

The Openshaw Jerusalem

The brass band playing the tune Jerusalem never fails to evoke feelings of nostalgia – in fact as I edit this I have had to change the album on the iPod!. But we are brought back to earth with a bump as William Blake reminds us of those dark satanic mills which once made up industrial communities such as ours. Here's our attempt at reclaiming the myth that Jesus walked on the land of rural England demonising (probably deservedly) the northern industrial mills!

And did those feet in ancient times
walk on this urban tarmac street
and was the living breath of God
in terraced homes with us to meet
and did the face of the divine
shine out upon our shops and tills
and was community builded here
among these old refurbished mills

Among the steel of skyscrapers
playgrounds in which our children play
in hospitals and offices
by Metrolink and canal grey,
where people meet to eat, drink, dance
we'll celebrate God's loving hand
Till we have built Jerusalem
In Britain's densely peopled land.

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