

## 438 Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me

1 Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee.  
 2 Not the la - bors of my hands can ful - fill thy law's de - mands.  
 3 Noth - ing in my hand I bring; sim - ply to thy cross I cling;  
 4 While I draw this fleet - ing breath, when my eye - lids close in death,

Let the wa - ter and the blood from thy wound - ed side which flowed  
 Could my zeal no res - pite know, could my tears for - ev - er flow,  
 na - ked, come to thee for dress, help - less, look to thee for grace;  
 when I soar to worlds un - known, see thee on thy judg - ment throne,

be of sin the dou - ble cure, cleanse from guilt and make me pure.  
 all for sin could not a - tone. Thou must save, and thou a - lone.  
 foul, I to the foun - tain fly; wash me, Sav - ior, or I die.  
 Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee.

Though scholars discredit the story that this hymn was written when the author found shelter under a large rock during a thunderstorm, the popular appeal of that conjecture perhaps lies in the energy of this plea and the vividness of its imagery drawn from many biblical sources.

439 O My Soul, Bless Your Redeemer  
(Psalm 103)

1 O my soul, bless your Re - deem - er; all with - in me bless  
 2 God for - gives all your trans - gres - sions, all dis - eas - es gent  
 3 Far as east from west is dis - tant, God has put a - way  
 4 As it was with - out be - gin - ning, so it lasts with - out

bless the Sav - ior, and for - get not all God's mer - cies to  
 God re - deems you from de - struc - tion, and with you so kind -  
 like the pit - y of a fa - ther has the Lord's com - pas -  
 to their chil - dren's chil - dren ev - er shall God's righ - teous - ness

5 Unto such as keep God's cov'nant  
 and are steadfast in God's way;  
 unto those who still remember  
 the commandments and obey.

6 Bless your Maker, all you cre  
 ever under God's control,  
 all throughout God's vast do  
 bless the Lord of all, my soul!

These stanzas are selected from sixteen that originally made up this paraphrase of Psalm 103. In two versions in the volume where they were first published. The tune used here was probably a German psalm tune but later came to be used with hymn texts.

# 761 Called as Partners in Christ's Service

1-5 (D/F#) (Em) (Asus) (A) 6 (D/F#) (Em) (A) (D)  
 Eb/G Fm Bbsus Bb Eb/G Fm Bb Eb

Bring man - y names!  
 strong moth - er God!  
 warm fa - ther God!  
 old, ach - ing God!  
 young, grow - ing God!

great, liv - ing God!

1 Called as part-ners in Christ's ser-vice, called to min-is-tries of grace,  
 2 Christ's ex-am-ple, Christ's in-spir-ing, Christ's clear call to work and worth,  
 3 Thus new pat-terns for Christ's mis-sion, in a small or glob-al sense,  
 4 So God grant us for to - mor-row ways to or - der hu - man life

we re-pond with deep com-mit-ment fresh new lines of faith to trace.  
 let us fol-low, nev-er fal-tering, rec-on-cil-ing folk on earth.  
 help us bear each oth-er's bur-dens, break-ing down each wall or fence.  
 that sur-round each per-son's sor-row with a calm that con-quests strife.

May we learn the art of shar-ing, side by side and friend with friend,  
 Men and wom-en, rich - er, poor - er, all God's peo-ple, young and old,  
 Words of com-fort, words of vi-sion, words of chal-lenge, said with care,  
 Make us part-ners in our liv-ing, our com-pas-sion to in - crease,

e - qual part-ners in our car-ing to ful-fill God's cho-sen end.  
 blend-ing hu-man skills to - geth-er gra-cious gifts from God un - fold.  
 bring new power and strength for ac-tion, make us col-leagues, free and fair.  
 mes - sen-gers of faith, thus giv-ing hope and con - fi - dence and peace.

This hymn is a celebration of mutuality and diversity as well as a challenge to the Christian community to live out a ministry of reconciliation and inclusion. This 20th-century text is set to a 19th-century tune named for the noted pastor and preacher Henry Ward Beecher.

# 306 Blest Be the Tie That Binds

1 Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in  
 2 Be - fore our \*Fa - ther's throne we pour our  
 3 We share our mu - tual woes; our mu - tual  
 4 When we are called to part, it gives us  
 5 From sor - row, toil, and pain, and sin we

Chris - tian love. The fel - low - ship of  
 ar - dent prayers. Our fears, our hopes, our  
 bur - dens bear. And of - ten for each  
 in - ward pain; but we shall still be  
 shall be free; and per - fect love and

kin - dred minds is like to that a - bove.  
 aims are one, our com - forts and our cares.  
 oth - er flows the sym - pa - thiz - ing tear.  
 joined in heart, and hope to meet a - gain.  
 friend - ship reign through all e - ter - ni - ty.

\*Or "Maker's"

Written to express a pastor's unwillingness to leave a beloved congregation, this hymn is frequently used as an expression of Christian fellowship, especially at the conclusion of the Lord's Supper. The tune is attributed to an influential Swiss musician and publisher.

# 307 God of Grace and God of Glory

1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on thy peo - ple  
 2 Lo! the hosts of e - vil round us scorn thy Christ,  
 3 Cure thy chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride  
 4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vil

pour thy power; crown thine an - cient chur - ch's sto - ry; bring  
 sail his ways! From the fears that long have bound us free  
 thy con - trol; shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness, rich  
 we de - plore. Let the gift of thy sal - va - tion be

bud to glo - rious flower. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age  
 hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age  
 things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age  
 glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age

for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour,  
 for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days,  
 lest we miss thy king - dom's goal, lest we miss thy king - dom's goal,  
 serv - ing thee whom we a - dore, serv - ing thee whom we a - dore,

This stirring hymn used at the opening of Riverside Church in New York in 1930 was penned by its well-known and influential pastor, and it has gained a firm place in English-language hymnals around the world. The Welsh tune name honors the Rhondda Valley in Glamorganshire.