

SONGS

THAT SHAPED OUR FAITH

The Journey Continues

CELEBRATING THE SAME GOSPEL
ACROSS TIME AND GENERATIONS

HYMNS
A & M



1. FOUNDATIONS
OF OUR FAITH



2. GOD'S
FAITHFULNESS
THROUGH ALL
SEASONS



3. WHY THE
CHURCH
SINGS



4. REPENTANCE,
SURRENDER &
DEVOTION



5. WORSHIP
& PRAISE



6. JESUS CHRIST:
LORD, SAVIOR
& KING



7. ASSURANCE &
CONFIDENCE
IN CHRIST



8. GRACE &
SALVATION



9. HEAVEN &
THE
RESURRECTION



10. THE
CROSS



11. THE
CHRISTIAN
LIFE

*Let the word of
Christ dwell in
you richly...*
COLOSSIANS 3:16

*Sing to the Lord
a new song...*
PSALM 96:1

THY WORD
IS A LAMP
TO MY FEET
PSALM 119:105

ONE STORY.

ONE GOSPEL.

MANY SONGS.

ONE FAITH.

Jonnie W.



SONGS THAT SHAPED OUR FAITH

SURVEY RESULTS

WHAT WE LEARNED TOGETHER

*Your voices. Your insights.
Helping us celebrate what resonated
and guide our next steps.*





SONGS THAT SHAPED OUR FAITH

FAVORITE HYMNS

These hymns were the ones most of you found yourselves thinking about, singing, or appreciating more since our study.



GOD'S FAITHFULNESS THROUGH ALL SEASONS



It Is Well with My Soul
Horatio Spafford



WORSHIP AND PRAISE



How Great Thou Art
Carl Boberg / Stuart K. Hine



To God Be the Glory
Fanny Crosby / William Doane



JESUS CHRIST: LORD, SAVIOR, AND KING



*Christ the Lord
Is Risen Today*
Charles Wesley



ASSURANCE AND CONFIDENCE IN CHRIST



Blessed Assurance
Fanny Crosby



God Will Take Care of You
Civilla D. Martin / Walter Martin



GRACE AND SALVATION



Amazing Grace
John Newton



Wonderful Grace of Jesus
Haldor Lillenas



THE CROSS AND ATONEMENT



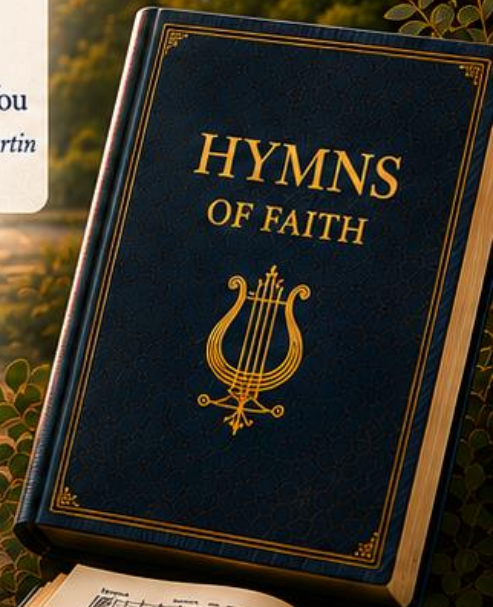
The Old Rugged Cross
George Bennard



REPENTANCE, SURRENDER, AND DEVOTION



In the Garden
C. Austin Miles





SONGS THAT SHAPED OUR FAITH

FAVORITE CONTEMPORARY SONGS

These contemporary songs were the ones most of you found yourselves thinking about, singing, or appreciating more since our study.



GOD'S FAITHFULNESS THROUGH ALL SEASONS

It Is Well

Kristene DiMarco



WORSHIP AND PRAISE

Awesome God

Rich Mullins

Agnus Dei

Michael W. Smith

10,000 Reasons

Matt Redman



JESUS CHRIST: LORD, SAVIOR, AND KING

Because He Lives

Bill & Gloria Gaither



ASSURANCE AND CONFIDENCE IN CHRIST

In Christ Alone

Keith Getty &

Stuart Townend



GRACE AND SALVATION

I Can Only Imagine

Bart Millard



THE CROSS AND ATONEMENT

Agnus Dei

Michael W. Smith



HOPE, HEAVEN, AND RESURRECTION

*What a Day
That Will Be*

Jimmy Fortune



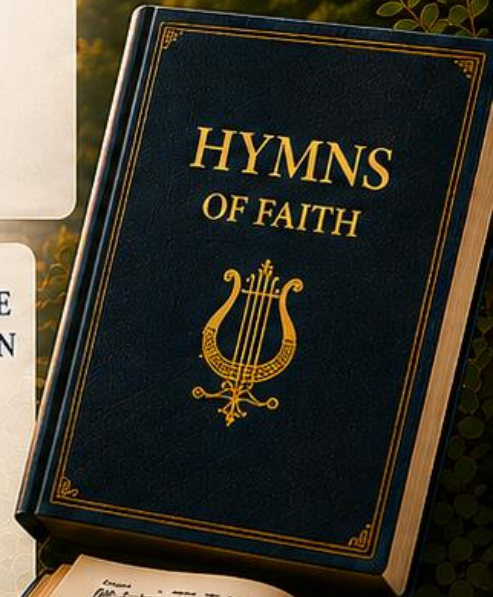
THE CHRISTIAN LIFE AND SANCTIFICATION

Step by Step

Beaker

Goodness of God

Bethel Music

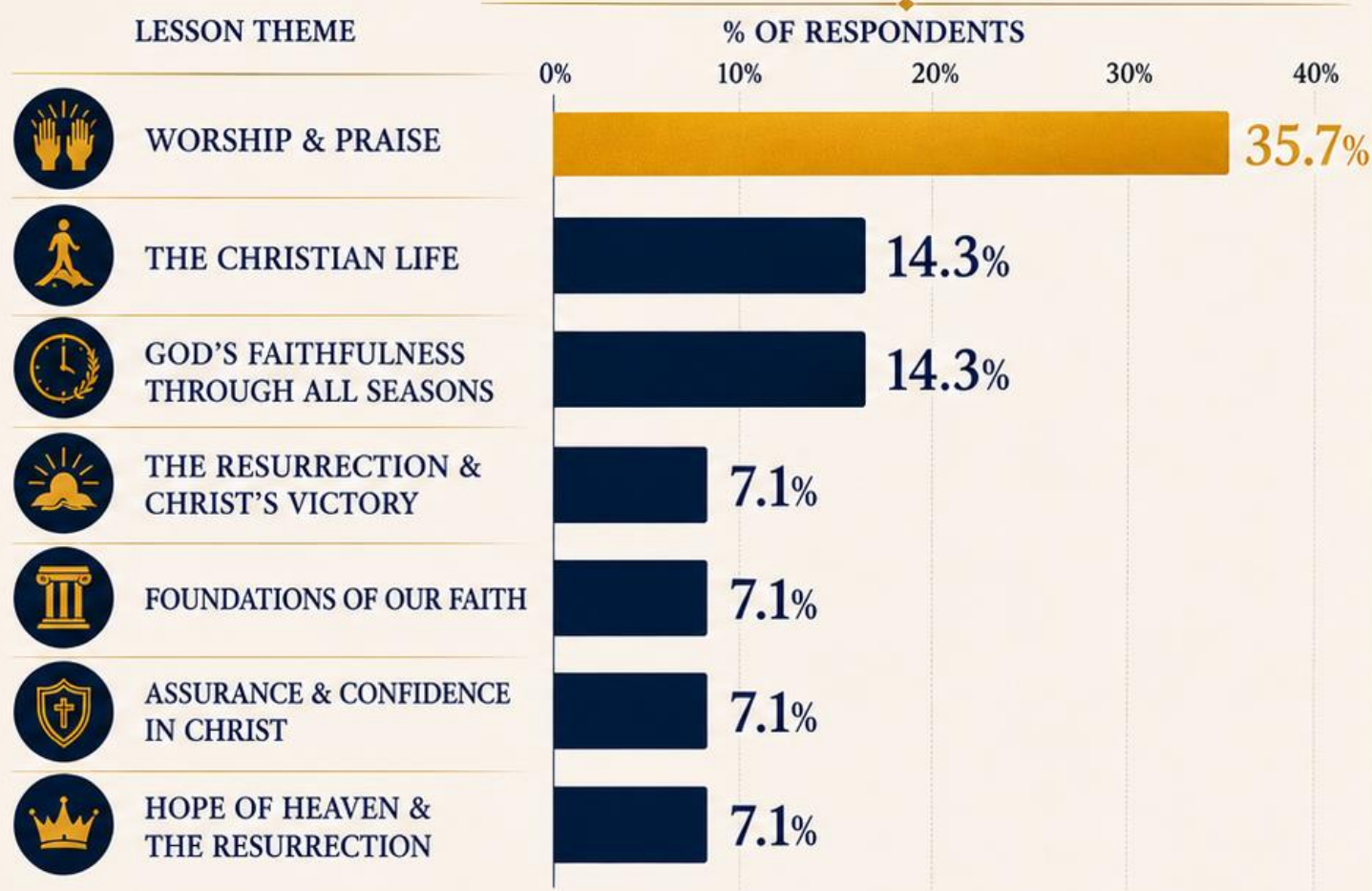




SONGS THAT SHAPED OUR FAITH

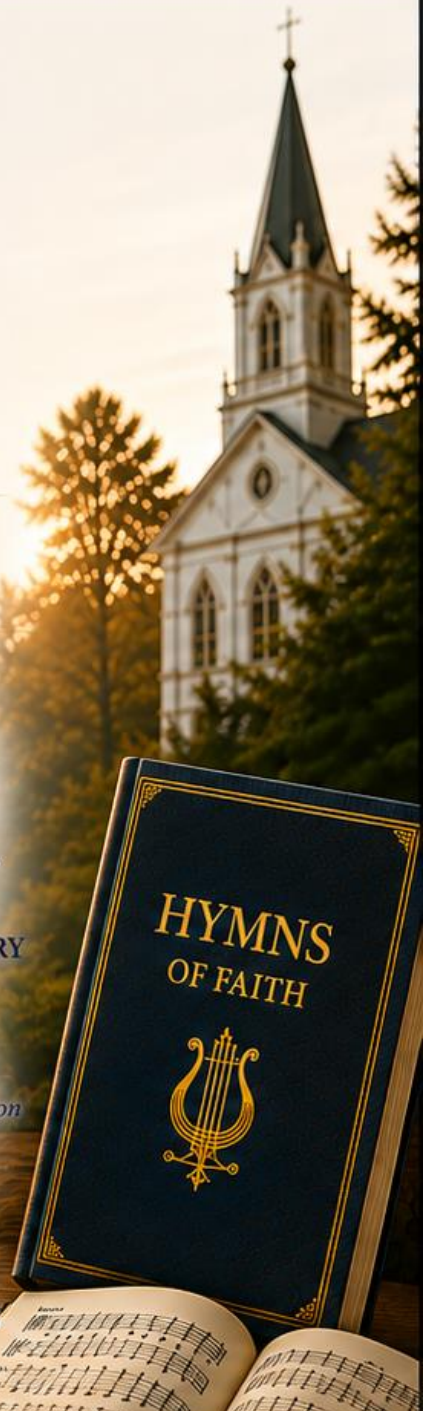
WHICH LESSON THEME IMPACTED YOU THE MOST?

Percentage of respondents selecting each lesson theme (n = 14)



SAMPLE SONGS FROM EACH THEME

- WORSHIP & PRAISE**
How Great Thou Art • Holy, Holy, Holy
10,000 Reasons • Awesome God
- THE CHRISTIAN LIFE**
Step by Step • Thy Word
Build My Life • In the Garden
- GOD'S FAITHFULNESS THROUGH ALL SEASONS**
It Is Well with My Soul • Great Is Thy Faithfulness
All the Way My Savior Leads Me
- THE RESURRECTION & CHRIST'S VICTORY**
Because He Lives • I Can Only Imagine
What a Day That Will Be • Victory in Jesus
- FOUNDATIONS OF OUR FAITH**
A Mighty Fortress Is Our God • Be Thou My Vision
Amazing Grace • The First Hymn
- ASSURANCE & CONFIDENCE IN CHRIST**
Blessed Assurance • Great Is Thy Faithfulness
In Christ Alone • Agnus Dei
- HOPE OF HEAVEN & THE RESURRECTION**
When We All Get to Heaven • Crown Him
How Firm a Foundation • It Is Well



SONGS THAT SHAPED OUR FAITH

WHICH ERA OF CHRISTIAN MUSIC DID YOU ENJOY LEARNING ABOUT MOST?

Percentage of respondents selecting each era (n = 14)

ERA OF CHRISTIAN MUSIC



CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP
(1960s–present)



VICTORIAN &
GOSPEL HYMNS
(19th century)

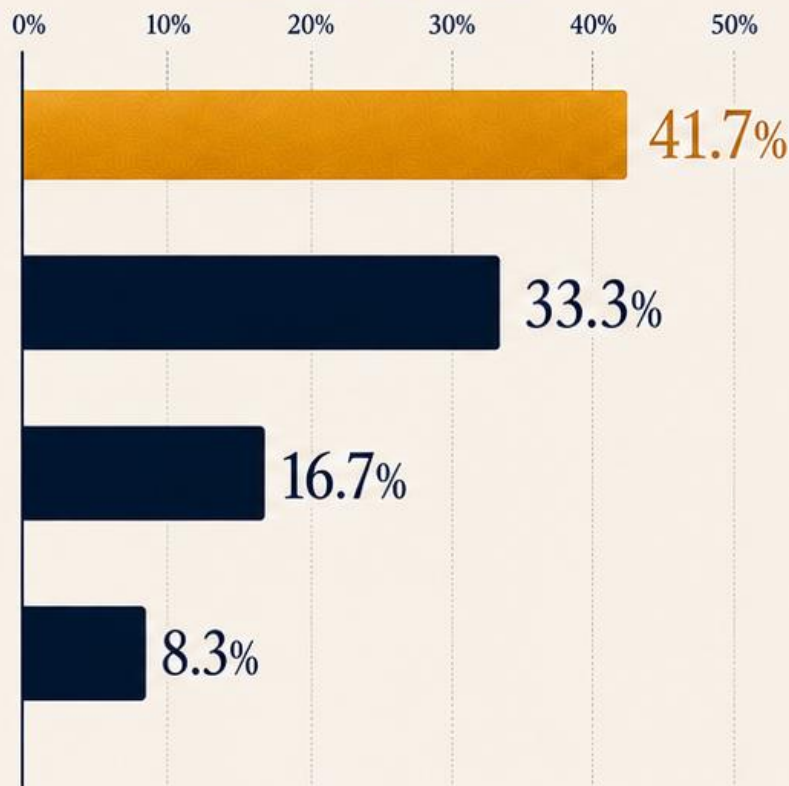


CLASSIC ENGLISH
HYMNODY
(18th century)



ANCIENT & REFORMATION
(prior to 17th century)

% OF RESPONDENTS



SAMPLE SONGS FROM EACH ERA



CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP (1960s–present)

Because He Lives • In Christ Alone • Awesome God



VICTORIAN & GOSPEL HYMNS (19th century)

*It Is Well with My Soul • Blessed Assurance
All the Way My Savior Leads Me*



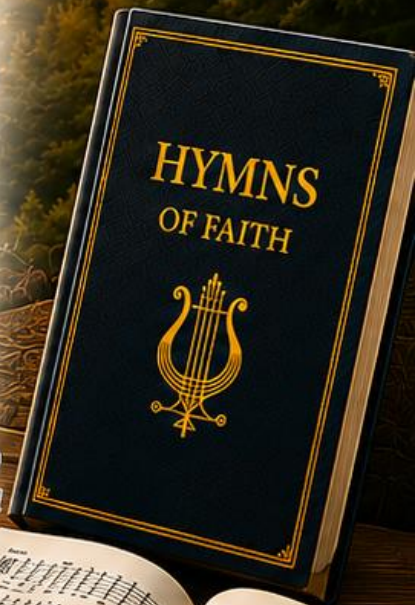
CLASSIC ENGLISH HYMNODY (18th century)

*Amazing Grace • How Firm a Foundation
O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing*



ANCIENT & REFORMATION (prior to 17th century)

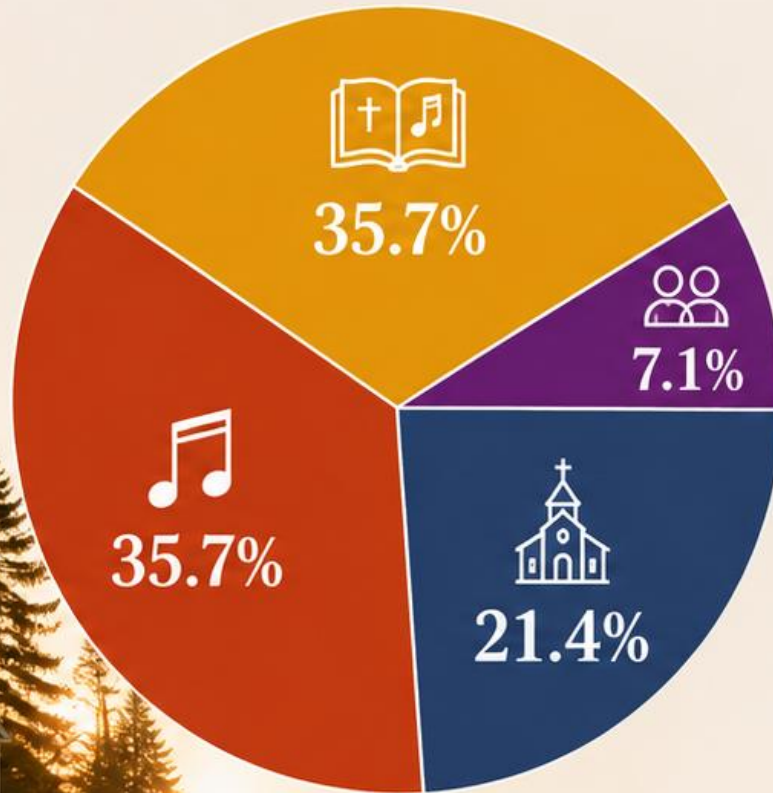
*Be Thou My Vision • A Mighty Fortress Is Our God
The First Hymn*



SONGS THAT SHAPED OUR FAITH

WHICH STATEMENT BEST DESCRIBES YOUR PREFERENCE FOR SUNDAY MORNING CONGREGATIONAL SINGING?

14 responses



I would prefer that we continue singing only traditional hymns.

21.4%



I would enjoy occasionally including carefully selected, biblically sound contemporary worship songs alongside traditional hymns.

35.7%



I would enjoy a healthy blend of traditional hymns and carefully selected, biblically sound contemporary songs.

35.7%



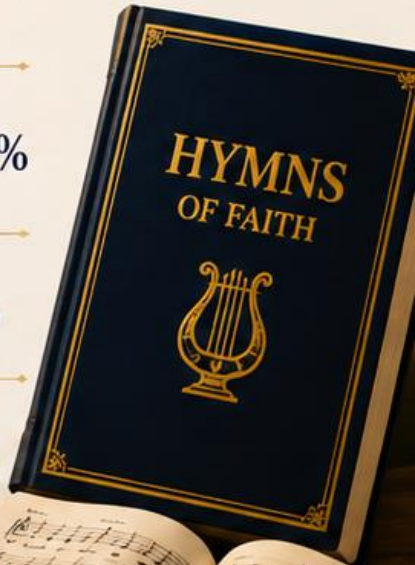
I generally prefer contemporary worship songs over traditional hymns.

0%



I appreciate both styles equally.

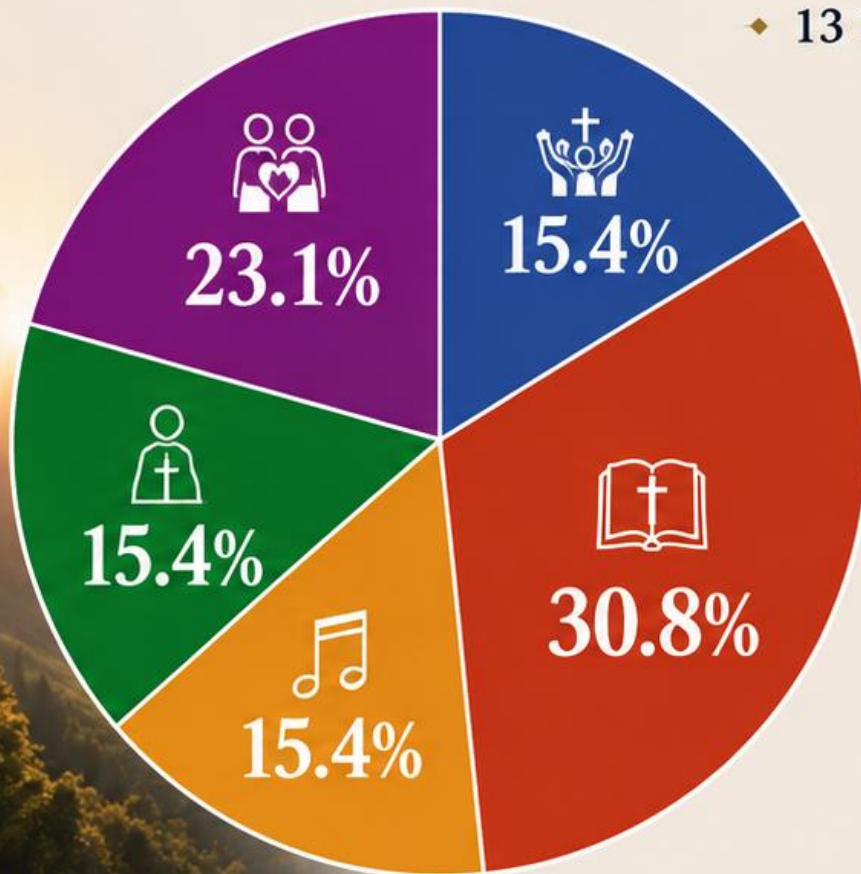
7.1%



SONGS THAT SHAPED OUR FAITH

HAS THIS SERIES CHANGED YOUR PERSPECTIVE ON CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP MUSIC?

◆ 13 RESPONSES ◆



YES, SIGNIFICANTLY

My perspective has been greatly broadened and deepened.

15.4%



YES, SOMEWHAT

My perspective has been positively influenced.

30.8%



VERY LITTLE

Only a slight shift in my perspective.

15.4%



NO CHANGE

My perspective remains the same.

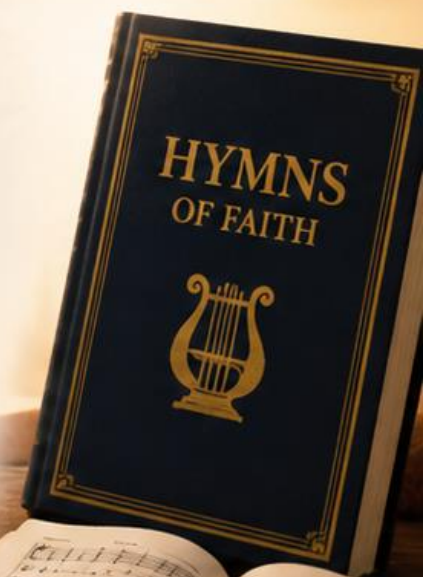
15.4%



I ALREADY APPRECIATED BOTH STYLES EQUALLY

This series affirmed what I already believed.

23.1%





1 HISTORY GIVES US PERSPECTIVE

The history of the Church and the stories behind individual songs reveal the same pattern that we saw in influential literature throughout Christian history. There is continuity in the Gospel throughout generations.

THEN. NOW. ALWAYS.

The Church Debates New Songs—Then Embraces Them

HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE?

Usually one generation—roughly 20 to 40 years.

NEW MOVEMENT (NEW SONGS)	INITIAL REACTION	BROAD ACCEPTANCE	EXAMPLE SONG (MENTIONED IN OUR SERIES)
 Ambrosian Hymns (4th century)	 Strong resistance in some churches	 20–40 years	 <i>Even So, Come, Lord Jesus</i> (4th century)
 Reformation Hymns (Luther, 1520s)	 Bitter controversy	 ~30 years	 <i>A Mighty Fortress</i> (1529)
 Isaac Watts (1707)	 Called “man’s hymns” instead of Psalms	 ~40–60 years	 <i>When I Survey the Wondrous Cross</i> (1707)
 Gospel Songs (1870–1910)	 Considered sentimental and shallow	 ~30 years	 <i>Blessed Assurance</i> (1873)
 Camp Meeting Songs (1870s–1910s)	 Criticized as emotional and repetitive	 ~20–40 years	 <i>I’ll Fly Away</i> (1932)
 Jesus Movement (1970s)	 “These aren’t real hymns.”	 ~25 years	 <i>Because He Lives</i> (1971)
 Praise & Worship (1980s–1990s)	 Worship wars begin	 ~20–30 years	 <i>Shout to the Lord</i> (1984)
 Modern Contemporary (2000–present)	 Still debated in some churches	 Ongoing	 <i>Revelation Song</i> (2004)

*“The arguments change.
The instruments change.
The musical styles change.*

**BUT THE SONGS THAT FAITHFULLY
PROCLAIM SCRIPTURE **EVENTUALLY**
FIND THEIR PLACE IN THE
WORSHIP OF THE CHURCH.**



*Every generation says, “These new songs don’t sound like church.”
Then about thirty years later... they’re church music.*

Why Does It Take a Generation (or Two)?

Because people worship most comfortably with the songs they know and love.



1950s / 1960s

1980s / 1990s

2000s / 2010s

2030s and beyond



These songs were the soundtrack of a generation.



New worship songs began finding a place in the church.



Over time, these songs became familiar and beloved.



One day these songs will be part of the Church's heritage.

Every generation sings the same gospel in its own musical language.

2

GOD IS STILL RAISING UP SONGWRITERS & WORSHIP LEADERS

We are living in another remarkable era of congregational worship. God continues to raise up gifted songwriters and worship leaders who help the Church sing timeless biblical truth in the musical language of each generation.

PRAISE THE FATHER
PRAISE THE SON
PRAISE THE SPIRIT
THREE IN ONE

New Song

Great is Your faithfulness
Forever You are good
All of Your promises
Are yes and amen

HOLY
BIBLE

John Branyan



congregating within this edifice

GREAT MESSENGERS. GREAT MUSIC. ETERNAL IMPACT.

— Evangelists and Their Song Leaders Who Helped Shape Generations —

Through every era, God has used the powerful combination of preaching and song to reach hearts and change lives.

1870s

D. L. MOODY & IRA D. SANKEY



They took the Gospel around the world with *preaching and song*.

SONGS POPULARIZED TOGETHER

- 🎵 The Ninety and Nine
- 🎵 Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing
- 🎵 Redeemed
- 🎵 I Love to Tell the Story
- 🎵 The Solid Rock

Ira Sankey's Gospel Hymns collections shaped the church for generations.

1900s–1920s

BILLY SUNDAY & HOMER RODEHEAVER



Their revivals filled stadiums and cities with *preaching* that was reinforced by *song*.

SONGS POPULARIZED TOGETHER

- 🎵 Brighten the Corner Where You Are
- 🎵 I'll Live for Him
- 🎵 He Keeps Me Singing
- 🎵 Rescue the Perishing
- 🎵 Have Thine Own Way, Lord
- 🎵 Sow the Seed of the Kingdom

Rodeheaver's songs became the soundtrack of revival and faithfulness.

1950s–2000s

BILLY GRAHAM & GEORGE BEVERLY SHEA



Their revivals reached millions and left a legacy of *timeless songs*.

SONGS POPULARIZED TOGETHER

- 🎵 I'd Rather Have Jesus
- 🎵 The Wonder of It All
- 🎵 How Great Thou Art
- 🎵 It Is No Secret
- 🎵 Just As I Am
- 🎵 Many other invitation and worship hymns

George Beverly Shea's voice became synonymous with the Gospel message.

2000s–PRESENT

BETH MOORE & TRAVIS COTTRELL



Their ministry has equipped a new generation through *Bible teaching and worship*.

SONGS POPULARIZED TOGETHER

- 🎵 In Christ Alone
- 🎵 Revelation Song
- 🎵 How Great Is Our God
- 🎵 Jesus Paid It All
- 🎵 Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)
- 🎵 Living Hope and many more

They have helped take timeless truths to the nations in new musical voices.

MODERN HYMNS ARE DISTINCT

Not just contemporary—crafted for congregational singing and lasting theological impact.



*Different musical languages,
but the same foundation:
God's truth
for His people.*



MODERN HYMNS



OTHER CONTEMPORARY CHRISTIAN MUSIC



STRUCTURE

Strophic (verse–chorus) structure.
Each verse adds new lines
that develop the full message.

Often verse–chorus with repeated verses
or minimal lyrical development.
The chorus carries most of the message.



DOCTRINAL TEACHING

Doctrinally rich and theologically
substantial. Teaches biblical truth
clearly and comprehensively.

Frequently thematic or experiential.
Focuses more on feeling or a single
idea than on full biblical teaching.



CONGREGATIONAL FOCUS

Written for the whole church
to sing every verse.
Accessible melodies and singable
ranges for all ages.

Often written for a lead singer
or worship team.
May include complex melodies
or wide ranges.

**Different musical languages,
but the same foundation:**

God's truth for His people.

◆ THE SAME GOSPEL IN A NEW VOICE ◆



KING OF KINGS

THE GOSPEL. THE STORY. THE KING.

*"In the darkness
we were waiting..."*

CHRIST BEFORE CREATION

*"And the Church
of Christ was born."*

ACTS 2:1-47



WRITTEN BY
BROOKE LIGERTWOOD & JASON INGRAM
RELEASED IN 2019



From eternity... to the cross... to the resurrection... to the birth of the Church.

ONE STORY. ONE KING. ONE MISSION.

KING OF KINGS

A MODERN HYMN THAT TELLS THE COMPLETE STORY OF REDEMPTION—
FROM ETERNITY PAST TO THE BIRTH OF THE CHURCH.

VERSE 1

BEFORE CREATION

The Eternal King

*"In the darkness we were waiting...
Before the world began,
God had a plan."*

THEMES

- ✦ Eternity of Christ
- 👑 God's sovereign plan
- ✦ Hope before creation
- 🌐 The greatness of our God

📖 COLOSSIANS 1:16-17

VERSE 2

INTO OUR WORLD

The Incarnate King

*"Then the Word became a
flesh and dwelt among us..."
Jesus entered our world."*

THEMES

- ✦ The Incarnation
- 👤 God with us
- ❤️ Humility of Christ
- 🌿 Fulfillment of promise

📖 JOHN 1:14

VERSE 3

TO THE CROSS AND BEYOND

The Redeemer King

*"This is love, this is grace—
He died and rose again..."
Victory through the cross."*

THEMES

- ✝️ The sacrificial cross
- 💧 Grace and forgiveness
- 👑 Resurrection power
- 🛡️ Victory over death

📖 1 CORINTHIANS 15:3-4

VERSE 4

THE CHURCH IS BORN

The Reigning King

*"And the Church of Christ
was born, then the Spirit lit
the flame."*

THEMES

- 🔥 The Holy Spirit
- 🏛️ Birth of the Church
- 👥 Empowerment for mission
- 🌐 The gospel to the nations

📖 ACTS 2:1-47

CHORUS

WORTHY IS THE KING

The Exalted King

*"Praise the Father,
praise the Son,
praise the Spirit,
three in One."*

THEMES

- ★ Worthy of all praise
- 👑 Father, Son, Spirit
- ⌕ Three in One
- ∞ Eternal exaltation

📖 REVELATION 4:8-11

ONE STORY. ONE KING. ONE MISSION.



KING OF KINGS

ALL HAIL THE SAVIOR. ALL HAIL THE KING.

1 In the darkness we were waiting
Without hope without light
Till from heaven You came running
There was mercy in Your eyes

To fulfill the law and prophets
To a virgin came the Word
From a throne of endless glory
To a cradle in the dirt

Chorus

Praise the Father
Praise the Son
Praise the Spirit Three in One
God of glory, Majesty
Praise forever to the King of
Kings





KING OF KINGS

ALL HAIL THE SAVIOR. ALL HAIL THE KING.

2 To reveal the kingdom coming
And to reconcile the lost
To redeem the whole creation
You did not despise the cross

For even in Your suffering
You saw to the other side
Knowing this was our salvation
Jesus for our sake You died

3 And the morning that You rose
All of heaven held its breath
Till that stone was moved for good
For the Lamb had conquered death

And the dead rose from their tombs
And the angels stood in awe
For the souls of all who'd come
To the Father are restored





KING OF KINGS

ALL HAIL THE SAVIOR. ALL HAIL THE KING.

4 And the Church of Christ was born
Then the Spirit lit the flame
Now this gospel truth of old
Shall not kneel shall not faint

By His blood and in His Name
In His freedom I am free
For the love of Jesus Christ
Who has resurrected me

Praise forever to the King of Kings



King of Kings

Travis and Lilly Cottrell

And the dead rose from their tombs
And the angels stood in awe



SING! SYMPHONY OF SCRIPTURE

SEPTEMBER 7-9 • NASHVILLE, TN

Five hundred years ago, William Tyndale's English New Testament helped ordinary men and women encounter the Word of God in their own language. This September, we will mark that enduring gift and consider how Scripture shapes the worship, witness, and life of the Church.

Join us for a landmark celebration of 10 years of Sing! as we hear the Word opened, sing its truth with a full symphony orchestra, and learn alongside an extraordinary gathering of speakers and artists.



CHRISTUS VICTOR (AMEN)

A MODERN HYMN. AN ANCIENT TRUTH. A VICTORY FOREVER.

Christ has won the victory.

“

Worthy is the Lamb
who was slain,
whose blood set us free
to be people of God.

Power and riches
and wisdom and strength,
and honor and blessing
and glory are His.

AMEN.

– Revelation 5:12



THEME

Christus Victor—
Christ the Victor over
sin, death, Satan,
and the powers
of darkness.



WHY IT MATTERS

It proclaims an
ancient truth and
gives the Church a
victory hymn to
declare today.



SCRIPTURAL ROOTS

Revelation 5
Colossians 2:13–15
Hebrews 2:14–15
Romans 8:37–39



THE HEART

-  Christ has conquered
-  Death is defeated
-  The Lamb is worthy
-  The Church joins the song



RELEASED

2024

A contemporary hymn
for the global Church.



ANCIENT DOCTRINE.



NEW SONG.



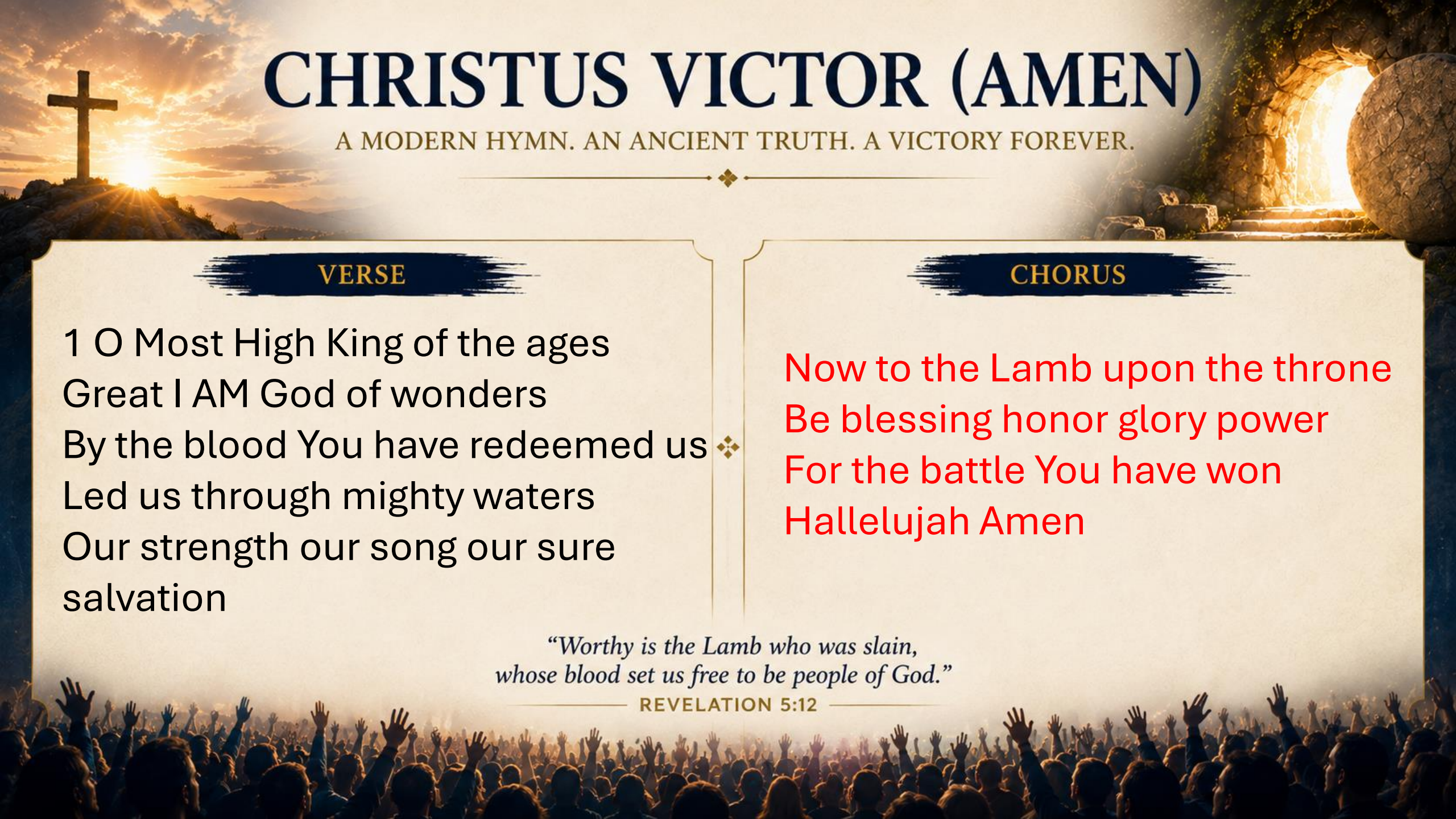
SAME GOSPEL.



SAME VICTORY.

Christus Victor – song origin

Keith Getty, Matt Papa, Bryan Fowler



CHRISTUS VICTOR (AMEN)

A MODERN HYMN. AN ANCIENT TRUTH. A VICTORY FOREVER.

VERSE

1 O Most High King of the ages
Great I AM God of wonders
By the blood You have redeemed us
Led us through mighty waters
Our strength our song our sure
salvation

CHORUS

Now to the Lamb upon the throne
Be blessing honor glory power
For the battle You have won
Hallelujah Amen

*“Worthy is the Lamb who was slain,
whose blood set us free to be people of God.”*

REVELATION 5:12





CHRISTUS VICTOR (AMEN)

A MODERN HYMN. AN ANCIENT TRUTH. A VICTORY FOREVER.



VERSE

2 O Most High dwelling among us
Son of man sent for sinners
By Your blood You have redeemed us
Spotless Lamb mighty Savior
Who lived who died who rose victorious

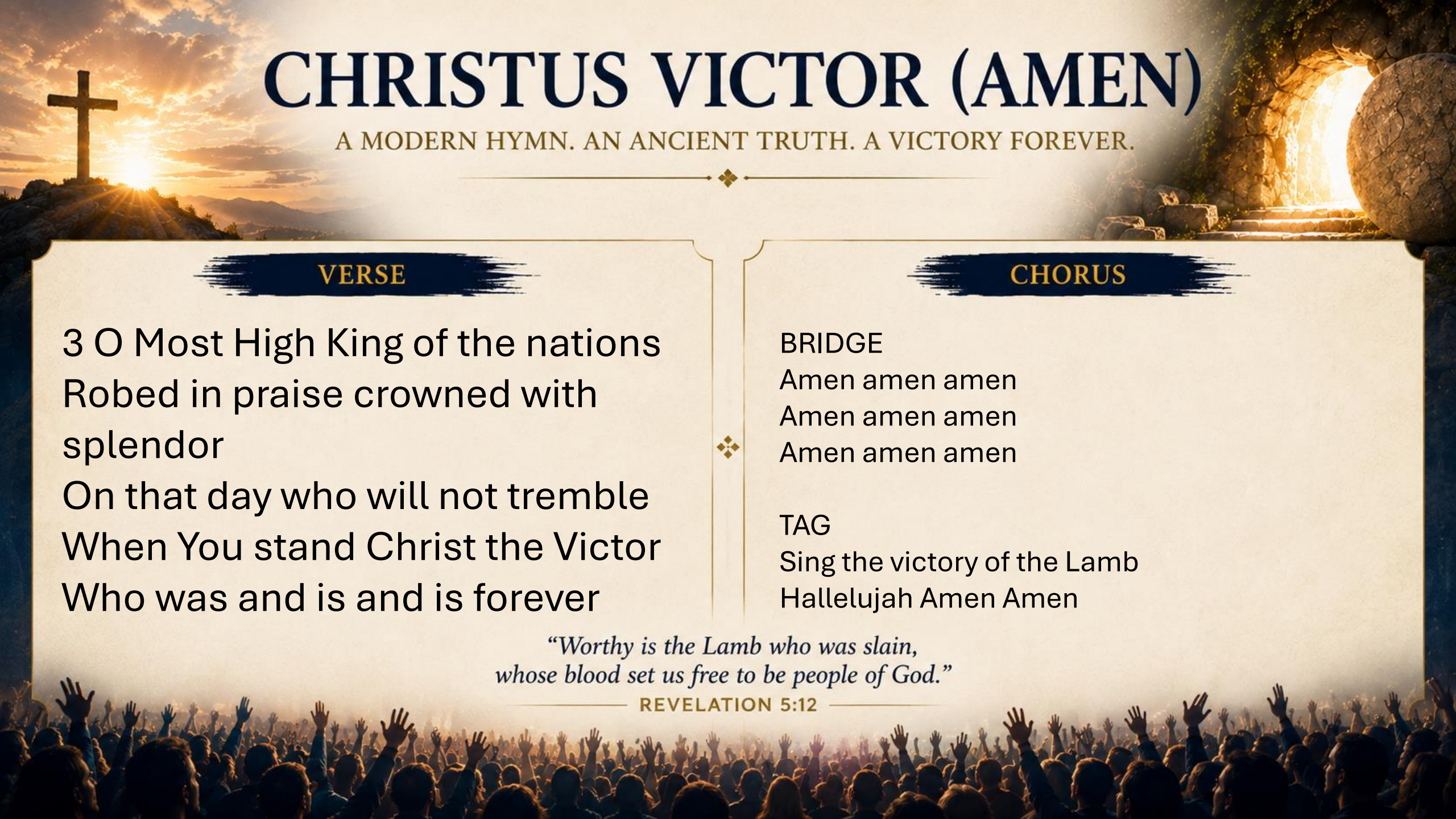
CHORUS

Now to the Lamb upon the throne
Be blessing honor glory power
For the battle You have won
Hallelujah
With every tribe and every tongue
We join the anthem of the angels
In the triumph of the Son
Hallelujah Amen

*“Worthy is the Lamb who was slain,
whose blood set us free to be people of God.”*

REVELATION 5:12





CHRISTUS VICTOR (AMEN)

A MODERN HYMN. AN ANCIENT TRUTH. A VICTORY FOREVER.

VERSE

3 O Most High King of the nations
Robed in praise crowned with
splendor
On that day who will not tremble
When You stand Christ the Victor
Who was and is and is forever

CHORUS

BRIDGE

Amen amen amen
Amen amen amen
Amen amen amen

TAG

Sing the victory of the Lamb
Hallelujah Amen Amen

*“Worthy is the Lamb who was slain,
whose blood set us free to be people of God.”*

REVELATION 5:12

Christus Victor

Keith and Kristyn Getty (First Baptist, Dallas)



BE BLESSING HONOR GLORY POWER
FOR THE BATTLE YOU HAVE WON

3

DIFFERENT SONGS HAVE DIFFERENT PURPOSES

*Congregational songs are not all trying
to do the same thing. Some help us worship.*

Some teach. Some encourage.

Some testify to what God has done.

Healthy worship needs all four.



WORSHIP

We exalt God.



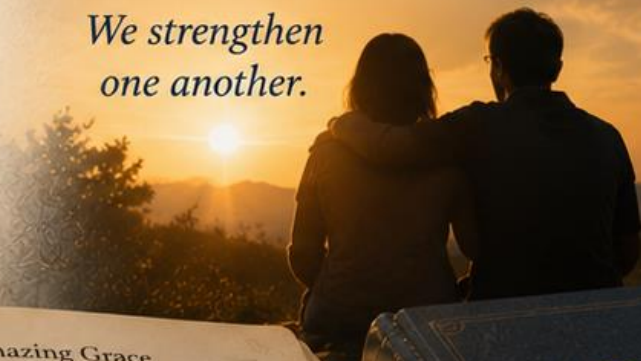
TEACH

We learn truth.



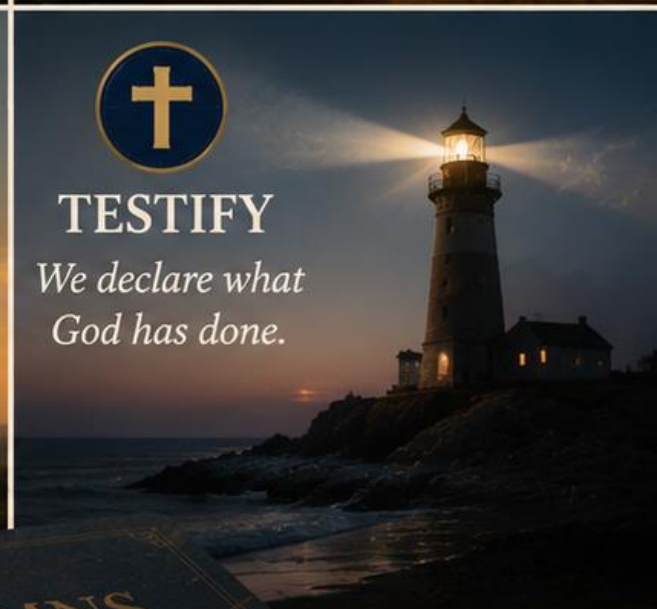
ENCOURAGE

*We strengthen
one another.*



TESTIFY

*We declare what
God has done.*



SONGS THAT SHAPED OUR FAITH

The Many Purposes of Congregational Song

1

WORSHIP GOD

Who is God?

WE LIFT OUR EYES UPWARD
IN PRAISE AND ADORATION.



PURPOSE

To exalt God for who He is—His greatness, holiness, power, and majesty. These songs turn our hearts and minds upward to God in worship.



SCRIPTURE

*"Oh come, let us sing to the LORD;
let us make a joyful noise to the rock
of our salvation!"*

PSALM 95:1



EXAMPLES

- *Holy, Holy, Holy*
- *O Worship the King*
- *How Great Is Our God*
- *Revelation Song*



*Together we declare
the greatness of our God.*

"Let everything that has breath praise the LORD. Praise the LORD!" PSALM 150:6

SONGS THAT SHAPED OUR FAITH

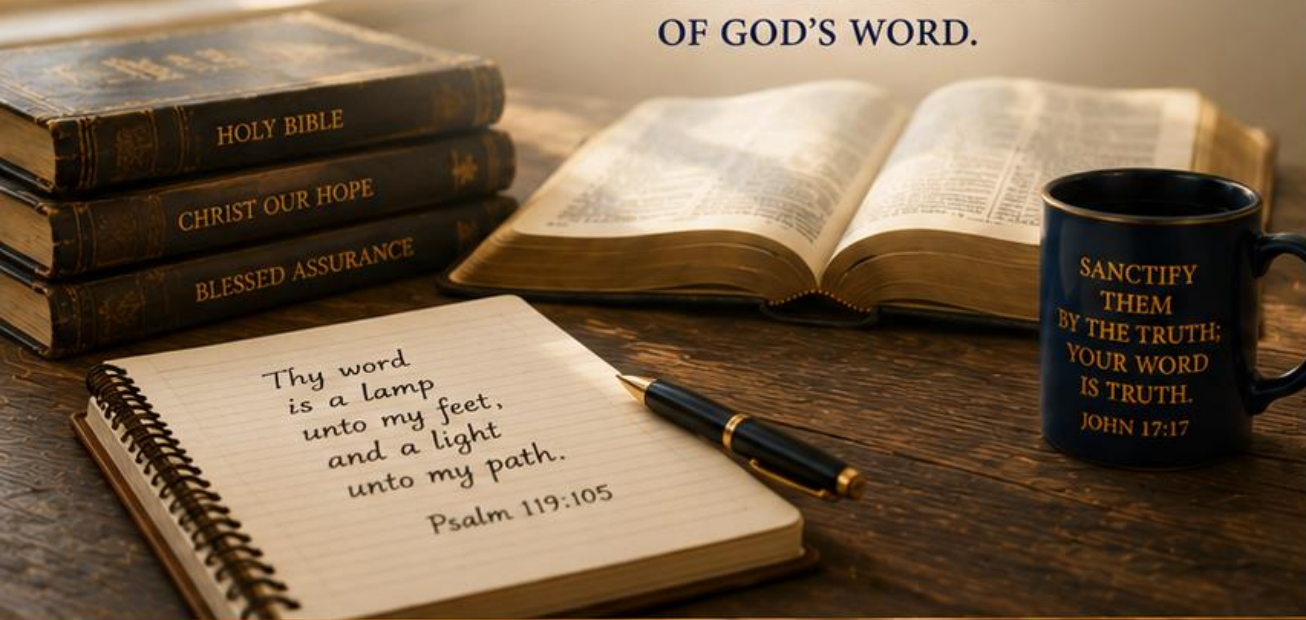
The Many Purposes of Congregational Song

2

TEACH TRUTH

What is true?

WE SING TO LEARN, REMEMBER,
AND PROCLAIM THE TRUTH
OF GOD'S WORD.



PURPOSE

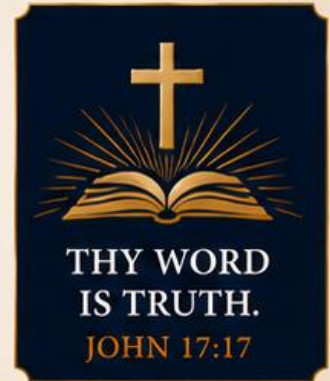
To teach God's Word, declare His promises, explain our faith, and remind us of eternal truths. These songs form our theology in melody.



SCRIPTURE

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom..." psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord."

COLOSSIANS 3:16



EXAMPLES

- A Mighty Fortress Is Our God
- In Christ Alone
- And Can It Be
- Ancient Words



*We sing God's Word
so it takes root in our hearts
and shapes our lives.*



"Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path." PSALM 119:105

WE SING SCRIPTURE SO THE TRUTH OF GOD REMAINS ALIVE IN US AND THROUGH US.



SONGS THAT SHAPED OUR FAITH

The Many Purposes of Congregational Song

3

ENCOURAGE BELIEVERS

How do we keep following Christ?

WE SING TO STRENGTHEN FAITH,
BRING COMFORT, AND HELP US
PERSEVERE IN THE CHRISTIAN LIFE.



PURPOSE

To encourage believers in every season of life—through struggles, doubts, joys, and victories. These songs remind us we are not alone and that God is with us.



SCRIPTURE

*“Be encouraged and strengthened.
Do not be afraid; do not be
discouraged, for the LORD your
God will be with you wherever you go.”*

JOSHUA 1:9



EXAMPLES

- Trust and Obey
- Standing on the Promises
- Because He Lives
- All the Way My Savior Leads Me
- Lord, I Need You
- Step by Step



*These songs keep us
looking to Jesus and
help us keep going.*



*“Let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us,
fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith.”* **HEBREWS 12:1–2**

SONGS THAT SHAPED OUR FAITH

The Many Purposes of Congregational Song

4

TESTIFY

What has God done?

WE SING TO TELL OTHERS WHAT
GOD HAS DONE—HIS GRACE, HIS
SALVATION, HIS FAITHFULNESS,
AND HIS TRANSFORMING WORK
IN OUR LIVES.



PURPOSE

We sing to tell others what God has done—
His grace, His salvation, His faithfulness,
and His transforming work in our lives.



SCRIPTURE

*"You are my witnesses,
declares the Lord..."*

ISAIAH 43:10



TELL OF HIS
WONDROUS WORKS
TO ALL NATIONS.
PSALM 96:3



EXAMPLES

- Amazing Grace
- Goodness of God
- Victory in Jesus
- The Old Rugged Cross
- Jesus Saves
- Send the Light



*Our stories become
songs that point others
to Jesus.*



*"You are my witnesses," declares the LORD,
"and my servant whom I have chosen, so that you may know and believe me
and understand that I am he. Before me no god was formed, nor will there be one after me."*

ISAIAH 43:10

4

GREAT SONGS ENDURE BECAUSE THEY SERVE THE CHURCH



TEACH
*Biblical
Truth*



STRENGTHEN
Believers



LEAD
*God's People
in Worship*



MEET NEEDS
*Across Every
Generation*



POINT TO
CHRIST
Above All

Most Christian songs disappear within a few years.
The songs that survive continue to teach biblical truth,
strengthen believers, and lead God's people in worship.
The church keeps singing them because they
continue to meet the needs of every generation.

✦ GREAT SONGS ENDURE BECAUSE THEY SERVE THE CHURCH. ✦

*The same God.
The same truth.
The same worship.
Generation after generation.*



THE BRUTAL FILTER

Only a tiny fraction of Christian songs endure the test of time. The ones that remain continue to teach, strengthen, and lead God's people in worship generation after generation.



Christian hymns
written throughout
history:

950,000



Typical hymnal:

600



Typical congregation
actively sings:

50

The hymns we sing didn't just survive — they ran a gauntlet that eliminated **99.995%** of everything ever written.

The same filter is running today on contemporary Christian music.



"The Lord bless you
and keep you;
the Lord make his face
shine upon you
and be gracious to you;
the Lord turn his face
toward you
and give you peace."

Numbers 6:24–26



In 2019, Kari Jobe, Cody Carnes, Chris Brown, and Steven Furtick wrote a song based on one of the oldest blessings in Scripture. They set Numbers 6:24–26 to music.



KARI JOBE



CODY CARNES



CHRIS BROWN



STEVEN FURTICK



They added a bridge inspired by Scripture (Deuteronomy and the Psalms), creating a sung benediction for God's people—past, present, and future.

The Blessing

AN ANCIENT BLESSING. A NEW MELODY.
A GLOBAL SONG OF HOPE.

MARCH 2020

The world shut down.
Churches closed.
Fear spread.
And the Church
needed hope.

THIS SONG
SPOKE HOPE.

THE CHURCH COULDN'T GATHER, SO WE SANG TOGETHER APART.



NOT JUST A SONG—
A PROCLAMATION

It doesn't just express
our prayers; it declares
God's blessing over
His people.



ANCIENT WORDS.
NEW MELODY.

The words are ancient.
The truth is eternal.
The melody is new.



FOR EVERY GENERATION

A blessing for today,
our children, and a
thousand generations.



AROUND THE WORLD

Hundreds of churches in
more than 100 countries
created their own versions.

Christians everywhere,
united in one ancient
blessing.

One Church.
One blessing.
One hope.

JUST A FEW OF THE GLOBAL VERSIONS



THE UK



THE CANADA



THE USA



IRELAND



SOUTH AFRICA



SINGAPORE



BRAZIL



AUSTRALIA



...AND
MANY MORE



The melody is new. The gospel is ancient.
THE SAME GOD. THE SAME PROMISE. THE SAME BLESSING.



THE BLESSING

ANCIENT SCRIPTURE. TIMELESS PROMISE. NEW MELODY.



A BENEDICTION

These Scriptures have been spoken over God's people for thousands of years. Now we sing them together.

This modern hymn is built on God's Word. Every line comes from Scripture.

THE SCRIPTURES BEHIND THE BLESSING

VERSE 1

The Lord bless you
and keep you

NUMBERS 6:24



"The Lord bless you
and keep you;

The Lord make his face
shine upon you

NUMBERS 6:25



"the Lord make his face
shine upon you
and be gracious to you;"

VERSE 2

The Lord be gracious
to you

NUMBERS 6:25



"the Lord make his face
shine upon you
and be gracious to you;"

The Lord turn his face
toward you

NUMBERS 6:26



"the Lord turn his face
toward you
and give you peace."

VERSE 3

The Lord give you
peace

NUMBERS 6:26



"the Lord turn his face
toward you
and give you peace."

May His favor be
upon you

DEUTERONOMY 7:9



"Know therefore that the Lord
your God is God, the faithful
God who keeps covenant
and steadfast love..."

VERSE 4 (BRIDGE)

And a thousand
generations

DEUTERONOMY 7:9



"...keeping steadfast love to
a thousand generations
of those who love him
and keep his commandments."

And your family
and your children

PSALM 103:17



"But the steadfast love of the
Lord is from everlasting to
everlasting on those who
fear him, and his righteousness
to children's children..."

CHORUS

His presence
go before you

DEUTERONOMY 31:8



"It is the Lord who goes
before you. He will be
with you; he will not leave
you or forsake you."

And behind you
and beside you

PSALM 139:5



"You hem me in, behind
and before, and lay your
hand upon me."



ONE BLESSING. FIVE PASSAGES. ONE GOD.

From the wilderness to our world today, God's Word has not changed.
His blessing remains for you, your family, and every generation.



THE BLESSING

A PRAYER OVER GOD'S PEOPLE. HIS FAVOR TODAY AND ALWAYS.



The Lord bless you
And keep you
Make His face shine upon you
And be gracious to you
The Lord turn His
Face toward you
And give you peace

May His favor be upon you
And a thousand generations
And your family
And your children



THE BLESSING

A PRAYER OVER GOD'S PEOPLE. HIS FAVOR TODAY AND ALWAYS.



May His presence go
before you
And behind you
And beside you
All around you
And within you
He is with you

In the morning
In the evening
In your coming
And your going
In your weeping
And rejoicing
He is for you



The Blessing

Passion City Church



The Blessing

Andrea Bocelli, Kari Jobe, Cody Carnes





Great is Thy faithfulness,
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided,
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, how many Thy wonders have been,
How Thy mercies are fresh every day;
Dearly and precious are all Thy promises,
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, how many Thy wonders have been,
How Thy mercies are fresh every day.

SAME GOSPEL. CHANGING VOICES. FOREVER FAITHFUL.

THANK YOU.

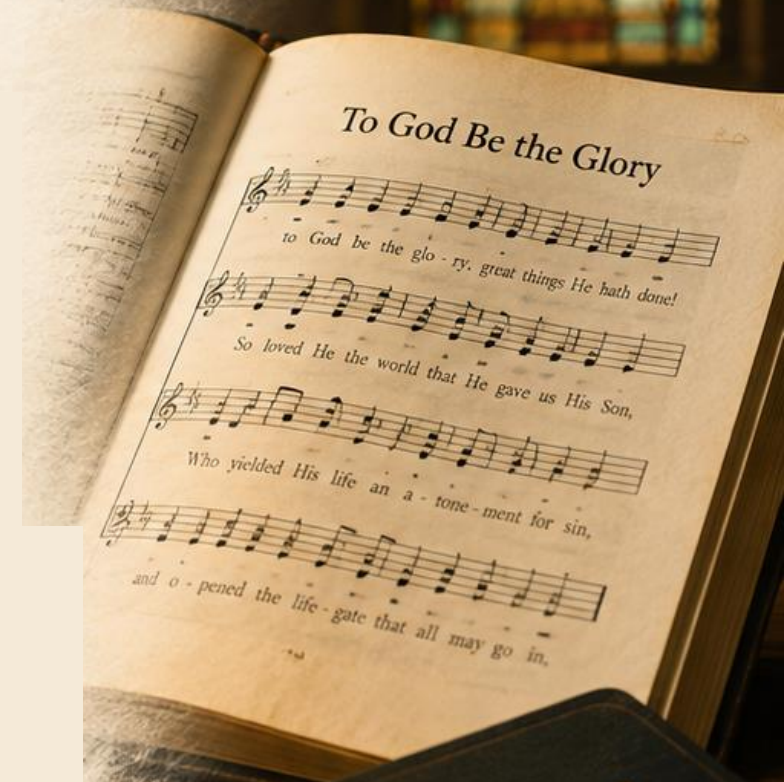
THINGS I LEARNED

FOUR DISCOVERIES FROM THIS JOURNEY



1 HISTORY GIVES US PERSPECTIVE

The history of the Church and the stories behind individual songs reveal the same pattern: every generation has wrestled with change, yet the church has continued singing the same gospel.



*The church has always sung the same gospel.
Only the musical language has changed.*

