

Sermons in Song – Hymnal Supplement

Hymns of the Saints

775 – For Builders Bold Whose Vision Pure
(Disc 2, Track 1 Christian Worship Supplement Hymn Sampler)

1. For builders bold whose vision pure
Saw more than brick or stone,
Who laid in hope foundations sure
With Christ the cornerstone;
For those who honored your commands
And trusted your strong Word,
Who offered faithful hearts and hands,
We give you thanks, O Lord.
2. As here they raised a soaring spire
Which thrusts toward worlds above,
So may our prayers, like tongues of fire,
Leap kindled by your love.
And let your living Word descend
As seed on waiting hearts
And, fruitful, there, its grace extend,
To earth's most distant parts.
3. Here saints newborn you generate
Through water and the Word;
Through bread and cup communicate
The gift of Christ the Lord.
We gather, Christ's own family;
Christ's meal of love we share.
Come, help us live in unity,
Each other's burdens bear.
4. We come, O Lord, inheritors
From those whose work is done.
Lord, make us now contributors
To years beyond our own.
Let faith's enkindled flame not fail;
Let love's best gifts increase.
Let hope in Christ's sure Word prevail
Till earth and time shall cease.

Herman G. Stuempfle, Jr., 1923-2007 © 1993 GIA
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1. For what blessings does verse one thank the people of the past?
2. Take a moment to reflect on your religious heritage. Make a list of those people from the past that you remember with thanks and give your reasons for putting them on your list.
3. Identify the images used in verse two that describe the ongoing conversation between God and his people that occurs at worship.
4. What blessings of the Church does verse three highlight?
5. What is the "vision" that verse four promotes...
... for the past?

...for the present?

...for the future?
6. Where do you fit in with those "visions" at your congregation?

7. Sing through this hymn or listen to it on the CD. How does the tune emphasize key phrases within the text?
8. Find a history of your congregation, your church body, or your denomination and read it in the week ahead. Take special note of the those people from the past whose "vision pure" influenced your present.

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Hymns of the Saints

729 – There Is a Blessed Home

(Disc 2, Track 9 Christian Worship Supplement Hymn Sampler)

1. There is a blessed home beyond this land of woe,
Where trials never come, nor tears of sorrow flow;
Where faith is fully lost in sight, and patient hope is crowned,
And everlasting light its glory casts around.
2. There is a land of peace, good angels know it well;
Glad songs that never cease within its portals swell;
Around the glor'ious throne of God the countless saints adore
Christ, with the Father one, and Spirit evermore.
3. O joy all joys beyond, to see the Lamb who died,
And count each sacred wound in hands, and feet, and side;
To give to him eternal praise for ev'ry triumph won,
And sing through endless days the great things he has done!
4. Look up, you saints of God, nor fear to tread below
The path your Savior trod of daily toil and woe:
Wait only for a little while in uncomplaining love,
His own most gracious smile will welcome you above.

Henry W. Baker, 1821-77, alt.

1. Match the descriptions of heaven from verse one below with the Bible passage(s) that fit the description:

“blessed home” _____

“trials never come” _____

“nor tears of sorrow flow” _____

“faith is fully lost in sight” _____

“patient hope is crowned” _____

“everlasting light its glory casts” _____

- A. Revelation 22:5
- B. Psalm 103:4
- C. Isaiah 60:19,20
- D. Hebrews 11:9
- E. Revelation 2:10
- F. Romans 8:25
- G. Revelation 7:16
- H. 2 Corinthians 5:7
- I. James 1:12
- J. Revelation 21:4
- K. 1 Corinthians 13:12
- L. Isaiah 35:10

2. Describe the activity of heaven as outlined in verse two.
3. If verse two spoke of our heavenly singing, verse three speaks of the content of our songs. What is that content?
4. Some have accused Christians of being so heavenly minded that they are no earthly good. How does the hymn-writer dispel that criticism in verse four?
5. Evaluate the poetry of this Sir Henry Baker hymn (you can find more information about Sir Henry Baker and a list of his hymns that appear in *Christian Worship: A Lutheran Hymnal* in *Christian Worship: Handbook*, p. 640).
6. Sing through this hymn or listen to it on the CD. How does the rhythm or pace fit the mood of the hymn?
7. Saints Triumphant (3rd Sunday of End Time) is a day on which “There Is a Blessed Home” could be sung. Saints Triumphant Sunday is a day for singing with many powerful hymns that fit the occasion. In the coming week sing through some of the great “saints triumphant” or “heaven” hymns (*Christian Worship: A Lutheran Hymnal* hymns 206-220, 549-555 and *Christian Worship: Supplement* hymns 727-731, 776).

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Hymns of the Saints

732 – We Are Singing

(Disc 2, Track 10 Christian Worship Supplement Hymn Sampler)

Refrain

We are singing, for the Lord is our light,
we are singing, for the Lord is our light.
We are singing, for the Lord is our light,
we are singing, for the Lord is our light.
We are singing, oh, we are singing,
for the Lord is our light,
We are singing, oh, we are singing,
for the Lord is our light.

1. The Lord is the strength of our lives;
Of whom shall we be afraid?
Though foes may be near to destroy;
The Lord will be our light. **Refrain**

2. One thing have we asked of the Lord,
Yes, this is the thing we seek:
To dwell in the house of the Lord;
To live with God forever. **Refrain**

3. When burdens are heavy to bear,
Our shelter is God alone.
Our feet are lifted high;
Yes, high upon a rock. **Refrain**

4. We walk in the strength of the Lord,
God's love is ever sure.
We shout that the world may hear,
We sing a joyful song. **Refrain**

South African

1. This hymn is a paraphrase of which psalm (choose from the list below):

- ❖ Psalm 130
- ❖ Psalm 1
- ❖ Psalm 27
- ❖ Psalm 98
- ❖ Psalm 46

2. Once you have pegged the correct psalm, identify which verse of the psalm is expounded by each hymn verse.

Verse one: _____

Verse two: _____

Verse three: _____

Verse four: _____

3. Think of situation(s) when the message of verse one would be a comfort.

4. What would motivate someone to seek sanctuary in God's house above all else, as in verse two?

5. How does God fulfill the kind of protection he promises in verse three?

6. List ways in which you personally, your congregation, or your church body "shouts [God's love] that the world may hear".

7. Sing through this hymn or listen to it on the CD. What is the country of origin of this hymn tune?

8. The book of Psalms has been called the "hymnal of the Bible." For that reason, the psalms have been paraphrased as metrical hymns. One of the most prolific writers of metrical psalms was Isaac Watts. On page 941 of *Christian Worship: A Lutheran Hymnal* find the list of hymns penned by Isaac Watts. During the week compare his metrical versions with the psalm upon which each is based.

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734 – When in Our Music God Is Glorified
(Disc 2, Track 13 Christian Worship Supplement Hymn Sampler)

1. When in our music God is glorified,
And adoration leaves no room for pride,
It is as though the whole creation cried:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
2. How oft, in making music, we have found
A new dimension in the world of sound
As worship moved us to a more profound
Alleluia! Alleluia!
3. So has the Church, in liturgy and song,
In faith and love, through centuries of wrong,
Borne witness to the truth in ev'ry tongue:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
4. And did not Jesus sing a psalm that night
When utmost evil strove against the light?
Then let us sing, for whom he won the fight:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
5. Let ev'ry instrument be tuned for praise;
Let all rejoice who have a voice to raise,
And may God give us faith to sing always:
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000, alt. © 1972 Hope Publishing Co

1. Read through the hymn. What is unique about the message of this hymn? How does verse one set a proper stage for a hymn about music?
2. Tell of a time when you experienced what is described in verse two. Why does music carry that kind of power?
3. How does verse three underscore the truth that worship music is more than notes on a page?
4. According to verse three what are the benefits of a solid liturgy and hymnody?
5. List at least five times that music is mentioned in the Scriptures and discuss the role it played in those passages.

6. In verse five, in what original ways does the hymn-writer encourage godliness in the motivation and use of our music?
7. Sing through this hymn or listen to it on the CD. This is one of the few hymns in *Christian Worship Supplement* that also appears in *Christian Worship: A Lutheran Hymnal* (the words are the same, but the tune is different). How do they compare?
8. What are ways that a congregation could reflect the message this hymn proclaims?
9. This Bible study has introduced you to the message of a handful of hymns from *Christian Worship Supplement*. There are many more hymns and other resources available in CWS. In the year ahead, use the resources and hymns from CWS for your home devotions.