



*This week begins our summer sermon series on the hymns and songs of our faith. Here is some information about this morning's songs, the first in our collection:*

### ***All Things Bright and Beautiful***

This is one of a series of hymns that the author wrote for children on the Apostle's Creed. This hymn text expands on God as "Maker of heaven and earth." The author was inspired by Psalm 104:24-25, and was likely inspired as well by a verse from Samuel Taylor Coleridge's *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner*: "He prayeth best, who loveth best; All things great and small; For the dear God who loveth us; He made and loveth all."

This song was a Sunday School standard for decades, and celebrates creation in all of the, well, bright and beautiful detail.

The person who requested this song said, "This song reminds me of being a child; and it reminds me of my mother."

### ***Lift Every Voice and Sing***

Initially a poem for a school assembly at which Booker T. Washington spoke on Lincoln's birthday in 1900, this text and tune have gained national recognition and devotion, not only within the African American community but also among all who seek justice, and liberation from oppression. Alicia Keys sang this before the National Anthem at this year's Super Bowl as an expression of the NFL's commitment to the work of racial justice and equality.

The person who requested this song said, "It speaks to overcoming terrible obstacles and facing the future with determination, hope, and love. It acknowledges that the past and the present are difficult, and that the fight is not over. It even speaks to love of the country where people reside, even though it acknowledges the hardships that people have suffered at the hands of others of that same land."

### ***How Can I Keep from Singing?***

This is an old Baptist song; the original text was titled "Always Rejoicing." Although it is attributed to Baptist pastor Robert Lowry who published it as a church song, the text appeared in an 1868 *New Yorker* and was attributed to "Pauline T." It is uncertain whether she is the author, or the person who simply contributed it to the publication.

This is another song that celebrates creation, and expresses confidence in the power of Christ and the peace of Christ that come amidst life's struggles, and help us overcome them. Through singing!

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### **PRELUDE**

### **WELCOME**

### **CALL TO WORSHIP—**from Psalm 105:1-3

**Give thanks to the Lord,  
call on his name,  
make known God's deeds among the peoples.  
Sing praises to God;  
and tell of all his wonderful works.  
Glory in God's holy name;  
let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice!**

### **SONG      *All Things Bright and Beautiful (#20)***

**Refrain:**  
All things bright and beautiful,  
all creatures great and small,  
all things wise and wonderful,  
the Lord God made them all.

Each little flower that opens,  
each little bird that sings,  
God made their glowing colors;  
God made their tiny wings. **[Refrain]**

The purple-headed mountain,  
the river running by,  
the sunset, and the morning  
that brightens up the sky: **[Refrain]**

The cold wind in the winter,  
the pleasant summer sun,  
the ripe fruits in the garden,  
God made them every one. **[Refrain]**

God gave us eyes to see them,  
and lips that we might tell  
how great is God Almighty,  
who has made all things well. **[Refrain]**

#### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Deliver us, gracious God, from the stress of our unfaithfulness. You are the Source of all we have and all we are, yet we turn away from you and live as if there were no reality beyond ourselves. Help us to seek you with all our heart, trust in your goodness, and live in the joy of your presence day by day.**

(moment for silent prayers and reflection)

#### **WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

In warmth and tender compassion God responds to us, not with anger that is justified from a human point of view, but with love that is unmerited. God does not seek to condemn us, but to lift us up in steadfast love to recognize a new and better way. You are freed to live and serve others with joy and love and a lightness of being. Be at peace, and walk in faith.

**Thanks be to God!**

#### **PASSING THE PEACE**

#### **HYMN *Lift Every Voice and Sing (#339)***

Lift every voice and sing  
till earth and heaven ring,  
ring with the harmonies of liberty.  
Let our rejoicing rise  
high as the listening skies;  
let it resound loud as the rolling sea.  
Sing a song full of the faith  
that the dark past has taught us;  
sing a song full of the hope  
that the present has brought us.  
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,  
let us march on, till victory is won.

Stony the road we trod,  
bitter the chastening rod,  
felt in the days when hope unborn had died.  
Yet, with a steady beat,  
have not our weary feet  
come to the place for which our parents sighed?  
We have come over a way  
that with tears has been watered;  
we have come, treading our path  
through the blood of the slaughtered,  
out from the gloomy past,  
till now we stand at last  
where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years,  
God of our silent tears,  
thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;  
thou who hast by thy might  
led us into the light,  
keep us forever in the path, we pray.  
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God,  
where we met thee;  
lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world,  
we forget thee;  
shadowed beneath thy hand  
may we forever stand,  
true to our God, true to our native land.

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

Psalm 150 and  
Colossians 3:15-17

**MESSAGE Singing Our Faith****PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER**

*Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread,  
and forgive us our debts,  
as we forgive our debtors.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For yours is the kingdom,  
and the power,  
and the glory  
now and forever. Amen.*

**SONG How Can I Keep from Singing? (#821)**

My life flows on in endless song,  
above earth's lamentation.  
I hear the clear, though far-off hymn  
that hails a new creation.

**Refrain:**

No storm can shake my inmost calm  
while to that Rock I'm clinging.  
Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth,  
how can I keep from singing?

Through all the tumult and the strife,  
I hear that music ringing.  
It finds an echo in my soul.  
How can I keep from singing? **[Refrain]**

What though my joys and comforts die?  
I know my Savior liveth.  
What though the darkness gather round?  
Songs in the night he giveth. **[Refrain]**

The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart,  
a fountain ever springing!  
All things are mine since I am his!  
How can I keep from singing? **[Refrain]**

**BENEDICTION**

May the grace of Christ attend you,  
The love of God surround you,  
And the Holy Spirit keep you,  
That you may live in faith,  
Abound in hope,  
And grow in love,  
Now and forevermore.  
And all of God's people said, Amen!

**POSTLUDE**