Combining the famous English folk tune “The Water Is Wide,” with new lyrics, this expressive original work features smooth, flowing lines and an inspirational message. “When peace shall come like early spring, a misting calm o’er everything, sweet breath of hope from everyone, we dream of days when peace shall come.” An excellent choice for many types of programs.

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**Sign Language**

**When:** The sign for “when” is made by holding your left index finger up. Your palm should face right.

Bring the tip of your right index finger near to the tip of your left index finger.
Circle the tip of your right index finger in a clockwise motion around your left index finger and end with the tip of the right index finger touching the tip of the left finger.
The movement is in the wrist. Your arm doesn’t move much on this sign.

**Peace:** The signs BECOME and SETTLE are combined.
Clasp hands R over L then L over R, then wipe like “safe.”

**Shall:** Will: The open hand with the fingers together moves forward from the side of the head and in a downward movement. The forward movement indicates that something will occur in the future.

**Comes:** The fingers move towards the body to indicate the concept come.

**Like:** (AS) The two forefingers come together.

**Early:** The hand starts as a fist with its side resting on the wrist; it then pulls back while opening the fingers.

**Spring:** The horizontal arm represents the ground. The finger moving up and spreading out represents a plant growing. Spring is the time of the year that plants come forth after lying dormant through the winter.

**Misty:** The signs WATER and SOFT are combined.
Water: “W” touches chin.
Soft: both hands palms up bring fingertips together and something landing softly.

**Calm:** The index fingers start in front of the mouth with one hand in front of the other. They are then pulled downward (LIKE SAFE) with the hand opening up in a gesture telling others to be silent (quiet).
Over: One hand moves over the other hand.

Everything: The signs EACH and THING are combined.

Each: One A hand shape moves down the other A hand shape.

Thing: The palm is facing upward and the hand bounces to the side to indicate different items (things). (A present hand)

Sweet: The fingers are extended and together while the thumb is extended. The tip of the fingers strokes the chin as if wiping away syrup.

Breath: The hands show the heaving motion of the chest when breathing. (Open hands from chest out.)

Hope: The signs THINK and EXPECT are combined.

Think: The index finger touches the forehead which is the location of the mind.

Expect: The hands flap down by the head as if beckoning for something to come.

From: One finger pulls back from the other.

Everyone: The signs EACH and ONE are combined.

Each: One A hand shape moves down the other A hand shape.

One: Show index finger.

We: The index finger (or “w”) moves from one shoulder to the other shoulder.

Dream: The forefinger touches the forehead to indicate the concept of thinking. It then pulls away in a wiggling fashion as if indicating that the thoughts are elusive.

Days: The horizontal arm represents the surface of the earth. The moving hand represents the movement of the sun across the sky during the day.

When Peace Shall Come (see above)

Verse 2:

Our: The sign WE is made with the hand shape associated with possession (cupped hand).

Hungry: The hands move down the chest to indicate a desire for food to flow into one's stomach.
Hearts: The middle finger taps the chest over the area of the heart.

Will: The open hand with the fingers together moves forward from the side of the head and in a downward movement. The forward movement indicates that something will occur in the future.

Find: The thumb and forefinger pick up something.

Their: The open palm is associated with the concept of possession. In this sign, the hand points to several people to show that something belongs to them (that something is theirs).

Bread (food) One hand places food in the mouth:

Our: See above.

Starving: (same as hungry) The hands move down the chest to indicate a desire for food to flow into one’s stomach.

Souls: Same as heart.

Shall: see above

All: The hand moves in a circle and then ends up in the palm of the other hand to show that everything (all) is included.

Be: Touch index finger to lips.

Fed: The sign FOOD is followed by a gesture that indicates giving something away.

Lost: The V hand shape represents a person. Its movement represents a person falling flat on his or her face (losing).

Are found: The thumb and forefinger pick up something.

Captured: The hands move as if they are capturing something.

Free: The sign SAFE is made with F hand shapes.

Justice: (Truth) The forefinger is upright and moves straight forward from the mouth.

Shall: See above

Reign: The sign LAW is made with an R hand shape.

Law: The L hand shape is moved from the top of a page to the bottom which is represented by the upright hand.
When Peace Shall Come — 4

Let: The fingertips of the hands point down and then move up with a slight forward movement.

Blind: The movement of the bent V hand shape indicates that the eyes are blocked.

Eyes: The eye is indicated

Shall: see above

See: The V hand shape is often used to represent the eyes. In this sign, the hand moves to the front in a general sign to express the concept of seeing.

Third verse:

When: The sign for “when” is made by holding your left index finger up. Your palm should face right.

We: The index finger (or “w”) moves from one shoulder to the other shoulder.

All: see above

Turn: The L handshape moves from the thumb facing the body to the thumb facing someone else to represent the concept that the signer has finished her turn and it is now someone else’s turn.

Our: see above

Swords and spears: The sign KNIFE is followed by the removal of a sword from its holder and using it in a duel.

Knife: The moving index finger represents the slicing motion of a knife.

Into: The movement of the hand shows something going in (entering).

Plough and tools: (workers) The sign WORK is made with extra force to show that a person works hard.

Work: One S handshape taps the back of the other S handshape to represent the hands doing something (working).

Peace: See above.

Only: The index finger circles and then halts to show that there is nothing else.

Then: The forefinger touches the thumb and then the forefinger on the other hand to show that it is either this one or that one.
Will: R hand from side of face forward

Our: See above

Hearts: Touch heart with middle finger or trace heart with both middle fingers.

find: R hand picks something up from L hand as though finding something.

Rest: R fingers arms crossed over chest.

Only Then: See above

Our: See above

Trials: (problems) The knuckles of bent V handshapes rub against one another to show that the going is not smooth (that something is difficult.)

Cease: The edge of one hand comes down on the palm to represent something coming to a quick stop.

I: Pointing to yourself is a natural gesture for indicating the concept of me.

Dream L: See above

A day: The horizontal arm represents the surface of the earth. The moving hand represents the movement of the sun across the sky during the day.

When Peace Shall Come: See above.

Make a final sign for “peace” to end the song.