Praying for Others

A tapestry of reflections, prayers, and scripture with recorded new hymns for public worship and personal devotions

from the series:
Fresh Views of
Timeless Truths

Ken Bible

LNWhymns.com

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Christ Is Praying for Us

Romans 8:26-27, 34; Hebrews 7:25; 9:24

Father, as I love You more and more,

my love grows for those You love all around me.

Out of love for You and

love for them,

I long to draw you together.

I eagerly reach out to them

through my prayers,

through my words,

through my actions.

I long to attract them to You.

Your holy and perfectly-loving Son

loves You and

loves us

with a deep, yearning love beyond our imagining.

Just as I pray for others,

He prays for us.

He lifts us up to You,

speaking our names,

interceding for us as He communes with You

heart to heart.

If prayer arouses my love for others,

what must He feel for us as He prays?

How must He yearn to draw us into

His intimate fellowship with You!

How must He long for us to share in the

life and love that flows

full and unbroken between You!

How must He gently nourish in us and fan into flame

our every small desire for You!

O Father, complete this deep desire that You share with Him!

Unite us all in love,

fully and forever!

And help me to play my part here and now

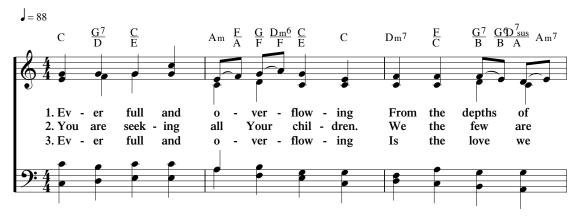
by showing Your love for those around me.

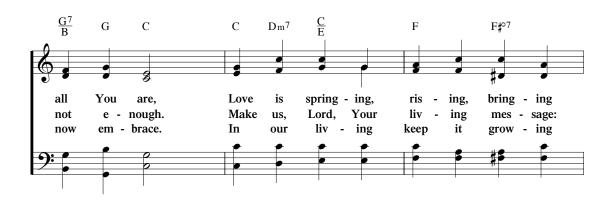
Hymn recording: Ever Full and Overflowing

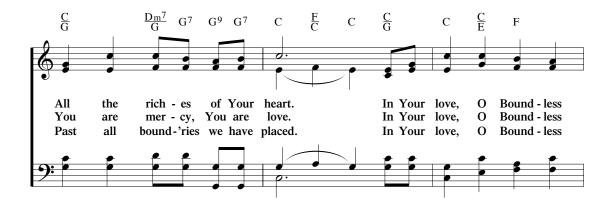
Ever Full and Overflowing

TUNE: When We All Get to Heaven, adapted

Psalm 36:5; Jeremiah 31:3; John 3:16; 14:21, 23; 17:20-26; 1 John 4:7-21





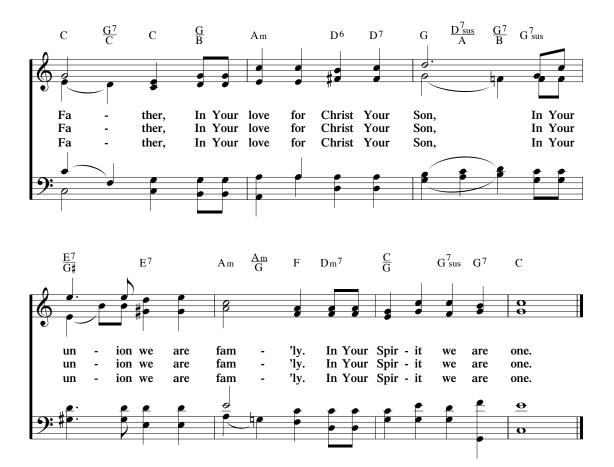


WORDS: Ken Bible AGAPE MUSIC: Emily D. Wilson and Ken Bible 8.7.8.7.D.

Alt. Tunes: BEACH SPRING, NETTLEON, RIPLEY, SATISFIED

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CCLI Song #5488911. For CCLI information call 1-800-234-2446.



Make Them Rich in Christ

Ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God's people, I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers.

I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better.

I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you,

the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, and his incomparably great power for us who believe.

That power is the same as the mighty strength he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way. (Ephesians 1:15-23, NIV)

Father,
I want for my loved ones
what You want for them:
to be
rich,
fruitful, and
complete in Jesus Christ.

Hymn recording: Know the Lord

Know the Lord

Ephesians 1:15-23; 3:14-21; Colossians 2:1-3



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Irregular

Pray in Love

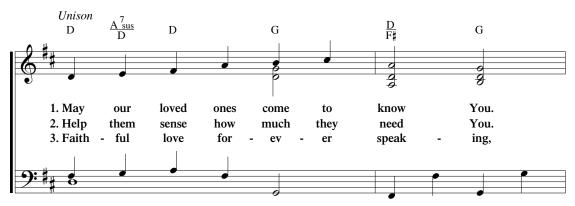
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Father, thank You for filling our lives with
precious loved ones -
      parents and
      spouses,
      children and
      grandchildren,
      family and
      friends.
As we love them and
      are loved by them,
our days are bathed in the
      comforting warmth of Your love.
As we pray for them,
      Father,
      help us to pray in love.
Help us to pray,
      not just with words,
      but with Your heart for them.
Draw us in
to become full sharers in Your
      tender,
      tireless.
      self-giving love,
forever reaching out to
      each and every one of them.
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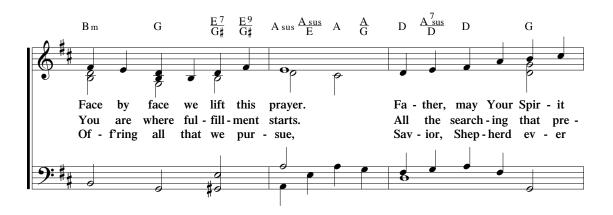
Hymn recording: May Our Loved Ones Come to Know You

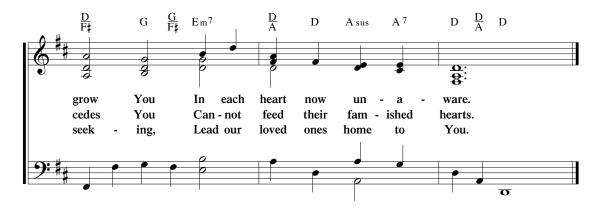
May Our Loved Ones Come to Know You

Matthew 9:36; 18:12-14; Luke 15; 2 Peter 3:9

J = 88







WORDS & MUSIC: Ken Bible

EVER SEEKING 8.7.8.7.

The Bond of Prayer

When I was raising my children, I often prayed for them as I drove to work. When we were apart, especially when problems aroused my love and concern, prayer was a way of reaching out to them. But one particular morning I realized that when we pray for someone from our hearts, we relate to them on a deeper and more basic level than we usually do.

For instance, when I prayed for my kids during those growing-up years, I didn't think of them as children, or in terms of their sometimes-annoying, childish ways. I thought of them as souls, as fellow beings before God, as friends and equals. My greatest desire for them was God's highest good. I longed for them to know the same satisfying relationship with Him that He had planted in me. That is still my greatest desire and deepest longing for each of them.

As I pray for them, the bond between us is Christ's own love – His love active within me. I love God, and I love my children, and in prayer this love reaches out to both God and them, seeking to draw them together.

I believe that kind of prayer is an example of the teachings in Ephesians, chapters 5 and 6. There we are told that all of our relationships should be "in Christ": we react to others as if we are reacting to Christ Himself, and our love for Him is expressed in the way we treat others. Praying for others helps make this a reality. My love for Christ reaches out to embrace and include those for whom I am praying.

This is what He wants us to do, not just with our immediate families, but with others around us. He wants us to love Christ and love others enough that our hearts seek to draw them to Him, that they might share our relationship with Him. This often begins with prayer, but if our prayer is from the heart, we will love them through words and deeds as well. In this way, Christ's love works to unite us all in Him – each one drawn to Christ, and each one drawing others to Him.

As we let Christ live in us, His love can be the beauty of each friendship, each marriage, each family, each relationship. This is how He has planned for us to live. And eventually, His love will unite us fully with Him, with each other, and with all creation.

What a wonderful way to spend eternity!

Just as the Father has loved Me, I have also loved you; abide in My love. Love one another, just as I have loved you (John 15:9, 12, NASB).

Hymn recording: Live and Love and Grow in Christ

Live and Love and Grow in Christ

TUNE: Shepherds! Shake Off Your Drowsy Sleep (BESANCON)

Matthew 5:43-48; John 13:34-35; 1 Corinthians 13;

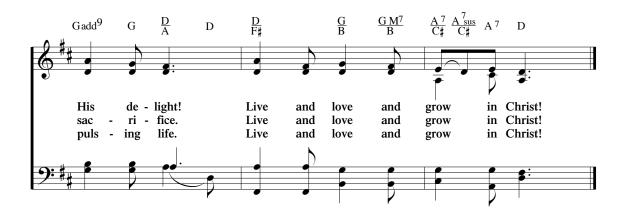
Ephesians 3:14-21; 4; 5; 6:1-9; 1 John 3:18



WORDS: Ken Bible MUSIC: Traditional French Carol; arr. by Ken Bible BESANCON 8.7.9.8.8.7.

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Holy and Faithful

To the holy and faithful brothers in Christ. (Colossians 1:2, NIV)

It's easy to get distracted by the human side of the church and its people. We sometimes grow impatient with each other's weaknesses and immaturities.

But notice Paul's letters. The Christians in his day were surely as flawed and human as today. But he gives a different view of them. He always writes with such joy and deep affection for them.

Just read the openings to the letters. My favorite is the Colossians 1:2, *To the holy and faithful brothers in Christ.*

I wonder: if I had known those people, would I have described them this way? As I think of those around me, do I focus on their human failings and limitations, or do I appreciate them for the persons they are becoming in Christ?

Even now, in their imperfections, our *holy and faithful brothers* and sisters strengthen us in ways we take for granted. Their testimonies, their struggles, their failures and victories—even their mere presence with us—bolster our faith and keep pointing us week by week toward Christ. Through their lives, we see God in action.

Remember that those around us are destined to become kings and priests and honored children of God. If you want an exciting thought, picture your Christian friends as fulfilled in Christ. Imagine them without their fears, insecurities, emotional scars, and human weaknesses. See them as having become all God's love designed them to be and all His transforming power is able to make them. Rather moving, isn't it? This will soon be reality. We have God's Word on it.

Value your brothers and sisters now. Bear with them now. Pray for them, encourage them, lift them up, forgive, and be patient with them. Love them the way Christ loves you.

Hymn recording: How Precious Are Your People

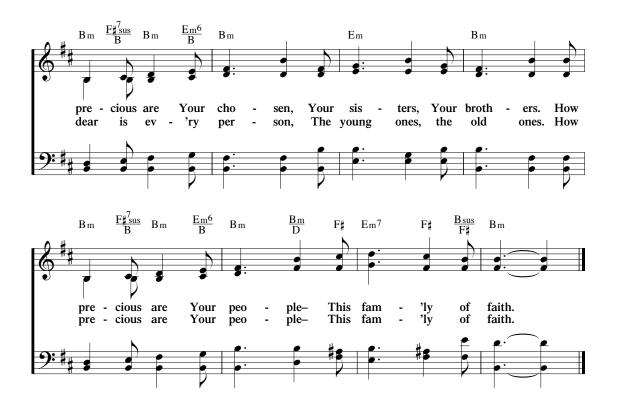
How Precious Are Your People



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As I Sit among Your People

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Father, when I next sit in the worship service,
surrounded by Your people,
      give me Your eyes,
      give me Your heart for them.
Move me as Jesus was moved by
      their fears,
      their needs,
      their pain,
      their struggles,
      their grief.
Awaken me to them, Lord.
Move me
      to pray,
      to encourage,
      to lend a helping hand,
      to minister to their sorrow through my caring presence.
As I sit among Your people,
give me the
      heart and
      words and
      overflowing generosity of Jesus.
```

Hymn recording: Prayer of Intercession

Prayer of Intercession

Psalm 1; Ephesians 1:15-23; 3:14-21; Philippians 1:9-11; Colossians 1:9-12



WORDS: Ken Bible MUSIC: Traditional Folk Tune and Ken Bible

LIVY LU 11.9.11.4.4.6.

I Thank God for You

I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy...being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

It is right for me to feel this way...since I have you in my heart...All of you share in God's grace with me. God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus.

And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God. (Philippians 1:3-11, NIV)

Try it. Begin praying for people you know: your family, your friends, those who serve with you at church. Thank God for them. Specifically mention their good qualities. Verbalize what God is doing in and through their lives.

As you do, you'll find your affection for them immeasurably deepened. You'll appreciate them in a way you never have before.

But further, you'll see God forming himself in them. What an incredibly exciting process! Even their annoying qualities will begin to appear as seeds, as promises of virtues not yet fully formed.

Prayer helps us see others through the eyes of Jesus Christ.

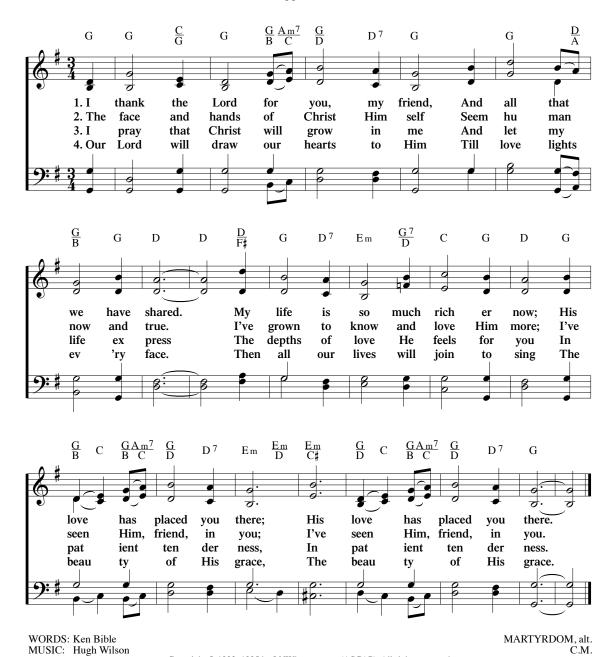
If you care so much for your loved ones, imagine God's tender and constant concern for them.

He is their Father, Creator, and
Savior, and
His love and patience are infinite.

Hymn recording: ITHank the Lord for You

I Thank the Lord for You

TUNE: Alas! and Did My Savior Bleed (MARTYRDOM), with repeat *Philippians 1:3-11*



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Pray as One of His Children

Many years ago the Lord challenged me to spend more time in prayer, and to use the Lord's Prayer as the framework for my prayers. When I first started using it on a daily basis, I was struck by one fact: there was no place for intercession. There was nothing that allowed me to pray for the needs of others.

Then I noticed that throughout the prayer, it doesn't say "I" or "my," but "we" and "our." The prayer is written from a "we" perspective, with others in mind.

Yes, I can still pray for my personal concerns. "I" am included in the "we," and my Father asks me to come to Him. But the point is this: My prayers can be as broad or as narrow as my concerns at the time. My petitions can be personal. They can be universal.

How broad are your prayers? Or to ask it a different way, how low are your eyes? Are they focused entirely on yourself? Are they raised a little higher to take in those few immediately around you? Or have you looked up and realized that you are surrounded by an entire world of need, an entire race that's lost, desperate, hungry, and dying? God is *our* Father. Every person is His as well. He is deeply conscious of them.

Are you?

There is nothing wrong with praying for personal and family concerns. But each of the petitions of the Lord's Prayer challenges us to lift our eyes, our hearts, and our prayers toward other people near and far. God is *our* Father. We all need His will in our lives, His daily provision, His forgiveness, His protection from evil.

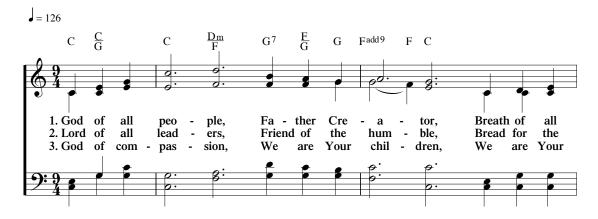
Pray to your Father, not just as His child, but as one of His children.

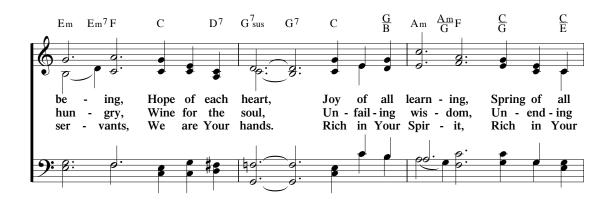
Father, whenever I come before You,
help me bear on my heart
all those You have given me to
love and
nurture and
draw to You.

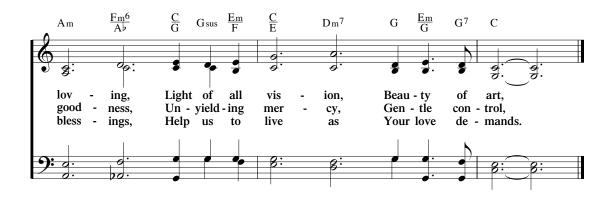
Hymn recording: God of All People

God of All People

TUNE: Morning Has Broken (BUNESSAN) Exodus 34:5-7; Psalm 104:27-30; Isaiah 40:25; Matthew 5:43-48; 10:7-8; Acts 17:24-28; Ephesians 3:14-15







WORDS: Ken Bible MUSIC: Gaelic Melody; arr. by Ken Bible BUNESSAN 5.5.5.4.D.

When I Drive

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. (Romans 12:14, NASB)

My driving habits have mellowed a bit with age, but I'm still a nervous driver.

In my experience, nervous drivers are impatient, uptight, and too often unkind.

A few years ago, after reacting inwardly to another driver, the Lord challenged me to pray for everyone He puts in my way – whether on the road or elsewhere.

And I assume that whoever is in my way, the Lord put them there.

It's a habit that is not yet fully formed.

But when I remember to pray for that person in front of me, it calms me.

It connects me with that driver as with a real human being, not as a mere inconvenience to me.

Such prayer brings my heart back where it belongs.

Thank You, Lord!

Father, help me to pray with the heart of Christ.

Hymn recording: Bless Them with Your Best

Bless Them with Your Best



WORDS & MUSIC: Ken Bible

ROGER ALLEN 8.6.8.6.8.7.8.5.

Pray in the Truth

1 Timothy 2

Father, as I pray to You, help me to remember the truth about You and to pray in faith accordingly, sharing Your desires:

You are the Lord of all nations and of history. Help me to pray for our leaders.

You want everyone to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. Help me to share this desire with You and to pray boldly toward this goal.

You are the God of all.

Jesus is the Mediator between You and us, for all of us.

He gave Himself for all of us.

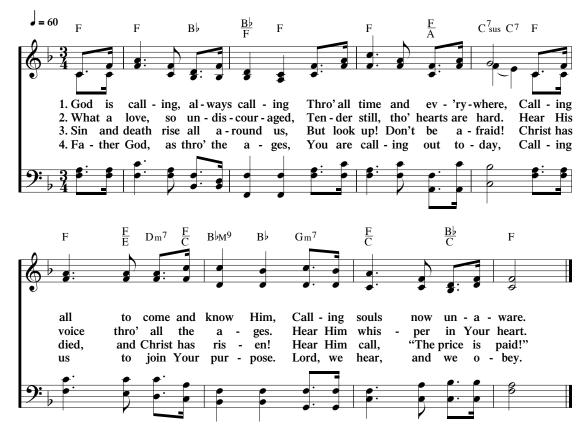
Help me to look to You and pray to You as the Lord and Savior of every human being.

Help me to think of every human being as one for whom Christ suffered.

Help me to pray always, reaching out to all, and without anger or ill-feelings toward them.

Hymn recording: God Is Calling

God Is Calling



WORDS: Ken Bible BASSETT MUSIC: Ken Bible and Silas Vail 8.7.8.7.

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Pray to the Father of All

ALL

Why should we pray for secular institutions and secular life? Shouldn't we focus our prayers on God's work?

CONGREGATION

God is the Creator and Lord of all. All that is, is God's work.

LEADER

Romans 13 says, "Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God...The authorities are God's servants, who give their full time to governing. Give everyone what you owe him: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor." (vv.1, 6-7, NIV)

ALL

Why should we pray for political leaders? Shouldn't we focus on the work of salvation?

CONGREGATION

God is the Creator and Lord of all.

All that is, is God's work.

Political leaders are part of God's work, and God's love includes them.

LEADER

Paul told Pastor Timothy, "I urge...that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone—for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus." (1 Timothy 2:1-5, NIV)

ALL

Shouldn't the Church focus on getting people saved, not on meeting their temporary physical needs?

CONGREGATION

God is the Creator and Lord of all.

All that is, is God's work.

Jesus came to paint a living picture of our unseen Father.

He showed that our Father's love is not limited to our spiritual welfare.

He cares about our health, our food, our human relationships...

even about having enough wine for a wedding.

We are His disciples.

We are His brothers and sisters.

We are children of the same Father.

God has called us and equipped us to live His love.

LEADER

When Jesus sent out His disciples, He told them: "As you go, preach this message, 'The kingdom of heaven is near.' Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received, freely give." (Matthew 10:7-8, NIV)

ALL

But shouldn't our concerns and prayers focus closer to home? Shouldn't we bloom where we are planted?

CONGREGATION

God is the Creator and Lord of all.

All that is, is God's work.

People of other countries, cultures, and religions

may seem far away and strange to us.

They are not far away and strange to the Father of all.

LEADER

In Ephesians 3, verses 14-21, Paul prays to the Father of the entire human family. Every family, every clan, tribe, culture or country draws its connectedness from the Father of all. Paul urges us to stretch our minds and hearts to include the full reach of our Father's love. He wants us to comprehend not just the depth of God's life and love in our own hearts, but also the breadth of His love in all the earth — a broadness that has no boundaries. God's love reaches to all our race, and that is the love He calls us to live.

Our connection with our own family, with our friends, community and denomination, is only part of our larger connection with all people. As we begin to grasp how wide, long, high and deep is the love of Christ, we will love and pray for all the human race as for our own brothers and sisters.

Hymn recording: Share Your Father's Heart

Share Your Father's Heart

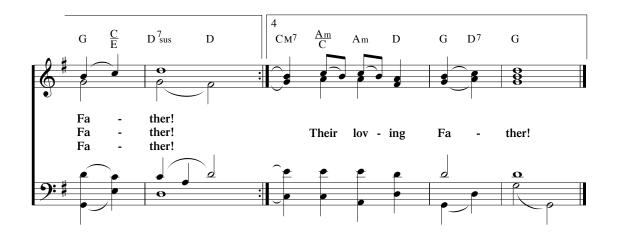
TUNE: ENGELBERG

Malachi 2:10; Acts 17:24-29; 1 Corinthians 8:6; 2 Corinthians 5:14-20; Ephesians 4:1-6; 1 Timothy 2:1-8; 1 Peter 2:9-10



WORDS: Ken Bible MUSIC: Charles Villiers Stanford; arr. by Ken Bible

ENGELBERG 10.10.10.5.



All in Christ

```
Father, in Your love,
       by Your Spirit,
this is my prayer and
       my desire:
that every person I know be in Christ:
      trusting Him,
       one with Him
      joined deeply, completely, forever with Him.
My spouse
       in Christ,
each of my children
       in Christ,
each dear member of my family, in all their variety and individuality,
       in Christ,
each of my neighbors
       in Christ,
my co-workers
       in Christ,
every member of my church, of every age,
       in Christ;
And far beyond them, Lord,
every family,
every nation,
every human being
             in Christ.
Holy in Christ,
loving in Christ,
joyful,
at peace, and
free
       in Christ.
I begin to imagine it, Father.
       Each and every person
       completed forever in Jesus Christ,
      for Your everlasting glory.
I begin to desire it
       because You desire it.
```

You love them and

long for each one as only a parent can.

Father, permeate my heart,
my thoughts,
my prayers,
my daily life
with Your unquenchable, universal love.

Hymn recording: All in Christ

All in Christ

TUNE: O Worship the King (LYONS) 1 Corinthians 9:19-23; 2 Corinthians 11:2-3; Ephesians 3:14-21; Colossians 1:28-29; 2 Peter 3:9



MUSIC: Attr. to Johann Michael Haydn
Alt. Tune: HANOVER

WORDS: Ken Bible

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LYONS 10.10.11.11.