

Alone, but not alone

At this time when many people are having to self-isolate, my thoughts have been on a song recently introduced by the Songsters, played by Gary Rose, of Kettering Corps:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RN1caNU7bUE>

The somewhat simple but rather hypnotic lyrics remind us that, although deprived of human companionship, God is always present with us:

We are not alone, we are not alone.
We are not alone: God is with us.
We are not alone, we are never alone,
we are not alone.
We are never alone. God is with us,
God is with us, ever and ever,
we are never alone, are not alone,
we are not alone, we are not alone.
God is with us.
We are not alone, we are not alone.
We are not alone: God is with us.
We are not alone: God is with us now

There are many scriptural references to God's promise that we will never be left on our own, including the great commission, as laid out at the end of the Gospel According to St Matthew:

Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw him, they worshipped him; but some doubted. Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

In the chorus section of the 1987 edition of the Salvation Army Song Book, the following choruses of assurance appeared on the same page: '*God is with us all the time*'; '*God will take care of you*'; '*He knows, he knows*'; '*God is still on the throne*'.

They are all included in Ray Steadman-Allen's timeless selection '*His Guardian Care*', played here by the Montclair Citadel Band:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=urOmX6elB8Y>

We would do well to take the final affirmation with us as we face the coming days:

God is still on the throne,
And he will remember his own;
Though trials may press us and burdens distress us,
He never will leave us alone.
God is still on the throne,
And he will remember his own;
His promise is true, he will not forget you;
God is still on the throne.

Peter Bale, Band Sergeant