

KILLEYLOO BIRDS

This song was written in 2003 by Glory Dharmaraj and Verna Kwiatkowski for the national Leadership Training Event for United Methodist Women leaders in St. Louis, MO. The plenary in which it was used had the theme, “Get a vision of the needs, so that you may go forth with wings outspread,” words of Mrs. E.C. Chandler, a leader in the former Woman’s Foreign Missionary Society of the Methodist Protestant Church.

The Killeyloo is a mythical bird that would first fly backward in order to see where it had been before flying forward. Barbara E. Campbell, a deaconess of the United Methodist Church and a former executive of the Women’s Division of the General Board of Global Ministries of The United Methodist Church, refers to the bird in her book, *United Methodist Women In the Middle of Tomorrow*.

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Killeyloo birds, like killeyloo birds
Perched on our Mother Roots, poised for new flights
Born of the Spirit, borne by God’s might
We mount up with wings for new mountains and heights.

Refrain:

It’s not a mystery –
 Women from history
 Supply us with energy
 To move on ahead.
Dance in the Spirit
 Breathing God’s grace
 Sensing the witnesses
 Cheering us on
 To move on ahead!

It is God’s mission that we embrace
Living the gospel call, changing our world
Like rain-bearing clouds, like seed-carrying winds –
Killeyloo birds to the ends of the earth.

Refrain

God of our mothers, God of our roots,
For women and children and youth crying out,
For sake of the Life, for sake of the Light,
Send forth your daughters with Hope and with Sight.

Refrain

Glory Dharmaraj
Verna Mae Kwiatkowski

Killeyloo Birds*

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Handwritten musical score for the song "Killeyloo Birds". The score is written on a single staff in treble clef, with a key signature of two flats (Bb and Eb) and a 3/4 time signature. The melody is simple and repetitive, with many notes beamed together. Chords are indicated by letters above the staff: Eb, Cm, Ab, Eb, Eb7, Ab, Bb7, Ab, Eb, Bb7, Ab, Eb. The lyrics are written below the staff, with some words in parentheses. The lyrics are: 1. Kil-ley-loo birds, like Kil-ley-loo birds Perched on our Moth-er Roots, 2. It is God's mis-sion that we em-brace Liv-ing the gas-pel call, 3. God of our moth-ers, God of our roots, For Wom-en and chil-dren and poised for new flights Born of the Spir-it, borne by God's might, we mount up with chang-ing our world Like rain-bear-ing clouds, like seat-carry-ing winds - Kil-ley-loo youth cry-ing out, For sake of the Life, for sake of the Light, Send forth your wings for new moun-birds to the ends tains and heights, of the earth, daugh-ters with Hope and with Sight. Refrain: It's not a mys-ter-y - Wom-en from his-to-ry Sup-ply us with en-er-gy To move on a-head. Dance in the Spir-it Breath-ing God's grace Sens-ing the wit-ness-es Cheer-ing us on To move on a-head!

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The mythical Killeyloo birds would first fly backward to see where they had been before flying forward.

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