

Songs That SHAPED OUR FAITH

Timeless Truths Across Changing Voices



THROUGH
HISTORY



ROOTED IN
SCRIPTURE



SHAPED FOR
WORSHIP



SUNG BY
GENERATIONS



RELEVANT
TODAY

One message. Many voices. One unchanging God.



Wilbur Reid



Fellowship in Christ Class
Woodlawn Christian Church



Summer 2026



◆ LESSON 2 ◆

God's Faithfulness Through All Seasons

◆ SONG OVERVIEW ◆



**Leaning on the
Everlasting Arms**

1887

*Elisha Hoffman /
Anthony Showalter*

Victorian & Gospel Hymns



**It Is Well
with My Soul**

1873

*Horatio Spafford /
Philip Bliss*

Victorian & Gospel Hymns



**Great Is Thy
Faithfulness**

1923

*Thomas Chisholm /
William Runyan*

Early 20th Century Gospel



**O God, Our Help
in Ages Past**

1719

Isaac Watts

Classic English Hymnody



**Blessed Be
Your Name**

2002

Matt and Beth Redman

2000s Contemporary



**It Is Well
(DiMarco)**

2014

*Kristene DiMarco
(Bethel Music)*

Current Contemporary



— TODAY'S TOPIC: —

WHY THE CHURCH SINGS



— 7 SONGS. ONE THEME. DIFFERENT POSTURES. —

WHY AND HOW THE CHURCH SINGS



All seven songs address **why** and **how** the church sings—but they do so in two different ways.



SONGS OF PRAISE (THE ACT OF PRAISE ITSELF)



Doxology
Declares God's glory



Praise to the Lord
Calls us to praise



Holy, Holy, Holy
Exalts God's holiness



Revelation Song
Worships the Lamb



SONGS OF REFLECTION (THE VEHICLE: SONG & SCRIPTURE)



Spirit of the Living God
Invites the Spirit's presence



Thy Word
Anchored in Scripture



Ancient Words
Scripture set to song



THEMATIC COHERENCE, NOT UNIFIED POSTURE

These songs are united by purpose, but not by a single musical or spiritual posture.



TWO APPROACHES, ONE PURPOSE

Different expressions. Same aim:
To bring glory to God and build up His Church.



The lesson hangs together around the theme of why the church sings—
not because the songs sound the same, but because they serve the same mission.



TODAY'S HYMN



PRAISE GOD,
from Whom All
BLESSINGS FLOW



(1674)

THOMAS KEN



CLASSIC ENGLISH HYMNODY



Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow



THOMAS KEN (1637–1711)

Chaplain to King Charles II



COURAGEOUS FAITH

Refused the King. Imprisoned for conscience.
Expelled, but unwavering.



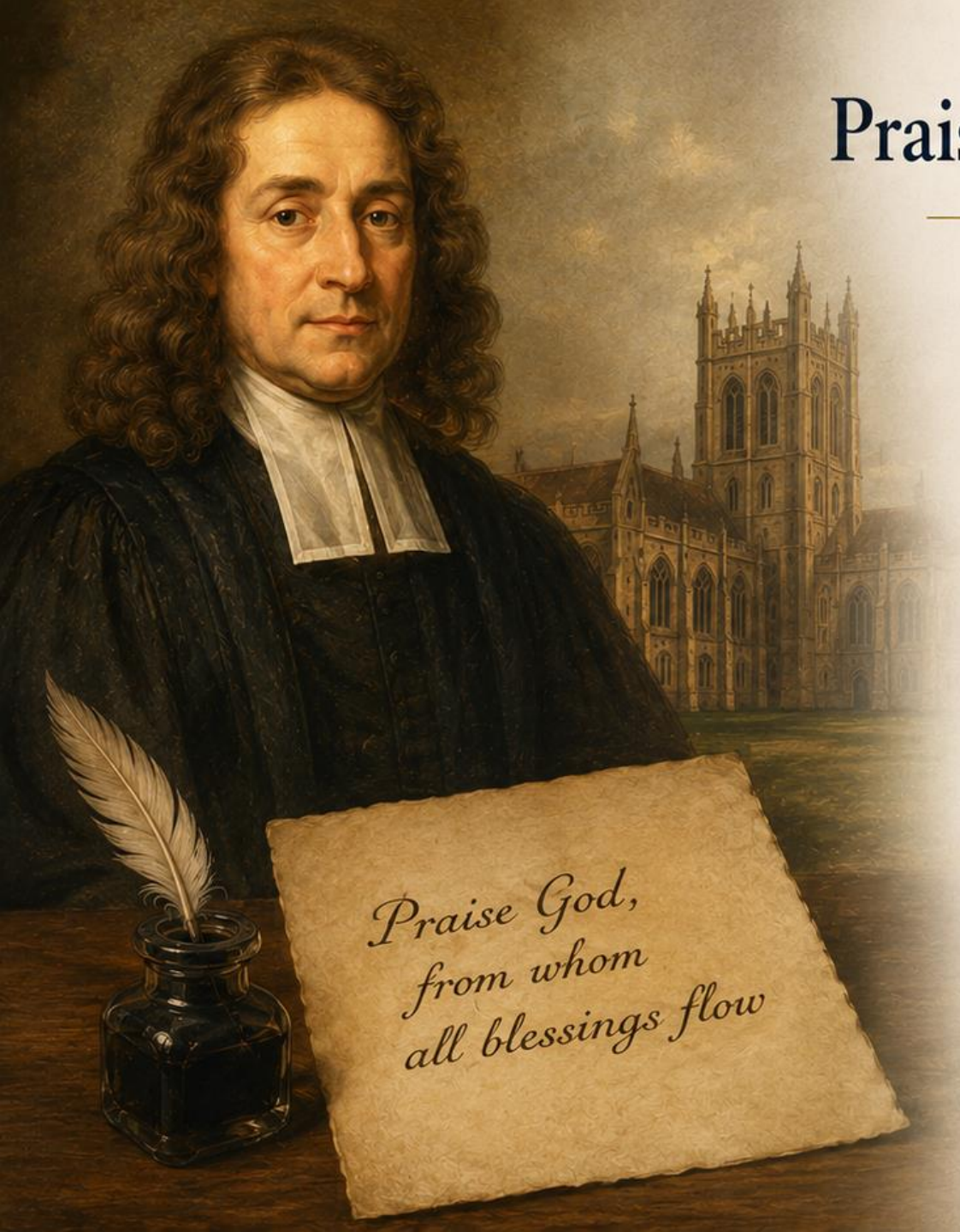
WRITTEN IN 1674

Morning and evening prayers
for boys at Winchester College



A VERSE OF PRAISE

Not for worship—just a school prayer.
Now sung around the world.



*Praise God,
from whom
all blessings flow*

PRAISE GOD, FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW



2 VERSES – COMMON ENGLISH VERSION

1. Praise God,
from whom
all blessings flow;
praise Him,
all creatures here below;
praise Him above,
ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son,
and Holy Ghost.

2. Praise Him,
above, ye
heavenly host;
praise Father, Son,
and Holy Ghost.
O praise Him,
O praise Him,
praise Him,
and Holy Ghost.

ALSO KNOWN AS: THE DOXOLOGY

“Every good gift and every perfect gift
is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights.”

— James 1:17

Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow (Doxology)

Anthem Lights / Selah





TODAY'S HYMN



PRAISE TO THE LORD, THE ALMIGHTY



(1680)

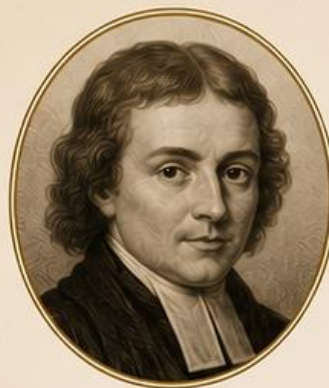
JOACHIM NEANDER /
TR. CATHERINE WINKWORTH

CLASSIC ENGLISH HYMNODY



Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

1680



JOACHIM NEANDER

1650–1680

German Reformed Pastor



A SHORT LIFE, A LASTING LEGACY

- Died at 30
- ~60 hymns
- Wrote under pressure



WORSHIP IN HIDING

- Couldn't meet openly in Düsseldorf
- Gathered in a cave outside the city walls
- Neander-Tal — Neander's Valley



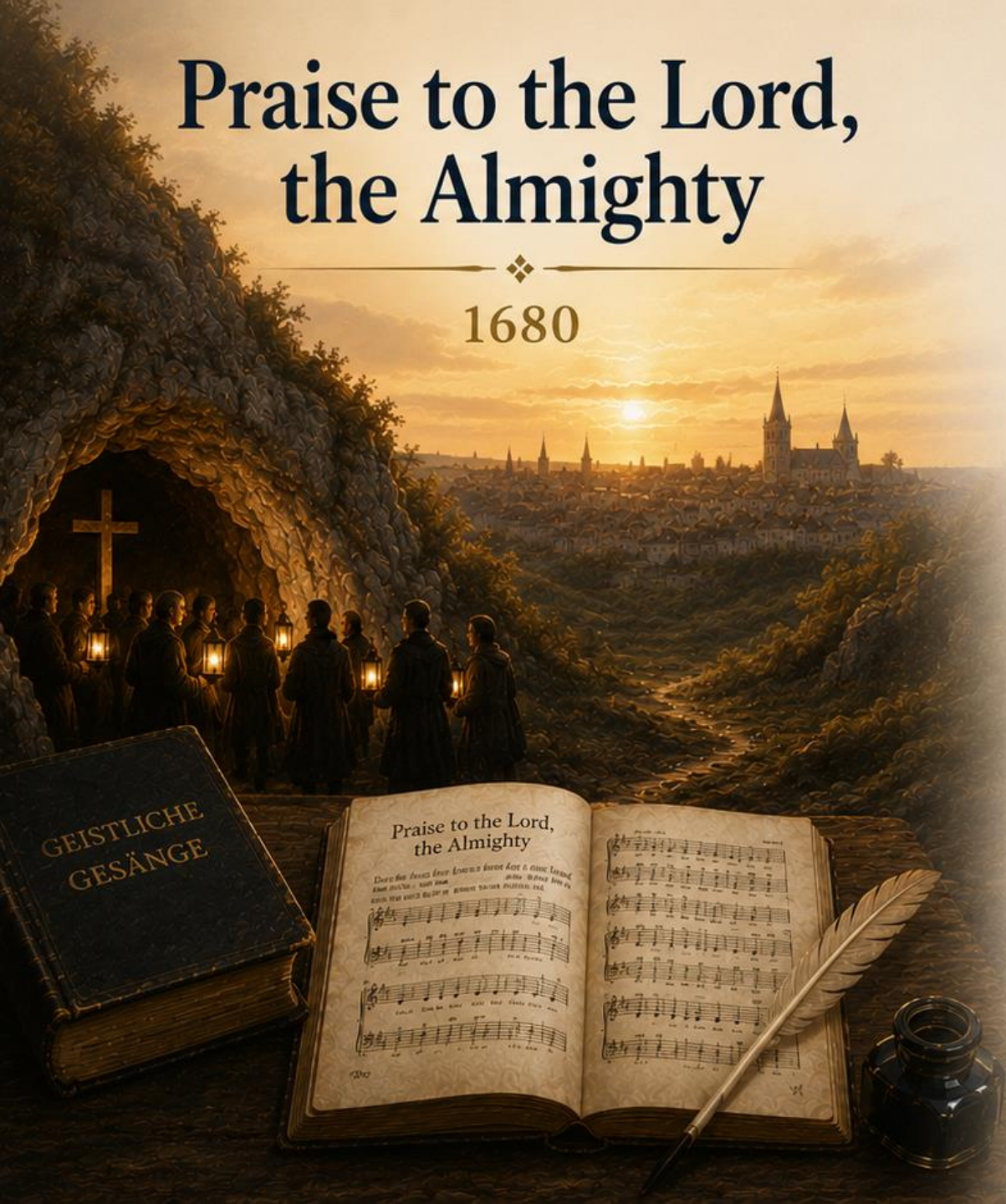
WHY HE WROTE

- When the church can't meet freely, it sings.
You can close a building.
You cannot silence a hymn in the heart.



THE SONG ENDURES

- *"Praise to the Lord, the Almighty,
the King of creation."*
- Written in a cave. Still sung in 2026.



PRAISE TO THE LORD, THE ALMIGHTY



4 VERSES – COMMON ENGLISH VERSION

1. Praise to the Lord,
the Almighty,
the King of creation!
O my soul, praise Him,
for He is your health
and salvation!
All you who hear,
now to His temple draw near;
join me in glad adoration!

2. Praise to the Lord,
who o'er all things
so wondrously reigns,
Sheltering you under
His wings,
and so gently sustains!
Have you not seen
how your desires e'er have been
granted in what He ordains?

3. Praise to the Lord,
who will prosper
your work and defend you;
Surely His goodness
and mercy shall daily
attend you.
Ponder anew
what the Almighty can do,
who with His love will
befriend you.

4. Praise to the Lord!
O let all that is in me
adore Him!
All that has life
and breath, come now
with praises before Him!
Let the "Amen"
sound from His people again;
gladly forever adore Him!

"Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens;
praise Him in the heights!" — Psalm 148:1

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty
St. Andrews Church, Chennai, India



TODAY'S HYMN



HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



(1826)

REGINALD HEBER

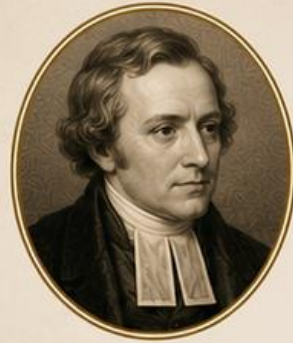
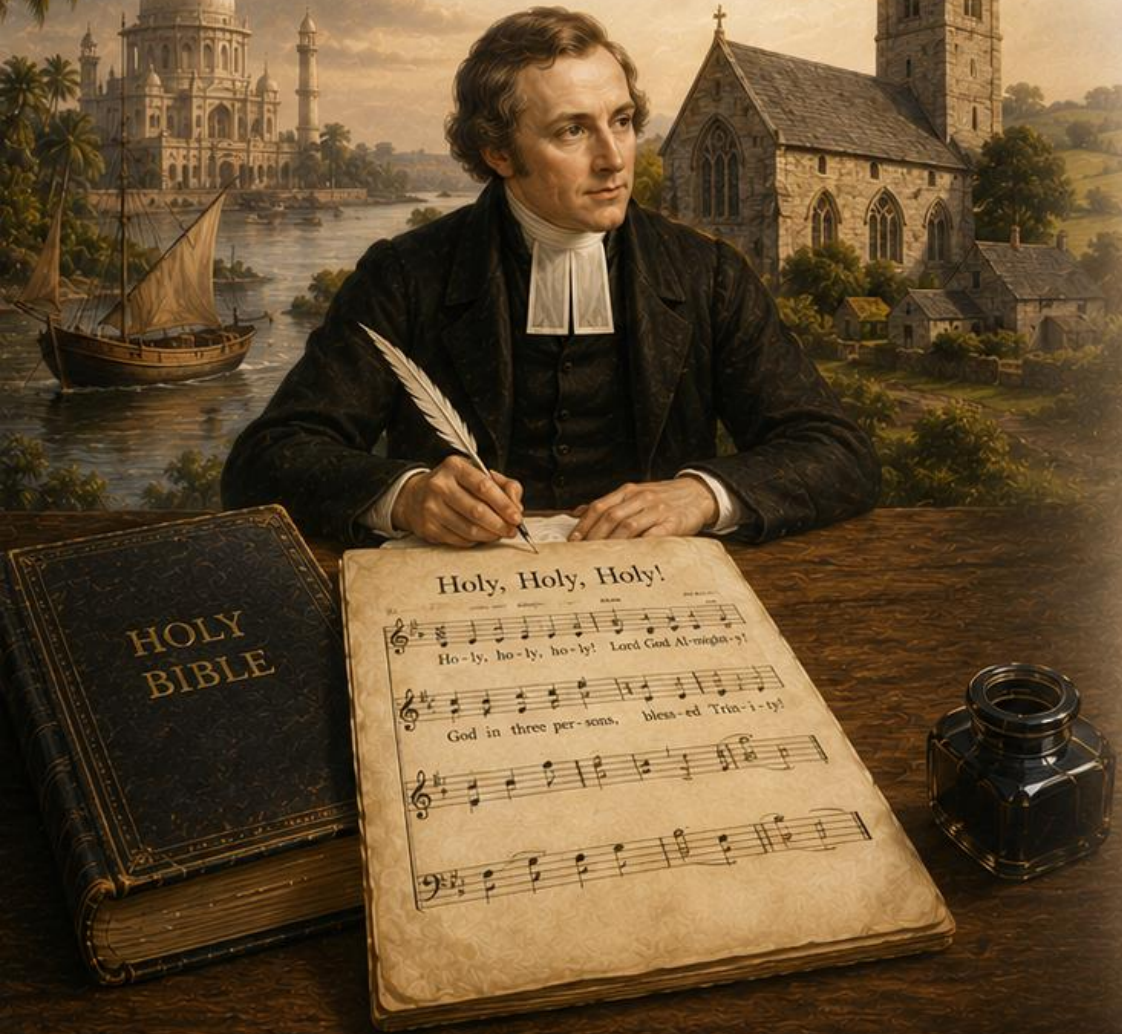


VICTORIAN & GOSPEL HYMNS



Holy, Holy, Holy

1826



REGINALD HEBER

1783–1826

Bishop of Calcutta



CALLED TO INDIA

- Appointed Bishop of Calcutta in 1823.
- Died at 43 after a long day of ministry.

A PROBLEM TO SOLVE

- Rural parish with no songs for the church year.
- Wrote “Holy, Holy, Holy” for Trinity Sunday.

TEACHING THROUGH SONG

- How do you teach the Trinity to a people who can’t read?
- Write a song. Give it a melody. Sing it.

KEY CLAIM

- “God in three persons, blessed Trinity.”
- Doctrine—not decoration. Memorized by millions.

ROOTED IN SCRIPTURE

- From Revelation 4:8:
“*Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty.*”
- The seraphim’s song—sung by His people.

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

— ROOTED IN SCRIPTURE. SINGING ETERNAL TRUTH. —

ISAIAH 6:1–3



“Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!”

The seraphim cry “holy” three times—declaring God’s absolute holiness.

“HOLY, HOLY, HOLY”

REVELATION 15:3–4



They sang a new song, saying: “You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being.”

“ONLY THOU ART HOLY”

REVELATION 4:10–11



The twenty-four elders fall down before him who sits on the throne and worship him who lives forever and ever. They lay their crowns before the throne and say:

“You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being.”

“CASTING DOWN THEIR GOLDEN CROWNS AROUND THE GLASSY SEA”

“Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come.”

REVELATION 4:8

**CENTER OF OUR SONG:
GOD’S HOLINESS,
MAJESTY & ETERNAL WORSHIP**

MATTHEW 28:19



Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

“GOD IN THREE PERSONS,
BLESSED TRINITY”



**A Hymn of Scripture.
A Song for the Church.**

“Holy, Holy, Holy” weaves together the testimony of Scripture—declaring the holiness of God, the glory of His throne, and the eternal worship of His people.



**GOD’S
MAJESTY**



**TRINITY
TRUTH**



**WORTHY
WORSHIP**



**ROOTED IN
SCRIPTURE**

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY!



4 VERSES – COMMON ENGLISH VERSION

1. Holy, holy, holy!
Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning
our song shall rise to Thee.
Holy, holy, holy,
merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons,
blessed Trinity!

2. Holy, holy, holy!
All the saints adore Thee,
casting down their golden
crowns around the glassy sea;
cherubim and seraphim
falling down before Thee,
who wert and art and
evermore shalt be.

3. Holy, holy, holy!
Though the darkness hide Thee,
though the eye of sinful man
Thy glory may not see,
only Thou art holy;
there is none beside Thee,
perfect in power,
in love and purity.

4. Holy, holy, holy!
Lord God Almighty!
All Thy works shall praise
Thy name, in earth and sky
and sea.
Holy, holy, holy,
merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons,
blessed Trinity!

“Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty;
the whole earth is full of His glory.” — Isaiah 6:3

Modern Hymns

TIMELESS TRUTH.
ECHOED TODAY.



ROOTED IN SCRIPTURE
God's Word never changes.



SUNG IN EVERY GENERATION
New melodies, same faith.



WRITTEN FROM REAL LIFE
Honest hearts, authentic worship.



GLORIFYING CHRIST
Our focus, our Savior, our song.

Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth.

– PSALM 96:1



KEITH &
KRISTYN GETTY

SONGWRITERS. WORSHIP LEADERS.
STORYTELLERS.

Holy, Holy, Holy
Keith and Kristyn Getty





TODAY'S HYMN

SPIRIT OF THE LIVING GOD



(1926)

DANIEL IVERSON

EARLY 20TH CENTURY GOSPEL



*Spirit of the
living God,
fall afresh
on me.*

Spirit of the Living God

1926



DANIEL IVERSON

1903–1961

Early 20th Century Gospel



A REVIVAL MOMENT

At a revival meeting in Orlando, Florida in 1926, 23-year-old Daniel Iverson was moved to write a short prayer to the Holy Spirit.



FOUR LINES. THAT'S IT.

- *Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.*
- *Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.*
- *Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.*
- *Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.*



100 YEARS. WORLDWIDE.

Sung in churches across the world for a century. No complex theology. Just a prayer.



SINCERITY OVER SOPHISTICATION

The Spirit doesn't require sophistication. He requires sincerity. The simplest song has outlasted most of its era.

Spirit of the Living God

Steven Moctezuma





TODAY'S HYMN



THY WORD

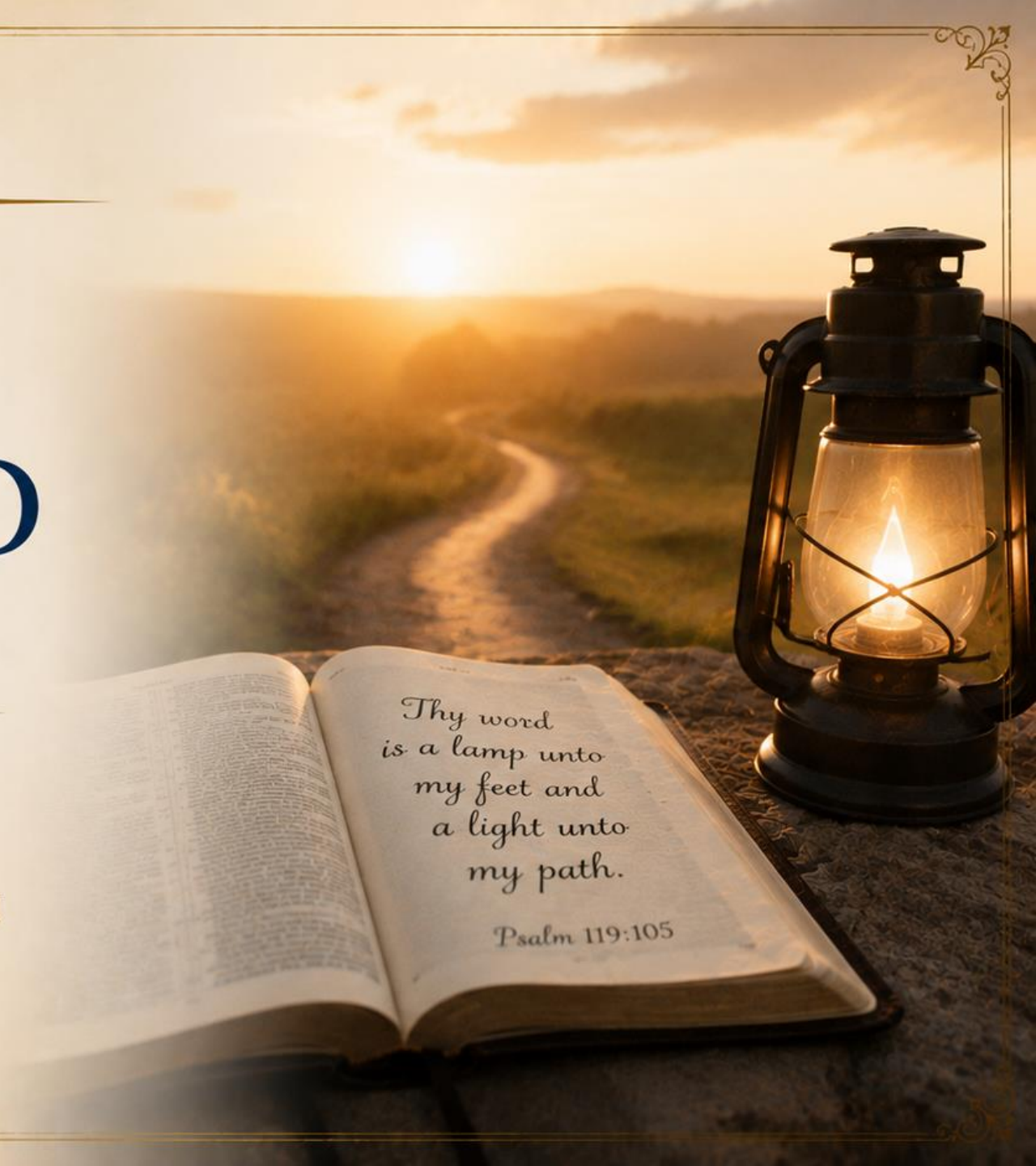


(1984)

AMY GRANT / MICHAEL W. SMITH



MID-CENTURY TRANSITIONAL

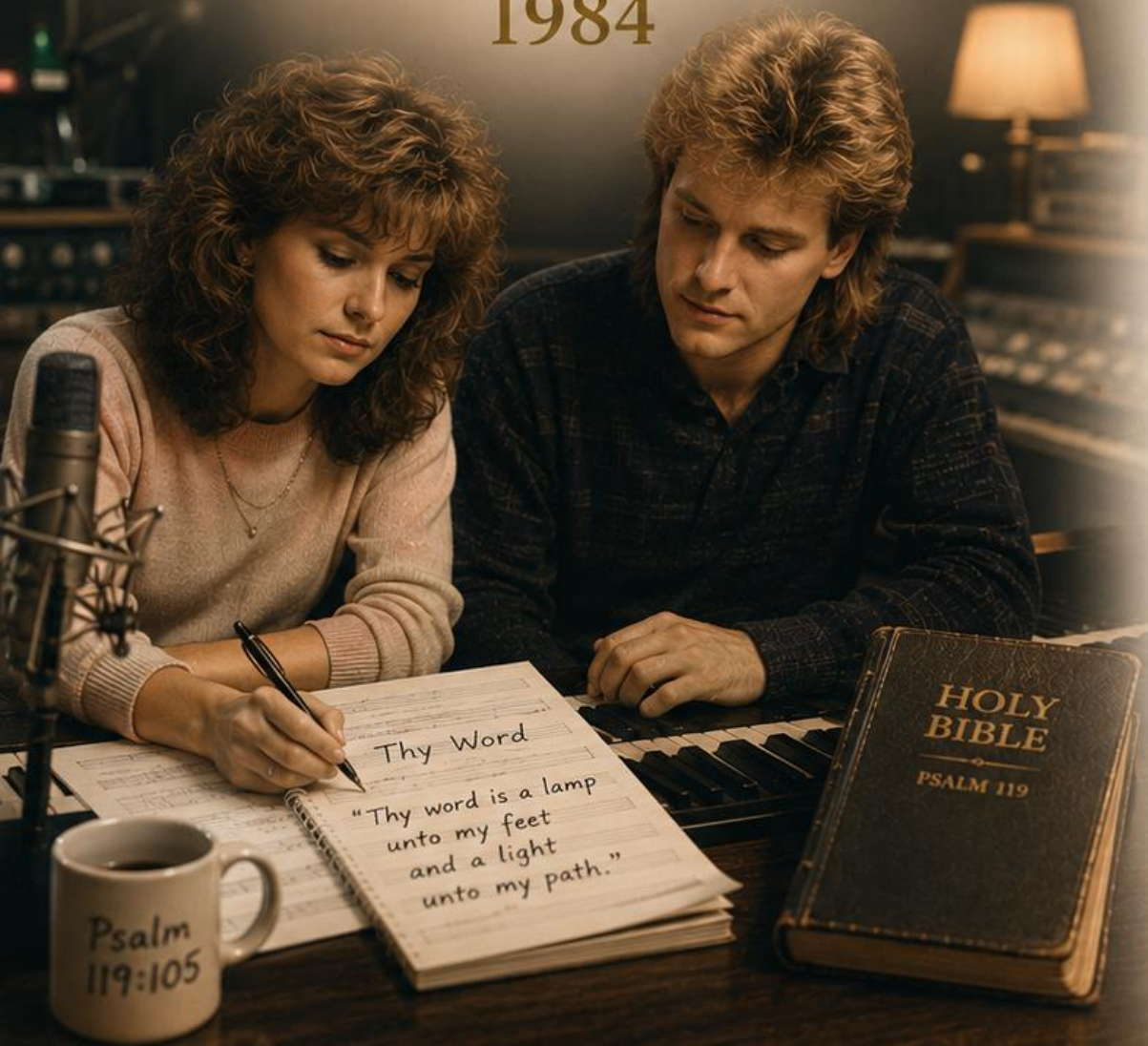


*Thy word
is a lamp unto
my feet and
a light unto
my path.*

Psalm 119:105

Thy Word

1984



AMY GRANT /
MICHAEL W. SMITH

Mid-Century Transitional



WRITTEN IN 1984

Amy Grant, already a leading voice in Christian music, and her keyboardist, Michael W. Smith, co-wrote this song together.



ROOTED IN SCRIPTURE

Set Psalm 119:105 to music:

*"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet
and a light unto my path."*



A DEFINING SONG

One of the defining songs of the contemporary Christian music era.



BUILT TO BRIDGE

Gentle enough to reach skeptical congregations. Scripture-anchored enough to hold theological weight.

THY WORD

GOD'S WORD: OUR GUIDE, OUR LIGHT



*“Your word is a lamp
for my feet,
a light on my path.”*

PSALM 119:105 (NIV)



GUIDES US
PSALM 119:105



COMFORTS US
PSALM 119:50



STRENGTHENS US
PSALM 119:28



TRANSFORMS US
ROMANS 12:2



BRINGS US CLOSER
TO GOD
JAMES 1:22

HIDE YOUR WORD IN MY HEART THAT I MIGHT NOT SIN AGAINST YOU.

PSALM 119:11 (NIV)

Thy Word

Psalm 119:105

Thy Word is a lamp unto my
feet and a light unto my path

When I feel afraid
Think I've lost my way
Still you're there right beside
me
And nothing will I fear
As long as you are near
Please be near me to the end

Thy Word is a lamp unto my
feet and a light unto my path

I will not forget
Your love for me and yet
My heart forever is wandering
Jesus be my guide
And hold me to your side
I will love you to the end

Thy Word

Amy Grant and Michael W. Smith



a lamp unto my feet.



TODAY'S HYMN



ANCIENT WORDS

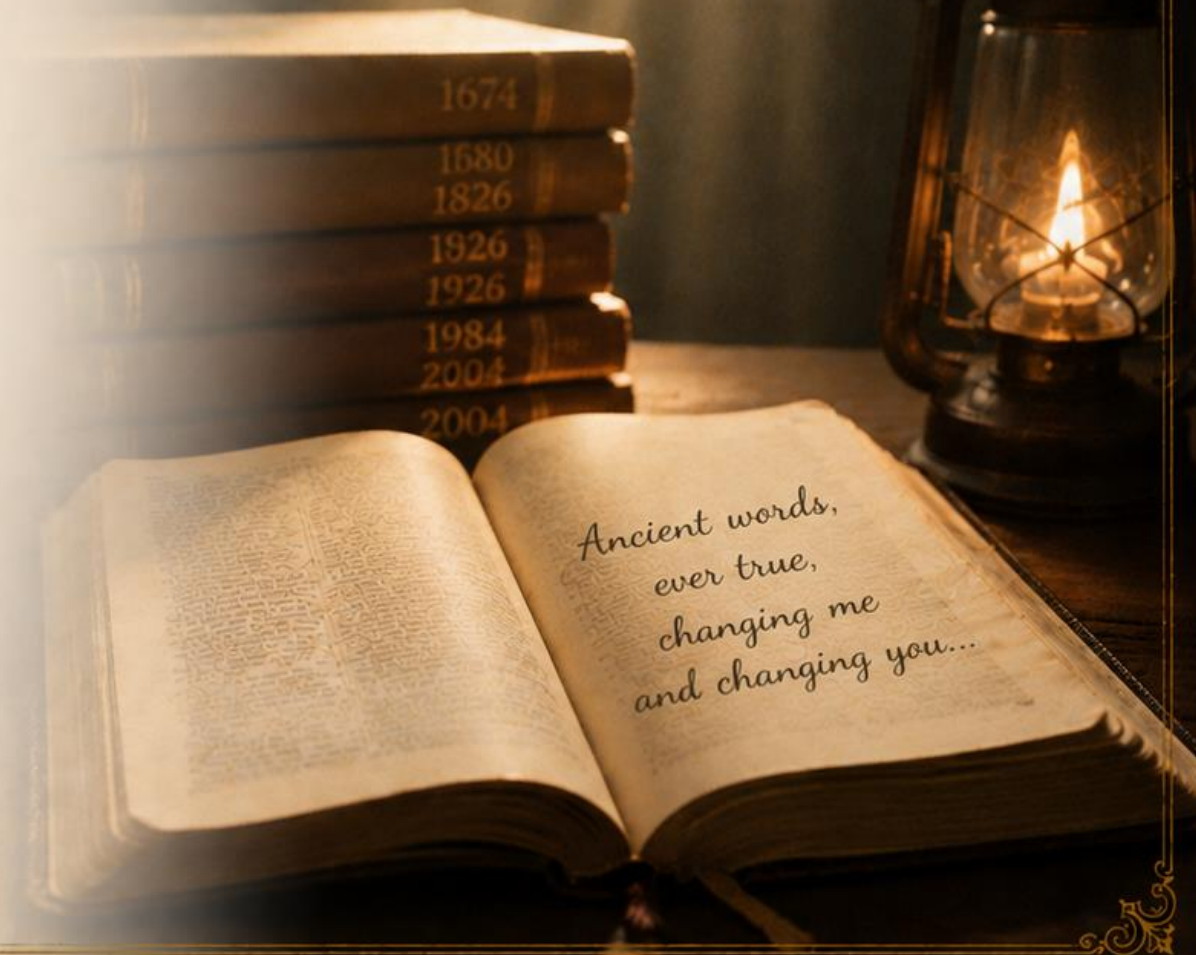


(2001)

LYNN DESHAZO



2000s CONTEMPORARY



ANCIENT WORDS

TIMELESS TRUTH. ETERNAL HOPE.

“
Heaven and earth
will pass away,
but My words
will never pass away.

MATTHEW 24:35

Your word is a lamp for my feet,
a light on my path.

- PSALM 119:105



INSPIRED

2 TIMOTHY 3:16



GUIDES

PSALM 119:105



STRENGTHENS

PSALM 19:7



TRANSFORMS

ROMANS 12:2



ENDURES

1 PETER 1:25

THE SAME YESTERDAY, TODAY, AND FOREVER. HEBREWS 13:8

Ancient Words

Holy words long
preserved
for our walk in this
world,
They resound with
God's own heart
Oh, let the Ancient
words impart.

Words of Life, words of
Hope
Give us strength, help
us cope
In this world, where
e'er we roam
Ancient words will
guide us Home.

Holy words of our Faith
Handed down to this
age.
Came to us through
sacrifice
Oh heed the faithful
words of Christ.

Ancient words ever true
Changing me, and
changing you.
We have come with
open hearts
Oh let the ancient
words impart.

Ancient Words

Michael W. Smith





TODAY'S HYMN



REVELATION SONG



(2004)

JENNIE LEE RIDDLE



2000s CONTEMPORARY



Revelation Song

2004



JENNIE LEE RIDDLE

2000s Contemporary



A PRAYER IN HER LIVING ROOM

Jennie Lee Riddle wasn't writing a worship hit. She was writing a prayer for her own small congregation.



ROOTED IN REVELATION

She took Revelation 4 and 5 — the throne room vision, the seraphim crying Holy, the four living creatures, the elders casting their crowns — and wrote what she found there.



FROM ONE CONGREGATION TO THE WORLD

She gave it to her worship leader. Kari Jobe heard it, sang it, recorded it. It spread from church to church across the country and around the world.



NEVER EXPECTED. NOW UNIVERSAL.

Riddle never expected it to leave her living room. It became one of the most sung contemporary worship songs of the 2000s.

REVELATION SONG

WORTHY IS THE LAMB WHO WAS SLAIN.

“Worthy is the Lamb
who was slain,
Holy, holy is He.
Sing a new song
to Him who sits on
Heaven’s mercy seat.”



WORTHY IS THE LAMB

REVELATION 5:12

“Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain.”



HOLY, HOLY IS HE

REVELATION 4:8

“Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty.”



SING A NEW SONG

REVELATION 5:9

“They sang a new song.”



HEAVEN’S MERCY SEAT

REVELATION 4:2-3

“There before the throne was
a sea of glass, like crystal.”



TO HIM BE GLORY AND POWER FOREVER AND EVER!

REVELATION 5:13



HE SAVED US
BY HIS BLOOD
REVELATION 5:9



HE LOVES US
FOREVER
REVELATION 1:5



HE IS WORTHY
TO RECEIVE
REVELATION 5:12



WE WORSHIP
HIM ALONE
REVELATION 4:11



KING OF KINGS
LORD OF LORDS
REVELATION 19:16

Revelation Song

Worthy is the
Lamb who was slain
Holy, holy is He
Sing a new song
To Him who sits on
Heaven's mercy seat.

Holy, holy, holy
Is the Lord, God
Almighty
Who was and is and is
to come,
With all creation I sing,
praise to the King of
Kings
You are my everything
And I will adore You

Clothed in rainbows of
living color
Flashes of lighting, rolls
of thunder
Blessing and honor,
strength and glory and
power be
To You, the only wise
King
Filled with wonder
Awestruck wonder
At the mention of Your
name
Jesus, Your name is
power
Breath and living water
Such a marvelous
mystery.

Revelation Song

Guy Penrod





THANK YOU FOR JOINING US!

WHY THE CHURCH SINGS



MAY THE LORD HELP US SING
TO HIS GLORY AND FOR HIS KINGDOM.



NEXT WEEK'S LESSON:
REPENTANCE, SURRENDER,
AND DEVOTION

SEE YOU NEXT WEEK!

