32. E TE ATUA

E te Atua kua ruia nei  Dear Lord, you have spread
Ō purapura pai  Your seeds of goodness
Hōmai e koe he ngākau hou  Give us new hearts
Kia tupu ake ai  So that these seeds may grow

E lhu kaua e tukua  Dear Lord, do not allow
Kia whakangaromia  These seeds to be lost
Me whakatupu ake ia  But rather let them grow
Kia kitea ai ngā hua  So that the results may be seen

A mā te Wairua Tapu rā  May the Holy Spirit
Mātou e tiaki  Guide us
Kei hoki ki te mahi hē  Lest our hearts should
Ō mātou ngākau hōu  Return to our evil ways

This is a popular hīmene that uses the analogy of seed growth to explain the development of belief. It could be used as a choral performance piece set to the tune of “Amazing Grace” and is beautiful for a solo voice.

It is not usually performed with actions. Build the song using solo in the first verse, then duet in the second verse, then everyone in the third verse.

Discuss the importance of knowing hīmene as part of protocols around ceremonies such as tangi, hui, and celebrations.

Compare this hīmene to the following hīmene, “Tama Ngākau Mārie” (33). Focus on the specific words and phrases that are common in hīmene and develop a chart.

The song sheets for all waiata and haka are at the back of this book.