

FOREWORD

Very hesitantly I have put together these verses because of requests and encouragement by those who have occasionally read or sung one of them. I began writing when I started preaching regularly and was finding it hard to find a hymn that expressed exactly what I wanted to say.

I would particularly like to thank my tutor, the Revd Peter Henderson who, when I was training to be a United Reformed Church lay preacher, first suggested writing my own hymns. Sincere thanks also to the hymn writer, Alan Gaunt who, when judging a URC hymn competition, passed on some very helpful advice and criticism of my efforts. He gave me a benchmark to follow and encouraged me to keep on writing and revising my work. Thanks to some of my friends, particularly those at West Street Church, Somerton, who have been very kind and supportive, urging me to make the work more widely available. Also thanks to Ivor Dixon who has undertaken the daunting task of organizing the work in order to make it more widely available, and to my husband, David, who has provided editorial support and encouragement throughout the twelve years of writing.

The work is free to be used should anyone wish to do so, and minor adaptations in order to personalise a piece is permitted.

These hymns and poems are an expression of my personal understanding of God as I seek to grow in faith and serve Him, as well as a response to some of the situations I have experienced. It is my hope and prayer that you may find something that resonates with you and gives help and encouragement on your own journey of faith.

Sylvia Huggett, Somerton

1. ADVENT

Tune: *Austria*

1. Once again the season's Advent,
time to stop and think and pray.
God's own people longed and waited,
puzzled by their God's delay.
Faithful Abraham and Sarah,
waited long for their son, too.
*We are waiting, we are waiting,
hearts prepared to welcome you.*

2. Next the prophets came, proclaiming,
"Unto you a child is given.
He will come - you must be ready -
as he comes to earth from heaven.
God in human form restricted,
he'll appear for all to view."
*We are waiting, we are waiting,
hearts prepared to welcome you.*

3. John the Baptist, in the desert,
"Look, here is the Lamb," he said.
"He must increase, I must decrease.
He's the one of whom you've read.
Follow him, he is your Saviour,
he will give you life that's new."
*We are waiting, we are waiting,
hearts prepared to welcome you.*

4. Once an angel came to Mary.
"God says you're his chosen one.
He has given you his favour.
You will bear his precious Son."
Though amazed, young Mary answered,
"I am willing, this I'll do."
*We are waiting, we are waiting,
hearts prepared to welcome you.*

(on Christmas Day.)

5. We have tried to be as faithful
as these people long ago.
Tried to copy their example
so in us God's light might show.
Through our stopping, thinking, praying,
tried to keep an Advent true.
*We have waited, we have waited,
hearts prepared, we welcome you.*

2. CHRISTMAS CAROL *Tune: Cradle Song*

1. One day in the country came a ruling from Rome
and Mary and Joseph had to travel from home.
For they had to register in Beth'lem, their name
along with the people all doing the same.
2. But knocking on inn doors found no place to stay
so were offered an out-house with plenty of hay.
And in those conditions was the dear Saviour's
birth.
So humble and lowly yet the King of our earth.
3. The shepherds were busy with their sheep on the
hill,
alert for some danger though the night was so still.
An angel disturbed them with a message in song
the Saviour had come for whom they'd waited
long.
4. The shepherds heard the angels as their voices
they raised.
So they hurried to Beth'lem to join in their praise.
They worshipped the baby asleep in the stall
rejoicing to see this new babe, Lord of all.

5. Some wise men then met in the lands from afar
and journeyed to Herod by following a star.
This king did not know of the babe and said, "Bring
me news of this prince who is said to be King."
6. The wise men then found, in the house that they
sought -
this King, and they offered the rich gifts they'd
brought.
God told them to return home by a different way
They left, all rejoicing, at the happenings that day.

3. GOD OF THE UNEXPECTED

Tunes: Cruger or Passion Chorale

1. God of the unexpected,
you changed young Mary's life,
for she would have a baby
though not yet Joseph's wife.
They clearly both were puzzled
why they should have your Son
but humbly acquiescing
they saw your will was done.
2. God of the unexpected,
as shepherds guarded sheep,
their night-time silence shattered
as angels broke their sleep.
Though they were very frightened,
the angels they obeyed,
and hurrying off to Beth'lem
they saw the newborn Babe.
3. God of the unexpected,
in Herod's palace fine,
some wise men came and challenged
the king to give a sign
of a new babe's arrival,

but this hurt Herod's pride.
He sought then to destroy you,
your kingship he denied

4. God of the unexpected,
these wise men from afar
then left the King's smart palace,
still following the star.
It guided them to Beth'lem
unto a humble door,
where offering gifts, they worshipped,
while kneeling on the floor.
5. God of the unexpected,
You're in our world today.
Yet we are often stubborn
and won't accept your way.
Surprise us still by working
in ways and places new,
and keep us open-minded
so we can work with you.

4. LENTEN JOURNEY

Tune: Passion Chorale

1. I will arise and follow
My God through Lenten days.
As he goes on to 'Salem
towards life's setting rays.
For he has asked my company
as a disciple true,
to share his pain and suff'ring
and final triumph too.
2. May I not shrink or waver
when hardship comes my way.
Call to my mind your teaching
to bear the cross each day.

And as I travel onwards
help me accept your will,
to clearly see your footprints,
and closely follow still

3. And may I find those quiet times
like those in your friends' homes.
Where you found sweet refreshment
away from strident tones
of oppositions' hatred
and plans to do you ill.
Within your Father's presence
you rested, calm and still.
4. When asked to share your struggles
and stay with you in prayer,
may I not sleep or falter
but your great burdens share.
Be present in the garden,
the trial, at the cross.
So on my Lenten journey
know gain through seeming loss.

5. TEMPTATIONS

Tune: St. Alphege

1. Our Lord went to the desert,
for 40 days he stayed,
and in that lonely silence
he pondered and he prayed.
2. His life's work was beginning,
he knew what lay ahead.
Some days of healing, teaching,
ending with days to dread.

3. But should he change this pattern -
the stones be turned to bread,
to stay his awful hunger,
showing his power instead?
4. Or should he be ambitious
and from the Temple's height
launch into space, relying
on angels' wings for flight?
5. The summit of the mountain
gave views of lands around.
Should he ignore God's planning
and king of these be crowned?
6. But he fought these temptations
which struggled in his mind.
Submitting to God's purpose,
he inner strength did find.
7. So Lord, you understand us
when testing times draw near.
Relying on your presence
there's nothing we need fear.

6. PALM SUNDAY

Tune: Winchester New

1. Ride on, Lord God, in majesty,
Your mount a donkey, loaned for free.
Jerusalem's people shout your praise
to welcome you their voices raise.
2. The crowds cut palms and waved them round
and coats were thrown upon the ground.
They praised their king but did not know
their wrong ideas did grieve you so.

3. Their welcome rang through city gate
but hid within were plans of hate.
We join the crowd to praise your name.
Please guard us from an equal shame!
4. Lord when you entered you just gazed
around the city and amazed
the crowds who wanted action then -
a king on terms agreed by them.
5. But Lord, you had a different view -
You knew the future, what you'd do.
You'd face the cross and bear the pain,
apparent loss would be our gain.
6. Lord God, we ask you, enter in
and free our hearts from self and sin.
Help us accept what you have done -
your death brings life for everyone..
7. We pray, be Lord of all our days,
your love will guide us in your ways.
So of your kingdom we'll be part
and praise you truly from the heart.

7. FEET WASHING - *John 13:5.*

Tune: St. Peter

1. We thank you Lord, for asking us
to come and eat with you.
We are amazed that you do this -
it's not an honour due.
2. You are the Host, the table's set,
ready the bread and wine,
so freely given to us all
who've come with you to dine.

3. You quietly leave the table head,
and one by one you greet
unworthy guests who are ashamed
as you wash dirty feet.
4. With horror each of us says, "No
you must not kneel to me!"
"I am your servant" he still says,
"You surely now must see -
5. "it doesn't matter who you are
or even what you've been.
Go out and find the needy ones
and copy what you've seen.
6. "There's many who have dirty feet,
and yours must be my hands.
So kneel and wash them clean again
obeying my commands."
7. Give strength to take your challenge up -
serve others for you, Lord.
Let's take the basin, towel and kneel
to humbly do your Word.

8. EASTER DAY

Tune: Sussex Carol

1. On Easter Day all Christians raise
their voices in such joyful praise.
For death has now released its hold,
this message both the angels told.
The heavy stone had rolled away,
the grave had emptied on this day.
2. The women came with spices sweet
to tend Christ's body as was meet.
But angels met their frightened eyes;

their message was a great surprise.
“He is not here - he is not dead,
you need no longer mourn,” they said.

3. Still Mary in the garden stayed,
so sad and worried and afraid.
She saw the gard’ner in light dim.
“Oh sir, what have you done with him?”
“Mary!” the Saviour whispered low.
“Oh Master!” “Now to my friends go.”
4. But puzzled Peter needed to
confirm the women’s tale was true.
He swiftly ran unto the tomb
and bending down, peered through the gloom.
There on the shelf the grave clothes lay.
“Who has taken my Lord away?”
5. What to these people was so new,
we have assurance that it’s true.
His resurrection brings new birth
to all who seek him here on earth.
As Christ a risen life now lives,
his risen life through faith he gives.

9. ASCENSION *based on Luke 24:44-52*

Tune: Saffron Walden

1. Lord, when your work on earth was done,
your human form on earth was gone.
Yet you are with us, though unseen,
still friend as you had been.
2. You came to earth, fulfilled God’s Word,
his message taught which we have heard.
You opened minds to understand,
all that our God had planned.

3. You promised help to witness true.
The Holy Spirit helps us do...
the work of God; to spread your Word,
so Wisdom's voice is heard.
4. Such joy is ours, we worship you,
knowing you're here though beyond view.
We long to see you, Lord, again,
meanwhile in hearts you reign.
5. Help us not cling to earthly things;
more joy and peace your Spirit brings,
to worship, witness, live your Word,
risen, ascended Lord.

10. HOLY SPIRIT *based on Acts 2:1-4*

Tune: St. Peter

1. As on the day of Pentecost
the Holy Spirit came,
may we who gather here today
experience the same.
2. As like a rushing mighty wind
the breath of God blew round,
may we be privileged to know
and hear that precious sound.
3. The Spirit came as cleansing fire
and hovered on each head.
Your fire's anointing we would know,
be by your Spirit led.
4. Your Spirit transformed lives that day
and made the fearful bold.
Forgive our own timidity.
transform us as of old.

5. Such power was given to speak your Word
so all could understand.
Grant us that power for we would be
your voice in this our land.
6. So on this day of Pentecost
renew your Spirit, Lord,
within our waiting hearts, that we
have grace to live your Word.

11. HOLY SPIRIT'S WORK

Tune: Gildas

1 Cor. 12:13

1. God's Spirit making one,
what'ere our background be.
Baptised into the love of God
through faith we are made free.

Acts 2:33

2. God's Spirit given me.
A **gift** from Christ alone.
It's mine to have in thankfulness
to cherish as my own.

1 Cor. 6:19

3. God's Spirit does **indwell**.
Transforming my own soul.
My body His own temple is.
He'll cleanse and make me whole.

1 John 1:27

4. God's Spirit poured on me,
anoints as servant-king.
He teaches me to copy him
through joy and suffering.

Eph. 4:30

5. God's Spirit **seals** my faith.
I don't want Him to grieve.
He's chosen me and I must hold
to what I now believe.

2 Cor. 1:22

6. God's Spirit is His pledge
of blessings that will come.
An earnest or a **guarantee**
until He calls me home.

Eph. 5:18

7. God's Spirit is poured out,
filling my life with peace.
O saturate my soul with joy!
My praise shall never end.

12. PENTECOST

Tune: North Coats

1. Jesus you are with me.
What does this word mean?
I have heard about you,
yet you are unseen.
2. But you've given your Spirit
like a breath of air,
hiding deep inside me -
special life to share.
3. You will never leave me
now you live within.
I am yours and you are
pardoning my sin.

4. With your Spirit in me
changing me inside,
I will try to please you.
Come and be my guide.
5. So, Lord Jesus, help me
by your Spirit's power,
so to love and serve you
every day and hour.

13. THE TRINITY

Tune: Finlandia

1. Almighty God, so awesome is your being,
we of the earth can't fully understand.
Too great to know, too holy to draw near you,
yet we are governed by your gracious hand.
2. So you sent Jesus to us, who revealed you,
teaching us God-like ways. Then in your plan -
he died and rose that we might be accepted,
included in your love's great depths and span.
3. When Jesus left this earth, we weren't forgotten.
Your Holy Spirit came with cleansing power.
To give us strength to walk a Christ-like pathway,
God's presence with us every single hour.
4. So God has made it possible to worship.
Jesus has made his followers' journey plain.
The Holy Spirit dwells within each person.
Triune, yet One, God constant will remain.

14. GOD'S PLENTY

Tune: Bunessan

1. Lord of abundance
from the wide ocean,
all kinds of fishes
caught in the nets.
Shellfish and lobsters,
creatures from shoreline,
food for our tables
for all to share.

2. Lord of abundance
from deep in darkness
all of the treasures
under our feet.
Minerals and jewels,
slate, stone and salt mines
these are some riches
for all to share.

3. Lord of abundance,
crops in fields growing,
fruit from the orchards
and overseas.
Vegetables planted
in the back garden,
berries from hedgerows
for all to share.

4. Lord of abundance,
turbines for wind power,
heat from the sunlight,
free gifts from you.
Streams swiftly running,
tides ebbing, flowing,
all power potential
for all to share.

5. Lord of abundance
great is your loving
shown by provisions
for us on earth.
It is your purpose
that all the nations
all of your riches
equally share.

15. REMEMBERING

Tune: Finlandia or O Perfect Love

1. We come, O God, together to remember
the fighting and the battles of our world;
to think of those who died or caused their dying,
many lives lost and many more so spoiled.
2. We sorrow God, that though their lives were given
for others, like our Lord's upon the cross,
yet, unlike his, which brought us peace eternal,
just temporary peace results from all their loss.
3. Forgive us then, that though your teaching tells us
that such aggression's not your way to peace,
we still fight on with righteous indignation,
puzzled why people die and wars don't cease.
4. Grant to the governments of all our nations,
humility and grace to seek your ways
to bring about a greater understanding
to work for peace throughout the coming days.

16. ANNIVERSARY DEDICATION

Tune: Ar hyd y nos

1. In this place today we gather,
We thank you Lord
Individuals but together
We thank you Lord.
For the past which is behind us.
For the future now before us,
For the hope which is within us,
We thank you Lord.

2. Though our faith may sometimes waver,
We trust you Lord.
New ideas and ways to savour
We trust you Lord
For the journey we are taking,
For the promises we're making,
For new ground that we are breaking,
We trust you Lord.

3. As we re-think our traditions,
Help us our Lord
As we work with new relations,
Help us our Lord.
To our neighbours be supporting,
Our community be serving,
For our world be always praying,
Help us our Lord.

4. Have we kept what we have promised?
Forgive us Lord.
Have we always onward journeyed?
Forgive us Lord.
There's divisions still among us.
New ideas and change still scare us.
Lack of faith and prayer still hurt us.
Forgive us Lord.

5. On this day of Anniversary
Renew us Lord.
Draw us closer as a family.
Renew us Lord.
Courage, faith and love reviving,
Clearer vision guide our serving,
God's great name be gloryfying,
Renew us Lord.

6. For this new start we are making,
We praise you Lord.
Hopes are high and faith increasing,
We praise you Lord.
Firm commitment strengthen in us,
Your own presence dwell within us,
Holy Spirit's wisdom guide us,
We praise you Lord

17. COMMUNION

Tune: Scarlet Ribbons

1. Come, and gather round this table,
invitations are for all.
Come, this simple meal is ready.
So respond to Jesus' call.
He is present, his example
governs all that we do here.
None rejected, all are welcome.
Though unworthy, come, draw near.

2. Breaking bread - "It is my body"-
Jesus shares the pieces round.
Bread, its unsurprising presence,
made from wheat sown in the ground.
Nothing special but he takes it
as a symbol, precious, true,
of his body given, broken.
"This," he says, "you too, must do."

3. Lifting up the cup of friendship
brimming full of crimson wine.
He invites us all to drink it,
made from grapes picked from the vine.
Solemn words and solemn actions,
yet a meal of gladness too.
Wine a sign of celebration
of life vibrant, life that's new.
4. Jesus tells us, "Let these symbols
nourish your own being too.
You're my body, you're my life blood,
as my friends you must be true.
Go and live, like me, for others,
share your body's precious bread.
With my life blood pulsing through you
let my love and joy be spread."

18. FATHER GOD

Tune: Londonderry Air

1. Our lives were changed when Jesus came to tell us
to call God "Father" when we kneel to pray.
This lovingly includes us in his Family;
and gives us insight into God today.
For we have had a human, earthly father,
who gave us life and shared with us his name.
And then, through all the growing years of childhood
God watched and waited till some knowledge of him
came.
2. We know of some who work as busy doctors,
healing the sick and listening to their fears.
Deciding how to treat and help each person,
holding their hands and drying up their tears.

And God our Father also helps the needy,
with listening ear and gentle healing touch.
He calms our fears and cures our sin-sick spirits
and whispers that he loves us all so very much.

3. We know of some who lead a life of teaching,
training the children, opening up the mind.
Stretching their efforts to their full potential,
that in their study pleasure they may find.
And God our Father loves to teach his children
filling their minds with truths from his own Word
And issuing challenges for them to follow,
giving them strength and gladness when his voice
heard.
4. We know of some who work as active farmers,
caring for livestock, ploughing up the ground.
Growing the crops and bringing in the harvest,
faithfully working through the daily round.
And God our Father loves what He's created -
His is the breath of life within our world;
and He still moves the ever changing seasons.
And God our Father's saddened when His work is
spoiled.
5. We know of some who spend their lives as builders,
so skilfully making needed solid homes.
Leaving a legacy of sturdy buildings
which stand the test of sunshine and of storms.
And God our Father also builds his Temple -
we're living stones laid to his measuring rod.
And love's the mortar holding us together,
foundations firm and deep set in our Father God.

19. FLOWER FESTIVAL

Tune: Wolvercote

1. When winter's bleak and gloomy,
the frozen ground all bare;
yet hidden in the darkness
new life is stirring there.
Up peeps the snowdrop, crocus,
to gladden heart and mind.
And when our hearts seem barren,
Your presence Lord, we find.

2. The balmy air of springtime
brings tulips, daffodils.
And swathes of cheerful colour
fills woodlands, fields and hills.
God gives us many blessings
which make our lives so bright.
Help us be true disciples
to spread around Your light.

3. Then bursts forth glorious summer
with lovely flowers around.
Variety and difference
of shape and colour found.
May we be much more willing
to accept difference too,
of creed and race and custom -
for all belong to You.

4. The rose, though smelling sweetly
sharp, prickly thorns does bear.
Some flowers are efficacious
but some dark secrets share.
So beauty can deceive us -
it's like this world we're in.
What we perceive attractive
can lead us into sin.

5. And as the year is fading
to Autumn's wind and rain;
it's sturdy flowers that flourish,
deep rooted they remain.
Life's autumn winds may buffet
as leaves from green turn gold.
Our faith should still be sturdy,
secure in God's tight hold.

6. And so the changing seasons
a beauty each can claim.
For every lovely flower
declares its Maker's name.
He's made us, too, like flowers
to spread his fragrance round.
We've, through his loving kindness,
his Spirit's beauty found.

20. FUNERAL

Tune: St. Clement

1. The earthly life you gave has ended
and been transformed within your light.
It leaves us sad and lonely, grieving
for they have journeyed from our sight.

2. Yet we've been privileged to know them,
to share with them and know their worth.
And we retain the precious memories
of years spent with them on this earth.

3. We give our thanks that God our Father
can share with us the pain of loss.
For he has known the grief and suffering
as his Son died upon the cross.

4. Help us to see that, like Christ's rising
we too shall share that glorious life.
Confirm again that blest assurance
of freedom from our earthly strife.
5. So here today we come to thank you
and in our sorrow give you praise,
that God from death to life transforms us,
with triumph he'll our spirits raise.

21. MOTHERING SUNDAY.

Tune: Repton

1. *Ps. 139:13-16*
You formed and made us, Mother God,
while we were in the womb.
You knew and shaped our several parts
and brought us forth to start our life.
We wonder and we love
and praise you, Mother God.
2. *Isaiah 49:15*
Your love is constant, Mother God.
Forgetful you'll not be.
While human mothers sometimes fail
security we find with you.
We wonder and we love
and praise you, Mother God.
3. *Exod. 19:4-5*
When life is tough our Mother God
will carry us right through.
As on the eagle's mighty wings
we soar with God and are refreshed,
we wonder and we love
and praise you, Mother God.

4. *Matt.23:37*

But we can stray from Mother God,
and spurn her tender care.
It makes you long to shelter us
and gather us as hens their chicks.
We wonder and we love
and praise you, Mother God.

5. *Prov.22:6*

And as your children, Mother God,
train us up in your ways.
A Father/Mother partnership
completes the bond of family.
We wonder and we love
and praise you, Mother God.

22. NEW BABY

Tune: Caswall

1. Dear Lord give me more faith
helping me believe
my arms hold your dear child
gifted now to me
2. Dear Lord give me such faith
that will then sustain.
So through all life's changes
constant will remain.
3. Dear Lord give me patience
With this small child's needs.
Even when I'm weary
lovingly take heed.
4. Dear Lord give me strong hope
that this child will grow
hearing of your great love
all your ways to know.

5. Dear Lord give me wisdom,
never clinging be.
Then your child will one day
Fly joyfully free.
6. So in taking this child
My life's work begun.
Trusting later I'll hear
your good words 'Well done!'

23. NEW YEAR

Tune: Carlisle

1. Begin the year with God.
He ever with you stays.
He'll guide your steps and strengthen you
to walk in all his ways.
2. Begin the year with faith.
His hand your future holds.
Whatever comes of good or ill,
His care your life enfolds.
3. Begin the year with hope.
The past behind you lies.
A new fresh start he promises,
on this your hope relies.
4. Begin the year with love.
Live in a Christ-like way.
Put others first and humbly serve
unselfishly each day.
5. Begin the year with joy.
He showers his blessings down.
Live thankfully and so he will
with joy your New Year crown.

24. A NEW BEGINNING

Tune: Cruger

1. Lord of each new beginning,
we give our lives today,
secure into your keeping
to guide and bless, we pray.
We know not what's before us
of pleasure or of pain,
but you will go before us,
and make our pathway plain.

2. When backwards we are looking
we trace past joys and fears.
Times when you gave us blessing,
times when events brought tears.
Yet through it all you guided
and held us firmly still.
And graciously provided
strength to accept your will.

3. Experience of past days,
promises from your Word
that you will guide in new ways -
how can we doubt you, Lord?
So Lord of each beginning,
with added assurance
we face the future, stepping
with greater confidence.

25. AN ORDINARY GOD

Tune: Darwall

1. A truly ordinary God!
But how can this be so?
Extr'ordinary you must be
as in your deeds you show.
Of Mary born,
our human race
you did embrace
in finite form.

2. God of all ordinary things,
you sew and weave and knit
our bodies secretly
so ev'ry part will fit.
Then bring us forth.
Now daily things
your message brings
gives new life worth.

3. God of the everyday,
yourself you did reveal
in Moses' burning bush,
in widow's oil and meal.
A still, small voice,
a catch of fish,
an unclean dish,
these were your choice.

4. God of familiar things,
who took some fish and bread.
Because you thanked and blessed
a multitude was fed.
You brought to view
a lamb, a broom,
a boat, a room,
things which they knew.

5. God of all earthly things
who spoke with clarity.
The farmer's daily life
you used so perfectly.
The plough, the fields,
the barns, the seeds,
the wheat, the weeds,
all harvest yields.

6. A truly ordinary God
Extr'ordinary though you be.
In all the ordinary things
help us yourself to see.
You prayerfully
spoke of the vine,
made water wine,
so transform me..

26. CREATION Genesis 1

Tunes: All things bright & beautiful or Royal Oak

Refrain:

*God made all things beautiful
the sky, the seas, the land.
Nature's wonders in our world
were made as he had planned.*

1. He separated darkness
and made the glorious light.
He called the darkness "Night time".
and "Day" the light so bright.

2. He set the oceans' boundaries;
the low and higher land;
the lakes and streams and rivers,
the mighty desert's sand.

3. He planted spreading forests,
the grass beneath our feet,
the plants that grow profusely,
including flowers so sweet.
4. He made the sun's warm shining;
the moon and every star,
to keep the days and seasons
on earth and planets far.
5. He made the fishes swimming,
all creatures large and small ,
the birds that fly above us;
he made and loves them all.
6. He made us in his image
and put us in this world
to love and guard creation,
to see that it's not spoiled.

(optional)

7. The seventh day He rested
For He'd made all things good.
And so we come to worship
And praise Him as we should.

27. THANK YOU, GOD. Genesis 1

Tune: Cross of Jesus

1. Thank you, God, for nature's glories
of your making which we view.
Thank you that you still are working
nature daily to renew.
2. Thank you, God, for tossing oceans,
pebbly beach and sandy shore.
For the cliffs so tall, majestic -
sights to help us praise you more.

3. Thank you, God, for hills and mountains,
thank you, God, for valleys too.
Thank you for the fields of pasture,
all a gift to us from you.
4. Thank you, God, for sun and moonlight.
Thank you too, for every star,
giving light through day and night time,
showing that you're never far.
5. Thank you, God, for trees and bushes,
flowers in gardens, colours bright.
Also wild in meadows, woodlands -
seasonal beauty, glorious sight.
6. Thank you, God, for all the creatures,
fish and birds; variety.
Pets at home where you can teach us
our responsibility.
7. Thank you, God, that you created
humans in your image too.
Caring, loving, still creating,
daily to make us like you.

28. DOUBT Psalm 22:1-2

Tune: Westminster

1. My God, my God, where have you gone?
I'm lost without you near.
I need your guidance through this life
for I have doubts and fear.
2. My God, my God, where have you gone?
Life's seas around are wild.
"Through storm and darkness I am here
for you are my dear child."

3. My God, my God, where have you gone?
Do you still care for me?
"Hold to your faith though feeling lost
encouraged you will be."
4. My God, my God, where have you gone?
Your presence near I lack.
"One set of footprints in the sand
meant you were on my back."
5. My God, my God, where have you gone?
No, Lord, it's me that's wrong.
If I reach out in feeble faith
I find your grasp so strong.
6. My God, my God, where have you gone?
May I not doubt again.
You teach fresh lessons through hard times,
my unseen Friend remain.

29. QUIETNESS

Tune: Slane

1. Lord of all quietness and Lord of all peace,
we thank you that here daily bustle
can cease.
And taking advantage of time spent with you,
our spirits are rested and are
strengthened anew.
2. Lord of all stillness and Lord of all calm,
as we wait upon you for your healing balm
to soothe all our restlessness, quieten
our fear
that we are unworthy, as you whisper,
"I'm here."

3. Lord of tranquillity, Lord who's serene,
who fashioned our lives, ever with us
has been.
It's only the busyness of every day
which makes us forget you and we drive
you away.
4. Lord of all harmony, Lord of all love,
who hushes our discord, gives grace
from above.
We thank you for quietness, for peace
and for rest,
for silence and calmness, in your presence so blest.

30. SILENCE

Tune: Caswall

1. Speak Lord, in the silence,
restless sounds all gone.
Teach me how to listen,
as for you I long.
2. Help me face myself, Lord,
when I look within.
Shun not from the sight of
all my hidden sin.
3. May I know your presence
in my inner soul.
Knowing you still love me
and can make me whole.
4. Change my daily living
so I've time with you.
Making space for silence,
Lord, my soul renew.

5. Then I'll better serve you
free from stress and strain.
Listening in my spirit
for your voice again.

31. WORSHIP

Tune: St. Clement

1. Our worship here O Lord has ended
With singing your great Name we've praised.
We've shared concerns and prayed together,
Your spoken Word our spirits raised.
2. Yet what we've heard and learnt has challenged
We must leave here and live for you.
Our lives be changed and bear your witness
In all we think or speak or do.
3. We are your eyes and hands and footsteps
To see and help and walk your ways.
That Christ be known to all around us
Through faithfulness and love each day.
4. May every day have room for worship,
A quiet space to read your Word,
Spend time in prayer to hear you speaking,
Receive the daily strength we need.
5. Then worship here will not be wasted
Nor fellowship which has been sweet,
But bear a harvest for God's kingdom
Till once again we come and meet.

32. ANGER

Tune: Ombersley

1. It made you angry, Lord, to see
the leper shunned by all around.
You healed him with a tender touch
and new, cleansed life in him was found.
2. It made you angry, Lord, to see
that those who said they served the Lord,
religious leaders, hypocrites,
whose lives did not match with their word.
3. It made you angry, Lord, to see
a man who had a withered arm,
by Sabbath law should not be healed,
while livestock could be saved from harm.
4. It made you angry, Lord to see
the little children turned away.
You called their mothers, "Bring them back.
I want to bless them - with me stay."
5. It made you angry, Lord, to see
your Temple as a market place.
You formed a whip and cleared the stalls
and made again a worship space.
6. It makes you angry, Lord, today
the droughts and famines, people's fear,
the poverty, the refugees,
the senseless wars that cost so dear.
7. It makes you angry, Lord, today.
Your world is spoilt, there are too few
who work for justice, love and peace.
So Lord, may we have anger, too.

33. CHILD IN THE TEMPLE

Tune: Bunessan

1. Child in the Temple
happily sitting
to Rabbis listening
speaking of God.
Him parents missing,
frantically searching.
For three days worrying.
Where had he gone?

2. Child in the Temple
hard questions asking.
Hard questions answering.
Who is this Child?
He is amazing!
Such understanding
of God he's knowing.
Deep faith in God.

3. We're in this temple
together gathering.
Worship we're bringing
unto our God.
His praises singing
hard questions thinking.
Sometimes we're doubting
where is our God?

4. We're in this temple.
Help us in praying.
May we be listening
his voice to hear.
His word accepting.
His ways obeying.
Our lives be offering.
His Spirit's here.

34. FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT Gal.5:22

Tune: Abridge

1. Dear God, give me the gift of love,
for all humanity.
An unconditional love like yours,
may I as loving be.
2. Dear God, give me the gift of joy,
whatever comes my way.
If calm or storm; if good or ill,
rejoice in you each day.
3. Dear God, the gift of peace I crave,
when all around is noise.
A peace which passes human thought,
in silence hear your voice.
4. Dear God, such patience you have shown
to me a questioning one.
Help me to be as patient till
your work in me is done.
5. Dear God, the gift of kindness give,
which sees another's need,
and puts their interests to the fore,
and matches word with deed.
6. Dear God, your generous gifts are given
to all who're they be.
Help me to be impartial too
and give as generously.
7. Dear God, the gift of faithfulness
is needed every day,
to keep on trusting, serving you,
however hard the way.

8. Dear God, give me the gentleness
to listen, not condemn;
to share the doubt, the hurt, the loss
and then to comfort them.

9. Dear God, the gift of self-control
is needed like the rest.
Through Jesus only can I know
your Spirit's fruitfulness.

35. GOD'S SECURITY Based on Romans 8

Tune: Yorkshire

1. When life is pleasant and the path is smooth,
I'm often tempted to forget the Lord.
Content and happy with the world around,
I'm full of self and so neglect your Word.
Make me recall the truth I'd understood
that all things work together for my good.

2. But things get tough and illness comes my way,
my spirit fails; uncertainties rush in.
Faith falters and self-pity takes a hold,
my heart is sore and fear gives way to sin.
Help me recall the truth I'd understood
that all things work together for my good.

3. When family troubles come or friends depart,
death claims my loved ones and I'm sunk in grief.
Doubts fill my mind, your goodness seems to flee.
Oh, re-assure me: give me sweet relief -
as I recall the truth I'd understood
that all things work together for my good.

4. My days have purpose while I have some work
within the world or helping in your church.
It gives life meaning as I serve my Lord.
Take this from me and for self-worth I search.
Then I recall the truth I'd understood
that all things work together for my good.
5. Nothing can separate me from God's love:
not in the height above nor depth below,
not the things past, nor present, nor to come,
not in this life and not in death, I know.
For I recall the truth I'd understood
that all things work together for my good.

36. HEALING TOUCH

Tune: Hurstmonceaux

1. Christ's healing hands -
You touched the blind man's eyes.
He saw your loving face
as sight returned to him.
Help us to clearly see
and know again your healing hands.
2. Christ's healing hands -
You touched the dumb man's tongue.
He spoke your praises then
in words of gratitude.
Help us to speak your praise
and witness to your healing hands.
3. Christ's healing hands -
You touched with love the man
suffering from leprosy
and made him whole again.
Help us to go to those
who need so much your healing hands.

4. Christ's healing hands -
You touched a young child's hand,
raising her up to life,
restoring breath and strength.
Help us to reach the young
and teach them of your healing hands.
5. Christ's healing hands -
You touched a woman's hand.
The fever left her brow,
she rose and served you, Lord.
Help us to serve you, too
and show to all your healing hands.
6. Christ's healing hands -
You would touch us today,
giving humility,
a selfless attitude.
Help us to touch our world
and be for you, your healing hands.

37. ISAIAH 40

Tune: Aurelia

1. "O give my people comfort,
cry to them" says the Lord,
"that they are now forgiven,
their penalty is paid.
So go speak very gently,
and lead them back to Me.
A fresh new start is beckoning
I'll ever with them be.
2. "If you will make a pathway
for me through desert bare,
and build a new straight highway
for me to travel there -
I'll raise up every valley
and make the mountains low.

All people see together
when I my glory show.”

3. Like flowers we all will perish,
as grass we pass away.
And though we fear and tremble
God’s Word will ever stay.
Though He is strong and mighty,
His flock He’ll carefully feed,
and carry little lambs,
gently lead mother sheep.
4. To whom can God be likened,
who match His wondrous skill?
Nothing that we can fashion
can match his perfect will.
For He has measured oceans
His hands the heavens spanned.
All nations are as nothing,
just dust in His great hand.
5. Have you not heard or seen it,
nor yet have understood?
That God in the beginning
created all things good.
We see His work in nature,
in sky, in earth, in sea.
He has more power than princes,
caring and strong is He.
6. Our God is everlasting,
not tired or fainting He.
The young will fall exhausted,
the youths will weary be.
But those who wait upon Him
strength shall be given more.
They’ll run and not be weary,
like eagles they will soar.

38. SCRIPTURE

Tune: Blaenwern

1. Thank you, Lord, for those who heard you
speak the gracious, living word.
As it was so very different
much was then misunderstood.
Yet the faithful ones still sought to
hold the truths you did impart.
Passing on the words you taught them,
found truth hidden in the heart.

2. Thank you, Lord, for those who preached it
to their neighbourhood around.
Though they had much opposition,
still more people your word found.
So the message spread and prospered;
new disciples soon were made,
as the word was spoken plainly
and your message was obeyed.

3. Thank you, Lord, for those who printed
books that all may have to read
all your story, all your teaching,
everything our spirits need.
Make us faithful in our study,
seeking so to understand
all the message you have for us
and for all in every land.

4. Thank you, Lord, that we have freedom
so to read and so to learn
all your teaching and example -
following you our spirits yearn.
Help us live your words in actions
which are Christ-like, good and kind,
so that others, through our life-style
Christ our Saviour too, might find.

39. SMALL GOD?

Tune: Hanover

(Ps. 139:1-6;13-18)

1. God searches and knows each action and thought.
His knowledge and love from darkness has brought
us into his brightness, though we can't know all.
our thoughts are too puny
and make God too small.

(1 Sam.3:1-10)

2. To Samuel God called, he knew him by name,
and patiently spoke. The answer then came.
Though we, too, would serve you we stumble and fall
and fail to be daring -
our God is too small.

(Jn.1:43-51)

3. Nathaniel's ideas of God were not right.
So Philip said, "Come and have your own sight
of Jesus the Saviour." So, answering the call
Nathaniel's mind changed from
the God he'd thought.

(1 Cor. 6:12:20)

4. God wants us to live a life that is pure.
A witness to all of faith that is sure.
Our body's God's temple but without a wall.
His Spirit needs freedom
else God's made too small.
5. So, Lord, teach us how to honour and care.
And speak out our faith so others may share.
Help us to be strengthened, in faith to stand tall,
enlarging our vision
so our God's not small.

40. THE GREAT COMMISSION

Based on

Matt.10:5-10 & 28:18-20.

Tune: Laus Deo

1. We have heard the Great Commission -
"Go into the world and reach
every people, every nation,
heal the sick, the Good News preach."
2. As you sent your friends out for you
to the area all around,
said to them, "Take nothing with you,"
in their mission joy they found.
3. So we go, to you obedient,
starting in our neighbourhood.
To be faithful, to be patient,
as disciples of our God.
4. Weak our witness, often failing
to be doing what is best.
Strengthen us to keep on trying,
knowing work for God is blessed..
5. Having heard the Great Commission,
give us wisdom, give us nerve,
reaching every people, nation,
that they'll love you, whom we serve.
6. Honour give to God the Father,
honour give to God the Son,
honour give to God's own Spirit,
ever three, yet ever One.

41. THE LORD'S PRAYER Matt.6:9-14

Tune: Mitt Freuden zart

1. Our Parent God, you're always near,
below, above, around us;
we praise your name, holy and dear,
your will be done within us.
Though on this earth perfection's lost,
redeeming it, not counting cost,
in this your work, Lord, use us.

2. We ask you for some food today
to nourish us and feed us.
For the wrong things we do and say
we ask you to forgive us.
And may we show forgiveness true
to others, and so copy you.
In this hard task, Lord, help us.

3. Make us alert through testing days,
and from all evil guard us.
Yours is the power, and yours the praise
as evermore you're with us.
Your kingdom's here; we heed your call
to spread this news around us all.
In endless love, Lord, keep us.

42. TWENTY THIRD PSALM

Tune: Crimond

1. The Lord's aware of all my needs.
He guides my wandering feet
along the path he's planned for me.
His company is sweet.
2. When I am tired, dismayed, depressed,
he lifts my downcast heart:
revives me with fresh strength and hope,
from me he'll not depart.
3. If harder yet my path appears
and death itself looms near,
he treads this darkest way with me,
so nothing I need fear.
4. There may be those I call my friends
who now wish me some ill.
He bears the pain and hurt with me
and so he blesses still.
5. His goodness and his love will last
when earthly life grows dim.
A future bright before me lies
inseparable from him.

44. Mary Magdalene's Easter Morning.

John 20:1-18

Poor Mary lay a-tossing
throughout that Sabbath night.
She couldn't sleep, re-living
that truly awful sight
of Jesus dying on the cross,
who was her Friend and King.
Now shattered deeply by her loss
nothing relief would bring.
So, early in the morning,
while dew was on the grass,
she from the house went creeping
with spices in her clasp.
And to the graveyard stealing
she hoped to find some aid
to set the grave stone rolling.
So, anxious and afraid,
she thought to ask the guardsmen
but they had, trembling, fled
in darkest night, so there was then
no vigil of the dead.
She looked and saw the grave stone
already off the tomb.
So Mary stooped and on her own
Peered frightened through the gloom.
The body gone - but there instead
the grave clothes folded lay.
Two angels guarding at the head
Where laid the Lord that day.
"Why are you crying woman?"
said angels' voices clear.
And Mary, weeping, answered, "Can
you tell me if he's here?"

Then turning round, still weeping
her eyes cast on the ground,
an unexpected meeting -
a gardener there she found.
"What's causing all this crying,
what is the source of pain?"
And Mary answered hoping
from him some news to gain.
"Where has my Lord been hidden?
Oh do you know the place?
How far has he been taken?
I need to see his face."
The gardener just said, "Mary."
"Oh Master, it is you!"
And Jesus said, "Don't hold me,
I've work for you to do."
How Mary was rejoicing
to see her Saviour dear,
to hear him gently talking
and dealing with her fear,
"Go tell my friends" said Jesus
"that I'm risen from the dead."
And Mary gladly answered, "Yes"
as to the group she sped.
" He is alive! I've seen the Lord!
I've heard what he'd to say!"
And we may too, with one accord
Join in that joy today.

45. OUR DUNCAN

(on the occasion of scattering his ashes)

The life he lived on earth has ended.
His spirit lives in other light.
But we are sad and lonely, grieving,
For he has passed beyond our sight.
Yet we've been privileged to know him;
To share his life and know his worth.
And we have happy memories of him
While he was with us on this earth.
But still we feel his lovely presence,
And as the sun shines see his smile.
As rain falls down refreshing nature
His memory freshens us awhile.
The air we breathe, the wind that's blowing
Remind us of his energy
To love and care for all creation,
For friends and for his family.
His legacy is all around us
In this dear place he loved so well.
The fruitful land, the paddocks, livestock,
All these his work and vision tell.
And so although we cannot see him
Still he is present all around.
For he has found a greater freedom
No longer to this earth he's bound.

46. SEEKING GOD

I went to church today
and it was so familiar.
The pews, the hymns, the prayers, the hush
were as I had remembered.
The flowers were fresh and well arranged,
on these I concentrated.
They worshipped using language old,
and ideas quite old fashioned.
The blessing given, the organ played,
the people quietly waited.
I said goodbye to those inside.
That God did not attract me.

I went to church today.
It was a new experience.
New songs we sang and clapped and swayed,
a band played all the music.
The children left for their own time
to learn about the Bible.
A lively talk was given for us,
some said "amen" and nodded.
The prayers were said and all joined in,
the atmosphere was friendly.
I hoped to hold on to their joy
but soon that God had left me.

I went to church today -
it was most unexpected.
Upon the bar I leaned and drank
my favourite pint of bitter.
A friendly voice spoke in my ear
and then in conversation
I heard of God who's all around,
in everything. I listened
to someone whose religion went
far out beyond a building.
And suddenly it all made sense.
For that God I was seeking.

I went to church today,
just roaming in the country.
Up hills, down dales, through woods, by streams,
enjoying all creation.
And as the sun beat down on me,
I revelled in the wonder
that God was trusting me to help
to build his earthly kingdom.
I realised then that where I'd looked
for God was too restricted.
The Spirit's working all around
and that's the God I needed.

I went to church today.
The building doesn't matter.
The ways of worship secondary
for God is now within me,
and I can see beyond the form
of worship, to the freedom
of God who's everywhere around,
a part of all my living.
A God who's with me day by day,
whatever I am doing.
In church, in pub, on walks, at home,
and that's the God I'm knowing.

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