

# 436 God of Compassion, in Mercy Befriend Us

1 God of com - pas - sion, in mer - cy be - friend us,  
2 Though we are lost, you have sought us and found us,  
3 How shall we stray, with your hand to di - rect us,

giv - er of grace for our needs all - a - vail - ing.  
stilled our rude hearts with your word of con - sol - ing.  
you who the stars in their cours - es are guid - ing?

Wis - dom and strength for each day ev - er send us,  
Wrap now your peace, like a man - tle, a - round us,  
What shall we fear, with your power to pro - tect us,

pa - tience un - tir - ing and cour - age un - fail - ing.  
guard - ing our thoughts and our pas - sions con - trol - ling.  
we who walk forth in your great - ness con - fid - ing?

By ending with questions rather than simple affirmations, this text conveys a strong sense of faith in God's presence and guidance without ignoring how much of the future remains unknown. The confidence of the

# 437 You Are the Lord, Giver of Mer

Em D Em Em D Em Am  
You are the Lord, giv - er of mer - cy

Em Am D C D Em  
You are the Christ, giv - er of mer - cy

Em D G Am Em D  
You are the Lord, giv - er of mer - cy

This adaptation of the traditional *Kyrie eleison* text transforms a series of petitions into a series of affirmations. With harsher music these might have seemed bold or rash, but this plaintive setting de-

## 150 Be Thou My Vision

1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;  
2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true Word;  
3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise;  
4 High King of Heav - en, my vic - to - ry won,

naught be all else to me, save that thou art;  
I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord;  
thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways;  
may I reach heav - en's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!

thou my best thought, by day or by night,  
thou my soul's shel - ter, and thou my high tower;  
thou and thou on - ly, first in my heart,  
Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.  
raise thou me heaven - ward, O Power of my power.  
High King of Heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.  
still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

*uitar chords in Pew Edition do not correspond with keyboard harmony.*

These stanzas are selected from a 20th-century English poetic version of an Irish monastic prayer dating to the 10th century or before. They are set to an Irish folk melody that has proved popular and easily sung despite its lack of repetition and its wide range.

## 451 Open My Eyes, That I May See

1 O - pen my eyes, that I may see glimps - es of truth thou hast for me.  
2 O - pen my ears, that I may hear voic - es of truth thou send - est clear.  
3 O - pen my mouth, and let me bear glad - ly the warm truth ev - ery - where.

Place in my hands the won - der - ful key that shall un - clasp and  
And while the wave notes fall on my ear, ev - ery - thing false will  
O - pen my heart, and let me pre - pare love with thy chil - dren

set me free. Si - lent - ly now I wait for thee, read - y, my God, thy  
dis - ap - pear. Si - lent - ly now I wait for thee, read - y, my God, thy  
thus to share. Si - lent - ly now I wait for thee, read - y, my God, thy

will to see. O - pen my eyes; il - lu - mine me, Spir - it di - vine!  
will to see. O - pen my ears; il - lu - mine me, Spir - it di - vine!  
will to see. O - pen my heart; il - lu - mine me, Spir - it di - vine!

The first woman to publish a collection of her own anthems, this author / composer has created in this hymn a sung prayer for illumination. It not only asks God to help us understand Scripture but also prays for the strength and courage to make God's love known to others.

# 687 Our God, Our Help in Ages Past

(Psalm 90)

1 Our God, our help in a - ges past, our  
 2 Be - neath the shad - ow of thy throne thy  
 3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood, or  
 4 A thou - sand a - ges in thy sight are

hope for years to come, our shel - ter from the  
 saints have dwelt se - cure; suf - fi - cient is thine  
 earth re - ceived its frame, from ev - er - last - ing  
 like an eve - ning gone, short as the watch that

storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home:  
 arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.  
 thou art God, to end - less years the same.  
 ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.

- 5 Time, like an ever rolling stream,  
 bears all our years away;  
 they fly forgotten, as a dream  
 dies at the opening day.
- 6 Our God, our help in ages past,  
 our hope for years to come,  
 be thou our guard while life shall last,  
 and our eternal home.

Many people sing this hymn unaware that it paraphrases Psalm 90, partly because this text speaks so immediately to the human condition. Since the middle of the 19th century, it has usually been joined to this tune named for the London parish where the composer was organist.

# 688 Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart

1 Spir - it of God, de - scend up - on my heart;  
 2 I ask no dream, no proph - et ec - sta - sies,  
 3 Hast thou not bid us love thee, God and King;  
 4 Teach me to feel that thou art al - ways nigh.  
 5 Teach me to love thee as thine an - gels love,

wean it from earth; through all its puls - es move;  
 no sud - den rend - ing of the veil of clay,  
 all, all thine own, soul, heart, and strength, and mind?  
 Teach me the strug - gles of the soul to bear,  
 one ho - ly pas - sion fill - ing all my frame;

stoop to my weak - ness, might - y as thou art,  
 no an - gel vis - i - tant, no o - pening skies;  
 I see thy cross; there teach my heart to cling.  
 to check the ris - ing doubt, the reb - el sigh.  
 the bap - tism of the heaven - de - scend - ed Dove,

and make me love thee as I ought to love.  
 but take the dim - ness of my soul a - way.  
 O let me seek thee, and O let me find!  
 Teach me the pa - tience of un - an - swered prayer.  
 my heart an al - tar, and thy love the flame.

This reflection on Galatians 5:25 was written by a literary Anglican clergyman whose preaching drew people of many social classes to one of the formerly poorer London churches. The tune was created for "Abide with Me" (no. 836) but more often appears with the present text.