

- 1 **A charge to keep I have:**
a God to glorify;
a never-dying soul to save,
and fit it for the sky;
- 2 To serve the present age,
my calling to fulfil;
O may it all my powers engage
to do my Master's will!
- 3 Arm me with jealous care,
as in your sight to live;
and O your servant, Lord, prepare
a strict account to give!
- 4 Help me to watch and pray,
and on yourself rely,
so shall I not my trust betray,
nor love within me die.

Charles Wesley (1707–1788)

Reproduced from *Singing the Faith* Electronic Words Edition, number 658 .

A new commandment I give unto you:

that you love one another as I have loved you,

that you love one another as I have loved you.

By this the world shall know that you are my disciples,

if you have love one for another.

By this the world shall know that you are my disciples,

if you have love one for another.

Anonymous

Reproduced from *Singing the Faith* Electronic Words Edition, number **242**

Words and Music: © Paul Leddington Wright

A rich young man came seeking -
God's kingdom was his aim.
The law had been his guidebook.
His life was free from blame.
But Jesus asked the courage
to give his wealth away.
The young man turned in sorrow,
that price he would not pay.

The rich men's gifts were lavish
and made for public show.
The widow's gift was humble
and only God would know,
in giving to the Temple,
although her coins were small,
her gift had so much meaning
because she gave her all.

One boy brought loaves and fishes,
no other food was there,
but Jesus fed the thousands
and still had bread to spare.
The miracle of plenty
soon spread beyond that place.
That simple gift was offered,
then multiplied by grace.

Lord, keep our care for money
from turning into greed.
Help us to use it wisely
to meet each other's need.
For whether poor or wealthy,
we have so much to share
and open-hearted giving
will show your loving care.

Marjorie Dobson (b. 1940) Words: © 2004, Stainer & Bell Ltd, 23 Gruneisen Road, London N3

- 1 **A safe stronghold our God is still,**
a trusty shield and weapon;
he'll help us clear from all the ill
that hath us now o'ertaken.
The ancient prince of hell
hath risen with purpose fell;
strong mail of craft and power
he weareth in this hour;
on earth is not his fellow.
- 2 With force of arms we nothing can,
full soon were we down-ridden;
but for us fights the proper Man
whom God himself hath bidden.
Ask ye: 'Who is this same?'
Christ Jesus is his name,
the Lord Sabaoth's Son;
he, and no other one,
shall conquer in the battle.
- 3 And were this world all devils o'er,
and watching to devour us,
we lay it not to heart so sore;
not they can overpower us.
And let the prince of ill
look grim as e'er he will,
he harms us not a whit;
for why? His doom is writ;
a word shall quickly slay him.
- 4 God's word, for all their craft and force,
one moment will not linger,
but, spite of hell, shall have its course;
'tis written by his finger.
And though before our eyes
all that we dearly prize
they seize beyond recall,
yet is their profit small:
God's kingdom ours remaineth.

Martin Luther (1483–1546)

from Psalm 46

translated by Thomas Carlyle (1795–1881)

v. 4 altered by Rupert E. Davies (1909–1994)

Reproduced from *Singing the Faith* Electronic Words Edition, number 623 .

- 1 **A special star**, a special star
 it led the way to Jesus.
 A special star, a special star
 shone over where he lay.
- 2 A special star, a special star
 it led wise men to Jesus.
 A special star, a special star
 led them to worship him.
- 3 A special star, a special star
 shone over baby Jesus.
 A special star, a special star
 leads us to worship him.

Lynda Masson (*b.* 1951)

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Abba Father, let me be
yours and yours alone.
May my will forever be
ever more your own.
Never let my heart grow cold,
never let me go,
Abba Father, let me be
yours and yours alone.

Dave Bilborough (*b.* 1965)

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- 1 **Abide with me; fast falls the eventide;**
the darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide;
when other helpers fail, and comforts flee,
help of the helpless, O abide with me.
- 2 Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;
earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away;
change and decay in all around I see;
O thou who changest not, abide with me!
- 3 I need thy presence every passing hour;
what but thy grace can foil the tempter's power?
Who, like thyself, my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, O abide with me.
- 4 I fear no foe, with thee at hand to bless;
ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness;
where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?
I triumph still, if thou abide with me.
- 5 Hold thou thy cross before my closing eyes;
shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies;
heaven's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;
in life, in death, O Lord, abide with me!

Henry Francis Lyte (1793–1847)

Reproduced from *Singing the Faith* Electronic Words Edition, number 141 .

- Advent 1** **Advent candles tell their story**
as we watch and pray,
longing for the Day of Glory,
‘Come, Lord, soon,’ we say.
Pain and sorrow, tears and sadness
changed for gladness
on that day.
- Advent 2** Prophet voices loudly crying,
making pathways clear,
glimpsing glory, self-denying,
calling all to hear.
Through their message — challenged, shaken —
hearts awaken:
God is near!
- Advent 3** John the Baptist, by his preaching
and by water poured,
brought to those who heard his teaching
news of hope restored:
‘Keep your vision strong and steady,
and be ready
for the Lord.’
- Advent 4** Mary’s gift, beyond all telling,
was to give Christ room.
She gave God a human dwelling
in a mother’s womb.
Who could guess the final story?
— cross and glory;
empty tomb!
- Christmas Day** Advent candles tell their story
on this Christmas Day.
Those who waited for God’s glory:
they prepared the way.
Christ is with us: loving, giving,
in us living,
here today!

Mark Earey (*b.* 1965)

The verses may be sung progressively through Advent until verse 5 on Christmas Day.

Reproduced from *Singing the Faith* Electronic Words Edition, number **165**

Words: © Mark Earey

- 1 **After darkness, light;**
after winter, spring;
after dying, life:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
- 2 Take his body down;
lay it in the tomb;
love has overcome:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
- 3 Turn away in grief;
turn away in faith;
celebrate his death:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
- 4 Come whatever may,
God will have his way;
welcome, Easter Day!
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Fred Pratt Green (1903–2000)

Reproduced from *Singing the Faith* Electronic Words Edition, number **292**

Words: © 1978, Stainer & Bell Ltd, 23 Gruneisen Road, London N3 1DZ

www.stainer.co.uk

- 1 **All creatures of our God and King,**
lift up your voice and with us sing,
alleluia, alleluia!
O burning sun with golden beam,
and silver moon with softer gleam:
 O praise him, O praise him,
 alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
- 2 O rushing wind that is so strong,
and clouds that sail in heaven along,
O praise him, alleluia!
O rising morn, in praise rejoice;
and lights of evening, find a voice:
- 3 O flowing water, pure and clear,
make music for your Lord to hear,
sing 'Praise him, alleluia!'
O fire, so masterful and bright,
giving to all both warmth and light:
- 4 Dear mother earth, who day by day
unfolds rich blessings on our way,
O praise him, alleluia!
The flowers and fruits that bloom and grow,
let them his glory also show:
- 5 And all who are of tender heart
forgiving others, take your part,
sing, 'Praise him, alleluia!'
All who long pain and sorrow bear,
praise God, and on him cast your care:
- 6 And now, most kind and gentle death,
waiting to hush our fading breath,
O praise him, alleluia!
You homeward lead the child of God,
and Christ the Lord the way has trod:
- 7 Let all things their creator bless,
and worship him in humbleness;
O praise him, alleluia!
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,
and praise the Spirit, Three in One:

St Francis of Assisi (1182–1226)

translated William Henry Draper (1855–1933) (*alt.*)

Reproduced from *Singing the Faith* Electronic Words Edition, number 99

- 1 **All glory, laud, and honour**
to thee, Redeemer, King,
to whom the lips of children
made sweet hosannas ring!
Thou art the King of Israel,
thou David's royal Son,
who in the Lord's name comest,
the King and Blessèd One.
- 2 The company of angels
are praising thee on high,
and mortal men and all things
created make reply.
The people of the Hebrews
with palms before thee went;
our praise and prayer and anthems
before thee we present.
- 3 To thee before thy Passion
they sang their hymns of praise;
to thee now high exalted
our melody we raise.
Thou didst accept their praises;
accept the prayers we bring,
who in all good delightest,
thou good and gracious King.
- 4 All glory, laud, and honour
to thee, Redeemer, King,
to whom the lips of children
made sweet hosannas ring!

St Theodulph of Orleans (*d.* 821)
translated by John Mason Neale (1811–1866)

Reproduced from *Singing the Faith* Electronic Words Edition, number 262 .

- 1 **All hail the power of Jesu's name!**
Let angels prostrate fall;
bring forth the royal diadem,
and crown him Lord of all.
- 2 You seed of Israel's chosen race,
you ransomed of the fall,
hail him who saves you by his grace,
and crown him Lord of all.
- 3 Hail him, the heir of David's line
whom David Lord did call,
the God incarnate, Man divine,
and crown him Lord of all.
- 4 Let every kindred, every tribe
on this terrestrial ball,
to him all majesty ascribe,
and crown him Lord of all.
- 5 O that with yonder sacred throng
we at his feet may fall,
join in the everlasting song,
and crown him Lord of all!

Edward Perronet (1726–1792)

adapted by John Rippon (1751–1836)

Reproduced from *Singing the Faith* Electronic Words Edition, number 342 .

1 **All heaven declares**
the glory of the risen Lord;
who can compare
with the beauty of the Lord?
For ever he will be
the Lamb upon the throne;
I gladly bow the knee,
and worship him alone.

2 I will proclaim
the glory of the risen Lord,
who once was slain
to reconcile us to God.
For ever you will be
the Lamb upon the throne;
I gladly bow the knee,
and worship you alone.

Noël Richards (*b.* 1955) and Tricia Richards (*b.* 1960)

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- 1 **All I once held dear,**
built my life upon,
all this world reveres,
and wars to own,
all I once thought gain
I have counted loss;
spent and worthless now,
compared to this.
Knowing you, Jesus,
knowing you,
there is no greater thing.
You're my all, you're the best,
you're my joy, my righteousness,
and I love you, Lord.
- 2 Now my heart's desire
is to know you more,
to be found in you
and known as yours.
To possess by faith
what I could not earn,
all-surpassing gift
of righteousness.
- 3 Oh, to know the power
of your risen life,
and to know you in
your sufferings.
To become like you
in your death, my Lord,
so with you to live
and never die.

Graham Kendrick (*b.* 1950)

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1 **All my days I will sing this song of gladness,**
give my praise to the fountain of delights;
for in my helplessness you heard my cry,
and waves of mercy poured down on my life.

2 I will trust in the cross of my Redeemer,
I will sing of the blood that never fails,
of sins forgiven, of conscience cleansed,
of death defeated and life without end.

*Beautiful Saviour, wonderful Counsellor,
clothed in majesty, Lord of history,
you're the Way, the Truth, the Life.
Star of the Morning, glorious in holiness,
you're the risen one, heaven's champion,
and you reign, you reign over all!*

3 I long to be where the praise is never-ending,
yearn to dwell where the glory never fades,
where countless worshippers will share one song,
and cries of 'worthy' will honour the Lamb!

Beautiful Saviour ...

Stuart Townend (b.1963)

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All my hope on God is founded;
he doth still my trust renew.
Me through change and chance he guideth,
only good and only true.
God unknown,
he alone calls my heart to be his own.

Human pride and earthly glory,
sword and crown betray our trust;
what with care and toil we fashion,
tower and temple, fall to dust.
But God's power, hour by hour,
is my temple and my tower.

God's great goodness aye endureth,
deep his wisdom passing thought;
splendour, light, and life attend him,
beauty springeth out of nought.
Evermore from his store
new-born worlds rise and adore.

Daily doth the almighty giver
bounteous gifts on us bestow;
his desire our soul delighteth,
pleasure leads us where we go.
Love doth stand at his hand;
joy doth wait on his command.

Still from earth to God eternal
sacrifice of praise be done,
high above all praises praising
for the gift of Christ his son.
Christ doth call
one and all
ye who follow shall not fall.

Robert Bridges (1844–1930) (alt.) based on Joachim Neander (1650–1680)

All people that on earth do dwell,
sing to the Lord with cheerful voice:
him serve with mirth,
his praise forth tell;
come ye before him and rejoice.

The Lord, ye know, is God indeed;
without our aid he did us make:
we are his folk, he doth us feed;
and for his sheep he doth us take.

O enter then his gates with praise;
approach with joy his courts unto;
praise, laud, and bless his name
always, for it is seemly so to do.

For why, the Lord our God is good;
his mercy is for ever sure;
his truth at all times firmly stood,
and shall from age to age endure.

To Father, Son and Holy Ghost,
the God whom heaven and earth adore,
from earth and from the angel host
be praise and glory evermore.

William Kethe (d. 1594)

- 1 **All praise to our redeeming Lord,**
 who joins us by his grace,
 and bids us, each to each restored,
 together seek his face.
- 2 He bids us build each other up;
 and, gathered into one,
 to our high calling's glorious hope
 we hand in hand go on.
- 3 The gift which he on one bestows,
 we all delight to prove;
 the grace through every vessel flows,
 in purest streams of love.
- 4 E'en now we think and speak the same,
 and cordially agree;
 concentred all, through Jesu's name,
 in perfect harmony.
- 5 We all partake the joy of one,
 the common peace we feel,
 a peace to sensual minds unknown,
 a joy unspeakable.
- 6 And if our fellowship below
 in Jesus be so sweet,
 what heights of rapture shall we know
 when round his throne we meet!

Charles Wesley (1707–1788)

Reproduced from *Singing the Faith* Electronic Words Edition, number 608 .

1 **All the room was hushed and still,**
and when the bowl was filled
he stooped to wash their feet.
And when it was complete,
he said, this is what I'm asking you to do,
this is why I'm kneeling here beside you.
This is what I want my Church to be,
this is what I want the world to see —
who it is you follow.

*Love each other,
one another.
Love each other
in the way that I have loved you.
Walk together,
and whatever comes,
love each other in the way that I have loved you.*

2 Let the room be hushed and still,
let us go to where he kneels
and join him as he serves,
and learn his ways of love.
He said, this is what I'm asking you to do,
this is why I'm kneeling here beside you.
This is what I want my Church to be,
this is what I want the world to see —
who it is you follow.

Graham Kendrick (*b.* 1950)

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*All things bright and beautiful,
all creatures great and small,
all things wise and wonderful,
the Lord God made them all.*

- 1 Each little flower that opens,
 each little bird that sings,
 he made their glowing colours,
 he made their tiny wings:
- 2 The purple heathered mountain,
 the river running by,
 the sunset, and the morning
 that brightens up the sky:
- 3 The cold wind in the winter,
 the pleasant summer sun,
 the ripe fruits in the garden,
 he made them every one:
- 4 He gave us eyes to see them,
 and lips that we might tell
 how great is God Almighty,
 who has made all things well:

Cecil Frances Alexander (1818–1895) (*alt.*)

Reproduced from *Singing the Faith* Electronic Words Edition, number 100

- 1 **All you that seek the Lord who died,**
your God for sinners crucified,
now, now let all your grief be o'er!
Believe, and you shall weep no more.
- 2 The Lord of life is risen indeed,
to death delivered in your stead;
his rise proclaims your sins forgiven,
and shows the living way to heaven.
- 3 Haste then, you souls that first believe,
who dare the gospel word receive,
your faith with joyful hearts confess,
be bold, be Jesus' witnesses.
- 4 Go, tell the followers of your Lord
their Jesus is to life restored;
he lives to quicken humankind;
he lives that all his life may find.

Charles Wesley (1707–1788)

Reproduced from *Singing the Faith* Electronic Words Edition, number 294 .

- 1 **Alleluia! Sing to Jesus,**
his the sceptre, his the throne.
Alleluia! His the triumph,
his the victory alone.
Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion
thunder like a mighty flood;
Jesus, out of every nation,
has redeemed us by his blood.
- 2 Alleluia! Not as orphans
are we left in sorrow now.
Alleluia! He is near us,
faith believes, nor questions how.
Though the cloud from sight received him
when the forty days were o'er,
shall our hearts forget his promise,
'I am with you evermore'?
- 3 Alleluia! Bread of angels,
thou on earth our food, our stay.
Alleluia! Here the sinful
flee to thee from day to day.
Intercessor, friend of sinners,
earth's Redeemer, plead for me,
where the songs of all the sinless
sweep across the crystal sea.
- 4 Alleluia! King eternal,
thee the Lord of lords we own.
Alleluia! Born of Mary,
earth thy footstool, heaven thy throne.
Thou within the veil hast entered,
robed in flesh, our great High Priest;
thou on earth both priest and victim
in the eucharistic feast.

*Alleluia, alleluia,
give thanks to the risen Lord,
alleluia, alleluia,
give praise to his name.*

- 1 Jesus is Lord of all the earth;
he is the King of creation:
- 2 Spread the good news o'er all the earth:
Jesus has died and has risen:
- 3 We have been crucified with Christ;
now we shall live for ever:
- 4 God has proclaimed the just reward:
new life for all! Alleluia!
- 5 Come, let us praise the living God,
joyfully sing to our Saviour:

Donald Fishel (*b.* 1950)

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Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify
your holy name;
through Christ our Lord, amen.
Through Christ our Lord, amen.

Liturgical text from *The Alternative Service Book*, 1980

Reproduced from *Singing the Faith* Electronic Words Edition, number **749**

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- 1 **Almighty God, we come to make confession,**
for we have sinned in thought and word and deed.
We now repent in honesty and sorrow;
forgive us, Lord, and meet us in our need.
- 2 Forgiving God, I come to make confession
of all the harm and hurt that I have done;
of bitter words and many selfish actions,
forgive me, Lord, and make me like your Son.
- 3 Forgiving God, I come to make confession
of all that I have failed to do this day;
of help withheld, concern and love restricted,
forgive me, Lord, and lead me in your way.
- 4 Redeeming God, we come to seek forgiveness,
for Jesus Christ has died to set us free.
Forgive the past and fill us with your Spirit
that we may live to serve you joyfully.

Christopher J. Ellis (*b.* 1949)

The last two lines of each verse are repeated.

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*Always remember, never forget,
never forget to say, 'Thank you!'
Always remember, never forget,
always say, 'Thank you, Lord.'*

- 1 Thank you for food to eat,
 for clothes to wear, shoes on our feet.
- 2 Thank you for health today,
 for strength to work and run and play.
- 3 Thank you for a place to stay,
 for warmth and comfort day by day.

Lynda Masson (*b.* 1951)

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- 1 **Amazing grace — how sweet the sound —**
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
was blind, but now I see.
- 2 God's grace has taught my heart to fear,
his grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed!
- 3 Through many dangers, toils and snares
I have already come;
God's grace has brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.
- 4 The Lord has promised good to me,
his word my hope secures;
he will my shield and portion be
as long as life endures.
- 5 And, when this heart and flesh shall fail
and mortal life shall cease,
I shall possess within the veil
a life of joy and peace.
- 6 When we've been there ten thousand years
bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise
than when we first begun.

John Newton (1725–1807) (*alt.*)

Reproduced from *Singing the Faith* Electronic Words Edition, number 440 .

- 1 **An Upper Room did our Lord prepare**
for those he loved until the end;
and his disciples still gather there
to celebrate our Risen Friend.
- 2 A lasting gift Jesus gave his own —
to share his bread, his loving cup;
whatever burdens may bow us down,
he by his cross shall lift us up.
- 3 And after supper he washed their feet,
for service, too, is sacrament;
in him our joy shall be made complete —
sent out to serve, as he was sent.
- 4 No end there is! We depart in peace;
he loves beyond the uttermost;
in every room in our Father's house
he will be there, as Lord and Host.

Fred Pratt Green (1903–2000)

Reproduced from *Singing the Faith* Electronic Words Edition, number **569**

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<www.stainer.co.uk>

- 1 **And are we yet alive,**
and see each other's face?
Glory and praise to Jesus give
for his redeeming grace!
- 2 Preserved by power divine
to full salvation here,
again in Jesu's praise we join,
and in his sight appear.
- 3 What troubles have we seen,
what conflicts have we passed,
fightings without, and fears within,
since we assembled last!
- 4 But out of all the Lord
has brought us by his love;
and still he does his help afford,
and hides our life above.
- 5 Then let us make our boast
of his redeeming power,
which saves us to the uttermost,
till we can sin no more.
- 6 Let us take up the cross,
till we the crown obtain;
and gladly reckon all things loss,
so we may Jesus gain.
- Praise ye the Lord, alleluia!
 Praise ye the Lord, alleluia!
 Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia,
 praise ye the Lord!

Charles Wesley (1707–1788)

Reproduced from *Singing the Faith* Electronic Words Edition, number 456 .

- 1 **And can it be that I should gain**
 an interest in the Saviour's blood?
 Died he for me, who caused his pain?
 For me, who him to death pursued?
 Amazing love! How can it be
 that thou, my God, shouldst die for me?
- 2 'Tis mystery all: the Immortal dies!
 Who can explore his strange design?
 In vain the first-born seraph tries
 to sound the depths of love divine.
 'Tis mercy all! Let earth adore,
 let angel minds enquire no more.
- 3 He left his Father's throne above —
 so free, so infinite his grace —
 emptied himself of all but love,
 and bled for Adam's helpless race.
 'Tis mercy all, immense and free;
 for, O my God, it found out me!
- 4 Long my imprisoned spirit lay
 fast bound in sin and nature's night;
 thine eye diffused a quickening ray —
 I woke, the dungeon flamed with light,
 my chains fell off, my heart was free,
 I rose, went forth, and followed thee.
- 5 No condemnation now I dread;
 Jesus, and all in him, is mine!
 Alive in him, my living Head,
 and clothed in righteousness divine,
 bold I approach the eternal throne,
 and claim the crown, through Christ, my own.

Charles Wesley (1707–1788)

Reproduced from *Singing the Faith* Electronic Words Edition, number 345 .

- 1 Angel voices ever singing
round thy throne of light,
angel-harps for ever ringing,
rest not day nor night ;
thousands only live to bless thee
and confess thee
Lord of might.
- 2 Thou who art beyond the farthest
mortal eye can scan,
can it be that thou regardest
sinful woman, man ?
Can we know that thou art near us,
and wilt hear us ?
yea, we can.
- 3 Lord, we know that thou rejoicest
o'er each work of thine ;
thou didst ears and hands and voices
for thy praise design ;
maker's art and music's measure
for thy pleasure
all combine.
- 4 In thy house, great God, we offer
of thine own to thee ;
and for thine acceptance proffer
all unworthily
hearts and minds and hands and voices
in our choicest
psalmody.
- 5 Honour, glory, might, and merit
thine shall ever be,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
blessèd Trinity.
Of the best that thou hast given
earth and heaven
render thee.

Francis Pott (1832–1909) (*alt.*)

Reproduced from *Singing the Faith* Electronic Words Edition, number 39

- 1 **Angels, from the realms of glory,**
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
you who sang creation's story,
now proclaim Messiah's birth:
 Come and worship,
 Christ the new-born King,
 come and worship,
 worship Christ, the new-born King.
- 2 Shepherds in the field abiding,
watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing,
yonder shines the infant Light:
- 3 Sages, leave your contemplations;
brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great Desire of nations;
you have seen his natal star:
- 4 Saints before the altar bending,
watching long in hope and fear,
suddenly the Lord, descending,
in his temple shall appear:
- 5 Though an infant now we view him,
he shall fill his Father's throne,
gather all the nations to him;
every knee shall then bow down:

vv. 1-4 James Montgomery (1771–1854)

v. 5, unascribed text in *The Christmas Box*, 1825

Reproduced from *Singing the Faith* Electronic Words Edition, number 190 .

- 1 **As dawn awakes another day,**
the working sphere rolls into view,
and all attention centres on
the many tasks we have to do.
- 2 Distracted by demands of time,
and squeezed by pressures, deadlines, needs,
there's scarcely any space or thought
for you from whom all life proceeds.
- 3 You challenge some to leave their nets
and follow unfamiliar ways,
but most are called to live their faith
in humdrum tasks of working days.
- 4 Affirm us, Lord, as we employ
our hands and minds in every place,
let worship flow through busyness,
responding to your love and grace.
- 5 Your patience is our endless hope,
your Spirit present to inspire,
the freedom to explore your truth,
your loving service our desire.

Clare Stainsby (*b.* 1959)

Reproduced from *Singing the Faith* Electronic Words Edition, number **659**

Words: © Clare Stainsby

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- 1 **As if you were not there,**
the skies ignite and thunder,
rivers tear their banks asunder,
thieves and nature storm and plunder:
all beware
as if you were not there.
- 2 As if you were not there,
famine and flood together
usher death, disease and terror;
stricken mothers wonder whether
God heeds prayer,
as if you were not there.
- 3 As if you were not there,
we televise the dying,
watch the helpless victims crying,
salve our consciences by sighing,
'Life's unfair!'
as if you were not there.
- 4 As if you were not there,
your Son, when faith defied him,
faced a crowd which crucified him,
leaving friends who had denied him
in despair,
as if you were not there.
- 5 Because he rose again
and showed God's love is vaster
than the ultimate disaster,
we entreat you now to master
strife and pain,
because he rose again.

John L. Bell (*b.* 1949) and Graham Maule (*b.* 1958)

Reproduced from *Singing the Faith* Electronic Words Edition, number **724**

Words and Music: From *Love From Below* © 1989, WGRG, Iona Community, Glasgow G2 3DH
Scotland. <www.wgrg.co.uk>

- 1 **As servants working an estate**
whose owner is away,
and whose return they all await
though no one knows the day,
so none of us can name the hour,
the season or the year
when Christ with all of heaven's power
will suddenly appear.
- 2 Our task is not to calculate
what angels do not know,
but faithfully to watch and wait
and Christ's compassion show.
Not loading fragile human schemes
with hopes they cannot bear,
we trust the promise that redeems
the present from despair.
- 3 For Christ the Lord will surely come,
the King whom kings will fear,
and with God's perfect justice plumb
the justice we do here,
revealing that the present age
and every age that's past
are not the final moral gauge
that judges us at last.
- 4 So guide, Lord Christ, our every choice
that when our hearts shall hear
your step, your knock, your calling voice
we will not hide in fear,
but welcome you from realms above
to your estate below,
where justice, mercy, peace and love
abundantly will grow.

Thomas H. Troeger (*b.* 1945)

Reproduced from *Singing the Faith* Electronic Words Edition, number **491**

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- 1 **As the deer pants for the water,**
so my soul longs after you.
You alone are my heart's desire
and I long to worship you.
You alone are my strength, my shield,
to you alone may my spirit yield.
You alone are my heart's desire
and I long to worship you.
- 2 I want you more than gold or silver,
only you can satisfy.
You alone are the real joy-giver
and the apple of my eye.
- 3 You're my friend and you are my brother,
even though you are a king.
I love you more than any other,
so much more than anything.

Martin J. Nystrom (*b.* 1956)

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- 1 **As the glory of creation**
and the thrill of human love,
as the wonder at a cradle,
at the things that live and move,
higher still, uncaught in word,
is the glory of the Lord.
- 2 As the glory of a concert
and the skill of those who play,
as the joy of book and painting,
shapes in stone and bronze and clay,
higher still, uncaught in word,
is the glory of the Lord.
- 3 As the glory of the future
and the teaching of the past,
as the challenge of the present
and the here-and-now of Christ,
higher still, uncaught in word,
is the glory of the Lord.
- 4 In the life and work of Jesus,
in his dying on a cross,
in the great surprise of Easter
giving people gain for loss,
here we catch and taste the Word
spelling glory to the Lord!

Fred Kaan (1929–2009)

Reproduced from *Singing the Faith* Electronic Words Edition, number **725**

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<www.stainer.co.uk>

1 **As water to the thirsty,**
as beauty to the eyes,
as strength that follows weakness,
as truth instead of lies,
as songtime and springtime
and summertime to be,
so is my Lord,
my living Lord,
so is my Lord to me.

2 Like calm in place of clamour,
like peace that follows pain,
like meeting after parting,
like sunshine after rain,
like moonlight and starlight
and sunlight on the sea,
so is my Lord,
my living Lord,
so is my Lord to me.

3 As sleep that follows fever,
as gold instead of grey,
as freedom after bondage,
as sunrise to the day,
as home to the traveller
and all we long to see,
so is my Lord,
my living Lord,
so is my Lord to me.

Timothy Dudley-Smith (*b.* 1926)

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- 1 **As we gather in your presence now,**
Lord, we will worship;
as we sing our thankful songs aloud;
Lord, we will worship.
When we go out in the name of Christ,
Lord, we will worship;
as your word and Spirit shape our lives,
Lord, we will worship.
*And whatever we do, in word or deed,
we do for the one who set us free;
when we're on our feet or on our knees,
Lord, we will worship,
Lord, we will worship.*
- 2 When we love our friends and families,
Lord, we will worship;
when we give ourselves to those in need,
Lord, we will worship.
When we take instruction cheerfully,
Lord, we will worship;
when we lead with Christ's humility,
Lord, we will worship.
- 3 In the course of every working day,
Lord, we will worship;
when our business takes us far away,
Lord, we will worship.
When we care for children in the home,
Lord, we will worship;
when our audience is you alone,
Lord, we will worship.

Joel Payne

The lines of the verse may be alternated by a cantor and the congregation.

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- 1 **As we gather, Father, seal us**
in the love that knows no fear.
Draw us, heal us, reconcile us,
may there be a place of refuge here.
 Who share one living bread,
 one Father's love,
 one Saviour's grace,
 one Spirit's breath;
 one holy communion.
- 2 No more outcasts, no more strangers,
all dividing walls are down.
Here is love that redefines us,
dignifies the least and lowest one.
- 3 Source of joy, belonging, friendship,
form your family likeness here.
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
that the world may know our God is near.

Graham Kendrick (*b.* 1950)

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320, Tunbridge Wells, Kent. TN2 9DE UK. <www.grahamkendrick.co.uk>
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- 1 **As with gladness men of old**
did the guiding star behold,
as with joy they hailed its light,
leading onward, beaming bright,
so, most gracious Lord, may we
evermore be led to thee.
- 2 As with joyful steps they sped,
Saviour, to thy lowly bed,
there to bend the knee before
thee, whom heaven and earth adore,
so may we with willing feet
ever seek thy mercy-seat.
- 3 As they offered gifts most rare
at thy cradle rude and bare,
so may we with holy joy,
pure, and free from sin's alloy,
all our costliest treasures bring,
Christ, to thee, our heavenly King.
- 4 Holy Jesus, every day
keep us in the narrow way;
and, when earthly things are past,
bring our ransomed souls at last
where they need no star to guide,
where no clouds thy glory hide.
- 5 In the heavenly country bright
need they no created light;
thou its light, its joy, its crown,
thou its sun which goes not down;
there for ever may we sing
alleluias to our King.

William Chatterton Dix (1837–1898)

Reproduced from *Singing the Faith* Electronic Words Edition, number 224 .

- 1 **As your family, Lord, see us here,**
as your family, Lord, see us here,
as your family, Lord, see us here,
O Lord, see us here.
- 2 At your table, Lord, we are fed,
at your table, Lord, we are fed,
at your table, Lord, we are fed,
O Lord, feed us here.
- 3 Fill our spirits, Lord, with your love,
fill our spirits, Lord, with your love,
fill our spirits, Lord, with your love,
O Lord, give your love.
- 4 Make us faithful, Lord, to your will,
make us faithful, Lord, to your will,
make us faithful, Lord, to your will,
O Lord, to your will.
- 5 As your family, Lord, see us here,
as your family, Lord, see us here,
as your family, Lord, see us here,
O Lord, see us here.

- 1 **At the name of Jesus**
every knee shall bow,
every tongue confess him
King of Glory now.
'Tis the Father's pleasure
we should call him Lord,
who from the beginning
was the mighty Word.
- 2 Humbled for a season,
to receive a name
from the lips of sinners
unto whom he came,
faithfully he bore it
spotless to the last,
brought it back victorious
when from death he passed:
- 3 Bore it up triumphant
with its human light,
through all ranks of creatures
to the central height,
to the throne of Godhead,
to the Father's breast;
filled it with the glory
of that perfect rest.
- 4 In your hearts enthrone him;
there let him subdue
all that is not holy,
all that is not true;
crown him as your captain
in temptation's hour:
let his will enfold you
in its light and power.
- 5 For this same Lord Jesus
shall return again,
with his Father's glory,
with his angel train;
all the wreaths of empire
meet upon his brow,
and our hearts confess him
King of Glory now.

- 1 **Author of faith, eternal Word,**
 whose Spirit breathes the active flame;
 faith, like its finisher and Lord,
 today as yesterday the same:
- 2 To you our humble hearts aspire,
 and ask the gift unspeakable;
 increase in us the kindled fire,
 in us the work of faith fulfil.
- 3 By faith we know you strong to save —
 save us, O Saviour always near!
 All that we hope, by faith we have,
 future and past subsisting here.
- 4 To those that in your name believe
 eternal life with you is given;
 then they into their lives receive,
 pardon and holiness and heaven.
- 5 The things unknown to feeble sense,
 unseen by reason's glimmering ray,
 with strong, commanding evidence
 their heavenly origin display.
- 6 Faith lends its realising light,
 the clouds disperse, the shadows fly;
 the Invisible appears in sight,
 and God is seen by mortal eye.

Charles Wesley (1707–1788)

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- 1 **Author of life divine,**
 who has a table spread,
 furnished with mystic wine
 and everlasting bread,
 preserve the life that you have given,
 and feed and train us up for heaven.
- 2 Our needy souls sustain
 with fresh supplies of love,
 till all your life we gain,
 and all your fullness prove,
 and, strengthened by your perfect grace,
 behold without a veil your face.

Charles Wesley (1707–1788)

Reproduced from *Singing the Faith* Electronic Words Edition, number 572 .

- 1 **Autumn days when the grass is jewelled,**
and the silk inside a chestnut shell,
jet planes meeting in the air to get refuelled,
all these things I love so well,
 So I mustn't forget,
 no, I mustn't forget
 to say a great big thank-you,
 I mustn't forget.
- 2 Clouds that look like familiar faces,
and a winter's moon with frosted rings,
smell of bacon as I fasten up my laces,
and the song the milkman sings.
- 3 Whipped-up spray that is rainbow-scattered,
and a swallow curving in the sky,
shoes so comfy though they're worn-out and they're battered,
and the taste of apple-pie.
- 4 Scent of gardens when the rain's been falling,
and a minnow darting down a stream,
picked-up engine that's been stuttering and stalling,
and a win for my home team.

Estelle White (*b.* 1925)

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- 1 **Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,**
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.
- 2 The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.
- 3 Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay
close by me for ever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care,
and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.

vv. 1, 2 *Little children's book*, Philadelphia, 1885

v. 3 *Vineyard Songs*, C. H. Gabriel, 1892

Anonymous

Reproduced from *Singing the Faith* Electronic Words Edition, number 191 .

The Wesleys' Birthday Hymn

- 1 **Away with our fears!**
The glad morning appears
when an heir of salvation was born!
From Jehovah I came,
for his glory I am,
and to him I with singing return.
- 2 I sing of your grace, from my earliest days
ever near to allure and defend;
hitherto you have been my preserver from sin,
and I trust you will save to the end.
- 3 O the infinite cares, and temptations, and snares
your hand has conducted me through!
O the blessings bestowed
by a bountiful God, and the mercies eternally new!
- 4 What a mercy is this, what a heaven of bliss,
how unspeakably happy am I;
gathered into the fold,
with your people enrolled,
with your people to live and to die.
- 5 All honour and praise
to the Father of grace,
to the Spirit, and Son, I return;
the business pursue
he has made me to do,
and rejoice that I ever was born.
- 6 In a rapture of joy
my life I employ
the God of my life to proclaim;
'tis worth living for, this,
to administer bliss
and salvation in Jesus's name.
- 7 My remnant of days
I spend in his praise,
who died the whole world to redeem;
be they many or few,
my days are his due,
and they all are devoted to him.

Charles Wesley (1707–1788)

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