

When in the wilderness ...

September 10 2025



Hymn. 118:1–3

Holy Spirit, Light divine,
Shine upon this heart of mine;
Kindle every high desire;
Cleanse my thought in Thy pure fire.

Holy Spirit, Peace divine,
Still this restless heart of mine;
Speak to calm the tossing sea,
Stayed in Thy tranquillity.

Holy Spirit, all divine,
Dwell within this heart of mine;
Bid my troubled thoughts be still;
With Thy peace my spirit fill.

Words: ANDREW REED AND SAMUEL LONGFELLOW, ADAPTED

Music: Arr. from F. Mendelssohn

Hymn. 596:1–4

When peace, like a river, flows calmly each day,
Or sorrows like seas surge and roll,
Whatever my lot, Love has taught me to say,
It is well, it is well with my soul.

REFRAIN

It is well with my soul,
It is well, it is well with my soul.

Though terror may buffet, my joy is innate.

This unchanging thought is my goal:
That God has created my spiritual state,
And has given me strength in my soul.

REFRAIN

Lord, hasten the day when my faith shall be sight,
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll.
When trumpets shall sound and we all see the light,
I will sing, it is well with my soul.

REFRAIN

Words: HORATIO G. SPAFFORD, ADAPT.

Music: Philip P. Bliss

Hymn. 533:1–3

My life flows on in endless song
Above earth's lamentation;
I hear the sweet though far-off hymn
That hails a new creation.
Through all the tumult and the strife
I hear the music ringing;
It finds an echo in my soul.
How can I keep from singing?

What though my human comforts die,
The Lord my Savior liveth;
What though the darkness gather round,
Songs in the night God giveth.
No storm can shake my inmost calm
While to that Rock I'm clinging;
Since Love is God of heaven and earth,
How can I keep from singing?

I lift mine eyes, the cloud grows thin;

I see the blue above it.
And day by day this pathway smooths
Since first I learned to love it.
The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart,
A fountain ever springing;
All things are mine since I am God's.
How can I keep from singing?

Words: PAULINE T., ADAPT., ALT.

Music: Robert Lowry; harm. Robert Rockabrand

John 14:27

- 27 Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

Gen. 16:1, 3, 4 (to :), 11 (to ;) ; 21:9, 10 (to :), 14–17, 19, 20

- 1 Now Sarai Abram's wife bare him no children: and she had an handmaid, an Egyptian, whose name *was* Hagar.
- 3 And Sarai Abram's wife took Hagar her maid the Egyptian, after Abram had dwelt ten years in the land of Canaan, and gave her to her husband Abram to be his wife.
- 4 ¶ And he went in unto Hagar, and she conceived: ...
- 11 And the angel of the LORD said unto her, Behold, thou *art* with child, and shalt bear a son, and shalt call his name Ishmael; ...
- 9 ¶ And Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, which she had born unto Abraham, mocking.
- 10 Wherefore she said unto Abraham, Cast out this bondwoman and her son: ...
- 14 And Abraham rose up early in the morning, and took bread, and a bottle of water, and gave *it* unto Hagar, putting *it* on her shoulder, and the child, and sent her away: and she departed, and wandered in the wilderness of Beer-sheba.
- 15 And the water was spent in the bottle, and she cast the child under one of the shrubs.
- 16 And she went, and sat her down over against *him* a good way off, as it were a bowshot: for she said, Let me not see the death of the child. And she sat over

against *him*, and lift up her voice, and wept.

17 And God heard the voice of the lad; and the angel of God called to Hagar out of heaven, and said unto her, What aileth thee, Hagar? fear not; for God hath heard the voice of the lad where he *is*.

19 And God opened her eyes, and she saw a well of water; and she went, and filled the bottle with water, and gave the lad drink.

20 And God was with the lad; and he grew, and dwelt in the wilderness, and became an archer.

Rev. 12:6 (to 2nd ,)

6 And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, ...

Ruth 1:1, 3–8, 9–12 Then (to 1st ;), 14–16

1 Now it came to pass in the days when the judges ruled, that there was a famine in the land. And a certain man of Beth–lehem–judah went to sojourn in the country of Moab, he, and his wife, and his two sons.

3 And Elimelech Naomi’s husband died; and she was left, and her two sons.

4 And they took them wives of the women of Moab; the name of the one was Orpah, and the name of the other Ruth: and they dwelled there about ten years.

5 And Mahlon and Chilion died also both of them; and the woman was left of her two sons and her husband.

6 ¶ Then she arose with her daughters in law, that she might return from the country of Moab: for she had heard in the country of Moab how that the LORD had visited his people in giving them bread.

7 Wherefore she went forth out of the place where she was, and her two daughters in law with her; and they went on the way to return unto the land of Judah.

8 And Naomi said unto her two daughters in law, Go, return each to her mother’s house: the LORD deal kindly with you, as ye have dealt with the dead, and with me.

9 ... Then she kissed them; and they lifted up their voice, and wept.

10 And they said unto her, Surely we will return with thee unto thy people.

11 And Naomi said, Turn again, my daughters: why will ye go with me? *are there*

yet *any more* sons in my womb, that they may be your husbands?

12 Turn again, my daughters, go *your way*; ...

14 And they lifted up their voice, and wept again: and Orpah kissed her mother in law; but Ruth clave unto her.

15 And she said, Behold, thy sister in law is gone back unto her people, and unto her gods: return thou after thy sister in law.

16 And Ruth said, Entreat me not to leave thee, *or* to return from following after thee: for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people *shall be* my people, and thy God my God:

Ps. 68:6 (to 1st :)

6 God setteth the solitary in families: ...

Isa. 26:3

3 Thou wilt keep *him* in perfect peace, *whose mind is stayed on thee*: because he trusteth in thee.

Matt. 4:1–11

1 Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil.

2 And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungered.

3 And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread.

4 But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

5 Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple,

6 And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in *their* hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone.

7 Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.

8 Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them;

9 And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and

worship me.

10 Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.

11 Then the devil leaveth him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto him.

Matt. 6:33 seek

33 ... seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

Isa. 32:17 the

17 ... the work of righteousness shall be peace; and the effect of righteousness quietness and assurance for ever.

SH 597:16

WILDERNESS. Loneliness; doubt; darkness. Spontaneity of thought and idea; the vestibule in which a
18 material sense of things disappears, and spiritual sense unfolds the great facts of existence.

SH 133:9–10

9 In the wilderness, streams flowed
from the rock, and manna fell from the sky.

SH 57:24

24 The wintry
blasts of earth may uproot the flowers of affection, and scatter them to the winds; but this severance
27 of fleshly ties serves to unite thought more closely to
God, for Love supports the struggling heart until it ceases
to sigh over the world and begins to unfold its wings for
30 heaven.

Help and
discipline

SH 265:23–28

Who that has felt the loss of human peace has not gained
24 stronger desires for spiritual joy? The aspiration after
heavenly good comes even before we discover

Blessings
from pain

what belongs to wisdom and Love. The loss
27 of earthly hopes and pleasures brightens the ascending
path of many a heart.

SH 66:30–31

30 Sorrow has its reward. It never leaves us
where it found us.

The gold
and dross

SH 66:6

6 Trials teach mortals not to lean on a material staff, —
a broken reed, which pierces the heart. We do not
half remember this in the sunshine of joy
9 and prosperity. Sorrow is salutary. Through
great tribulation we enter the kingdom. Trials are
proofs of God's care. Spiritual development germi-
12 nates not from seed sown in the soil of material hopes,
but when these decay, Love propagates anew the higher
joys of Spirit, which have no taint of earth. Each suc-
15 cessive stage of experience unfolds new views of divine
goodness and love.

Salutary
sorrow

SH 365:31

The poor suf-
fering heart needs its rightful nutriment, such as peace,
1 patience in tribulation, and a priceless sense of the dear
Father's loving-kindness.

SH 581:4

ANGELS. God's thoughts passing to man; spiritual
intuitions, pure and perfect; the inspiration of goodness,
6 purity, and immortality, counteracting all evil, sensuality,
and mortality.

SH 213:11

Every step towards goodness is a departure from materi-
ality, and is a tendency towards God, Spirit. Material

12 theories partially paralyze this attraction towards infinite
and eternal good by an opposite attraction towards the
15 finite, temporary, and discordant.

SH 68:6

6 We ought to weary
of the fleeting and false and to cherish nothing which
hinders our highest selfhood.

SH 124:20–21, 25–26 (to 1st .)

Adhesion, cohesion, and attraction are properties of
21 Mind.

Spirit is the life, substance, and continuity of all
things.

SH 102:9

9 There is but one real attraction, that of Spirit. The
pointing of the needle to the pole symbolizes this all-
embracing power or the attraction of God, divine Mind.

SH 57:32

To happify
1 existence by constant intercourse with those adapted to
elevate it, should be the motive of society. Unity of
3 spirit gives new pinions to joy, or else joy's drooping
wings trail in dust.

SH 60:24–6

24 An ill-attuned ear calls discord harmony, not appreciat-
ing concord. So physical sense, not discerning the true
happiness of being, places it on a false basis.
27 Science will correct the discord, and teach us
life's sweeter harmonies.

Soul has infinite resources with which to bless mankind,
and happiness would be more readily attained and would

30 be more secure in our keeping, if sought in Soul. Higher
enjoyments alone can satisfy the cravings of immortal
1 man. We cannot circumscribe happiness within the
limits of personal sense. The senses confer no real
3 enjoyment.

The good in human affections must have ascendancy
over the evil and the spiritual over the animal, or happi-
6 ness will never be won.

SH 65:7–8

If the foundations of human affection are consistent
with progress, they will be strong and enduring.

SH 323:6

6 Through the wholesome chastisements of Love, we
are helped onward in the march towards righteousness,
peace, and purity, which are the landmarks
9 of Science. Beholding the infinite tasks of
truth, we pause, — wait on God. Then we push onward,
until boundless thought walks enraptured, and concep-
12 tion unconfined is winged to reach the divine glory.

A bright
outlook

SH 265:10

This scientific sense of being, forsaking matter for
Spirit, by no means suggests man's absorption into Deity
12 and the loss of his identity, but confers upon man en-
larged individuality, a wider sphere of thought and action,
a more expansive love, a higher and more permanent
15 peace.

SH 516:9–12

9 God fashions all things, after His own likeness. Life
is reflected in existence, Truth in truthfulness, God in
goodness, which impart their own peace and
12 permanence.

Love imparts
beauty

SH 506:11–12

The calm and exalted
12 thought or spiritual apprehension is at peace.

SH 45:16

Glory be to God, and peace to the struggling hearts!
Christ hath rolled away the stone from the door of hu-
18 man hope and faith, and through the reve-
lation and demonstration of life in God, hath
elevated them to possible at-one-ment with the spiritual
21 idea of man and his divine Principle, Love.

The stone
rolled away

SH 264:24

24 Spiritual living
and blessedness are the only evidences, by which we can
recognize true existence and feel the unspeakable peace
27 which comes from an all-absorbing spiritual love.

Spiritual
proofs of
existence