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.

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.