

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.

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