

# Once we were not a people

8.7.8.7.D.

KING'S LYNN

1. Once we were not a peo - ple, God's peo - ple now are we, A  
 2. We are a ho - ly na - tion, Em - powered and called by God, As  
 3. We are an ex - iled peo - ple, With bit - ter tears bap - tized, To -  
 4. We are a pil - grim peo - ple, Of ev - ery class and race, From  
 5. Once we were not a peo - ple, God's peo - ple now are we, A

gay and les - bian peo - ple, A new com - mun - i - ty. We  
 pro - phets, tea - chers, heal - lers, To spread good news a - broad. To  
 day, as through the ag - es, Re - ject - ed and de - spised; But  
 man - y sects and cul - tures, Now gath - ered in one place. We  
 proud, de - ter - mined peo - ple, Still stri - ving to be free; A

once feared con - dem - na - tion, On earth and from a - bove, Un -  
 live and work to - geth - er, God called us from the night Of  
 al - ways there have been those trans - gend - ered folks like me, To  
 chal - lenge one an - o - ther To bend and grow, and be A  
 gen - tle, lov - ing peo - ple With jus - tice as our aim; A

til God's grace and mer - cy Showed us the way of love.  
 gloom and i - so - la - tion In - to a won - drous light.  
 claim their way of lov - ing and bold - ly speak its name.  
 church where all God's chil - dren Can find a fam - i - ly.  
 queer and right - eous peo - ple U - ni - ted in Christ's name.

TEXT: J. Thomas Sopko, © 1987

MUSIC: English traditional melody; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

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