A PRINCE CAN MAKE A BELTED KNIGHT

by Robert Burns

This great song of egalitarianism first appeared as a poem in a letter by Bobbie Burns in 1795.. Like most of Burns's songs, the tune was taken from an older song. You can hear a nice version of the song by Ryan Joseph Burns, who I understand is a descendant of the poet himself, here https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GPeAjhXWJvI or on the HFMS Audio Archive page at https://www.houstonfolkmusic.org/AudioArchives. Ryan plays the song in C chord shape, capoed all the way up to the fifth fret to make they key of F. Ryan's voice is a bit high, so you might want to capo a bit lower than that.

C G
Is there, for honest poverty,
C F
That hangs his head, and a' that?
C G
The coward slave, we pass him by,
C G
We dare be poor for a' that!
C F G
For a' that, and a' that,
C F
Our toils obscure and a' that,
C F G
The rank is but the guinea's stamp,
C F G
The man's the gowd for a' that

What though on hamely fare we dine,
Wear hoddin grey, and a' that;
Gie fools their silks, and knaves their wine,
A man's a man for a' that:
For a' that, and a' that,
Their tinsel shew, and a' that,
The honest man, tho' e'er sae poor,
Is king o' men for a' that.

Ye see yon birkie, ca'd a lord,
Wha struts and stares and a' that;
Tho' hundreds worship at his word,
He's but a coof for a' that:
For a' that, and a' that,
His ribband, star, and a' that,
The man o' independent mind,
He looks and laughs at a' that.

A prince can make a belted knight,
A marquis, duke, and a' that;
But an honest man's aboon his might,
Gude faith, he maunna fa' that!
For a' that, and a' that,
Their dignities and a' that;
The pith o' sense, and pride o' worth,
Are higher rank than a' that.

Then let us pray that come it may,
As come it will, for a' that,
That sense and worth, o'er a' the earth,
May bear the gree, and a' that!
For a' that, and a' that,
It's coming yet for a' that,
That man to man, the warld o'er,
Shall brothers be for a' that.