

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.

