

1. We Would See Jesus

“We would see Jesus.” Hark, many are calling,
Wand’ring in darkness, Bound by death and sin;
“We would see Jesus, Our need is appalling,
Could you not help us, Lead us unto Him?”

We would see Jesus: Long years we have sought Him
In many ways and Places, but in vain.
We found not Jesus, Though His word has told us
He is, through countless Ages, just the same.

We would see Jesus For indeed we need Him;
We too would follow In the path He trod.
We have no anchor And no firm foundation;
We have no comfort And no hope in God.

We would see Jesus, The Christ who lived for us,
Who helped the blind man That he too might see.
Healer of sick and Cleanser of lepers,
He would have pity O’er our awful need.

Man would see Jesus! How can we His people,
We who have power the Christ of God to show
Fail to live so that Others may see in us
The life that Jesus Lived on earth below.

about→ Apparently inspired by the hymn of the same name in “Hymns Old and New,” which is number 392 in the 1987 edition.

composer→ F. Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

meter→ 11.10.11.10

tune→ Reynolds or Consolation

when-written→ 1923

2. A Song for the Day

Dear Lord of heav'n and earth grant me I pray
Thy Spirit's presence in this house of clay,
Make me a temple Thou canst use and fill,
Help me to know and do the Father's will.
And may I there in faithfulness attend
Each changeful day unto the very end;
Let there be light and joy and tuneful praise
To fill the courts of life through all my days.

*:: I am Thy temple, Lord, Thy house of clay,
Abide with me, abide alway. ::*

I have no righteousness apart from Thee,
Spirit of Truth, abide, abide with me;
No hope of heaven but Thy precious blood
Light of the world, Thou Holy Lamb of God;
Channel Thy life through mine, for thus alone
Thy strength in human weakness may be known,
Transforming guilt to love that shall transcend
All other loves unto the very end.

Cause me to hear Thy voice from day to day,
Take these things hence, put trafficking away,
Lest I become a darkened, empty tomb
To which Thy Spirit ne'er again shall come.
Then at the close of day my heart shall bring
The same sweet off'ring to my Saviour King;
Shall wait the pleasure of Thy final call,
In life or death to yield Thee up my all.

composer→ Austrian Folk Melody

meter→ 10.10.10.10.10.10.10.10.8.10.8

3. Thou Art Worthy

Thou art worthy, Thou art worthy,
Blessed Jesus, Lord of all!
Of our best, Lord, Thou art worthy,
At whose throne the angels fall!
Help us sing along the pathway
When the deeper cost we meet,
Echoes of the songs of heaven,
While we worship at Thy feet.

*For Thou hast redeemed us
To Thyself, Lord Jesus,
By the blood of Calv'ry's cross
And dark Gethsemane.*

Thou art worthy, Thou art worthy,
Lamb of God, for sinners slain!
Of our lives, Lord, Thou art worthy—
There to live Thy life again.
To receive all strength and honour,
Adoration, praise and love,
Oh, forever, Thou art worthy,
Lord and Light of heaven above!

about→ Appears in “Hymns Old and New,” 1987 edition, as number 385.

composer→ H. H. Booth (1862-1926)

meter→ 8.7.8.7.8.7.8.7.6.6.7.6

4. Who'll Fill the Ranks?

Who'll fill the ranks for the Lord of the harvest?
Harvest is ripe and the labourers few.
Great is the need and the Saviour is pleading;
Who'll fill the ranks? There is much you can do.

Who'll fill the ranks? for soldiers are falling;
Many their battles on earth almost won.
Can you deny Him the life that He gave you,
When there is still so much work to be done?

'Twill not be long till the Lord of the harvest
Takes His own to the heavens above.
Some souls may perish if thou art unwilling
To go and seek them, only for love.

Go then and work with the Lord of the harvest;
Toil on with Him till the reaping is done.
'Tis not in vain for Jesus has promised
A crown of life and eternal "Well done."

about→ Hugh Miller was in the work in California. Elma wrote this hymn after his death.

meter→ 11.10.11.10

when-written→ 1925

5. Blessed Body

Blessed Body, broken, broken
In the world for me;
Draw me in this tender token
Nearer, nearer Thee.
Lead me by the steps of love
To the darkened hill
Where Thy head was bowed in anguish
To the Father's will.

*Lived for me, lived for me,
Thy life was lived for me.
Bread of life, for all my journey,
I find in Thee.*

Thine the blood once shed for many
Making many free;
Draw me in this gentle token
Nearer, nearer Thee.
Proof of Thine undying love,
Pledge of boundless grace,
This I do in sweet remembrance
Till I see Thy face.

*Shed for me, shed for me,
Thy blood was shed for me.
Full assurance, full provision
Are seen in Thee.*

about→ “Written after we broke bread in a Spanish fellowship meeting in Los Angeles.” — Elma. It was written the day that the emblems were first included in a Spanish Sunday Fellowship Meeting in Los Angeles, CA.

composer→ C. Austin Miles

meter→ 8.5.8.5.7.5.8.5.6.6.8.4

tune→ “Redemption Songs” number 700, “Waiting, Knocking”

when-written→ 1941

6. How Shall They Hear

How shall they hear the blessed Gospel Story,
Those precious souls the Saviour died to save?
How shall they hear the message of salvation,
Of life which triumphed o'er the cruel grave?
They shall not hear except, forsaking all,
The hearts of men obey the gospel call;
Except we still obey the Master's call.

The Grecian cry, through ages long resounding,
Voices the prayer of hungry-hearted still,
To see again a living, loving Saviour,
To hear once more His voice and know His will.
"Except," again, I hear the Master say,
"A soul chooses to die, there is no way
The world may see the Christ again today."

How beautiful upon the distant mountain,
In nearby fields and on the foreign shore,
The feet of those who bear the gospel tidings
And tell the blessed story o'er and o'er.
The Lord, whose love first moved such lives to send,
Shall keep them by His Grace, their prayers attend,
Be with His servants now and to the end.

composer→ Charlie D. Tillman

meter→ 11.10.11.10.10.10

tune→ "Redemption Songs" number 776, "Unanswered yet"

when-written→ 1930

7. Precious Gold

Precious gold must have its fiery trial,
Clouds must bring the blessing of the rain;
Diamonds owe their light to cruel pressure,
Life is ushered in by death and pain.

*And my life that Thou didst take to Thee,
Worthless and formless as clay,
Needeth well to know the fiery trial
Just to stand approved on that Great Day.*

Ore of earth, the vessel of the finer,
Learns to bless the crucible and flame.
Freed by fire, the weak and earth-bound vapor
Rises to the sky from whence it came.

Thou dost work a work, and who can hinder;
Thou dost let, and who can stay Thy hand?
Wiser, better, truer for Thy dealings;
Best for me is all Thy heart has planned.

composer→ Robert A. “Bobo” King

meter→ 10.9.10.9.9.7.10.9

tune→ “Moonlight on the River Colorado”

8. Thou, Prince of Peace

Thou, Prince of Peace, rule Thou within my heart
A reign of love.

Bringing the peace and grace of Christ within,
Like that above.

Gently Thy love my heart has wooed and won
Until I humbly pray, "Thy will be done."

Thou, Prince of Peace, my spirit's Holy Guest,
Dwell Thou within!

I would my life were worthy Thy abode,
And free from sin.

There is no vict'ry other than Thine own;
Thou, Prince of Peace, possess and keep the throne.

Thou, Prince of Peace, the wisdom of my God—
The God of love—

I hide my soul within Thy firm control,
A prisoned dove.

Gladly the little that I have I bring,
With the redeemed, Thy praises gladly sing.

meter→ 10.4.10.4.10.10

tune→ "Hymns Old and New," 1935 Edition, number 9 in the Appendix, "O Soul, Give Ear." A more familiar tune is "Hymns Old and New," 1987 Edition, number 46, "Lord, Jesus Lead."

when-written→ 1930

9. Teach Me How to Choose

Lord Jesus, teach me how to choose—
A thousand choices bar my way;
I see in each a destiny,
So help me wisely choose, I pray.
Thy choices all in youth were made,
And everything that tempteth me,
A hundredfold on Thee was laid;
Why should I then not come to Thee?

*Lord Jesus, teach me how to choose;
Talk Thou with me these choices o'er.
Then let me choose as I would choose
When time and seasons are no more.*

Lord Jesus, teach me how to choose,
For I am but a little child
Within a world of mystery,
With death and darkness surging wild.
The many standards earth has set,
The joy it offers warily,
Thou didst not touch; I'd be like Thee,
O Noble Youth of Galilee.

Lord Jesus, teach me how to choose;
I'm glad that Thou dost understand
The struggle of the youthful heart,
The snares that lie on every hand.
And though I do not grasp it now,
I'll better know when life is done,
Why Thou didst point the hardest path,
Asked me the straitest course to run.

about→ Appears in "Hymns Old and New," 1987 edition, as number 130. This hymn was written for Elma's sister Edith just after her mother passed away; it was a time of decision for Edith.

composer→ T. F. Westendorf

meter→ 8.8.8.8.8.8.8.8.8.8

10. Thine Altar, Lord

Within Thy presence, Father,
My soul has found retreat;
No fears can there assail me,
No cruel foes defeat.

*Thine altar, Lord, doth rest afford;
My soul would there abide.*

How worthy are Thy dwellings,
The lives Thy love has won.
Thy love mine eye beholdeth,
And fear, shall urge me on.

The swallow and its fledgling
Have found a place of rest.
The sparrow's greatest comfort
Is in its leafy nest.

Far better in Thy presence
The smallest place to fill.
My spirit rest enjoyeth
When yielded to Thy will.

meter→ 7.6.7.6.8.6
when-written→ 1930

11. Not Unto Men I Labour

Not unto men I labour,
Not unto men I pray,
But in Thy sight, Lord Jesus,
I walk the lowly way;
And unto mine own Master,
I either stand or fall:
What men have said about me—
That will not count at all.

*My service is unto Thee, to Thee,
My service is unto Thee;
Through sorrow or pain, through loss or gain,
My service is unto Thee.*

Lord, may my steps be ordered
By Thine indwelling love,
True to Thy life's example,
True to Thy will above;
Though I may walk in shadow
Or in the noonday light,
Let me know rest of spirit
Through living in Thy sight.

I know the heart is sinful—
None dareth trust his own;
'Tis not in man that walketh
To guide his steps alone.
He only doth walk wisely,
Can be assured of right,
Who, with his eyes on Jesus,
Is walking in the light.

about→ Appears in “Hymns Old and New,” 1987 edition, as number 325.

composer→ J. Bruce Evans

meter→ 7.6.7.6.7.6.7.6.9.7.9.7

where-written→ Geyserville, CA

12. From Lips of Babes

From lips of babes, Thy perfect praise
Shall rise as incense to Thy throne;
For he who humbly Christ obeys
Doth speak with wisdom not his own.

From lips of babes, by Thy decree,
Strength is ordained to still the foe;
For so it seemeth good to Thee:
I thank Thee Thou hast planned it so.

From lips of babes, O blessed Lord,
From humble hearts— Thy Spirit's home—
The truths eternal shall be heard
That wise and prudent have not known.

Then, make of me a little child,
Though chastened oft my spirit be
Till I awaken satisfied,
And Christ be magnified in me.

about→ Appears in "Hymns Old and New," 1987 edition, as number 235, but set there to the tune "Old Hundredth."

composer→ Unknown

meter→ 8.8.8.8

tune→ "Alexander's Hymns No. 3," number 257 "New Every Morning is the Love," or "Broadman Hymnal," number 165 "Asleep in Jesus."

13. Sow the Word

Sweet words of Jesus, eternal and true—
Like seeds of springtime, sow them anew;
Speak, speak the message that maketh me whole!
The words of Jesus breathe life to my soul.

*Sow, sow the word, the Kingdom's seed!
The words of Jesus are life, life indeed.*

Sow, then, O sower, in patience and love;
Precious the message sent from above.
I, so unworthy, so weak and defiled;
Speak, speak the gospel that makes me His child.

Speak all the message, for I would be free;
All of His beauty cause me to see
That I may choose Him as life's better part,
That I may crown Him the king of my heart.

about→ Appears in "Hymns Old and New," 1987 edition, as number 62. Originally on an invitation to gospel meetings in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Aguinaga in Los Angeles, CA.

composer→ I. H. Meredith

meter→ 10.9.10.10.8.10

tune→ "Redemption Songs," number 804, "Jesus is Precious"

14. Near to Thy Heart

Blessed Saviour, draw me nearer,
Near to Thy heart;
Whisper words of truth and counsel,
Teach me my part.
Sweet the thought that Thou wilt guide me,
That Thy child may walk beside Thee,
Safely kept whate'er betide me—
Near to Thy heart.

May the storms of life but drive me
Near to Thy heart,
Where the comfort of Thy presence
Rest can impart.
Though we now go forth with weeping,
To a world in darkness sleeping,
We are safe within Thy keeping—
Near to Thy heart.

Lifted eyes behold an altar,
Near to Thy heart.
May my life be there accepted;
Worthy Thou art.
Spent in loving consecration,
For the joy of Thy salvation,
Draw my soul in meditation—
Near to Thy heart.

Blessed Saviour, draw me ever
Near to Thy heart,
All my need Thy love sufficeth,
With Thee apart.
Bound with love abiding ever
When life's silver cord must sever,
Loosed to dwell with Thee forever—
Near to Thy heart.

composer→ David Owen

meter→ 8.4.8.4.8.8.4

tune→ Ar Hyd Y Nos (Original Welsh: in English: All Through the Night). Tune appears in "Hymns Old and New," 1987 edition,
as number 195.

when-written→ Spring, 1932

15. I Stand Bereaved

I stand bereaved on the brink of time—
My best I have freely sown;
Have scattered wide with a lavish hand—
What shall I therefore own?

*Life, life, ageless life,
In exchange for my fleeting years;
The love of heav'n for my feeble love,
And joy for forgotten tears.*

O, none was so poor on the brink of time,
As Jesus, my lowly Lord;
And none was so richly blessed, as He,
Or received such a full reward.

The Sower stands as the sun sinks low
On the field and distant hill;
And the solemn hush of the twilight hour
Finds him sowing, sowing still.

Only bereaved for the briefest time,
For the Master soon will call;
Will prove the worth of the sower's choice,
And the life of giving all.

about→ To Richard Meikle. Richard was in the work in California and Oregon. His sister Lily was Elma's first companion, in Northern California.

meter→ 10.9.11.8.5.8.9.7

tune→ Heavenly Home (a hymn of this name with the proper meter could not be found, so a substitute was used)

when-written→ 1933

16. In Every Part

In every part the battle rages on,
All through the night until the break of dawn.
Be of good courage: Christ the Lord shall come;
Till then, be strong, be strong!

In every life, a conflict fierce and keen;
At every gate, an ambushed foe unseen.
Each Canaan has its Jordan yet between—
Until the Master comes.

Be not afraid— the Overcomer stands
With help and courage in His outstretched hands.
He who has led, forever understands;
For His dear sake, be strong!

Fight on— but once the battle rests with thee,
Then thou shalt rest for all eternity.
To hang thy shield of faith in victory,
O soldier brave, fight on!

about→ Appears in “Hymns Old and New,” 1987 edition, as number 375. Written at the first preparation of the Los Gatos, CA convention grounds.

composer→ Charles H. Gabriel (1856-1932)

meter→ 10.10.10.6

tune→ “Redemption Songs,” number 940, “Good Night!”

when-written→ 1937

where-written→ Los Gatos

17. Be Thou My Teacher

Loving the world, He came to His own;
God to declare, He left His fair throne.
Heavenly Teacher, Thy life has shown
Wisdom the wise of earth have not known.

*Be Thou my Teacher, Be Thou my Guide,
Oh, Lamb of God, who for me hast died.
Henceforth, the rule of my life shall rest
Upon Thy shoulder, King of the blest.*

Light in the darkness, heavenly Guide,
Leading unerring, whate'er betide;
Not comprehended, few on Thy side;
Let me, I pray Thee, with Thee abide.

Lamb without blemish, offered for me,
Lifted to shame on Calvary's tree.
Priceless atonement, making me free;
Free, heaven's blood-bought subject to be.

Loving His own, their King came to save,
Triumphed for them o'er death and the grave;
Sought their allegiance, souls true and brave,
Those who received Him power He gave.

composer→ Albert Simpson Reitz (1879-1966)

meter→ 9.9.9.9.9.9.9

tune→ "Rodeheaver's Gospel Solos and Duets, Vol. 2," number 27, "Teach Me to Pray, Lord" which also now appears in "Hymns Old and New," 1987 edition, number 197.

18. He Giveth Greater

I have not left an earthly joy untasted for Thy sake,
But I have found a fuller joy in Thee, Christ in Thee;
I have not turned away from earth's illusions,
But brighter visions have illumined me.

I have not set Thy love before all other loves,
But purer love is mine in Christ more dear, in Christ more dear;
And though His will has taken loved ones from me,
Hope He has given bringeth Heaven near.

He giveth grace, He giveth trust, and lasting peace;
He giveth power the world cannot gainsay, cannot gainsay.
He shares with us the joys of earth and heaven—
He giveth greater than He takes away.

'Tis God, the Giver of all, Who hath my life ordered;
Giveth blessing, granteth the toils of today, toils of today.
Though tried and tested, O let my spirit whisper,
"He giveth greater than He takes away."

composer→ Narciso Serradell Sevilla

meter→ 14.14.11.10

tune→ "La Golondrina" (The Swallow)

when-written→ 1933

where-written→ Miramonte, CA

19. Go, First Be Reconciled

Humbly we enter His presence,
Our best to bring;
Sweetly we tell of His mercy,
His praises sing.
Yet very near to the altar,
Christ speaketh to His child:
“To thine offended brother
Go, first be reconciled.”

*Sweetest appeal of love divine,
Breaking this stubborn heart of mine;
How near God's face,
How rich His Grace,
To brethren reconciled.*

Better we never had known Him,
Than one should lay
Thorns in the path of a brother;
Or turn away
Even the least of His children,
Feeble and sore defiled.
“To thine offended brother,
Go, first be reconciled.”

Sweet as the song of the angels;
The reconciled
Sing of the love of their Saviour,
The undefiled.
Power, through Him, has been given,
Victory to forgive,
Grace that His “little children”
In unity might live.

composer→ F. A. Clark

meter→ 8.4.8.4.8.6.7.6.8.8.8.6

tune→ “Redemption Songs,” number 920, “My Shepherd Leads”

20. I Sing of Love

I sing of love, I sing of Thee,
O spotless Lamb of Calvary!
Behold that bitter agony,
The price of the world and me.

*I sing of love, of Thee I sing,
Who art my Prophet, Priest and King.
Thy love is better far than gold;
Could I aught from its claim withhold?*

I sing of love, I sing of Thee,
Oh, lowly Man of Galilee!
Thy hallowed steps were giv'n to be
The light of the world and me.

I sing of love, I sing of Thee,
Who intercedest ceaselessly
In heav'n for those who look to Thee,
The hope of the world and me.

composer→ Thurlow Weed Lieurance (March 21, 1878- December 9, 1963)

meter→ 8.8.8.7.8.8.8.7

tune→ “By the Waters of the Minnetonka”

when-written→ 1934

where-written→ Salinas, CA

21. We Have Found Him

Ye who trace with weary hearts and sad
Those blest scenes of Galilee,
O rejoice and be forever glad!
“We have found Him— come and see!”

*“We have found Him!— Joy of the Ages!”
And our song with heaven’s gladness rings:
“We have found the Christ of whom the prophets spake;
We have found Him, King of kings.”*

Ye who hunger for the living word,
Ye who thirst for living springs,
Come, each waiting heart with joy is stirred
By the song the herald sings.

This same Christ who taught beside the sea
Walks upon the earth today,
And He comes in lowliness to thee,
Templed still in mortal clay.

“We have found Him!” Bear the tidings far,
Wheresoever men are found,
Until all who seek the Guiding Star
Shall in light and peace abound.

about→ Appears in “Hymns Old and New,” 1987 edition, as number 30.
composer→ J. R. Sweney (1837-1899)
meter→ 9.7.9.7.9.9.11.7
tune→ “Redemption Songs,” number 381, “There is Sunshine.”
when-written→ 1937

22. Pray for the Peace of the City

Pray for the peace of the city,
Set as a light on a hill;
Pray that each dwelling may prosper,
Peace all her palaces fill.
Mark well her towers and bulwarks,
Settled eternally sure;
Builted in truth upon Jesus,
She shall forever endure.

*Our God shall help her right early;
Lo, she shall never be moved;
For He as King there abideth,
Reigning o'er all His beloved.*

Pray for the peace of the city,
Pray that no evil shall harm.
All they who love her shall prosper,
Knowing no cause for alarm.
E'en though the mountains be carried
Into the depths of the sea,
God in the midst of her dwelleth;
Our rock and fortress is He.

Pray for the peace of the city,
Soon as the Bride to appear,
Coming in clouds of the morning,
Fair as the jasper stone clear.
Christ is her light and her temple,
Christ is the King on her throne;
Pray for the peace of the city
Jesus hath claimed for His own.

about→ Appears in “Hymns Old and New,” 1987 edition, as number 189, but with a different tune.

composer→ Wm. J. Kirkpatrick (1838-1921)

meter→ 8.7.8.7.8.7.8.7.8.7

scripture→ Psalm 122:6

tune→ “Hymns Old and New,” 1935 edition, number 286.

when-written→ 1937

23. Reign Over Me Christ

Oh, lowly man of Galilee,
Reign o'er me, Christ of God, reign o'er me.
I yield my heart and life to Thee,
Reign o'er me, Christ of God, reign o'er me.
E-ter-nal Life, the Truth, the Way,
Thy blood avails for me today,
As King, Thou camest, reign I pray,
Reign o'er me, Christ of God, reign o'er me.

Thou Prince of Peace and Lord of all,
Reign o'er me, Christ of God, reign o'er me.
I hear Thy high and holy call,
Reign o'er me, Christ of God, reign o'er me.
I yield to Thee my spirit's throne,
And yielding, give Thee back Thine own!
Thy pains of death my sins atone.
Reign o'er me, Christ of God, reign o'er me.

So dark and rebel is my will,
Reign o'er me, Christ of God, reign o'er me.
Each day I need Thy presence still,
Reign o'er me, Christ of God, reign o'er me.
What hope have I on earth beside
Or pilot o'er life's ocean wide
Except Thy Spirit be my guide?
Reign o'er me, Christ of God, reign o'er me.

about→ Elma wrote this hymn because Jack Carroll did not think the tune for number 24 was appropriate for a hymn.
meter→ 8.9.8.9.8.8.8.9

24. Reign Over Me Lord

Reign over me, Lord, reign over me,
Jesus of Naz'reth and Calvary!
All my allegiance, forever, is Thine,
For Thy life, in dying, purchased mine.

Not as I dream Thee, but as Thou art;
Reign Thou Lord Jesus, King of my heart.
My rebel will now I yield at Thy throne,
For I would be Thine, Lord, Thine alone.

Reign in Thy meekness, reign in Thy love,
Toward men who perish, toward God above!
Grant me the vision Thy Kingdom to see,
That Thou mayest always reign o'er me.

Reign Thou who art so worthy to reign;
Why should Thy death for us be in vain?
Son of the Father, Most High Majesty!
Jesus Christ of Naz'reth, reign o'er me!

about→ This hymn was written when Jack Carroll asked Elma to write a hymn about Jesus reigning.

composer→ Carrie Minetta Jacobs-Bond (August 11, 1862 – December 28, 1946)

meter→ 9.9.10.9

tune→ I Love You Truly

25. Pilot of Galilee

Let me abide, whate'er betide,
As Thou abid'st with me,
When round my barque, angry and dark,
Rolls a tempestuous sea.
As Thy great love with me has stayed,
By foe and weakness undismayed,
Let me abide, whate'er betide,
Loyal, oh Christ, to Thee.

*As Thou hast lent Thy life to mine,
Since first I placed my hand in Thine,
Let me abide, whate'er betide,
Loyal, oh Christ, to Thee.*

Storms shall descend, nearing the end,
Yet I'd forever cling,
Sharing the loss, bearing the cross,
Trusting through everything;
For blessed Saviour, this I know,
Each pulse, each breath to Thee I owe,
And to abide, whate'er betide
Loyal, to heaven's King.

Let me abide, whate'er betide,
Hide then Thy word within,
Cleanse by its flame, from deed and aim,
All that to Thee is sin.
Bring day by day before mine eyes
That life, that love, that sacrifice,
Which teaches me true loyalty
And bids me walk therein.

composer→ German Air

meter→ 8.6.8.6.8.8.6

tune→ Not specified, but it fits "Redemption Songs," number 144, "The Cleansing Wave," 2nd tune, called "Faith."

26. His Life was Taken From the Earth

His life was taken from the earth;
Who shall declare His generation?
Cut off to give the nations birth,
He gave Himself in expiation.
The love of God constrains
Our hearts that thus we judge:
Not for ourselves we live,
Not for ourselves we live—
But to declare His generation.

His life was taken from the earth;
Who shall declare His generation?
As every plant that springeth forth
Defies the laws of gravitation,
So shall His sons deny
Their lives for other men.
According to this call,
Each one, forsaking all,
Lives to declare His generation.

His life was taken from the earth;
Who shall declare His generation?
Oh, God, our Father, grant us yet
Thy Holy Spirit's inspiration,
That through us He may go,
His Kingdom's glory show.
For us to live be Christ,
For us to live be Christ—
And to declare His generation!

composer→ Martin Luther (10 November 1483 – 18 February 1546)

meter→ 8.9.8.9.6.6.6.9

tune→ "The Broadman Hymnal," number 38, "A Mighty Fortress is Our God"

27. Thou Hast Light, the Light of Men!

In this world of need and darkness,
Speaks my soul again, again:
“Child of God, Oh heed thy treasure;
Thou hast light, the light of men,
Thou hast light, the light of men!”

Thou hast light, the light of men!

Thou hast light, the light of men!

Thou hast light, the light of men!

Thou hast light, the precious Bible;
All of Christ is written there.
Hold it high, 'tis heaven's beacon
For earth's sorrow and despair,
For earth's sorrow and despair.

Thou hast Christ, a living presence,
Blessed Spirit from above.
Thou hast light; Oh light the dying
With the glory of His love,
With the glory of His love.

This thy burden, this thy treasure,
Child of God, from day to day.
Open wide thy soul with praises;
Lift Thy light and show the way,
Show a dying world the Way!

composer→ Letha H. Sims

meter→ 8.7.8.7.7.7.7

tune→ “Redemption Songs,” number 697, “I Have Christ!”

28. If We but Knew

If we but knew the cost at which He came,
The price whereby the veil was rent in twain,
Would we not praise as angels praise His name?
If we but knew! If we but knew!

If we but knew the sorrow and the loss,
The lonely hours, the garden, yea, the cross,
Before such love all else would be as dross,
If we but knew! If we but knew!

If we but knew the joy His heart has planned,
The strength and mercy of the outstretched hand,
Not long would He rejected, waiting stand,
If we but knew! If we but knew!

If we but knew! O Jesus, Lord of all,
Before whom angels bow and nations fall,
Lest we resist Thy sweet, insistent call,
Help us to know, help us to know.

about→ Appears in “Hymns Old and New,” 1987 edition, as number 21.

composer→ George Coles Stebbins (1846-1945)

meter→ 10.10.10.8

tune→ “Alexanders Hymns No. 3,” number 42, “If We But Knew”

when-written→ 1938

29. Go Forth, O Blessed Sower

Go forth, O, blessed sower,
Go forth with precious seed
To fields the Lord prepareth,
To weary hearts in need.
For he that goeth weeping
Shall bring to Jesus' side,
Yea, doubtless, with rejoicing,
The souls for whom He died.

*Go forth, then, go forth
To all the earth!
Christ pioneered each shore,
His blood the open door.
Then go ye therefore forth to the end of the world,
He is with you always!*

Thy precious burden, sower,
Brings hope to hopeless men,
For by the words of Jesus
The dead are born again.
Then who can stay, who knoweth
The Kingdom's seed to sow
And hears the Master bidding,
"Go, sower, gladly go"?

Go forth, O, blessed sower,
Regarding not the cost;
To Him who winds observeth
The sowing time is lost.
But he that goeth, weeping,
Without a doubt shall come,
Returning with rejoicing,
To bear the harvest home.

composer→ I. H. Meredith

meter→ 7.6.7.6.7.6.7.6.5.4.6.6.12.6

tune→ "Redemption Songs," number 184, "The Spirit Says, Come!"

when-written→ 1940

30. A Wedding Prayer

O God of Love, from heaven condescending
To form the world for the sons of men,
After the pattern of the house of heaven,
Giving us love to bind us to the end;
Thou Prince of Peace, Lord Jesus King eternal,
We pledge our vows in Thy most rev'rend name!
Keep us together, through life's joys and sorrows.
Oh, make us one, oh, make us truly one.
Oh, make us one, oh, make us truly one!

Abide with us in every earthen shelter
It be our joy and our fortune to share;
And may Thy homeless ones find rest and comfort
With us because Thy peace is there!
Through good or ill, through sickness or through sorrow,
Lord keep us near each other and to Thee.
O everlasting arms of love and pity,
Be 'round our love, be 'round our love we pray,
Be 'round our love, be 'round our love we pray.

about→ Elma was asked to write a wedding hymn. This hymn was the answer to that request.

composer→ Adolphe Charles Adam (24 July 1803 – 3 May 1856)

tune→ Cantique De Noel

when-written→ 1966

31. Love Is the Kingdom's Banner

Love is the Kingdom's banner:

Lift it against the sky,
Over the field of battle,
Where the needy cry.

Even though death assail us,
Let us His banner raise:
Hope of the dying nations,
And our Master's praise.

Love is the Kingdom's banner—

By it shall all men know
Jesus hath come and dwelleth
With His saints below.

Loving as He hath loved us,
Dwelling in unity:
This shall declare His kingdom,
Feeble though we be.

Know that the hosts of evil,
Love's banner shall assail;
But as we love and trust Him,
Jesus will prevail.

Fresh as the dew of heaven,
His graces shall descend:
He who hath loved and given,
Loveth to the end!

about→ Appears in "Hymns Old and New," 1987 edition, as number 218. This hymn was written after the flag raising at Iwo Jima in World War II in 1945.

composer→ Lowell Mason (1792-1872)

meter→ 7.6.7.5.7.6.7.5

tune→ "Diligence," which appears in "Redemption Songs," number 429, "Work for the Night is Coming"