God, how can we comprehend?

This tune may be found in The United Methodist Hymnal, No. 479

1. God, how can we comprehend—though we’ve seen them times before—
2. You put music in their souls; now they struggle to survive.
3. Lord, your loving knows no bounds; you have conquered death for all.

lines of people without end fleeing from some senseless war?
You gave each one gifts and goals; now they flee to stay alive.
May we hear beyond our towns to our distant neighbors’ call.

They seek safety anywhere, hoping for a welcome hand!
God of outcasts, may we see how you value everybody,
Spirit, may our love increase; may we reach to all your earth,

Can we know the pain they bear? Can we ever understand?
for each homeless refugee is your daughter or your son.
till each person lives in peace; till your world sees each one’s worth.

WORDS: Carolyn Winfrey Gillette (Matthew 25: 31-46)
MUSIC: Joseph Parry, 1879

ABERYSTWYTH

Copyright © 1999 Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. Text originally included in the collection, Gifts of Love: New Hymns for Today’s Worship, published by Geneva Press. Used with permission. This arrangement published by The General Board of Discipleship of The United Methodist Church, PO Box 340003, Nashville, Tennessee 37203-0003. Website http://www.umcdiscipleship.org/worship/music. This hymn may be reproduced and used in worship with the inclusion of the complete copyright citation on all copies. It may not be sold, used for profit, republished, or placed on a website.