

# FIND YOU HERE - ELLIE HOLCOMB



Since the release of her full-length solo debut, *As Sure As the Sun*, in 2014, singer/songwriter Ellie Holcomb has been walking an unexpected path, one of suffering and loss but also peace and joy. She has come to the edge of the rushing river of confusion and experienced a God who made a way where there seemed to be no way. And it is from that place—of finding God in the dark and unexpected—that Holcomb wrote and recorded *Red Sea Road* (Full Heart Music), set to release Jan 27th, 2017.

Loss, disappointment, and fear of the unknown have marked Holcomb's journey of grappling with and believing in God's faithfulness.

Right before they began recording *Red Sea Road*, Holcomb's dad, and producer on the album, Brown Bannister, went to the doctor for a regular appointment. That routine check-up turned into an unexpected cancer diagnosis.

"We were about to start recording and this blow happens to our family," recalls Holcomb. But her parents' response to the diagnosis surprised and encouraged her: "It was so strange because I remember my mom and dad had a lot of peace. They were like, 'We're going to choose to praise God, and at the end of the day, no matter what happens, healing is ahead. Whether it's this side of glory or the next, we have hope. We have hope because of Jesus.'"

Watching their peace and trust in God allowed her to feel peace too, she says. The circumstances were not good, and yet, we sensed God's nearness and felt peace when it made no sense to feel that way. It was a powerful season that marked my heart forever. The whole experience brought new meaning and depth to the instruction found in Philippians 4:4-5: "Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your graciousness be known to everyone. The Lord is near."

The day Bannister went in for surgery, Holcomb was recording "Find You Here" in the studio with Ben Shive, co-producer on the album. She brought a copy of the scratch vocal to the hospital, and she and her mom and dad listened to it together that night.

Today, Bannister is cancer free. "I know that's not the end of every cancer story," says Holcomb. "But it was a really sweet gift to our family to get to listen to that song as we were walking through that scary & unknown season together. It was such a reminder for us that Jesus draws near to the brokenhearted. My prayer is that 'Find You Here' would help bring peace to anyone walking through a season that is overwhelming or heartbreaking."

Information from: <https://www.ellieholcomb.com/news/2016/11/8/about-ellie>

## LYRICS

It's not the news that any of us hoped that we would hear,  
It's not the road we would have chosen, no.  
The only thing that we can see is darkness up ahead -  
but you're asking us to lay our worry down and sing a song instead.

And I didn't know I'd find you here, in the middle of my deepest fear,  
but you were drawing near, you were overwhelming me with peace.  
So I lift my voice and sing: "You're gonna carry us through everything!"  
You were drawing near, you're overwhelming all my fears with peace.

You say that I should come to you with everything I need.  
You're asking me to thank you even when the pain is deep.  
You promise that you'll come and meet us on the road ahead.  
And no matter what the fear says, you give me a reason to be glad.

And I didn't know I'd find you here, in the middle of my deepest fear,  
but you were drawing near me, you were overwhelming me with  
peace.

So I lift my voice and sing: "You're gonna carry me through  
everything."

You were drawing near, you're overwhelming all my fear.

Here in the middle of the lonely night,  
here in the middle of the losing fight,  
you're here in the middle of the deep regret,  
here when the healing hasn't happened yet.  
Here in the middle of the desert place,  
here in the middle when I cannot see your face,  
Here in the middle with your outstretched arms,  
you can see my pain and it breaks your heart.

And I didn't know I'd find you here, in the middle of my deepest fear,  
but you were drawing near, you were overwhelming me with peace.  
So I lift my voice and sing: "You're gonna carry me through  
everything!"

And you were drawing near,  
you're overwhelming all my fears with peace.

Rejoice, rejoice! Don't have to worry about a single thing,  
'Cause you were overwhelming me with peace.  
Don't have to worry about a single thing!  
You're gonna carry us through everything.  
Overwhelming peace.

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## Philippians 4:4-7, New International Version (NIV)

**4** Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! **5** Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. **6** Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. **7** And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

1. What parts of the song can you relate to?
2. Why did Ellie Holcomb write this song? Could you have done the same thing if you were her?
3. Read Philippians 4:4. What are we commanded to do? Why does Paul repeat himself here?
4. Read verse 5. How would gentleness help us deal with difficult situations?
5. Is gentleness usually your first response when confronted with bad news?
6. According to verse 6, what is the antidote to anxiety?
7. How would things change for you if you remembered that?
8. What is the end result of all of this in verse 7?
9. Why is peace such a desirable thing?
10. What does verse 7 say that peace does for us? What does that look like, in the context of anxiety?
11. What changes might you want to make in order to have more peace in your life?