

Hymns, Songs and Poems

By John Armstrong



*A collection of original compositions in the tradition of
reverent Reformed worship*

March 2017 Edition

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Preface

I first issued a small booklet of "Hymns, Songs and Poems" in May 2010. Since then I have added new compositions from time to time, and occasionally revised existing ones, until the collection has grown to over fifty works.

I would like to thank all who have encouraged me so kindly in this ministry: Especially my wife Deirdre; my fellow Church members at Cowley Hill; former Pastor Tom Hill, for his initial suggestion to write a hymn on Baptism; and Pastor Michael Harley for his kind advice.

The hymns are arranged in their approximate order of composition. Those written specifically for children's meetings have been gathered together into a separate section.

The "Suggested Tunes" are simply that - suggestions. If you feel that another tune fits a particular hymn better than the one I have indicated, please feel free to use it instead. Most of the tunes can be found in "Christian Worship", "Christan Hymns" (original edition) or a similar volume.

There are some notes on the individual hymns at the end of this booklet.

An earlier version of this document is available for the Kindle reader in the Kindle store.

A PDF version of this document can be downloaded from the following web site:

www.cowleyhill.org.uk

*"O sing unto the LORD a new song: sing unto the LORD, all
the earth. Sing unto the LORD, bless his name; shew forth
his salvation from day to day." (Psalm 96.1,2)*

John Armstrong
Borehamwood

Feb 2017

Introduction

This collection of hymns, poems and songs has been produced for the encouragement and help of my dear fellow believers at *Cowley Hill Free Church (Baptist)*, meeting in Borehamwood, Hertfordshire. Our gracious God has granted us innumerable blessings as we journey toward glory together; and one great joy we share is to sing His praises.

*Children of the heavenly King,
As ye journey, sweetly sing;
Sing your Saviour's worthy praise,
Glorious in His works and ways*

*We are travelling home to God,
In the way the fathers trod;
They are happy now, and we
Soon their happiness shall see*

John Cennick

I do pray that these compositions may be a blessing to others as they read them.

I also hope that the publication of new hymns will help dispel an accusation sometimes brought against those who hold to traditional, reverent worship: That our hymnody is stuck back in the 18th Century. "All the hymns you sing were written a long time ago". This charge is untrue. We do not count a hymn worthy to be sung in our Churches just because of its *age* (although truly great hymns will surely stand the test of time, and be sung for generations to come, should our Lord delay His return).

What this charge does reveal, though, is the massive departure from Biblical standards that has occurred in the past fifty years. Since the time of the Reformation, reformed Churches have generally held to a consistent standard of God-honouring worship (the only major issues of disagreement being whether just the Psalms should be sung; and whether there should be musical accompaniment). What has *not been disputed*, though, is that worship should be reverent, and reflect an attitude of Gospel fear and humble awe in the presence of a great and holy God. This continuity with the past has been lost, and supplanted in many Churches by an entirely new attitude towards worship.

Surely, our pattern for hymnody is the Psalms. At the very least, the hymns we sing should be marked by the following characteristics:

Sound Theology

They must be sound theologically and represent rich, substantial summaries of Biblical thought. It is worth remarking that hymns are teaching tools: the hymnal used by a Church will exercise a major influence on the faith and practice of the membership. No sound Reformed pastor would dream of offering his pulpit to a Charismatic teacher. Strange, then, that such teachers should be granted admittance through their worship songs.

Some might object that we sing hymns written by a previous generation of men whom we would not admit to our pulpits, were they alive today. The difference, though, is that the modern error of which I speak affects the very doctrine of worship itself, and it is represented by and propagated through the modern worship songs.

I would also add a personal plea against the use of overhead projectors: a hymnal in the hand allows the worshipper to read through the hymns before and after the service, and builds familiarity with the sung worship of the Church.

Good Poetry

To be worthy for inclusion in the sung worship of a Church, a hymn must be good poetically. It must not be trite or bland. It must read well on the printed page. Just as our God has not seen fit to preserve to us the music to which the Psalms were originally sung, so we can be sure that it is by *words* that we worship God; and the words that are chosen as the vehicle for the Church's worship must be of the noblest quality, to propel the soul heavenward in pursuit of our great and glorious God.

When my children were young, we would sometimes visit a holiday Church that uses "Mission Praise". One day, returning home, my son remarked: "Dad, there is something I do not understand. The words were: '*Alleluia, Alleluia, How I love Him, How I love Him, Blessèd Jesus, Blessèd Jesus, My Redeemer, My Redeemer*'. Then underneath it says '*Copyright*'."

Exactly! One sometimes asks, "Whatever is there in the words of these modern works that is worth copying?" Although the doctrines may be true – glorious even – yet they are expressed in commonplace, unmemorable language, devoid of any poetic merit.

Proverbs 25.20 warns us: "*As he that taketh away a garment in cold weather, and as vinegar upon nitre, so is he that singeth songs to an heavy heart.*" This may strike us as being a strange truth. Are not many of the Psalms addressed to "the chief Musician", yet eminently helpful to those who are of a sorrowful heart? What, then, does Solomon mean? Surely, that mere *songs* cannot meet the deep needs of the human heart – i.e. compositions whose chief appeal is their *music*. A good hymn, though, is more than just a song to be sung. It is a memorable capsule of solid scriptural truth – a Biblical pill which is easily swallowed and is medicine for the suffering soul. How many believers have been helped through troubled times by such hymns as "God moves in a mysterious way", "Abide with me", or "The Lord's my Shepherd"!

Broad Subject Matter

The hymns used by a Church must, taken together, cover the broad sweep of Biblical truth and personal experience. They must not be preoccupied with just a few narrow themes. Commenting on Psalm 14, Spurgeon says that the dedication "To the Chief Musician" in fifty-three of the Psalms indicates that they were intended for public worship, then notes:

"Several of these Psalms have little or no praise in them, and were not addressed directly to the Most High, and yet were to be sung in public worship; which is a clear indication that the theory of Augustine lately revived by certain hymn-book makers, that nothing but praise should be sung, is far more plausible than Scriptural ... even the wailing notes of complaint were put into the ancient Church's mouth by the sweet singer of Israel who was inspired by God"

Appropriate Music

The music to which we set our songs of praise must be appropriate for use by a people who view the current age with disdain, and have turned their backs on the fashions and amusements of this world. In particular, we must never attempt to blend the praises of a holy, sin-hating God with musical forms that derive from the modern pop/rock music culture: a culture based on rebellion against God's standards for self-control, obedience to authority, and sexual purity. How can we preach the Gospel and seek to turn men and women "from this present evil world" (Gal 1. 4), whilst at the same time employing music firmly rooted in this present evil world! Surely, if we attempt to do this our message will

be undermined by our music. We shall also provoke God; for He said, *"When thou art come into the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee, thou shalt not learn to do after the abominations of those nations."* (Deut 18.6).

Likewise, the purpose of any musical accompaniment is simply to aid the worshippers in their singing. Worship music must never be played to please man's ears; nor must we ever imagine that music can in itself be pleasing to God (since true worship must be in spirit and in truth, John 4.23). This writer believes a good principle is that *every note played should be capable of being sung*. This is the great benefit of a traditional hymn tune played on an organ or a piano: each of the four parts may be sung; there are no superfluous notes inserted purely for ornamentation or pleasure; and there is just one instrument, so the player has as little prominence as possible. See Hymn 15, "True Worship".

I believe that the cause of reverent, Biblical worship will be helped by the production of new hymns adhering to these old standards. May these hymns help in some little way towards these ends.

Should these compositions fall into the hands of one who holds to an "Exclusive Psalmody" position, then I would crave the patience of that dear brother or sister and ask them to receive these works as Christian poems. May our God bless them to you, whatever your persuasion on this issue.

John Armstrong

Hymns, Songs and Poems

1 Enoch

"And Enoch walked with God: and he was not; for God took him."
Genesis 5.24

Metre: SM
Suggested tune: Franconia

1. Grant me to walk with God,
As Enoch walked of old;
To tread the heavenly path he trod,
And there Thy face behold.
2. Grant me to walk by faith,
To fix my thoughts above;
Obeying all the scripture saith,
While resting in Thy love.
3. Grant such a walk to me
As pleases God on high;
But without faith this cannot be,
That faith Thou must supply.
4. Grant me this world to scorn,
Its riches, ease and mirth,
And walk as one from heaven born,
A stranger on this earth.
5. Grant me a mark to leave
That those who follow on
Might for themselves Thy truth believe,
And walk where I have gone.
6. Grant me to boldly preach
Of Christ's great coming day,
When He will judge all godless speech,
And each ungodly way.
7. And when Thy purging flood
Bears sinners far away,
O grant that I, through Jesus' blood,
Might walk in realms of day.

2 The Way to Refuge Marked by God

"Thou shalt prepare thee a way, and divide the coasts of thy land, which the LORD thy God giveth thee to inherit, into three parts, that every slayer may flee thither."
Deut 19.3

Metre: 87 87 47
Suggested tunes: Hyfrydol, Rhuddlan

1. God has marked the way to refuge
With sweet pledges of His grace;
Verse on verse of proffered mercy
Point to Calvary's resting place.
Fleeing sinner! Fleeing sinner!
These thou must by faith embrace.
2. Seek the Lord while He is near thee,
Call on Christ this gospel morn;
Leave thy way, thy godless notions,
To this pardoning God return.
He'll receive thee! He'll receive thee!
Grant the favours Jesus earned.
3. "Come to Me all ye that labour,
Heavy laden souls I call."
Hear the Saviour's tender summons,
Rest He'll give thee – and to all.
Learn of Jesus! Learn of Jesus!
Take His yoke, before Him fall!
4. "There is not a God beside me,
Who can save, yet just be found.
Look to Me, and be ye saved,
Hearken earth's remotest bound!"
God has spoken! God has spoken!
Nowhere else can help be found.
5. Look no further than the promise,
Hoped-for feelings thou must leave;
God's free offer is thy warrant,
"Whosoever will believe
Shall not perish! Shall not perish!"
Sinner here thy fears relieve!

3 Afflictions

"Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted in me? hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise him for the help of his countenance."
Psalm 42.5

Metre: DCM
Suggested Tune: Ellacombe

1. The road to glory twists and turns
With vales between the hills,
But every bend or steep descent
Is set there as God wills.
Just yesterday I stood aloft
And gladness filled my heart;
Today a valley paved with tears
Is my appointed part.
2. The way is dark, my ankles weak,
I sink and fears oppress;
But since God's wisdom chose my path,
His love is sure to bless.
O! Storm-tossed Christian, take God's
Word
As compass, star and chart;
For there alone you'll rightly read
His tender, loving heart.
3. So why art thou cast down my soul?
Why canst thou find no peace?
Hope thou in God, for He shall yet
Bid tears and sorrows cease.
And should the valley way be long,
Remember, "As thy days,
So shall thy strength be" is thy pledge
Of God's sustaining grace.

4 Death (the King of Terrors)

"O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?"
1 Cor 15.55

Metre: 87.87.87
Suggested tune: Rhuddlan

1. King of terrors, I must meet thee,
Thou O death the last of foes;
But with calmness I may greet thee,
Knowing that my Saviour rose;
Jesus liveth! Peace He giveth!
Draws thy sting and ends thy woes!
2. By the dark and icy waters
Fear and trembling cover me;
Jesus speak what Thou hast taught us,
"Where I am there thou shalt be";
Peace supplying to the dying,
Grace to help in time of need.
3. Though for sin this body faileth,
One with Christ my soul shall rise;
Banish then each fear that aileth,
Glory waits beyond the skies;
Heaven's morrow cheers my sorrow,
God Himself shall wipe these eyes!
4. If our glorious God be for us,
Who can God's elect oppose?
Answer each condemning chorus,
"Jesus died, yea rather, rose";
For us pleading, interceding,
Death itself He overthrows!

5 Psalm 45

"Thou art fairer than the children of men: grace is poured into thy lips: therefore God hath blessed thee for ever."
Psalm 45.2

Metre: 11.11.11.11.
Tune: Montgomery

1. The theme of my Saviour, of all themes
the best,
As flame burns within me and gives me
no rest;
I speak of King Jesus, my tongue cannot
hide,
His beauty, His conquests, His throne
and His bride.
2. Lord Jesus, Thy beauty must first claim
my pen,
O fairer art Thou than the children of
men!
All fulness of grace on Thy lips hath been
poured,
Well-pleasing to God, Thou art blessed
evermore!
3. Ride forth in Thy gospel, O gird on Thy
sword,
Most mighty, most glorious, and prosper
Thy word!
With righteousness, meekness and truth
in Thy hand,
No foe shall Thy darts of conviction
withstand.
4. Thy throne is for ever and ever, O God,
The sceptre Thou wielded a true,
righteous rod;
The just Thou shalt prosper, the wicked
condemn,
For this God anointed Thee Chief
amongst men.
5. How sweet the aroma of Jesus' fair
name!
The Church as His bride now partakes of
the same;
His righteousness clothes her as
garments of gold,
While grace a new nature inscribes on
her soul.

6. So hearken, O daughter, consider this
word:
Forget thine own people, since Christ is
thy Lord;
By grace love and serve Him, no
measure withhold,
For this, thy true beauty, He longs to
behold!

6 The Virtuous Wife

"Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies."
Proverbs 31.10

Metre: 11.8.11.8.
Tune: Arnold's

1. What man has been blessed with a
virtuous wife,
Whose value all rubies exceeds ?
The heart of her husband will trust her
through life,
Abundance supplies all his needs.
2. Each day she will be to him good, kind
and loyal,
Thus banishing evil and strife;
The needs of her household through glad
selfless toil
Are met by the virtuous wife.
3. How blessed is each soul within reach of
her arm,
She stretches her hand to the poor;
She feeds them with meat; in the cold
they're kept warm;
Her tongue obeys kindness' law.
4. Her husband and children rise up in her
praise;
In their eyes she's fairest on earth;
She walks in the fear of the Lord all her
days,
So proving her heavenly birth.

7 Gospel Days

"Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the LORD is risen upon thee." Isaiah 60.1

Metre: SM
Suggested tune: Franconia

1. Arise, believer, shine;
Your light is surely come;
The glory of the risen Lord
On this poor world has shone.
2. In darkness gross you dwelt,
Alike with all the earth;
The heavy veil of unbelief
Enwrapped you from your birth.
3. But Christ's fair radiant face
Has blazed your gloom away;
To light and life the nations rise
In this, their Gospel day.
4. And yet more souls shall come,
They stream from o'er the seas;
Behold them gather to His side
With songs of grateful praise.
5. The times of wrath are passed,
The Lord your light has come;
Arise, believer, shine for Christ,
Your mourning days are gone.

8 Bethlehem

"But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting." Micah 5.2

Metre: LM.
Suggested tune: Angelus

1. At Bethlehem Jacob's Rachel died
And for her grief brought forth a son;
In shades behold the Crucified,
Who for our life laid down His own.
2. At Bethlehem Ruth her faith confessed,
And for her God, Naomi's took;
In shades behold the Gentiles blessed
Grafted by faith in Israel's stock.
3. At Bethlehem Boaz formed a plan:
And there redeemed his helpless kin;
In shades behold our God made man,
To pay in blood the price of sin.
4. At Bethlehem Jesse's son was born,
The shepherd, David, king to be;
In shades behold his Greater Son,
Whose Being spans eternity.
5. And now, at length, O Bethlehem fair!
The end of all these shades is come!
Our God incarnate breathes thy air!
Flee shadows, flee; arise, thou Sun!
6. Arise and reign, our Shepherd King,
Our chosen God through endless days;
Our great Redeemer, our true kin,
Our Life; our theme of ceaseless
praise!

9 God Praised for The Reformation

"Come, behold the works of the LORD, what desolations he hath made in the earth." Psalm 46.8

Metre: DCM
Suggested tune: Seraph

1. Great God we bless Thee for Thy work
In Reformation days;
We name the men whom Thou didst use,
But Thy great Name we praise!
We love to hear of Calvin's toil,
Or Luther's fearless stand,
But these were only tools employed
By Thine almighty hand.
2. In England Wycliffe's morning star
Foretells the coming day;
A Bible in the English tongue
By Lollard bands conveyed.
In dark Bohemia light shines forth
As Huss 'gainst Rome declaims,
Nor Pope nor cleric will he heed,
So lights the martyr flames.
3. From Rome to Romans Luther turns,
"The just shall live by faith!"
At Wittenburg's great hammer blow
The German peoples wake!
His conscience captive to God's Word,
The rugged Saxon stands,
And from his pen in native speech
God's Word floods through the land.
4. Oh foolish Paris! From thy streets
The dear young Calvin flees;
Oh blessed Cantons to whose sides
This pious scholar cleaves!
How vast the sea of truth he plumbs,
What breadth of sight displays!
An Ezra in Geneva State,
A teacher still today.
5. To East and West the gospel flows,
O'er Europe's varied lands;
In England Tyndale's ploughboy hears
And Scripture understands.
The tide of truth must Scotland reach
And there fresh conquests make;
So Knox's pulpit sounds the blast
And Rome's poor vassels shake!

6. O God what wonders Thou hast wrought,
What deeds Thine arm achieved!
Were it not writ' in history books,
We scarcely had believed.
Arise, O God, arise we cry,
Plead Thine own cause today!
How long shall men blaspheme Thy
Name,
Revive Thy work we pray!

10 A Prayer for Loved Ones

"... Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God."
John 1.13

Metre: CM
Suggested tune: Dalehurst

1. We plead, O Lord, for those we love,
That they by grace might flee
From this vain world to Thy dear cross
And live alone for Thee.
2. May we Thy living transcripts be
In thought and word and deed,
That even those that hate Thy law
In us Thy ways might read.
3. We grieve for children casting off
The faith of tend'rer years
And growing bold in sinful paths;
Lord, treasure up our tears.
4. O break the sword that breaks our
hearts,
Bid household conflicts cease,
Grant brothers, sisters, parents, friends
To know the Prince of Peace.
5. We ask for patient hearts to wait
Thine own appointed hour,
When loved ones yield to Jesus' claims
By Thy converting power.
6. Till then we weep and wait and pray,
And witness, warn and live;
And trust Thy wisdom to withhold
Or, as Thou choosest, give.

11 Baptism

"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:" Matthew 28.19

Metre: 886 886.
Suggested tune: Hull or Pembroke

1. O Christ who rules in earth and heaven,
Thou hast to us commandment given,
"Go ye to every land;
Disciples from all nations claim,
Baptizing in the Triune Name,
And teaching My commands".
2. We dare not rend Thy holy word,
Nor serve in part, yet call Thee "Lord",
As some, alas, today;
When any come in Christ to trust,
Baptize we may, baptize we must,
Or else we disobey.
3. Before us stands the watery grave;
It has no power to heal or save,
Or change a rebel heart;
That work must be already wrought,
The sinner to the Saviour brought,
Or else may not take part.
4. This pool declares that I have died
To sin, to self, to wicked pride,
So buried I must be;
That I anew with Christ might rise,
And daily as His grace supplies,
Show forth His life in me.
5. And O! That we who claim to live
May at this sign fresh pledges give
Who once this witness bore;
On Thy great promise we depend,
To be with us till this world's end,
Always, yea, evermore!

12 Jesus Wept!

"Jesus wept."

John 11.35

Metre: 87 87D
Suggested tune: Arwelfa, Deerhurst,
or Abbott's Leigh

1. Jesus wept! The Man of sorrows,
See His soul with grief oppressed;
He on Whom our bliss depended
Must our deepest anguish taste.
Jesus wept! His perfect manhood
Swam the tide of human woe;
Every stream from sin's sad fountain
O'er His holy soul must flow.
2. Jesus wept! And in His weeping,
Showed the kindness hid in God;
Mark this well, perplexed believer,
Smarting 'neath the Father's rod;
Jesus wept! Oh tearful Master,
Thus I know Thy tender heart;
Thou doest pity my condition,
Sympathizing love Thou art!
3. Jesus wept! Yet still determined
For a while the dead to leave;
Sweet the tears we shed, though bitter,
If they lead us to believe!
Jesus wept! Oh Gospel preacher,
Learn from Him o'er souls to mourn!
Let no words untouched by pity
From your frozen lips be borne!
4. Jesus wept! "See how He loved him!",
True, 'twas love that moved Him so;
Loving, left His father's glory,
Loving, wept for us below;
Loving, pleaded in the garden,
Loving, bled upon the tree;
Loving, burst the grave's dark fetters,
Loving, ends our misery!

13 The Reformation “Sola”s

“Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus.”
2 Tim 1.13

Metre: LM
Suggested tune: Tallis’ Canon or Winchester New

- 1. “Sola Scriptura”, Here we stand,
On God’s inerrant word to man;
The whole of saving truth revealed,
Where faith must rest and conscience yield.
- 2. “Solus Christus”, Thy blood alone
Can for our sinful souls atone;
No other helper wilt Thou brook,
To Thee and Thee alone we look.
- 3. “Sola Fidè”, By faith alone
We’re justified before God’s throne;
No works we bring, but simply trust
In Christ, and God declares us just.
- 4. “Sola Gratia”, Sovereign grace
Alone can quicken Adam’s race;
O blessèd morn! when mercy’s ray
Drives nature’s night of death away!
- 5. “Soli Deo Gloria” sing,
All glory to our God we bring!
By Thee we live, for Thee we die,
And Thee alone we glorify!

14 A Debt of Love

“The Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.”
Gal 2.20

Metre: DSM or SM
Suggested tune: Leominster

- 1. How great a debt I owe
To Thee, O Lamb of God;
Teach me by all I am to show
How singly I am loved!
For me Thou wast made man,
For me didst live and die,
For me didst break the grave’s cold bands,
For me ascend on high.
- 2. In time Thou didst pursue
This careless child of hell;
My smothered conscience didst renew,
My unbelief dispel.
A flood of light shone in,
A shaft from heaven above;
I saw at once my own vile sin
And Jesus’ wondrous love!
- 3. I gazed, O how I gazed,
On Thy dear hands and side;
This tongue, once idle, freely praised
My Jesus crucified!
O Christ, My Lord, My God,
Before Thy face I fall,
And captured by Thy precious blood,
To Thee I yield my all!

Note and Pronunciation Guide:

“Sola” (or “Solus” or “Soli”) is Latin for “Alone” or “Only”.
These five “Alone”s have come to be regarded as a brief summary of the grand doctrines rediscovered by the Reformation:

Latin Term	Pronunciation	Meaning
Sola Scriptura	So-la Scrip-tur-a	By Scripture Alone
Solus Christus	So-lus Christ-us	By Christ Alone
Sola Fidè	So-la Fee-day	By Faith Alone
Sola Gratia	So-la Grats-ee-a	By Grace Alone
Soli Deo Gloria	So-lee Day-oh Glor-ee-a	To God Alone Be Glory

15 True Worship

"For our God is a consuming fire." Hebrews 12.29

Metre: DCM
Suggested tune: Resignation

1. Our God is a consuming fire,
Then let the Church draw near
With careful step and reverent lip
And worship Him with fear;
May God's transforming grace control
Each choice, desire and thought,
Or we will yet refuse His voice –
And worship must be taught.
2. To offer praise that God accepts
Must be our single aim;
Not like Nadab and Abihu,
Who without warrant came.
Although the Lord commanded not,
They offered up strange flame,
And died that we might learn to bring
Naught but what God doth name.
3. In spirit and in truth we come
And worship One we know,
For God is Spirit and He seeks
Those who will worship so;
In spirit, not with worldly praise
That pleases fleshly ears;
In truth, with words we mean and speak,
Intelligent, sincere.
4. Such praise is simple, unadorned,
From hearts aflame with love,
The product of a God-wrought faith
That seeks a world above.
One with the saints of former years
We worship and adore
The Father, Son, and Holy Ghost
Now and for evermore!

16 Chastisement

"For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth."
Hebrews 12.6

Metre: 11.11.11.11.
Suggested Tune: St Denio

1. How patient is God to the children of
men,
He heals our backslidings again and
again;
He grants us His favour and shows us
His face,
Restraining His wrath and displaying his
grace.
2. When for a dark season we turn from the
way,
When sin or the world or the devil holds
sway,
Our God remains constant, His love
cannot wane,
And soon he pursues and restores us
again.
3. When, like Simon Peter, we say in our
pride,
"Though others deny Thee, Not I, Lord,
Not I!"
Or fail, like King David, our heart-springs
to keep,
Ere long bitter tears of repentance we'll
weep.
4. But how will our Father restore us again?
He'll send us affliction and bless us with
pain;
Till sin appears bitter and holiness sweet,
Then suing for mercy we'll fall at His feet.
5. So faint not nor murmur while bearing the
rod;
These strokes only fall on the children of
God!
The heart that directs them is tender and
wise,
Our Father's chastisement we must not
despise.

17 What Hath God Wrought!

"According to this time it shall be said of Jacob and of Israel, What hath God wrought!"

Numbers 23.23

Metre: DCM
Suggested tune: Haydn

1. "What hath God wrought!" shall be the song
Ten thousand voices raise,
When heaven and earth form one vast throng
The Lamb of God to praise!
A multitude no man can tell
From Adam's rebel race,
Once heirs of wrath and bound for hell,
Shall there adore His grace!
2. "What hath God wrought!" He gave His Son
To bear our sins away;
The curse for all we've been or done
On Christ our Saviour lay.
He rose! And with Him we appear
Before the sight of God:
His righteousness, our garment fair;
Our covering, Jesu's blood.
3. "What hath God wrought!" His mighty hand
A Church on earth doth frame,
A holy, loving pilgrim band
To glorify His Name;
And every one among them knows
The Saviour's love and might,
And by his glad obedience shows
Himself a child of light.
4. "What hath God wrought!" The Church's foes
Against her vent their rage
As she her Master's gospel shows
To each succeeding age;
But wise the mind and strong the arm
That shall assistance lend,
And 'gainst each weapon, wile and charm
This pilgrim band defend.

5. "What hath God wrought!" We now adore
His free triumphant grace;
Much more when perfect shall we pour
Our vials before His face!
When heaven and earth form one vast throng
The Lamb of God to praise,
"What hath God wrought!" shall be the song
Ten thousand voices raise!

18 Jesus' Presence Desired

"And as they thus spake, Jesus himself stood in the midst of them, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you."
Luke 24.36

Metre: CM
Suggested tune: St Magnus

1. Come stand amongst us risen Lord
And open every mind,
That each might understand Thy word:
Enlighten now the blind.
2. From Thine own lips we long to learn,
Jesus Thyself draw near!
And make our hearts within us burn
As we the scriptures hear.
3. Should any fail through unbelief
To see Thy lovely face
'Tis Thou alone must bring relief,
And clouds of doubt efface.
4. May we behold thy feet and hands,
So calm each troubled thought;
That we with joy might understand
The triumph Thou hast wrought.
5. Then send us forth with hearts aflame
To tell the world "He lives!"
And as we preach in Jesus' name,
Great Lord, Thy blessing give!

Tune for "Unsearchable Riches"

He Hideth My Soul – by William Kirkpatrick

The musical score is written for a piano and consists of six systems, each with a treble and bass staff. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 6/8. The melody in the treble staff is characterized by eighth and sixteenth notes, often beamed together, with occasional rests. The bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment using chords and single notes, including some longer note values like half notes and whole notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line in the final measure of the sixth system.

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19 A Wedding Hymn

"And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him."
Genesis 2.18

Metre: DCM
Suggested tune: Kingsfold

1. In Eden's fair and holy land
Close to the tree of life
The God of love revealed His plan
To make for man a wife:
No more shall Adam dwell alone,
But pledge himself to Eve;
"Flesh of my flesh, bone of my bone,
To thee, dear wife, I cleave."
2. Alas, from Eden's once fair land
A fallen couple came;
The happy bond that God had planned
Was marred by sin and shame.
Yet God declared – the God of grace,
E'en under Eden's skies –
That from this rebel, ruined race
A conquering seed should rise.
3. So, Lord, from this their wedding day
May these two on Thee lean;
A three-fold cord will not give way,
Be Christ the bond between.
Direct and guide each step they take
Along life's narrow road;
Their hearts, the throne of Jesus make,
Their house, the house of God.
4. A hundred foes around them stand,
And worst the foe within;
Then guard them, Lord, by Thy great hand,
And strengthen them 'gainst sin.
May Eden's sorrows be o'ercome
By Scripture, faith and prayer,
And holy gladness fill their home,
And Christ be ever there.

20 Unsearchable Riches

"... that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ;"
Eph 3.8

Metre: 11.8.11.8 + Chorus
Tune: He Hideth My Soul
(See opposite)

1. To search the unsearchable riches of Christ
Is all the believer's employ;
Not Solomon's wisdom, his fortune or might
Could yield such unspeakable joy!

*O Sir, show us Christ,
Show us Christ or we faint!
'Tis Jesus alone we would see;
His crucified likeness
before our eyes paint,
And we shall well-satisfied be,
And we shall well-satisfied be.*
2. To know the unknowable love of the Lord,
Its length and its breadth and its height;
To taste the sweet honey that's hid in His Word,
And walk in its wonderful light.
3. To see the invisible King on His throne,
And go in the strength of that sight;
To daily draw near, though He dwelleth alone,
In pure unapproachable light.
4. But when we have sailed o'er the ocean of grace,
And searched out its uttermost bound,
Horizons more distant shall rise to our gaze:
Its limit can never be found.
5. The triumph He wrought and the office He bears,
The infinite glory He earned;
'Tis these we would know, though through heaven's long years
Their measure shall never be learned.

21 Little Foxes

"Take us the foxes, the little foxes, that spoil the vines: for our vines have tender grapes."

Song of Solomon 2.15

Metre: 87 87 D
Suggested tune: Blaenwern

1. Let us take the little foxes,
For our vines have tender grapes;
Little sins inflict great losses
On the feeble fruits of grace;
While the Church for souls is toiling
(May her labours never cease!)
Crafty sins within are spoiling
Holy joy and heavenly peace.
2. Small the tongue but great the matter
Kindled by a little flame;
Foolish jests and idle chatter
Bring a careless, prayerless frame.
Dark suspicion, surly temper,
Sharp remarks and selfish thoughts,
Might outdo the Church's tempter
In the damage they have wrought.
3. Fill the gaps, the fences strengthen,
Let no little fox creep in!
And when even's shadows lengthen,
Double then thy watch for sin!
Slumbering soul, awake to duty!
Sly the inward foes we face;
Catch them! Ere they waste the beauty
Of thy budding fruits of grace.
4. O may Christ come to His garden,
May our hearts enraptured hear
His sweet voice, "Rise up, my fair one,
Come, the time of love is near!"
This, O this, will surely move us,
Show us Christ and we will fight!
All for which He might reprove us,
Every fox we'll put to flight!

22 A Trembling Soul

"It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God."

Hebrews 10.31

Metre: DSM
Suggested tune: Leominster

1. To be forever lost!
My soul awake and fear!
Art thou prepared to pay that cost
For these, thy rebel years?
Beneath the wrath of God
Thou must forever dwell,
For thee no Christ, no cross, no blood,
But endless woes in hell.
2. Say not, my soul, "Not I,
My fault is not that great;"
Recall, "The soul that sins shall die,"
And sinful is thy state;
Nor hope that God will smile
Upon thee in thy sin,
When He has said, "Naught that defiles
Shall ever enter in."
3. But lo! A door is set,
A way to flee is given,
And – joy! – it stands wide open yet,
The very gate of heaven!
A cross before me stands
On which the Christ was slain:
My sin, the nails that pierced His hands,
My hell, his unmixed pain.
4. Then dare I turn away,
And daily harder grow?
Shall Jesus' sufferings fail to sway
Me from my path to woe?
O wretched unbelief!
O cursèd love of sin!
That I should scorn the Saviour's grief,
Who died my love to win!
5. No, yield I will, I must!
O Christ, receive my soul!
Thy death for sin is all I trust
To make this leper whole.
O grant me peace today,
Then by Thy keeping grace
I'll walk by faith the narrow way,
Till death reveal Thy face.

23 Great Saviour Divine

*"For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead
bodily."* Col 2.9

Metre: 5.5.11 D
Suggested tune: Wareham

1. Great Saviour Divine,
All power is Thine,
In Thee all the beauties of deity shine!
Adoring we trace
The truth and the grace
That beam in the Scriptures from Jesus'
fair face.
2. The news of Thy birth
Was first brought to earth
By angels from glory proclaiming Thy
worth;
A virgin conceived
The heavenly seed,
Jehovah incarnate, God with us indeed!
3. "God saves" was His name,
To save was His claim,
To sinners for sinners the sinless One
came;
Our manhood to own,
His life to lay down,
That paupers and rebels might share in
His crown.
4. O blest Galilee,
This Christ comes to thee,
He walks on thy water and stills thy wild
sea!
The blind receive sight,
The impotent might,
While lepers find cleansing and devils
take flight!
5. From Jesus' sweet lips
What honeydew drips!
Each life-giving saying reveals and
convicts:
The shepherd and sheep;
The virgins that sleep;
The kingdom of heaven, God's net in the
deep.

6. On Calvary's tree
The Crucified see;
My soul, gaze with weeping: He dies
there for thee!
But, lo! See Him rise
From earth to the skies:
O'er sin He has conquered, in Him our
death dies!
7. Great Saviour Divine,
All power is Thine,
In Thee all the beauties of deity shine!
Our glowing hearts burn,
To see Thee we yearn,
O Saviour, come quickly! In glory return!

24 Jacob's Vow Recalled

*"I am the God of Bethel, where thou anointedst the
pillar, and where thou vowedst a vow unto me"*
Genesis 31.13

Metre: 76 76 D
Suggested tune: Ewing

1. I am the God of Bethel,
Where first I heard thy vow;
Thy footsteps have I guided
Unceasingly till now;
I pledged to be thy keeper
And all thy varied way,
Through tears and trials and gladness
Have helped thee to this day.
2. And each communication
Sent down from heaven above
Descends by Christ the Saviour,
The channel of my love;
And by His intercession
Thy prayers ascend on high,
To bring fresh stores of blessing
And every need supply.
3. Have I to thee been faithful,
And led thee until now?
Then love, obey and serve me,
As thou to me didst vow;
The day of thine esposals
Thy happiest day shall be,
A day to be remembered
Through all eternity.

Tune for "A Song for the Men in the Church"

"Men of Harlech"

MEN OF HARLECH
Welsh melody, pub. 1784

The musical score is written for piano in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of six systems of two staves each (treble and bass clef). The melody is primarily in the treble clef, while the bass clef provides a harmonic accompaniment. The piece features a variety of note values including quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes, as well as rests. A repeat sign with first and second endings is present in the third system. The score concludes with a double bar line in the sixth system.

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25 When the Enemy Comes in like a Flood

"When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the LORD shall lift up a standard against him."
Isaiah 59.19

Metre: LM,
Suggested Tune: Mainzer

1. Our God, Thy mercies we entreat
For truth is fallen in the street;
Thine enemies, as floods, rush in
And vaunt on every hand their sin.
2. The hard-won morals of this land
They wash away, as seas the sand.
Foundations at their poundings cleave:
What then can righteous souls
achieve?
3. Ah Lord, to Thee we lift our eyes,
Whose arm yet rules both sea and
skies;
The raging waves Thou canst restrain,
And heavenly souls in peace maintain.
4. In waters deep we shall not fear,
For Thou hast promised to be near
And guide us to a better shore
Our home, our rest for evermore.
5. Yet while on this poor earth we dwell,
And sins as flood-tides round us swell,
We cry, O Spirit of the LORD,
Lift up the standard of Thy Word!
6. May holy Zion yet proclaim
Her great Redeemer's worthy name;
Then stretch Thine arm out, mighty God,
And turn this foaming, shameful flood!

26 A Song for the Men in the Church

"Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong"
1 Cor 16.13

Metre: PM,
Tune: Men of Harlech
(See opposite)

1. Men of God, be strong, be loyal
Christ leads out His legions royal,
Follow Him through strife and toil,
Bearing scorn and shame!
Take the gospel to the dying,
Helpless, lost, in darkness lying,
Christ their only hope supplying,
His great name proclaim!
Serve with consecration!
Never leave your station!
Wake from sleep, The true faith keep,
Stand firm 'gainst all temptation!
Christ will come, His sun ascending,
Glory blazing, heaven rending,
Until then on Him depending,
Quit you now like men!
2. Husbands, fathers, sons and brothers,
Self-denying care for others,
Wives and children, sisters, mothers,
They depend on you!
Ever, always, scripture heeding,
Fearing God while others leading,
At their need your comforts ceding,
For their sakes, thus do!
Be an ear to hear them!
Know and love and cheer them!
Christ enthrone within your home,
The Lord bring ever near them!
Through this vale of tears together,
Sunlit days or stormy weather,
On to glory, then forever,
Quit you now like men!

27 Ruth's Vow

"And Ruth said, Intreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee: for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God: Where thou diest, will I die, and there will I be buried: the LORD do so to me, and more also, if ought but death part thee and me."

Ruth 1.16,17

Metre: 76 76 D
Suggested tune: Day of Rest

1. Beneath Thy wings of mercy,
Jehovah I would hide;
Entreat me not to leave Thee,
Nor bid me turn aside;
Though others feign affection
And kiss Thee but to leave,
Their gods shall never charm me,
To Thee alone I'll cleave.
2. Wherever Thou shalt lead me
By grace I'll follow on,
Though strait the way and narrow,
Though hard the road and long;
Thy laws and Thy commandments
Shall mark the path I choose;
The voice of Christ my Master
This ear shall ne'er refuse.
3. Dear Saviour, where Thou lodgest
I too would lay my head;
Thy loving voice shall cheer me,
However hard my bed;
The place of Thine appointing
Shall be the place I dwell,
Though on the verge of heaven,
Or near the gates of hell.
4. The people whom Thou choosest
I take to be mine own,
Beloved of God the Father,
Though to this world unknown;
Amongst that holy nation
I'll labour, learn and love,
And praise Thee until, dying,
I join the saints above.

5. O God, the God of Israel,
Thee gladly I embrace;
I turn my back on Moab
And all its godless ways;
Lord Jesus, now receive me
Beneath Thy sheltering wing,
My Kinsman and Redeemer,
My Prophet, Priest and King!

28 Follow Me

*"Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests;
but the Son of man hath not where
to lay his head."* Luke 9.58

Metre: 87 87 D
Suggested tune: Love Divine (Zundel)

1. "Follow me!" My heart rejoices
To receive so high a call;
Jesus speaks! All other voices
At his summons silent fall.
Yet, my soul, this world will never
Offer ease for Jesus' sake;
Wilt thou for him quit the leisure
Earth-bound creatures here partake?
2. "Follow me!" Whatever others
Make their highest goal in life;
Christ must dearer be than mothers,
Fathers, children, husband, wife.
Sweetest bonds He'll further sweeten,
Yet must rule thy heart alone;
Only lifeless beings greet Him,
Then assign Him second throne.
3. "Follow me!" And cast no longing
Backward glance to former ways;
No more to this world belonging,
Covet not thy Christless days.
Thou hast holy work before thee,
Straight thy furrow heavenward drive!
Till by grace alone deemed worthy,
Thou to rest with Christ arrive.

29 All-Sufficient

"Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you."
1 Peter 5.7

Metre: 77.77

Suggested Tune: Buckland, St. Martin

1. Weeping Christian, dry your eyes,
Look beyond the cloud-filled skies;
Christ, the Man of Sorrows, sees,
Knows your heart and hears your
pleas.
2. Fearful Christian, birds are fed
By their God with daily bread;
He who gives the lilies dress,
Shall He give His children less?
3. Fainting Christian, lean upon
Him whose arm is ever strong;
Power to waiting souls He brings;
Soon they mount on eagles' wings.
4. Doubting Christian, take God's Word;
There alone will truth be heard.
Read it, till you find relief,
There repent your unbelief.
5. Straying Christian, dare you leave
Him in whom you now believe?
Would you swap His blood-stained cross
For life's tawdry, fleeting dross?
6. Dying Christian, fear no more;
Jesus passed this way before;
All your needs He will supply,
Grace to live, and wait, and die.
7. Jesus knows each troubled saint,
Weeping, fearful, doubting, faint;
His sweet face once crowned with thorns
Now a throne of grace adorns.

30 Entire Inspiration

"All scripture is given by inspiration of God"
2 Timothy 3.16

A poem, not a song. Should a tune be required it
could be sung to Trewin, 88.88.D (anapaestic)

1. I humbly avow and aver:
The rock of God's Word ever stands!
And all who believe it to err
Are building their faith on the sands.
A man may be much led astray,
Yet still with his heart trust the book;
But take inspiration away,
And where is the sinner to look?
2. Our God, we are sure, cannot lie,
So should some verse fail, but in part,
His holy perfections imply,
It came from an uninspired heart.
The Hebrew and Greek as once given
(Allowing for him who translates)
Are faultless, or else not from heaven;
Thus far holy logic dictates.
3. But follow my thinking, dear friend,
If one verse be wrong, why not more?
On what can we safely depend?
Will anything then remain sure?
If man's foolish heart must decide
Which parts be removed or retained,
Then man, as the judge, will preside,
And scripture – and God – be arraigned.
4. Creation must go, and the fall;
Then Noah – 'twill be no great loss;
But wait – why not jettison all?
The Gospels, The Saviour, The Cross?
For want of a verse we shall lose
The chapter, the book and the whole;
The war shall be lost if men choose
The things that appeal to the soul.
5. The tree takes its shape from the bough;
But gathers its strength from the leaf;
Disease in the smallest part now
Will soon bring the whole to its death.
But thanks be to God, not one jot
Nor tittle shall pass from the law;
Each verse, every word, every dot,
Shall stand, as the Lord, evermore

31 A Cry for Revival (Isaiah 64)

"Oh that thou wouldst rend the heavens"

Isaiah 64.1

Metre: 8886
Suggested tune: Saffron Walden

1. O that Thou wouldst the heavens rend,
As burning fire Thy Spirit send,
The granite heart first melt, then mend;
In power, Lord, come down!
2. Descend from Thine exalted throne;
Thy name to godless foes make known,
And bring them trembling Thee to own;
In mercy, Lord, come down!
3. Where unclean men in filthy dress
Parade their foul unrighteousness,
And strive Thy gospel to suppress,
In judgment, Lord, come down!
4. For never since this world began
Has dawned on unbelieving man
What God has for His people planned;
In truth, O Lord, come down!
5. Thou meetest those who now rejoice
To keep Thy laws and hear Thy voice,
And make Thy ways their happy choice;
In faithfulness, come down!
6. But who amongst us truly prays,
Or stirs himself to seek Thy face?
We sleep, so slumbers yet Thy grace,
To wake us, Lord, come down!
7. Our fathers saw Thy works, we read;
By faith wrought many a noble deed;
On us, their poor degenerate seed,
Unchanging Lord, come down!
8. Behold from heaven this needy land:
Take up Thy cause, stretch forth Thine
hand;
Thy tender mercies here expand;
In pity, Lord, come down!

32 The Stormy Winds of Providence

*"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help
in trouble."*

Psalms 46.1,2

Metre: DCM
Suggested tune: St Matthew

1. The stormy winds of providence
Upon my vessel blow,
But heaven is the quarter whence
These raging furies flow;
When trials mount as heaving waves,
And fears within me rise,
Upon my God I'll fix my gaze,
Who moves the sea and skies.
2. No human mind can e'er discern
The course Jehovah takes;
Then perish reason; faith must learn
God never makes mistakes.
These crossing seas preserve my soul
From shipwreck on the shore,
While grace propels me towards my goal
By gales that 'gainst me roar.
3. Though for a while it may appear
That God no longer reigns,
And Satan triumphs – Never fear,
'Tis Christ that holds his chains!
Behold, how with a word He stills
The Galilean seas;
They rage as long as Jesus wills,
And when He wills, they cease!
4. My soul recall, 'midst waters deep,
His promise firm abides:
"I will be with thee and shall keep
Thee through the swelling tides."
Though oceans roar, and mountains
shake,
And earth and hills remove,
If I but God my refuge make,
He shall my Saviour prove!

33 Eternity

"Prepare to meet thy God, O Israel!" Amos 4.12

Metre: DCM
Suggested tune: Haydn

1. Eternity! How vast thy span,
Beyond life's little shore;
And cross thy face each soul of man
Must journey evermore.
An isle, a rock, a grain of sand,
Amidst the swelling sea;
So shrinks this age as time expands
Into eternity.
2. When death shall break all mortal ties,
And time a memory be,
I'll wake to stand 'neath different skies,
Before eternity!
But shall those skies be fair and bright,
That endless joys foretell?
Or black with terrors, woes, and night?
A heaven or a hell?
3. Must I that final journey make
Where never mortal trod?
Then now, my soul, all caution take:
"Prepare to meet thy God!"
Prepare by taking careful heed
To God's all-perfect Book;
Take scripture up, and wondering read
How He our nature took.
4. Yes, He who fills both time and space
Infant of days became,
And dying took the sinner's place
To bear their guilt and shame.
A God-forsaken night was his,
Accursed on Calvary,
That I might dwell in heavenly bliss
Through all eternity!
5. And when I wake, what sun shall rise?
What dawn will flood that place?
The Lamb will lighten Paradise,
Love beaming from His face.
Eternity! How vast thy span,
How fair that world shall be!
For Christ my Saviour, God and man,
Is waiting there for me!

34 Grace Sufficient

"My grace is sufficient for thee" 2 Cor 12.9

Metre: 11 8 11 8
Suggested tune: Arnold's

1. When troubles arise and your fortitude
faints
For fear how the future might be,
Remember the promise God speaks to
his saints,
"My grace is sufficient for Thee."
2. A thorn in the flesh seems to straiten
your way,
To Jesus above send your plea;
He'll either remove it or lovingly say,
"My grace is sufficient for thee."
3. The trials of youth or the burden of years
Weigh hard, and no respite you see;
Again read that scripture, through eyes
filled with tears,
"My grace is sufficient for thee."
4. "But how can I bear it?" you cry to the
Lord,
"This trouble is too hard for me;"
The flesh may be weak, but draw
strength from this word,
"My grace is sufficient for thee."
5. "My strength is made perfect in
weakness," we read,
Then glory in infirmity;
The Lord will support you, whatever your
need,
"My grace is sufficient for thee."

35 Persecution

*"Awake, O sword, against my shepherd, and
against the man that is my fellow, saith the Lord of
Hosts: smite the shepherd, and the sheep shall be
scattered: and I will turn mine hand upon the little
ones"* Zech 13.7

Metre: DSM
Suggested tune: Nearer Home

1. Great Lord, Thy hand extend
Towards Thy scattered sheep;
In every land Thy flock defend,
Thy suffering dear ones keep.
Through torture, sword or flame
Their dreadful path may lie:
E'en there Thy faithful watch maintain,
And guard them, though they die.
2. The peoples of this age,
With malice born in hell,
Upon thy saints still pour their rage,
As once on Christ they fell;
Yet though they wield the sword,
With wicked blood-stained hand,
It only wakes, as 'gainst our Lord,
By Thine unmarked command.
3. Behold Thy lambs, O Lord,
On every mountain strewn;
Their bones, their blood, shed for Thy
Word,
By sword and sabre hewn;
Despised, disgraced, distressed,
Imprisoned, fined, or maimed:
Who stand for Christ and righteousness,
Of sin alone ashamed!
4. Then bring them through the blaze,
As flames the gold refine;
But grant them faith to seek Thy face,
And show them they are Thine!
While for their foes they pray,
As Thou for Thine didst plead:
"Our Father, these know not their way,
Forgive this evil deed!"

36 God Incarnate

"God was manifest in the flesh" 1 Tim 3.16

Metre: 88 88 D (Anapaestic)
Suggested tune: Trewin

1. A Saviour who's less than divine
Is really no Saviour at all;
Nor is it Jehovah's design
That men on a creature should call.
The highest, though bright as the sun,
Is less than the dust of the earth
Compared with the infinite One
Who gives to all beings their birth.
2. Could Gabriel incarnate be
And join angel's nature to man,
Then pour out his blood on a tree,
Would that effect salvation's plan?
No, never could creature atone,
Or finite have infinite worth;
It took God incarnate alone
To bear away God's holy wrath.
3. "My glory I never will yield
To others," God wrote in His Word;
Has He this commandment repealed?
May we worship one not the LORD?
Yet God bids us honour the Son
Exactly as we honour Him;
If He were not Three, yet in One,
To do so would be a great sin.
4. Nor could we behold Jesus' face
And there see God's image reside,
Or draw on His infinite grace,
Did God not in manhood abide:
A fullness for all of our needs,
A well-spring that never runs dry,
An ocean that never recedes,
Our ever-sufficient supply.
5. On one the mere product of time
Our undying souls dare not rest;
But God bids His people recline
On God in the flesh manifest:
Unformed, omnipresent He is,
Eternally, full divine;
How happy to know I am His,
And this blest Immanuel's mine!

37 The Bruised Reed

"A bruised reed shall he not break, and the smoking flax shall he not quench"
Isaiah 42.3

Metre: CM
Suggested tune: Dalehurst

1. "A bruised reed He will never break:"
To Christ, then, bring your soul;
His tender healing skills can make
Your wounded spirit whole.
2. "The smoking flax He shall not quench:"
His gentle breath supplies
The sweet reviving breezes whence
Rekindled ardours rise.
3. This world deals roughly with our cares
While cruel Satan roars;
But Christ attends our feeble prayers,
Then binds our bleeding sores.
4. So fall for mercy at His feet:
His eye will see you there,
And pledge your poverty to meet,
And o'er you spread His care.
5. Fear not to bring your widow's mite,
If Jesus honoured such;
Nor shrink to own your wretched plight,
If lepers felt his touch
6. Our feeble faith would faintly light
On Jesus' passing hem,
And touch His store of gracious might
To rise restored again.
7. O Saviour, weak and frail are we,
But Thou art full of grace;
Then draw, and we'll run after Thee,
Until we see Thy face.

38 Psalm 2

"Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing?"
Psalm 2.1

Metre: 66 66 44 44
Suggested tunes: Millennium; Darwell's 148th

1. Why do the heathen rage,
And people vainly dream?
The kings as one engage,
And rulers with them scheme;
Against the Lord
And His dear Son
To break their bond
And loose their cord.
2. But heav'n is undisturbed,
The Lord on high shall laugh;
Then shall He speak His word
And vex them in His wrath:
"Yet reigneth still
My king, my Christ,
On Zion's height,
My holy hill."
3. Jehovah swore of old:
"Thou art my only Son:
To Thee I give the world,
The heathen Thou shalt own;
And Thou shalt break
With iron rod
The foes of God
That Him forsake."
4. Be wise then now, O kings;
And earthly judges learn:
To God your service bring,
With fear to Him return.
The Son embrace
Lest He come forth
And pour His wrath
On all your ways.

39 Christ our Prophet, Priest and King

"... And he shall bear the glory, and shall sit and rule upon his throne; and he shall be a priest upon his throne: and the counsel of peace shall be between them both." Zech 6.13

Metre: 76 76 D.
Suggested tune: Day Of Rest

1. Lord Jesus be my Prophet
And teach Thy Word to me;
My soul will stumble blindly,
Until Thy light I see.
And be my Priest in heaven,
There plead with God for me,
For my salvation showing,
The blood of Calvary.
2. Lord Jesus be my Master,
My King, my Prince, my Lord;
To govern, help and keep me,
And bless me by Thy Word.
Oh break my stubborn spirit,
That I my heart might bring,
And trust Thee as my Saviour,
My Prophet, Priest and King!

40 Psalm 107

"Oh that men would praise the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!" (Psalm 107.8, 15, 21, 31)

Metre: 7 6. 7 6 (with refrain)
Suggested tune: Royal Oak; All things bright and Beautiful;

*O that men would thank the Lord,
So merciful and good!
Gathering souls from every land,
Redeemed by Jesus' blood!*

1. They wandered in the desert
With none to help or guide;
Their souls were faint within them,
Till to the Lord they cried:
2. Some sat in bonds of iron
As rebels 'gainst God's Word;
He brought them low through labour,
But when they cried He heard:

3. And fools for their transgression
Are smitten by the Lord:
As death draws near they seek Him,
He sends His healing word:
4. The merchants cross the ocean
God sends the stormy waves;
They plunge, they rise, they stagger,
They cry; Jehovah saves:
5. Exalt Him then ye people,
Who brings the sinner low;
But pours His lovingkindness
On each repentant soul:

41 Psalm 133: Zion's Unity

"Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!" (Psalm 133.1)

Metre: 88. 88. (Anapaestic)
Suggested tune: Celeste

1. How good and how pleasant to see
The brethren united in love;
In doctrine and practice agreed,
In meekness as Zion above.
2. As oil on the head of the priest
The Spirit comes down to impart
His own precious fragrance of peace,
And fresh consecration of heart.
3. The dew that from Hermon descends,
Brings lushness to Zion's fair fields;
So love is the moisture God sends
And life is the blessing it yields.
4. O Lord, this sweet fellowship give!
Command thou this blessing today!
In truth and in love may we live,
And thus thy great goodness display.

42 Baruch's Reproof

*"And seekest thou great things? Seek them not."
(Jer 45.5)*

Metre: 66. 66. 88.

Suggested tune: Adoration

1. "And seekest thou great things"
In this degenerate age?
Can earthly prospects bring
The good your spirit craves?
O seek them not! The Lord will break
Each selfish dream his people make.
2. And seekest thou for peace,
When men defy your Lord?
Each time a prophet speaks
They mutilate his word.
They cast the truth into the flame:
Then must his seed expect the same.
3. Or seekest thou a name
From those of nobler mind?
And hope some little fame
Amongst the saints to find?
O seek it not! Contented be
Unmarked to labour faithfully.
4. Or seekest thou for rest
With so much to be done?
A life to manifest,
A kingdom to be won?
While those you love, for want of light,
Pass Christless into death's long night.
5. O Christian, seek these not,
But live for Christ alone!
Away with every thought
That robs him of his throne!
Away with rest and earthly ease:
In heaven alone shall conflict cease!

43 Balaam's Desire

*"Let me die the death of the righteous, and let my
last end be like his!"
(Numbers 23.10)*

Metre: SM

Suggested tune: Gildas

1. O let me die the death
That righteous people die!
And, like them, take my final breath
With God my Saviour nigh.
2. Beneath his loving care
I'd pass my earthly days,
And by his strength a witness bear,
Obedient to his ways.
3. The world might mock and scorn:
It's hatred I'd deride;
I'll bear the cross that Christ has born
And die the death he died.
4. And when my days are done
I'll go to meet my God,
My hope for life in Christ alone:
His righteousness and blood.
5. I'll pass the heavenly gates,
Made sinless as I rise;
And know that endless bliss awaits,
With Christ in Paradise.
6. But O my soul, beware:
Such hopes are all in vain
If Balaam-like I speak this prayer,
Yet live for earthly gain.
7. Be this my great concern:
To have a heart made new;
Then at my Master's feet to learn,
And rise, his words to do.

44 The Vale of Sorrows

"Who passing through the valley of Baca make it a well" – Psalm 84.6

Metre: 6 5.6 5. D
Suggested Tune: Wye Valley (with refrain)
Evelyn (omitting refrain)

1. Through the Vale of Sorrows
Christian pilgrims go;
Days of grief and weeping
All God's children know.
Prophets and Apostles
This same pathway trod:
'Tis the way appointed
By our sovereign God.

*For our present sorrows
God gives present grace,
Till in bright tomorrows
We behold his face.*

2. In the Vale of Sorrows
Fairest flowers grow:
Prayer ascending upward,
Meekness stooping low;
Blossoming in patience,
Trust and godly fear;
Every petal watered
By an unseen tear.
3. On the Vale of Sorrows
Special light is sown:
Pilgrims there learn lessons
Hitherto unknown;
God the Holy Spirit
Comes to every saint
Truth and peace bestowing,
Comforting the faint.
4. Jesus, Man of Sorrows,
Passed this way before;
Grief and tears unmeasured
Patiently he bore;
When we pass that valley
He walks by our side:
Near to every pilgrim
Stands the Crucified.

5. From the Vale of Sorrows
Christians soon shall rise,
Made by God through suffering
Holier and wise;
Then with tearless vision
They at last shall see
That blest Vale of Sorrows
Led, our God, to Thee.

45 Behold, the Lamb of God

"Behold, the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world." (John 1.19)

Metre: 6 6. 6 6
Suggested tune: Quam Dilecta

1. "Behold the Lamb of God,"
We hear the Baptist say,
"The Saviour of the world,
Who takes our sin away."
2. "On Him the Spirit came,
Descending as a dove;
Of Him the Father spoke:
My Son, my well-beloved."
3. Before all beings He,
To whom be endless praise;
The source of all our good,
And never-ceasing grace.
4. The unseen God on high
Is by the Son made known;
Through Jesus' life on earth
God's perfect likeness shone.
5. Jesus himself invites,
And bids us, Come and see;
We see and we believe,
The promised Christ is he.
6. Henceforth, Lord, we are Thine:
From Thee we'll ne'er depart;
Our Saviour and our King,
Our Lamb, our God, Thou art!

46 The Incarnation

"And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn."

(Luke 2.7)

Metre: DCM

Suggested tune: Noel

1. Good tidings of great joy we hear,
The Saviour Christ is come!
Behold your God in flesh appear,
And make with man his home!
For evermore his deity
Is joined to Adam's race;
O infant fair, in thee we see
The fullness of God's grace!
2. No angel can this wonder tell,
Nor mortal tongue explain:
The undiminished Godhead dwells
Within his tiny frame.
He gave the universe its form
And fills both time and space,
Yet here he lies, but newly-born,
The weakest of our race.
3. Behold, the great eternal Word,
Upon a virgin's breast;
Isaiah's vision, David's Lord,
In flesh now manifest.
He gives the sun its strength to shine,
And bids it rise each morn;
Yet swaddling clothes around him wind,
To keep the infant warm.
4. What God as God could not possess
He came as man to win:
A perfect human righteousness;
A death for human sin.
Then let us join with heartfelt praise
The shepherds round their King,
And to th'incarnate God of grace
Our ceaseless worship bring!

47 Supporting Grace

"Hold thou me up, and I shall be safe."
(Psalm 119.117)

Metre: CM

Suggested tune: Dalehurst

1. An unseen arm from heaven extends
To every troubled saint;
It holds them up and daily lends
Assistance to the faint.
2. A hidden wisdom plans each care
And trial Christians face;
God gives no more than we can bear
By his sustaining grace.
3. An unseen eye its watch maintains,
And marks each falling tear;
The God who sees* shares all our pains,
And knows our every fear.
4. An ear there is in heaven above
Which hears his children cry:
Their prayers call forth a Father's love,
And move him to reply.
5. A heart resides within the breast
Of God, the God of love;
It guides with constant tenderness
That arm from heaven above.
6. Then teach us, Lord, by faith to rise
When troubles bring us low;
And, as we look with childlike eyes,
A strengthened hope bestow.

* Gen 16.13,14

48 Psalm 46

"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." (Psalm 46.1)

Metre: 10.10.10.10. (Dactylic)
Suggested tune: Slane

1. God is our refuge, our strength very near,
Present to help us when troubles appear;
Fears shall not seize us, though
mountains remove;
'Midst dread confusion our helper he'll
prove.
2. There is a river whose streams shall
supply
Joy to the city where dwells the most
High;
God is within her, she shall not give way:
God shall protect her, by night and by
day.
3. Annals record how the nations once
raged:
Kingdoms 'gainst God and 'gainst Zion
engaged;
One word from heaven – they melted
away;
This God is our God, our refuge today.
4. Come view the works that Jehovah has
wrought:
Armies once mighty to ruin are brought;
Be still ye people and know I am God,
I will be honoured through all this vast
world.
5. See, he is with us, the Lord God of
Hosts;
Master of angels, all power he boasts;
He who led Jacob through all life's long
way,
This God is our God, our refuge today!

49 Psalm 84

"How amiable are thy tabernacles, O Lord of hosts!" (Psalm 84.1)

Metre: LM
Suggested tune: Church Triumphant, Rivaulx

1. O Lord of hosts, how fair the place
Where saints assembling seek thy face!
My spirit faints for thine abode,
But more for thee, thou living God!
2. The little birds have there found rest,
And near thine altars built their nest;
More blessed by far the souls who bring
Their praise to thee, my God, my King!
3. They gather round the cross of Christ,
Their altar, lamb and sacrifice;
Where he is preached they love to come,
And make that house their pilgrim home.
4. The ways of God are in their heart,
And from those ways they'll ne'er depart;
But strengthened through this vale of
tears,
Each one in Zion's courts appears.
5. O Lord, to this my prayer give ear:
Thou God of wandering Jacob, hear;
Look on the face of thy dear Son,
And bring this pilgrim sinner home!
6. One day within thy courts outweighs
A thousand spent in godless ways;
'Tis best the least of saints to be,
Than with the great live wickedly.
7. The Lord as sun and shield is known,
His cheering, keeping strength is shown;
First grace then glory will he give
To all who for his honour live.
8. O Lord of hosts, in thee we rest
And on this earth are richly blessed;
But O! when brought before thy face,
We'll bring thee then our ceaseless
praise!

50 Almost Persuaded

"Then Agrippa said unto Paul, Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian." (Acts 26.28)

Metre: 11 10 11 10 Dactylic
Suggested tune: Epiphany Hymn

1. Almost persuaded to turn to the Saviour,
Almost a Christian, but not fully there;
Such was Agrippa, but now lost forever,
"Almost" is Christless! Oh seeker, beware!
2. Almost persuaded that God was incarnate,
Almost convinced that He rose from the grave;
Yet mixed with doubting, and half unrepentant,
"Almost" falls short of the faith that will save.
3. Almost persuaded the prophets spoke truly,
Almost believing God's glorious plan;
Yet never willing to yield to it fully,
"Almost" still rests in the wisdom of man.
4. Almost persuaded of guilt and of justice,
Almost enabled God's ways to extol;
Yet holding fast to the heart's native goodness,
"Almost" still harbours an unhumbled soul.
5. Almost persuaded this world is a liar,
Almost perceiving it's promises vain;
Yet holy thoughts soon grow dim and expire,
"Almost" is flesh till it be born again.
6. Yet when the Saviour of man, in his kindness,
First touched our eyelids to give us new sight,
Men seemed like trees as we gazed in our blindness,
Night changed to "Almost", then "Almost" to light.
7. Send then thy Spirit, O Lord, in His power!
Finish the work once commenced from above!
Grant that these "Almost" might be "Altogether",
Won by thy truth, and persuaded by love!

Children's Hymns and Choruses

C1 A Children's Catechism

"Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus." (2 Tim 1.13)

Metre: CM
Suggested tune: Martyrdom

1. Who made you and made everything?
It was Almighty God;
I live to glorify His Name,
To love Him and His Word.
2. Are there more gods than one? Oh no!
One God in Persons Three;
The Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
The blessed Trinity.
3. And where is God? He's everywhere,
In earth and sky and sea;
There's nothing hidden from His view,
Though Him I cannot see.
4. Can God do all things? Yes, He can
Do all His holy will;
He'll bring to pass His vast designs,
His perfect plans fulfill.
5. And can this God, so pure and great,
Love me, so bad, so small?
Oh Yes! Christ died to save each one
Who on His Name shall call.

C2 Books of New Testament

"... from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus." (2 Tim 3.15)

Metre: 8886
Suggested Tune: Own tune.

1. Matthew and Mark and Luke and John,
Tell the Good News of God's dear Son;
Acts show the power of Christ at work,
Blessing the early Church.
2. Romans, Corinthians, Galatians,
Teach us the way of salvation;
Ephesians and Philipians all;
Letters from God through Paul.
3. Colossians, Thessalonians,
Warn us that Christ will come again;
Timothy, Titus, Philemon,
The Church's heavenly plan.
4. Glorious books God's Word conclude:
Hebrews, James, Peter, John and
Jude;
Lastly the Revelation ends,
God's perfect Word to men.

Books of the New Testament



C3 A Child's Question: Sadness

"... Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned" (Rom 5.12)

Metre: 77 77
Suggested tune: Buckland

- 1. Why do I feel sad and cry?
 Why must we grow old and die?
 People fight and disagree,
 Tell me why must these things be?
- 2. With our God we must begin:
 He is pure and cannot sin;
 Holy, just and full of light,
 Hating wrong and loving right.
- 3. God made man with Him to dwell,
 But our father Adam fell;
 Fell, and brought on you and me
 Sin and death and misery.
- 4. We, like Adam, disobey
 God's commandments every day;
 What a fearful state we're in!
 Guilty, foolish, full of sin.
- 5. This is why we often cry,
 This is why we have to die:
 Sin brings sorrow, death and strife;
 Christ alone gives endless life.

C4 Waves, Wind and Tide

"And he arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace, be still. And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm." (Mark 4.39)

Metre: PM
Suggested Tune: Own tune.

Waves, wind and tide
Were filling the boat,
But Jesus was sleeping in peace;
"Save us!", they cried;
Their Master awoke,
And spoke to the raging seas.

"Peace, Be still!"
And at His word
The wind and the storm stopped their
 blow;
Who is He,
But God the Son?
The wind and the waters know.

Waves, Wind and Tide



C5 Books of the Old Testament

"And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up." (Deut 6.6,7)

Metre: Irregular
Suggested Tune: Own tune.

1. Genesis and Exodus,
Leviticus and Numbers
Deuteronomy too;
These are the books
Which Moses wrote,
God gave him them for me and for you.
2. Then we come to history
To Joshua and Judges,
Ruth and Samuel and Kings;
Chronicles and Ezra,
Nehemiah, Esther,
Teaching us of heavenly things.
3. Job and Psalms are poetry
And so's the book of Proverbs,
Jewels more precious than gold;
Ecclesiastes,
And the Song of Solomon,
Wiser words shall never be told.
4. Finally there's prophecy,
Isaiah, Jeremiah,
Lamentations too;
Ezekiel and Daniel,
Hosea, Joel, Amos,
Every word is perfect and true.

5. Obadiah, Jonah and
Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk,
Words of judgement and love;
Zephaniah, Haggai,
Zechariah, Malachi,
Messengers from heaven above.

C6 Jesus Saves

"Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." (Acts 4.12)

Metre: 87 87
Suggested Tune: Stenka Razin
(Grace Hymns 398)

1. Jesus Saves! God's Word proclaims it
To the guilty and the lost;
Only He could open Heaven,
Bleed and die, to pay the cost.
2. Jesus saves! The proof was given
When the stone was rolled away;
Sin and death and hell were conquered
On that Resurrection Day
3. Jesus saves! Believe the message,
Do you fear the wrath of God ?
Do you hate the sin within you?
Turn in sorrow, Trust His blood.

Books of the Old Testament



C7 The Ten Commandments

*"The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul:
the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the
simple." (Psalm 19.7)*

*"Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring
us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith."
(Gal 3.24)*

Metre: PM
Suggested Tune: Own tune.

1. Thou shalt not serve another God,
 Nor an idol make;
 Thou shalt not take God's Name in vain,
 Nor His day forsake.

*God sees the heart! God reads the mind!
 One offence breaks all;
Guilt and Lost! Helpless we stand!
 Call on the Saviour, call.*

2. Honour your parents, murder not,
 Faithful you remain;
 Thou shalt not steal and must not lie,
 Nor love earthly gain.

*God sees the heart! God reads the mind!
 One offence breaks all;
Guilt and Lost! Helpless we stand!
 Call on the Saviour, call.*

C8 Isaiah 53:3-7

*"And the eunuch answered Philip, and said, I pray
thee, of whom speaketh the prophet this? of himself,
or of some other man? Then Philip opened his
mouth, and began at the same scripture, and
preached unto him Jesus." (Acts 8.34,35)*

Metre: 12.9.12.9
Suggested tune: St Clement

1. Lo! He is despised and rejected by
 sinners
 A Man of Sorrows and knowing grief;
 Our faces we hid and we meanly
 despised Him,
 And counted Him stricken by God as a
 thief.
2. But Jesus was wounded for our
 transgressions
 For our iniquities bruised was He;
 The chastisement that bringeth peace
 was upon Him,
 And His stripes will heal us from sin's
 malady.
3. And all we like sheep have gone straying
 from safety,
 We've turned each one to his own lost
 way;
 But all of our guilt and iniquity's burden,
 The LORD upon Jesus hath loaded
 that day.
4. Oh tell of His mercy! Oh sing of His
 kindness,
 Oppressed, afflicted, yet silent He;
 The Saviour is brought as a lamb to the
 slaughter,
 And gives Himself gladly on Calvary's
 tree.

The Ten Commandments



Notes

1 Enoch

Written February 2009. The information we have on Enoch is contained in Genesis 5, Hebrews 11 and Jude. This hymn attempts to combine this information into a prayer of aspiration to live as Enoch lived.

2 The Way to Refuge Marked by God

Written April 2009 to point sinners to the free promises of grace alone, and not to feelings, convictions, etc. Based on Deut 19.3, "Thou shalt prepare thee a way", referring to the duty to prepare and maintain access to the Cities Of Refuge.

3 Afflictions

Written 2009. This is more a poem than a hymn.

4 Death (the King of Terrors)

Written September 2009. Based on Job 18.14. Verse 2 draws on Psalm 55.5 and verse 4 on Romans 8

5 Psalm 45

Written August 2009. The Psalm is wholly messianic. The Hebrew verb translated "inditing" in Ps 45.1 probably means "to seethe a fire". Calvin translates "my heart is boiling over with a good matter". May God so fill our hearts with the theme of Christ!

6 The Virtuous Wife

Written as a poem, not a hymn, in the 1990s. Verse 3 added later. Based on Proverbs 31:10-31

7 Gospel Days

Written: 2009; Based on Isaiah 60.1-5

8 Bethlehem

Written April 2009. "Bethlehem" must be sung as just two syllables, i.e. Bethl'hem

9 God Praised for The Reformation

This is a Song rather than a Hymn. It has a historical rather than a Biblical theme.

Written April 2009. My contribution towards

the commemoration of Calvin's birth in 1509!

Originally I had Luther down as a "rugged Teuton" but after reading D'Aubigné I changed this to "rugged Saxon"

10 A Prayer for Loved Ones

Composed November 2009. Verse 4 is a reference to Matt 10.34 ff.

11 Baptism

Written April 2009. There seems to be a lack of hymns in recent hymn books reflecting the convictions of Baptists on this ordinance. Pastor Hill suggested that I write a hymn on this subject.

12 Jesus Wept!

Written February 2010. Pastor Hill was preaching on the raising of Lazarus at this time. Based on John 11.35.

13 The Reformation "Sola"s

Written May 2010. There is a problem setting the five Solas to metre: "Soli Deo Gloria" has a different rhythmic pattern from the other Solas. The solution I have adopted is to use a tune with a steady metre and little variation in emphasis throughout.

14 A Debt of Love

Written August 2010

15 True Worship

Written August 2010 to uphold the Regulative principle of worship (i.e. worship must contain only what God has explicitly commanded).

Based on Hebrews 12.28.

Verse 2 refers to the sin of Nadab and Abihu recorded in Lev 10.

Verse 3 refers to Christ's own teaching on worship in John 4.22-24.

Verse 4 returns to Hebrews. Those practising the true spiritual worship of 12.28 are of the same faith as the saints described in chapter 11.

16 Chastisement

Written May 2010. Reference to Hebrews 12, and in verse 4 to Luke 22.33, 62; 2 Samuel 11; Psalm 51; etc.

17 What Hath God Wrought!

Written August 2010. Based on Balaam's prophecies in Numbers 23. The keynote of the hymn is struck by v23. Stanza 1 speaks of the multitude of the saved (v10); Stanza 2 of their justification (v21); Stanza 3 of God's forming a Church on earth (v22); Stanza 4 of the protection of the Church against her enemies (v23). Stanza 5 looks ahead to glory (see Rev 5.8).

18 Jesus' Presence Desired

Written April 2011. Based on Luke's account of the Resurrection.

Verse 1 – Luke 24.36

Verse 2 – Luke 24.15, 32

Verse 3 – Luke 24.25

Verse 4 – Luke 24.38, 39

Verse 5 – Luke 24.48-50

19 A Wedding Hymn

Written May 2011. As well as the obvious references to Gen 1-3, verse 3 refers to Eccl 4.12.

20 Unsearchable Riches

Written May 2011. Verse 3 added Dec 2015. Scriptures referred to include: John 12.21; Gal 3.1; Matt 17.8; Eph 3.8,18,19; Heb 11.27; 1 Kings 19.8; Heb 10.22; 1 Tim 6.16. The tune "He Hideth my Soul" is not in many British hymn books, so has been included in this booklet.

21 Little Foxes

Written June 2010. Based on Song of Solomon 2.15, "*Take us the foxes, the little foxes, that spoil the vines: for our vines have tender grapes*". This is a warning that "little sins" can ruin a believer's graces and a Church's witness and fellowship. Verse 4 refers to the approach of Christ to His Church (Song 2.10-14) and verse 2 refers to James 3.

22 A Trembling Soul

Written April 2011

23 Great Saviour Divine

Written May 2011. Revised April 2016.

24 Jacob's Vow Recalled

Written April 2015. Based on God's reminder in Gen 31.13 to Jacob of that memorable night at Bethel, 28.12. Christ interpreted that vision as referring to himself, John 1.51.

25 When The Enemy Comes in Like a Flood

Written May 2013 when the British Parliament had the arrogance to imagine it could redefine God's holy institution of marriage. Bible references: Isaiah 59.14,19,20; Psalm 11.3; Psalm 121.1; Isaiah 43.2; Exodus 14.21; Jude 13

26 A Song for the Men in the Church

Written June 2013. Many years ago Mr Hill suggested that I write a song for the men folk in the Church, perhaps corresponding to No 6, The Virtuous Wife. When I came to do this the words "Men of God be Strong be Loyal" came to mind, which naturally fitted the tune "Men of Harlech".

27 Ruth's Vow

Written April 2012. Based on Ruth 1.16 and Ruth 2:12. Each verse takes one element of Ruth's vow in 1.16. Verse 5 alludes to the "goel" or Kinsman-Redeemer, who so prominently features in the book of Ruth. Boaz was Ruth's Kinsman-Redeemer, and is a type of Christ

28 Follow Me

Written 2014. Each verse is based on one of the individuals with whom the Lord deals in Matt 9.57-62.

29 All-Sufficient

Written May 2013

30 Entire Inspiration

Written June 2013. Verse 1 rewritten in November 2015. Verse 4 borrows from a passage in Spurgeon's "The Greatest Fight in the World" where he likens the ditching of theology to a carriage being chased by wolves, and the travellers throwing out their most valuable possessions. "*Throw out natural depravity, eternal punishment, and the efficacy of prayer ... Sacrifice the great sacrifice! Have done with the atonement!*".

It also draws on the well-known words: "For want of a nail the shoe is lost, for want of a shoe the horse is lost, for want of a horse

the rider is lost.”

31 A Cry For Revival

Written 2014.

Verses 1-7 based on Isaiah 64.1-7

Verses 8 based on Isaiah 63.15

32 The Storms of Providence

Written Jan 2012 during a very grievous period for our Church. Verse 2 refers to Acts 27.41 – That which appears most contrary and dangerous to us is God’s instrument to being us to His chosen destination. Verse 4 refers to Ps 46.

33 Eternity

Completed towards the end of 2014.

Influenced by Wesley’s hymn “Thou God of Glorious Majesty” (P&H 387):

“Here on a narrow neck of land,
‘Twixt two unbounded seas I stan
Yet so insensible!

A point of time, a moment’s space,
Removes me to that heavenly place,
Or shuts me up in hell.”

34 Grace Sufficient

Written at the end of 2014 and printed on the Church’s first weekly bulletin of 2015.

Verse 4 contains a reference to 2 Sam 3.39

35 Persecution

Written April 2015 following a massacre at Garissa University, Kenya, on 2nd April.

Gunmen separate Christians – those who could not recite the Koran – and killed and beheaded 147 people, mainly students.

Based on Zech 13.7-9. The reference in verse 3 to “fined” honours those in the UK who have in recent days been persecuted for standing up for God’s holy ways.

36 God Incarnate

Written April 2015 after I noticed “Jehovah’s Witnesses” on the streets of Borehamwood.

37 The Bruised Reed

Written May 2015 to encourage those who are afflicted in spirit. Based on Isaiah 42.3. Other references to Heb 4.15,16; Ruth 3.9; Luke 10.34; 21.2; 5.13; 8.44; Song 1.4

38 Psalm 2

Written May 2015 after a judge in a Belfast Court brought in a verdict against Asher’s bakery. This hymn is dedicated to the

McArthur family for their brave and gracious stance for the truth.

39 Christ our Prophet, Priest and King

Written 2008.

40 Psalm 107

Written August 2015. This Psalm has an unusual structure. The first part comprises four miniature portraits. Each is followed by a refrain calling on men to give thanks to God. However, that refrain also starts the Psalm, so the structure is: Refrain, Verse 1, Refrain, Verse 2, Refrain, etc. The only hymns I can find in common use that follow this pattern are “All Things Bright and Beautiful” and “Thine be the glory”.

41 Psalm 133: Zion’s Unity

Written Oct 2016. A rendition of Psalm 133. I have referred in v3 to the dew that descends “from”, not “on” Hermon. See Keil & Delitzsch, who describe the dew rising from the forests of Hermon and descending on the lower hills of Israel

42 Baruch’s Reproof

Written Oct 2016. Based on God’s reproof to Baruch for seeking “great things” in this world. Verse 2 refers to Jer 36.23,24.

43 Balaam’s Desire

Written Oct 2016. Balaam was an unbeliever who loved “the wages of unrighteousness” (2 Pet 2.15), yet was constrained to covet the death of the righteous.

44 The Vale of Sorrows

Written Feb 2017. In Psalm 84.6 “Baca” means either tears or mulberry bushes (which grow in dry places). This hymn assumes the former interpretation. Verse 3 refers to Ps 97.11.

45 Behold, the Lamb of God

Written Sept 2015. Based on verses from John 1. Stanzas 1-3a: John the Baptist’s testimony in vv 29-34; Stanzas 3b: v14; Stanza 4: v18; Stanza 5: v39-41; Stanza 6: v49

46 The Incarnation

Written Dec 2016. Could also be sung as CM to St Saviour.

47 Supporting Grace

Written Dec 2016. Verse 1: Ps 119.117, Is 40.29. Verse 4: Ps 33.18, Ps 56.8, Gen 16.13,14. Verse 6: Ps 131, Ps 121.4,5

48 Psalm 46

Written Feb 2017.

49 Psalm 84

Written Feb 2017.

50 Almost Persuaded

Written July 2015.

C1 A Children's Catechism

Written 2008 for our children's' meetings. This only covers the first few questions in the catechism we use.

C2 Books of the New Testament

Written 1980s for childrens' meetings.

C3 A Child's Question: Sadness

Written June 2010.

C4 Waves, Wind and Tide

Written 1980s for childrens' meetings.

C5 Books of the Old Testament

Written 1980s for childrens' meetings.

C6 Jesus Saves

Written 1990s for a children's Bible Club

C7 The Ten Commandments

Written 1990s for childrens' meetings.

C8 Isaiah 53:3-7

Written early 2008 for children learning this passage. The melody fits the tune St Clement ("*The Day Thou Gavest Lord is Ended*"), although it is not 887 metre - it has a new syllable for each note.

