



INTERNATIONAL CHURCH OF CHRIST

PRESENTS

*A day
dedicated to
Symphony*

Sunday, April 27th, 2014

10:00 am



A Day Dedicated to the Hymns

What is it?

As a congregation, we sing hundreds of songs every year, some over and over. Some of these spiritual songs are considered “Hymns”.

A “hymn” which derives from the Greek work *hymnos*, means “a song of praise”. It is a type of song, usually religious, specifically written for the purpose of praise, adoration or prayer, and typically addressed to a deity or prominent figure.

Every song has a story and an inspiration, but many of us do not know the stories behind the hymns. We do not know the name of the hymnists, the year they were written or the circumstances that made the song popular!

Understanding is an essential part of worship. As Paul says, “I will sing in the spirit, and I will also sing with my mind. For if you praise God only in the spirit, how can those who don’t understand you praise God along with you?” *1 Corinthians 14:15b-16a*

A Day Dedicated to the Hymns is a step towards understanding the purpose of our praise as a congregation. As we learn the history behind the hymns, we will see them with new eyes and sing them with new hearts.

Order of Program

1. Praise & Worship
2. Welcome
3. How Great Thou Art
4. I Surrender All
5. My Redeemer Lives
6. Great is Thy Faithfulness
7. Communion: Heart of Worship
8. Contribution: Count your Blessings
9. Hallelujah (Geoff Fawcett,)
10. Glory Glory Hallelujah
11. Blessed Assurance (Fanny Crosby)
12. Be with me Lord
13. Leaning on the everlasting arms
14. Announcements
15. Closing

How Great Thou Art

Written by: Carl Gustav Boberg

Year: 1885



How Great Thou Art was written by Carl Gustav Boberg, a 26-year old pastor in Sweden. As the story goes, Boberg was caught in a thunderstorm one Sunday afternoon after church. From his perch in the mountains, Boberg watched as the storm swept in with a bolt of lightning and massive clap of thunder. The storm hurtled through the meadows and grain fields, reverberating across the countryside with the sound of its astounding power. After the storm, pastor Boberg looked out his windows overlooking Mönsterås Bay. A rainbow spread across the sky, the birds were singing, the church bells were softly tolling, and Carl was overwhelmed by God's power and majesty. The result was an outpouring of adoration and worship in the writing of the song, O Store Gud. The song made a circuit of translations, German, Russian, and English. The song picked up a stanza from an English missionary Stuart K. Hine in 1949 when on a mission trip to a village in Ukraine, he heard the wife of a Christian couple reading from the gospel of John about the crucifixion of Christ to a houseful of guests. These guests were in the very act of repenting, an act done very much out loud in Ukraine at the time. As Hines listened from outside the house to people calling out to God, saying how unbelievable it was that Christ would die for their own sins, and praising Him for His love and mercy, he wrote down the phrases he heard the Repenters use. This became the third verse that we know today: "And when I think that God, His Son not sparing, Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in."

Now, the song is sung by millions of Christians in dozens of languages, all praying the same heartfelt prayer of "humble adoration, "My God, how great Thou art!"

I Surrender All

Written by: Judson W. Van DeVenter

Music by: Winfield S. Weeden

Year: 1896



Judson Van DeVenter was born on a farm in Michigan in 1855. Following graduation from Hillsdale College, he became an art teacher and supervisor of art in the public schools of Sharon, Pennsylvania. He was, in addition, an accomplished musician, singer, and composer.

Recognizing his talent for the ministry, friends urged him to give up teaching and become an evangelist. Van DeVenter wavered for five years between becoming a recognized artist or devoting himself to ministry. Finally, he surrendered his life to Christian service,

and wrote the text of the hymn while conducting a meeting at the Ohio home of noted evangelist George Sebring. Van DeVenter writes:

“For some time, I had struggled between de-vel-op-ing my tal-ents in the field of art and go-ing into full-time evan-gel-is-tic work. At last the pi-vot-al hour of my life came, and I sur-ren-dered all. A new day was ushered in-to my life. I became an evang-el-ist and dis-cov-ered down deep in my soul a tal-ent hi-ther-to un-known to me. God had hid-den a song in my heart, and touch-ing a ten-der chord, He caused me to sing.”



Music by: Winfield S. Weeden

In surrendering his life to God’s call, Van DeVenter gave birth to what has become his best known work in contemporary Christian life.

My Redeemer Lives

Written by: Nicole C. Mullen

Year: 1999



Nicole C. Mullen is an award winning gospel singer and songwriter. She began singing from the age of 2 and knew from her early teenage years that the only thing she wanted to do was sing. Her parents are both Pentecostal preachers so her singing began very early in the church. Mullen developed a deep passion for the word of God and

as a young lady always turned to the scriptures for inspiration, comfort and healing.

One day, as Mullen read about the story of Job, how he lost his 10 children in one day, then lost his health, wealth and wife, she caught the following verse in

Job 19:25: “I know that my redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand on the earth.”

These words formed the chorus of a song in her heart and became her source of comfort through trying times. Soon the verses began to emerge and after the song was released, My Redeemer Lives won three Dove Awards for Best Song, Best Pop Song and Songwriter of the Year in 2001.

Great is Thy Faithfulness

Written by: Thomas O. Chisholm

Music by: William Runyan

Year: 1923



Thomas Obadiah Chisholm (1866-1960) wrote a poem in 1923 about God's faithfulness over his lifetime. He had a very difficult adult life. His health was so fragile that there were periods of time when he was confined to bed, unable to work. Between bouts of illness he would have to push himself to put in extra hours at various jobs in order to make ends meet.

After coming to Christ at age 27, Thomas found great comfort in the Scriptures, and in the fact that God was faithful to be his strength in time of illness and provide his needs. Lamentations 3:22-23 was one of his favorite scriptures: *"It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is Thy faithfulness."*

While away from home on a mission trip, Thomas often wrote to one of his good friends, William Runyan, a relatively unknown musician. Several poems were exchanged in these letters. Runyan found one of Williams' poems so moving that he decided to compose a musical score to accompany the lyrics. Great is Thy Faithfulness was published in 1923.

Heart of Worship

Written by: Matt Redman

Music by: Matt Redman

Year: 1999



Matt Redman's heart of worship song came during a time when his home church in England was struggling to find meaning in its worship. Fearing that the church singing had become more like a concert or show than an act of worship, the lead pastor decided to get rid of the sound system and band. He felt that the church had lost its way in worship and the best path back to the heart would be to strip everything away. Although the initial silence in the church was embarrassing for the musicians, the congregation soon

learned to make music in their hearts, singing a cappella songs to God. The worship was refreshed and hearts were again sincere. Soon, the band and sound system were reintroduced to the church and the new foundation of worship was clear: it is all about Christ.

When the music fades, all is stripped away, and I simply come / Longing just to bring something that's of worth that will bless your heart... / I'm coming back to the heart of worship, and it's all about You, Jesus

Redman wrote the song in his bedroom as his heart's response to the lessons he had just learned about worship. Although he did not intend for it to become a global hit, it did. Heart of Worship soon became the title track for Matt Redman's 1999 album and a song loved by worshippers all over the world.

Hallelujah (Lord we sing your praises loud)

Written by: Geoff Fawcett

Music by: Geoff Fawcett

Year: 1995



Geoff Fawcett was baptized into Christ as a young man in the mid 1990's. He is a member of the Seattle, Washington International Church of Christ (United States). In his past life, he had listened to a lot of rock music and enjoyed the energy and thrill of that genre of music.

After about 8 years as a disciple and member of the church, he began to long for more rock style songs in the

church. Even though he enjoyed the songs the congregation sang, he wanted more energy. Although he only knew four chords on the guitar (the four chords in the song!) he began writing down ideas on his mind: the ultimate victory, God's work on earth and God's sovereignty.

Once completed, Hallelujah spread around the congregations of the International Church of Christ and is sung today around the world with as much zeal and passion as the writer intended.

Glory, Glory Hallelujah

Written by: Julia Ward Howe

Year: 1861



The tune of Glory Glory Hallelujah originally belonged to a song titled John Brown's body, a song sung by soldiers during the American Civil War. John Brown was an abolitionist against the slave trade that persisted in the southern part of the United States. Brown's attacks on slave owners and plantations in the South to free slaves were widely celebrated by his soldiers, even after his capture and eventual hanging after an unsuccessful raid. For years, soldiers sang the song to praise John Brown

the abolitionist but soon a battalion with a clumsy soldier named John Brown began to use it to mock him. Eventually, many feared the song had lost its reverence and minister, Reverend James Clark Freeman suggested to his friend, Julia Ward Howe, "Why don't you write some good words for that stirring tune?"

Howe remembered: "I went to bed that night as usual, and slept, according to my wont, quite soundly. I awoke in the gray of the morning twilight; and as I lay waiting for the dawn, the long lines of the desired poem began to twine themselves in my mind. Having thought out all the stanzas, I said to myself, 'I must get up and write these verses down, lest I fall asleep again and forget them.' So, with a sudden effort, I sprang out of bed, and found in the dimness an old stump of a pen which I remembered to have used the day before. I scrawled the verses almost without looking at the paper."

Starting with the words "Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the lord" Howe composed, The Battle Hymn of the Republic which we now know today as Glory Glory Hallelujah.

Blessed Assurance

Written by: Fanny Crosby

Music by: Phoebe Knapp

Year: 1873



Fanny Crosby was visiting her friend Phoebe Knapp in her home in 1873. While together, Mrs Knapp walked up to the piano and started playing a melody she had just composed.

She turned to her friend Crosby and said “What do you think the tune says?”

Crosby replied and said “Blessed Assurance, Jesus is mine”

All she heard were piano chords...but those were the words that came to her. Together they composed the hymn we know and love today, “Blessed Assurance, Jesus is mine”.

Fanny Crosby was blind yet she wrote 3000 hymns and has edified and inspired many Christians for generations.

Be with me Lord

Written by: Brian Craig

Music by: Brian Craig

Year: 1995



Brian Craig was inspired by a song on American singer Paul Simon's album Graceland which featured Ladysmith Black Mambazo, a male South African choral group. After listening to the song, the tune replayed in his head for so long that he finally put the words “Be with me Lord” to the tune.

The lyrics of the song originated from Craig's personal struggle against fears and insecurities to be confident in God and become who God created him to be. He also wrote the song to as part of the evangelistic efforts to draw courage from Christ's promise to be with his people always. With some help from Sherwin Mackintosh, another respected songwriter, Be with me Lord was shared with the world in 1995.

Since the song's debut, it has spread around the International Churches of Christ through the Songs of the Kingdom songbook and encourages Christians to seek confidence from God in every situation.

What a Fellowship

Verses by: Elisha Hoffman

Chorus and Music by: Anthony J. Showalter

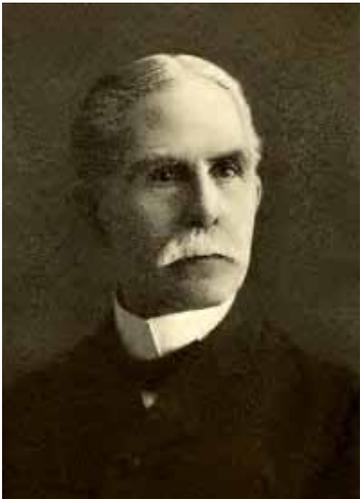
Year: 1887



In 1887, Anthony J. Showalter was in Alabama, United States. Two letters came to him from young men from South Carolina, who wrote were heartbroken. They had both lost their wives to death. Professor Showalter, moved by their sorrow, replied their letter and when looking for a verse to use to end the letter, he came across

Deuteronomy 33:27: “The eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms”

As Showalter thought about the words of the bible verse, the words “leaning on Jesus, leaning on Jesus, safe and secure from all alarms, leaning on the everlasting arms” came to him. He finished his letter to the young men and then wrote to his friend, Pastor Elisha Hoffman, telling him he had the chorus to a song, but did not have any verses. Pastor Hoffman sent back the verses in a letter to him and Professor Showalter set them to music. Words of comfort for two grieving young men became a song that inspires us today as we await heavenly fellowship.



Elisha Hoffman

References

The pictures and text contained in this booklet and all ‘Day dedicated to the Hymns’ media were sourced from public information available on the internet and discussions with the songwriters. The material is for information purposes only. For more information about these songs and their writers, please see the following sources:

- Wikipedia. <http://www.wikipedia.org>
- Cyber Hymnal. <http://www.cyberhymnal.org/>
- YouTube. <http://www.youtube.com>

