

Jesus On The Main Line ... gospel song recorded by Mississippi Fred McDowell, later recorded by Ry Cooder, and more recently recorded by Krishna Das. This “new” version has been adapted and arranged by wahiduddin to honor our diversity by calling upon a few more sacred names. (January 2011)

G
Jesus is on that mainline, tell him what you want
C **G**
Lord, Krishna is on that mainline, tell him what you want
C
Muhammad is on that mainline, tell him what you want
G D C G
Call 'em up and tell 'em what you want

G
Well, that line ain't never busy, tell 'em what you want
C **G**
Well, that line ain't never busy, tell 'em what you want
C
Well, that line ain't never busy, tell 'em what you want
G D C G
Call 'em up and tell 'em what you want

G
Mother Mary is on that mainline, tell her what you want
C **G**
Oh Tara is on that mainline, tell her what you want
C
Radha is on that mainline, tell her what you want
G D C G
Call 'em up and tell 'em what you want

G
If you want in that kingdom, tell 'em what you want
C **G**
Yeah now, if you want in that kingdom, tell 'em what you want
C
If you want in that kingdom, tell 'em what you want
G D C G
Call 'em up and tell 'em what you want

G

Jesus is on that mainline, tell him what you want

^C
Lord, Krishna is on that mainline, tell him what you want ^G

^C
Muhammad is on that mainline, tell him what you want

^{G D C G}
Call 'em up and tell 'em what you want

^G
If you're sick and you wanna get well, tell 'em what you want

^C
Oh yeah, if you're sick and you wanna get well, tell 'em what you want ^G

^C
If you're sick and you wanna get well, tell 'em what you want

^{G D C G}
Call 'em up and tell 'em what you want

^G
Mother Mary is on that mainline, tell her what you want

^C
Oh Tara is on that mainline, tell her what you want ^G

^C
Radha is on that mainline, tell her what you want

^{G D C G}
Call 'em up and tell 'em what you want

^G
If you're feeling down and out, tell 'em what you want

^C
Now if you're feeling down and out, tell 'em what you want ^G

^C
If you're feeling down and out, tell 'em what you want

^{G D C G}
Call 'em up and tell 'em what you want

^G
Jesus is on that mainline, tell him what you want

^C
Lord, Krishna is on that mainline, tell him what you want ^G

^C
Muhammad is on that mainline, tell him what you want

^{G D C G}
Call 'em up and tell 'em what you want

^G
If you want your light to shine, tell 'em what you want

^C
Now, if you want your light to shine, tell 'em what you want ^G

^C
If you want your light to shine, tell 'em what you want

^G ^D ^C ^G
Call 'em up and tell 'em what you want

^G
Mother Mary is on that mainline, tell her what you want

^C ^G
Oh yeah, Tara is on that mainline, tell her what you want

^C
Radha is on that mainline, tell her what you want

^G ^D ^C ^G
Call 'em up and tell 'em what you want

^G
If you want your light to shine, tell 'em what you want

^C ^G
And if you want your light to shine, tell 'em what you want

^C
If you want your light to shine, tell 'em what you want

^G ^D ^C ^G
Call 'em up and tell 'em what you want

^G ^D ^C ^G
Call 'em up , Call 'em up , Call 'em up and tell 'em what you want

I've really enjoyed this song from the time that I first heard Ry Cooder's version around 1990. More recently, in 2008, Krishna Das also recorded a version. As I listened to the Krishna Das version, it just seemed that this great song begged for some more inclusive lyrics... hence this version was born.

Here are a few related thoughts:

Ask , and ye shall receive

John 16:24

All things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing , ye shall receive.

Matthew 21:22

When the cry of the disciple has reached a certain pitch, the Teacher comes to answer it.

Inayat Khan, Gayan, Boulas

The breeze at dawn has secrets to tell you.
Don't go back to sleep.
You must ask for what you really want.
Don't go back to sleep.
People are going back and forth across the doorsill
where the two worlds touch.
The door is round and open.
Don't go back to sleep.

Essential Rumi, pg 36, tr by Coleman Barks

Nonetheless, we must not be so busy asking that we fail to fully appreciate the gifts we have already been given:

Before you ask God for what you want,
first thank God for what you have.

Talmud, B'rachot 30b