

Everlasting God

A Festival of Hymns and Anthems based on Isaiah 40



Part One

Tuesday, March 9, 2021

Welcome

Prelude on 'Ellacombe'

Peter Niedmann

Hymn, "I Sing the Mighty Power of God"

descant by Ronald Miller

Stanza 1 – all

Stanza 2 – all in four parts

Stanza 3 – all

Reading

Isaiah 40:1-5

Hymns in Alternation

settings by John Ferguson

The choral scholars will sing one verse of "Savior of the Nations, Come," and all will respond with one verse of "Comfort, Comfort, Now My People" as noted below.

Choir: Savior of the nations, come; show the glory of the Son!

Ev'ry people stand in awe; praise the perfect Son of God.

All: "Comfort, Comfort," stanza 1

Choir: God the Father is his source, back to God he runs his course;

down to death and hell descends, God's high throne he re-ascends.

All: "Comfort, Comfort," stanza 2

Choir: Shining stable in the night, breathing vict'ry with your light;

darkness cannot hide your flame, shining bright as Jesus' name.

All: "Comfort, Comfort," stanza 3

Anthem, "Every Valley"

John Ness Beck

Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain made low;

and the crooked made straight, and the rough places plain.

And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,

and all flesh shall see it together;

for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.

(Isaiah 40:4, 5)

Reading

Isaiah 40:9

Hymn, "Joy to the World"

setting by Margaret Vardell Sandresky

Stanzas 1-4 – all in unison

Reading

Isaiah 40:6-8

Anthem, "The Earth Adorned" (stanza 3)

setting by Kenneth Jennings

O God, amid these joys of life, creation's glory beaming, grant us the grace to keep your word and live in love redeeming. All flesh is grass, the flowers fade, and time is fleeting ever; God's word remains forever.

(Waldemar Ahlen, trans. K. Jennings)

Hymn, "O God, Beyond All Praising"

setting by Richard Proulx

Stanza 1 – all

Stanza 2 – choral scholars

Stanza 3 - all

Reading

Isaiah 40:10-11

Hymn, "The King of Love My Shepherd Is"

setting by Donald Busarow

Stanza 1 – all

Stanza 2 – all in four parts

Stanza 3 – in canon (women and trebles begin, men enter one measure later)

Stanza 4 – all in four parts

Stanza 5 – in canon (women and trebles begin, men enter one measure later)

Stanza 6 – all

Anthem, "My Shepherd Will Supply My Need"

setting by Virgil Thomson

My Shepherd will supply my need, Jehovah is his Name.

In pastures fresh he makes me feed beside the living stream.

He brings my wandering spirit back when I forsake his ways.

He leads me for his mercy's sake in paths of truth and grace.

When I walk through the shades of death, thy presence is my stay.

One word of thy supporting breath drives all my fears away.

Thy hand, in sight of all my foes doth still my table spread.

My cup with blessings overflows, thine oil anoints my head.

The sure provisions of my God attend me all my days,

O may thy house be mine abode and all my work be praise.

There would I find a settled rest, while others go and come,

No more a stranger or a guest, but like a child at home.

(Isaac Watts)

Reading

Isaiah 40:12-15

Hymn, "Gracious Spirit, Heed Our Pleading"

Stanzas 1-5 – all, with the refrain sung in parts

Words of Conclusion

Choral Benediction

Knut Nystedt

The Lord bless thee and keep thee,
The Lord make his face shine upon thee and be gracious unto thee,
The Lord lift up his countenance upon thee and give thee peace. Amen.
(Numbers 6:24-26)

Part Two of "Everlasting God" will be presented next week, March 16, 2021.

Participants:

Conductor, piano, festival design – Nate Zullinger

Organ, piano – Tim Evers

Choral Scholars – Natalie Gilbert, Ellen Carlson, Matt Lista, David King

Recording Engineers – Bill Houston & Mark Fabere

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32 I Sing the Mighty Power of God

1 I sing the might - y power of God that made the moun-tains rise,
 2 I sing the good-ness of the Lord who filled the earth with food.
 3 There's not a plant or flower be - low but makes thy glo - ries known.


that spread the flow - ing seas a - broad and built the loft - y
 God formed the crea-tures through the Word, and then pro-nounced them
 And clouds a - rise, and tem-pests blow, by or - der from thy

skies. I sing the wis-dom that or - dained the sun to rule the day.
 good. Lord, how thy won-ders are dis-played, wher-e'er I turn my eye,
 throne, while all that bor-rows life from thee is ev - er in thy care,



The moon shines full at God's com-mand, and all the stars o - bey.
 if I sur - vey the ground I tread, or gaze up - on the sky!
 and ev - ery-where that we can be, thou, God, art pres-ent there.

With minimal revision this text brings together six of the eight four-line stanzas in an 18th-century hymn written for children and originally headed "Praise for Creation and Providence." The anonymous German tune provides a fitting sense of breadth and wonder.



Comfort, Comfort Now My People 87



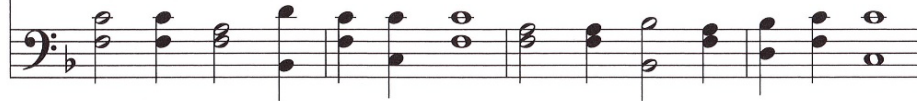

1 "Com - fort, com - fort now my peo - ple; tell of peace!" So says our God.
 2 For the her - ald's voice is cry - ing in the des - ert far and near,
 3 Straight shall be what long was crook - ed, and the rough - er plac - es plain.


"Com - fort those who sit in dark - ness mourn - ing un - der sor - row's load.
 call - ing us to true re - pen - tance, since the reign of God is here.
 Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be - fits God's ho - ly reign.

To my peo - ple now pro - claim that my par - don waits for them!
 O, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way.
 For the glo - ry of the Lord now on earth is shed a - broad,

Tell them that their sins I cov - er, and their war - fare now is o - ver."
 Let the val - leys rise in meet - ing and the hills bow down in greet - ing.
 and all flesh shall see the to - ken that God's word is nev - er bro - ken.



This 17th-century German paraphrase of Isaiah 40:1-5 was one of the texts translated as part of the 19th-century British interest in German religious poetry. It is set here to one of the most popular Genevan Psalter tunes, probably derived from an earlier French folksong.

Joy to the World

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1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let
 3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and

earth re - ceive her king; let ev - ery heart pre -
 all their songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks,
 thorns in - fest the ground; he comes to make his
 makes the na - tions prove the glo - ries of his

pare him room, and heaven and na - ture sing.
 hills, and plains re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 bless - ings flow far as the curse is found.
 righ - teous - ness and won - ders of his love.

While Isaac Watts did not write this text strictly for Christmas use, he did purposely cast his paraphrase of Psalm 98:4-9 in Christian terms, titling it "The Messiah's coming and kingdom." So "the Lord" here is Jesus Christ, rather than the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

O GOD, BEYOND ALL PRAISING

Michael Perry

THAXTED
Gustav Holst, 1874–1934
Setting by Richard Proulx



All 1. O God, be-yond all prais-ing, we wor-ship you to -
Choir 2. The flow'r of earth-ly splen-dor in time must sure-ly
All 3. Then hear, O gra-cious Sav-ior, ac-cept the love we



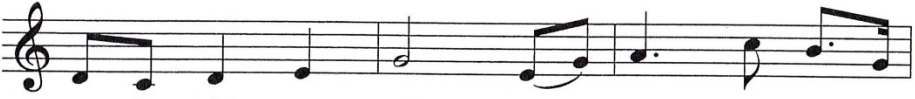
day and sing the love a-maz-ing that songs can-not re-
die, its frag-ile bloom sur-ren-der to you, the Lord most
bring, that we who know your fa-vor may serve you as our



pay; for we can on-ly won-der at ev-'ry gift you
high; but hid-den from all na-ture the e-ter-nal seed is
King; and wheth-er our to-mor-rows be filled with good or



send, at bless-ings with-out num-ber and
sown— though small in mor-tal stat-ure, to
ill, we'll tri-umph through our sor-rows and



mer-cies with-out end: we lift our hearts be-
heav-en's gar-den grown: for Christ the man from
rise to praise you still: to mar-vel at your



fore you and wait up-on your word, we
heav-en from death has set us free, and
beau-ty and glo-ry in your ways, and



hon-or and a-dore you, our great and might-y Lord.
we through him are giv-en the fi-nal vic-to-ry.
make a joy-ful du-ty our sac-ri-fice of praise.

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LIVING AND DYING IN CHRIST

802 The King of Love My Shepherd Is

(Psalm 23)

1 The King of love my shep-herd is, whose good - ness
2 Where streams of liv - ing wa - ter flow my ran - somed
3 Per - verse and fool - ish oft I strayed, but yet in
4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill with thee, dear

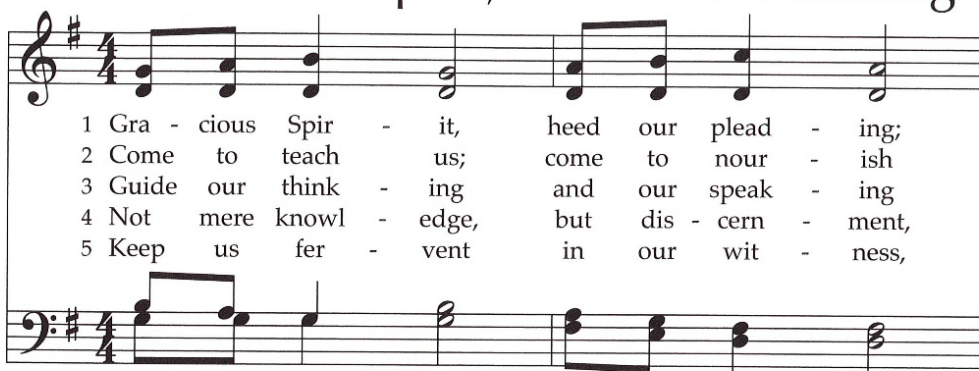
fail - eth nev - er; I noth - ing lack if
soul he lead - eth, and where the ver - dant
love he sought me, and on his shoul - der
Lord, be - side me; thy rod and staff my

I am his and he is mine for - ev - er.
pas - tures grow, with food ce - les - tial feed - eth.
gent - ly laid, and home, re - joic - ing, brought me.
com - fort still, thy cross be - fore to guide me.

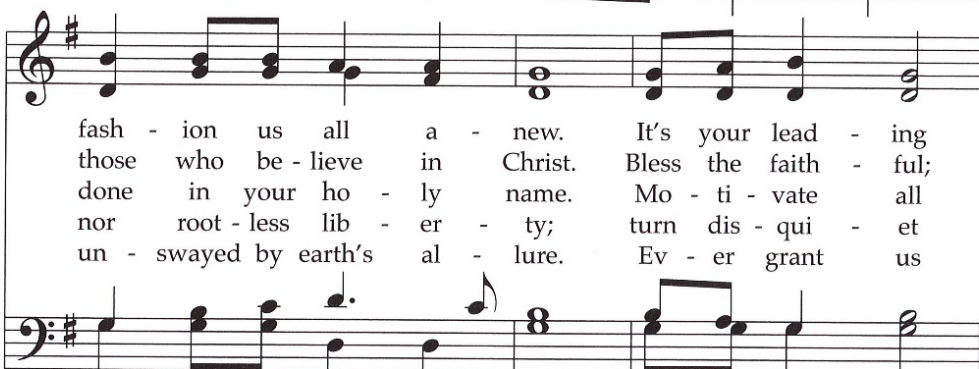
- 5 Thou spread'st a table in my sight;
thy unction grace bestoweth;
and O what transport of delight
from thy pure chalice floweth!
- 6 And so through all the length of days
thy goodness faileth never;
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise
within thy house forever.

Since its creation in the mid-19th century, this text has been one of the favorite paraphrases of Psalm 23 in the English-speaking world. That popularity increased in the early 20th century when *The English Hymnal*, 1906, first joined these words to this flowing Irish melody.

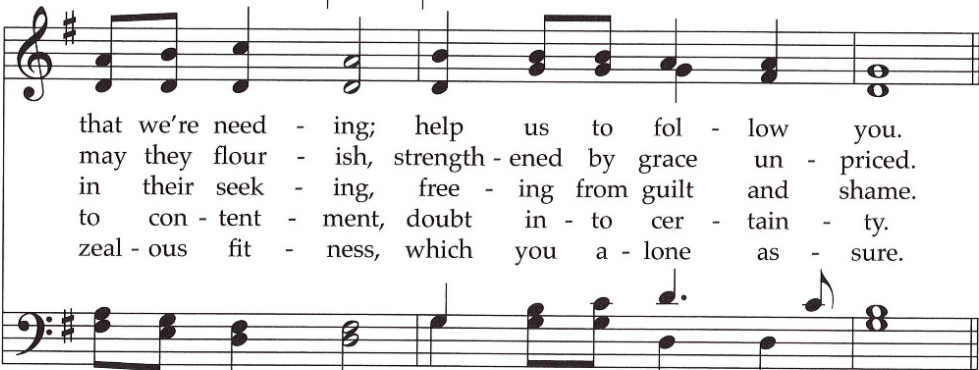
287 Gracious Spirit, Heed Our Pleading



1 Gra - cious Spir - it, heed our plead - ing;
 2 Come to teach us; come to nour - ish
 3 Guide our think - ing and our speak - ing
 4 Not mere knowl - edge, but dis - cern - ment,
 5 Keep us fer - vent in our wit - ness,



fash - ion us all a - new. It's your lead - ing
 those who be - lieve in Christ. Bless the faith - ful;
 done in your ho - ly name. Mo - ti - vate all
 nor root - less lib - er - ty; turn dis - qui - et
 un - swayed by earth's al - lure. Ev - er grant us



that we're need - ing; help us to fol - low you.
 may they flour - ish, strength - ened by grace un - priced.
 in their seek - ing, free - ing from guilt and shame.
 to con - tent - ment, doubt in - to cer - tain - ty.
 zeal - ous fit - ness, which you a - lone as - sure.

Refrain



Come, come, come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.
 Njo - o, njo - o, nj - oo, Ro - ho mwe - ma.

Originally written for the uniting of the Lutheran churches in Tanzania, this prayerful hymn touches on the need of the whole church at all times for the Holy Spirit's guidance and blessing. When appropriate, the refrain can effectively be used alone as a prayer response.