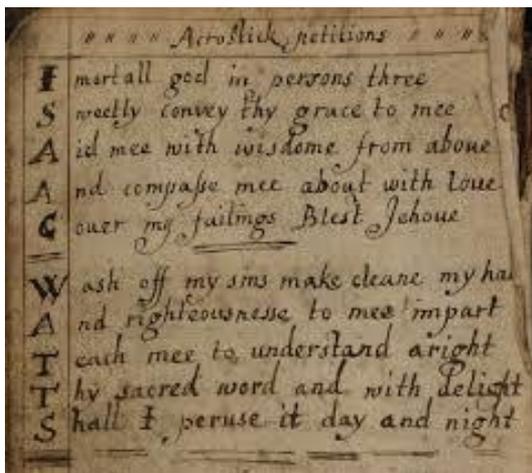


Wednesday, November 25, 2020– Christ's Church Cathedral

“WERE THE WHOLE REALM OF NATURE MINE”

**A HYMN FESTIVAL TO CELEBRATE
THE WORK OF HYMNWRITER ISAAC WATTS**



A hymn or song of praise reminds us of who God is and what we have been promised. It helps us to put word and emotion around a sense that our faith is fueled by statements which often can only be communicated through emotion to be felt by the soul. And so, a hymn festival is an occasion centered on these hymns and songs of praise— songs sung in community gathering our prayer and praises into one.

*Today's hymn festival celebrates the work and witness of **Isaac Watts** (17 July 1674 – 25 November 1748). He was an English Congregationalist minister (often known as non-conformist), hymn writer, theologian, and logician. He was a prolific and popular hymn writer and is credited with some 750 hymns and recognized therefore as the "Godfather of English Hymnody"; many of his hymns remain in use today and have been translated into numerous languages. Watts was not the first Protestant to promote the singing of hymns; however, his prolific hymn writing helped usher in a new era of English worship as many other poets followed in his path. Watts also introduced a new way of rendering the Psalms in verse for church services, proposing that they be adapted for hymns with a specifically Christian perspective. As Watts put it in the title of his 1719 metrical Psalter, the Psalms should be "imitated in the language of the New Testament."*

Concept and Commentary – David Montgomery

Animators – Anne Kae, and David Montgomery, Michael Bloss

Organist – Michael Bloss

Words of Introduction

Prayer *(all respond at the bold text)*

Creator God,
because you make all that draws forth our praise
and the forms in which to express it,
we praise you.

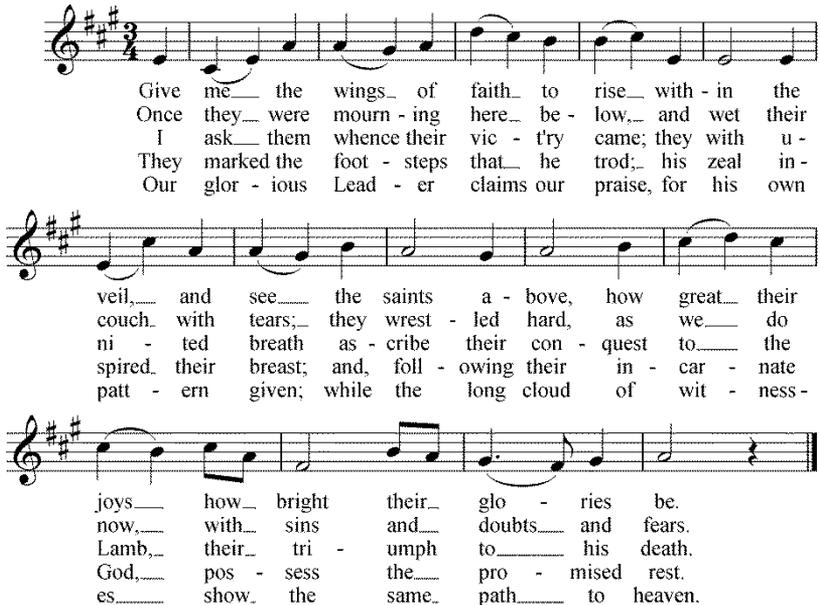
Because you make artists of us all,
awakening courage to look again at what is taken for granted,
grace to share these insights with others,
vision to reveal the future already in being,
we praise you.

Because you form your Word among us,
and in your great work embrace all human experience,
even death itself, inspiring our resurrection song,
we praise you. Yours is the glory. Amen.

Commentary

Hymn – Give Me the Wings of Faith

Music: George Smart (1776-1867). WILTSHIRE



Give me the wings of faith to rise with in the
Once they were mourn ing here be low and wet their
I ask them whence their vic tory came; they with u
They marked the foot steps that he trod; his zeal in
Our glor ious Lead er claims our praise, for his own
veil and see the saints a bove, how great their
couch with tears; they wrest led hard, as we do
ni ted breath as cribe their con quest to the
spired their breast; and, foll owing their in car nate
patt ern given; while the long cloud of wit ness
joys how bright their glo ries be.
now with sins and doubts and fears.
Lamb, their tri umph to his death.
God, pos sess the pro mised rest.
es show the same path to heaven.

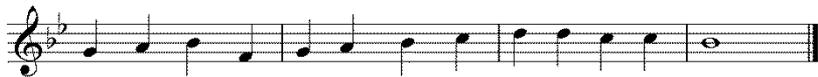
Commentary

Hymn – Come, Let us join our Cheerful Songs

Music: Henry Lahee (1826-1912). NATIVITY



Come, let us join our cheer-ful songs with an-gels round the throne; ten
"Wor-thy the Lamb that died, they cry, "to be ex - al - ted thus!" "Wor-
Je - sus is wor-ty to re-ceive hon-our and power di- vine; and
Let all cre - a - tion join in one to bless the sa - cred name of

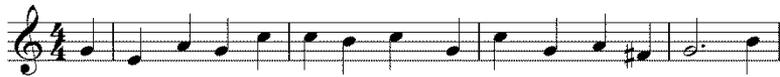


thou-sand thou-sand are their tongues, but all their joys are one.
thy the Lamb! our lips re - ply, "for he was slain for us."
bless-ings, more than we can give, be, Lord, for - ev - er thine!
God who sits up - on the throne, and to a - dore the Lamb!

Commentary

Hymn – O God, Our Help in Ages Past

Music: William Croft (1678-1727). ST. ANNE



O God, our help in a - ges past our hope for years to come; our
un - der the sha-dow of thy throne thy saints have dwelt se - cure; suf-
Be - fore the hills in or - der stood, or earth re-ceived its frame; from
A thou-sand a - ges in thy sight are like an eve-ning gone; short
Time like an ev - er roll-ing stream bears all our years a - way; they



shel - ter from the storm - y blast and our e - ter - nal home.
fi - cient is thine arm a - lone, and our de - fence is sure.
ev - er - last - ing thou art God, to end - less years the same.
as the watch that ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.
fly for - got - ten, as a dream dies at the open - ing day.

O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
be thou our guard, while troubles last,
and our eternal home

Commentary

Hymn – From All That Dwell below the skies

Music: Melody *Geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Köln, 1623. LASST UNS ERFREUEN

From all that dwell be-low the skies let the cre - a - tor's praise a -
E - ter - nal are thy mer - cies, Lord: e - ter - nal truth at - tends thy
rise: al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Let
Word; Thy
the Re - deem - er's name be sung through ev - ery land, in ev - ery
praise shall sound from shore to shore till suns shall rise and set no
tongue: Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -
more:
lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Commentary

Hymn – Jesus Shall reign Where'er the Sun

Music: John Hatton (?-1793). DUKE STREET

Je - sus shall reign wher - e'er the sun
Peo - ple and realms of ev - ery tongue
Bless - ings a - bound where - e'er he reigns;
Let ev - ery crea - ture rise and bring
doth its suc - ces - sive jour - neys run;
dwell on his love with sweet - est song,
the pri - soners leap to lose their chains;
pe - cu - liar hon - ours to our King,
his king - dom stretch from shore to shore,
and in - fant voi - ces shall pro - claim
the wear - y find e - ter - nal rest,
an - gels de - scend with songs a - gain,
till moons shall wax and wane no more.
their ear - ly bless - ings on his name.
and all who suf - fer want are blest.
and earth re - peat the loud A - men.

Commentary

Hymn: When I Survey the wondrous Cross

Music: Melody *Psalmody in Miniature*, Second Supplement, 1780.

ROCKINGHAM

1. When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss,
And pour contempt on all my pride.
2. Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,
Save in the death of Christ my God!
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to His blood.
3. See from His head, His hands, His feet,
Sorrow and love flow mingled down!
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?
4. Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a present far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all.

Prayer of Parting *(said by all)*

God of majesty,
whom saints and angels delight to worship in heaven:
Be with all your people who employ art and music for your praise,
that with joy we on earth may glimpse your beauty;
and bring us to the fulfillment of that hope of perfection
which will be ours as we stand before your unveiled glory.
We pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Prayer for People Facing Great Uncertainty

God of the present moment,
God who in Jesus stills the storm and soothes the frantic heart;
bring hope and courage to all who wait or work in uncertainty.
Bring hope that you will make them the equal of whatever lies ahead.
Bring them courage to endure what cannot be avoided,
for your will is health and wholeness;
you are God, and we need you. Amen.

The Dismissal *(all respond with the bold text)*

The love that raised Jesus from the dead be at work within you.
Let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord! Alleluia, alleluia!

In the name of Christ. Amen. Alleluia, alleluia.

Organ – Chorale Prelude on the melody “*Let Us All be Joyful*” *Healey Willan*

NEXT WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2

A SERVICE OF COMPLINE
IN THE SEASON OF ADVENT

Terry DeForest, Officiant; Michael Bloss, John Janisse, Cantors

Music and Hymn Texts reprinted as well as podcasts rights covered under OneLicense.net A-707055.
Prayer for Uncertainty taken from A New Zealand Prayer Book—He Karakia Mihinare o Aotearoa’
(adapted). Used by permission.