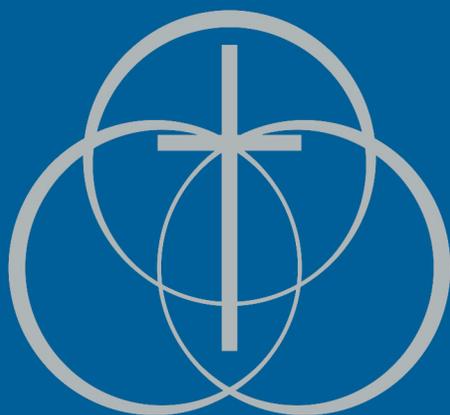
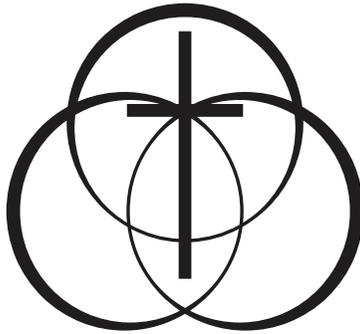


O FOR
A HEART
TO PRAISE
MY GOD



Hymns of Charles Wesley
and Scriptural Liturgies

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TO PRAISE
MY GOD



Hymns of Charles Wesley
and Scriptural Liturgies

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PREFACE

Above all sing spiritually. Have an eye to God in every word you sing. Aim at pleasing him more than yourself, or any other creature. In order to do this attend strictly to the sense of what you sing, and see that your heart is not carried away with the sound, but offered to God continually; so shall your singing be such as the Lord will approve of here, and reward you when he cometh in the clouds of heaven.

—Rev. John Wesley, “Directions for Singing,” 1761

Methodists are a singing people. Our rich tradition of singing dates back to the early days of the Holy Club when the Wesley brothers and their friends would fill their dormitory rooms at Oxford University with the hymns of Issac Watts. The power of song was further ingrained in our tradition when the Wesleys, inspired by their Moravian shipmates, sang their way through the treacherous waters of the Atlantic Ocean. This unique combination of melody and lyric has resonated in Methodist gatherings across the globe, from England to North and South America, from the Congo in Africa to the Philippines. Methodists are a singing people.

This new collection of hymns stands as a testament to the profound impact of Charles Wesley’s hymnody on the Methodist tradition and beyond. Charles Wesley, along with his brother John, played a pivotal role in the Great Awakening revival movement within the Church of England, which later blossomed into the many forms of the Methodist movement. His hymns are not merely lyrical compositions, but spiritual expressions that have resonated with generations

of believers, inspiring worship, fostering theological reflection, and nurturing personal devotion—all sung toward the goal of entire sanctification.

Charles Wesley, born on December 18, 1707, in Epworth, Lincolnshire, England, was the eighteenth child of Rev. Samuel and Susanna Wesley. From an early age, Charles displayed a keen intellect and a deep piety, traits that would profoundly shape his life's work. Beginning as a student at Christ Church College Oxford, Charles Wesley embarked on a journey to renew the spiritual life of England during a time of significant religious and social upheaval. Charles's prolific hymn writing, combined with John's gifted preaching and organizing efforts, formed the cornerstone of the Methodist movement.

The hymns of Charles Wesley are characterized by their incredible theological depth, poetic beauty, and emotional resonance. Charles possessed a remarkable ability to condense profound theological truths into verse that is accessible to all while remaining rich in spiritual content. His hymns cover a wide range of themes, including soteriology (or salvation), the Christian life, the work of the Holy Spirit, the life and ministry of Jesus Christ, and the hope of eternal life. Each hymn serves as a miniature, though complete, theological treatise, offering worshippers a means to engage deeply with their faith and to express their praise and supplication to God.

One of the hallmarks of Charles Wesley's hymnody is its ability to unite doctrine with doxology. In other words, Wesley's hymns not only teach theological truths, but also inspire heartfelt worship of the Triune God. They are vehicles of tremendous praise that enable believers to articulate their faith in song, fostering a sense of community and common devotion among worshippers. Whether sung in grand cathedrals, rural churches, or homes, Wesley's hymns have transcended time and place, encouraging worshippers to experience a life of transformation through scriptural holiness.

O for a Heart to Praise My God is a curated renewal of Charles Wesley's most beloved hymns, as well as many that may not have been sung widely by congregations since the time of Wesley. While it does not encompass the entirety of his vast six-thousand-plus hymns, it seeks to present a comprehensive representation of his work, spanning various themes and theological emphases. Each hymn included in this collection has been chosen for its theological significance and musical adaptability to primarily familiar tunes, allowing most congregations to

1 O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing

WORDS: Charles Wesley, 1739

MUSIC: Carl G. Gläser; arr. Lowell Mason, 1839

AZMON

C.M.

1. Glo - ry to God, and praise and love be
 2. On this glad day the glo - r'ous Sun of
 3. Sud - den ex - pired the le - gal strife, 'twas
 4. Then with my heart I first be - lieved, be -
 5. I felt my Lord's a - ton - ing blood close
 6. I found and owned His prom - ise true, as -
 7. Look un - to Him, ye na - tions, own your
 8. See all your sins on Je - sus laid, the
 9. Har - lots and pub - li - cans and thieves, in
 10. Mur - d'ers and all ye hell - ish crew, ye

ev - er, ev - er giv'n; By saints be - low and
 Right - eous - ness a - rose; On my be - night - ed
 then I ceased to grieve; My sec - ond, re - al,
 lieved with faith di - vine; Pow'r with the Ho - ly
 to my soul ap - plied; Me, me He loved, the
 cer - tained of my part, My par - don passed in
 God, ye fall - en race. Look, and be saved through
 Lamb of God was slain; His soul was once an
 ho - ly tri - umph join. Saved is the sin - ner
 sons of lust and pride, Be - lieve the Sav - ior

saints a - bove, the church in earth and Heav'n.
 soul He shone and filled it with re - pose.
 liv - ing life, I then be - gan to live.
 Ghost re - ceived to call the Sav - ior mine.
 Son of God, for me, for me He died.
 heav'n I knew when writ - ten on my heart.
 faith a - lone, be jus - ti - fied by grace.
 of - f'ring made for ev - 'ry soul of man.
 that be - lieves from crimes as great as mine.
 died for you, for me the Sav - ior died.

11. O for a thou - sand tongues to sing my
 12. My gra - cious Mas - ter and my God, as -
 13. Je - sus the name that charms our fears, that
 ♦ 14. He breaks the pow'r of can - celed sin, He
 15. He speaks, and lis - t'ning to His voice, new
 16. Hear Him, ye deaf; His praise, ye dumb, your
 17. In Christ, your head, you then shall know, shall

great Re - deem - er's praise, The glo - ries of my
 sist me to pro - claim, To spread through all the
 bids our sor - rows cease; 'Tis mu - sic in the
 ♦ sets the pris - 'ner free; His blood can make the
 life the dead re - ceive; The mourn - ful bro - ken
 loos - ened tongues em - ploy; Ye blind, be - hold your
 feel your sins for - giv'n; An - tic - i - pate your

God and King, the tri - umphs of His grace.
 earth a - broad, the hon - ors of Thy name.
 sin - ner's ears, 'tis life, and health, and peace.
 ♦ foul - est clean, His blood a - vailed for me.
 hearts re - joice, the hum - ble poor be - lieve.
 Sav - ior come, and leap, ye lame, for joy.
 heav'n be - low, and own that love is heav'n.

Editor's Note: The original eighteenth stanza has been consciously omitted.

2 O For a Heart to Praise My God

WORDS: Charles Wesley, 1742

MUSIC: Thomas Haweis, 1792

RICHMOND

C.M.

1. O for a heart to praise my God, a
 2. A heart re - signed, sub - mis - sive, meek, my
 3. A hum - ble, low - ly, con - trite heart, be -
 4. A heart in ev - 'ry thought re - newed and
 5. Thy na - ture, gra - cious Lord, im - part; come
 6. My heart, Thou know'st, can nev - er rest, till

heart from sin set free, a heart that al - ways
 great Re - deem - er's throne, where on - ly Christ is
 liev - ing, true, and clean, which nei - ther life nor
 full of love di - vine, per - fect and right and
 quick - ly from a - bove; write Thy new name up -
 Thou cre - ate my peace; Till, of my E - den

feels Thy blood so free - ly shed for me.
 heard to speak, where Je - sus reigns a - lone.
 death can part from Christ who dwells with - in.
 pure and good, a cop - y, Lord, of Thine.
 on my heart, Thy new, best name of Love.
 re - pos - sessed, from ev - 'ry sin I cease.

7. Fruit of Thy gracious lips, on me
 Bestow that peace unknown,
 The hidden Manna, and the tree
 Of life, and the white stone.

8. Thy nature, gracious Lord, impart!
 Come quickly from above,
 Write Thy new name upon my heart,
 Thy new, best name of love.

O For a Heart to Praise My God

3

WORDS: Charles Wesley, 1742

AZMON

MUSIC: Carl G. Gläser; arr. Lowell Mason, 1839

C.M.

1. O for a heart to praise my God, a
 2. A heart re - signed, sub - mis - sive, meek, my
 3. A hum - ble, low - ly, con - trite heart, be -
 4. A heart in ev - 'ry thought re - newed and
 5. Thy na - ture, gra - cious Lord, im - part; come
 6. My heart, Thou know'st, can nev - er rest, till

heart from sin set free, a heart that al - ways
 great Re - deem - er's throne, where on - ly Christ is
 liev - ing, true, and clean, which nei - ther life nor
 full of love di - vine, per - fect and right and
 quick - ly from a - bove; write Thy new name up -
 Thou cre - ate my peace; Till, of my E - den

feels Thy blood so free - ly shed for me.
 heard to speak, where Je - sus reigns a - lone.
 death can part from Christ who dwells with - in.
 pure and good, a cop - y, Lord, of Thine.
 on my heart, Thy new, best name of Love.
 re - pos - sessed, from ev - 'ry sin I cease.

7. Fruit of Thy gracious lips, on me
 Bestow that peace unknown,
 The hidden manna, and the tree
 Of life, and the white stone.

8. Thy nature, gracious Lord, impart!
 Come quickly from above,
 Write Thy new name upon my heart,
 Thy new, best name of love.

4 Come, O Thou Traveler Unknown

WORDS: Charles Wesley, 1742

ST. CATHERINE

MUSIC: Henri F. Hemy, 1864; adapt. James G. Walton, 1874

88.88.88

1. Come, O Thou Trav - el - er un - known, whom still I hold, but
 2. I need not tell Thee who I am, my mis - er - y and
 3. Yield to me now, for I am weak, but con - fi - dent in
 4. 'Tis Love! 'tis Love! Thou diedst for me; I hear Thy whis - per

can - not see! My com - pa - ny be - fore is gone,
 sin de - clare; Thy - self hast called me by my name,
 self - de - spair! Speak to my heart, in bless - ing speak,
 in my heart. The morn - ing breaks, the shad - ows flee;

and I am left a - lone with Thee. With Thee all night I
 look on Thy hands and read it there. But who, I ask Thee,
 be con - quered by my in - stant prayer. Speak, or Thou nev - er
 pure, U - ni - ver - sal Love Thou art. To me, to all, Thy

mean to stay, and wres - tle till the break of day.
 who art Thou? Tell me Thy name, and tell me now.
 hence shalt move, and tell me if Thy name is Love.
 mer - cies move; Thy na - ture and Thy name is Love.

205 Prayer for Bold Witnesses

Lord of the Harvest,

We thank You this day for the eternal blessings of Your love, grace, and mercy so fully expressed in Your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ.

We are grateful for the faithful witnesses who came before us and who You enabled to be the bearers of the gospel through word and deed.

Acknowledging the unfinished task, O God, we join our hearts and intercede for laborers to be sent into Your fields around the world.

We recognize that we, too, are among those laborers and therefore plead that You would stir within us, Lord, a fire burning with love and compassion for those who wander aimlessly through life like sheep without a shepherd.

May we and all who serve You be faithful to the task until that glorious day when we are joined together in eternal fellowship in Your kingdom.

In Jesus's name and for His sake,
Amen.

206 Prayer for the Global Proclamation of the Gospel

God of Grace and God of Glory,

It is at Your throne of grace, O God, that we come seeking Your unprecedented favor and Your boundless mercy!

Hear us, O Lord, and give ear to our prayers as we open our hearts unto You.

As instruments of Your divine purpose and will, we ask that You would order our steps as we seek to change the world through the power of Your Holy Spirit.

Use us as You choose; fill us as You desire; and help us to proclaim a gospel boldly that redeems, restores, and revives.

Release us, O God, and send us forth as servants who have a story to tell: the message of salvation comes from the One who loved us then, now, and forever—and His name is Jesus!

It is in the beauty and wonder of His holy name we pray.
Amen.

Prayer for an Unbounded Witness 207

Abba Father, we lift Your name on high!

You are worthy of all praise and honor.

Thank You for the promise of the nation as our inheritance.

Hear our prayers as we diligently and intentionally cry out for them.

Give us the faith to believe and expect the salvation of the peoples of the earth
as we pray with passion and compassion for them one by one.

As others took time to pray for us, help us to do the same through the leading
and power of the Holy Spirit. Break our hearts of stone and turn them into
hearts of flesh.

Deliver us from self-centeredness and increase our love for the lost.

Use us for the great harvest in these last days as You proclaimed.

Let us continue until every person and nation on earth has heard the good news
and been made disciples of Jesus Christ.

Let us continue once You have fulfilled Your promise and given us the nations.
In Jesus's name, amen.

Prayer for Worldwide Evangelism 208

We praise Your holy name, our mighty God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

In Your infinite wisdom and mercy, You chose to use the body of Christ as Your
witness in the world.

We know how imperfect we are in all our words and deeds.

Thank You for Your Spirit, who guides us and leads us daily to be a reminder and
voice in all corners of this world—about Your endless love manifested in
sending Your only Son to die for us when we were still sinners, Your atoning
sacrifice on the cross, and Your longing to become the Savior of all humanity.

Fill us with Your Spirit, O God, and give us eyes to see all opportunities You are
preparing for us to spread the good news, to serve our communities, and
lead them to You.

Use Your church to expand Your kingdom, to show Your glory so that the world
may know you.

We pray all of this in Your holy name.

Amen.

209 Prayer for a Spirit-Led Revival

Heavenly Father, pour Your Holy Spirit over the words that emanate from our hearts today!

Renew in our souls the desire to reclaim our faith and strengthen our relationship with Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, so that we can continue to grow in His image and reclaim the life that You designed for us from the beginning of creation.

Open our hearts to the sweet words of the gospel and give us boldness to proclaim the good news of salvation and perfection in love to all nations.

May Your Holy Spirit be poured over the people of the Global Methodist Church so that we can all become the living witnesses that You have called us to be so that the world may know You and Your Son Jesus Christ, whom You have sent.

In our times of doubt, let us remember if not we, then who will go to preach the truth of the gospel? If not now, then when?

May we act upon the invitation of Your Holy Spirit, who is calling us to greater things: to a bolder proclamation of Your Word; to the courageous witnessing of Your saving grace; to becoming one with Christ, one with each other, and one with the world for which Your Son gave up His life.

Amen.

210 Prayer for Worship Uniting Heaven and Earth

Sovereign Lord God,

We gather to exalt the name of Christ among the nations.

We join in the mystical union in Christ with the communion of saints and the innumerable heavenly hosts in a festive gathering known as the assembly of the firstborn, which is dedicated to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant through His shed blood.

We are grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken and offer to the triune God worship with reverence and awe.

Amen.

Inspired by Hebrews 12:22–29

Psalm 41

Beatus qui intelligit

R

- 1 **Blessed is the one who considers the poor and needy;
the LORD shall deliver him in the time of trouble.**
- 2 The LORD preserves him and keeps him alive, that he may be blessed upon
earth, and delivers him not over to the will of his enemies.
- 3 **The LORD comforts him when he lies sick upon his bed,
and restores him from his bed of sickness.**
- 4 I said, "LORD, be merciful to me;
heal my soul, for I have sinned against you."
- 5 **My enemies speak evil of me:
"When shall he die, and his name perish?"**
- 6 And if anyone comes to see me, he speaks empty words;
his heart conceives falsehood within him, and when he goes forth, he
tells it.
- 7 **All my enemies whisper together against me;
even against me are they devising evil:**
- 8 "A deadly thing has taken hold of him,
and now that he lies down, he will rise up no more."
- 9 **Indeed, even my own familiar friend, whom I trusted, who also ate of
my bread, has lifted up his heel against me.**
- 10 But be merciful to me, O LORD;
raise me up again, and I shall repay them.
- 11 **By this I know you favor me,
that my enemy does not triumph over me.**
- 12 And when I am in health, you uphold me,
and shall set me before your face for ever.
- 13 **Blessed be the LORD God of Israel,
world without end. Amen. R**

Psalm 42

*Quemadmodum***R**

- 1 **As the deer desires the water brooks,
so longs my soul for you, O God.**
- 2 My soul is athirst for God, even for the living God;
when shall I come to appear before the presence of God?
- 3 **My tears have been my food day and night,
while all day long they say to me, "Where now is your God?"**
- 4 When I think upon these things, I pour out my heart,
when I remember how I went with the multitude, and brought them
into the house of God,
- 5 **With the voice of praise and thanksgiving
among those who keep holy day.**
- 6 Why are you so full of heaviness, O my soul,
and why are you so disquieted within me?
- 7 **O put your trust in God,
for I will yet give him thanks, who is the help of my countenance,
and my God. R**

- 8 My soul is heavy within me;
therefore I will remember you from the land of Jordan, and from Mizar
among the hills of Hermon.
- 9 **One deep calls to another in the noise of your waterfalls;
all your waves and storms have gone over me.**
- 10 The LORD will grant his loving-kindness in the daytime;
and in the night season will I sing of him, and make my prayer to the
God of my life.
- 11 **I will say to God my rock, "Why have you forgotten me?
Why am I full of heaviness, while the enemy oppresses me?"**
- 12 My bones are broken asunder,
while my enemies mock me to my face,

- 13 **While all day long they say to me,
“Where now is your God?”**
- 14 Why are you so full of heaviness, O my soul,
and why are you so disquieted within me?
- 15 **O put your trust in God,
for I will yet give him thanks, who is the help of my countenance,
and my God. R**

Psalm 46

Deus noster refugium

R

- 1 **God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.**
- 2 Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved,
and though the hills be carried into the midst of the sea;
- 3 **Though its waters rage and swell,
and though the mountains shake at its tempest.**
- 4 There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy dwelling place of the Most High.
- 5 **God is in the midst of her; therefore she shall not be moved.
God shall help her at the break of day.**
- 6 The nations are in an uproar, and the kingdoms are moved,
but God has lifted his voice, and the earth shall melt away.
- 7 **The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge.**
- 8 O come and behold the works of the LORD,
what devastations he has brought upon the earth.
- 9 **He makes wars to cease in all the world;
he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the chariots in
the fire.**
- 10 “Be still then and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations, and I will be exalted in the earth.”
- 11 **The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge. R**

Psalm 57

Miserere mei, Deus

R

- 1 **Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful to me, for my soul trusts in you,
and under the shadow of your wings shall be my refuge, until this
tribulation has passed.**
- 2 I will call unto the Most High God,
even unto the God who shall fulfill his purpose for me.
- 3 **He shall send from heaven and save me; he shall confound those who
trample on me. God shall send forth his mercy and truth.**
- 4 My soul is among lions that devour the people;
their teeth are spears and arrows, and their tongue a sharp sword.
- 5 **Exalt yourself, O God, above the heavens;
let your glory be over all the earth.**
- 6 They have laid a net for my feet, and brought down my soul;
they dug a pit before me, but have fallen into the midst of it themselves.
- 7 **My heart is firmly fixed, O God, my heart is fixed;
I will sing and give praise. R**
- 8 Awake, my soul; awake, lute and harp;
I myself will awaken the dawn.
- 9 **I will give thanks unto you, O Lord, among the peoples,
and I will sing praises unto you among the nations.**
- 10 For the greatness of your mercy reaches unto the heavens,
and your truth unto the clouds.
- 11 **Exalt yourself, O God, above the heavens;
let your glory be over all the earth. R**