# God's Love

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

from the series:

Fresh Views of Timeless Truths

Ken Bible

LNWhymns.COM

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### **Genesis 1**

(NASB)

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was [c]moving over the [d]surface of the waters.

Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light day, and the darkness He called night. And there was evening and there was morning, one day.

Then God said, "Let there be an expanse in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters." God made the expanse, and separated the waters which were below the expanse from the waters which were above the expanse; and it was so. God called the expanse heaven. And there was evening and there was morning, a second day.

Then God said, "Let the waters below the heavens be gathered into one place, and let the dry land appear"; and it was so. God called the dry land earth, and the gathering of the waters He called seas; and God saw that it was good. Then God said, "Let the earth sprout vegetation, plants yielding seed, and fruit trees on the earth bearing fruit after their kind with seed in them"; and it was so. The earth brought forth vegetation, plants yielding seed after their kind, and trees bearing fruit with seed in them, after their kind; and God saw that it was good. There was evening and there was morning, a third day.

Then God said, "Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night, and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years; and let them be for lights in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth"; and it was so. God made the two great lights, the greater light to govern the day, and the lesser light to govern the night; He made the stars also. God placed them in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth, and to govern the day and the night, and to separate the light from the darkness; and God saw that it was good. There was evening and there was morning, a fourth day.

Then God said, "Let the waters teem with swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth in the open expanse of the heavens." God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, with which the waters swarmed after their kind, and every winged bird after its kind; and God saw that it was good. God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth." There was evening and there was morning, a fifth day.

Then God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures after their kind: cattle and creeping things and beasts of the earth after their kind"; and it was so. God made the

beasts of the earth after their kind, and the cattle after their kind, and everything that creeps on the ground after its kind; and God saw that it was good.

Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. God blessed them; and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth." Then God said, "Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the surface of all the earth, and every tree which has fruit yielding seed; it shall be food for you; and to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the sky and to every thing that moves on the earth which has life, I have given every green plant for food"; and it was so. God saw all that He had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

# **Love in Living Color**

```
Our beautiful earthly home paints our Father's love in living color.

Open your eyes! Look around!

With youthful enthusiasm our timeless God carefully planned all the universe, from immense panoramas to the tiniest, most stunning detail.

He took pleasure in displaying His magnificence for all to see. He eagerly provided for our every need.
```

There in the very beginning,
the same sovereign Word that spoke the world into existence
blessed us.

He blessed us even more richly in Jesus Christ.

He continues to bless us day by day with everything
good,
noble,
pure, and
lovely.

Rejoice in Him! Worship our Father for all He has done!

In this vast universe,
we humans are significant for
one reason only:
the Creator loves us.
We are important because
we are important
to Him.

Hymn recording: Lavish Love, Abundant Beauty

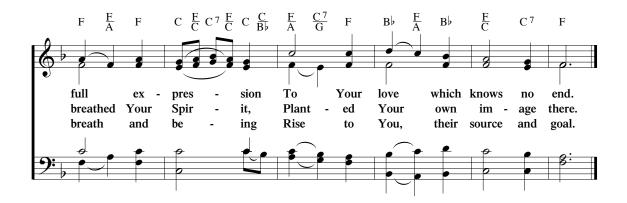
# Lavish Love, Abundant Beauty

TUNE: Jesus, What a Friend of Sinners (HYFRYDOL)

Genesis 1



WORDS: Ken Bible HYFRYDOL MUSIC: Rowland H. Prichard 8.7.8.7.D.



### **Infinite Love**

What is mankind that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them? (Psalm 8:4, NIV)

```
The Creator of this vast universe
      deeply,
      personally
loves us tiny, troublesome human beings.
How can that make sense?
Look at the universe and
      see God's power.
It reaches to the farthest corners of physical reality and
      to every microscopic detail.
His power reaches to infinity in both directions,
      to galaxies and
      to water-drop worlds.
Some are too vast and
      some too tinv
for us to trace with our senses.
But everything is
      created and
      controlled
by His will.
His wisdom and knowledge reach
      everywhere His power goes.
We marvel that He can know
      everything
      all the time.
But is it so unbelievable that the
      One able to create all this
      can also stay in constant contact with it,
             that He can always know it completely?
What's more, His love is as
      deep,
      rich.
      creative, and
      complete
as His power and knowledge.
```

He not only created all that is and

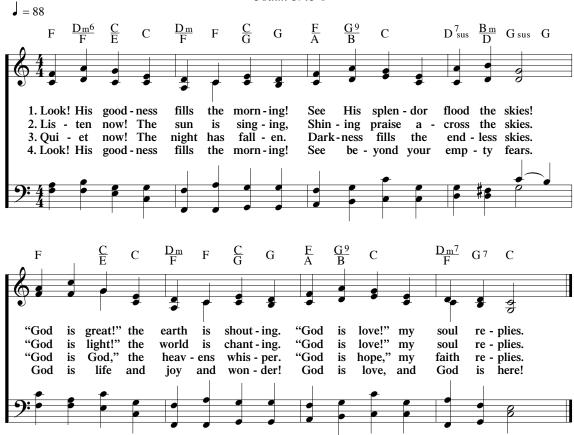
```
but He cares for it all,
      constantly and
       completely.
Like His power and understanding,
       His love enfolds all He has made.
His love enfolds each of us,
      every moment and
      forever.
His love is
      enabled by infinite ability and is
       guided by infinite wisdom.
His love for you is
      unlimited and
       unfailing.
You can trust Him.
You can trust Him with
       every concern,
no matter
       how far-flung or
      how trivial,
for in every detail His love
       knows and
       controls and
       cares.
```

knows all that is,

Hymn recording: Look! His Goodness Fills the Morning

# Look! His Goodness Fills the Morning





WORDS & MUSIC: Ken Bible

SOUTH GALLERY STREET

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CCLI Song #3250574. For CCLI information call 1-800-234-2446.

### Psalm 139

(NASB)

O Lord, You have searched me and known me. You know when I sit down and when I rise up; You understand my thought from afar. You scrutinize my path and my lying down, And are intimately acquainted with all my ways. Even before there is a word on my tongue, Behold, O Lord, You know it all. You have enclosed me behind and before, And laid Your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; It is too high, I cannot attain to it.

Where can I go from Your Spirit?
Or where can I flee from Your presence?
If I ascend to heaven, You are there;
If I make my bed in Sheol, behold, You are there.
If I take the wings of the dawn,
If I dwell in the remotest part of the sea,
Even there Your hand will lead me,
And Your right hand will lay hold of me.
If I say, "Surely the darkness will overwhelm me,
And the light around me will be night,"
Even the darkness is not dark to You,
And the night is as bright as the day.
Darkness and light are alike to You.

For You formed my inward parts;
You wove me in my mother's womb.
I will give thanks to You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made;
Wonderful are Your works,
And my soul knows it very well.
My frame was not hidden from You,
When I was made in secret,
And skillfully wrought in the depths of the earth;
Your eyes have seen my unformed substance;
And in Your book were all written
The days that were ordained for me,
When as yet there was not one of them.

How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God!

How vast is the sum of them!

If I should count them, they would outnumber the sand.

When I awake, I am still with You.

O that You would slay the wicked, O God;
Depart from me, therefore, men of bloodshed.
For they speak against You wickedly,
And Your enemies take Your name in vain.
Do I not hate those who hate You, O Lord?
And do I not loathe those who rise up against You?
I hate them with the utmost hatred;
They have become my enemies.

Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me and know my anxious thoughts; And see if there be any hurtful way in me, And lead me in the everlasting way.

## God, I Want to Know You

God, You created this entire universe, so vast and beautiful, so mysterious and wonderful.

You also created me. You conceived me before I was born. You knit me together in my mother's womb. And You patterned me after yourself.

You love me. You know every thought before I express it, every word before I speak it. Yet You love me.

And You want me to know and love You. You want that more than anything. My Creator, I don't want to ignore such an intriguing possibility.

God, I want to know You.

**Hymn recording:** God of the Universe

# God of the Universe

Isaiah 57:15-19



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Irregular

### Psalm 103

(NASB)

Bless the Lord, O my soul,
And all that is within me, bless His holy name.
Bless the Lord, O my soul,
And forget none of His benefits;
Who pardons all your iniquities,
Who heals all your diseases;
Who redeems your life from the pit,
Who crowns you with lovingkindness and compassion;
Who satisfies your years with good things,
So that your youth is renewed like the eagle.

The Lord performs righteous deeds And judgments for all who are oppressed. He made known His ways to Moses. His acts to the sons of Israel. The Lord is compassionate and gracious, Slow to anger and abounding in lovingkindness. He will not always strive with us, Nor will He keep His anger forever. He has not dealt with us according to our sins, Nor rewarded us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, So great is His lovingkindness toward those who fear Him. As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us. Just as a father has compassion on his children, So the Lord has compassion on those who fear Him. For He Himself knows our frame: He is mindful that we are but dust.

As for man, his days are like grass;
As a flower of the field, so he flourishes.
When the wind has passed over it, it is no more,
And its place acknowledges it no longer.
But the lovingkindness of the Lord is
from everlasting to everlasting
on those who fear Him,
And His righteousness to children's children,
To those who keep His covenant
And remember His precepts to do them.

The Lord has established His throne in the heavens, And His sovereignty rules over all.

Bless the Lord, you His angels,
Mighty in strength, who perform His word,
Obeying the voice of His word!
Bless the Lord, all you His hosts,
You who serve Him, doing His will.
Bless the Lord, all you works of His,
In all places of His dominion;
Bless the Lord, O my soul!

## I Am His Child

God loves us as a parent loves a newborn child.

An infant doesn't have to earn the parents' affection.

A baby is loved

because of relationship,

not because of merit.

Read the beautiful picture painted in Psalm 103.
The Father understands us far better than
we understand ourselves.
He never expects us to live like
something we're not.
We don't need to pretend with Him.

Instead, He takes the initiative to transform us into more than we can be on our own.

He wants to make us truly His children.

He wants to make us like our Father in every way.

All He asks is that we respond to Him in trust, step-by-step.

Hymn recording: We Are Children

## We Are Children



WORDS: Ken Bible MUSIC: George F. Root; arr. by Ken Bible JEWELS 8.6.8.5.7.7.7.5.

### **A Glance Backward**

Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go. (Joshua 1:9, NIV)

Faithful, Faithful, Faithful.
I look back over my life, and
I am startled by the love I thought I knew.
You pursued me when I couldn't see You in my darkness.
You whispered in my ear,
You clutched my heart,
then stood in front of me and declared that
YOU were God.
I knew it was true.
As I bowed, You gave me new life—
Your life.
I was warmed by the fire of Your love,
and in its light, I saw Your glory all around me,

You've taught me that
Your deliverance, Your forgiveness,
are daily gifts,
flowing from the fountain of Your eternal love.
Viewing my past journey,
I see only Your hand
guiding, teaching, holding me,
giving my life a consistency that is Yours, not mine.
The power of Your presence has
always, always, always been there,
though I only glimpse it now and again.

leading me on.

Father,
Eternally Faithful One,
make our bond of love and trust
as iron.
Make it a living cord from Your heart to mine.
Draw my eyes constantly to You,

making simple faith my every breath.
Great God of power and tireless love, in every situation,
with every desire,
with all my energies,
be my God.

Father, Your faithfulness
overwhelms our
brief and
fragile memories.
Your goodness
overflows
our limited minds and
senses.
You are constantly blessing us!
Help us to constantly rejoice in You!

Hymn recording: We Look Behind at All You've Done

# We Look Behind at All You've Done

TUNE: All Creatures of Our God and King (LASST UNS ERFREUEN)



WORDS: Ken Bible MUSIC: Geistliche Kirchengesange, 1623; harm. by Ralph Vaughan Williams LASST UNS ERFREUEN L.M. w. Alleluias

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## **Revelation 3:20**

(NASB)

"Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and will dine with him, and he with Me."

## **Seeking Me**

```
You are the Giver.
      I am always the taker,
      never satisfied.
You are love,
pure and beautiful.
      I am foolish pride.
You are the seeker.
      I am the fugitive,
      running from You in blind fear.
You are forever seeking me.
All my existence,
      from birth to death,
through every joy,
      every pressure,
      every failure,
no matter what I am pursuing,
      You are pursuing me.
Through all the magnificence around me and
      through every whisper in my heart,
You are reaching out to me,
      eager to share all You are.
God Almighty,
      consumed with love
             patient and
             tireless,
You are working to make me
      free and
      strong,
      beautiful and
      complete
             in You.
Every day,
      Father,
       Savior,
      Spirit,
```

You are seeking me.

**Hymn recording:** Seeking Me

# Seeking Me

Freely, don't rush  $\int = ca. 52$ 

Jeremiah 7:13, 25; Revelation 3:20



WORDS and MUSIC: Ken Bible

SEEKING ME Irregular

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### Psalm 136

(NIV)

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

His love endures forever.

Give thanks to the God of gods.

His love endures forever.

Give thanks to the Lord of lords:

His love endures forever.

to him who alone does great wonders,

His love endures forever.

who by his understanding made the heavens,

His love endures forever.

who spread out the earth upon the waters,

His love endures forever.

who made the great lights—

His love endures forever.

the sun to govern the day,

His love endures forever.

the moon and stars to govern the night;

His love endures forever.

to him who struck down the firstborn of Egypt

His love endures forever.

and brought Israel out from among them

His love endures forever.

with a mighty hand and outstretched arm;

His love endures forever.

to him who divided the Red Sea asunder

His love endures forever.

and brought Israel through the midst of it,

His love endures forever.

but swept Pharaoh and his army into the Red Sea;

His love endures forever.

to him who led his people through the wilderness;

His love endures forever.

to him who struck down great kings,

His love endures forever.

and killed mighty kings—

His love endures forever.

Sihon king of the Amorites
His love endures forever.

and Og king of Bashan—
His love endures forever.

and gave their land as an inheritance,
His love endures forever.

an inheritance to his servant Israel.
His love endures forever.

He remembered us in our low estate
His love endures forever.
and freed us from our enemies.
His love endures forever.
He gives food to every creature.
His love endures forever.

Give thanks to the God of heaven. His love endures forever.

### **His Love Endures Forever**

God's mighty deeds on behalf of His people. After each line, His people respond: His love endures forever. Try this group prayer activity based on that Psalm. Use it with your spouse, your family, your Sunday School class, your Bible study group, or your church choir. Give each person, as many as want to, the chance to pray a short prayer of thanksgiving to God. Thank Him for a recent blessing, an answer to prayer, His daily goodness, or some special deliverance. Each word of thanks can be for that individual, their family, your whole group, your church, your nation. Recall a blessing from the past or in the present or one you that by faith you know is coming in the future. Then after each individual prayer, have everyone pray in unison, Thank You, God!

Our God is a mighty God whose blessings span all of time and beyond.

Your love endures forever!

Thank Him together!

Psalm 136 recounts

Have the leader start.

Hymn recording: Give Thanks to God

## Give Thanks to God

A Responsive Hymn Based on Psalm 136 A Cappella or Accompanied; Unison or in Parts



\* "Leader" may be sung by soloist, choir, or half the congregation.

WORDS: Ken Bible and Thomas Ken MUSIC: Ken Bible

BALDWIN 8.7.8.7.8.8.8.7.

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## **Deuteronomy 8:2-6**

(NASB)

You shall remember

all the way which the Lord your God has led you

in the wilderness

these forty years,

that He might humble you,

testing you,

to know what was in your heart,

whether you would keep His commandments or not.

He humbled you and

let you be hungry, and

fed you with manna which you did not know,

nor did your fathers know,

that He might make you understand that

man does not live by bread alone,

but man lives by everything that proceeds

out of the mouth of the Lord.

Your clothing did not wear out on you,

nor did your foot swell these forty years.

Thus you are to know in your heart that

the Lord your God was disciplining you

just as a man disciplines his son.

Therefore, you shall keep the commandments of the Lord your God,

to walk in His ways and

to fear Him.

## **Our Single-minded Father**

Father, this morning You helped my heart to grasp what my mind had dimly known:

Everything You have allowed me to go through in my life, everything I am going through even now, is to build my relationship with You:
all the years of frustration, all the loneliness, all the financial struggles,

You have isolated me to Yourself.

all the endless waiting, all those disappointments.

You have hemmed me in.

You have enclosed me behind and before, And laid Your hand upon me (Psalm 139:5, NASB).

By my circumstances and

by Your Spirit within me

You have turned me

repeatedly,

persistently

toward You.

You have made Yourself

my only comfort,

my only hope,

my only unchanging Rock of truth,

my only refuge.

Father, the unfailing faithfulness of

Your eternal love swamps

my tiny attention span,

my childish self-centeredness,

my meager, stumbling faith.

I am a child learning to walk.

Like any eager parent, You

call me,

lift me.

point me,

hold my hands, and

draw me toward Yourself.

Sometimes we wonder whether

faith is entirely

a gift of Your sovereign choice, or

```
then patiently blow it into flame by Your mighty but gentle breath. I have to respond,
but all the doing is Yours, my loving Father.

Continue to patiently, persistently draw me.

And when I am tempted to
despair or
complain,
help me to
remember and
look to You again.

You are my Father, and I am
gladly,
proudly,
humbly

Your child.
```

whether it is our doing.
But You are like one building a campfire.
You work to create a tiny spark,

God's greatest blessings often come disguised as difficulties.

These difficulties are opportunities to trust Him in a new way, and thus to know Him in a new way.

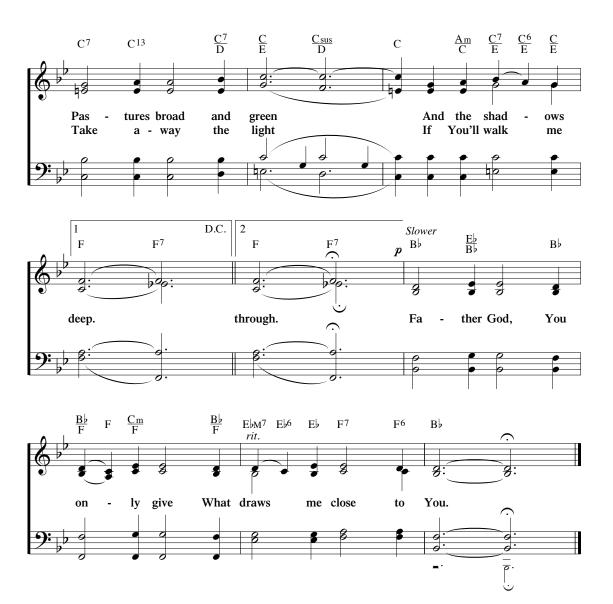
**Hymn recording:** The Father's Gifts

# The Father's Gifts

Psalm 23; 25:10; Romans 8:28



WORDS: Ken Bible MUSIC: Jacques Offenbach and Ken Bible BARCAROLLE 7.6.7.6.5.5.5.5.



## Scriptures on God's Promise to Noah

(NASB)

#### Genesis 8:21-22

The Lord said to Himself, "I will never again curse the ground on account of man, for the intent of man's heart is evil from his youth; and I will never again destroy every living thing, as I have done.

"While the earth remains, Seedtime and harvest, And cold and heat, And summer and winter, And day and night Shall not cease."

#### Genesis 8-16

Then God spoke to Noah and to his sons with him, saying, "Now behold, I Myself do establish My covenant with you, and with your descendants after you; and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the cattle, and every beast of the earth with you; of all that comes out of the ark, even every beast of the earth. I establish My covenant with you; and all flesh shall never again be cut off by the water of the flood, neither shall there again be a flood to destroy the earth."

God said, "This is the sign of the covenant which I am making between Me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all successive generations; I set My bow in the cloud, and it shall be for a sign of a covenant between Me and the earth. It shall come about, when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the bow will be seen in the cloud, and I will remember My covenant, which is between Me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and never again shall the water become a flood to destroy all flesh. When the bow is in the cloud, then I will look upon it, to remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth."

## **Children: God's Living Promise**

Why does our loving God continue to send helpless infants into this horrific world? They arrive totally dependent, entering every conceivable circumstance, including the most cruel and inhumane. There they are too often neglected and brutally victimized by the darkest human evil. Why does God continue to send us children? Remember God's promise to Noah. Faced with the relentless evil of the human race. God gave us a new start through Noah and his family. Then He promised all life on earth that no matter how awful evil became, death would not win. Life would win. Then He gave the rainbow as His beautiful reminder of that promise. Children are God's living rainbow. They are His gift of life, of future, of hope. They are His beautiful. tender, tangible assurance that, in the face of all that evil can do, LIFE WILL WIN.

**Hymn recording: Snowflakes** 

# **Snowflakes**

Genesis 8:21-22; Psalm 127:3-5; Ephesians 5:25-27; Revelation 21:1-6



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## **Through Eyes of Love**

I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always offering prayer with joy in my every prayer for you all. (Philippians 1:3-4, NASB)

On social media, I'm often struck by how people absolutely glow when they talk about those they love, especially their families:

children, grandchildren, spouses, and parents.

What's more, these family members also glow when described by those who love them.

Through indifferent eyes, they would appear

ordinary and

deeply flawed.

But through eyes of love,

these human creatures glow with

uniqueness, beauty, and potential.

They are genuinely special!

Love gives us a glimpse into the

lovely and

intriguing creations

they were designed to be.

God sees each of us through such

eyes of love.

And He calls us,

challenges us, and

implores us

to see each other as He sees us, through

His loving eyes and His loving heart.

Hymn recording: Lord, You Are Love

# Lord, You Are Love

TUNE: I Must Tell Jesus (ORWIGSBURG) 2 Corinthians 5:14a; Ephesians 3:14-19; 1 John 3:16-18; 4:7-21



Alt. Tunes: GLORIOUS FREEDOM, RONDINELLA, SUNLIGHT

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### 2 Corinthians 9:6-15

(NASB)

He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must do just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed; as it is written,

"He scattered abroad, he gave to the poor,

His righteousness [c]endures forever."

Now He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness; you will be enriched in everything for all liberality, which through us is producing thanksgiving to God.

For the ministry of this service is not only fully supplying the needs of the saints, but is also overflowing through many thanksgivings to God. Because of the proof given by this ministry, they will glorify God for your obedience to your confession of the gospel of Christ and for the liberality of your contribution to them and to all, while they also, by prayer on your behalf, yearn for you because of the surpassing grace of God in you.

Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!

## The Gift of Giving

```
See an abundance of
      good gifts
      big and small,
given to us by God
      to enjoy and
      to share with others.
As we use each one
      gratefully and
      generously,
we are drawn
      closer to God and
      closer to each other.
Each gift then blesses us
      far beyond the value of the gift itself.
Each one enriches our fellowship
      with God and
      with other people.
In this way,
our Father is joyfully giving us
      the gift of
      giving.
And this is only one expression of
      His overflowing love and
      all-embracing goodness.
Isn't He wonderful?
```

Look all around.

Hymn recording: Isn't He Good?

# Isn't He Good?



WORDS and MUSIC: Ken Bible

ISN'T HE GOOD Irregular

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