

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.

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