

TO BE A NEW PERSON

LISTENING FOR THE VOICE OF JESUS

Deacon Keenha Sture, Presider

Ray Hendricks, Organist

Among all the voices we hear, we Christians must learn to discern the voice of Jesus, the single-minded sage of ancient Palestine, whom his followers described as "the Son of Man come on the clouds of heaven." Why? What did he see in the world around him? How did he see himself living in it? And how could that world be transformed so that, at least, it would be an idea, a vision, even the welling up of God's domain? Today, we'll listen for the voice of Jesus in Gospels, in silence and in song."

"Swing Low, Sweet Chariot" *(All Verses)*

To be a new person, Jesus said:

"At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, 'Who is the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven?' He called a child, set him in front of them, and said, ' I tell you this: unless you turn round and become like children, you will never enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Let a man humble himself...and he will be the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven.'" *(Matthew 18: 1-4, The New English Bible)*

Silence

"O Little Town of Bethlehem" *(verses 1 & 3)*

To be a new person, Jesus said:

"Treat other people exactly as you would like to be treated by them. This is the essence of all true religion." *(Matthew 7:12)*

Silence

"Breathe on Me, Breath of God" *(Verses 1&2)*

To be a new person, Jesus said:

"You must be merciful, as your Father in Heaven is merciful. Don't judge other people and you will not be judged yourselves. Don't condemn and you will not be condemned. Make allowances for others and people will make allowances for you. Give and others will give to you, yes, good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over will they pour into your lap. For whatever measure you use with other people, they will use in their dealings with you." (Luke 6:37, 38)

Silence

"Take My Life, and Let It Be Consecrated" (Verses 1 & 2)

To be a new person, Jesus said:

"If you love only those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good only to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do that. And if you lend to those from whom you hope to get your money back, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners and expect to get their money back. No, you are to love your enemies and do good and lend without hope of return. Your reward will be wonderful..." (Luke 6:32-36)

Silence

"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" (Verses 1 & 2)

To be a new person, Jesus said:

"How difficult it is for those who have great possessions to enter the Kingdom of God... Children, you don't know how hard it can be to get into the Kingdom of Heaven. Why, a camel could more easily squeeze through the eye of a needle than a rich man get into the Kingdom of God." (Mark 10:24, 25)

Silence

"Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing" (Verses 1 & 3)

To be a new person, Jesus said:

"Good Master, tell me please, what must I do to be sure of eternal life?" I wonder why you call me good. No one is good —only God. You know the commandments: 'Do not kill; Do not commit adultery; Do not steal; Do not bear false witness; Do not cheat; Honor your father and mother.'" (*Mark 10: 18,19*)

Silence

"Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise" (*Verses 1 & 2*)

To be a new person, Jesus said:

"How happy are the humble-minded, for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs! How happy are those who know what sorrow means, for they will be given courage and comfort! How happy are those who claim nothing, for the whole earth will belong to them! How happy are those who are hungry and thirsty for goodness, for they will be fully satisfied! How happy are the merciful, for they will have mercy shown to them. How happy are the utterly sincere, for they will see God! How happy are those who make peace, for they will be known as the sons and daughters of God." (*Matthew 5:3-9*)

Silence

"O Beautiful for Spacious Skies" (*Verses 1 & 2*)

To be a new person, Jesus said:

"You have heard that it used to be said, 'Thou shalt love thy neighbor and hate thine enemy,' but I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons and daughters of your heavenly Father. For he makes his sun rise on the evil as well as the good and sends his rain upon the honest and dishonest alike. For if you love only those who love you, what credit is that to you?... And if you exchange greetings only with your own circle, are you doing anything exceptional? Even the pagans do that much. No, you are to be perfect, like your Heavenly Father." (*Matthew 5:43-48*)

Silence

"Seek Ye First" (*Verses 1 & 2*)

To be a new person, Jesus said:

"When you pray, do not heap up empty phrases . . .

For your Father knows what you need before you ask. Pray like this:

Our Father who art in heaven,

Hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come,

Thy will be done

On earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;

And forgive us our debts,

As we also have forgiven our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation

But deliver us from evil." (*Matthew 6: 7-13, The New Oxford Annotated Bible*)

THE WAY OF LOVE (*1 Corinthians 13:4-8*)

Leader: Love is patient

All: Love is kind.

Leader: Love envies no one.

All: Love is never boastful.

Leader: Love is never conceited or rude.

All: Love is never selfish.

Leader: Love is never quick to take offense.

All: Love keeps no score of wrongs.

Leader: Love does not gloat over others' sins.

All: Love delights in the truth.

Leader: There is nothing love cannot face.

All: There is no limit to its faith.

Leader: There is no limit to its hope.

All: There is no limit to its endurance.

Leader: Love will never come to an end.

All: Yes, love will never come to an end.

THANKSGIVINGS AND INTERCESSIONS FROM THE HEART

CELEBRATION OF BIRTH, BAPTISM, OR WEDDING

A BLESSING

Distribution of the Loaves

With distribution of the loaves, we adapt an ancient Orthodox tradition. Each worshipper is given a small loaf of bread, with the expectation that it will, somehow, be shared, for "Christ is known in the breaking of bread." We offer no instructions, except that you invite the Holy Spirit to inspire you. The Eucharist, of which we all are celebrants, is the Principle of Life, that all that we have and all that we are is meant to be shared.

"How Great Thou Art" *(All verses)*

Swing Low, Sweet Chariot

Swing low, sweet char - i - ot, — Com-ing for to car-ry me home.

Swing low, sweet char - i - ot, — Com-ing for to car-ry me home. Fine

1. I looked o - ver Jor - dan, and what did I see —
 2. If you get there be - fore I do, —
 3. The bright - est day that ev - er I saw —
 4. I'm some - times up and some - times down, —

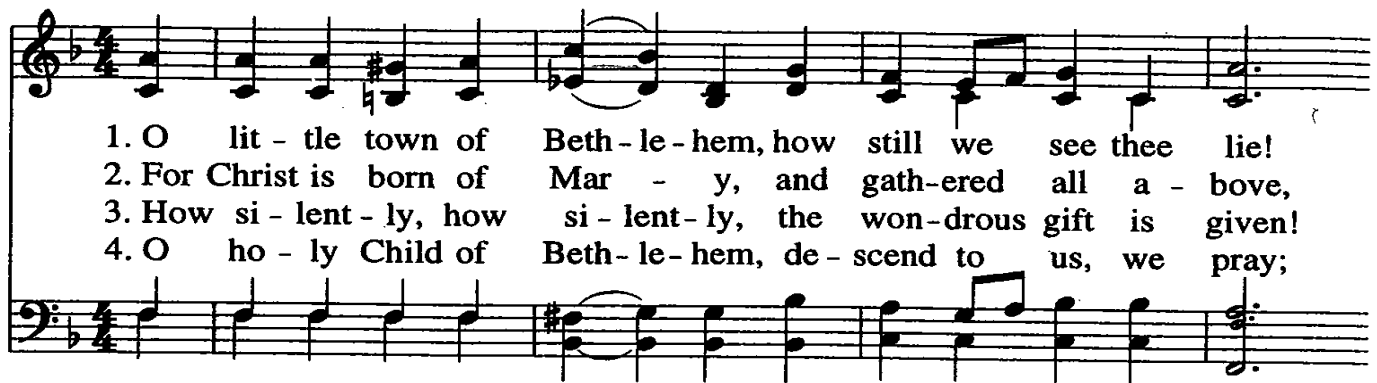
1. Com-ing for to car-ry me home. A band of an - gels
 2. Com-ing for to car-ry me home. Tell all my friends I'm
 3. Com-ing for to car-ry me home. When Je - sus wash'd my
 4. Com-ing for to car-ry me home. But still my soul feels

1. com-ing af-ter me, — Com-ing for to car-ry me home. O,
 2. com - ing too, — Com-ing for to car-ry me home. O,
 3. sins a way, — Com-ing for to car-ry me home. O,
 4. heaven - ly bound, — Com-ing for to car-ry me home. O,

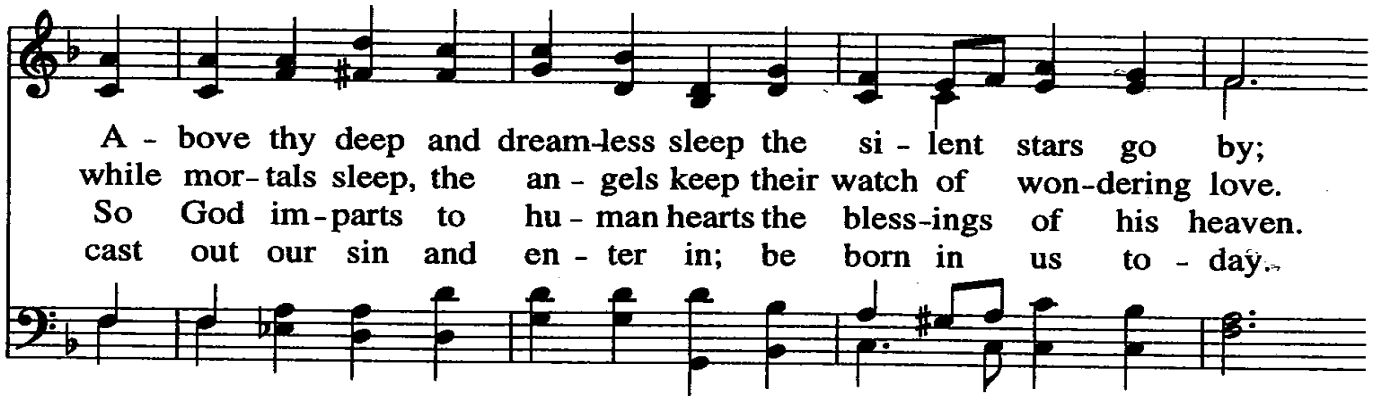
D.C.

Words: Traditional
 Music: Negro Spiritual; arr. R. Nathaniel Dett (1882-1943)
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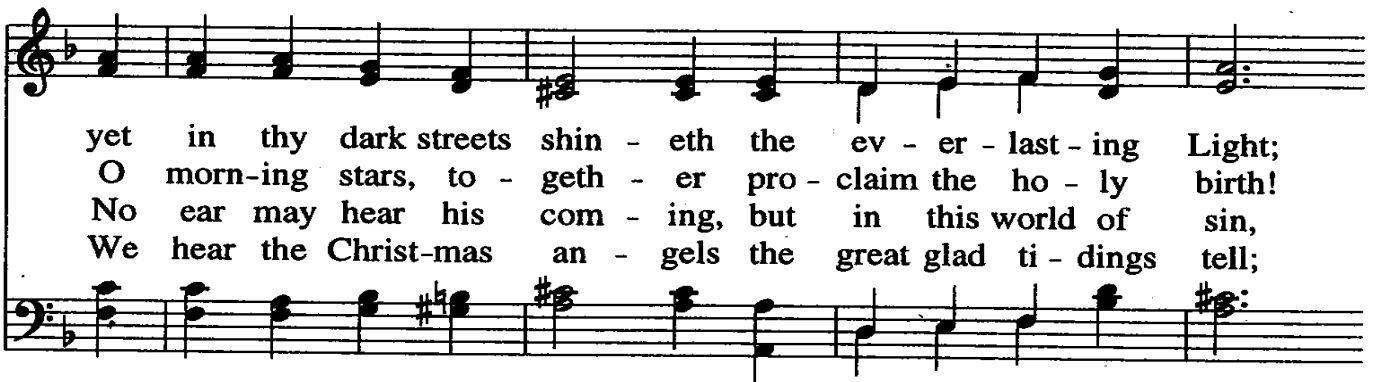
O Little Town of Bethlehem



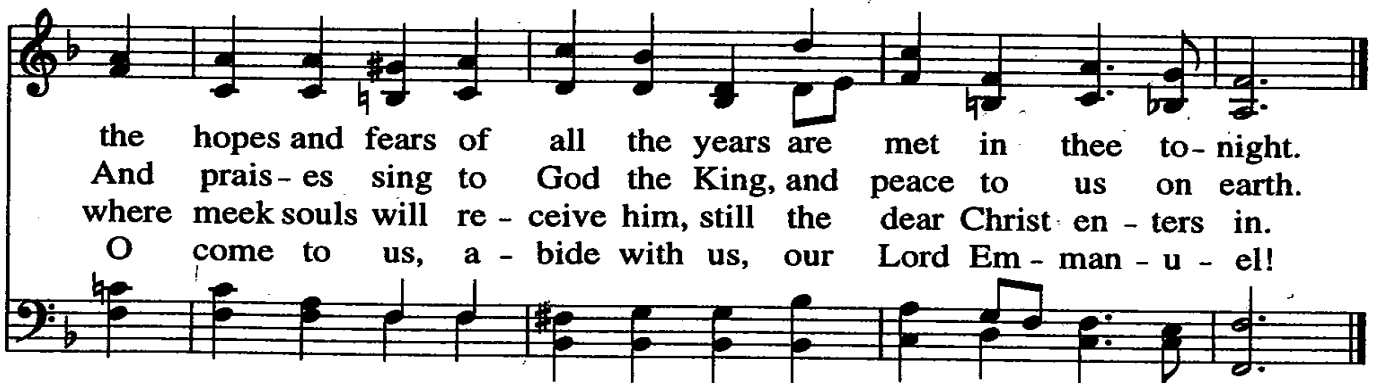
1. O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
 2. For Christ is born of Mar - y, and gath - ered all a - bove,
 3. How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, the won - drous gift is given!
 4. O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream - less sleep the si - lent stars go by;
 while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - dering love.
 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heaven.
 cast out our sin and en - ter in; be born in us to - day.



yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing Light;
 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth!
 No ear may hear his com - ing, but in this world of sin,
 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad ti - dings tell;



the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
 And prais - es sing to God the King, and peace to us on earth.
 where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.
 O come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Em - man - u - el!

WORDS: Phillips Brooks, 1868, alt.
 MUSIC: Lewis H. Redner, 1868

ST. LOUIS
 86.86.76.86

Brooks, American Anglican prelate, wrote these words for the children of his Sunday school after visiting the Holy Land in 1866.

Breathe on Me, Breath of God

1. Breathe on me, Breath of God, fill me with life a - new
 2. Breathe on me, Breath of God, un - til my heart is pure,
 3. Breathe on me, Breath of God, till I am whol - ly thine,
 4. Breathe on me, Breath of God, so shall I nev - er die,

that I may love what thou dost love, and do what thou wouldst do.
 un - til with thee I will one will to do and to en - dure.
 un - til this earth - ly part of me glows with thy fire di - vine.
 but live with thee the per - fect life of thine e - ter - ni - ty.


WORDS: Edwin Hatch, 1886, alt.

MUSIC: Robert Jackson, 1894

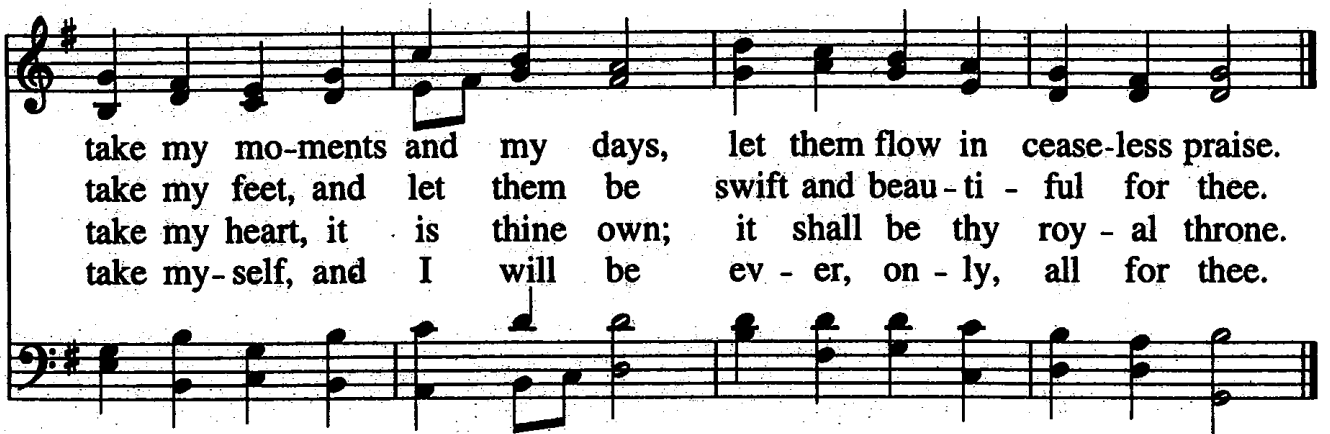
TRENTHAM
SM

Anglican Edwin Hatch ministered and taught in Canada and England. This hymn, first published in his *Between Doubt and Prayer*, shows this scholar could also be simple and unaffected.

464 Take My Life, and Let It Be Consecrated

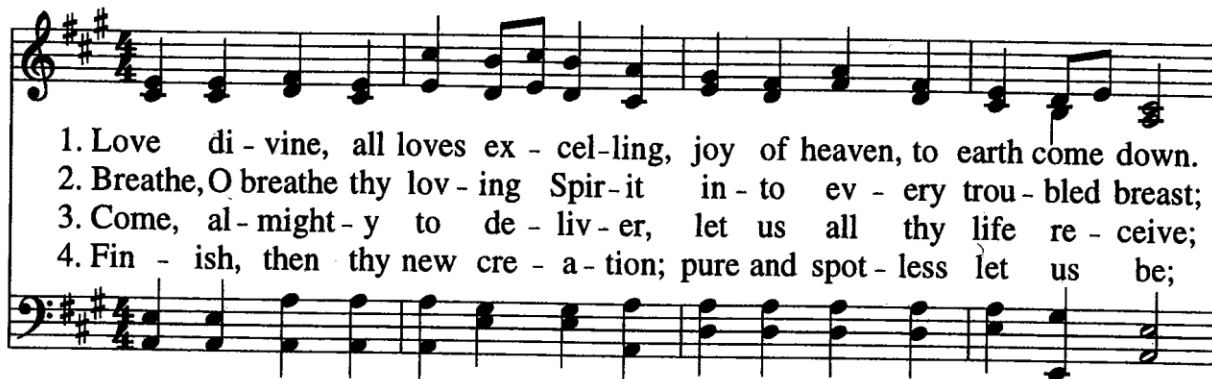


1. Take my life, and let it be con-se-crat-ed, Lord, to thee;
2. Take my hands, and let them move at the im-pulse of thy love;
3. Take my will, and make it thine; it shall be no long-er mine;
4. Take my love: my Lord I pour at thy feet its treas-ure store;

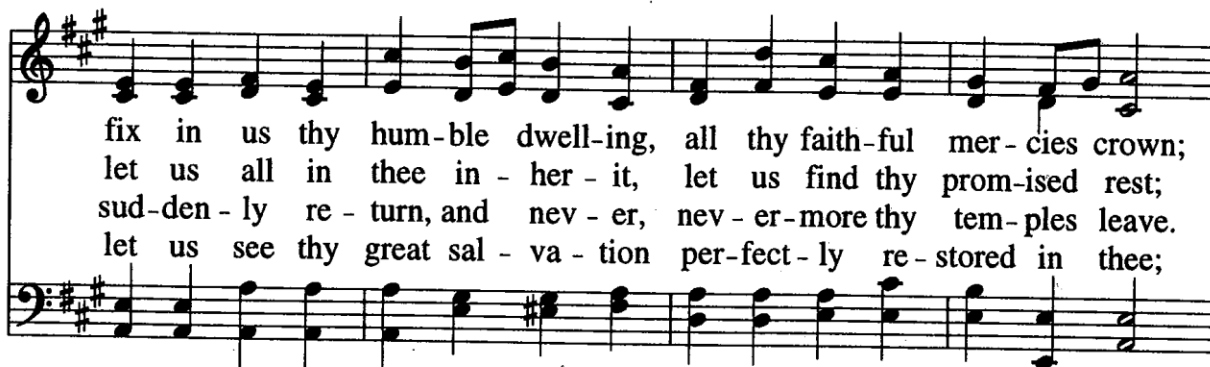


take my mo-ments and my days, let them flow in cease-less praise.
take my feet, and let them be swift and beau-ti-ful for thee.
take my heart, it is thine own; it shall be thy roy-al throne.
take my-self, and I will be ev-er, on-ly, all for thee.

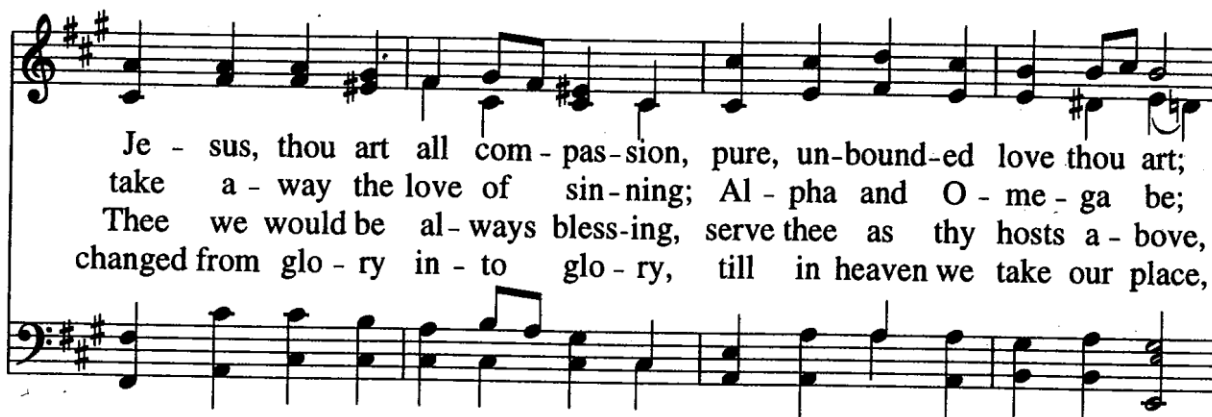
Love Divine, All Loves Excelling



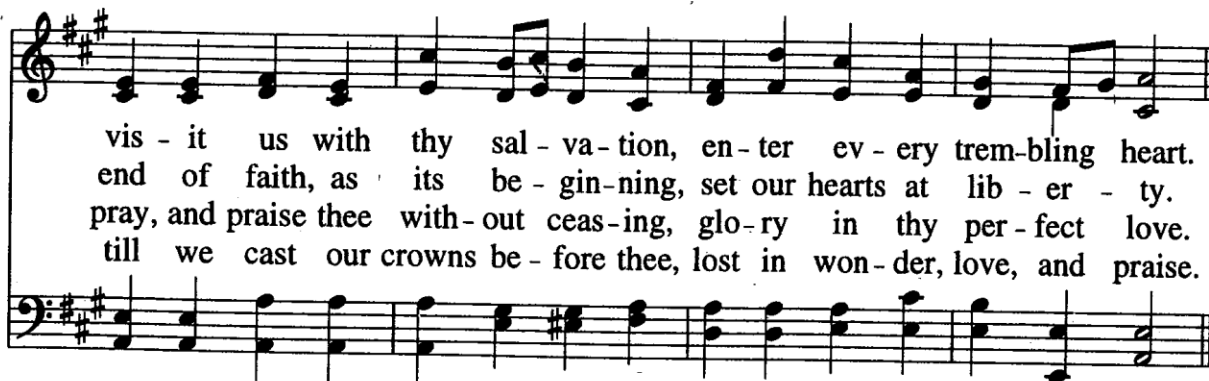
1. Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, joy of heaven, to earth come down.
 2. Breathe, O breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - ery trou - bled breast;
 3. Come, al - might - y to de - liv - er, let us all thy life re - ceive;
 4. Fin - ish, then thy new cre - a - tion; pure and spot - less let us be;



fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing, all thy faith - ful mer - cies crown;
 let us all in thee in - her - it, let us find thy prom - ised rest;
 sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er - more thy tem - ples leave.
 let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect - ly re - stored in thee;



Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion, pure, un - bound - ed love thou art;
 take a - way the love of sin - ning; Al - pha and O - me - ga be;
 Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing, serve thee as thy hosts a - bove,
 changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry, till in heaven we take our place,



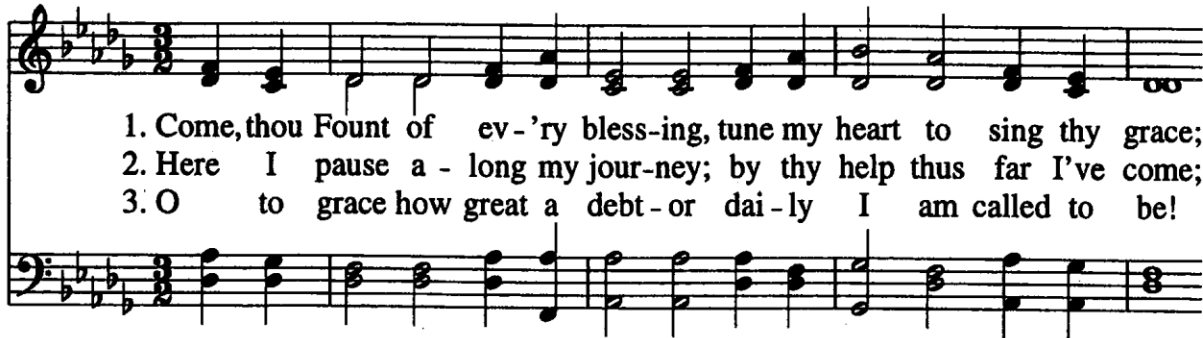
vis - it us with thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart.
 end of faith, as its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.
 pray, and praise thee with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.
 till we cast our crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise.

WORDS: Charles Wesley, 1747, alt.
 MUSIC: John Zundel, 1855

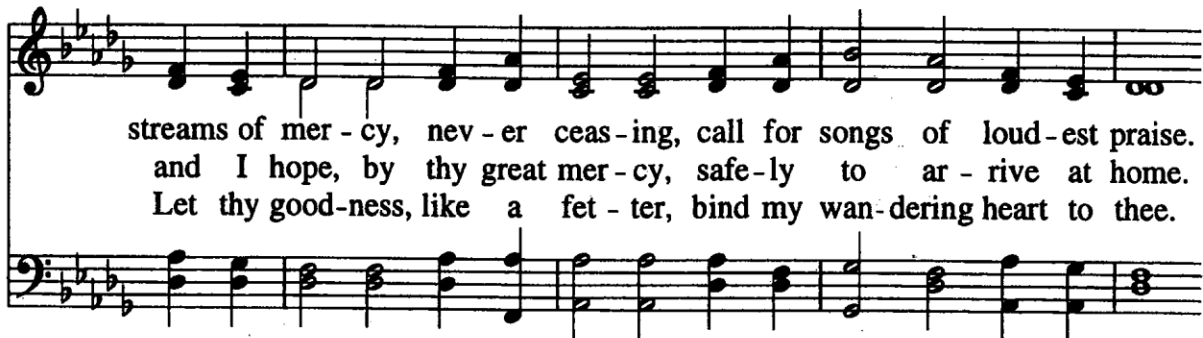
BEECHER
 87.87D

This hymn is sung by every major denomination. Charles Wesley, brother of John, wrote the text as a spiritual parody of a Dryden poem.

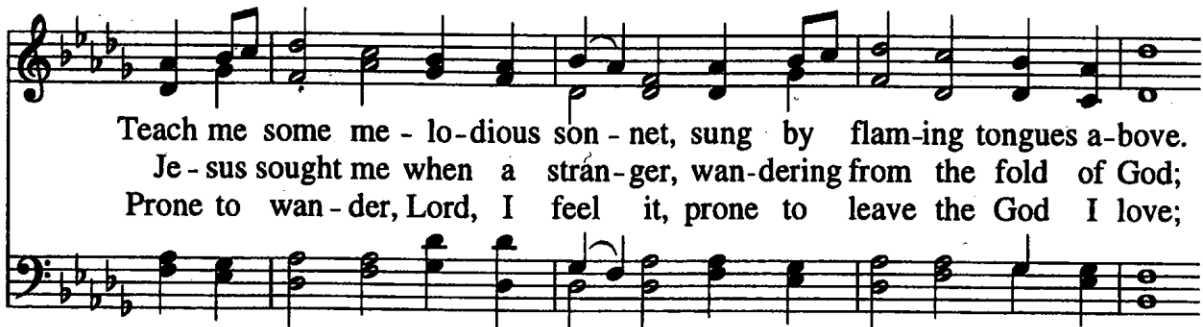
Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing



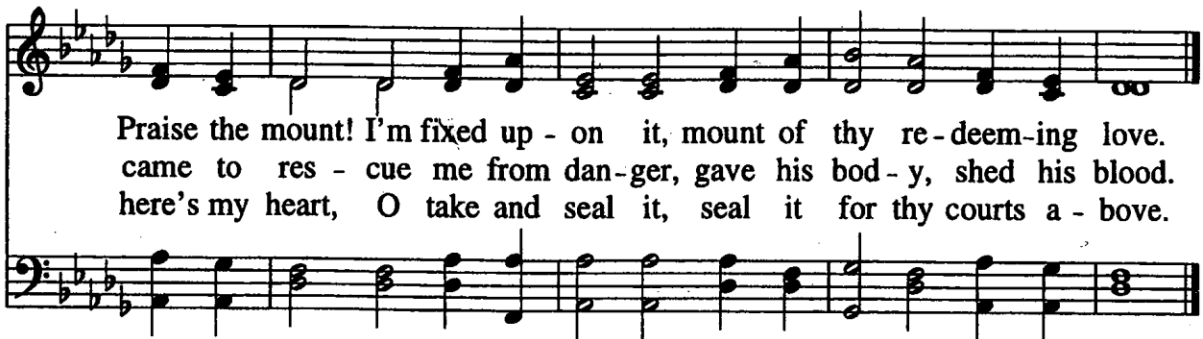
1. Come, thou Fount of ev-'ry bless-ing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;
 2. Here I pause a - long my jour-ney; by thy help thus far I've come;
 3. O to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I am called to be!



streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, call for songs of loud - est praise.
 and I hope, by thy great mer - cy, safe - ly to ar - rive at home.
 Let thy good - ness, like a fet - ter, bind my wan - dering heart to thee.



Teach me some me - lo - dious son - net, sung by flam - ing tongues a - bove.
 Je - sus sought me when a stran - ger, wan - dering from the fold of God;
 Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;



Praise the mount! I'm fixed up - on it, mount of thy re - deem - ing love.
 came to res - cue me from dan - ger, gave his bod - y, shed his blood.
 here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for thy courts a - bove.

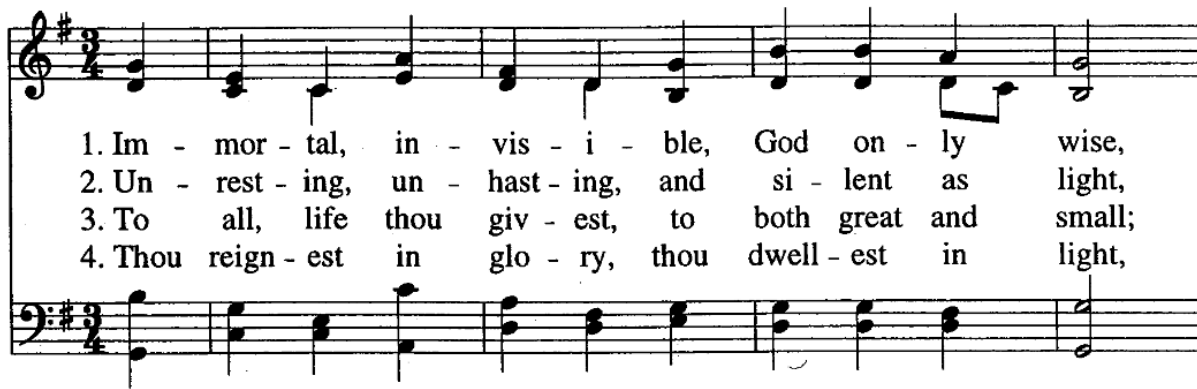
WORDS: Robert Robinson, 1758, alt.

MUSIC: Wyeth's *Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second*, 1813

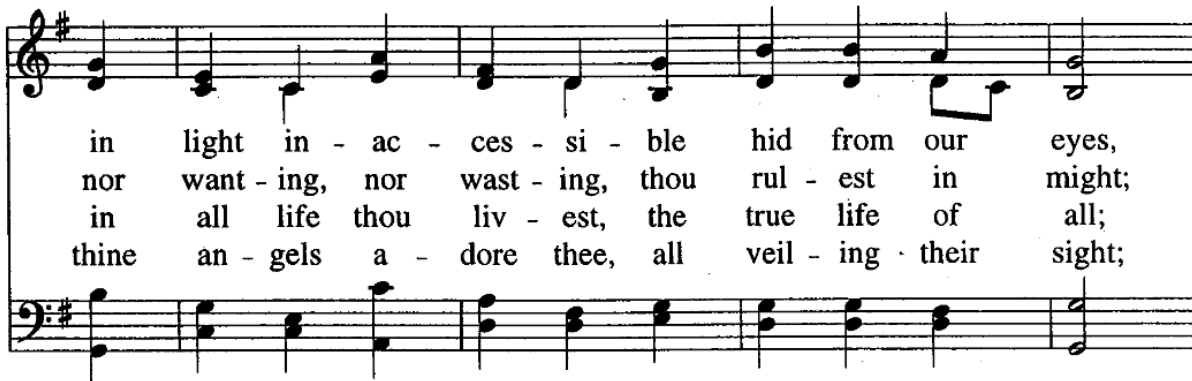
NETTLETON
87.87D

Robinson, an English barber, became a Calvinistic Methodist preacher and, later, a Baptist minister. His text has been sung to this American folk tune since 1813.

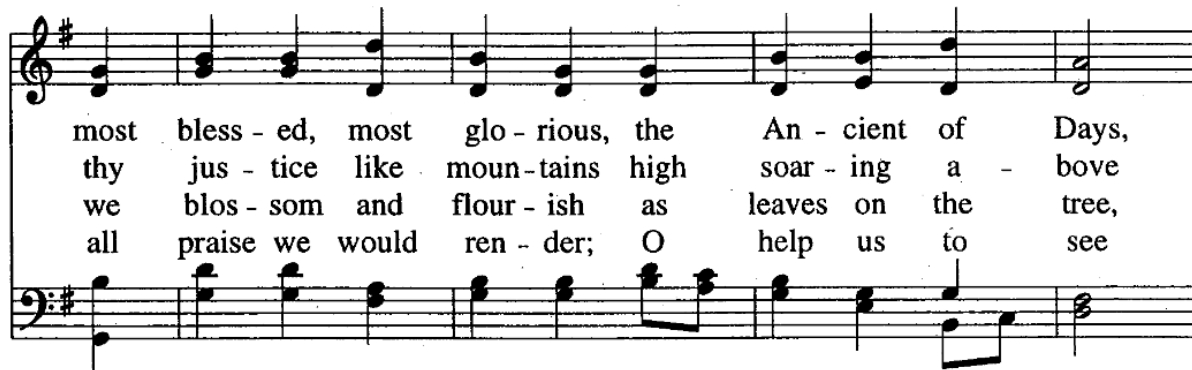
Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise



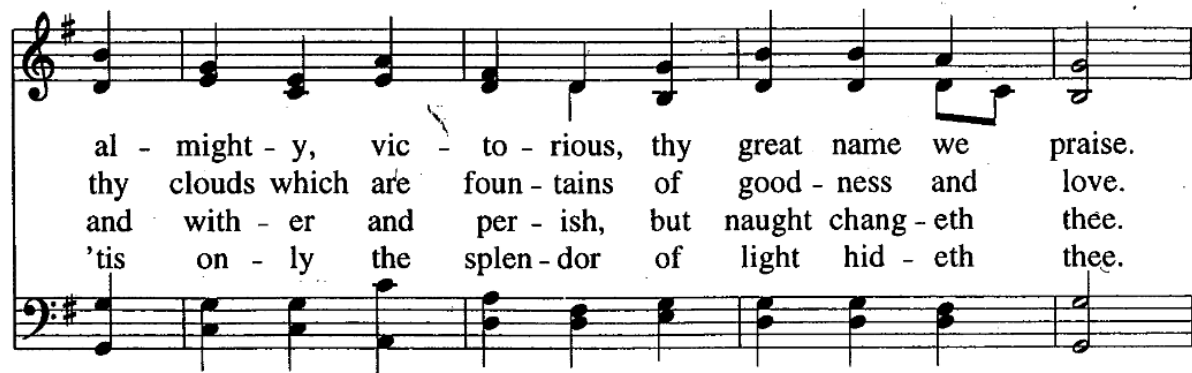
1. Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,
 2. Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,
 3. To all, life thou giv - est, to both great and small;
 4. Thou reign - est in glo - ry, thou dwell - est in light,



in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,
 nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might;
 in all life thou liv - est, the true life of all;
 thine an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight;



most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
 thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove
 we blos - som and flour - ish as leaves on the tree,
 all praise we would ren - der; O help us to see



al - might - y, vic - to - rious, thy great name we praise.
 thy clouds which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.
 and with - er and per - ish, but naught chang - eth thee.
 'tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee.

WORDS: Walter Chalmers Smith, 1867, alt.

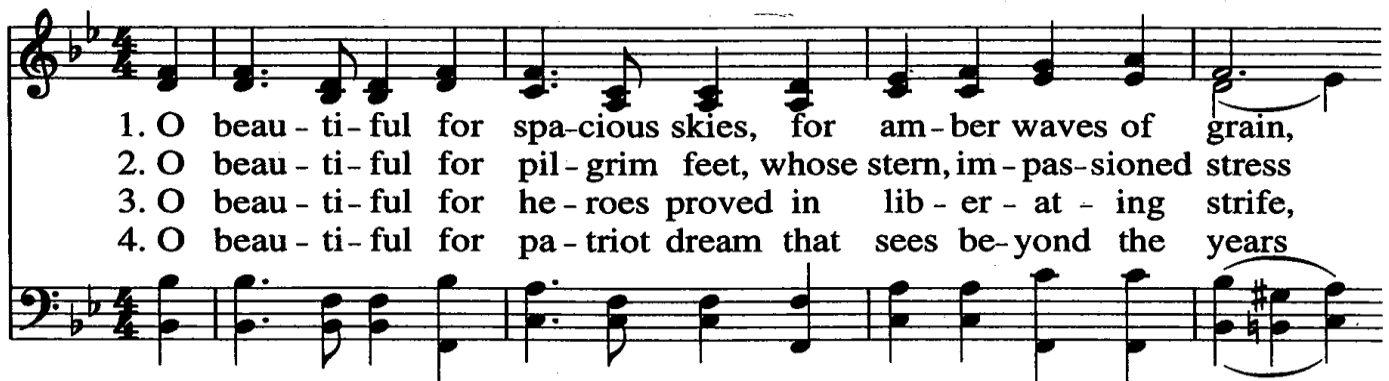
MUSIC: Welsh melody from John Roberts' *Caniadau y Cyssegr*, 1839

ST. DENIO

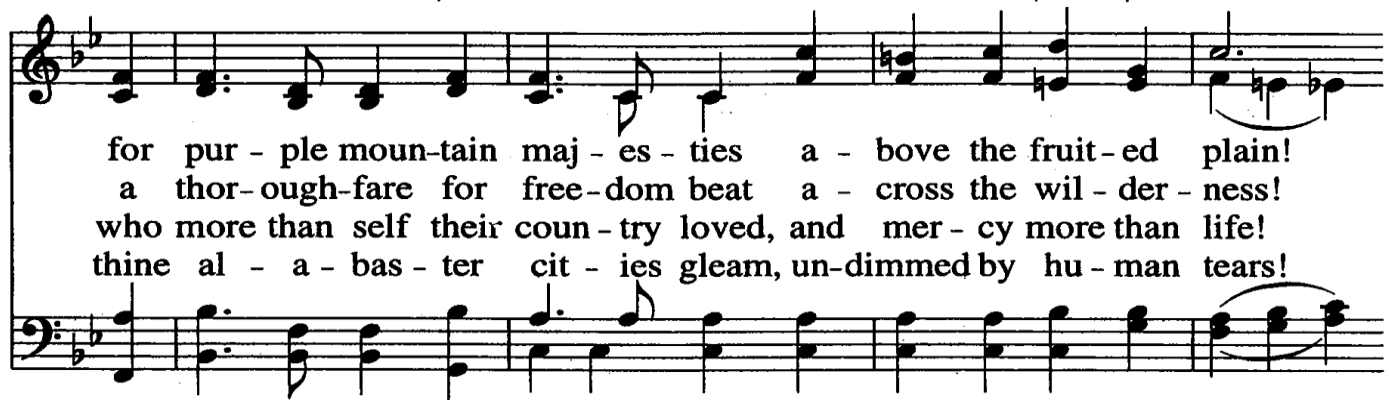
11 11.11 11

Minister and scholar Walter Smith also became Moderator of the Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland. The opening phrases are based on Timothy 1:17.

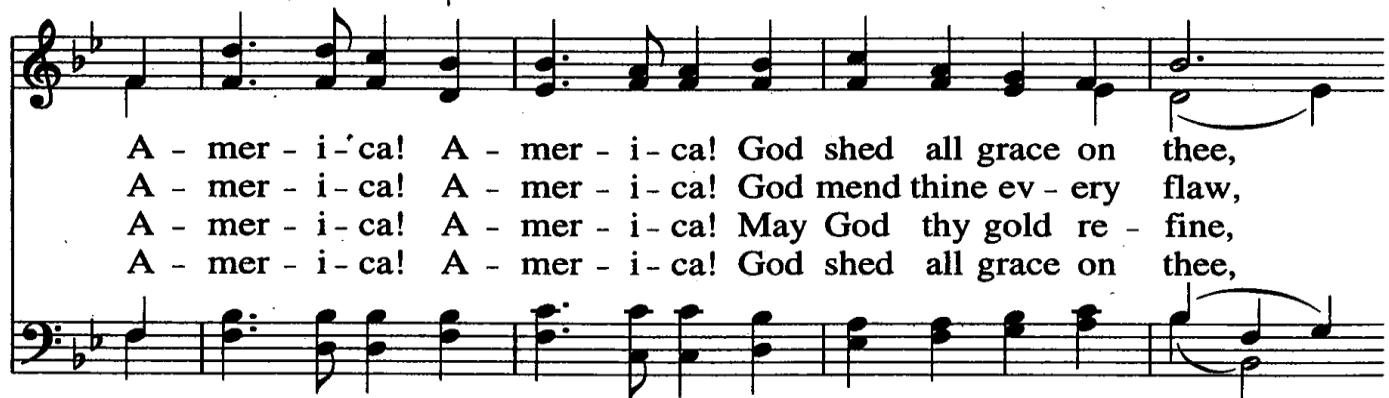
O Beautiful for Spacious Skies



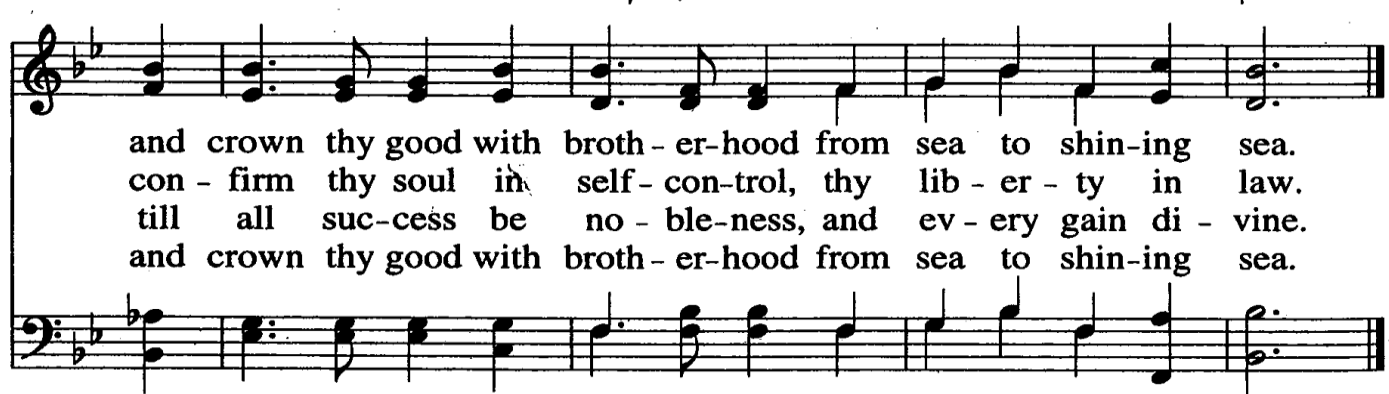
1. O beau - ti - ful for spa - cious skies, for am - ber waves of grain,
 2. O beau - ti - ful for pil - grim feet, whose stern, im - pas - sioned stress
 3. O beau - ti - ful for he - roes proved in lib - er - at - ing strife,
 4. O beau - ti - ful for pa - triot dream that sees be - yond the years



for pur - ple moun - tain maj - es - ties a - bove the fruit - ed plain!
 a thor - ough - fare for free - dom beat a - cross the wil - der - ness!
 who more than self their coun - try loved, and mer - cy more than life!
 thine al - a - bas - ter cit - ies gleam, un - dimmed by hu - man tears!



A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! God shed all grace on thee,
 A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! God mend thine ev - ery flaw,
 A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! May God thy gold re - fine,
 A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! God shed all grace on thee,



and crown thy good with broth - er - hood from sea to shin - ing sea.
 con - firm thy soul in self - con - trol, thy lib - er - ty in law.
 till all suc - cess be no - ble - ness, and ev - ery gain di - vine.
 and crown thy good with broth - er - hood from sea to shin - ing sea.

WORDS: Katharine Lee Bates, 1893, alt.
 MUSIC: Samuel Augustus Ward, 1882

MATERNA
 CMD

Bates, who headed the English department at Wellesley, wrote this hymn on viewing the sunrise from the summit of Pikes Peak. The 'alabaster cities' is the 1893 Columbian Exposition in Chicago.

Seek Ye First

443

Descant

Al - - le - - lu - - ia, al - -

1. Seek ye first the king - dom of God and God's
2. Ask, and it shall be giv - en un - to you; seek, and

le - - lu - - ia, al - - le - -

righ - teous - ness, and all these things shall be
ye shall find; knock, and the door shall be

lu - - ia, al - - le - - lu - - ia!

add - ed un - to you. Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia!
o - pened un - to you. Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia!

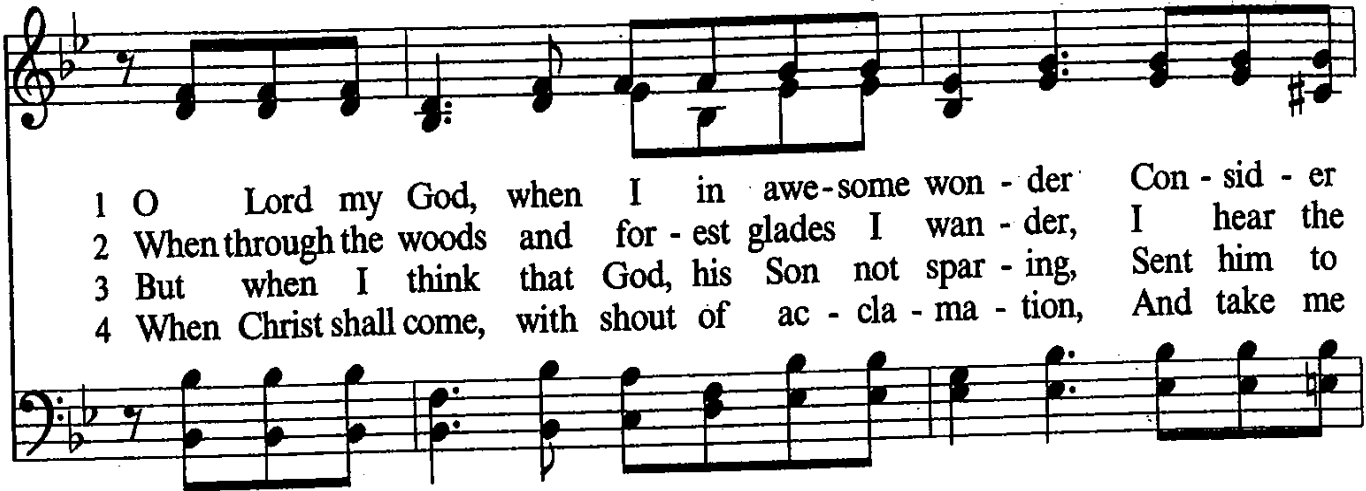
WORDS and MUSIC: Karen Lafferty, 1972

SEEK YE FIRST
Irr.

This text is based on Matthew 6:33, which asks us to put our priorities straight.

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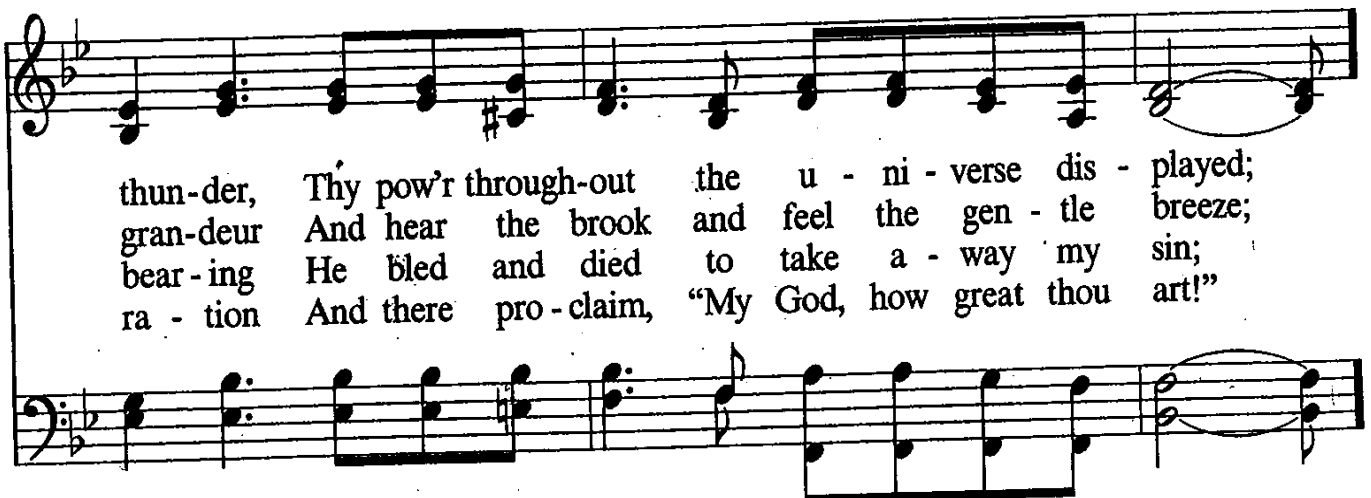
How Great Thou Art



1 O Lord my God, when I in awe-some won - der Con - sid - er
 2 When through the woods and for - est glades I wan - der, I hear the
 3 But when I think that God, his Son not spar - ing, Sent him to
 4 When Christ shall come, with shout of ac - cla - ma - tion, And take me



all the *worlds thy hand hath made, I see the stars, I hear the *roll - ing
 birds singsweet - ly in the trees; When I look down from loft - y moun - tain
 die, I scarce can take it in, That on the cross my bur - den glad - ly
 home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then I shall bow in hum - ble ad - o -



thun - der, Thy pow'r through - out the u - ni - verse dis - played;
 gran - deur And hear the brook and feel the gen - tle breeze;
 bear - ing He bled and died to take a - way my sin;
 ra - tion And there pro - claim, "My God, how great thou art!"

Refrain

Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior God, to thee, How great thou

art! How great thou art! Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior God, to

thee, How great thou art! How great thou art!