

The Beatitudes

Reflections,
prayers,
scripture, and
recorded new hymns
for
public worship and
personal devotions

from the series:
[Fresh Views of
Timeless Truths](#)

Ken Bible

LNW *hymns*.COM

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Matthew 5:1-12

(NIV)

Now when Jesus saw the crowds,
he went up on a mountainside and
sat down.

His disciples came to him, and
he began to teach them.

He said:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.

“Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the earth.

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be filled.

“Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.

“Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they will see God.

“Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God.

“Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are you when people insult you,
persecute you and
falsely say all kinds of evil against you
because of me.

Rejoice and be glad,
because great is your reward in heaven,
for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

Living in the Father's Presence

We are needy creatures
living in a material world.

We need
food,
shelter, and
clothing.

To meet these needs,
we work,
we worry,
we gather and
grasp.

And if we get more than we need for today,
we hungrily store it away for the future.

By nature, we are
self-centered,
driven by desires of which we are
only vaguely aware.

We long to wrap ourselves in
pleasure and
security and
the admiration of others.

We crave glory and gold.

And so it goes.

We live,
we long,
we scramble, and
we die,
with our hearts entwined with
the physical world around us.

But our Creator made us for
better things.

He made us
to be like Himself,
to share the endless abundance of
all He is.

He designed us
for love...
for eternity.

But when we turned away from Him so long ago,
we lost sight of
 our birthright and
 our destiny.
We degenerated into the
 fearful,
 selfish creatures that we are.

But our Creator didn't abandon us.
He sent His own divine Son
 as a human being like us,
to show us
 Who He is and
 who we can be.
He came to renew us in
 the full image of our holy and loving Creator.
He came to teach us that this Creator is
 our Father, and that
He longs to be our Father in a
 deeper and
 more personal sense.
He wants us to realize that
 He is always with us.
 His loving eye focuses always on us.
 He wraps our entire existence in Himself.

Jesus Christ came to
 teach us and
 show us
what it means to live in the presence of this Father who is
 all-powerful,
 all-knowing, and
 all-loving.
He is already aware of our every need.
And this Father requires of us only one thing:
 that we trust Him.

As we trust Him and
 live before Him,
the logic of daily living is turned
 upside-down.
With such a Father,
 trusting makes sense,

not worry.
Giving is logical,
not grasping.
A close relationship with this Father is
our highest good,
our greatest security, and
our deepest pleasure.

Hymn recording: [Children of the Lord](#)

Children of the Lord

TUNE: McNamara's Band

1 John 3:1

♩. = 80

C F $\frac{E}{E}$ Dm⁷ $\frac{E}{C}$ B \flat M⁷ C C⁹_{sus} F $\frac{E}{C}$

1. Tell me, why should we be gloom - y, And now what have we to dread? His
2. Tho' our jour - ney may seem drear - y As we cross this bar - ren land, The

B \flat $\frac{B\flat}{D}$ $\frac{E}{C}$ Dm D_{sus} G⁹ $\frac{G7}{D}$ C⁷ C

joys have filled our jour - ney, And His joys are all a - head. His
King is al - ways with us, And He's al - ways in com - mand. His

F $\frac{E}{E}$ Dm⁷ $\frac{E}{C}$ B \flat M⁷ C C⁹_{sus} F $\frac{E}{E\flat}$

hands are full of bless - ings, And His smile is our re - ward. We're
wis - dom goes be - fore us With His maj - es - ty a - bove. Be -

$\frac{B\flat}{D}$ $\frac{B\flat m}{D\flat}$ $\frac{E}{C}$ Dm D_{sus} G⁹ C⁷ F

rich be - yond all meas - ure - We are chil - dren of the Lord.
neath and all a - round us Is His ev - er - last - ing love.

WORDS: Ken Bible

MUSIC: Shamus O'Connor; arr. by Ken Bible

McNAMARA'S BAND

8.7.7.7.7.7.7.7.w.Ref.

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REFRAIN

C C⁷ F $\frac{F}{C}$ F $\frac{F}{C}$

So we're bold to - day as we trust and pray, For no

F C⁷ $\frac{Bb}{C}$ F $\frac{F}{C}$ Gm⁷ $\frac{Gm^7}{D}$ $\frac{F}{C}$ Dm D^{sus}

mat - ter what may come, We live to lift all glo - ry To the

G⁹ $\frac{G^7}{D}$ C⁷ C F $\frac{F}{C}$

High and Ho - ly One. We're sing - ing and bring - ing our

F $\frac{F}{C}$ F C⁷ $\frac{Bb}{C}$ F $\frac{F}{Eb}$

prais - ing and rais - ing His love till all have heard. We

$\frac{Bb}{D}$ $\frac{Bbm}{D^b}$ $\frac{F}{C}$ Dm D^{sus} G⁹ C⁷ F

live to - day re - joic - ing- We are chil - dren of the Lord.

Blessed

Jesus spent His entire ministry here
teaching and
demonstrating
a new relationship with our heavenly Father.
Life could be
full and
complete
by simply, actively trusting Him.
These teachings are especially concentrated in
Matthew, chapters 5, 6, and 7,
the passage we call the Sermon on the Mount.

Jesus begins His description of
this new upside-down life
by summarizing God's recipe for success.
This recipe is called the beatitudes.
Here He pronounces God's blessing on eight character traits.
He says that God has decreed
the eternal well-being of
people who possess these qualities.

But like much of the Sermon on the Mount, the list is
surprising,
even shocking.
Human society tends to prize people who are
strong,
assertive, and
confident,
people who provide themselves and others with
physical goods,
security, and
pleasure.

Jesus' recipe for success is completely different.
Realize that only He has experienced both
life on this earth and
eternal life in heaven.
Only He has a complete perspective on
what is best.
And He says that the person who is
truly blessed by our Creator is

poor in spirit,
meek,
merciful and
pure in heart.

That person
mourns,
desires righteousness above all else,
makes peace, and
gladly suffers persecution for obeying God.

What unexpected keys to success!
None of these qualities are
strength,
skill,
material goods, or
human accomplishment.

All these qualities flow naturally from
trusting and
loving God.

These traits come with
wonderful promises from our Father.
He has decreed that all who show these qualities will be blessed with
the Kingdom of heaven,
their Father's rich comfort,
rulership of the entire earth,
a complete rightness to life,
mercy from God,
the promise of seeing Him, and
the glorious reality of living as
His dearly-loved children.

All these blessings concern
our inner, eternal person.
None are simply material.
All will outlast this world.
Jesus,
the only person with a total view of all of life,
urges us to seek these gifts as
our Creator's greatest blessings.

Hymn recording: [What a Strange and Wonderful Kingdom!](#)

What a Strange and Wonderful Kingdom!

Matthew 5:3-12; 18:1-4; 22:2

Folk-like, lilting ♩ = 68

G C $\frac{C_{sus}}{D}$ $\frac{C}{E}$ $\frac{CM^7}{E}$ $\frac{G}{F}$ F C $\frac{C}{E}$

1. What a strange and won-der - ful king - dom, The King - dom of
 2. What a strange and won-der - ful king - dom, The King - dom of
 3. What a strange and won-der - ful king - dom, The King - dom of

G_{sus} G G⁷ C $\frac{C_{sus}}{D}$ $\frac{C}{E}$ F

God! The poor are rich, The rich are poor, And
 God! All those who mourn Will sing and laugh. The
 God! His King - dom comes- I don't know when, But

C $\frac{C}{E}$ $\frac{CM^7}{E}$ $\frac{G}{F}$ F $\frac{F}{E}$ Dm⁷

those who give all have plen - ty more In the
 suf - f'ring are filled with hap - pi - ness In the
 day af - ter day I walk with Him In the

$\frac{C}{E}$ $\frac{G}{F}$ F $\frac{C}{G}$ G⁷_{sus} G⁷

strange and won-der - ful King - dom, The King - dom of
 strange and won-der - ful King - dom, The King - dom of
 strange and won-der - ful King - dom, The King - dom of

WORDS & MUSIC: Ken Bible

DENNIS ALLEN
Irregular

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There
This

ev - 'ry - one is wel - come, And all may come to stay, But
King - dom is a par - ty. This King - dom is a feast. A

on - ly chil - dren en - ter- All the proud are turned a - way.
Ser - vant is the Rul - er, And the

great - est are the least.

Beatitudes

In Your presence, Father

almighty,
all-wise,
all-loving,

what is

natural,
logical, and
blessed

is

an ungrasping Spirit,
mourning our sin and separation from You,
humility before You,
hungering and thirsting for Your righteousness,
sharing Your mercy with others,
spreading Your peace,
persevering, even rejoicing through temporary persecution,
knowing that it puts us in the company of Your dearest saints.

For as we live this way, we are

living in response to You,
in harmony with You, and
sharing more fully in You.

Hymn recording: [Beatitudes Hymn](#)

Beatitudes Hymn

TUNE: Take My Life, and Let It Be (HENDON)

Matthew 5:3-12; Luke 6:20-26

♩ = 80

F C E C⁷ F F Dm B^bM⁷ G^m B^b G^m

1. Lov - ing Fa - ther, al - ways here, In our need You
 2. From Your glo - ry light is born. Here we see our -
 3. Mer - cy flows as we be - lieve. Now we give as
 4. Peace in You is peace pro - found. Help us live it

F C C⁷ F F C F C⁷ A^m F^{sus} F

draw us near, Weak in all we think and do,
 selves and mourn, Hum - bled as we glimpse the truth.
 we re - ceive, Ves - sels of Your heal - ing grace.
 all a - round, Peace com - plete though prob - lems press,

F A B^b F A C G C⁷ F^{sus} F F C C Dm C F G^m B^b F C C F

Ev - er poor but rich in You, Ev - er poor but rich in You.
 Emp - ty, Lord, we thirst for You. Emp - ty, Lord, we thirst for You.
 Pure in heart, we see Your face. Pure in heart, we see Your face.
 Rich, e - ter - nal bless - ed - ness, Rich, e - ter - nal bless - ed - ness.

WORDS: Ken Bible
 MUSIC: Henri A. Cesar Malan

HENDON
 7.7.7.7.

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Blessed Are the Poor in Spirit

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
(Matthew 5:3, NASB)

God has decreed the well-being of those who are
poor in spirit.

His sovereign word says they
will have abundant life and
will be “prosperous” and “successful”
in an ultimate sense,
beyond mere money.

But what does it mean to be “poor in spirit”?

To be poor is to lack possessions.

To be poor in regards to spirit is to have
a spirit, or a heart, that lacks possessions;
a spirit that does not “possess” or
claim ownership of anything;
a spirit with
no wealth,
no glory,
no will or
way or
strength of its own.

Such a spirit is what we had
in Eden
before the fall.

Then we were surrounded by
God’s abundant gifts,
but none of them had taken root in our hearts.

We possessed nothing.

We clung to nothing.

We claimed ownership of nothing.

God was all-in-all, and
our spirits, hearts, and desires
were reserved for Him.

When we are again poor in spirit,
possessing nothing as our own,
we are free to cling to God alone.
When we do, we enjoy all things in Him.

All He has,
all He is,
His entire Kingdom
are ours, and
we are entirely His.

Blessed indeed is such a person!

Hymn recording: [Poor in Spirit](#)

Poor in Spirit

TUNE: Wade in the Water (alt.)

Matthew 5:3

♩ = 84

Refrain

Dm Dm Dm Dm Dm Dm Dm Dm Dm Dm Dm Dm

Unison

Poor in my spir - it, Poor, hold - ing

noth - ing, Fa - ther, Gone all my grasp - ing,

Reach - ing for noth - ing but You a - lone.

1. All is Yours, Cre - a - tor Lord, 2. All pos - sess - ing I re - sign, 3. Rich be - yond all earth - ly wealth, Reach - ing for noth - ing but Hun - gry for noth - ing but Long - ing for noth - ing but

WORDS: Ken Bible
MUSIC: Spiritual and Ken Bible

WADE IN THE WATER 2
7.9.7.9.w.Ref.

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A⁷ D^m $\frac{D^m}{A}$ D^m A^m B^b C D^m D^m⁷

You a - lone. Yours the goods I try to hoard,
 You a - lone. All Your King - dom now is mine,
 You a - lone; Now You give me all Your - self,

B^bM⁷ $\frac{G^m6}{B^b}$ $\frac{D^m}{A}$ A⁷ D^m $\frac{D^m}{A}$ A⁷ D^m D.C. \emptyset CODA

Cling - ing to noth - ing but You a - lone. You a - lone.
 Thirst - y for noth - ing but You a - lone.
 Seek - ing for noth - ing but You a - lone.

Blessed Are Those Who Mourn

Father, we are Your people.
As we live in Your presence, You say to us,
 Blessed are those who mourn,
 for they shall be comforted. (Matthew 5:4, NASB)
In what ways should knowing You, Lord, cause us to mourn?

We see this world, and we remember Eden.
We remember all You had planned for us.
Now we see all these people You created for Yourself,
 into whom You breathed Your own life.
They are so very far from You,
 their only source of good.
They sin,
 they suffer,
 they cause suffering, and
 they die.
O our Father,
 we mourn for all that has been lost!
O God,
 forgive us!
We see all these dear ones,
 engulfed in grief and pain,
 dying in the darkness every day, and
we mourn with You, loving Father.

We mourn our own sin.
We were like them,
 so far from You.
Evil filled our
 hearts and
 minds and
 hands.
You redeemed us,
 You bought us back at the price of Your only Son.
But even now as Your children,
 our response to You is so
 cold and
 inconsistent.
We still think and act
 selfishly.
We are still

fearful and
mistrusting,
though cradled here in Your loving arms.

We are
easily distracted from You and
so indifferent toward You.

We see You, glorious Father, and
we see ourselves, and
we mourn.

The nearer we grow to You, Father,
the more we mourn our separation from You.

The more we love You,
the more we long to be with You
completely and constantly,
with no separation,
no distance,
no barriers,
no veils,
nothing but You.

Father, You Yourself are
the comfort for our mourning.

Your presence is
fullness of joy.

You promised us Your Son, and
You have given Him.

You promised us Your Spirit, and
He is with us and
in us right now.

You have also promised to live among us as
our God and
our Shepherd.

You have promised to wipe every tear from our eyes.

Father, we are waiting for that day.

We long for You.

We mourn for You.

O Lord, come!

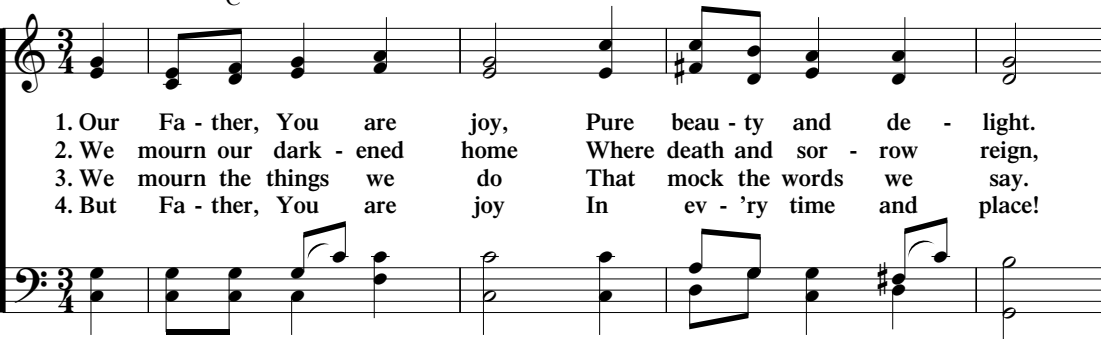
Hymn recording: [We Mourn](#)

We Mourn

TUNE: A Charge to Keep I Have (BOYLSTON)
Isaiah 61:1-3; Matthew 5:4; James 4:8-10; Revelation 21:4


♩ = 66

C C $\frac{G^7}{C}$ C F C D⁷ G C⁶ D G



1. Our Fa - ther, You are joy, Pure beau - ty and de - light.
2. We mourn our dark - ened home Where death and sor - row reign,
3. We mourn the things we do That mock the words we say.
4. But Fa - ther, You are joy In ev - 'ry time and place!

C C $\frac{G^7}{D}$ $\frac{C}{E}$ C F $\frac{G^7}{D}$ C G $\frac{C}{E}$ F G G⁷ C



We see our world and mourn the loss Of all that's pure and right.
Where peace and pleas - ure brief - ly come But nev - er can re - main.
We long to hold You ev - er near Yet feel so far a - way.
We taste to - day what soon will be Com - plete and face - to - face!

WORDS: Ken Bible
MUSIC: Lowell Mason

BOYLSTON
S.M.

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Blessed Are the Meek

*Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the earth. (Matthew 5:5, NIV)*

Father, as we see Your greatness,
we face our smallness.

As we glimpse Your power,
we grasp our weakness.

As we marvel at Your transcendence,
we embrace our lowliness.

Standing before You, humility is
natural,
honest, and
sweet.

As we worship You,
we forget ourselves.

As we crown You Lord,
we gladly resign the throne of our lives.

Self-protection is unnecessary, for
You, Sovereign God, are our protection.

With Psalm 123, we pray:

*I lift up my eyes to you, to you whose throne is in heaven.
As the eyes of slaves look to the hands of their master...
so our eyes look to the Lord our God
till he shows us mercy. (vv.1-2, NIV)*

As we gaze on Your great glory, we abandon our own.

James 4 says:

*God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble...
Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up. (vv.6, 10, NIV)*

As we rely completely on Your provision,
we no longer

grab and
grasp and
worry.

We simply pray:

*My heart is not proud, O Lord,
my eyes are not haughty;
I do not concern myself with great matters
or things too wonderful for me.
But I have stilled and quieted my soul;*

*like a weaned child with its mother,
like a weaned child is my soul within me. (Psalm 131:1-2, NIV)*

When Your own Son came to us,
filled with all the fullness of the godhead,
He was meek.
He was completely empty before You,
completely dependent on You.
He relied on You for everything He
said and
did.

This Jesus invites us to come to Him.

He says:

*Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take
my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and
you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.*
(Matthew 11:28-30, NIV)

Jesus invites us to lay down
our constant, crushing burden of self-concern
and take up the one easy burden of
simply
trusting
You.

Father, give us the Spirit of Your Son Jesus.

Give us His Spirit of meekness—
not weakness, but
meekness.

And from His Spirit, grow within us
His gentle heart with
His gentle words and
His gentle hands.

Make us truly and completely Your children,
meek before
You,
Your people, and
the world.

Father, empty us of ourselves
that we may be filled forever with You.

Hymn recording: [Meekness](#)

Meekness

TUNE: I Am His, and He Is Mine (EVERLASTING LOVE)
Isaiah 6:1-7; Matthew 5:5; 11:28-30; Ephesians 4:1-3; Colossians 3:12-13

♩ = 60

D $\frac{A^7_{sus}}{D}$ D G D $\frac{Gm}{D}$ D $\frac{A^7}{E}$ D $\frac{D}{F\#}$ D $\frac{A^7}{C\#}$ D A

1. You are great be-yond all words, I have noth - ing but my need.
 2. As You lift me to Your-self, As You show me all You are,
 3. Give the Spir - it of Your Son, All the meek - ness of His heart,

D $\frac{A^7_{sus}}{D}$ D G D $\frac{Gm}{D}$ D $\frac{A}{C\#}$ Bm7 $\frac{E^7}{B}$ D E E7 A

You are strength and bound - less pow'r, I am help - less - ness in - deed.
 As I crown You Lord of all, As I praise You from my heart,
 All the love His hands would give, All the warmth His words im - part,

Bm7 $\frac{A^7}{C\#}$ D G D G $\frac{A^9}{G}$ D $\frac{D}{F\#}$ D $\frac{A^7}{C\#}$ D A

You are pure and high a - bove, I was born in greed and sin,
 I am freed from all my chains, Self - con - cern and vain con - ceit,
 All His kind - ness to the weak, All the smile of His de - light.

D $\frac{A^7}{E}$ D $\frac{D}{F\#}$ G F#7 Bm $\frac{Bm}{A}$ G D A D $\frac{D}{F\#}$ A7 $\frac{1}{D}$ $\frac{2}{D}$

You, so glo - rious in Your love, I, un - love - ly all with - in. in.
 Glad - ly lost in You a - lone— Meek-ness pure and real and sweet. sweet.
 May the lives of all I touch Feel the gen - tle-ness of Christ. Christ.

WORDS: Ken Bible
 MUSIC: James Mountain

EVERLASTING LOVE
 7.7.7.7.D.

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Hunger and Thirst for Righteousness

*Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they shall be satisfied. (Matthew 5:6, NASB)*

We are not self-sufficient, self-contained beings.

We have needs outside ourselves:

food, water, and air,
shelter and security,
relationships and fellowship,
purpose and meaning,
knowledge and wisdom.

We are needy, and

the Source of all things is God.

We need God in absolutely every way.

We are

inherently,
completely,
eternally,
inescapably

dependent on Him.

But we have broken our relationship.

We have turned away from Him and

have tried to supply our needs through other sources.

But all these sources are

secondary and
shallow,
temporary and
painfully inadequate.

We have aspired to be gods,

self-sufficient and
self-contained.

But we are not and

can never be.

This is especially true of our greatest need,

a need we rarely face and
only vaguely realize:

We need help to be who we ought to be.

Our most desperate need is
our inward weakness.

On our own, we cannot
think or
act

as truth demands.

We sense this weakness,
but we don't want to admit it
to ourselves or
to others.

We don't grasp how broad it is or how deep it goes.

Our own will-power is no match for this weakness,
and none of our
reasoning or
acquired wisdom
can enable us to conquer it.

We are deeply wrong, and
we cannot make ourselves right.

Father, You are completely right, and
we long to be right as You are right.

O God, we are hungry for it.

We are thirsty for it—
so
very
thirsty.

We've tried and tasted everything else, and
nothing satisfies.

Nothing can touch this hunger,
this thirst.

All that we've tried is like drinking dust:
it only makes us more thirsty.

Our God, we hear Your invitation:

*Ho! Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters;
And you who have no money come, buy and eat.
Come, buy wine and milk
Without money and without cost. (Isaiah 55:1, NASB)*

We come to You.

We turn to You,
thirsty for Your own Spirit to fill us.

Jesus said:

"If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, 'From his innermost being will flow rivers of living water.'" But this He spoke of the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were to receive.
(John 7:37-39, NASB)

As we come, we find that

You are not far away.

Before we ever thought of coming to You,

You came to us.

You gave Yourself to us,

You who are the Living Bread.

Jesus said:

"I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me will not hunger, and he who believes in Me will never thirst." (John 6:35, NASB)

You Yourself are the Water of Life.

Jesus promised us this:

"Everyone who drinks of this water will thirst again; but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall never thirst; but the water that I will give him will become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life." (John 4:13-14, NASB)

Almighty God,

our Creator,

our Father,

You Yourself are what we long for.

You Yourself are what we need.

We hunger and thirst for Your rightness.

We hunger and thirst
for You.

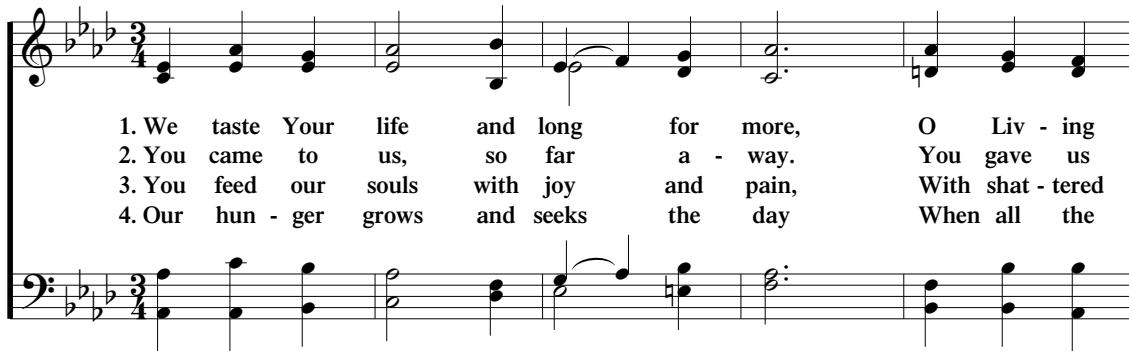
Hymn recording: [We Taste Your Life and Long for More](#)

We Taste Your Life and Long for More

TUNE: Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life (GERMANY)
Psalms 34:8; 42:1; Matthew 6:11; John 6:35, 48-51; 1 Peter 2:2-3

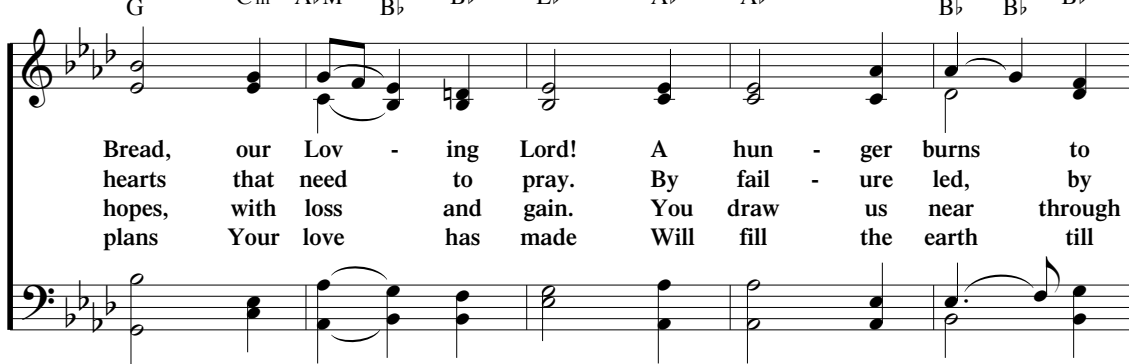
♩ = 96

Chord progression: A^b E^b/_{B^b} A^b/_C B^bm/_{D^b} E^b B^b7^{sus}/_{E^b} E^o7 F^m B^b7 E^b/_{B^b} B^b/_{A^b}



1. We taste Your life and long for more, O Liv - ing
2. You came to us, so far a - way. You gave us
3. You feed our souls with joy and pain, With shat - tered
4. Our hun - ger grows and seeks the day When all the

Chord progression: E^b/_G C^m A^bM7 E^b/_{B^b} B^b E^b A^b A^b E^b7^{sus}/_{B^b} E^b7_{B^b} B^b6



Bread, our Lov - ing Lord! A hun - ger burns to
hearts that need to pray. By fail - ure led, by
hopes, with loss and gain. You draw us near through
plans Your love has made Will fill the earth till

Chord progression: A^b/_C A^b D^bM7 B^bm/_{D^b} D^o7 E^b E^o7 D^b/_F F^m B^bm/_{D^b} A^b/_{E^b} E^b7 A^b



live the truth, To find all life and love in You.
fear pur - sued, We hun - ger on, O Lord, for You.
all You do That all may come and feed on You.
all is new And all are full, O Lord, in You!

WORDS: Ken Bible
MUSIC: William Gardiner's *Sacred Melodies*, 1815

GERMANY
L.M.

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Blessed Are the Merciful

*Blessed are the merciful,
for they shall receive mercy.” (Matthew 5:7, NASB)*

Father, You are merciful.
You are kind to the undeserving.
You are generous
 even with the greedy and selfish.
You freely forgive those who wrong You.
You warmly welcome the unworthy.
You are
 gracious and
 patient and
 always good.

You call us to be the same.
If we are to be Your children,
 we are to
 think and
 love and
 act
 like You.

We are to be merciful.

What's more, the giving and receiving of mercy are inseparably linked.
We cannot receive Your forgiveness
 unless we extend it to others.
Your forgiveness cannot flow *to* us
 until it flows *through* us.
Until we grant forgiveness to those who have wronged us,
 we remained enslaved by sin,
 suffering the
 lovelessness,
 resentment,
 anxiety and
 anger
 that injustice brings.
We can only free ourselves by
 also freeing those who have wronged us.
If mercy is the solution for sin,
 it is the solution for every last one of us.

Father, Your Son showed us the way of mercy.
While being tortured till death, He prayed,
 *"Father, forgive them;
 for they do not know what they are doing."* (Luke 23:34, NASB)
When I suffer because of someone else,
 give me His Spirit.
 Give me His love.

When I am asked to share with the undeserving,
 give me Your generous heart.
You lavishly pour out an entire world of blessings
 on both
 the wicked and
 the good.

Father, grow in me
 Your compassion,
 Your open heart,
 Your open hand,
 Your freedom from selfishness.

May the needy sense in me
Your eagerness to
 smile and
 help and
 bless.
Let all who cross my path,
 including the unkind,
get a glimpse of Your
 beautiful,
 life-giving mercy
through me.

Hymn recording: [Let Mercy Shine](#)

Let Mercy Shine

TUNE: All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name (CORONATION)

Matthew 5:7, 43-48; 18:21-35; Luke 23:34;
Ephesians 4:32; Titus 3:3-7; 1 Peter 4:10

♩ = 92

G D Em D G D⁷ Em $\frac{G}{D}$ D⁷ G

1. When all with - in was self and sin, A dark and shore - less sea,
2. My faith and love were small and weak, Far less than they should be,
3. Sur - round - ed now by all this need, This lost hu - man - i - ty,
4. Your pa - tience and for - give - ness, Lord, Lived out for all to see,

D G D $\frac{G}{B}$ G $\frac{G}{B}$ $\frac{D^7}{A}$ G $\frac{D}{F\#}$ G D G $\frac{D}{F\#}$ Em $\frac{D}{A}$ A D

When death was all my life de - served, Your mer - cy flowed to me.
But still Your pa - tience nev - er failed - Your mer - cy flowed to me.
Make me a source of gen - tle grace - Let mer - cy flow through me!
Your love that shone through hate and wrong - Lord, let it shine through me!

G G $\frac{G}{B}$ G D $\frac{A^7}{D}$ D $\frac{G}{D}$ D Em $\frac{G}{B}$ C $\frac{G}{D}$ $\frac{G^{sus}}{D}$ D^{sus} D⁷ G

When death was all my life de - served, Your mer - cy flowed to me.
But still Your pa - tience nev - er failed - Your mer - cy flowed to me.
Make me a source of gen - tle grace - Let mer - cy flow through me!
Your love that shone through hate and wrong - Lord, let it shine through me!

CORONATION
C.M.

WORDS: Ken Bible
MUSIC: Oliver Holden

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Blessed Are the Pure in Heart

*Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they shall see God. (Matthew 5:8, NASB)*

This is very much like Psalm 24, where it says,

*Who may ascend into the hill of the Lord?
And who may stand in His holy place?
He who has clean hands and a pure heart,
Who has not lifted up his soul to falsehood
And has not sworn deceitfully.
He shall receive a blessing from the Lord
And righteousness from the God of his salvation.
(Psalm 24:3-5, NASB)*

Father, I long to be pure.
I long to want
 only what You want.
I long for my
 every desire,
 every thought, and
 every action
to flow from love for You.
You have planted this desire deep within me.
I know that I can only live
 in Your holy presence
if I have
 clean hands and
 a pure heart.

But Father, purity is beyond me.
I was born in sin.
 My roots sink deeply into it.
Even when I want to do the right thing,
 without You I am too weak.
Only You are pure, and
 only You can make me pure.
You call me to a purity that only You can provide.
And Lord, You have promised it to me.
You said:

"I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness...I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you...I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes."
(Ezekiel 36:25-27, NASB)

Father,

You have promised my purity, and

You have provided it completely through Jesus Christ.

But what is my part?

Am I only a passive observer in all this?

How should I respond to what You have done for me?

Paul wrote:

Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

(2 Corinthians 7:1, NASB)

And this:

In reference to your former manner of life...lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit...and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth. (Ephesians 4:22-24, NASB)

And to the Colossians, he wrote:

Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature.

Rid yourselves of all such things. (Colossians 3:5, 8, NASB)

Father, Your promises are always

a call to faith, and

faith always demands action.

My faith is in You.

I believe that in Jesus Christ,

Your divine power has given us

everything we need for life and godliness (2 Peter 1:3, NIV).

I believe that as I walk in the light,

I have unbroken fellowship with You, and

You deliver me from all sin (1 John 1:7).

I believe that as I turn to You and trust You,

You help me lay aside my old self and

put on the new self You have created for me.

Holy God, I believe that as I trust and obey You,

You help me purify my

heart and

mind and

life.

Praise to You, Father!
Continue to make me
more and
more
like Your pure and beautiful Son,
Jesus Christ!

Hymn recording: [Holy in Me](#)

Holy in Me

TUNE: Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing (NETTLETON)

Colossians 1:27

Chord progression: D^b A^b7 D^b D^b F A^b D^b D^b F G^b D^b D^b A^b A^b7 D^b

1. Oth - er hun - gers, oth - er vi - sions Drew my weak and wan - d'ring heart;
2. Not by ef - fort, not by strug - gle, But by rest - ing in Your Son;
3. Lov - ing Sav - ior, King for - ev - er, While we're liv - ing face to face,

And I fed on con - stant fail - ure As I fought to do my part.
Not by strain - ing to be ho - ly, But in You, the Ho - ly One.
Joy is nev - er out of sea - son; Praise is nev - er out of place.

Chord progression: D^b A^b7 D^b D^b F A^b D^b D^b F G^b D^b D^b A^b A^b7 D^b

But I praise You, lov - ing Fa - ther, That Your Spir - it let me see
You are life, and You are free - dom; You are hol - i - ness and peace;
Hope is liv - ing, love is grow - ing, And You're prov - ing it is true:

Chord progression: D^b F A^b7 E^b D^b Fm G^b D^b G^b D^b D^b D^b F A^b7 E^b D^b Fm G^b A^b7 D^b

All my pow - er, all my good - ness Is Your pres - ence here in me.
And as step by step I trust You, You are all You are in me.
All our Fa - ther ev - er prom - ised Is com - plete, my Lord, in You.

WORDS: Ken Bible

MUSIC: Traditional American Melody;

John Wyeth's *Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second*, 1813

NETTLETON

8.7.8.7.D.

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Blessed Are the Peacemakers

*Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they shall be called sons of God. (Matthew 5:9, NASB)*

Father, You are the God of peace.
In You there is
 no conflict of any kind.
You are wholeness.
You are harmony.
You are complete and pure well-being.

You are the ultimate peacemaker.
You sent Your only Son from Your heavenly peace
 into our battleground world.
Prophets announced Him as
 the Prince of Peace.
Saints and angels greeted Him as
 the coming of Your peace.
Throughout His 33 years He
 lived Your peace and
 taught Your peace
while wrapped in the most severe
 poverty and
 persecution.
And before returning to You,
 He spoke Your perfect peace
 into the hearts and lives of His followers,
saying:

*“Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give
to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful.” (John 14:27, NASB)*

In Christ, You have brought Your peace to us.
Paul told the Ephesians:

He Himself is our peace. (Ephesians 2:14, NASB)

And to the Colossians he said:

*It was the Father’s good pleasure...through Him to reconcile all things to Himself,
having made peace through the blood of His cross. (Colossians 1:19-20, NASB)*

In Christ, we have peace with You.
Romans 5:1 says:

*Having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus
Christ. (NASB)*

In Christ, our
 hearts and
 minds
are wrapped in Your peace
 throughout every circumstance
 as we trust You.

Philippians 4:6-7 says it so beautifully:

*Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with
thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God,
which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in
Christ Jesus. (NASB)*

In Christ, You have promised to permeate all creation with Your perfect peace.
Many centuries ago, Isaiah described our future this way:

*The wolf will dwell with the lamb,
And the leopard will lie down with the young goat,
And the calf and the young lion and the fatling together;
And a little boy will lead them.
They will not hurt or destroy in all My holy mountain,
For the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord
As the waters cover the sea. (Isaiah 11:6, 9, NASB)*

In the meantime, Father, You have left us here,
 wrapped in Your peace,
to be Your peacemakers.
You are the ultimate peacemaker.
You made peace here
 by coming to us,
 by crossing every barrier to reach us in our need.

You made peace by
 loving,
 healing,
 forgiving,
 talking,
 listening, and
 giving,
 by accepting suffering daily, and
 in the end, pouring out Your life completely.

You call us to make peace
the same way, by
 daily,
 constantly

pouring out our lives for others.
And as we make peace,
 You call us Your children.

Father, what reward could be greater?
How could we do any less than share
 the precious gift of
 Your peace?

Hymn recording: [God of Peace](#)

God of Peace

TUNE: We Believe in God the Father (RIPLEY)

*Psalm 93:1-2; Isaiah 11:6-9; 53:4-5; Matthew 5:9; Romans 5:1;
Ephesians 2:14; Philippians 4:6-7; Colossians 1:19-20, 24*

♩ = 63

D D G D D/F#

1. God of peace, a - bove all con - flict, High and
2. Wrapped in peace, with God Your Fa - ther, You were
3. Peace will fill the earth and heav - ens, Peace You

Em7 D/F# G6 A A7 D D/A D D D/C G/B G

sov - 'reign Lord a - lone, All com - plete in Your well -
more than flesh could be, Per - fect weak - ness, per - fect
bought with such a price, Bought with love and rich for -

F#m Bm7 Em7 D/F# G6 A A7 D D A7/E

be - ing, Robed in splen - dor still un - known, Yet You
pow - er, Per - fect love and pur - i - ty. What a
give - ness, Bought with pain and sac - ri - fice. Give Your

WORDS: Ken Bible
MUSIC: Adapted from Gregorian chant by Lowell Mason (1792-1872);
arr. by Ken Bible

RIPLEY
8.7.8.7.D.

Alt. Tune: NETTLETON

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D F# D G G B D D A7 E D F# D G Em7 A sus A G GM7 A

came in - to our con - flict, Bear - ing all our sin could bring, All our
 Gift to help-less sin - ners! What a word You shout a - broad! You are
 peace to those a - round us Tho' the price is still the same. Make our

D D C G B F#m Bm7 Em7 D F# G6 A A7 D

an - ger and in - jus - tice, Death with all its bit - ter sting.
 peace, com-plete, for - ev - er, Peace with - in and peace with God.
 lives the fra-grant of - f'ring With Your love the might - y flame.

Blessed Are the Persecuted

Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great; for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you. (Matthew 5:10-12, NASB)

The Sermon on the Mount, and
particularly the Beatitudes,
teach us how to live in the presence of our Father who is
almighty,
all-wise,
all-loving, and
always with us.

Trusting such a God turns our usual way of living
upside-down.

Giving now makes sense,
not grasping...

meekness,
not pride...

hungering and thirsting after holiness
rather than glory and gold.

We mourn what others consider
normal or even good.

But here, as we suffer
persecution and
injustice,

the opposite happens.

In a situation where others mourn,
we rejoice.

Consider these verses:

When people insult you and persecute you...rejoice and be glad. (Matthew 5:11-12, NASB)

Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials. (James 1:2, NIV)

Do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering...rejoice. (1 Peter 4:12-13, NIV)

Why should we rejoice when life is
painfully unjust?
Why should suffering that is
unfair and
even life-threatening
become a compelling reason for joy?
God's Word gives us these reasons:

1. If we suffer for doing the right thing, we are blessed by Sovereign God. He has decreed our eternal well-being. That is reason to celebrate! (Matthew 5:10-12; 1 Peter 3:14; 4:14)
2. In exchange for temporary suffering, we gain a reward that is infinitely greater and more lasting. It will be the best exchange you ever make! (Matthew 5:10-12; Mark 10:29-30; Romans 8:17-18; 1 Peter 1:3-7; Revelation 2:9-10; 7:13-17)
3. Suffering for doing good puts us in great company. The saints of all the ages, the prophets, and Jesus Christ Himself went through such suffering and are now enjoying their rich reward. They are like an entire stadium full of encouragers, watching as we run our race, cheering us on. (Hebrews 11:1 – 12:3)
4. Suffering is extremely fruitful. When we are willing to suffer for Christ and for what is right, others take notice. Christ considered His suffering to be His best chance to glorify His Father. It is our best chance as well. As we suffer, we are planting seeds that will grow an abundant, eternal harvest. (John 12:23-28a; Philippians 1:12-14; 2 Timothy 2:8-10)
5. Suffering tests and refines our faith, which is our vital connection with the unseen God. Suffering builds priceless character traits that cannot be developed any other way. (Romans 5:1-5; James 1:2-4; 1 Peter 1:6-7; 4:12-14)
6. Most importantly, as we suffer *for* Christ, we are suffering *with* Christ. We are united with Him more deeply. In a very tangible way that goes beyond words, we are embracing His faith in the Father, His commitment to the salvation of the world, and His eternal destiny. We are throwing in our lot completely with Him. We are bound to Him, not just by our promises, but by pain and sacrifice. (Philippians 3:7-11; Colossians 1:24; 2 Timothy 2:11-12)

When Jesus listed the qualities that
God blesses most richly,
the qualities that are
the keys to true and eternal success,
the climax of His list was suffering for Christ.

Father, when I have to suffer for following Christ,

help me not to be
surprised,
discouraged,
angry, or
afraid.

You offer each believer a unique opportunity to
share in His sufferings
in some small way.

When my opportunity comes,
help me to accept it for what it is:
a precious and personal gift from You.

Hymn recording: [Captives of Eternal Love](#)

Captives of Eternal Love

TUNE: The Cleansing Wave (KNAPP)

Psalm 116:15; Matthew 5:10-12; 16:24-27; John 4:34-36; 12:24;

Romans 8:35-39; Ephesians 5:8-10; Colossians 3:1-4; Hebrews 12:1-3; 1 Peter 2:11

♩ = 72 D D $\frac{D}{F\sharp}$ G $\frac{G}{D}$ D Bm⁷ Bm A⁷_{sus} A⁷

1. Though pass-ing thro' this dark-ened world, We're chil-dren of the Light.
2. The fruit of all Your life and love Will come to those who reap.
3. Through pain and sor-row, grief and death We more than o-ver-come.

$\frac{G}{A}$ D $\frac{D}{F\sharp}$ G $\frac{E7}{G\sharp}$ $\frac{D6}{A}$ $\frac{D}{A}$ $\frac{GM7}{B}$ $\frac{A7}{C\sharp}$ D_{sus} D

Though pres-sured and re-ject-ed here, We're pre-cious in Your sight.
With joy, my Lord, we glad-ly sow The lives we can-not keep.
We fix our eyes on Je-sus Christ, Your ris-en, reign-ing Son!

REFRAIN
D G $\frac{G}{B}$ $\frac{G}{D}$ G D $\frac{A7}{E}$ $\frac{D}{F\sharp}$ G⁶ $\frac{Bm}{F\sharp}$ Em⁷ A⁹ $\frac{G}{D}$ D

We walk be-low with hearts a-bove, The cap-tives of e-ter-nal love.

D G $\frac{G}{B}$ $\frac{G}{D}$ G D $\frac{A7}{E}$ $\frac{D}{F\sharp}$ G⁶ $\frac{Bm}{F\sharp}$ Em⁷ A⁹ $\frac{A7sus}{D}$ D

But by Your Spir-it show us how To love You ful-ly here and now.

WORDS: Ken Bible

MUSIC: Phoebe Palmer Knapp; arr. by Ken Bible

KNAPP
C.M.w.Ref.

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The Beatitudes Describe Jesus

Do you want to better understand the Beatitudes, or
any of the Bible's teachings, for that matter?

Look at the life of Jesus.

The Beatitudes are describing Him.

He is the fullness of the person they are recommending.

He is the way to the Father,
the truth about the Father, and
the life of the Father made human flesh (John 14:6).

He is thoroughly pleasing to His Father.

At His baptism, the Father spoke from heaven:

This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased. (Matthew 3:17, NASB)

At the transfiguration,

as Jesus was about to be

rejected,

humiliated,

tortured, and

murdered by the Jewish leaders,

the Father repeated virtually the same words of glowing approval.

The Apostle Paul,

having described Jesus' humble obedience,

even to the point of death,

phrased the Father's pleasure and blessing this way:

Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (Philippians 2:9-11, NIV)

Jesus' life is the life

most fully blessed by the Father.

To understand the Beatitudes,

look to Him.

He was poor in spirit.

He had emptied Himself of all His own

power and

glory.

He made Himself completely dependent on His Father for
every word and

every action.
Though Lord of all,
at His death He owned absolutely nothing.
His only possessions,
the clothes on His back,
were divided by the soldiers as He died.
Yet truly the entirely kingdom of God was His.

He wept with the other mourners at Lazarus' death, and
He wept over unrepentant Jerusalem.
Though already
full of righteousness and
pure in heart,
pleasing His Father was His
food and
focus and
constant passion.

He was meek, and
He was merciful.
He spoke one-on-one with people from
all walks of life,
including the very lowest levels of society, and
He always showed each individual
dignity and
respect.
He forgave the worst of them,
even His enemies as they were
torturing and
killing Him.

Though He was
persecuted,
pressured, and
pursued most of His public life,
He constantly
lived God's peace and
spoke God's peace.
In the face of Jewish leaders intent on His execution and
an angry mob calling for His life,
He remained silent and
calm.
He never defended Himself,

speaking only to faithfully witness to the truth.

Jesus is the life blessed by our Father.

Embrace Him.

Exalt Him.

Desire Him.

Follow Him.

Be filled and led by His Spirit.

Above all else in this world,

seek a close relationship with Jesus Christ.

Hymn recording: [Lord, Life Becomes More Simple](#)

Lord, Life Becomes More Simple

TUNE: The Church's One Foundation (AURELIA)

Psalm 73:25

The musical score is written for a four-part setting (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in the key of D major (two sharps) and 4/4 time. It consists of four systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are provided for each system. Chord symbols are placed above the vocal lines to indicate the harmonic structure. The score includes a variety of chords, including triads, dyads, and more complex chords like 7th, 9th, and 11th chords, as well as diminished and augmented chords. The tempo and mood are indicated by the title and the reference to the hymn 'The Church's One Foundation'.

1. Lord, life be - comes more sim - ple When all I seek is You,
2. Lord, life is filled with beau - ty When I am filled with You,
3. Lord Je - sus, Son of Heav - en, Its tem - ple and its light,

When walk - ing in Your Spir - it Is all that I pur - sue,
When You, so kind and pat - ient, Have made me car - ing, too.
Life's goal and its be - gin - ning, Love's length and depth and height;

When know - ing You are with me Is all the light I need,
When I am free to love You And look to You a - lone,
Lord, teach my heart to list - en And rest in sim - ple truth,

When all my heart is hun - gry For You to shape and lead.
Then life has found its sun - light, And hope has found its home.
To know life's sweet - est plea - sure: To know and wor - ship You.

WORDS: Ken Bible
MUSIC: Samuel S. Wesley

AURELIA
7.6.7.6.D.

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