

## Once We Were Not a People

Once we were not a people,  
God's people now are we.  
A gay and lesbian people,  
A new community.  
A gentle, loving people  
With justice as our aim;  
A gay and lesbian people  
United in Christ's name.

We are a holy nation,  
Empow'rd and called by God,  
As prophets, teachers, healers,  
To spread good news abroad.  
To live and work together,  
God called us from the night  
Of gloom and isolation  
Into a wondrous light.

We are an exiled people,  
With bitter tears baptized,  
Today, as through the ages,  
Rejected and despised.  
But always there have been those  
Who cast off fear and shame,  
To claim their way of loving  
And boldly speak its name.

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J. Thomas Sopko (1987). Used by permission 8.7.8.7 D Sing to the tune KING'S LYNN

We are a pilgrim people,  
Of ev'ry class and race,  
From many sects and cultures,  
Now gathered in one place.  
We challenge one another  
To bend and grow, and be  
A church where all God's children  
Can find a family.

Once we were not a people,  
God's people now are we.  
A proud determined people,  
Still striving to be free;  
A gentle loving people  
With justice as our aim;  
A gay and lesbian people  
United in Christ's name.