The Emigrant's Friend: A Salute to Caroline Chisholm

Now thank we Lord this day for Caroline Chisholm,
Who sought a better way for destitute women,
With Jesus in her heart, the Lord God by her side,
Horse Captain as her steed, her family helped with pride.

Now this brave Emigrant's Friend, rode mountain tracks and byways,
Gathering to her side the lonely lost and homeless
Who sailed to this far land, in ships so foul and cramped,
To find that once ashore, their lives were once more damned.

Now Caroline approached the highest in the lands,
To fight for rights and justice. She made them understand
The need for food and shelter, to build a new nation,
To stand with head held high, in this ageless, timeless land.

We celebrate today, your life of trial and triumphs,
Your selfless dedication, to those who suffered in silence.
Not one to consider, your gift to all was priceless.
And may you one day be the first Lay Saint of Australia.

Lyrics written by Moira Sheridan
for the *Nan Danket* hymn setting.
Sts Peter and Paul's Old Cathedral,
Gouburn, New South Wales.