

# God's Love in Christ

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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## **Isaiah 42:1-4**

(NASB)

“Behold, My Servant, whom I uphold;  
My chosen one in whom My soul delights.  
I have put My Spirit upon Him;  
He will bring forth justice to the nations.  
He will not cry out or raise His voice,  
Nor make His voice heard in the street.  
A bruised reed He will not break  
And a dimly burning wick He will not extinguish;  
He will faithfully bring forth justice.  
He will not be disheartened or crushed  
Until He has established justice in the earth;  
And the coastlands will wait expectantly for His law.”

## Ferocious Love

Transcendent Father, unseen God,  
    You longed for us to know You.  
You let us touch You with our senses  
    in creation and  
        at Mt. Sinai,  
    through the tabernacle and  
        through Your prophets.  
But all the while You promised to share Yourself fully through  
    a person who was to come,  
    a man filled with Your own Spirit.  
This specially Anointed One, this Messiah, would  
    live among us and  
    rule over us.  
His Kingdom would extend  
    through every nation and  
    through all time.  
He would bring all the blessings You had ever promised.

As the centuries passed, Your promises of this Messiah became  
    increasingly detailed and vivid.  
We longed for His coming.

But when He arrived, we didn't recognize Him.  
He was not what we expected.  
You are Almighty God, and  
    Messiah was to be Your full revelation of Yourself.  
We expected Him to be  
    a commanding leader,  
    a powerful warrior,  
    an unstoppable conqueror.  
We thought He would be like a roaring lion that  
    no one would dare challenge.  
We thought He would be fearfully holy and  
    bring fiery judgment to all the wicked.

But instead, He arrived as the weakest and lowliest of all human creatures –  
    a helpless infant born of  
    an unmarried peasant girl.  
He wasn't a king –  
    not what we considered a king.  
There wasn't anything regal about Him.

He was a rural laborer with an accent to match.  
He wasn't a mighty warrior.  
He was a gentle healer,  
a teacher with little formal education.  
He didn't live in a palace.  
He was a homeless wanderer.  
His holiness wasn't fearful or awe-inspiring.  
He befriended sinners, whom respectable people avoided.  
He socialized with them and received them warmly.  
The only people He condemned were  
the ones we considered the most religious.  
He scolded them for their pride and hypocrisy.

This Messiah didn't prowl and roar like a lion.  
In the end, He died like a lamb,  
meek,  
silent, and  
defenseless.

He gave us a living picture of You,  
but You were not who we expected.  
We expected to experience Your  
fiery,  
ferocious,  
all-conquering power.  
Instead, we experienced Your  
fiery,  
ferocious,  
all-conquering love.

Hymn recording: [All-conquering Love](#)

# All-conquering Love

*Song of Solomon 8:6; Isaiah 25:8; Jeremiah 31:3; John 3:16; 8:58; 19:30;  
Ephesians 2:4-5; Philippians 2:5-8; Hebrews 10:10; 1 John 3:1; 4:9-10; Revelation 5:1-6*

♩ = 76

Em C  $\frac{G}{B}$  G  $\frac{Am^6}{C}$   $\frac{Am}{C}$  B7 Em  $\frac{Em}{D}$   $\frac{Am^6}{C}$   $\frac{G}{B}$   $\frac{D}{F\#}$  G

1. Sov - 'reign, all - trans - cend - ing Lord, Ho - ly mys - t'ry,  
2. Christ the Li - on, now the Lamb, Gives Him - self, the  
3. Christ the Vic - tor, in de - feat, Makes Your vic - t'ry  
4. In His con - qu'ring strength we see Deep and glo - rious

$\frac{Am}{C}$  B7 Em  $\frac{Em}{G}$  Am  $\frac{G}{B}$   $\frac{Am}{C}$  Em D7 Em  $\frac{Em}{B}$

feared, a - dored, In Your might - y Son we see  
great I AM. Christ, the Prince of Par - a - dise,  
all com - plete. As He prays His fi - nal breath,  
mys - ter - y Glow - ing from Your heart a - bove:

C Am7  $\frac{G}{B}$  G Am7 B<sup>7</sup><sub>sus</sub> B7 1-3 Em 4 E<sub>sus</sub>  $\frac{E_{sus}}{B}$  E

All Your love's hu - mil - i - ty.  
Dies a slaugh - tered sac - ri - fice.  
Sov - 'reign life now swal - lows death.  
Ho - ly, fierce, all - con - qu'ring love.

WORDS: Ken Bible  
MUSIC: German Hymn Tune (1524) and Ken Bible

NUN KOMM 2  
7.7.7.7.

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## Grace and Truth

*John 1:14-18; Exodus 19; 32:18 – 34:8*

*The Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.*

*Of His fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace. For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ. No one has seen God at any time; the only begotten God who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained Him. (John 1:14, 16-18, NASB)*

Moses had been given  
a more complete revelation of God  
than any person ever had.  
At Sinai he had experienced Almighty God  
with his physical senses through  
lightning and  
thunder,  
a thick cloud,  
earthquake,  
smoke, and  
fire.

He had heard God's voice  
and had spoken with Him.  
But when Moses asked to see more of God's glory,  
to know more fully God's greatness and presence,  
how did God reveal Himself?  
He showed Himself as grace and truth:  
unfailing love and  
absolute dependability.

When we look at Jesus the Son and His human life among us,  
what do we see?  
Grace and truth:  
unfailing love and  
absolute dependability.

Jesus is  
always good,  
always compassionate,  
always gracious.  
His mercy is never strained.  
It never gets tired.

It is never pushed too far.  
Even as they tortured and killed Jesus,  
He forgave them.

Jesus is truth.  
Every word is true.  
Every action is true.  
We can absolutely depend on  
everything He is,  
everything He says, and  
everything He does.

Jesus is the Son of the Father:  
unfailing love and  
absolute dependability.

*If we realized the tremendous treasures  
that come to us in Jesus Christ,  
we would let nothing distract us from Him.*

Hymn recording: [Jesus, Full of Truth and Grace](#)

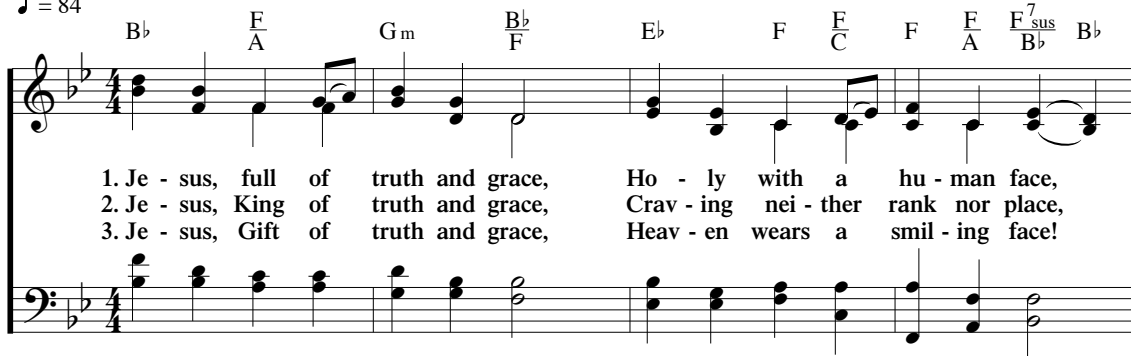
# Jesus, Full of Truth and Grace

ALTERNATE TUNE: Come, Ye Thankful People, Come (ST. GEORGE'S, WINDSOR)

*John 1:14-18*

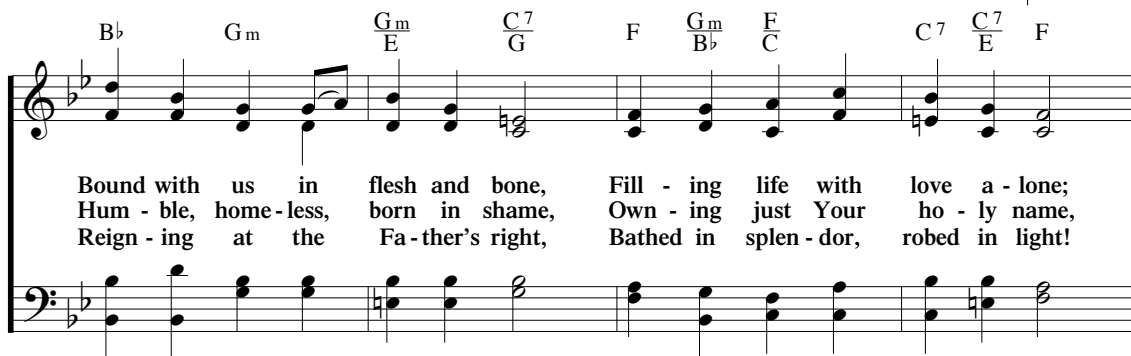
♩ = 84

B $\flat$  F/A G $\flat$  B $\flat$  F E $\flat$  F F C F F $\flat$  E $\flat$  B $\flat$  B $\flat$



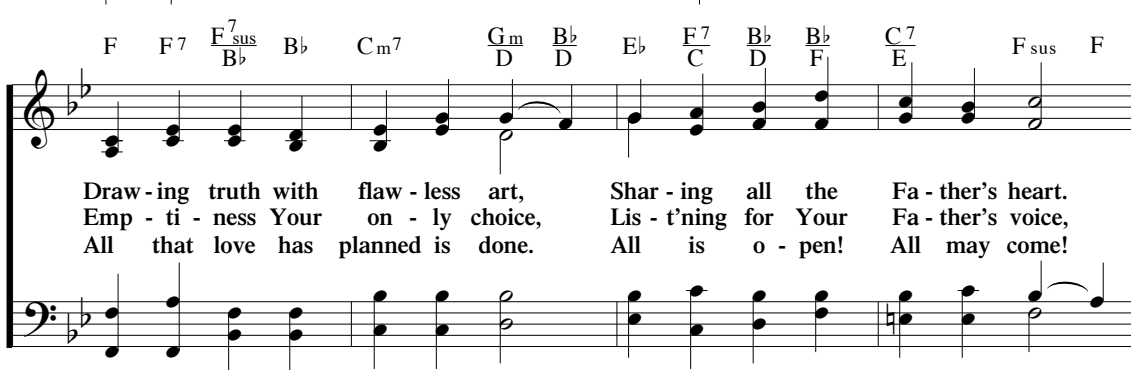
1. Je - sus, full of truth and grace, Ho - ly with a hu - man face,  
2. Je - sus, King of truth and grace, Crav - ing nei - ther rank nor place,  
3. Je - sus, Gift of truth and grace, Heav - en wears a smil - ing face!

B $\flat$  G $\flat$  G $\flat$  C $\flat$ 7 F G $\flat$  F C C $\flat$ 7 C $\flat$ 7 F



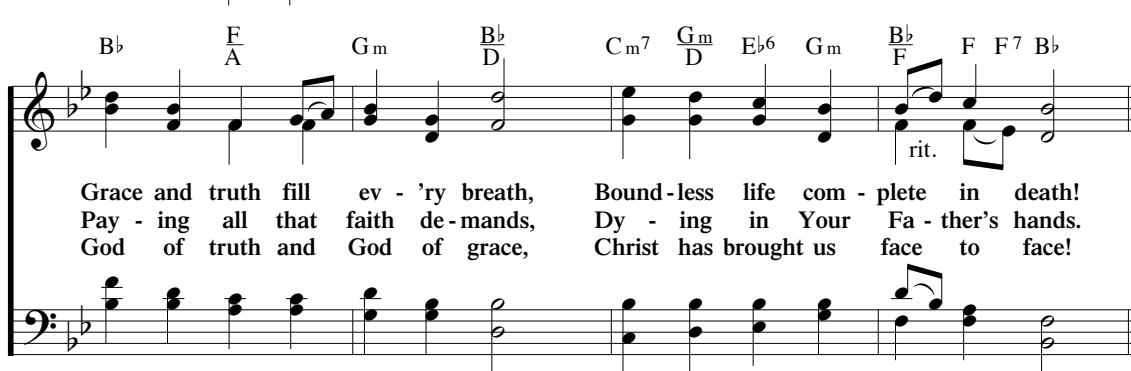
Bound with us in flesh and bone, Fill - ing life with love a - lone;  
Hum - ble, home - less, born in shame, Own - ing just Your ho - ly name,  
Reign - ing at the Fa - ther's right, Bathed in splen - dor, robed in light!

F F $\flat$  F $\flat$ 7 F $\flat$ 7 B $\flat$  B $\flat$  C $\flat$ 7 G $\flat$  D B $\flat$  D E $\flat$  F $\flat$ 7 C B $\flat$  D B $\flat$  F C $\flat$ 7 E F $\flat$ 7 F



Draw - ing truth with flaw - less art, Shar - ing all the Fa - ther's heart.  
Emp - ti - ness Your on - ly choice, Lis - t'ning for Your Fa - ther's voice,  
All that love has planned is done. All is o - pen! All may come!

B $\flat$  F/A G $\flat$  B $\flat$  D C $\flat$ 7 G $\flat$  D E $\flat$ 6 G $\flat$  B $\flat$  F F $\flat$  B $\flat$



Grace and truth fill ev - 'ry breath, Bound - less life com - plete in death!  
Pay - ing all that faith de - mands, Dy - ing in Your Fa - ther's hands.  
God of truth and God of grace, Christ has brought us face to face!

WORDS: Ken Bible

MUSIC: Johann Sebastian Bach and Ken Bible

GAVOTTE

7.7.7.7.D.

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## **Matthew 2:12-18**

(NASB)

Having been warned by God in a dream not to return to Herod, the magi left for their own country by another way.

Now when they had gone, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up! Take the Child and His mother and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is going to search for the Child to destroy Him."

So Joseph got up and took the Child and His mother while it was still night, and left for Egypt. He remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: "Out of Egypt I called My Son."

Then when Herod saw that he had been tricked by the magi, he became very enraged, and sent and slew all the male children who were in Bethlehem and all its vicinity, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the magi. Then what had been spoken through Jeremiah the prophet was fulfilled:

"A voice was heard in Ramah,  
Weeping and great mourning,  
Rachel weeping for her children;  
And she refused to be comforted,  
Because they were no more."

## A Life Framed with Love

Jesus was born as He would die.  
He would die as He was born.

The birth and death of the  
    Light of the World  
were shrouded in darkness.

His trusted companions were the  
lowly and powerless.

Jealous leaders pursued Him with  
    murderous hearts  
while humble women gently  
    cared for His needs.

His helpless body was  
    wrapped in cloth and  
    laid in borrowed quarters.

Coming and going from this world,  
He was immersed in  
    suffering,  
    shame, and  
    desperate circumstances.

Jesus is a portrait of God our Father, framed with  
    tenderness,  
    mercy, and  
    sacrificial love.

*Father, I look at the life of your Son, and  
    I see the full extent of Your love  
    etched on every page.  
Throughout His birth, His life, and His death,  
He drank our shame and suffering full strength.  
    Father, I bow in silence.  
    How can I respond to You?  
    How can I live my love for You?*

Hymn recording: [One with Us](#)

# One with Us

Hebrews 2:14-18

♩ = 84

1. Dark - ness and pov - er - ty greet our Mes - si - ah.  
 2. E - vil and an - ger now crown our Mes - si - ah.  
 3. Pre - cious and ten - der His kiss of for - give - ness!

Weak - ness and shame are His swad - dling clothes. Nursed by our  
 An - guish and blood are His king - ly clothes. Drink - ing the  
 Love ev - er - last - ing em - brac - es earth! Ho - ly and

bit - ter - ness, suf - fring, and sor - row, Death is the  
 cup of our deep sep - a - ra - tion, Dark is the  
 hu - man u - nit - ed for - ev - er, Life in its

path - way the in - fant knows.  
 path - way His mer - cy chose.  
 full - ness has

come to birth!

*rall.*

WORDS: Ken Bible

MUSIC: Ken Bible, inspired by John Dowland

FLOW MY TEARS 2

11.9.11.9.

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## When Messiah Came

*“For God so loved the world  
that He gave his one and only Son,  
that whoever believes in him shall not perish  
but have eternal life.  
For God did not send his Son into the world  
to condemn the world,  
but to save the world through him.”  
(John 3:16-17, NIV)*

When Messiah came,  
we expected the defeat of our enemies.  
We expected them to be  
crushed,  
condemned, and  
consumed in a fiery judgment.

When Messiah came,  
He taught us that the enemy is  
our own evil hearts.  
Instead of judging us,  
He justified us.  
Instead of consuming us,  
He cleansed us.  
Instead of condemning us,  
He forgave us completely.  
Instead of crushing us,  
He was crushed.

When Messiah came,  
we expected a show of power.  
Instead He showed us  
the power of love.

Hymn recording: [Here Is Love](#)

# Here Is Love

1 John 4:10

♩ = 66

B $\flat$  C<sup>7</sup> F C<sup>7</sup><sub>F</sub> F G $\flat$  B $\flat$  B $\flat$  F C<sup>7</sup> E A

1, 3. Here is love vast as the o - cean, Lov - ing - kind - ness as a  
2. On the mount of cru - ci - fix - ion Foun - tains o - pened deep and

C<sup>7</sup><sub>F</sub> C<sup>7</sup> B $\flat$  C<sup>7</sup> F C<sup>7</sup><sub>F</sub> F G $\flat$  B $\flat$  B $\flat$

flood wide. When the Prince of Life, our ran - som, Shed for  
Through the flood - gates of Your mer - cy Flowed a

E C<sup>7</sup> F sus F F sus E A F B $\flat$  F

us vast His pre - cious blood. Here is love. Lord, we re -  
and gra - cious tide. Here is love like might - y

E C G $\flat$  D $\flat$  G $\flat$  C<sup>7</sup> F E

mem - ber. From our hearts we lift Your praise, Rais - ing  
riv - ers Poured un - ceas - ing from a - bove. Heav - en's

WORDS: William Rees (tr. by William Edwards) and Ken Bible  
MUSIC: Robert Lowry and Ken Bible

HERE IS LOVE  
8.7.8.7.D. w. Ref.

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3rd time to Coda  
C<sup>7</sup>

B $\flat$  G $\flat$ m B $\flat$  F E $\flat$  B $\flat$  E $\flat$   
A C

high the liv - ing an - them All will sing through end - less  
peace and per - fect jus - tice Kissed a guilt - y world in

1 F B $\flat$  2 F F C<sup>7</sup> B $\flat$   
D

days. love. O what love!

C<sup>7</sup> C<sup>9</sup> F C<sup>7</sup> F Dm<sup>7</sup> C E $\flat$   
E E F

Great love! Dy - ing Lord,

D.C. al Coda CODA  
C<sup>7</sup> C $\sharp$ <sup>o7</sup> Dm C<sup>7</sup><sub>sus</sub> C<sup>7</sup> F F

*rit.*

what love! days.

## **Scriptures about God's Love for the Lost**

(NASB)

### **Matthew 9:36**

Seeing the people, [Jesus] felt compassion for them, because they were distressed and dispirited like sheep without a shepherd.

### **Luke 15:1-10**

Now all the tax collectors and the sinners were coming near Him to listen to Him. Both the Pharisees and the scribes began to grumble, saying, "This man receives sinners and eats with them."

So He told them this parable, saying, "What man among you, if he has a hundred sheep and has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open pasture and go after the one which is lost until he finds it? When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep which was lost!' I tell you that in the same way, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

"Or what woman, if she has ten silver coins and loses one coin, does not light a lamp and sweep the house and search carefully until she finds it? When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin which I had lost!' In the same way, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

## God Loves the Lost

*Matthew 9:36; 10:5-6; 12:11-12; 15:24; 18:12-14;*

*Mark 6:34; Luke 15; John 10:1-30; 2 Peter 3:9*

Jesus doesn't think of sinners as repulsive people to be  
avoided  
despised, or  
condemned.

He thinks of them as  
lost sheep,  
lost treasure, or  
lost children.

They are to be searched for  
eagerly,  
lovingly,  
single-mindedly.

God's love never gives up!

Sinners arouse,  
not His condemnation,  
but His compassion.

They stir,  
not His anger,  
but His love and mercy

When the lost sheep is brought safely back,  
rejoice!

When the treasure is found,  
celebrate!

When the wayward child comes back home,  
still in the rags of sin,  
run to meet him!

Shower him with  
hugs and  
joyful tears!

Welcome him with  
full and glad acceptance!

One of God's children is alive from the dead!  
Let the party begin!

*Father, help me share  
Your heart for  
Your lost children.*

*May I love with You,  
weep with You,  
watch with You,  
search with You, and  
rejoice with You  
whenever even one returns.*

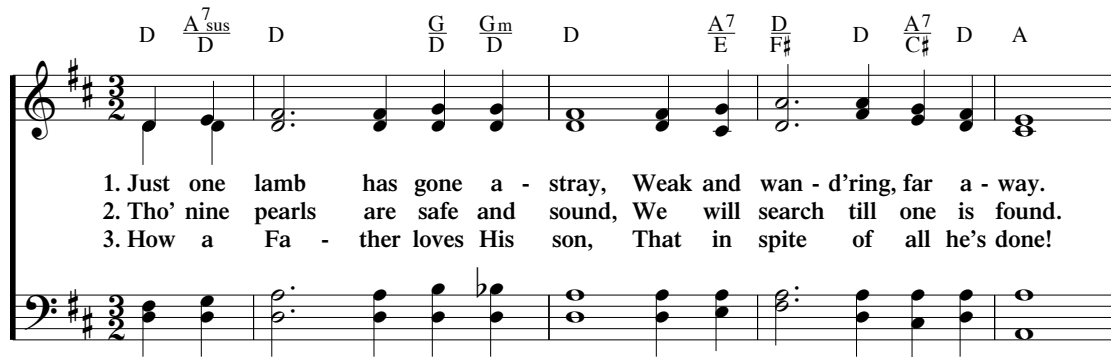
Hymn recording: [One Lost Sheep \(EVERLASTING LOVE\)](#)

# One Lost Sheep

Matthew 9:36; 10:5-6; 12:11-12; 15:24; 18:12-14;  
Mark 6:34; Luke 15; John 10:1-30; 2 Peter 3:9

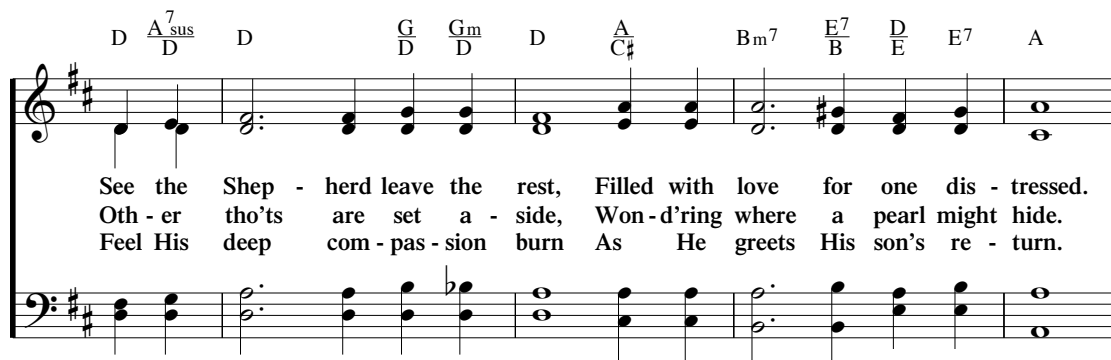
♩ = 60

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. Just one lamb has gone a - stray, Weak and wan - d'ring, far a - way.  
2. Tho' nine pearls are safe and sound, We will search till one is found.  
3. How a Fa - ther loves His son, That in spite of all he's done!

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



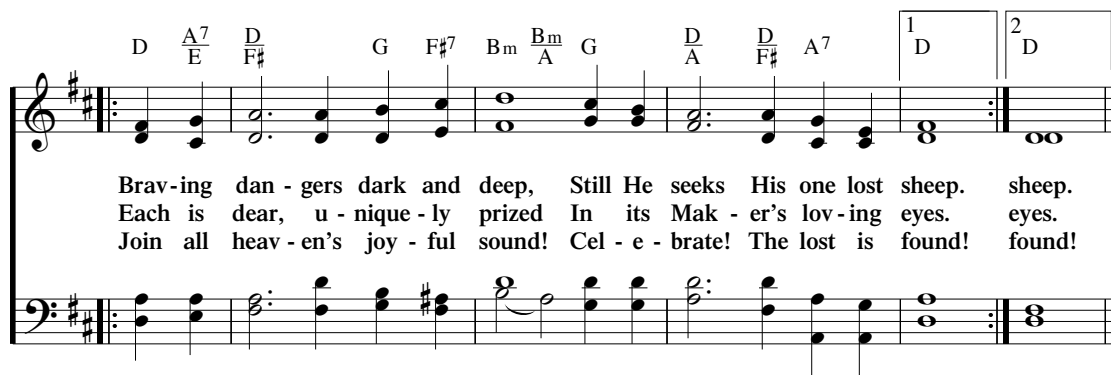
See the Shep - herd leave the rest, Filled with love for one dis - tressed.  
Oth - er tho'ts are set a - side, Won - d'ring where a pearl might hide.  
Feel His deep com - pas - sion burn As He greets His son's re - turn.

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



Hear the name He loud - ly cries! Mer - cy floods His anx - ious eyes!  
One that's lost is not dis - dained- It's a treas - ure to be gained!  
See no an - gry tho't a - rise. Tears now wash His laugh - ing eyes.

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



Brav - ing dan - gers dark and deep, Still He seeks His one lost sheep. sheep.  
Each is dear, u - nique - ly prized In its Mak - er's lov - ing eyes. eyes.  
Join all heav - en's joy - ful sound! Cel - e - brate! The lost is found! found!

WORDS: Ken Bible  
MUSIC: James Mountain

Alt. Tunes: ABERYSTWYTH; CHIC SHAVER

EVERLASTING LOVE  
7.7.7.7.D.

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## Letter from a Concerned Father

*Based on Hosea 11:1-11*

My Dear Child,

Since before you were born,  
I've loved you.

You were my delight,  
my pride and joy.

I would sit and  
watch you and  
smile and  
laugh.

I looked forward to being with you.  
I enjoyed you so much!  
I just could not do enough for you.

I cared for you day and night.  
You were always on my mind and  
on my heart.

When you were sick,  
I felt your pain and  
nursed you back to health.

When you fell,  
I would lift you in my arms and  
hug you and  
gently kiss you.

But the more I loved you,  
the more you resisted my love.  
The more I cared for you,  
the more you resented me.  
The more I did for you,  
the less you trusted me.

I taught you to walk, and  
you chose to walk away from me.  
I shaped your young mind.  
I carefully fed it and  
nurtured it.

But you became proud, and  
in your youthful ignorance  
you found me  
foolish and  
old-fashioned.

You took everything I gave you and  
turned it against me.

But still I loved you and  
did all I could to help you.  
I saw trouble coming.  
I tried to warn you –  
sometimes gently,  
sometimes in desperation,  
as shouting to one standing in front of an oncoming truck:  
“Look out! Get out of the way!”  
But you took my warnings as intrusions,  
as selfish attempts to “run your life.”

The trouble came –  
the incredible hurt,  
the destruction,  
the shattered relationships.  
Believe me,  
being right brought me no joy.  
I suffered it all with you.

I still see trouble coming.  
But I can't help you...  
not unless you let me...  
not unless you help yourself.

A parent's grief for a lost child has  
no comfort,  
no consolation,  
except one.  
It is hope –  
hope that the child will somehow  
just come back.

Come back, child.  
Please,  
come back.

Love forever,  
God, Your Father

Hymn recording: [A Father's Love](#)

# A Father's Love

Luke 15:11-32

♩ = 69

G GM7 G  $\frac{A^m}{C}$  C  $\frac{G}{D}$   $\frac{A^9}{C\#}$   $\frac{A}{C\#}$

1. Hear a child de - mand his free - dom, Grasp - ing for  
 2. Thro' the years of waste and wan - d'ring So far from  
 3. How the Fa - ther runs to meet him! See their em -  
 4. Still a wait - ing heart is call - ing All far from

D<sup>sus</sup> D  $\frac{C}{G}$  G  $\frac{A^m7}{G}$  G  $\frac{A^m}{C}$  C

life, Care - less with his great - est treas - ure:  
 home, Still a wait - ing heart is watch - ing  
 brace! Sin is turned to joy and prom - ise  
 home. Come and know this sweet for - give - ness.

$\frac{G}{D}$  D<sup>13</sup> D<sup>7</sup>  $\frac{G^{\text{sus}}}{D}$  1, 2, 3  $\frac{G}{D}$   $\frac{C}{G}$  4  $\frac{G}{D}$   $\frac{C}{G}$  G

All his Fa - ther's love.  
 With a Fa - ther's love.  
 By a Fa - ther's love.  
 Find your Fa - ther's love.

WORDS: Ken Bible  
 MUSIC: Traditional Folk Tune; arr. by Ken Bible

LONG TIME AGO  
 8.4.8.5.

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## **Luke 15:11-32**

(NASB)

[Jesus] said, "A man had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the estate that falls to me.' So he divided his wealth between them.

And not many days later, the younger son gathered everything together and went on a journey into a distant country, and there he squandered his estate with loose living. Now when he had spent everything, a severe famine occurred in that country, and he began to be impoverished. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would have gladly filled his stomach with the pods that the swine were eating, and no one was giving anything to him.

But when he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired men have more than enough bread, but I am dying here with hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in your sight; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me as one of your hired men."' "

So he got up and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion for him, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet; and bring the fattened calf, kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and has come to life again; he was lost and has been found.' And they began to celebrate.

"Now his older son was in the field, and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. And he summoned one of the servants and began inquiring what these things could be. And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has received him back safe and sound.'

But he became angry and was not willing to go in; and his father came out and began pleading with him. But he answered and said to his father, 'Look! For so many years I have been serving you and I have never neglected a command of yours; and yet you have never given me a young goat, so that I might celebrate with my friends; but when this son of yours came, who has devoured your wealth with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him.'

And he said to him, 'Son, you have always been with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, for this brother of yours was dead and has begun to live, and was lost and has been found.' "

## Love Is Not Blind

Love is not blind.  
Love sees what no one else sees.  
Others see sin and ugliness.  
Love sees one unspeakably precious.  
Love sees its treasure,  
    its child.

Your Father calls you to share His love,  
    to live the same love that  
    reached out and drew you in.  
Your Father calls you to  
    share His heart.

*Father,  
forgive my indifference to  
the lost sheep that  
mean so much to You.  
Make my heart as Your heart,  
my hands as Your hands,  
my life as Your life.*

Hymn recording: [Our Father's Burning Heart](#)

# Our Father's Burning Heart

Tune: SUSSEX CAROL

Luke 15

♩ = 56

Chords: F, F, C7, C, F, Fadd9, E/A, C, C7, Dm, Gm/Bb

1. Our Fa - ther longs for all the lost, His chil - dren wan - d'ring  
 2. He gives to us with o - pen hand. We take it all and  
 3. So live His strong and ten - der love For all His fam - 'ly

Chords: E/C, C7, F, F, Bb/D, Bbadd9/D, E/C, Fadd9/C, E/C, C/Bb

far from home. The need - y ones we look be - yond Are  
 walk a - way. We waste His wealth on emp - ty hopes And  
 far and near. Give ev - 'ry child a wel - come home Till

Chords: E/A, Gm/Bb, C13, C7, F, C, Bb6/D, Bb/D, C/E, C6/E, C7/E, C, C7, Am/C

dear to Him, His loved, His own. See through our Fa - ther's lov - ing  
 leave our lives in dis - ar - ray. See how His chil - dren groan and  
 all of - fens - es dis - ap - pear. Dance with all heav - en's bound - less

Chords: Bb6, C/G, E/A, Bb, E/C, Gm, Gm9, C, C7, F

eyes! Come share our Fa - ther's burn - ing heart!  
 die! Come share our Fa - ther's burn - ing heart!  
 joy! Come share our Fa - ther's burn - ing heart!

WORDS: Ken Bible

MUSIC: Traditional English Carol; arr. by Ken Bible

SUSSEX CAROL

8.8.8.8.8.8.

Alt. Tune: MELITA

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## God Loves to Grow Things

*"I am the vine,  
you are the branches;  
he who abides in Me and I in him,  
he bears much fruit." (John 15:5, NASB)*

The truth is all around you:  
God loves to grow things.  
When you look at your own life, with your  
faults,  
struggles, and  
blind spots,  
remember:  
God loves to grow things.

When you look at other people,  
with all their  
insensitivities and  
annoying qualities,  
remember:  
God loves to grow things.

Think of people as growing things.  
You're seeing them in  
only one moment of their development.  
God, the patient gardener, is working  
carefully and  
joyfully,  
moment by moment,  
year by year.  
He is tenderly nurturing them from  
a tiny seed to  
beautiful fullness in Him.

Try not to step on His flowers.  
If a holy and all-knowing God  
can love them  
just as they are,  
can't we?

*All our relationships are to be shaped by  
the love of the Father –  
His love  
for them,  
for us,*

*for all of us.  
He loves “them”  
as much as He loves “us”.  
In every relationship,  
only His unselfish love is  
worthy of Him.*

**Hymn recording: [Love of God, Possess Me](#)**

# Love of God, Possess Me

TUNE: Like a River Glorious (WYE VALLEY)

*John 8:31-32; 16:13-14; 2 Corinthians 5:14-15; Galatians 5:13*

♩ = 104

F       $\frac{C}{E}$       F       $\frac{F7}{A}$       B $\flat$       C      F

1. Love of God, pos - sess me. Rule and set me free,  
2. Truth of God, pos - sess me. Sing here in my soul.  
3. Life in God our Fa - ther, Love in Christ the Son,

F       $\frac{C}{E}$       F       $\frac{F}{A}$        $\frac{C}{G}$        $\frac{Dm}{G}$       G7      C

Free to serve You ful - ly- Per - fect lib - er - ty!  
Share Your pre - cious wis - dom. Speak Your words of gold.  
Truth in God the Spir - it- Full - ness here be - gun!

F       $\frac{C7}{G}$        $\frac{F}{A}$       B $\flat$        $\frac{F}{A}$       Gm7       $\frac{C7}{G}$       F      C

Thro' my words and ac - tions Let Your kind - ness flow.  
Help me hear each whis - per, Walk in all Your light,  
Rest - ing in Your pow - er, Strong in sweet re - lease,

WORDS: Ken Bible  
MUSIC: James Mountain

WYE VALLEY  
6.5.6.5.T.

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F C#°7 Dm G/B F/C Gm/C C7 F

Lead me to Your work, Lord. Joy - ful - ly I'll go.  
 Liv - ing ev - 'ry prom - ise, Pleas - ing in Your sight.  
 Joy - ful in Your pres - ence, Walk - ing in Your peace.

F C7/G F/A Bb F/A Gm7 C7/G F C

Love of God, pos - sess me. Rule and set me free,  
 Truth of God, pos - sess me. Sing here in my soul.  
 Life in God our Fa - ther, Love in Christ the Son,

F C#°7 Dm G/B F/C Gm/C C7 F

Free to serve You ful - ly- Per - fect lib - er - ty!  
 Share Your pre - cious wis - dom. Speak Your words of gold.  
 Truth in God the Spir - it- Full - ness here be - gun!

# **Glimpses of God's Love**

(NASB)

## **Matthew 21:33-44**

[Jesus said,] "Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard and put a wall around it and dug a wine press in it, and built a tower, and rented it out to vine-growers and went on a journey.

When the harvest time approached, he sent his slaves to the vine-growers to receive his produce. The vine-growers took his slaves and beat one, and killed another, and stoned a third. Again he sent another group of slaves larger than the first; and they did the same thing to them.

But afterward he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' But when the vine-growers saw the son, they said among themselves, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him and seize his inheritance.' They took him, and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him.

Therefore when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those vine-growers?" They said to Him, "He will bring those wretches to a wretched end, and will rent out the vineyard to other vine-growers who will pay him the proceeds at the proper seasons."

Jesus said to them, "Did you never read in the Scriptures,  
    'The stone which the builders rejected,  
    This became the chief corner stone;  
    This came about from the Lord,  
    And it is marvelous in our eyes'?"

Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people, producing the fruit of it. And he who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; but on whomever it falls, it will scatter him like dust."

## **Matthew 26:26-29**

While they were eating, Jesus took some bread, and after a blessing, He broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is My body." And when He had taken a cup and given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; for this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for forgiveness of sins. But I say to you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father's kingdom."



### **John 10:11**

[Jesus said,] “I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep.”

## Picture This

A poor widow generously gives  
her last two meager coins,  
all that she has to live on.

A father is horribly mistreated  
by His wayward son.  
But when the son finally comes home,  
penniless and half-starved,  
the father runs to him and  
joyfully smothers him with  
love and  
gifts and  
forgiveness.

The King of All Kings makes Himself  
a poor, powerless peasant.  
He lives  
homeless and  
without a family  
so that all the people  
can be His family.  
He feeds and  
heals and  
teaches  
everyone who comes to Him.  
He frees those tormented by demons and  
raises the dead.

Finally, He gives Himself as  
the full and final sacrifice  
for all their sins.  
To celebrate their deliverance,  
He makes Himself their feast:  
His own body becomes  
the bread broken for them.  
His own blood becomes  
the wine poured out for them.

All these are living portraits of  
the glorious love of  
our glorious God,

drawn by the  
    life and  
    death of  
His only Son,  
    Jesus Christ.

**Hymn recording: [Pictures of God's Love](#)**

# Pictures of God's Love

Matthew 8:1-4; Matthew 26:26-29; Mark 14:22-25;  
Luke 15:11-32; 22:17-20; Acts 3:1-10; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25

♩ = 76

N.C. Fm Cm<sup>11</sup>  
Eb Db F<sup>sus</sup> C Fm C G<sup>o</sup> Bb Bbm<sup>6</sup> Fm Ab C<sup>7</sup> G

1. A fa - ther runs with stream - ing tears - His  
2. A lep - er comes back home a - gain, The  
3. His flesh and blood, our bread and wine - He  
4. Dis - cov - er now by child - like faith What

Fm C<sup>7</sup> Fm Bbm Db C<sup>sus</sup> C<sup>sus</sup> C C+ C<sup>7</sup> Fm Ab Db Fm Bbm Bbm<sup>7</sup>

son, once dead, now lives! His joy - ful love gives  
lame now leap and dance - God's gifts can on - ly  
makes Him - self our feast. In death He serves His  
God de - lights to show: A joy - ful, o - ver -

G<sup>o</sup> Eb<sup>add</sup>9 Eb Fm C<sup>7</sup> Fm Ab C Bbm<sup>7</sup> C<sup>sus</sup> C Fm Fm C F

just a glimpse Of how our God for - gives.  
start to trace The deep, di - vine ro - mance.  
life to feed The mean - est and the least.  
flow - ing love That ev - 'ry life can know.

WORDS: Ken Bible  
MUSIC: Wyeth's *Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second* (1813); arr. by Ken Bible

MORNING SONG 2  
C.M.

Alt. Tunes: AMAZING GRACE; CORONATION

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## **Romans 5:1-11**

(NASB)

Therefore, having been justified by faith,  
we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,  
through whom also we have obtained  
    our introduction by faith  
    into this grace in which we stand;  
and we exult in hope of the glory of God.

And not only this,  
but we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that  
    tribulation brings about perseverance; and  
    perseverance, proven character; and  
    proven character, hope; and  
    hope does not disappoint,  
        because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts  
        through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

For while we were still helpless,  
    at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.  
For one will hardly die for a righteous man;  
    though perhaps for the good man  
    someone would dare even to die.  
But God demonstrates His own love toward us,  
    in that while we were yet sinners,  
    Christ died for us.

Much more then,  
    having now been justified by His blood,  
    we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him.  
For if while we were enemies  
    we were reconciled to God  
    through the death of His Son, much more,  
having been reconciled,  
    we shall be saved by His life.

And not only this,  
but we also exult in God  
    through our Lord Jesus Christ,  
through whom we have now received the reconciliation.

## **A Father's Love**

When I was all wrong, inside and out...when I was so blind I didn't want to change...when I was so helpless I could not change, Jesus took responsibility for me. He took it upon himself to save me from my own sin and the death He knew it would bring me.

When that meant sacrifice, He was there. When it meant incredible suffering, He was there. When it meant submitting himself to abuse, humiliation, and death, He was there for me.

Because I was blind, proud, and completely helpless, He carried me and all my guilt on His back. He died for my sins so that I wouldn't have to.

If my wife or children were in danger, I'd do anything to save them. No matter what the threat or the cost, I'd be there. I'd gladly step into the gap for them. That's the way Jesus felt about me when I was far away from Him, when I didn't know Him and didn't care.

Jesus' life wasn't taken from Him. He laid it down willingly, and the Bible accounts bear that out. He knew ahead of time all the suffering that awaited Him, but He faced it anyway.

- He was betrayed by a close friend.
- He let himself be taken by those who hated Him and were eager to kill Him.
- He went through an illegal trial and was falsely accused, yet He never tried to defend himself.
- He was severely beaten and had a crown of thorns pressed onto His head.
- He was mocked and publicly humiliated. He watched and listened as the people He loved screamed for His execution.
- Finally, He was nailed to a wooden cross and hung there to die slowly while His enemies jeered and His mother watched and wept.

Jesus knows love. He knows how much it costs. He knows how much it can hurt. Nothing can break our hearts like our children when they turn away from us, trample our love, and slowly destroy themselves in the process. Jesus lived out a parent's perfect love.

Every day, through every word and action, He showed us our Father's heart toward us. And He showed it most eloquently, most poignantly, most completely in His death.

We look around at creation and see our Father's lavish love and care for us. But creation flows from the unmeasured abundance of His riches. Though the universe is so vast and varied, the Creator is undiminished by giving it.

But in Jesus, we see the Creator's love more fully. We see Him pouring himself out completely, unreservedly for us.

That's love. That's our Creator. And His Fatherly love burns as passionately today, for you and for your loved ones, as it did two thousand years ago. *His love endures forever* (Psalm 136:1, NIV).

Hymn recording: [As You Love](#)

# As You Love

Isaiah 53:3; Matthew 5:43-48; John 13:34-35; 15:12-14, 17;  
Romans 5:6-8; 2 Corinthians 9:8; Ephesians 4:32; 1 John 3:14-18

♩ = 72

Cm G<sup>7</sup><sub>sus</sub> Cm Cm Cm Cm Cm Fm A<sup>b</sup>M<sup>7</sup> Fm D G<sup>7</sup><sub>sus</sub> G<sup>7</sup><sub>sus</sub> Cm<sup>9</sup> Cm

1. Man of Sor - rows, for - sak - en, Bruised and bleed - ing Lamb of God,  
2. Lord, my heart is so clut - tered, All You are is on - ly love.

G<sup>7</sup><sub>sus</sub> G<sup>7</sup> Cm Cm Cm Cm A<sup>b</sup>6 A<sup>b</sup>M<sup>7</sup> Cm Gm<sup>7</sup> C<sup>7</sup><sub>sus</sub> Cm

When the price is my com - fort, Help me love as You love.  
Form Your - self here with - in me - Help me love as You love.

G<sup>7</sup><sub>sus</sub> G<sup>7</sup> Cm Cm<sup>9</sup> Cm Cm Fm A<sup>b</sup>M<sup>7</sup> Fm D Fm<sup>6</sup> G<sup>7</sup><sub>sus</sub> G<sup>7</sup><sub>sus</sub> Cm<sup>9</sup> Cm

With the proud and un - grate - ful You are gra - cious, You are kind.  
I am rich, yet so anx - ious. You are poor, yet glad to give.

G<sup>7</sup><sub>sus</sub> G<sup>7</sup> Cm Cm Cm Cm A<sup>b</sup>6 A<sup>b</sup>M<sup>7</sup> Cm Gm<sup>7</sup> C<sup>7</sup><sub>sus</sub> Cm

We are all un - de - serv - ing. Help me love as You love.  
From our Fa - ther's a - bun - dance, Help me love as You love.

WORDS: Ken Bible

MUSIC: Traditional Folk Tune and Ken Bible

HAHN

7.7.7.6.7.7.7.6.8.5.7.6.

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G<sup>+</sup> G<sup>7</sup> C<sup>m</sup> C<sup>m</sup><sup>9</sup> E<sup>b</sup><sub>B<sup>b</sup></sub><sup>6</sup> E<sup>b</sup><sub>B<sup>b</sup></sub> E<sup>b</sup><sub>G</sub><sup>6</sup> F<sup>m</sup><sup>7</sup> F<sup>7</sup><sub>sus</sub> F<sup>m</sup><sup>7</sup> G<sup>sus</sup> G

Through re - jec - tion, through in - jus - tice, When none un - der - stand,  
All a - round me are the need - y. My God, how You care!

G<sup>7</sup><sub>sus</sub> G<sup>7</sup> C<sup>m</sup> C<sup>m</sup><sub>E<sup>b</sup></sub> G<sup>m</sup> A<sup>b</sup><sub>6</sub> A<sup>b</sup><sub>M<sup>7</sup></sub> 1 C<sup>m</sup><sub>G</sub> G<sup>m</sup><sup>7</sup> C<sup>m</sup> 2 C<sup>m</sup><sub>G</sub> G<sup>7</sup><sub>sus</sub> G<sup>m</sup><sup>7</sup> C *rit.*

As a child of Your mer - cy, Help me love as You love.  
Fill my heart with Your Spir - it! Help me love as You love.

## A Story of Forgiveness

Father,  
when shame is all that I deserve and  
regret is my daily bread,  
    You forgive me –  
        simply and  
        completely.

When my guilt never stops accusing me  
    and I have nothing to reply,  
when my punishment can never be enough  
    to make me feel right again,  
You declare me  
    innocent,  
    guiltless, and  
    pure.  
You make me clean!  
Between You and me,  
    my guilt is gone  
        totally and  
        forever.

***God, if You are for me, who can be against me?***

*If You didn't spare Your own Son but  
gladly gave Him up to save me,  
You are certainly won't hold back anything else.*

***Who can accuse me?***

*No one can.  
You Yourself have declared me innocent.*

***Who can condemn me?***

*Absolutely no one!  
Jesus Christ, Your Son,  
died to forgive me and  
is right now sitting next to You,  
interceding for me.*

***Who can separate me from Your love?***

*Can trouble or  
    hardship or  
    persecution or  
    hunger or  
    poverty or  
    danger or*

*death itself?  
Absolutely not!  
In all these things  
I am more than a conqueror  
because You love me.*  
*I know for certain that  
neither death  
nor life,  
neither angels  
nor demons,  
neither the present  
nor the future,  
nor any powers,  
neither height  
nor depth,  
nor anything else in all creation,  
will be able to separate me from Your love,  
which You have poured out on me  
in Jesus Christ.*  
(Romans 8:31-39, paraphrase)

God, You have forgiven me completely!  
But I realize that my actions  
still have consequences in this world,  
and I have to live with those consequences.  
But now You help me work through those consequences with  
grace,  
hope,  
patient endurance,  
gentleness,  
and yes, even  
joy!

My life is a story I cannot unwrite.  
But I don't need to.  
The story isn't ended yet.  
You are writing for me  
a new chapter,  
a new destiny.  
It will transform my story from  
a tragedy about me to  
a love story about You.  
It will all become Your story,

not mine,  
one that glorifies You, our  
magnificent,  
patient,  
gracious Father.

Though I can't rejoice in who I have been,  
I do rejoice in who You are and  
who You are making me.  
My story will still have a  
wonderful, uplifting ending,  
one that is happier than I ever dreamed it could be.  
Praise to You, my God!

*Each of us who knows God has a  
beautiful,  
personal,  
true-life story of  
His grace and power.  
And each is a small part of  
a bigger story.  
Let's share our stories  
as God gives us opportunities.*

**Hymn recording: [Sea of Mercy](#)**

# Sea of Mercy

*Exodus 34:6-7; Deuteronomy 7:9; Psalm 36:5-6a; 100:5; 118:1; 145:8-9;  
Lamentations 3:22-23; Micah 7:18-19; Romans 11:32;  
Ephesians 2:4-7; Titus 3:4-5; Hebrews 4:16*

♩ = 88

Chords: G/A, A, D, Em<sup>9</sup>, A<sup>7</sup>/E, D, A<sup>sus</sup>/E, D/F<sup>♯</sup>, G, Gadd<sup>9</sup>/F<sup>♯</sup>, Em<sup>7</sup>

1. When first I drew an in - fant's breath, I sailed a sea of  
2. I turned, and You for - gave my past. Lord, what a sea of

Chords: D, F<sup>♯</sup>m/A, G/A, A<sup>7</sup>, D, F<sup>♯</sup>m<sup>7</sup>/C<sup>♯</sup>, A/C<sup>♯</sup>, Bm, D/A, G, Gadd<sup>9</sup>, D/F<sup>♯</sup>, G M<sup>7</sup>, Em<sup>7</sup>/A, A, G/A

mer - cy. This life, this world, these gifts, my Lord, Were flow - ing all from  
mer - cy! Now ev - 'ry day in You, my God, I'm more than I can

Chords: D, G/D, A/G, D/F<sup>♯</sup>, D, F<sup>♯</sup>m, G, D/F<sup>♯</sup>, D<sup>6</sup>/F<sup>♯</sup>, Gadd<sup>9</sup>, G M<sup>7</sup>

You. When bound by sin and blind - ness, So sure that I was  
be. I love You, and I fol - low. That's all that I can

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

SEA OF MERCY  
8.7.8.6.7.6.8.6.6.

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A sus    $\frac{A \text{ sus}}{E}$    A    $\frac{G}{A}$    A<sup>7</sup>   D    $\frac{F\sharp m7}{C\sharp}$     $\frac{A}{C\sharp}$    Bm    $\frac{D}{A}$    G   Gadd9

free, do.   I saw Your face and heard Your voice And That

$\frac{D}{A}$    A<sup>°7</sup>    $\frac{F\sharp7}{A\sharp}$    Bm    $\frac{F\sharp m}{A}$    G M<sup>7</sup>   G    $\frac{D}{F\sharp}$    G M<sup>7</sup>    $\frac{Em7}{A}$    A    $\frac{G}{A}$    1   D    $\frac{G}{D}$

found Your love for me. My God, what love for me!  
 car - ries me to You. I'm com - ing, Lord, to

2   D    $\frac{G M7}{A}$     $\frac{G}{A}$    Bm    $\frac{D}{A}$    G   Em<sup>7</sup>   D

You!

## **Romans 8:14-17**

(NASB)

All who are being led by the Spirit of God,  
these are sons of God.  
For you have not received a spirit of slavery  
leading to fear again,  
but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons  
by which we cry out,  
“Abba! Father!”  
The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that  
we are children of God,  
and if children,  
heirs also,  
heirs of God and  
fellow heirs with Christ,  
if indeed we suffer with Him  
so that we may also be glorified with Him.

## You Are His Child

You are a child of  
Almighty God,  
the Sovereign Creator,  
the Maker and Master of all reality.  
He dearly, deeply loves you!  
You are His treasure!

He joyfully shares with you  
all He is and  
all He has.  
He eagerly pours out on you  
His own Spirit,  
His time,  
His attention,  
His exuberant affection,  
His wisdom, and  
His glorious purity.  
Blessing you is His constant delight!

He is tenderly nurturing you  
moment by moment  
until you fully share  
His character,  
His mind, and  
His loving heart.

Rejoice!  
You are a child of the King!

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



# Children of the Lord

TUNE: McNamara's Band

1 John 3:1

♩. = 80

C F  $\frac{E}{E}$  Dm<sup>7</sup>  $\frac{E}{C}$  B $\flat$ M<sup>7</sup> C C<sup>9</sup><sub>sus</sub> 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 $\flat$  B $\flat$ <sub>D</sub>  $\frac{E}{C}$  Dm D<sub>sus</sub> G<sup>9</sup>  $\frac{G^7}{D}$  C<sup>7</sup> 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  $\frac{E}{E}$  Dm<sup>7</sup>  $\frac{E}{C}$  B $\flat$ M<sup>7</sup> C C<sup>9</sup><sub>sus</sub> 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 -

B $\flat$ <sub>D</sub> B $\flat$ <sub>M</sub><sub>D $\flat$</sub>   $\frac{E}{C}$  Dm D<sub>sus</sub> G<sup>9</sup> C<sup>7</sup> 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 C<sup>7</sup> F F<sup>C</sup> F F<sup>C</sup>

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

F C<sup>7</sup> B<sup>b</sup><sub>C</sub> F F<sup>C</sup> G<sup>m</sup>7 G<sup>m</sup>7<sub>D</sub> F<sup>C</sup> D<sup>m</sup> D<sup>sus</sup>

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

G<sup>9</sup> G<sup>7</sup><sub>D</sub> C<sup>7</sup> C F F<sup>C</sup>

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

F F<sup>C</sup> F C<sup>7</sup> B<sup>b</sup><sub>C</sub> F F<sup>E<sup>b</sup></sup>

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

B<sup>b</sup><sub>D</sub> B<sup>b</sup>m<sub>D<sup>b</sup></sub> F<sup>C</sup> D<sup>m</sup> D<sup>sus</sup> G<sup>9</sup> C<sup>7</sup> F

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