

THERE IS A PLACE by John L. Bell

There is a place prepared for little children
Those we once lived for, those we deeply mourn,
Those who from play, from learning and from laughter
Cruelly were torn.

There is a place where hands which held ours tightly
Now are released beyond all hurt and fear
Healed by that love which also feels our sorrow
Tear after tear.

There is a place where all the lost potential
Yields its full promise, finds its lost intent;
Silenced no more, young voices echo freely
As they were meant.

There is a place where God will hear our questions,
Suffer our anger, share our speechless grief.
Gently repair the innocence of loving
And of belief.

Jesus, who bids us to be like little children
Shields those our arms are yearning to embrace,
God will ensure that all are reunited;
There is a place.

Composed for the victims of the massacre at Dunblane Primary School,
Scotland, 1996

John Lamberton Bell (born 1949) is a Scottish hymn-writer and [Church of Scotland minister](#). He is a member of the [Iona Community](#), a broadcaster, and former student activist. He works throughout the world, lecturing in theological colleges in the UK, Canada and the United States, but is primarily concerned with the renewal of congregational [worship](#) at the [grass roots](#) level. Since 2021, Bell is a patron of the [Open Table Network](#), an ecumenical Christian community for [LGBT](#) people and their allies.^[6]