

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.

