

The Hymnal

Classic Christian Hymns with KJV Scripture

62 public-domain hymns. Lyrics, history, composer, and the King James scriptures behind each one.

biblesundays.com

Contents

1. 'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus
2. A Mighty Fortress Is Our God
3. Abide With Me
4. All Creatures of Our God and King
5. All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name
6. Amazing Grace
7. And Can It Be That I Should Gain
8. Be Thou My Vision
9. Beneath the Cross of Jesus
10. Blessed Assurance
11. Blessed Be the Name
12. Bringing in the Sheaves
13. Christ the Lord Is Risen Today
14. Come, Thou Almighty King
15. Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing
16. Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus
17. Crown Him With Many Crowns
18. Fairest Lord Jesus
19. For the Beauty of the Earth
20. Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah
21. Hark! the Herald Angels Sing
22. Holy, Holy, Holy
23. How Firm a Foundation
24. I Love to Tell the Story
25. I Need Thee Every Hour
26. I Surrender All
27. Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise
28. It Is Well With My Soul
29. Jesus Loves Me
30. Jesus Paid It All
31. Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun
32. Joy to the World
33. Just As I Am
34. Leaning on the Everlasting Arms
35. Love Divine, All Loves Excelling
36. Low in the Grave He Lay (Christ Arose!)
37. My Faith Looks Up to Thee
38. My Jesus, I Love Thee
39. Nothing But the Blood of Jesus
40. Now Thank We All Our God
41. O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
42. O Holy Night
43. O Sacred Head, Now Wounded
44. O Worship the King

45. Onward, Christian Soldiers
46. Praise to the Lord, the Almighty
47. Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven
48. Rock of Ages
49. Shall We Gather at the River
50. Silent Night
51. Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling
52. Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus
53. Sweet Hour of Prayer
54. Take My Life and Let It Be
55. The Old Rugged Cross
56. There Is a Fountain Filled With Blood
57. This Is My Father's World
58. To God Be the Glory
59. Trust and Obey
60. We Gather Together
61. What a Friend We Have in Jesus
62. When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus

Louisa M. R. Stead · 1882 · Tune: Trust in Jesus (William J. Kirkpatrick)
Meter: 8.7.8.7 with refrain

Verse 1

'Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus,
Just to take Him at His word;
Just to rest upon His promise,
Just to know, 'Thus saith the Lord.'

Jesus, Jesus, how I trust Him!
How I've proved Him o'er and o'er!
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus!
O for grace to trust Him more!

Verse 2

O how sweet to trust in Jesus,
Just to trust His cleansing blood;
Just in simple faith to plunge me
'Neath the healing, cleansing flood!

Verse 3

Yes, 'tis sweet to trust in Jesus,
Just from sin and self to cease;
Just from Jesus simply taking
Life and rest, and joy and peace.

Verse 4

I'm so glad I learned to trust Thee,
Precious Jesus, Saviour, Friend;
And I know that Thou art with me,
Wilt be with me to the end.

History

Louisa Stead wrote the hymn shortly after her husband drowned trying to rescue a boy at Long Island Sound, leaving her with a small daughter and almost no income. In her grief and the unexpected provision that followed, she penned the words. William Kirkpatrick composed the tune. Stead later served 25 years as a missionary in southern Africa.

Scripture References (KJV)

Psalm 84:12

O LORD of hosts, blessed is the man that trusteth in thee.

Proverbs 3:5

Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

Martin Luther · 1529 · Tune: Ein' feste Burg (Martin Luther)
Meter: 8.7.8.7.6.6.6.7

Verse 1

A mighty fortress is our God,
A bulwark never failing;
Our helper He, amid the flood
Of mortal ills prevailing:
For still our ancient foe
Doth seek to work us woe;
His craft and power are great,
And, armed with cruel hate,
On earth is not his equal.

Verse 2

Did we in our own strength confide,
Our striving would be losing;
Were not the right Man on our side,
The Man of God's own choosing:
Dost ask who that may be?
Christ Jesus, it is He;
Lord Sabaoth His Name,
From age to age the same,
And He must win the battle.

Verse 3

And though this world, with devils filled,
Should threaten to undo us,
We will not fear, for God hath willed
His truth to triumph through us:
The Prince of Darkness grim,
We tremble not for him;
His rage we can endure,
For lo, his doom is sure,
One little word shall fell him.

Verse 4

That word above all earthly powers,
No thanks to them, abideth;
The Spirit and the gifts are ours
Through Him who with us sideth:
Let goods and kindred go,
This mortal life also;

The body they may kill:
God's truth abideth still,
His kingdom is forever.

History

Luther wrote both text and tune around 1527-1529 during a season of plague and persecution. It became the rallying anthem of the Protestant Reformation and is sometimes called 'the Battle Hymn of the Reformation'.

Scripture References (KJV)

Psalm 46:1

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

Psalm 46:7

The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.

Public domain · biblesundays.com/hymns/a-mighty-fortress-is-our-god

Abide With Me

Henry Francis Lyte · 1847 · Tune: Eventide (William Henry Monk)
Meter: 10.10.10.10

Verse 1

Abide with me; fast falls the eventide;
The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.

Verse 2

Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;
Earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away;
Change and decay in all around I see;
O Thou who changest not, abide with me.

Verse 3

I need Thy presence every passing hour.
What but Thy grace can foil the tempter's power?
Who, like Thyself, my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, Lord, abide with me.

Verse 4

I fear no foe, with Thee at hand to bless;
Ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness.
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?
I triumph still, if Thou abide with me.

Verse 5

Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes;
Shine through the gloom and point me to the skies.
Heaven's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;
In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

History

Anglican minister Henry Francis Lyte wrote 'Abide With Me' in 1847, three weeks before he died of tuberculosis. The text meditates on Luke 24:29, where the disciples on the Emmaus road plead with the risen Christ to remain with them. William Henry Monk composed the tune 'Eventide' in 1861 for Hymns Ancient and Modern.

Scripture References (KJV)

Luke 24:29

But they constrained him, saying, Abide with us: for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent. And he went in to tarry with them.

1 Corinthians 15:55

O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?

Public domain · biblesundays.com/hymns/abide-with-me

All Creatures of Our God and King

Francis of Assisi (1225); William H. Draper (1919) · 1225 · Tune: Lasst uns erfreuen (16th-century German melody)

Meter: L.M. with alleluias

Verse 1

All creatures of our God and King,
Lift up your voice and with us sing,
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Thou burning sun with golden beam,
Thou silver moon with softer gleam,
O praise Him, O praise Him,
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Verse 2

Thou rushing wind that art so strong,
Ye clouds that sail in heaven along,
O praise Him, Alleluia!
Thou rising morn, in praise rejoice,
Ye lights of evening, find a voice,
O praise Him, O praise Him,
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Verse 3

Let all things their Creator bless,
And worship Him in humbleness,
O praise Him, Alleluia!
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,
And praise the Spirit, Three in One,
O praise Him, O praise Him,
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

History

Based on Francis of Assisi's 'Canticle of the Sun' (1225), translated into English by William H. Draper around 1919. The exuberant tune 'Lasst uns erfreuen' first appeared in Cologne in 1623.

Scripture References (KJV)

Psalm 148:3

Praise ye him, sun and moon: praise him, all ye stars of light.

Psalm 150:6

Let every thing that hath breath praise the LORD.

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

Edward Perronet · 1779 · Tune: Coronation (Oliver Holden)

Meter: C.M. (8.6.8.6)

Verse 1

All hail the power of Jesus' name!
Let angels prostrate fall;
Bring forth the royal diadem,
And crown Him Lord of all.
Bring forth the royal diadem,
And crown Him Lord of all.

Verse 2

Ye chosen seed of Israel's race,
Ye ransomed from the fall,
Hail Him who saves you by His grace,
And crown Him Lord of all.

Verse 3

Let every kindred, every tribe,
On this terrestrial ball,
To Him all majesty ascribe,
And crown Him Lord of all.

Verse 4

O that with yonder sacred throng
We at His feet may fall!
We'll join the everlasting song,
And crown Him Lord of all.

History

English minister Edward Perronet first published the opening verse anonymously in the Gospel Magazine in 1779. The tune 'Coronation' was composed by American carpenter Oliver Holden in 1793 — the oldest American hymn tune still in common use. Missionary E. P. Scott reportedly sang it to a hostile tribe in India and won them to Christ.

Scripture References (KJV)

Philippians 2:9-11

Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow... and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Revelation 19:16

And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.

Amazing Grace

John Newton · 1779

Meter: C.M. (8.6.8.6)

Verse 1

Amazing grace! how sweet the sound,
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
Was blind, but now I see.

Verse 2

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed.

Verse 3

Through many dangers, toils, and snares,
I have already come;
'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.

Verse 4

The Lord hath promised good to me,
His word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be,
As long as life endures.

Verse 5

When we've been there ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we'd first begun.

History

Written by former slave-trader John Newton for his New Year's Day sermon of 1773, first published in the Olney Hymns of 1779. The familiar 'New Britain' tune was paired with the text in 1835.

Scripture References (KJV)

Ephesians 2:8

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God.

Luke 15:24

For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.

1 Chronicles 17:16-17

Who am I, O LORD God, and what is mine house, that thou hast brought me hitherto?

And Can It Be That I Should Gain

Charles Wesley · 1738 · Tune: Sagina (Thomas Campbell)
Meter: 8.8.8.8.8.8

Verse 1

And can it be that I should gain
An interest in the Saviour's blood?
Died He for me, who caused His pain?
For me, who Him to death pursued?
Amazing love! how can it be
That Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

Verse 2

'Tis mystery all! The Immortal dies!
Who can explore His strange design?
In vain the firstborn seraph tries
To sound the depths of love divine!
'Tis mercy all! let earth adore,
Let angel minds inquire no more.

Verse 3

He left His Father's throne above,
So free, so infinite His grace;
Emptied Himself of all but love,
And bled for Adam's helpless race;
'Tis mercy all, immense and free;
For, O my God, it found out me.

Verse 4

Long my imprisoned spirit lay
Fast bound in sin and nature's night;
Thine eye diffused a quickening ray,
I woke, the dungeon flamed with light;
My chains fell off, my heart was free;
I rose, went forth, and followed Thee.

Verse 5

No condemnation now I dread;
Jesus, and all in Him, is mine!
Alive in Him, my living Head,
And clothed in righteousness divine,
Bold I approach the eternal throne,
And claim the crown, through Christ my own.

History

Written by Charles Wesley within days of his evangelical conversion on 21 May 1738. The hymn's third stanza ('Long my imprisoned spirit lay... my chains fell off, my heart was free') reflects his own experience of release from spiritual bondage. The tune 'Sagina' was composed by Thomas Campbell in 1825.

Scripture References (KJV)

Romans 8:1

There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

Acts 12:7

And, behold, the angel of the Lord came upon him, and a light shined in the prison: and he smote Peter on the side, and raised him up, saying, Arise up quickly. And his chains fell off from his hands.

Philippians 2:7

But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men.

Be Thou My Vision

Ancient Irish (attributed to Dallán Forgaill) · 8th century · Tune: Slane (Traditional Irish ('Slane'))
Meter: 10.10.10.10

Verse 1

Be Thou my Vision, O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art;
Thou my best Thought, by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.

Verse 2

Be Thou my Wisdom, and Thou my true Word;
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;
Thou my great Father, I Thy true son;
Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one.

Verse 3

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise,
Thou mine Inheritance, now and always:
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart,
High King of Heaven, my Treasure Thou art.

Verse 4

High King of Heaven, my victory won,
May I reach Heaven's joys, O bright Heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my Vision, O Ruler of all.

History

The Old Irish text 'Rop tú mo baile' is traditionally attributed to the 6th-century poet Dallán Forgaill. Mary E. Byrne translated it to English in 1905; Eleanor Hull versified it in 1912 and paired it with the folk tune 'Slane'.

Scripture References (KJV)

Psalm 119:105

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

Matthew 6:21

For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

Beneath the Cross of Jesus

Elizabeth C. Clephane · 1872 · Tune: St. Christopher (Frederick C. Maker)
Meter: 7.6.8.6.8.6.8.6

Verse 1

Beneath the cross of Jesus
I fain would take my stand —
The shadow of a mighty rock
Within a weary land;
A home within the wilderness,
A rest upon the way,
From the burning of the noontide heat,
And the burden of the day.

Verse 2

Upon that cross of Jesus
Mine eye at times can see
The very dying form of One
Who suffered there for me;
And from my smitten heart with tears
Two wonders I confess —
The wonders of redeeming love
And my own worthlessness.

Verse 3

I take, O cross, thy shadow
For my abiding place;
I ask no other sunshine than
The sunshine of His face;
Content to let the world go by,
To know no gain nor loss,
My sinful self my only shame,
My glory all the cross.

History

Scottish poet Elizabeth Clephane (also author of 'The Ninety and Nine') wrote the verses in 1868 during her final illness; they were published posthumously in 1872. Frederick Maker composed the tune 'St. Christopher' for the words in 1881. Clephane died at 39 having spent her short life serving the poor of Melrose, Scotland.

Scripture References (KJV)

Isaiah 32:2

And a man shall be as an hiding place from the wind, and a covert from the tempest; as rivers of water in a dry place, as the shadow of a great rock in a weary land.

Galatians 6:14

But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.

Public domain · biblesundays.com/hymns/beneath-the-cross-of-jesus

Blessed Assurance

Fanny J. Crosby · 1873 · Tune: Assurance (Phoebe P. Knapp)
Meter: 9.10.9.9 with refrain

Verse 1

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
O what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.

Verse 2

Refrain:

This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Saviour all the day long;
This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Saviour all the day long.

Verse 3

Perfect submission, perfect delight,
Visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
Angels descending bring from above
Echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

Verse 4

Perfect submission, all is at rest,
I in my Saviour am happy and blest,
Watching and waiting, looking above,
Filled with His goodness, lost in His love.

History

Phoebe Knapp played a new tune for her blind friend Fanny Crosby and asked, 'What does this tune say?' Crosby instantly replied, 'Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!' and wrote the words on the spot.

Scripture References (KJV)

Hebrews 10:22

Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith.

1 John 5:13

These things have I written unto you... that ye may know that ye have eternal life.

Blessed Be the Name

William H. Clark · 1888 · Tune: Blessed Be the Name (Ralph E. Hudson)

Meter: C.M. with refrain

Verse 1

All praise to Him who reigns above
In majesty supreme,
Who gave His Son for man to die,
That He might man redeem!

Blessed be the name! Blessed be the name!
Blessed be the name of the Lord!
Blessed be the name! Blessed be the name!
Blessed be the name of the Lord!

Verse 2

His name above all names shall stand,
Exalted more and more,
At God the Father's own right hand,
Where angel hosts adore.

Verse 3

Redeemer, Saviour, Friend of man,
Once ruined by the fall,
Thou hast devised salvation's plan,
For Thou hast died for all.

Verse 4

His name shall be the Counsellor,
The mighty Prince of Peace,
Of all earth's kingdoms Conqueror,
Whose reign shall never cease.

History

The verses are by William H. Clark; Ralph E. Hudson published the now-familiar refrain and melody in 'Songs of Peace, Love and Joy' (1887). A staple of camp meetings and revival services across the late 19th century American holiness movement.

Scripture References (KJV)

Psalm 113:2

Blessed be the name of the LORD from this time forth and for evermore.

Philippians 2:9

Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name.

Isaiah 9:6

His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of

Peace.

Public domain · biblesundays.com/hymns/blessed-be-the-name

Bringing in the Sheaves

Knowles Shaw · 1874 · Tune: *Bringing in the Sheaves* (George A. Minor)
Meter: 12.9.12.9 with refrain

Verse 1

Sowing in the morning, sowing seeds of kindness,
Sowing in the noontide and the dewy eve;
Waiting for the harvest, and the time of reaping,
We shall come rejoicing, bringing in the sheaves.

Bringing in the sheaves, bringing in the sheaves,
We shall come rejoicing, bringing in the sheaves;
Bringing in the sheaves, bringing in the sheaves,
We shall come rejoicing, bringing in the sheaves.

Verse 2

Sowing in the sunshine, sowing in the shadows,
Fearing neither clouds nor winter's chilling breeze;
By and by the harvest, and the labor ended,
We shall come rejoicing, bringing in the sheaves.

Verse 3

Going forth with weeping, sowing for the Master,
Though the loss sustained our spirit often grieves;
When our weeping's over, He will bid us welcome,
We shall come rejoicing, bringing in the sheaves.

History

Written by Knowles Shaw, the 'Singing Evangelist,' in 1874, based on Psalm 126:5-6. The familiar tune by George A. Minor was published in 1880, replacing Shaw's original melody and quickly becoming the standard. Famously sung in the closing scene of the John Ford film 'Stagecoach' (1939).

Scripture References (KJV)

Psalm 126:5-6

They that sow in tears shall reap in joy. He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him.

Galatians 6:9

And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

Charles Wesley · 1739 · Tune: Easter Hymn (Lyra Davidica (anon.))
Meter: 7.7.7.7 with Alleluias

Verse 1

Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!
Sons of men and angels say, Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!
Sing, ye heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!

Verse 2

Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!
Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!
Death in vain forbids Him rise, Alleluia!
Christ hath opened paradise, Alleluia!

Verse 3

Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia!
Where, O death, is now thy sting? Alleluia!
Once He died our souls to save, Alleluia!
Where thy victory, O grave? Alleluia!

Verse 4

Soar we now where Christ hath led, Alleluia!
Following our exalted Head, Alleluia!
Made like Him, like Him we rise, Alleluia!
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!

History

Written by Charles Wesley in 1739, less than a year after his evangelical conversion, for the first service in the Wesleyan Foundery Chapel in London. The 'Alleluia' refrains were added by an editor to fit the anonymous tune from the 1708 collection 'Lyra Davidica.'

Scripture References (KJV)

Matthew 28:6

He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.

1 Corinthians 15:55

O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?

Come, Thou Almighty King

Anonymous · 1757 · Tune: Italian Hymn (Trinity) (Felice de Giardini)
Meter: 6.6.4.6.6.6.4

Verse 1

Come, Thou Almighty King,
Help us Thy name to sing,
Help us to praise:
Father, all glorious,
O'er all victorious,
Come, and reign over us,
Ancient of Days.

Verse 2

Come, Thou Incarnate Word,
Gird on Thy mighty sword,
Our prayer attend:
Come, and Thy people bless,
And give Thy word success;
Spirit of holiness,
On us descend.

Verse 3

Come, Holy Comforter,
Thy sacred witness bear
In this glad hour:
Thou who almighty art,
Now rule in every heart,
And ne'er from us depart,
Spirit of power.

Verse 4

To the great One in Three
Eternal praises be,
Hence, evermore!
His sovereign majesty
May we in glory see,
And to eternity
Love and adore.

History

First published anonymously in a leaflet appended to George Whitefield's 1757 'Collection of Hymns for Social Worship,' originally as a parody of 'God Save the King' set to that tune. Italian violinist Felice de Giardini composed the 'Italian Hymn' tune in 1769 specifically for these words. Its authorship has been

debated for centuries.

Scripture References (KJV)

2 Corinthians 13:14

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all. Amen.

Revelation 4:8

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come.

Public domain · biblesundays.com/hymns/come-thou-almighty-king

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Robert Robinson · 1758 · Tune: Nettleton (John Wyeth (attributed))
Meter: 8.7.8.7 D

Verse 1

Come, Thou Fount of every blessing,
Tune my heart to sing Thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,
Call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
Sung by flaming tongues above;
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it,
Mount of Thy redeeming love.

Verse 2

Here I raise mine Ebenezer;
Hither by Thy help I'm come;
And I hope, by Thy good pleasure,
Safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
Wandering from the fold of God;
He, to rescue me from danger,
Interposed His precious blood.

Verse 3

O to grace how great a debtor
Daily I'm constrained to be!
Let Thy goodness, like a fetter,
Bind my wandering heart to Thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
Prone to leave the God I love;
Here's my heart, O take and seal it,
Seal it for Thy courts above.

History

Robert Robinson, converted at age 17 under George Whitefield's preaching, wrote this hymn at age 22. The familiar tune 'Nettleton' first appeared in John Wyeth's Repository of Sacred Music (1813).

Scripture References (KJV)

1 Samuel 7:12

Then Samuel took a stone, and set it between Mizpeh and Shen, and called the name of it Ebenezer, saying, Hitherto hath the LORD helped us.

Psalms 23:6

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life.

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

Charles Wesley · 1744 · Tune: Hyfrydol (Rowland H. Prichard)
Meter: 8.7.8.7

Verse 1

Come, Thou long expected Jesus,
Born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us,
Let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
Hope of all the earth Thou art;
Dear desire of every nation,
Joy of every longing heart.

Verse 2

Born Thy people to deliver,
Born a child and yet a King,
Born to reign in us forever,
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all sufficient merit,
Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

History

Charles Wesley wrote the verses in 1744 in response to the plight of orphan children in England, longing for the comfort of Christ's coming. The most familiar tune, 'Hyfrydol' ('cheerful'), was composed by Welsh musician Rowland Prichard around 1830 when he was about 20 years old.

Scripture References (KJV)

Haggai 2:7

And I will shake all nations, and the desire of all nations shall come: and I will fill this house with glory, saith the LORD of hosts.

Luke 2:25

And, behold, there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon; and the same man was just and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Ghost was upon him.

Crown Him With Many Crowns

Matthew Bridges & Godfrey Thring · 1851 · Tune: Diademata (George J. Elvey)

Meter: S.M.D. (6.6.8.6 D)

Verse 1

Crown Him with many crowns,
The Lamb upon His throne;
Hark! how the heavenly anthem drowns
All music but its own:
Awake, my soul, and sing
Of Him who died for thee,
And hail Him as thy matchless King
Through all eternity.

Verse 2

Crown Him the Lord of love;
Behold His hands and side,
Those wounds, yet visible above,
In beauty glorified:
No angel in the sky
Can fully bear that sight,
But downward bends his burning eye
At mysteries so bright.

Verse 3

Crown Him the Lord of life,
Who triumphed o'er the grave,
And rose victorious in the strife
For those He came to save:
His glories now we sing,
Who died, and rose on high,
Who died eternal life to bring,
And lives that death may die.

Verse 4

Crown Him the Lord of years,
The Potentate of time,
Creator of the rolling spheres,
Ineffably sublime.
All hail, Redeemer, hail!
For Thou hast died for me;
Thy praise and glory shall not fail
Throughout eternity.

History

Matthew Bridges wrote the original six stanzas in 1851; Godfrey Thring added six more in 1874. George J. Elvey's tune 'Diademata' (1868) takes its name from the Greek word for crowns in Revelation 19:12.

Scripture References (KJV)

Revelation 19:12

His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns.

Philippians 2:9-11

God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name.

Public domain · biblesundays.com/hymns/crown-him-with-many-crowns

Fairest Lord Jesus

Anonymous (German, 17th century) · 1677 · Tune: Crusader's Hymn / St. Elizabeth (Silesian folk melody)
Meter: 5.6.8.5.5.8

Verse 1

Fairest Lord Jesus, Ruler of all nature,
O Thou of God and man the Son,
Thee will I cherish, Thee will I honor,
Thou, my soul's glory, joy, and crown.

Verse 2

Fair are the meadows, fairer still the woodlands,
Robed in the blooming garb of spring;
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer,
Who makes the woeful heart to sing.

Verse 3

Fair is the sunshine, fairer still the moonlight,
And all the twinkling, starry host;
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer
Than all the angels heaven can boast.

Verse 4

Beautiful Saviour! Lord of all the nations!
Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor, praise, adoration,
Now and forevermore be Thine.

History

First published in the German Münster Gesangbuch (1677). The familiar Silesian folk tune was collected in 1842 by August Heinrich Hoffmann von Fallersleben. Popularly — but inaccurately — linked to medieval Crusaders, hence the alternate tune name 'Crusader's Hymn.' The English translation appeared in Richard Storrs Willis's Church Chorals (1850).

Scripture References (KJV)

Song of Solomon 5:16

His mouth is most sweet: yea, he is altogether lovely. This is my beloved, and this is my friend, O daughters of Jerusalem.

Psalms 45:2

Thou art fairer than the children of men: grace is poured into thy lips: therefore God hath blessed thee for ever.

For the Beauty of the Earth

Folliott S. Pierpoint · 1864 · Tune: Dix (Conrad Kocher)
Meter: 7.7.7.7.7.7

Verse 1

For the beauty of the earth,
For the glory of the skies,
For the love which from our birth
Over and around us lies:
Lord of all, to Thee we raise
This our hymn of grateful praise.

Verse 2

For the beauty of each hour
Of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale, and tree and flower,
Sun and moon, and stars of light:
Lord of all, to Thee we raise
This our hymn of grateful praise.

Verse 3

For the joy of ear and eye,
For the heart and mind's delight,
For the mystic harmony
Linking sense to sound and sight:
Lord of all, to Thee we raise
This our hymn of grateful praise.

Verse 4

For the joy of human love,
Brother, sister, parent, child,
Friends on earth, and friends above,
For all gentle thoughts and mild:
Lord of all, to Thee we raise
This our hymn of grateful praise.

Verse 5

For Thy Church that evermore
Lifteth holy hands above,
Offering up on every shore
Her pure sacrifice of love:
Lord of all, to Thee we raise
This our hymn of grateful praise.

History

Folliott Pierpoint wrote the hymn in 1864 at age 29 while sitting on a hilltop near Bath, England in springtime, overwhelmed by the surrounding beauty. Originally a eucharistic hymn, the refrain was later changed from 'Christ, our God, to Thee we raise' to the more general 'Lord of all, to Thee we raise.' Set to Conrad Kocher's tune 'Dix' (1838).

Scripture References (KJV)

James 1:17

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.

Psalms 19:1

The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork.

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

William Williams · 1745 · Tune: Cwm Rhondda (John Hughes)
Meter: 8.7.8.7.4.7

Verse 1

Guide me, O Thou great Jehovah,
Pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but Thou art mighty;
Hold me with Thy powerful hand.
Bread of heaven, Bread of heaven,
Feed me till I want no more,
Feed me till I want no more.

Verse 2

Open now the crystal fountain
Whence the healing stream doth flow;
Let the fiery, cloudy pillar
Lead me all my journey through.
Strong Deliverer, strong Deliverer,
Be Thou still my strength and shield,
Be Thou still my strength and shield.

Verse 3

When I tread the verge of Jordan,
Bid my anxious fears subside;
Death of death, and hell's destruction,
Land me safe on Canaan's side.
Songs of praises, songs of praises,
I will ever give to Thee,
I will ever give to Thee.

History

Written in Welsh by William Williams Pantycelyn in 1745 ('Arglwydd, arwain trwy'r anialwch') during the Welsh Methodist revival. Peter Williams translated the first stanza into English in 1771. The famous tune 'Cwm Rhondda' was composed by John Hughes in 1907 for a Baptist Cymanfa Ganu in Pontypridd, Wales. Sung at the funerals of Princess Diana and the weddings of Prince William and Queen Elizabeth II.

Scripture References (KJV)

Exodus 13:21

And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of a cloud, to lead them the way; and by night in a pillar of fire, to give them light; to go by day and night.

John 6:35

And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

Charles Wesley · 1739 · Tune: Mendelssohn (Felix Mendelssohn (adapted by W. H. Cummings))
Meter: 7.7.7.7 D with refrain

Verse 1

Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the new-born King;
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
Join the triumph of the skies;
With th' angelic host proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the new-born King!"

Verse 2

Christ, by highest heav'n adored;
Christ, the everlasting Lord;
Late in time, behold Him come,
Offspring of the Virgin's womb:
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
Hail th' incarnate Deity,
Pleased as man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the new-born King!"

Verse 3

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings,
Risen with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by,
Born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth.
Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the new-born King!"

History

Charles Wesley first published the hymn in 1739 as 'Hymn for Christmas-Day'. George Whitefield revised the opening line. In 1855, William H. Cummings paired the text with a chorus from Felix Mendelssohn's 1840 'Festgesang'.

Scripture References (KJV)

Luke 2:14

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

Malachi 4:2

But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings.

Public domain · biblesundays.com/hymns/hark-the-herald-angels-sing

Holy, Holy, Holy

Reginald Heber · 1826 · Tune: Nicaea (John B. Dykes)

Meter: 11.12.12.10

Verse 1

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee;
Holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty,
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

Verse 2

Holy, holy, holy! all the saints adore Thee,
Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before Thee,
Which wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.

Verse 3

Holy, holy, holy! though the darkness hide Thee,
Though the eye of sinful man Thy glory may not see;
Only Thou art holy; there is none beside Thee,
Perfect in power, in love, and purity.

Verse 4

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All Thy works shall praise Thy name in earth and sky and sea;
Holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty,
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

History

Bishop Reginald Heber wrote this hymn for Trinity Sunday while serving in Calcutta. John B. Dykes composed the now-inseparable tune 'Nicaea' in 1861 in honor of the Council of Nicaea.

Scripture References (KJV)

Revelation 4:8

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come.

Isaiah 6:3

Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory.

How Firm a Foundation

John Rippon's Selection (attrib. 'K') · 1787 · Tune: Foundation (Traditional American melody)
Meter: 11.11.11.11

Verse 1

How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
Is laid for your faith in His excellent Word!
What more can He say than to you He hath said,
To you, who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

Verse 2

'Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed,
For I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;
I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,
Upheld by My righteous, omnipotent hand.'

Verse 3

'When through the deep waters I call thee to go,
The rivers of sorrow shall not overflow;
For I will be with thee, thy troubles to bless,
And sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.'

Verse 4

'When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie,
My grace, all sufficient, shall be thy supply;
The flame shall not hurt thee; I only design
Thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine.'

Verse 5

'The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose,
I will not, I will not desert to his foes;
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I'll never, no never, no never forsake.'

History

Published in 1787 in 'A Selection of Hymns' by London Baptist pastor John Rippon, signed only with the letter 'K' (likely Robert Keene, Rippon's precentor). Each verse paraphrases a different Scripture promise. The American folk tune 'Foundation' first appeared in Joseph Funk's *Genuine Church Music* (1832). It was a favorite of Andrew Jackson, Robert E. Lee, and Theodore Roosevelt.

Scripture References (KJV)

Isaiah 41:10

Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.

Isaiah 43:2

When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee.

Hebrews 13:5

Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.

Public domain · biblesundays.com/hymns/how-firm-a-foundation

I Love to Tell the Story

Katherine Hankey · 1866 · Tune: Hankey (William G. Fischer)
Meter: 7.6.7.6.D with refrain

Verse 1

I love to tell the story of unseen things above,
Of Jesus and His glory, of Jesus and His love;
I love to tell the story, because I know 'tis true;
It satisfies my longings as nothing else can do.

I love to tell the story! 'Twill be my theme in glory,
To tell the old, old story of Jesus and His love.

Verse 2

I love to tell the story; more wonderful it seems
Than all the golden fancies of all our golden dreams.
I love to tell the story, it did so much for me;
And that is just the reason I tell it now to thee.

Verse 3

I love to tell the story; 'tis pleasant to repeat
What seems each time I tell it more wonderfully sweet.
I love to tell the story, for some have never heard
The message of salvation from God's own holy Word.

Verse 4

I love to tell the story; for those who know it best
Seem hungering and thirsting to hear it like the rest.
And when, in scenes of glory, I sing the new, new song,
'Twill be the old, old story that I have loved so long.

History

Katherine 'Kate' Hankey, an English Sunday-school teacher and missionary's daughter, wrote a long 100-stanza poem on the life of Christ in 1866 while recovering from a serious illness. The portion that became 'I Love to Tell the Story' came from the second part. American composer William Fischer set selected verses to music in 1869 for a YMCA convention.

Scripture References (KJV)

Psalm 96:3

Declare his glory among the heathen, his wonders among all people.

Romans 1:16

For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth.

I Need Thee Every Hour

Annie S. Hawks · 1872 · Tune: Need (Robert Lowry)
Meter: 6.4.6.4 with refrain

Verse 1

I need Thee every hour, most gracious Lord;
No tender voice like Thine can peace afford.

I need Thee, O I need Thee; every hour I need Thee!
O bless me now, my Saviour, I come to Thee.

Verse 2

I need Thee every hour, stay Thou nearby;
Temptations lose their power when Thou art nigh.

Verse 3

I need Thee every hour, in joy or pain;
Come quickly and abide, or life is vain.

Verse 4

I need Thee every hour, teach me Thy will;
And Thy rich promises in me fulfill.

Verse 5

I need Thee every hour, most Holy One;
O make me Thine indeed, Thou blessed Son.

History

Annie Hawks, a Brooklyn housewife and member of Robert Lowry's congregation, wrote the verses one morning in 1872 while doing housework, struck by a sudden sense of nearness to God. Her pastor, Lowry, added the refrain and tune, and it was sung at the National Baptist Sunday School Convention later that year.

Scripture References (KJV)

John 15:5

I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

Hebrews 4:16

Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

I Surrender All

Judson W. Van DeVenter · 1896 · Tune: Surrender (Winfield S. Weeden)

Meter: 8.7.8.7 with refrain

Verse 1

All to Jesus I surrender,
All to Him I freely give;
I will ever love and trust Him,
In His presence daily live.

Verse 2

Refrain:

I surrender all,
I surrender all,
All to Thee, my blessed Saviour,
I surrender all.

Verse 3

All to Jesus I surrender,
Humbly at His feet I bow,
Worldly pleasures all forsaken;
Take me, Jesus, take me now.

Verse 4

All to Jesus I surrender,
Make me, Saviour, wholly Thine;
Let me feel the Holy Spirit,
Truly know that Thou art mine.

Verse 5

All to Jesus I surrender,
Lord, I give myself to Thee;
Fill me with Thy love and power,
Let Thy blessing fall on me.

History

Van DeVenter, a respected art teacher, wrestled for years between teaching art and entering full-time evangelism. After he finally surrendered to ministry, he wrote this hymn around 1896 to express that yielding. Winfield S. Weeden composed the tune the same year.

Scripture References (KJV)

Romans 12:1

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

Galatians 2:20

I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me.

Public domain · biblesundays.com/hymns/i-surrender-all

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

Walter Chalmers Smith · 1867 · Tune: St. Denio (Welsh hymn melody)

Meter: 11.11.11.11

Verse 1

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
Almighty, victorious, Thy great name we praise.

Verse 2

Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
Nor wanting, nor wasting, Thou rulest in might;
Thy justice like mountains high soaring above
Thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.

Verse 3

To all life Thou givest, to both great and small;
In all life Thou livest, the true life of all;
We blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,
And wither and perish; but naught changeth Thee.

Verse 4

Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,
Thine angels adore Thee, all veiling their sight;
All laud we would render: O help us to see
'Tis only the splendor of light hideth Thee.

History

Free Church of Scotland minister Walter Chalmers Smith wrote the hymn in 1867 based on 1 Timothy 1:17. The tune 'St. Denio' is a traditional Welsh ballad melody adapted for hymn use in 1839. It is one of the few hymns in English that focuses entirely on the attributes of God Himself.

Scripture References (KJV)

1 Timothy 1:17

Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

1 Timothy 6:16

Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom be honour and power everlasting. Amen.

It Is Well With My Soul

Horatio G. Spafford · 1873 · Tune: Ville du Havre (Philip P. Bliss)
Meter: 11.8.11.9 with refrain

Verse 1

When peace, like a river, attendeth my way,
When sorrows like sea billows roll;
Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say,
It is well, it is well, with my soul.

Verse 2

Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,
Let this blest assurance control,
That Christ has regarded my helpless estate,
And hath shed His own blood for my soul.

Verse 3

My sin, oh, the bliss of this glorious thought!
My sin, not in part but the whole,
Is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more,
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!

Verse 4

And Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight,
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll;
The trump shall resound, and the Lord shall descend,
Even so, it is well with my soul.

History

Horatio Spafford penned these words after the SS Ville du Havre sank in 1873, taking his four daughters. Crossing the Atlantic later, he wrote the hymn near the spot of the wreck. Philip P. Bliss composed the tune the following year.

Scripture References (KJV)

Isaiah 66:12

Behold, I will extend peace to her like a river.

1 Thessalonians 4:16

For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God.

Jesus Loves Me

Anna B. Warner · 1860 · Tune: Jesus Loves Me (William B. Bradbury)
Meter: 7.7.7.7 with refrain

Verse 1

Jesus loves me! this I know,
For the Bible tells me so;
Little ones to Him belong;
They are weak, but He is strong.

Verse 2

Refrain:

Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
The Bible tells me so.

Verse 3

Jesus loves me! He who died
Heaven's gate to open wide;
He will wash away my sin,
Let His little child come in.

Verse 4

Jesus loves me! He will stay
Close beside me all the way;
If I love Him, when I die
He will take me home on high.

History

Anna B. Warner wrote the words for her sister Susan's 1860 novel 'Say and Seal', where they are spoken to comfort a dying child. William B. Bradbury added the tune and refrain in 1862. It is reportedly the favorite hymn of theologian Karl Barth.

Scripture References (KJV)

1 John 4:19

We love him, because he first loved us.

Mark 10:14

Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God.

Jesus Paid It All

Elvina M. Hall · 1865 · Tune: All to Christ (John T. Grape)
Meter: 6.5.6.5 with refrain

Verse 1

I hear the Saviour say,
"Thy strength indeed is small;
Child of weakness, watch and pray,
Find in Me thine all in all."

Verse 2

Refrain:

Jesus paid it all,
All to Him I owe;
Sin had left a crimson stain,
He washed it white as snow.

Verse 3

Lord, now indeed I find
Thy power, and Thine alone,
Can change the leper's spots
And melt the heart of stone.

Verse 4

For nothing good have I
Whereby Thy grace to claim;
I'll wash my garments white
In the blood of Calvary's Lamb.

Verse 5

And when, before the throne,
I stand in Him complete,
"Jesus died my soul to save,"
My lips shall still repeat.

History

Elvina Hall wrote the words on the flyleaf of her hymnal during a sermon in Baltimore in 1865. The pastor's organist, John T. Grape, had recently composed a tune called 'All to Christ', and the two were paired the same year.

Scripture References (KJV)

Isaiah 1:18

Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.

Colossians 2:14

Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us... and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross.

Public domain · biblesundays.com/hymns/jesus-paid-it-all

Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun

Isaac Watts · 1719 · Tune: Duke Street (John Hatton)

Meter: L.M. (8.8.8.8)

Verse 1

Jesus shall reign where'er the sun
Does his successive journeys run;
His kingdom stretch from shore to shore,
Till moons shall wax and wane no more.

Verse 2

For Him shall endless prayer be made,
And praises throng to crown His head;
His name like sweet perfume shall rise
With every morning sacrifice.

Verse 3

People and realms of every tongue
Dwell on His love with sweetest song,
And infant voices shall proclaim
Their early blessings on His name.

Verse 4

Blessings abound where'er He reigns:
The prisoner leaps to lose his chains,
The weary find eternal rest,
And all the sons of want are blest.

Verse 5

Let every creature rise and bring
Peculiar honors to our King;
Angels descend with songs again,
And earth repeat the loud Amen.

History

From Watts's 'The Psalms of David Imitated' (1719), a Christian rendering of Psalm 72. Often called the first true missionary hymn in English. The tune 'Duke Street' was composed by John Hatton around 1793 and is named for the street in Lancashire where he lived.

Scripture References (KJV)

Psalm 72:8

He shall have dominion also from sea to sea, and from the river unto the ends of the earth.

Psalm 72:17

His name shall endure for ever: his name shall be continued as long as the sun: and men shall be blessed in him: all nations shall call him blessed.

Joy to the World

Isaac Watts · 1719 · Tune: Antioch (Lowell Mason (arr.))
Meter: C.M. (8.6.8.6)

Verse 1

Joy to the world! the Lord is come;
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Verse 2

Joy to the earth! the Saviour reigns;
Let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

Verse 3

No more let sins and sorrows grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as the curse is found.

Verse 4

He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders of His love.

History

Published in Watts's 'The Psalms of David Imitated' (1719) as a New Testament rendering of Psalm 98. Lowell Mason adapted the now-familiar tune 'Antioch' in 1839, often crediting Handel for fragments of the melody.

Scripture References (KJV)

Psalm 98:4

Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all the earth: make a loud noise, and rejoice, and sing praise.

Psalm 98:9

He shall judge the world with righteousness, and the people with equity.

Public domain · biblesundays.com/hymns/joy-to-the-world

Just As I Am

Charlotte Elliott · 1835 · Tune: Woodworth (William B. Bradbury)
Meter: 8.8.8.6

Verse 1

Just as I am, without one plea,
But that Thy blood was shed for me,
And that Thou bidd'st me come to Thee,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Verse 2

Just as I am, and waiting not
To rid my soul of one dark blot,
To Thee whose blood can cleanse each spot,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Verse 3

Just as I am, though tossed about
With many a conflict, many a doubt,
Fightings and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Verse 4

Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind;
Sight, riches, healing of the mind;
Yea, all I need, in Thee to find,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Verse 5

Just as I am, Thou wilt receive,
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
Because Thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Verse 6

Just as I am, Thy love unknown
Hath broken every barrier down;
Now, to be Thine, yea, Thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

History

Bedridden English poet Charlotte Elliott wrote 'Just As I Am' in 1835 after years of struggling with feelings of uselessness. Her brother once said her hymn raised more for the Lord's work than all his sermons combined. William Bradbury set it to the tune 'Woodworth' in 1849. It became the signature invitation hymn of Billy Graham crusades for over fifty years.

Scripture References (KJV)

John 1:29

The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.

John 6:37

All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.

Revelation 22:17

And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.

Leaning on the Everlasting Arms

Elisha A. Hoffman · 1887 · Tune: Showalter (Anthony J. Showalter)
Meter: 10.9.10.9 with refrain

Verse 1

What a fellowship, what a joy divine,
Leaning on the everlasting arms;
What a blessedness, what a peace is mine,
Leaning on the everlasting arms.

Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms;
Leaning, leaning, leaning on the everlasting arms.

Verse 2

O how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way,
Leaning on the everlasting arms;
O how bright the path grows from day to day,
Leaning on the everlasting arms.

Verse 3

What have I to dread, what have I to fear,
Leaning on the everlasting arms?
I have blessed peace with my Lord so near,
Leaning on the everlasting arms.

History

Music teacher Anthony J. Showalter wrote the chorus and tune in 1887 after receiving letters from two former students whose wives had died on the same day. He sent the verses to Elisha A. Hoffman, who completed the hymn. The phrase comes from Deuteronomy 33:27.

Scripture References (KJV)

Deuteronomy 33:27

The eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms: and he shall thrust out the enemy from before thee; and shall say, Destroy them.

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Charles Wesley · 1747 · Tune: Beecher (John Zundel)
Meter: 8.7.8.7.D

Verse 1

Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heaven, to earth come down,
Fix in us Thy humble dwelling,
All Thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, Thou art all compassion,
Pure, unbounded love Thou art;
Visit us with Thy salvation,
Enter every trembling heart.

Verse 2

Breathe, O breathe Thy loving Spirit
Into every troubled breast;
Let us all in Thee inherit,
Let us find the promised rest.
Take away the love of sinning;
Alpha and Omega be;
End of faith, as its beginning,
Set our hearts at liberty.

Verse 3

Come, Almighty to deliver,
Let us all Thy life receive;
Suddenly return, and never,
Nevermore Thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
Serve Thee as Thy hosts above,
Pray, and praise Thee without ceasing,
Glory in Thy perfect love.

Verse 4

Finish then Thy new creation;
Pure and spotless let us be;
Let us see Thy great salvation,
Perfectly restored in Thee:
Changed from glory into glory,
Till in heaven we take our place,
Till we cast our crowns before Thee,
Lost in wonder, love, and praise.

History

Published in Wesley's 'Hymns for Those That Seek and Those That Have Redemption' (1747). The hymn expresses the Wesleyan doctrine of Christian perfection — God's love progressively transforming the believer until faith becomes sight. The tune 'Beecher' was composed by John Zundel in 1870 and named for Henry Ward Beecher, Zundel's pastor at Plymouth Church, Brooklyn.

Scripture References (KJV)

1 John 4:8

He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.

2 Corinthians 3:18

But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.

Low in the Grave He Lay (Christ Arose!)

Robert Lowry · 1874 · Tune: Christ Arose (Robert Lowry)

Meter: Irregular with refrain

Verse 1

Low in the grave He lay, Jesus my Saviour,
Waiting the coming day, Jesus my Lord!

Up from the grave He arose,
With a mighty triumph o'er His foes;
He arose a Victor from the dark domain,
And He lives forever with His saints to reign.
He arose! He arose! Hallelujah! Christ arose!

Verse 2

Vainly they watch His bed, Jesus my Saviour;
Vainly they seal the dead, Jesus my Lord!

Verse 3

Death cannot keep his prey, Jesus my Saviour;
He tore the bars away, Jesus my Lord!

History

Robert Lowry, a Baptist pastor and music editor, wrote both words and music in 1874 while reading Luke 24:6-8 during Easter season. The hushed minor verses give way to a triumphant major-key refrain — a musical depiction of the resurrection itself.

Scripture References (KJV)

Luke 24:6

He is not here, but is risen: remember how he spake unto you when he was yet in Galilee.

Acts 2:24

Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it.

My Faith Looks Up to Thee

Ray Palmer · 1830 · Tune: Olivet (Lowell Mason)

Meter: 6.6.4.6.6.6.4

Verse 1

My faith looks up to Thee,
Thou Lamb of Calvary,
Saviour divine!
Now hear me while I pray,
Take all my guilt away,
O let me from this day
Be wholly Thine!

Verse 2

May Thy rich grace impart
Strength to my fainting heart,
My zeal inspire!
As Thou hast died for me,
O may my love to Thee
Pure, warm, and changeless be,
A living fire!

Verse 3

While life's dark maze I tread,
And griefs around me spread,
Be Thou my guide;
Bid darkness turn to day,
Wipe sorrow's tears away,
Nor let me ever stray
From Thee aside.

Verse 4

When ends life's transient dream,
When death's cold, sullen stream
Shall o'er me roll,
Blest Saviour, then, in love,
Fear and distrust remove;
O bear me safe above,
A ransomed soul!

History

Ray Palmer wrote the words at age 22 in 1830, jotting them privately in a small notebook with no thought of publication. Two years later he met Lowell Mason on a Boston street; Mason asked for a hymn, Palmer copied it out, and Mason returned the next day saying, 'You may live many years and do many good things,

but I think you will be best known to posterity as the author of My Faith Looks Up to Thee.'

Scripture References (KJV)

Hebrews 12:2

Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

John 1:29

Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.

Public domain · biblesundays.com/hymns/my-faith-looks-up-to-thee

My Jesus, I Love Thee

William R. Featherstone · 1864 · Tune: Gordon (Adoniram J. Gordon)
Meter: 11.11.11.11

Verse 1

My Jesus, I love Thee, I know Thou art mine;
For Thee all the follies of sin I resign;
My gracious Redeemer, my Saviour art Thou;
If ever I loved Thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

Verse 2

I love Thee because Thou hast first loved me,
And purchased my pardon on Calvary's tree;
I love Thee for wearing the thorns on Thy brow;
If ever I loved Thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

Verse 3

I'll love Thee in life, I will love Thee in death,
And praise Thee as long as Thou lendest me breath;
And say when the death dew lies cold on my brow,
If ever I loved Thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

Verse 4

In mansions of glory and endless delight,
I'll ever adore Thee in heaven so bright;
I'll sing with the glittering crown on my brow,
If ever I loved Thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

History

William Ralph Featherstone of Montreal wrote the words around 1864 at age 16, shortly after his conversion. He sent them to an aunt in Los Angeles, who had them published. Boston pastor A. J. Gordon (founder of Gordon College) discovered the verses and composed the present tune in 1876.

Scripture References (KJV)

1 John 4:19

We love him, because he first loved us.

John 21:17

He saith unto him the third time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? ...Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee.

Nothing But the Blood of Jesus

Robert Lowry · 1876 · Tune: Plainfield (Robert Lowry)
Meter: 7.8.7.8 with refrain

Verse 1

What can wash away my sin?
Nothing but the blood of Jesus;
What can make me whole again?
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

Verse 2

Refrain:

O precious is the flow
That makes me white as snow;
No other fount I know,
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

Verse 3

For my pardon this I see,
Nothing but the blood of Jesus;
For my cleansing this my plea,
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

Verse 4

Nothing can for sin atone,
Nothing but the blood of Jesus;
Naught of good that I have done,
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

Verse 5

This is all my hope and peace,
Nothing but the blood of Jesus;
This is all my righteousness,
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

History

Baptist pastor Robert Lowry wrote both words and music in 1876, publishing it in 'Gospel Music' that year. Lowry, also author of 'Shall We Gather at the River' and 'Christ Arose', wrote many of his hymns during quiet evenings at the parlor organ.

Scripture References (KJV)

1 John 1:7

The blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

Hebrews 9:22

Without shedding of blood is no remission.

Now Thank We All Our God

Martin Rinkart · 1636 · Tune: Nun Danket (Johann Crüger)
Meter: 6.7.6.7.6.6.6.6

Verse 1

Now thank we all our God
With heart and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things hath done,
In whom His world rejoices;
Who from our mother's arms
Hath blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love,
And still is ours today.

Verse 2

O may this bounteous God
Through all our life be near us,
With ever joyful hearts
And blessed peace to cheer us;
And keep us in His grace,
And guide us when perplexed,
And free us from all ills
In this world and the next.

Verse 3

All praise and thanks to God
The Father now be given,
The Son, and Him who reigns
With them in highest heaven,
The one eternal God,
Whom earth and heaven adore;
For thus it was, is now,
And shall be evermore.

History

Lutheran pastor Martin Rinkart wrote the verses around 1636 in Eilenburg, Saxony as a table grace for his children, in the middle of the Thirty Years' War and a deadly plague during which he conducted up to 50 funerals a day. Catherine Winkworth's English translation appeared in 1858. The tune 'Nun danket' by Johann Crüger (1647) is one of the most beloved chorales in the German tradition.

Scripture References (KJV)

Ecclesiasticus 50:22-24

(Source text from the Apocrypha; the hymn echoes Ecclesiastes 5:18-20 — 'to enjoy the good of all his labour... it is the gift of God.')

1 Thessalonians 5:18

In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

Public domain · biblesundays.com/hymns/now-thank-we-all-our-god

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Latin (9th century); trans. John Mason Neale · 1851 · Tune: Veni Emmanuel (Thomas Helmore (adapted from 15th-c. plainsong))
Meter: 8.8.8.8 with refrain

Verse 1

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.

Refrain:

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

Verse 2

O come, Thou Day-spring, come and cheer
Our spirits by Thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.

Verse 3

O come, Thou Key of David, come,
And open wide our heavenly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery.

Verse 4

O come, Desire of nations, bind
In one the hearts of all mankind;
Bid Thou our sad divisions cease,
And be Thyself our King of Peace.

History

Based on the medieval 'O Antiphons' sung in the final week of Advent (8th-9th century). John Mason Neale translated the Latin text into English in 1851, and Thomas Helmore paired it with a 15th-century French plainsong melody the same year.

Scripture References (KJV)

Isaiah 7:14

Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

Matthew 1:23

They shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.

Revelation 3:7

He that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth.

O Holy Night

Placide Cappeau (trans. John Sullivan Dwight) · 1847 · Tune: Cantique de Noël (Adolphe Adam)

Meter: Irregular

Verse 1

O holy night! the stars are brightly shining,
It is the night of the dear Saviour's birth!
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,
Till He appeared and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices,
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.
Fall on your knees! O hear the angel voices!
O night divine, O night when Christ was born!
O night, O holy night, O night divine!

Verse 2

Truly He taught us to love one another;
His law is love and His gospel is peace.
Chains shall He break, for the slave is our brother,
And in His name all oppression shall cease.
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we;
Let all within us praise His holy name!
Christ is the Lord! O praise His name forever!
His power and glory evermore proclaim!
His power and glory evermore proclaim!

History

French wine merchant Placide Cappeau wrote the poem 'Minuit, chrétiens' in 1847 at the request of his parish priest. Composer Adolphe Adam set it to music within weeks. American Unitarian minister John Sullivan Dwight produced the familiar English translation in 1855.

Scripture References (KJV)

Luke 2:11

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

Isaiah 9:6

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given... and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

Bernard of Clairvaux (attrib.) · 1153 · Tune: Passion Chorale (Hans Leo Hassler)
Meter: 7.6.7.6.D

Verse 1

O sacred Head, now wounded,
With grief and shame weighed down,
Now scornfully surrounded
With thorns, Thine only crown:
O sacred Head, what glory,
What bliss till now was Thine!
Yet, though despised and gory,
I joy to call Thee mine.

Verse 2

What Thou, my Lord, hast suffered
Was all for sinners' gain;
Mine, mine was the transgression,
But Thine the deadly pain.
Lo, here I fall, my Saviour!
'Tis I deserve Thy place;
Look on me with Thy favor,
Vouchsafe to me Thy grace.

Verse 3

What language shall I borrow
To thank Thee, dearest Friend,
For this Thy dying sorrow,
Thy pity without end?
O make me Thine forever;
And should I fainting be,
Lord, let me never, never
Outlive my love for Thee.

Verse 4

Be near when I am dying,
O show Thy cross to me!
And, for my succor flying,
Come, Lord, and set me free!
These eyes, new faith receiving,
From Jesus shall not move;
For he who dies believing
Dies safely through Thy love.

History

The Latin original 'Salve caput cruentatum' is part of a longer medieval poem traditionally attributed to Bernard of Clairvaux (12th century) but more likely written by the Cistercian Arnulf of Leuven (d. 1250). Paul Gerhardt translated it into German in 1656. James Waddell Alexander gave it the now-standard English form in 1830. The tune is by Hans Leo Hassler (1601), originally a love song; J. S. Bach harmonized it five times in his St. Matthew Passion.

Scripture References (KJV)

Isaiah 53:5

But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

Matthew 27:29

And when they had platted a crown of thorns, they put it upon his head, and a reed in his right hand: and they bowed the knee before him, and mocked him, saying, Hail, King of the Jews!

Public domain · biblesundays.com/hymns/o-sacred-head-now-wounded

O Worship the King

Robert Grant · 1833 · Tune: Lyons (Johann Michael Haydn)
Meter: 10.10.11.11

Verse 1

O worship the King, all glorious above,
O gratefully sing His power and His love;
Our Shield and Defender, the Ancient of Days,
Pavilioned in splendor, and girded with praise.

Verse 2

O tell of His might, O sing of His grace,
Whose robe is the light, whose canopy space.
His chariots of wrath the deep thunderclouds form,
And dark is His path on the wings of the storm.

Verse 3

The earth with its store of wonders untold,
Almighty, Thy power hath founded of old;
Hath stablished it fast by a changeless decree,
And round it hath cast, like a mantle, the sea.

Verse 4

Thy bountiful care, what tongue can recite?
It breathes in the air, it shines in the light;
It streams from the hills, it descends to the plain,
And sweetly distills in the dew and the rain.

Verse 5

Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail,
In Thee do we trust, nor find Thee to fail;
Thy mercies how tender, how firm to the end!
Our Maker, Defender, Redeemer, and Friend.

History

British MP and Governor of Bombay Sir Robert Grant wrote this paraphrase of Psalm 104, based on William Kethe's 1561 metrical version. Published posthumously in 1839. The tune 'Lyons' is attributed to Johann Michael Haydn (brother of Joseph Haydn).

Scripture References (KJV)

Psalm 104:1-2

Bless the LORD, O my soul. O LORD my God, thou art very great; thou art clothed with honour and majesty. Who coverest thyself with light as with a garment: who stretchest out the heavens like a curtain.

Psalm 103:14

For he knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we are dust.

Onward, Christian Soldiers

Sabine Baring-Gould · 1865 · Tune: St. Gertrude (Arthur Sullivan)
Meter: 6.5.6.5.D with refrain

Verse 1

Onward, Christian soldiers, marching as to war,
With the cross of Jesus going on before!
Christ, the royal Master, leads against the foe;
Forward into battle, see His banners go!

Onward, Christian soldiers, marching as to war,
With the cross of Jesus going on before.

Verse 2

At the sign of triumph Satan's host doth flee;
On then, Christian soldiers, on to victory!
Hell's foundations quiver at the shout of praise;
Brothers, lift your voices, loud your anthems raise.

Verse 3

Like a mighty army moves the Church of God;
Brothers, we are treading where the saints have trod;
We are not divided, all one body we,
One in hope and doctrine, one in charity.

Verse 4

Crowns and thrones may perish, kingdoms rise and wane,
But the Church of Jesus constant will remain;
Gates of hell can never 'gainst that Church prevail;
We have Christ's own promise, and that cannot fail.

Verse 5

Onward, then, ye people, join our happy throng,
Blend with ours your voices in the triumph song;
Glory, laud, and honor unto Christ the King;
This through countless ages men and angels sing.

History

Sabine Baring-Gould wrote the verses in fifteen minutes one evening in 1865 for children in Horbury Bridge, Yorkshire to sing while marching to a neighboring village for a Whit Monday festival. Arthur Sullivan (of Gilbert and Sullivan) composed the tune 'St. Gertrude' in 1871, naming it for the wife of his friend Ernest Clay-Ker-Seymer.

Scripture References (KJV)

Matthew 16:18

And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

2 Timothy 2:3

Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.

Public domain · biblesundays.com/hymns/onward-christian-soldiers

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

Joachim Neander · 1680 · Tune: *Lobe den Herren* (Stralsund Gesangbuch (anon.))
Meter: 14.14.4.7.8

Verse 1

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise Him, for He is thy health and salvation!
All ye who hear, now to His temple draw near;
Join me in glad adoration!

Verse 2

Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,
Shelters thee under His wings, yea, so gently sustaineth!
Hast thou not seen how thy desires e'er have been
Granted in what He ordaineth?

Verse 3

Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work and defend thee;
Surely His goodness and mercy here daily attend thee.
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do,
If with His love He befriend thee.

Verse 4

Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore Him!
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before Him!
Let the Amen sound from His people again;
Gladly forever adore Him.

History

Written by German Reformed pastor Joachim Neander in 1680 (the year before his death at age 30) and based on Psalms 103 and 150. Catherine Winkworth's English translation appeared in 1863. The tune 'Lobe den Herren' first appeared in the Stralsund Gesangbuch in 1665.

Scripture References (KJV)

Psalm 103:1-2

Bless the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name. Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.

Psalm 150:6

Let every thing that hath breath praise the LORD. Praise ye the LORD.

Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven

Henry Francis Lyte · 1834 · Tune: Lauda Anima (John Goss)
Meter: 8.7.8.7.8.7

Verse 1

Praise, my soul, the King of heaven;
To His feet thy tribute bring;
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
Evermore His praises sing:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise the everlasting King.

Verse 2

Praise Him for His grace and favor
To our fathers in distress;
Praise Him still the same forever,
Slow to chide, and swift to bless:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Glorious in His faithfulness.

Verse 3

Father-like, He tends and spares us;
Well our feeble frame He knows;
In His hands He gently bears us,
Rescues us from all our foes:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Widely as His mercy flows.

Verse 4

Angels, help us to adore Him;
Ye behold Him face to face;
Sun and moon, bow down before Him;
Dwellers all in time and space:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise with us the God of grace.

History

Henry Francis Lyte (also author of 'Abide With Me') published this paraphrase of Psalm 103 in his 'Spirit of the Psalms' in 1834. John Goss, organist at St. Paul's Cathedral, composed the tune 'Lauda Anima' in 1869. It was sung at the wedding of Queen Elizabeth II in 1947.

Scripture References (KJV)

Psalm 103:1-4

Bless the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name. Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases; Who

redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies.

Psalm 103:13-14

Like as a father pitieth his children, so the LORD pitieth them that fear him. For he knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we are dust.

Public domain · biblesundays.com/hymns/praise-my-soul-the-king-of-heaven

Rock of Ages

Augustus M. Toplady · 1776 · Tune: Toplady (Thomas Hastings)
Meter: 7.7.7.7.7.7

Verse 1

Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in Thee;
Let the water and the blood,
From Thy wounded side which flowed,
Be of sin the double cure,
Save from wrath and make me pure.

Verse 2

Not the labor of my hands
Can fulfill Thy law's demands;
Could my zeal no respite know,
Could my tears forever flow,
All for sin could not atone;
Thou must save, and Thou alone.

Verse 3

Nothing in my hand I bring,
Simply to Thy cross I cling;
Naked, come to Thee for dress;
Helpless, look to Thee for grace;
Foul, I to the fountain fly;
Wash me, Saviour, or I die.

Verse 4

While I draw this fleeting breath,
When mine eyes shall close in death,
When I soar to worlds unknown,
See Thee on Thy judgment throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in Thee.

History

Augustus Toplady, an Anglican curate, published these verses in 1776. Tradition (probably legendary) says he wrote the first stanza while sheltering from a storm in a cleft of rock at Burrington Combe.

Scripture References (KJV)

Exodus 33:22

I will put thee in a cleft of the rock, and will cover thee with my hand while I pass by.

1 Corinthians 10:4

And that Rock was Christ.

Public domain · biblesundays.com/hymns/rock-of-ages

Shall We Gather at the River

Robert Lowry · 1864 · Tune: Hanson Place (Robert Lowry)
Meter: 8.7.8.7 with refrain

Verse 1

Shall we gather at the river,
Where bright angel feet have trod;
With its crystal tide forever
Flowing by the throne of God?

Yes, we'll gather at the river,
The beautiful, the beautiful river;
Gather with the saints at the river
That flows by the throne of God.

Verse 2

On the margin of the river,
Washing up its silver spray,
We will walk and worship ever,
All the happy, golden day.

Verse 3

Ere we reach the shining river,
Lay we every burden down;
Grace our spirits will deliver,
And provide a robe and crown.

Verse 4

Soon we'll reach the silver river,
Soon our pilgrimage will cease;
Soon our happy hearts will quiver
With the melody of peace.

History

Pastor Robert Lowry of Hanson Place Baptist Church, Brooklyn wrote both words and music in July 1864 during a sweltering heat wave that was killing many in his congregation. Meditating on Revelation 22:1-2, the picture of the saints gathering at the river of life came to him along with the melody, all in one sitting.

Scripture References (KJV)

Revelation 22:1

And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb.

Revelation 7:17

For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters.

Silent Night

Joseph Mohr · 1818 · Tune: Stille Nacht (Franz Xaver Gruber)

Meter: Irregular

Verse 1

Silent night, holy night,
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon Virgin Mother and Child!
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Verse 2

Silent night, holy night,
Shepherds quake at the sight!
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!
Christ the Saviour is born,
Christ the Saviour is born.

Verse 3

Silent night, holy night,
Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

History

Joseph Mohr wrote the German poem 'Stille Nacht' in 1816. On Christmas Eve 1818, organist Franz Gruber composed the tune in a few hours so it could be sung with guitar at St. Nicholas Church in Oberndorf, Austria. It was declared an Intangible Cultural Heritage by UNESCO in 2011.

Scripture References (KJV)

Luke 2:7

And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

Luke 2:13-14

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling

Will L. Thompson · 1880 · Tune: Thompson (Will L. Thompson)
Meter: 11.7.11.7 with refrain

Verse 1

Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling,
Calling for you and for me;
See, on the portals He's waiting and watching,
Watching for you and for me.

Come home, come home,
Ye who are weary, come home;
Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling,
Calling, O sinner, come home!

Verse 2

Why should we tarry when Jesus is pleading,
Pleading for you and for me?
Why should we linger and heed not His mercies,
Mercies for you and for me?

Verse 3

Time is now fleeting, the moments are passing,
Passing from you and from me;
Shadows are gathering, deathbeds are coming,
Coming for you and for me.

Verse 4

O for the wonderful love He has promised,
Promised for you and for me!
Though we have sinned, He has mercy and pardon,
Pardon for you and for me.

History

Will Thompson, an Ohio gospel-songwriter and businessman, wrote both words and music in 1880. As D. L. Moody lay dying in 1899, he reportedly told Thompson, 'Will, I would rather have written Softly and Tenderly than anything I have been able to do in my whole life.' The hymn was sung by Cynthia Clawson in the 1985 film 'The Trip to Bountiful.'

Scripture References (KJV)

Matthew 11:28

Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

Revelation 22:17

And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.

Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus

George Duffield Jr. · 1858 · Tune: Webb (George J. Webb)

Meter: 7.6.7.6.D

Verse 1

Stand up, stand up for Jesus,
Ye soldiers of the cross;
Lift high His royal banner,
It must not suffer loss.
From victory unto victory
His army shall He lead,
Till every foe is vanquished,
And Christ is Lord indeed.

Verse 2

Stand up, stand up for Jesus,
The trumpet call obey;
Forth to the mighty conflict
In this His glorious day.
Ye that are men now serve Him
Against unnumbered foes;
Let courage rise with danger,
And strength to strength oppose.

Verse 3

Stand up, stand up for Jesus,
Stand in His strength alone;
The arm of flesh will fail you,
Ye dare not trust your own.
Put on the gospel armor,
Each piece put on with prayer;
Where duty calls, or danger,
Be never wanting there.

Verse 4

Stand up, stand up for Jesus,
The strife will not be long;
This day the noise of battle,
The next, the victor's song.
To him that overcometh,
A crown of life shall be;
He with the King of glory
Shall reign eternally.

History

Written by Presbyterian minister George Duffield Jr. in 1858 as a funeral tribute to his friend Dudley A. Tyng, a young revivalist whose dying words after a farm accident were, 'Tell my brethren of the ministry, wherever you meet them, to stand up for Jesus.' Set to Webb's tune originally written in 1830 for a secular text.

Scripture References (KJV)

Ephesians 6:13-14

Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore...

Revelation 2:10

Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.

Public domain · biblesundays.com/hymns/stand-up-stand-up-for-jesus

Sweet Hour of Prayer

William W. Walford · 1845 · Tune: Sweet Hour (William B. Bradbury)
Meter: L.M.D. (8.8.8.8.D)

Verse 1

Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer,
That calls me from a world of care,
And bids me at my Father's throne
Make all my wants and wishes known!
In seasons of distress and grief,
My soul has often found relief,
And oft escaped the tempter's snare,
By thy return, sweet hour of prayer.

Verse 2

Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer,
The joys I feel, the bliss I share
Of those whose anxious spirits burn
With strong desires for thy return!
With such I hasten to the place
Where God my Saviour shows His face,
And gladly take my station there,
And wait for thee, sweet hour of prayer.

Verse 3

Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer,
Thy wings shall my petition bear
To Him whose truth and faithfulness
Engage the waiting soul to bless.
And since He bids me seek His face,
Believe His Word, and trust His grace,
I'll cast on Him my every care,
And wait for thee, sweet hour of prayer.

History

Tradition holds that William Walford, a blind English lay preacher, dictated the verses to Congregational pastor Thomas Salmon around 1842. Salmon brought the lines to America, where the New York Observer published them in 1845. William Bradbury composed the tune in 1859.

Scripture References (KJV)

Matthew 6:6

But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly.

1 Peter 5:7

Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.

Public domain · biblesundays.com/hymns/sweet-hour-of-prayer

Take My Life and Let It Be

Frances R. Havergal · 1874 · Tune: Hendon (Henri A. César Malan)
Meter: 7.7.7.7

Verse 1

Take my life, and let it be
Consecrated, Lord, to Thee.
Take my moments and my days;
Let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Verse 2

Take my hands, and let them move
At the impulse of Thy love.
Take my feet, and let them be
Swift and beautiful for Thee.

Verse 3

Take my voice, and let me sing
Always, only, for my King.
Take my lips, and let them be
Filled with messages from Thee.

Verse 4

Take my silver and my gold;
Not a mite would I withhold.
Take my intellect, and use
Every power as Thou shalt choose.

Verse 5

Take my will, and make it Thine;
It shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is Thine own;
It shall be Thy royal throne.

Verse 6

Take my love; my Lord, I pour
At Thy feet its treasure-store.
Take myself, and I will be
Ever, only, all for Thee.

History

Frances Havergal wrote the hymn in February 1874 during a five-day visit where ten of the household were unconverted. Before leaving, all ten had come to faith. That last night she lay awake renewing her own consecration, and the verses came to her one couplet at a time. She later sent her gold and jewelry to a missionary society in literal obedience to verse 4.

Scripture References (KJV)

Romans 12:1

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20

Ye are not your own. For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

Public domain · biblesundays.com/hymns/take-my-life-and-let-it-be

The Old Rugged Cross

George Bennard · 1913 · Tune: Old Rugged Cross (George Bennard)

Meter: Irregular with refrain

Verse 1

On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross,
The emblem of suffering and shame;
And I love that old cross where the Dearest and Best
For a world of lost sinners was slain.

Verse 2

Refrain:

So I'll cherish the old rugged cross,
Till my trophies at last I lay down;
I will cling to the old rugged cross,
And exchange it some day for a crown.

Verse 3

O that old rugged cross, so despised by the world,
Has a wondrous attraction for me;
For the dear Lamb of God left His glory above
To bear it to dark Calvary.

Verse 4

In the old rugged cross, stained with blood so divine,
A wondrous beauty I see;
For 'twas on that old cross Jesus suffered and died
To pardon and sanctify me.

Verse 5

To the old rugged cross I will ever be true,
Its shame and reproach gladly bear;
Then He'll call me some day to my home far away,
Where His glory forever I'll share.

History

Methodist evangelist George Bennard wrote both the words and music in 1912-1913 in Pokagon, Michigan, while reflecting on the meaning of the cross during a difficult ministry season. It quickly became one of the most popular gospel hymns of the 20th century.

Scripture References (KJV)

1 Corinthians 1:18

For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.

Galatians 6:14

But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Public domain · biblesundays.com/hymns/the-old-rugged-cross

There Is a Fountain Filled With Blood

William Cowper · 1772 · Tune: Cleansing Fountain (Lowell Mason (arr.))

Meter: C.M. (8.6.8.6)

Verse 1

There is a fountain filled with blood
Drawn from Immanuel's veins;
And sinners plunged beneath that flood
Lose all their guilty stains:
Lose all their guilty stains,
Lose all their guilty stains;
And sinners plunged beneath that flood
Lose all their guilty stains.

Verse 2

The dying thief rejoiced to see
That fountain in his day;
And there may I, though vile as he,
Wash all my sins away.

Verse 3

Dear dying Lamb, Thy precious blood
Shall never lose its power,
Till all the ransomed church of God
Be saved, to sin no more.

Verse 4

E'er since by faith I saw the stream
Thy flowing wounds supply,
Redeeming love has been my theme,
And shall be till I die.

Verse 5

Then in a nobler, sweeter song,
I'll sing Thy power to save,
When this poor lisping, stammering tongue
Lies silent in the grave.

History

William Cowper, who battled severe melancholy throughout his life, wrote the hymn around 1772 during his collaboration with John Newton on the *Olney Hymns* (1779). The imagery is drawn from Zechariah 13:1. The American folk-style tune was arranged by Lowell Mason from a traditional melody in 1830.

Scripture References (KJV)

Zechariah 13:1

In that day there shall be a fountain opened to the house of David and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem for sin and for uncleanness.

1 John 1:7

The blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

Luke 23:42-43

And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom. And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise.

Public domain · biblesundays.com/hymns/there-is-a-fountain-filled-with-blood

This Is My Father's World

Maltbie D. Babcock · 1901 · Tune: Terra Beata (Franklin L. Sheppard)

Meter: S.M.D. (6.6.8.6.D)

Verse 1

This is my Father's world,
And to my listening ears
All nature sings, and round me rings
The music of the spheres.
This is my Father's world:
I rest me in the thought
Of rocks and trees, of skies and seas;
His hand the wonders wrought.

Verse 2

This is my Father's world,
The birds their carols raise,
The morning light, the lily white,
Declare their Maker's praise.
This is my Father's world:
He shines in all that's fair;
In the rustling grass I hear Him pass,
He speaks to me everywhere.

Verse 3

This is my Father's world,
O let me ne'er forget
That though the wrong seems oft so strong,
God is the Ruler yet.
This is my Father's world:
The battle is not done;
Jesus who died shall be satisfied,
And earth and heaven be one.

History

Presbyterian pastor Maltbie Babcock, who served churches in Lockport, NY and Baltimore, often hiked the cliffs above Lake Ontario, telling his wife he was 'going out to see my Father's world.' The poem was published posthumously in 1901 after his sudden death at age 42. Franklin Sheppard adapted an English folk melody for it in 1915.

Scripture References (KJV)

Psalm 24:1

The earth is the LORD's, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein.

Psalm 19:1

The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork.

Public domain · biblesundays.com/hymns/this-is-my-fathers-world

To God Be the Glory

Fanny J. Crosby · 1875 · Tune: To God Be the Glory (William H. Doane)

Meter: 11.11.11.11 with refrain

Verse 1

To God be the glory, great things He hath done!
So loved He the world that He gave us His Son,
Who yielded His life an atonement for sin,
And opened the life-gate that all may go in.

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
Let the earth hear His voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
Let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father, through Jesus the Son,
And give Him the glory, great things He hath done.

Verse 2

O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,
To every believer the promise of God;
The vilest offender who truly believes,
That moment from Jesus a pardon receives.

Verse 3

Great things He hath taught us, great things He hath done,
And great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;
But purer, and higher, and greater will be
Our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see.

History

Blind hymn-writer Fanny Crosby wrote the words around 1875, set to a tune by her frequent collaborator William Doane. Largely forgotten in America for decades, it was rediscovered when Cliff Barrows introduced it at the 1954 Billy Graham crusade in London, after which it spread worldwide.

Scripture References (KJV)

John 3:16

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

1 Corinthians 10:31

Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.

Trust and Obey

John H. Sammis · 1887 · Tune: Trust and Obey (Daniel B. Towner)
Meter: 6.6.9.D with refrain

Verse 1

When we walk with the Lord in the light of His Word,
What a glory He sheds on our way!
While we do His good will, He abides with us still,
And with all who will trust and obey.

Trust and obey, for there's no other way
To be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.

Verse 2

Not a shadow can rise, not a cloud in the skies,
But His smile quickly drives it away;
Not a doubt nor a fear, not a sigh nor a tear,
Can abide while we trust and obey.

Verse 3

Not a burden we bear, not a sorrow we share,
But our toil He doth richly repay;
Not a grief nor a loss, not a frown nor a cross,
But is blest if we trust and obey.

Verse 4

But we never can prove the delights of His love
Until all on the altar we lay;
For the favor He shows, and the joy He bestows,
Are for them who will trust and obey.

Verse 5

Then in fellowship sweet we will sit at His feet,
Or we'll walk by His side in the way;
What He says we will do, where He sends we will go;
Never fear, only trust and obey.

History

Daniel Towner, song leader at a D. L. Moody meeting in Brockton, Massachusetts in 1886, heard a young convert testify, 'I am not quite sure — but I am going to trust, and I am going to obey.' He wrote the line down, sent it to John Sammis, and the resulting hymn was published in 1887.

Scripture References (KJV)

1 Samuel 15:22

And Samuel said, Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the

voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams.

1 John 1:7

But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

Public domain · biblesundays.com/hymns/trust-and-obey

We Gather Together

Adrianus Valerius · 1597 · Tune: Kremser (Dutch folk melody)
Meter: 12.11.12.11

Verse 1

We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing;
He chastens and hastens His will to make known;
The wicked oppressing now cease from distressing;
Sing praises to His name, He forgets not His own.

Verse 2

Beside us to guide us, our God with us joining,
Ordaining, maintaining His kingdom divine;
So from the beginning the fight we were winning;
Thou, Lord, wast at our side; all glory be Thine!

Verse 3

We all do extol Thee, Thou leader triumphant,
And pray that Thou still our defender wilt be.
Let Thy congregation escape tribulation;
Thy name be ever praised! O Lord, make us free!

History

Originally a Dutch text by Adrianus Valerius written to celebrate the Dutch victory over the Spanish at the Battle of Turnhout in 1597, ending decades of forbidden Protestant worship. The English translation by Theodore Baker appeared in 1894. Edward Kremser arranged the folk tune in 1877. It became a Thanksgiving Day standard in American churches in the early 20th century.

Scripture References (KJV)

Psalm 75:1

Unto thee, O God, do we give thanks, unto thee do we give thanks: for that thy name is near thy wondrous works declare.

Deuteronomy 8:10

When thou hast eaten and art full, then thou shalt bless the LORD thy God for the good land which he hath given thee.

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

Joseph M. Scriven · 1855 · Tune: Erie (Converse) (Charles C. Converse)
Meter: 8.7.8.7 D

Verse 1

What a Friend we have in Jesus,
All our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
Everything to God in prayer!
O what peace we often forfeit,
O what needless pain we bear,
All because we do not carry
Everything to God in prayer!

Verse 2

Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged,
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful,
Who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness,
Take it to the Lord in prayer.

Verse 3

Are we weak and heavy-laden,
Cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Saviour, still our refuge,
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee?
Take it to the Lord in prayer!
In His arms He'll take and shield thee,
Thou wilt find a solace there.

History

Joseph Scriven wrote this poem in 1855 to comfort his mother in Ireland after the drowning death of his fiancée. It was set to Charles C. Converse's tune in 1868.

Scripture References (KJV)

John 15:15

Henceforth I call you not servants... but I have called you friends.

1 Peter 5:7

Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

Isaac Watts · 1707 · Tune: Hamburg (Lowell Mason (arr.))

Meter: L.M. (8.8.8.8)

Verse 1

When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss,
And pour contempt on all my pride.

Verse 2

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,
Save in the death of Christ my God!
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to His blood.

Verse 3

See from His head, His hands, His feet,
Sorrow and love flow mingled down!
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Verse 4

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a present far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all.

History

Isaac Watts wrote this hymn for a 1707 communion service. It was paired with Lowell Mason's arrangement of a Gregorian chant ('Hamburg') in 1824. Charles Wesley reportedly said he would gladly trade all his own hymns to have written this one.

Scripture References (KJV)

Galatians 6:14

But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Philippians 3:7-8

But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ.