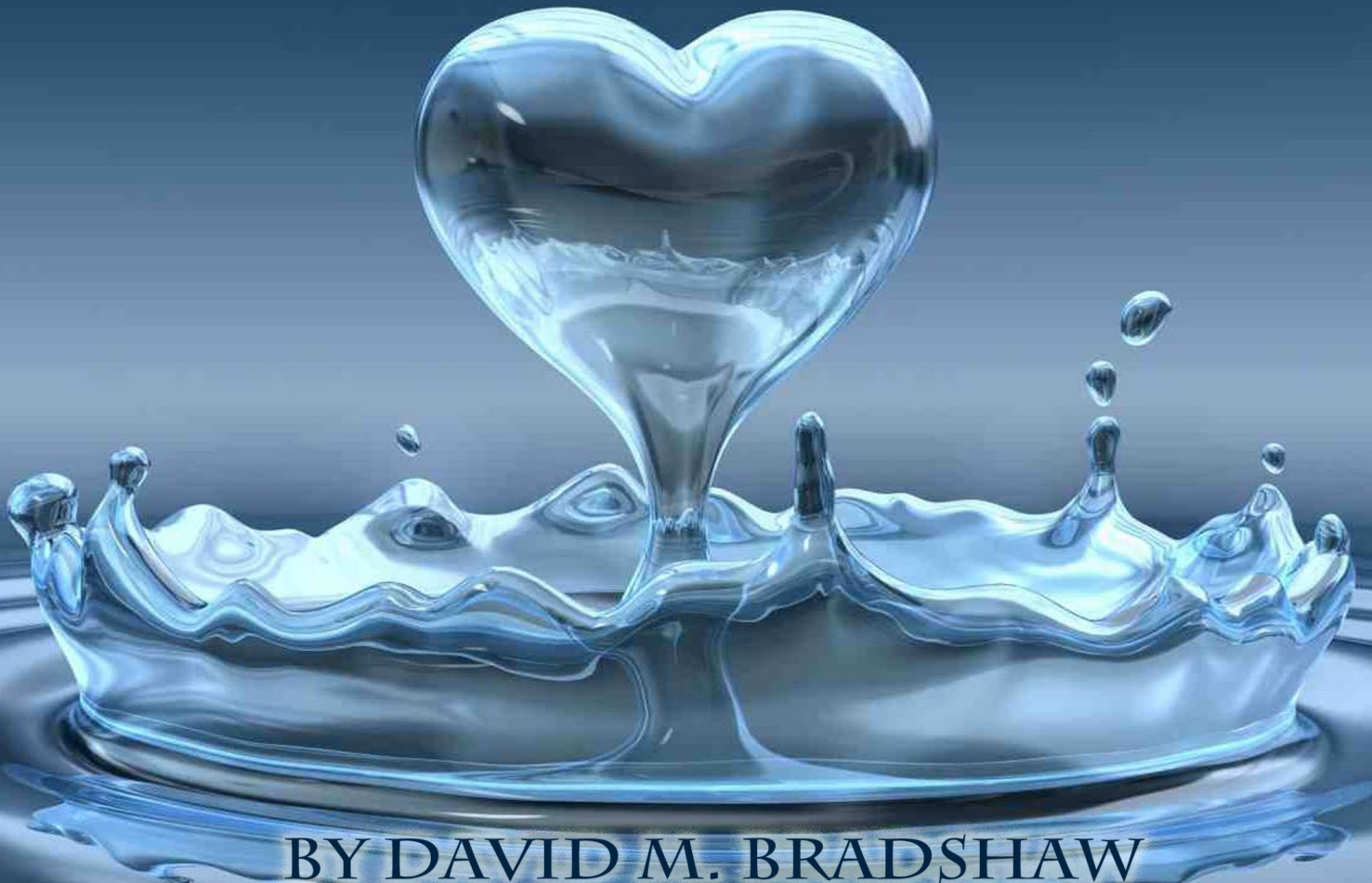


BLISSFULL BALLADS

HEART-STIRRING SONGS INSPIRED
BY CLASSIC SPIRITUAL BOOKS



BY DAVID M. BRADSHAW

Blissfull Ballads

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DIVINE LOVE: THE JOURNEY OF A LIFETIME

(based on *The Four Loves* by C.S. Lewis) by David Bradshaw - Key of G

G G/C G
We're all born of Love ...
G/A# G/F G
We all exist in Love,
G G/C G
We are destined for Divine Love...
G/A# G/F G
It's the journey of a lifetime.

C C/B Am7
From day one - to the end of our days,
G C G
We live and learn in the school of Love.
C C/B Am7
Our Creator, loved us into life,
G C G G/F#
Gives us the power of loving others.

Em Am
FAMILY LOVE first teaches us we belong,
Em Am
And how to embrace another's goodness.
Em Am
We each long for unconditional love
G C G C G G/F#
Of father, mother, sister and brother.

Em Am
TRUE FRIENDS are "the crown of life"
Em Am
which help us to achieve great things
Em Am
True friends make the brave braver,
G C G C G
And the kind kinder, for Love's sake.

Em Am
PASSIONATE LOVE means finding delight,
Em Am
In filling our beloved's deepest needs.
Em Am
Where giving and receiving converge,
G C G C G G/F#
Union with another's body, mind and soul.

Em Am
 DIVINE LOVE means mirroring God's love.
 Em Am
 Earthly loves prepare us for heavenly love.
 Em Am
 We're made to love God and one another,
 G C G C G
 This requires unconditional love from above.

C G/B Am7
 From the adoration of our parent's love,
 G C G
 To the sparkling eyes of a best friend,
 C G/B Am7
 To the passionate kiss of our beloved,
 G C G
 To the transformation of Divine Love.

G G/C G G/A# G/C G
 How, you may ask ... can we truly please God?
 G G/C G G/A# G/F G
 By practicing unconditional love ... with every one!
 G G/C G G/A# G/F G
 Now my life's challenge... Loving more each day! (2x)

MAKING SPACE FOR GRACE

(based on *The Grace in Dying* by Kathleen Dowling Singh) by David Bradshaw – Key of A

A F G A
May we all find the inner joy of surrender,
A F G A B-C-D
making space for Grace in both life and death.

D D/A# D/C D
Death is a mirror, reflecting all of life,
D D/A# D/C D
From perceived tragedy, to experienced grace.
E C D E
We're all ordinary people, facing ordinary death,
E C D E
Selflessly born into this world, we shall selflessly die.

A F G A
Living is fragile, and dying is safe,
A F G A B-C-D
Giving is healing, crying myself awake.

D D/A# D/C D
Our journey into ego, notions of time and space,
D D/A# D/C D
Our journey out of ego, helps make space for Grace.
E C D E
The key to happiness in life; compassion and attention,
E C D E
The key to embracing death; acceptance and surrender.

A F G A
Life's task; transforming our suffering into joy,
A F G A B-C-D
Death's task; transcending body, mind and spirit.

D D/A# D/C D
Knowing ourselves to be planted in Divine Love,
D D/A# D/C D
We seamlessly merge from earthly to heavenly love.
E C D E
Like an ice cube, melting back into water,
E C D E
Warmed by God's love, we ascend as heavenly steam.

A F G A
May we all find the inner joy of surrender,
A F G A B-C-D
making space for Grace in both life and death.

D D/A# D/C D
Within every tragedy is the seeds of Grace,
D D/A# D/C D
A seed must fall to the ground to produce fruit.
E C D E
Blessed are those who mourn, they shall be comforted,
E C D E
Grace and peace follow suffering and pain.

A F G A
Living is fragile, and dying is safe,
A F G A B-C-D
Giving is healing, crying myself awake.

D D/A# D/C D
We give thanks for every breath we take,
D D/A# D/C D
Inspired lives, until a last breath we take.
E C D E
Like stained-glass windows, we sparkle in the sun,
E C D E
But true beauty is revealed from the light within.

A F G A
Life's task; transforming our suffering into joy,
A F G A B-C-D
Death's task; transcending body, mind and spirit.

D D/A# D/C D
All traces of fear of death are now lost,
D D/A# D/C D
As space for Grace and joy is now found.
E C D E
Love's our last connection with this world,
E C D E
Love's our natural condition leaving this world.

A F G A
May we all find the inner joy of surrender,
A F G A
making space for Grace in both life and death. (2X)

EVERYTHING BELONGS

(based on *Everything Belongs* by Richard Rohr) by David Bradshaw - Key of D

D A#7 C7 D D/A# D/C
Believe it or not, everything belongs,
D D/F D/G D D/C D/B
Believe it or not, nothing's out of place.
D A#7 C7 D D/A# D/C
Suffering gets my attention,
D D/F D/G D
And Love expands my heart.

Amaj7 Dmaj7
I want to see like God sees,
Amaj7 Dmaj7
Trusting the flow of life,
Amaj7 Dmaj7 Fmaj7 E
So deep it even includes death.

D A#7 C7 D D/A# D/C
How I see anything, Is how I see everything,
D D/F D/G D D/C D/B
Suddenly I love even my enemy.
D A#7 C7 D D/A# D/C
Grace leads me to emptiness,
D D/F D/G D
Then fills the void with more Grace.

Amaj7 Dmaj7
Lord help me learn to let go,
Amaj7 Dmaj7
to be born again, and again, and again.
Amaj7 Dmaj7
All is priceless if it's sacred,
Amaj7 Dmaj7 Fmaj7 E
All is sacred if the world is God's temple.

D A#7 C7 D D/A# D/C
When I'm nothing before my God,
D D/F D/G D D/C D/B
I'm ready to receive all from God.
D A#7 C7 D D/A# D/C
I grow by subtraction, not addition,
D D/F D/G D
By letting go, not by holding tight.

Amaj7 Dmaj7
I am learning to trust God,
Amaj7 Dmaj7
As I learn that God trusts me.
Amaj7 Dmaj7
To sin is not a shame,
Amaj7 Dmaj7 Fmaj7 E
God even uses sin to transform me.

D A#7 C7 D D/A# D/C
A world of original blessing, not sin,
D D/F D/G D D/C D/B
A world of abundance, not scarcity.
D A#7 C7 D D/A# D/C
My soul learns from both dark and light,
D D/F D/G D
God loves all creation, rejecting none.

Amaj7 Dmaj7
The work of the soul is attachment,
Amaj7 Dmaj7
The work of the spirit is detachment,
Amaj7 Dmaj7
The Third Way is a divine dance of both.

D A#7 C7 D D/A# D/C
Life is nothing but a great school of love,
D D/F D/G D D/C D/B
God is a Lover, closer to me than myself.
D A#7 C7 D D/A# D/C
God's love is a river that's flowing,
D D/F D/G D
and we're all in it, so fear not!

D A#7 C7 D D/A# D/C
Believe it or not, everything belongs,
D D/F D/G D D/C D/B
Believe it or not, nothing's out of place.
D A#7 C7 D D/A# D/C
Lord I ask for a contemplative heart...

HOLY ENVY

(based on *Holy Envy* by Barbara Brown Taylor) by David Bradshaw - Key of E

E F# G A
Imagine seeing all with new eyes full of love,

E F# G A
Embracing union with all - starting with God.

A B C D
Ending the trajectory of violence and division,

A B C D
Changing the flow of history toward compassion.

G Fmaj7 Cmaj7 B7
Holy envy - finding God in the faith of others,

G Fmaj7 Cmaj7 B7
Holy envy - seeing God's face in one another,

G Fmaj7 Cmaj7 B7 C D
Holy envy - listening for the genuine in each other.

E F# G A
Welcome to the inter-spiritual age of awakening,

E F# G A
The end of exclusion, dawning full inclusion.

A B C D
A new worldview where East meets West,

A B C D
A new recognition that The Golden Rule is best.

G Fmaj7 Cmaj7 B7
Holy envy - finding God in the faith of others,

G Fmaj7 Cmaj7 B7
Holy envy - seeing God's face in one another,

G Fmaj7 Cmaj7 B7 C D
Holy envy - listening for the genuine in each other.

E F# G A
I now see universal truth and everything belongs,

E F# G A
I can see why dividing and Judging is so wrong.

A B C D
Can we now agree to place God at the very center,

A B C D
May we both ascend and descend into godly union.

G Fmaj7 Cmaj7 B7
Holy envy - finding God in the faith of others,

G Fmaj7 Cmaj7 B7
Holy envy - seeing God's face in one another,

G Fmaj7 Cmaj7 B7 G Fmaj7 G Fmaj7 G Fmaj7 E
Holy envy - listening for the genuine in each other.... Holy envy Holy envy....

THE PRODIGAL SONS

(based on *The Return of the Prodigal Son* by Henri Nouwen) by David Bradshaw - Key of C

G-A-B C C/B Am Am/G

The story is told of the prodigal son,

Dm G A-B-C

Who left Father's love in search of fun.

C C/B Am Am/G

After reckless living in a distant land,

Dm G A-B-C

Empty of all his father placed in his hand.

C C/B Am Am/G

Stripped of his dignity he decides to come home,

Dm G A-B-C

Hoping to regain Father's forgiveness and shalom.

C C/B Am Am/G

As he approaches father to his total surprise,

Dm G A-B-C

He sees only compassion deep within his eyes.

C C/B Am Am/G

He said, "Bring the best robe, sandals and ring,

Dm G A-B-C

My lost son is now found, come, let us all sing!"

C C/B Am Am/G

"Come one and all gather, for a great feast,

Dm G Am

let us now celebrate, my joy is complete!"

Dm Am

From self-hood to son-ship, the father is good,

Em Bm

The journey of each child to reach manhood.

Dm Am

From self-hood to son-ship, the father is good,

Em Bm C-G-A-B

His great love the prodigal now understood.

C C/B Am Am/G

Meanwhile, the elder brother's anger burned,

Dm G A-B-C

resentment grew, away from father he turned.

C C/B Am Am/G

He said: "What have you ever given to me?..."

Dm G A-B-C

For these many years I have served thee?"

C C/B Am Am/G
Father now showed mercy to his other son,
Dm G A-B-C
“You are always with me, we are as one...
C C/B Am Am/G
Beloved everything I have is for you...
Dm G A-B-C
As I have, forgive your brother too.”

C C/B Am Am/G
Come sons and daughters into Father's arms,
Dm G A-B-C
A loving embrace, free of malice or harm.
C C/B Am Am/G
Join Father's feast at his banquet table,
Dm G A-B-C
Claim your place, He's made you able.

C C/B Am Am/G
Come home, wayward children, come home,
Dm G A-B-C
Be welcomed with joy my child, come home.
C C/B Am Am/G
Father offers peace for each restless heart,
Dm G Am
Receive His love, it's yours from the start.

Dm Am
From self-hood to son-ship, now to father-hood,
Em Bm
The journey of each life, is destined for good.
Dm Am
From self-hood to son-ship, now to father-hood,
Em Bm C-D-E.
God's love for both prodigals is now understood.

THE BLESSINGS OF GOD'S KINGDOM

(based on Matt. 5:3-10 and *The Beatitudes of Peace* by John Dear) by David Bradshaw - Key of E

E E/C
BLESSED are the POOR in spirit,
D E
For theirs is the Kingdom of heaven.

E E/C
BLESSED are those who MOURN,
D A
For they will be comforted.

G G/F
THESE are HIS commandments,
C D
the BLESSINGS of GOD's Kingdom;
G G/F
LOVE GOD with your whole heart,
C D
LOVE Your NEIGHBOR as Your-self...

E E/C
BLESSED are the MEEK,
D E
For they will inherit the earth.
E E/C
BLESSED are those SEEKING righteousness,
D A
For they will be filled.

G G/F
THESE are HIS commandments,
C D
The BLESSINGS of GOD's Kingdom;
G G/F
LOVE GOD with your whole heart,
C D
LOVE Your NEIGHBOR as Your-self...

E E/C
BLESSED are the MERCIFUL,
D E
For they will be shown mercy.

E E/C
BLESSED are the PURE IN HEART,
D A
For they will see GOD.

G G/F
THESE are HIS commandments,
C D
The BLESSINGS of GOD's Kingdom;
G G/F
LOVE GOD with your whole heart,
C D
LOVE Your NEIGHBOR as Your-self...

E E/C
BLESSED are the PEACEMAKERS,
D E
For they'll be called children of GOD.
E E/C
BLESSED are those PERSECUTED,
D A
For theirs is the Kingdom of heaven.

G G/F
THESE are HIS commandments,
C D
The BLESSINGS of GOD's Kingdom;
G G/F
LOVE GOD with your whole heart,
C D
LOVE Your NEIGHBOR as Your-self...
C B7 A-G-F-E
And even your enemy.

ON THE BRINK OF EVERYTHING GREAT

(Based upon *On The Brink of Everything* by Parker J. Palmer) by David Bradshaw – Key of Em

Em B7 Em B7
We are born into this world from mystery,
Em B7 Em B7
And, when life's done, we return to mystery.
 C B7 C B7
The meaning of life no one can be sure,
 C B7 C D Em B7 Em B7
But I can & do control my intention to serve.

Em B7 C B7
To free my adventurous true soul,
Em B7 Em B7
I must flee my old self-seeking ego.
C B7 C B7
I'm aging now as my time slips away,
C B7 C D Em B7 Em B7
Moving beyond my lying childish days.

A B C B
How shall I then live, my dearest friends?
A B C D
How shall I then die, when it finally ends?
D E F E
As my small life on earth now grows old,
D E F G F E
May the dross graciously turn to gold.

Em B7 Em B7
Now it's time to jettison my mental junk,
Em B7 Em B7
Long-held views I must rid from my trunk.
C B7 C B7
I'm called to embrace both darkness & light,
C B7 C B7
To co-create a unified heart, that's right.

Em B7 Em B7
My big chance to connect both battery poles,
Em B7 Em B7
Come let's re-connect, both young and old.
C B7 C B7
I'm investing my life now, becoming a mentor,
C B7 C B7 Em B7 Em
Sharing lessons-learned, seeking what's in store... yeah there's more!

A B C B
How shall I then live, my dearest friends?
A B C D
How shall I then die, when it finally ends?
D E F E
As my small life on earth now grows old,
D E F G F E
May the dross graciously turn to gold.

Em B7 Em B7
I embrace suffering and joy, a holy couple,
Em B7 Em B7
God teach my heart how to remain supple.
C B7 C B7
A spiritual trip to new reality from illusion,
C B7 C B7
Means embracing diversity & full inclusion.
Em B7 Em B7
The great quest in life to find our true-self,
Em B7 Em B7
Is found loving God & neighbor as our-self.
C B7 C B7
We now join our inner journey toward soul,
C B7 C B7 Em B7 Em
With outward action - to rejoin soul & role.

A B C B
How shall I then live, my dearest friends?
A B C D
How shall I then die, when it finally ends?
D E F E
As my small life on earth now grows old,
D E F G F E
May the dross graciously turn to gold.

Em B7 Em B7
The key is moving toward that which I fear,
Em B7 Em B7
Not away from it, as if it's something queer.
C B7 C B7
Matter and spirit have been forever joined,
C B7 C B7
Intertwined - two sides of the same coin.

TRINITY

(based on *The Divine Dance* by Richard Rohr/Mike Morrell) ballad by David Bradshaw – Key of G

G F
God for us, we call you Father
G A#-A-F
God alongside us, we call you Jesus
G F
God within us, we call you Holy Spirit
G A# A F
Trinity, three in one.

C A#
You are the eternal mystery,
C D# D C
That enables, enfolds and enlivens all things,
A# A G F
Even us, and even me. Trinity.

G F
God for us, we call you Father
G A#-A-F
God alongside us, we call you Jesus
G F
God within us, we call you Holy Spirit
G A# A F
Trinity, three in one.

C A#
Every name falls short of your goodness and greatness,
C D# D A#
We can only see who You are in what is.
C A#
We ask for such perfect seeing,
C A# A G F
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be. Trinity

G F
God for us, we call you Father
G A#-A-F
God alongside us, we call you Jesus
G F
God within us, we call you Holy Spirit
G A# A F
Trinity, three in one.

OPEN THE DOOR TO YOUR HEART

(based on *Christian Meditation* by James Finley) by David Bradshaw – Key of D

D Dmaj7 Gmaj7 Cmaj7
Are you ready for the journey of your life?
F#m7 Bm7 A+ A7
It can begin right now, here's the secret of how.
D Dmaj7 Gmaj7 Cmaj7
Sit still. Breathe deep. Saying "Here I am Lord"
F#m7 Bm7 A+ A7
Eyes shut, learning to see through the eyes of Christ.
D Dmaj7 Gmaj7 Cmaj7
The divine mystery of all that surrounds you,
F#m7 Bm7 A+ A7
The secret of transformation is letting go.

E E/F E E/F
Open the door to your heart,
E D E
Step into contemplative life,
E E/F E E/F
Which begins where ego ends,
D D/C D/A# A7 B7 C
And lasts for time... without end.

D Dmaj7 Gmaj7 Cmaj7
God is closer to you than your self,
F#m7 Bm7 A+ A7
Awaken to God's presence from within.
D Dmaj7 Gmaj7 Cmaj7
Read and meditate upon God's Word,
F#m7 Bm7 A+ A7
Watch it change your heart from within.
D Dmaj7 Gmaj7 Cmaj7
Immerse yourself in the Kingdom of God.
F#m7 Bm7 A+ A7
The secret of transformation is letting go.

E E/F E E/F
Open the door to your heart,
E D E
Step into contemplative life,
E E/F E E/F
Which begins where ego ends,
D D/C D/A# A7 B7 C
And lasts for time... without end.

THE FRUIT OF ABIDING

(based on John 15:5,7, Gal. 5:22-23 and *Resilience* by Eric Greitens) by David Bradshaw – Key of D

D D/C D/B D/A# A7aug A7

HE is the Vine, we are the branches.

D D/C D/B D/A# A7aug A7

HE is the Vine, let us abide in Him.

Gmaj7 Dmaj7

By their fruit, you will know them.

Gmaj7 Dmaj7

Yes, by our fruit, you will know us.

Gmaj7 Dmaj7

Sons and daughters of a loving Father,

Gmaj7 Dmaj7 A7aug/A

Resilient children of a loving God.

Fmaj7 Cmaj7

The fruit of the Spirit ... is **Love**

Fmaj7 Cmaj7

The fruit of the Spirit ... is **Joy**

Fmaj7 Cmaj7

The fruit of the Spirit ... is **Peace**

Fmaj7 Cmaj7 A+ /A7

The fruit of the Spirit ... is **Patience**

D D/C D/B D/A# A7aug A7

HE is the Vine, we are the branches.

D D/C D/B D/A# A7aug A7

HE is the Vine, let us abide in Him. He said:

Gmaj7 Dmaj7

By their fruit, you will know them.

Gmaj7 Dmaj7

Yes, by our fruit, you will know us.

Gmaj7 Dmaj7

Sons and daughters of a loving Father,

Gmaj7 Dmaj7 A7aug/A

Resilient children of a loving God.

Fmaj7 Cmaj7

The fruit of the Spirit ... is **Kindness**

Fmaj7 Cmaj7

The fruit of the Spirit ... is **Goodness**

Fmaj7 Cmaj7

The fruit of the Spirit ... is **Faithfulness**

Fmaj7 Cmaj7

The fruit of the Spirit ... is **Gentleness**
Fmaj7 Cmaj7 A+ /A7
The fruit of the Spirit ... is **Self Control**

D D/C D/B D/A# A7aug A7
HE is the Vine, we are the branches.
D D/C D/B D/A# A7aug A7 – B – C - D
HE is the Vine, let us abide in Him.

May these 'blissful' book reviews, ballads and the important books they feature serve you well in your own personal journey toward the Source of Love. -*dmb*

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