

Magnificent Destiny

Readings, prayers, and hymns

Ken Bible

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Magnificent Destiny

~

*[The Father] made known to us the mystery of His will,
according to His good pleasure which He set forth in [Christ]
regarding His plan of the fullness of the times,
to bring all things together in Christ,
things in the heavens and things on the earth. (Ephesians 1:9-10, NASB)*

*...Christ in you,
the hope of glory. (Colossians 1:27, NASB)*

~

O infinitely magnificent God,
You, and
knowing You, and
glorifying You
will be
our driving passion
throughout eternity.

Praise

*I will extol You, my God, O King,
And I will bless Your name forever and ever.
Every day I will bless You,
And I will praise Your name forever and ever.
Great is the Lord, and highly to be praised,
And His greatness is unsearchable.
(Psalm 145:1-3, NASB)*

The more I know God, the more I realize that my response to Him is cold and inadequate. He is the Sovereign God, the Creator who overflows our sprawling universe, the One who holds insignificant me in His hand and in His heart, who constantly lavishes on me His attention and His most tender love and care, the One who poured Himself out and groaned and bled and died for me. Yet my response to Him is so occasional, so shallow, so distracted, so half-hearted.

I don't necessarily want more emotion in my worship. I want to be more aware of God...to always be centered on Him...to have an open line of communication between us every moment...to trust Him simply and constantly. I want to spend less time longing for what I don't have and more time thanking and praising Him for all that He constantly gives me. I want a living praise, a continual response to His presence.

The Psalms prod me toward such praise:

*Praise the Lord, O my soul;
all my inmost being, praise his holy name. (103:1, NIV)*

*I will praise the Lord all my life;
I will sing praise to my God as long as I live. (146:2, NIV)*

I have no hope that I can give Almighty God adequate praise. But His Spirit is faithfully drawing me to Him. The closer I live to Him, the more natural and heartfelt praise becomes. Read Isaiah 6 and Revelation 5. Those who stand before God's throne need no prodding to praise Him. How can they possibly do anything else?

That is my destiny. That is the destiny of all who trust Him. We will live in His immediate presence together, forever, responding to Who He is:

*Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, singing:
"To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb
be praise and honor and glory and power,*

for ever and ever!"
(Revelation 5:13, NIV)



One day, the reality of
all Jesus is and
all He has done
will sweep all creation up into
one mighty response of praise,
full heart and
full voice,
forever and ever!
Even then, His greatness will
far overshadow our small response.
For eternity His
overwhelming magnificence
will draw us into lives of
ever increasing worship and love.



Hymn recording: [Psalm 148 \(RISING SUN\)](#)

Psalm 148

TUNE: House of the Rising Sun

♩ = 108

Dm Dm A⁷_{sus} Dm D_m D_m G_m G_m D_m D_m D_m F

1. Great be - ings there in high - er worlds And crea - tures
 2. When all the span of earth - ly years Is but a
 3. We'll shed these small and self - ish eyes. We'll know as
 4. Now stars and moons and all be - low, O - bey His

C A_{sus} A⁷_{sus} D_m E A G F

here be - low, Lift up the One who
 dis - tant dream, As one we'll live a
 we are known. Then grow - ing in His
 might - y call. Rise up with all your

G_m G_m D_m G_m G_m⁷ B_b C C_{sus} C D_m

reigns a - bove From whom all be - ing flows.
 song of love With Him our on - ly theme.
 ho - ly love, We'll blos - som round His throne.
 pres - ent pow'rs And praise the Lord of all!

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

RIISING SUN
 C.M.

Alt. Tunes: CORONATION, MAITLAND, ST. ANNE, AMAZING GRACE, AZMON

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A New Day

Father, it's like a sunrise
 whenever I taste Your love;
 whenever I sense Your working;
 whenever I realize Your personal presence with me.
Each time it is a ray of light,
 a bit of splendor!
It is a glimpse of Your magnificence!

And each sunrise,
 each shining, new day,
reminds me of what is soon to come:
 the dawning of a radiant, stunningly-perfect day
 that will never end.

No more darkness.
No more pain or sorrow.
No more dying
 ever again.
Just You and
 all that You are,
 filling all that is.

In the meantime, Father,
thank You for each of Your glorious reminders!

~

Sometimes the Bible explains heaven
 in terms of earthly things,
 to help us begin to grasp
 what is beyond our experience.
But when we get there, I believe we will see that
 heaven is the original and
 earth is a shadow of it.
As we get closer to the Light,
we will see more truly and broadly.

~

Hymn recording: [I See the New Creation](#)

I See the New Creation

♩ = 96

E♭ E♭ A♭ E♭ B♭⁷_{sus} B♭

1. I see the new cre - a - tion. I see the day ar - rive.
 2. I see His good - ness bloom - ing, The beau - ties of His love.
 3. I see a liv - ing prom - ise But just a ti - ny seed

B♭⁷ A♭ B♭⁷ C_m F_m/A♭ A♭ A♭/C F_m/A♭ E♭/B♭ F_m/B♭ A♭/B♭ E♭_{sus} E♭

Look up! Al - might - y God is here! His glo - ry fills the skies.
 Its flow - ers fill the jew - eled earth And end - less worlds a - bove.
 Of all the glo - ries of our God And all that is to be.

E♭ G_m A♭ E♭ E♭/G B♭_{sus} B♭

His pow - er like a trum - pet Is ring - ing all a - round,
 I hear a song of wor - ship On breez - es soft and sweet,
 I can - not help but praise You, O God of bound - less life!

A♭/B♭ E♭ A♭ E♭/G A♭M⁷ B♭_{sus} B♭ A♭/B♭ E♭

And hope a - wak - ens in my soul And ris - es with the sound.
 And as cre - a - tion sings His name, Its glo - ry is com - plete.
 You bathe us in Your pres - ence and In ev - er - last - ing light.

WORDS & MUSIC: Ken Bible

MORNING SONG
7.6.8.6.D.

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Reflection on Psalm 140

In this world, evil seems
omnipotent and
omnipresent.

When it approaches us personally,
it tries to either
sneak in unnoticed or to
puff itself up as
all-powerful and
inevitable.

But in truth, evil is nothing it pretends to be.
In His sovereign wisdom, God has allowed it to
linger for a time
to serve His good purpose and
to glorify Himself.

In His perfect time,
He will expose it,
not only for the lies it tells,
but for the lie that it **is**.

Evil is the absence of God from
our thinking,
our doing, and
our desiring.

God will banish evil
completely and
forever,
from all creation,
by the fullness of His presence,
by revealing all that He is.
Evil can thrive only in the darkness;
God is light.

Evil exists only through lies.
God is truth.

Since evil is the absence of God,
It will disappear in the fullness of His glory.

Only those who
acknowledge Him and
accept Him
will remain.

And in them,
the eternal light of God's
 greatness and
 goodness and
 presence
will fill all reality.
Evil will have no place,
for God will be
 All-in-all.

In the meantime,
God delivers us from all evil
as we allow Him to be
 All-in-all
 in us.

~

Father,
You will give evil its hour,
but You are the
 destination of
 all history.

~

Hymn recording: [Psalm 140](#)

Psalm 140

with Matthew 6:13; Ephesians 6:17

♩ = 96

Unison A¹³ D^m D^m/_C B^b D^m/_A A⁷/_E A⁷ A⁷/_D^{sus} D^m

1. From the e - vil one de-liv - er me! From his ha - tred, Lord, de-liv - er me!
2. By the sword of truth de-liv - er me! By Your sov-'reign word de-liv - er me!

A¹³ D^m D^{sus}/_E D^m/_F D^m D^m D^m/_C A^m7/_C B^bM⁷ A¹³ D^m

All his words are lies- de-liv - er me! He's a ser-pent a - bout to strike!
Breathe Your Spir - it, Lord- de-liv - er me, My sal - va - tion, my rock, my shield!

Refrain B^b/_C B^bM⁷/_C F F/_A B^badd⁹ G^m D^m D^m/_C G^m/_{B^b} G^m A⁷ D^m

Might - y God, my Fa - ther, Be my strength, my Fa - ther;

B^b/_C B^bM⁷/_C F F/_A B^badd⁹ G^m D^m D^m/_C F/_C B^bM⁷ A¹³ D^m

Al-ways here, lov - ing Fa - ther! I am strong as I trust in You.

WORDS: Ken Bible
MUSIC: African-American Spiritual and Ken Bible

KEEP YOUR LAMPS 2
9.9.9.8.w.Ref.

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A Seed Must Be Planted

1 Corinthians 15:35-58

*That which you sow does not come to life unless it dies.
It is sown a perishable body, it is raised an imperishable body;
it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory;
it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power;
it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body.
(1 Corinthians 15:36, 42-44, NASB)*

As we stand at the funeral of a loved one, their absence feels so complete and forever. The death of this body, this fragile vessel, seems to be the end of life itself. It feels like the eternal loss of a unique individual unspeakably precious.

But our Father reigns beyond the veil of death, and He assures us that for those who trust Him, the death of the body is the beginning of life, not its end. Ours is not a life that ends in death, but a death that ends in life. This body is planted like a seed. A seed only comes to life after it dies. It falls into the earth and disappears, only that a beautiful new life may grow from it.

The death of our bodies is the necessary first step toward a glorious new life. Every seed is planted, not to destroy life, but to create it, life infinitely greater and more glorious than its humble seed. The death of this body is not the annihilation of a life but its preparation for a future unimaginably greater. This life, this unique individual will rise as a radiant new being, fully like the risen, glorified Christ.

This broken body has served its temporary purpose and will hamper this child of God no longer. This beautiful soul will be given a new body, one designed to glow with the greatness and goodness of God Himself. It will be a body made, not for earth, but for heaven. It will be perfectly suited for love, joy, and worship in the very presence of God Himself.

What is being sown as a perishable body will be raised imperishable.
It is sown in dishonor, it will be raised in glory.
It is sown in weakness, it will be raised in power.
It is sown an earthly body, it will be raised as a body made for heaven.
This mortal being will be clothed in the splendid garments of immortality.
Death will be swallowed up in life.

*"O Death, where is your victory?
O Death, where is your sting?"*

*Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.
Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable,*

*always abounding in the work of the Lord,
knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord.*
(1 Corinthians 15:55, 57-58, NASB)

~

Ours is not a life that ends in death,
but a death that ends in life.
The first blossom of spring proves that
the deepest, darkest, longest winter
is never the death it seems.
It is only the doorway to a magnificent rebirth.

~

Hymn recording: [Sown in Tears, Raised in Joy](#)

Sown in Tears, Raised in Joy

TUNE: Take the Name of Jesus with You (PRECIOUS NAME)

Isaiah 25:8; John 12:24; 1 Corinthians 15:35-58;

2 Corinthians 5:1-5; Philippians 3:20-21

With gentle warmth ♩ = 72

Unison

Chords: A^b, A^b/E^b, E^b7^{sus}, A^b, A^b_{B^b}^{sus} A^b/_C, D^b, B^bm7

1. Like a seed, this earth - ly bod - y On - ly dies that life may
2. Like a seed, tho' small and life - less, Grows a great and might - y
3. Like our Sav - ior in His beau - ty, Joy - ful, lov - ing, whole, and

Chords: A^b/_C, A^b_{B^b}^{sus}, A^b, A^b/_C, E^b7, C⁷_E^{#5}, C⁷/_E, C⁷^{#5}, C⁷, F^m, E^m/_C, D^b, E^m/_C

grow, Life far great - er and more glo - rious,
tree, See in all our earth - ly glo - ry
free, We will share e - ter - nal splen - dor

Refrain

Chords: B^bm7, A^b/_{E^b}, E^b7^{sus}, E^b7, A^b, A^b/_{E^b}, A^b, A^b/_C, D^b, E^m_C⁷, B^bm7

More than earth - ly minds can know.
Just a seed of what will be! Sown in tears, raised in
On - ly heav - en's eyes can see.

WORDS: Ken Bible
MUSIC: Lydia Baxter; arr. by Ken Bible

PRECIOUS NAME
8.7.8.7.w.Ref.

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$\frac{A\flat}{C}$ $\frac{E\flat^7_{\text{sus}}}{B\flat}$ $A\flat$ $E\flat^7_{\text{sus}}$ $E\flat^7$ $A\flat$ $\frac{A\flat}{G}$ Fm^7 $\frac{Fm}{D}$ $E\flat$ $E\flat_{\text{sus}}$ $E\flat$ $\frac{C^7}{E}$

joy, Sown in weak - ness, raised in might, Sown in

Fm $\frac{A\flat M^7}{E\flat}$ $D\flat M^7$ $\frac{A\flat}{C}$ $D\flat$ $\frac{D\flat}{C}$ $B\flat m^7$ $D\flat$ $\frac{A\flat}{E\flat}$ $\frac{C m}{E\flat}$ $E\flat$ $A\flat$

death, raised in life, One with God in Je - sus Christ!

Sharing His Life

*He will swallow up the covering which is over all peoples,
Even the veil which is stretched over all nations.
He will swallow up death for all time.
(Isaiah 25:7-8, NASB)*

My wife and I have enjoyed browsing through antique shops. I got hooked on them years ago when I collected old books. So when she and I got the chance to spend a weekend away together, we decided to tour the small towns nearby and visit their shops.

The weekend was wrapping up, and we were in Gower, Missouri. In a small store there I came across a funeral card for a man who had died in 1887. Reading the card, I couldn't help thinking about that man. He brought to mind the countless individuals around the world who have come and gone, seemingly unknown and unremembered. So many people. So many generations. We are like flowers. We bloom and proudly spread our petals toward the sun, only to die as quickly as we came, leaving little sign of our coming or our going. What difference does our living make? What does it matter that I, or any of us, were ever here?

We are surrounded by a stream of death that flows unceasingly through our world, engulfing all life, threatening to wash away all concept of meaning and significance. For me, antique shops quietly testify to that. They are graveyards for our treasures. When we're gone, the things we counted precious are left behind to sell for pennies or to gather dust. They sit there on the shelf, mocking the foolishness and futility of our lives – lives hungrily invested in what is doomed to quickly pass.

As I stood there and saw myself as part of that stream of death, I was reminded that there is more.

I am not just a physical body that is dying even now. The life in me is the life of my Creator. He has shared it with me, and His life is unending. He is not a God of death and darkness, but of life and light. His life will not die with this body, and this world is not His final arena of existence or meaning.

What is more, I can know Him. I can know Him personally and live in a relationship with Him. I can please Him and talk to Him. I can learn of Him and grow in Him. I can fulfill the purpose for which I, and all this, was created.

That's what I want above anything else. I want to become the person He designed me to be.

~

When redemption is complete and
God's final judgments are pronounced,
death itself will be destroyed forever.
It will disappear from all creation, and
life will reign and abound everywhere—
 life unchained,
 deep and profound,
as rich and magnificent as God intended it.

~

Hymn recording: [Full Knowing](#)

Thank you, Dr. Richard Neiderhiser

Full Knowing

Habakkuk 2:5-14

with Isaiah 11:1-9; John 17:3; 1 Corinthians 13:12; Hebrews 2:11

♩ = 60

Unison

G B A⁹ C[#] B⁷ D[#] E^m E^m B A^m C D⁷ D⁹ C G G

1. Dark - ness and death, these plagues of our own mak - ing,
2. Drown - ing in need, we cling to this Your prom - ise:
3. O what a joy, that rich and bound - less know - ing,

G G B A^m C G B A^m7 D⁷_{sus} D⁷

Curse us with hearts and lives deep - ly wrong.
Send us Your Son, our Shep - herd, our Lord.
Fill - ing our souls with love ev - er new,

G D⁶ F[#] E^m E^m B A^m C C A^m7 B⁷_{sus} B⁷

See all our fear, our self - ish - ness, our blind - ness.
When He re - turns, Your pres - ence and Your pow - er,
Flood - ing our hearts and all Your vast cre - a - tion.

WORDS: Ken Bible

MUSIC: Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847) and Ken Bible

MENDELSSOHN OPUS 102 No. 6

11.9.11.5.5.9.

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Em Am Am⁶ B⁷ B⁺ B⁷ Em

C C D[#]

Come, great Cre - a - tor! Rise, might - y Sav - ior!
 All will be ho - ly! All will be glo - ry!
 O glo - rious Fa - ther, O Christ our Bro - ther,

Am⁷ CM⁷ D⁹ G Em Am⁷ D¹³ D⁷ G

D B

Fin - ish Your work! This wait is so long!
 All will be peace, Your E - den re - stored!
 Full - ness of life is You, on - ly You!

Invest in Forever

*“Lift up your eyes to the sky,
Then look to the earth beneath;
For the sky will vanish like smoke,
And the earth will wear out like a garment
And its inhabitants will die in like manner;
But My salvation will be forever.” (Isaiah 51:6, NASB)*

Earth is temporary.
God is forever.

Don't invest your life in material things.
Their satisfactions are shallow and temporary.
Don't fear people.
Don't focus on pleasing them.
They are here for only a breath.
God and His marvelous blessings
will last forever.

No matter how this temporary world looks or feels around you,
invest your life in Him.
Seek Him.
Worship Him.
Desire Him.

~

Father, our physical world seems so
lasting and
all-encompassing,
but You know it will
burn away like
a morning mist.
Don't let it seduce us.
Keep our hearts fixed on You.
You are truth.
You are forever.

~

Hymn recording: [Heirs of God](#)

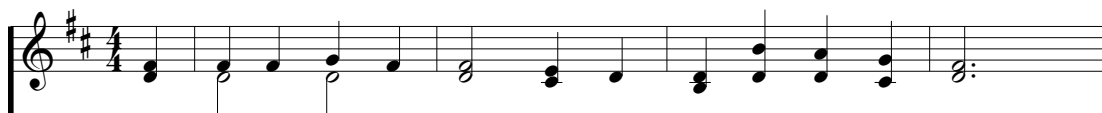
Heirs of God

TUNE: The Church's One Foundation (AURELIA)

John 1:11-13; Romans 4:13; 8:14-18; Galatians 3:26-29; 4:6-7; Ephesians 1:3-6; 2:11-13; 3:6; 5:25-27; Titus 3:3-7; Hebrews 1:2, 14; 11:7, 9; James 2:5

♩ = 80

D D $\frac{G}{D}$ D $\frac{D}{A}$ A⁷ B^m G $\frac{D}{A}$ A⁷ D $\frac{D}{A}$ D



1. Your rich - es, O our Fa - ther, Your ho - ly, bound - less life,
2. The heir of ev - 'ry bless - ing Your mer - cy can con - ceive,
3. Our wea - ry hearts are cry - ing, "O God, Your King - dom come!",



A⁷ $\frac{D}{F\#}$ F⁺ F⁷ $\frac{F\#7}{G}$ $\frac{F\#7}{E}$ G $\frac{F\#m}{A}$ G $\frac{A}{C\#}$ D $\frac{E7}{B}$ A $\frac{A}{E}$ A



The beau - ty of Your be - ing Ex - ud - ing love and light,
The heir of ev - 'ry prom - ise To all those who be - lieve.
And need - y lives are long - ing, "Your per - fect will be done!"



A D $\frac{A7}{E}$ $\frac{D}{F\#}$ G G E^{m7} $\frac{D}{F\#}$ B^m $\frac{Bm}{F\#}$ $\frac{F\#7}{E}$ $\frac{Bm}{D}$ $\frac{B}{D\#}$ E^m $\frac{Em}{B}$ E^m



The glo - ry of Your good - ness, The joy You free - ly share—
For we who once were strang - ers Are chil - dren in Your Son,
We heirs now glimpse our fu - ture, Tho' dim - ly, from a - far:



WORDS: Ken Bible

MUSIC: Samuel S. Wesley (1810-1876); arr. revised by Ken Bible.

AURELIA

7.6.7.6.D.

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CCLI Song #7223924.

A
C# D G
D D Gadd⁹ Gadd⁹ Em G Em⁷ Em D
A D

Your wealth is YOU, our Fa - ther, And we are now Your heir.
 With You, O lov - ing Fa - ther, For - ev - er, ful - ly one!
 A pure and lov - ing peo - ple A - glow with all You are.

Creation Will Be Redeemed

The creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth until now. (Romans 8:20-22, NASB)

For all the elegant beauty of this natural earth, it is also a violent, tumultuous place where life is always in the grip of death. How can this be, if God rules all creation? How can a good God claim to be sovereign in a world such as this?

Genesis 1:26-28 proclaims two truths about God's creation of the human race:

1. He made us in His own image and likeness.
 2. He created us to rule over the earth as His stewards, sharing in His sovereignty.
- We are inseparably connected to God our Creator, and we are inseparably connected to this earth, over which we rule. God subjected the earth to us.

When we rebelled against our Creator, we chose to use creation for our own selfish purposes (Genesis 3:1-6). When our relationship with the Creator was corrupted, so was the earth over which we ruled, now as unfaithful stewards (Romans 8:20). As our home and our responsibility, the earth shared in our fractured relationship with the Giver of all life (Genesis 3:17-18; see Psalm 104:27-30). The results were corruption, futility, and death, both for us and for our beautiful home.

Consistently in scripture, our obedience or disobedience to our Creator brings us either God's blessing or His cursing, respectively. This blessing and cursing are shared by our natural home as well (e.g., Deuteronomy 7:12-15; 8:6-10; 28:4, 18). As Creator God subjected this earth to us, this earth unwillingly shares in the fruit of our rebellion.

We see the turmoil in our natural world and know that as violence, pain, and death shrouds all human life, it shrouds our natural home as well.

But the good news is this: the corruption, futility, and death that rule this earth are only a passing phase. Creation's present turbulence is only the pain of childbirth (Romans 8:19-22). When we are redeemed and freed from our suffering, our earthly home will be as well (Isaiah 11:6-9; Revelation 21:1). Our destiny, God's unchangeable promise, is that we and our beautiful home will be perfected to the full glory of God. As it has shared our curse, it will share our blessedness. All the earth will be permeated with His life, His love, His holiness, and His perfect peace.



Right now creation groans with us
under the weight of our sin.
But soon it will share
our glorification,
our freedom from all corruption, and
our full restoration to
God's blessing and purpose.
Imagine such a world!

~

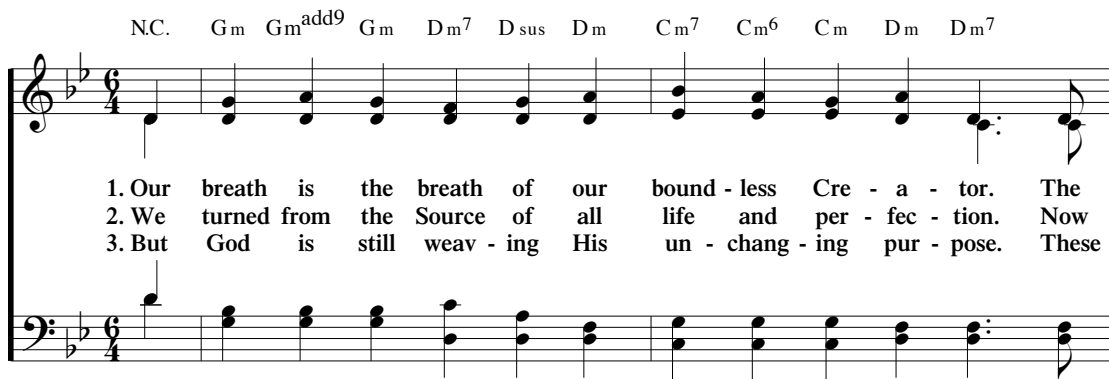
Hymn recording: [Creation Will Be Redeemed](#)

Creation Will Be Redeemed

*Genesis 1:26-28; 3:1-19; Psalm 104:24-30;
Isaiah 11:6-9; Romans 8:19-22; Revelation 21:1*

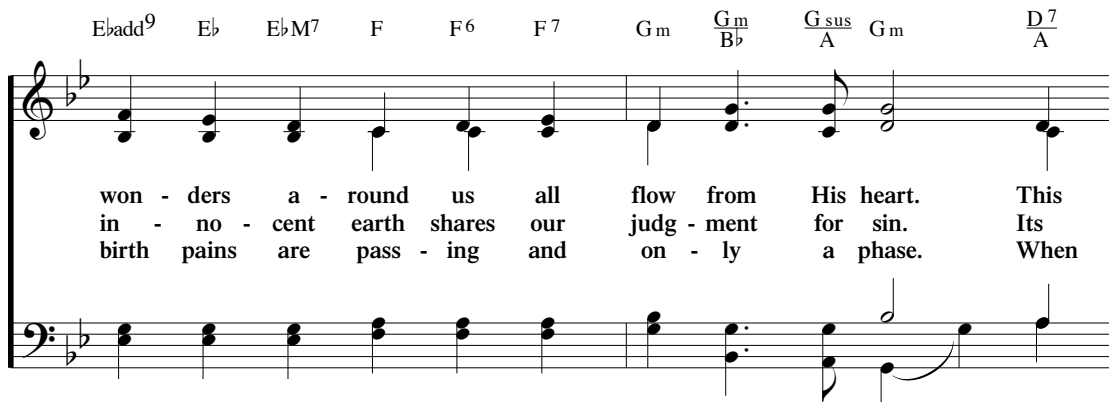
♩ = 100

N.C. Gm Gm^{add9} Gm Dm⁷ D^{sus} Dm Cm⁷ Cm⁶ Cm Dm Dm⁷



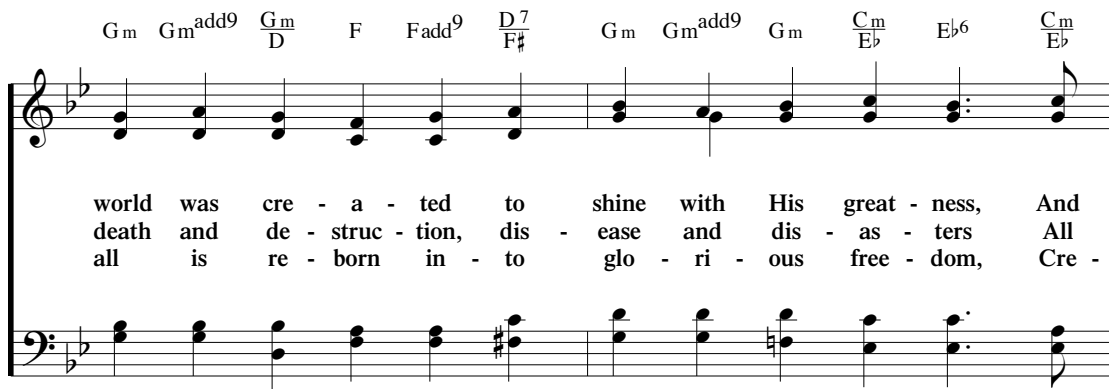
1. Our breath is the breath of our bound - less Cre - a - tor. The
2. We turned from the Source of all life and per - fec - tion. Now
3. But God is still weav - ing His un - chang - ing pur - pose. These

E♭^{add9} E♭ E♭M⁷ F F⁶ F⁷ Gm Gm[♭]_{B♭} G^{sus}_A Gm D⁷_A



won - ders a - round us all flow from His heart. This
in - no - cent earth shares our judg - ment for sin. Its
birth pains are pass - ing and on - ly a phase. When

Gm Gm^{add9} Gm[♭]_D F F^{add9} D⁷_{F#} Gm Gm^{add9} Gm Cm[♭]_{E♭} E♭⁶ Cm[♭]_{E♭}



world was cre - a - ted to shine with His great - ness, And
death and de - struc - tion, dis - ease and dis - as - ters All
all is re - born in - to glo - ri - ous free - dom, Cre -

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

JIMMIE WHALEN
12.11.12.11.

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$\frac{Gm}{D}$ D^{7sus} $\frac{Gm}{D}$ Cm^6 Cm^7 Dm

1, 2 D.C.

$\frac{Gm}{D}$ $\frac{Gm}{Bb}$ $\frac{G^{sus}}{A}$ G^{sus} $\frac{G^{sus}}{D}$ Gm $\frac{Gm}{D}$ Gm

we as its rul - ers were giv - en a part.
 bleed from our deep sep - a - ra - tion from Him.
 a - tion to - geth - er will

3

$\frac{Gm}{D}$ Cm $\frac{Cm}{A}$ G^{sus} $\frac{G^{sus}}{D}$ G

rit.

shout out His praise!

God Will Make All Things New

Isaiah 24; 25; 26; 65:17-25; 66:18-23

Evil is not forever.

Having separated itself from the only Source of life,
it will finish all its destructive course,
leaving desolation in its wake.

Then the Creator
in perfect power, wisdom, and love,
will create a new heaven and
a new earth.

He will make all things new!

All that is
will fully reflect
His glory,
His holiness,
His love,
His abundant, overflowing life.

Everything else,
everything that is not of Him,
will have burned away.

He will be glad in His people, and
His people will be glad in Him.

Death is not forever.

Now it seems to rule over life with an iron fist.
But the life of God will swallow it up,
finally and
completely.

All its curse,
its grief,
its weeping and
separation,
will be gone forever.

Life will permeate everything around us.
It will flow in the water.
It will bloom on the trees.

Our God,
the long-desired One,
the long-awaited One,
will come to us.
He will come!

He will gather His people from
every nation and
every age.

We will be one
with Him,
and together, we will all be one
in Him.

He will feed us forever
with all the best.

He will eternally nourish our life with
all He is.

~

Human history seems to be
an endless parade of
conquerors,
wars,
famine, and
death.

Victims are forever awaiting justice.
But all this is not
our source or
our destination.

Creation began in God Almighty,
high and exalted.
It will culminate in Him.

~

Hymn recording: [Make All Things New](#)

Make All Things New

TUNE: My Faith Looks Up to Thee (OLIVET)

Isaiah 24: 25; 26; 65:17-25; 66:18-23; Mark 13:26-27, 32-37;
Luke 13:29; 1 Corinthians 15:53-57; Revelation 21:1-5; 22:1-5

♩ = 84

D D sus D A C# A A7 Bm Bm F# Em Em Em G D

1. Lord God, life's on - ly source, E - vil will
2. Death is a bru - tal lord, Wield - ing will
3. Fin - ish Your gift be - gun. Gath - er its us

A7 C# D A7 A#7 Bm Bm E7 A sus A sus A A G D D sus D Em7

run its course, Leave earth a waste. Love will make
sov - 'reign sword. Soon death will die. Life will a -
all as one. Make all things new! Je - sus, our

D F# A7 E D D C# Bm7 D A G M7 A7 G D F# A7 E D D C#

all things new. Worlds will flow fresh from You.
rise, un - bound, Life burst - ing all a - round,
Lamb, our Priest, Je - sus, Your - self the feast,

Bm Bm A Gadd9 G D F# A#7 Bm Em7 Em7 A A7 D

Beau - ty now pure and true Is but a taste.
Life, love, and joy pro - found In Je - sus Christ.
Je - sus, with love in - creased We wait for You!

WORDS: Ken Bible

MUSIC: Lowell Mason (1792-1872); arr. by Ken Bible

OLIVET
6.6.4.6.6.6.4.

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Building a People

Jesus said to His disciples:

"Who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." And Jesus said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it." (Matthew 16:15-16, NASB)

The Apostle Paul wrote:

You are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit. (Ephesians 2:19-22, NASB)

If you had all eternity and all the resources of the universe,
what kind of home would you build for yourself?

God is building a home for himself.
That home is His people.
Our infinite, holy, all-wise, and endlessly creative God
is planning to live forever
with and in His people.

Imagine knowing such a people,
the home of an infinite God!
Imagine actually being part of them!

If God is investing all His energies in building a people,
that's how I want to invest my life as well.
A material home will last a short time.
God's people will last forever.

~

We believers are all together
in the same room,
waiting for God to finish the deliverance
He has so beautifully begun.

As we endure these final hours of
pain, darkness, grief, and death,
let's encourage one another to the
hope and joy that are ours.
Let's share songs, stories, and
acts of kindness that
remind us of God's unfailing love.

~

Hymn recording: [How Precious Are Your People](#)

How Precious Are Your People

♩ = 63

Bm Bm $F\sharp^7_{sus}$ Bm E_m^6 Bm Em Bm

1. How pre - cious are Your peo - ple, Your peo - ple, dear Je - sus. How
2. You're mov - ing now to touch us, To teach us, to draw us. You're

Bm $F\sharp^7_{sus}$ Bm E_m^6 Bm Bm D F# Em7 F# B_{sus} F# Bm

love - ly is Your bride, Lord - This fam - 'ly of faith. Tho'
speak - ing now to bless us, This fam - 'ly of faith. O

F# $F\sharp^9$ E $F\sharp$ Bm D $F\sharp$ C# Bm Bm D F# $F\sharp^9$ E $F\sharp$ Bm Bm⁹ D

on - ly two or three are here, You come to serve Your grace. You
Je - sus, Lord, we lift our hands And raise our need - y hearts. Be

G/B G D $F\sharp$ D Em Bm F#

breathe Your love thro' each and all And speak it face to face. How
glo - ri - fied in all we do As each one plays a part. How

WORDS: Ken Bible

MUSIC: Traditional Scottish Melody; arr. by Ken Bible

CHARLES

Irregular

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Bm $F\sharp^{7sus}$
 B Bm $E\flat^{6}$
 Bm Em Bm

pre - cious are Your cho - sen, Your sis - ters, Your broth - ers. How
 dear is ev - 'ry per - son, The young ones, the old ones. How

Bm $F\sharp^{7sus}$
 B Bm $E\flat^{6}$
 Bm $B\flat$
 D $F\sharp$ $E\flat^7$ $F\sharp$ B^{7sus}
 $F\sharp$ Bm

pre - cious are Your peo - ple- This fam - 'ly of faith.
 pre - cious are Your peo - ple- This fam - 'ly of faith.

The Jewel

Revelation 21:9-21

Father, in the new creation
Your splendor in
Your Son
will be
the Light of the world and
the glory of all the universe.

We Your people,
redeemed from every age and nation,
will be fully formed as
Your temple,
Your dwelling place.

We will be expertly prepared,
pure and transparent, so that
Your blazing glory,
the light of all You are, will shine
within us and
out through us
unhindered.

Your presence within will make us
glow and
sparkle
like a precious jewel.

We will be perfectly fashioned to radiate
Your love,
Your life,
Your holiness,
Your boundless joy.

All the universe will bask in the beauty of
Your presence in
Your people.

~

Father,
in the new creation
You are not only preparing
a home for Your people,

but a home for Yourself
among them and
within them.
Not only must earth be prepared,
but we must be prepared as
Your full dwelling place.

~

Hymn recording: [Revelation 21](#)

Revelation 21

♩ = 92

C G C C $\frac{C \text{ sus}}{D}$ $\frac{C}{E}$ $\frac{G7}{D}$ $\frac{C}{E}$ F $\frac{C}{G}$ A m $\frac{D7}{A}$ G sus G

1. See the peo - ple love cre - at - ed, See the bride of Christ the Son!
 2. God now lives a - mong His peo - ple. See His glo - rious pres - ence here,
 3. All cre - a - tion now is bask - ing In the fire of all He is.

C $\frac{C \text{ Em}7}{B \text{ B}}$ A m F M7 F6 Cadd9 $\frac{C}{E}$ Dm7 $\frac{C}{G}$ G⁷ sus G⁷ C

See the world all pure and glo - rious, See what bound - less grace has done!
 Shin - ing, spark - ling thro' His peo - ple Pure, trans - par - ent, crys - tal clear.
 All the beau - ty, all the bril - liance, All the glo - ry now is His.

A m E7 $\frac{E7}{G\#}$ A m E sus E m Fadd9 F $\frac{C}{E}$ D7 $\frac{D7}{F\#}$ G sus G

No more sin or sep - a - ra - tion- All their root and fruit are gone.
 What a jew - el! What a ra - diance! See tran - scend - ent glo - ry shine
 He is life and joy and splen - dor, Love in all its depth and height

C $\frac{C \text{ Em}7}{B \text{ B}}$ A m F M7 F6 $\frac{C \text{ add}9}{E}$ $\frac{C}{E}$ Dm7 $\frac{C}{G}$ G⁷ sus G⁷ C

All is new, and all is ho - ly! Night is past! O what a dawn!
 Thro' a peo - ple heav - en - fash - ioned, Glow - ing with His life di - vine!
 Shin - ing thro' a ho - ly peo - ple Blaz - ing with His ho - ly light.

WORDS: Ken Bible
 MUSIC: Joachim Neander and Ken Bible

I AM
 8.7.8.7.D.

Alt. Tunes: AUSTRIAN HYMN; PLEADING SAVIOR; HYMN TO JOY

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We Are Not Home

Genesis 15

By faith [Abraham] lived as an alien in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, fellow heirs of the same promise; for he was looking for the city which has foundations, whose architect and builder is God.

All these died in faith, without receiving the promises, but having seen them and having welcomed them from a distance, and having confessed that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. For those who say such things make it clear that they are seeking a country of their own. And indeed if they had been thinking of that country from which they went out, they would have had opportunity to return.

But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; for He has prepared a city for them.
(Hebrews 11:9-10, 13-16, NASB)

Abraham was heir to some of the most magnificent promises God ever made to a human being. Yet he didn't see them fulfilled in his lifetime. He was to be the father of a great nation, but his single heir wasn't born till he was one hundred years old. The promised land was to belong to his seed, but he spent his entire life living in tents, moving from place to place. The only land he ever owned was a burial plot for his wife.

He lived as an alien, a stranger, a foreigner, an exile, always temporary, always in a strange land, never a citizen, never belonging.

But he was not alone. The biblical history of God's people is permeated with the pain of separation. Adam and Eve were forced out of their garden home, never to return. Noah lost everything and everyone in the flood, except for seven members of his immediate family. Joseph's own brothers sold him into slavery in a foreign land. Moses lost his Jewish family, then his home in the Egyptian palace, then spent eighty years in a brutal wilderness—forty as a shepherd, and another forty leading a rebellious people. Israel spent 400 years in a foreign land, much of that as slaves, then later lost their home, their nationhood, and their dignity in a bitter exile. The prophets, John the Baptist, Jesus, the disciples, the Apostle Paul, all knew the gnawing sorrow of separation, of living where they never belonged.

We know that deep sorrow as well. Many of us know what it's like to live much, or all, of our lives where we know we are not home.

All of us know the restless yearning of separation from our Father, our Creator. We groan under our troubles and sufferings, longing for perfect peace in Him. Even the joy of His presence makes us conscious that we are not yet completely, constantly one with Him. Each taste of Him increases our sense of separation and longing.

But realize that such longing is itself a precious gift from our loving Father. It creates a deep, undying sense of anticipation. Just as hunger focuses all our attention on food, and as the thirsty can think of nothing but water, our separation from God pulls us toward the fullness, oneness, and completeness that will soon be ours in Jesus Christ. He is the longing that overshadows every joy. He is the joy that eclipses all suffering. In pleasure and pain, today and forever, He is our only satisfaction.

Every experience, every struggle in life can bind our hearts closer and closer to Him.



The emptiness, pain, and sorrow
of our present existence
continually remind us of this truth:
Jesus Christ alone is
life as it was meant to be—
full,
rich,
joyful, and
everlasting.



Hymn recording: [Longing for Home](#)

Longing for Home

2 Corinthians 5:1-8; Hebrews 11:8-10, 13-16

♩ = 52

D D $\frac{D}{A}$ D $\frac{D}{C\#}$ $\frac{G}{B}$ A⁷ $\frac{A^7}{G}$ $\frac{D}{F\#}$ B^m A^{sus} $\frac{A^{sus}}{E}$ A

1. My Fa - ther, how I need You! This need be - comes a joy. This
2. This love is now a long - ing Be - yond what words can say. The
3. Your pres - ence is a prom - ise, And God, I know it's true: Some-

$\frac{D}{F\#}$ $\frac{A}{G}$ $\frac{A^{sus}}{G}$ B^m $\frac{D}{A}$ B^m GM⁷ G⁶ A^{7sus} A⁷ 1 D 2, 3 D

joy be - comes a bond of love No trou - ble can de - stroy. way.
sweet - est gifts You give me here Just draw my heart a - You.
day I'll nev - er think or live Or breathe a - part from You.

Refrain
A D $\frac{D}{F\#}$ A G $\frac{G}{A}$ $\frac{G}{B}$ D $\frac{F\#m^7}{C\#}$ $\frac{A}{C\#}$

My Lord, my God, I'm loved but still a - lone. A

B^m $\frac{A}{G}$ $\frac{A^{sus}}{G}$ B^m $\frac{D}{F\#}$ B^m $\frac{Bm}{A}$ GM⁷ G⁶ A^{7sus} A⁷ D 1st time: D.C. 2nd time: Fine

stran - ger in this shad - ow world, I'm long - ing for my home.

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

TYNDALE
7.6.8.6.w.Ref.

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Longing

*How lovely are Your dwelling places,
O Lord of hosts!
My soul longed and even yearned for the courts of the Lord;
My heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God.
(Psalm 84:1-2, NASB)*

For me, heaven is not a mansion,
a harp, or
angels' wings.
It is not meeting old friends or
an endless family reunion.
That is not what my heart longs for.

My heart longs for You,
my Father,
my Creator.
My heart longs for my Savior,
my Brother,
my Wisdom and Holiness,
My heart longs for the Second Adam of all I will be.
My heart longs for the Breath of God,
the Wind of God,
the Life of God
blowing fully, freely, and unceasingly through all I am.

I long for
a heart,
a mind,
a world
permeated completely and forever
with God alone.

Come, Lord Jesus!
I long, and
I wait.

~

Father, I embrace the brevity of
my life in this world, and

I long to be where
my oneness with You is
complete,
constant, and
forever.

~

Hymn recording: [O Living God](#)

O Living God

TUNE: O Shenandoah

$\text{♩} = 66$

D $\frac{A}{C\#}$ Bm $\frac{E\text{m}^7}{B}$ $\frac{E\text{m}^6}{G}$ $\frac{D}{F\#}$ $F\#m^7$ G $\frac{A^7}{G}$ A⁹ A

1. O Liv - ing God, I long to see You Lift - ed up in all Your
2. O Liv - ing God, I long to praise You Heart and voice, with all cre -
3. O Liv - ing God, I soon will see You Face to face, in all Your

D $\frac{A}{C\#}$ Bm $\frac{D}{A}$ $\frac{F\#^7}{A\#}$ Bm

glo - ry; To see You there in ho - ly beau - ty.
a - tion; To wor - ship You for ten - der mer - cy.
glo - ry. I'll wor - ship You in end - less won - der.

A D $\frac{A}{C\#}$ Bm G $\frac{D}{F\#}$ $\frac{G}{B}$ $\frac{E\text{m}^7}{B}$ $\frac{D}{A}$ A⁷ D

O Lord, Al - might - y God, Liv - ing Christ, I love You.
O Lord, Al - might - y God, Liv - ing Christ, I love You.
O Lord, Al - might - y God, Liv - ing Christ, I love You.

WORDS: Ken Bible

MUSIC: Traditional Folk Tune, arr. by Ken Bible

SHENANDOAH

9.8.9.6.6.

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One Thing I Seek

*Whom have I in heaven but you? . . .
My flesh and my heart may fail,
but God is the strength of my heart
and my portion forever. (Psalm 73:25-26, NIV)*

When I can finally see God for all He is to me -
all that He always has been and always will be -
so that anxiety and fear are lost in total trust;
When I have truly grasped His love,
so that joy, rest, and belonging
are deep and rich and constant;
When I am filled and dominated and totally led by His Spirit
so that every desire, every thought,
every motion of my being
is in Him and prompted by Him;
What hunger will be left?

Psalm 27 expresses it this way:

*One thing I ask of the Lord,
this is what I seek:
that I may dwell in the house of the Lord
all the days of my life,
to gaze upon the Lord and to seek him. (v.4, NIV)*

When I see Him fully and trust Him completely, the only thing I will still hunger for is *Him*. All the beauty, glory, and abundance of heaven will come from one Source: God himself. We will never be anything but completely dependent on Him - not on His gifts, but on Him.

Revelation 21:22-23 says that in His immediate presence, we will need no sun, moon, or temple. He himself is our warmth and our light. Our worship is face-to-face.

In His personal presence, Jesus' simple statements about himself become personal truth:

I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty. (John 6:35, NIV)

I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness. (John 8:12, NIV)

I am the resurrection and the life . . . Whoever lives and believes in me will never die (John 11:25-26, NIV).

I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To him who is thirsty I will give to drink without cost from the spring of the water of life. (Revelation 21:6, NIV)

Your heart can be captured by the living beauty and simplicity of the personal Christ. That beauty holds a bonding that grows stronger and stronger, prayer by prayer. As we trust Him and love Him, we find our needs and hungers met in Him. Every lesser desire gradually disappears into Him.

And in knowing and interacting with such a wonderful, infinite God, we never get to the point of feeling, "OK, that's enough." Even in our joyful satisfaction, the hunger remains, continuing to draw us into fuller friendship with Him.

All of history, all the vast universe - seen and unseen - and all the desires and hopes of humanity are summed up in Christ (Ephesians 1:9-10). That summing up is also an individual process. Let Him start it in you now. Let Him begin it in your heart, and He will spread it throughout your thoughts and feelings, your attitudes and lifestyle.

He has not put eternity's best blessings out of your reach. They are as near as His presence, as near as looking to Him in simple faith.

~

Father,
I look forward to the day when we
see You,
know You, and
respond to You for
all You are.
That will be heaven!

~

Hymn recording: [The Only Good Is Jesus](#)

The Only Good Is Jesus

With simple sincerity ♩ = ca. 88

$\text{D}^{\text{sus}}_{\text{A}}$ D $\text{F}^{\#m7}$ $\text{D}_{\text{F}^{\#}}$ G A^7_{E} $\text{D}_{\text{F}^{\#}}$ G^6 G A sus A

1. The on - ly good is Je - sus, The on - ly good in me.
 2. The on - ly good is Je - sus, He's all the life I seek.
 3. The on - ly good is Je - sus, The on - ly good in me.
 4. The on - ly good is Je - sus. He's all I need to seek.

A^7 D $\text{A}^{\text{sus}}_{\text{E}}$ $\text{D}_{\text{F}^{\#}}$ G $\text{G}^{\text{add}9}$ G $\text{D}_{\text{F}^{\#}}$ G $\text{G}^{\text{M}7}$ A sus A

He's all I've ev - er longed for. He's all I long to be.
 He's love that warms and bless - es. He's He's all I've ev - er longed for. He's all I long to be.
 I count my - self as noth - ing But

2, 4 Fine (2nd time) $\text{D}_{\text{F}^{\#}}$ G $\text{G}_{\text{F}^{\#}}$ $\text{E}^{\text{m}7}$ A^7 D $\text{E}_{\text{A}^{\#}}$ B m $\text{F}^{\#m}$

life and love in me. So why should I keep chas - ing
 stand in Him com - plete. Now why not love Him on - ly

$\text{F}^{\#}_{\text{A}^{\#}}$ B m $\text{F}^{\#m}$ $\text{F}^{\#7}_{\text{A}^{\#}}$ B m $\text{D}^{\text{M}7}_{\text{A}}$ D_{A} G $\text{D}_{\text{F}^{\#}}$

This life of emp - ty dreams Where what ap - pears so won - der - ful
 And turn from all the rest? And why not sim - ply trust the One

WORDS and MUSIC: Ken Bible

GLORIA LYNN
Irregular

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Is sel-dom all it seems? al-ways gives the best?

Who

Unbroken Oneness

Revelation 21:5-8

Father, in the new creation,
the source of the entire
glorious transformation
will be Your
full,
immediate,
personal,
undiminished,
unveiled presence.

Your life force,
Your unbridled joy,
will make all things new.

You will be
the life,
the splendor, and
the holiness of the new heaven and earth.

We Your people will finally
see You and
know You and
live in You
for what You have always been:
the Beginning and the End,
the Source and the Goal.

All of life,
every breath, will be lived
from You,
through You, and
to You.

As Your true children,
all that is
will be ours
in You.

But our greatest inheritance will be
You, Yourself.

As You are the joy, peace, and sufficiency of Your Son Jesus,
You will be our joy, peace, and sufficiency,
constantly, completely, forever.

Heaven will be
unbroken,
unclouded,
unhindered,
uninterrupted
oneness with You.

~

May the riches that I pursue be
the riches of a
constant,
intimate,
trust relationship
with You,
my Father and my Lord.

~

Hymn recording: [Imagine Your Creator's Breath](#)

Imagine Your Creator's Breath

Tune: LAND OF REST

Genesis 2:7; Isaiah 11:6-9; 35; John 15:5; 20:22;
Ephesians 3:14-19; Colossians 2:9-10; 3:1-4; Revelation 21:1-7

♩ = 120

F Gm Gm9 Gm11 F C9 C7 C Bb

1. Im - ag - ine your Cre - a - tor's breath, His
2. Im - ag - ine all the life - tor of God, A -
3. Im - ag - ine peace so sweet and deep That
4. Im - ag - ine dead and bar - ren lives Now
5. Our Fa - ther, as we trust and wait, You

F A Bb6 BbM7 Gm11 Bb C7sus C7sus C C G E Dm Dm7 Am

heart, His love with - in, His wis - dom shap - ing
bun - dant, rich, pro - found, The life His love has
He and we are one, And all that bound - less
fruit - ful in the Vine. Each bro - ken heart will
prove each prom - ise true. The high - est hopes that

Bb F Bb Gm7 Bb C7 C Bb F A Dm Bb Am C7 F F C F

all you are, His thoughts where yours be - gin.
longed to share Now grow - ing all a - round.
love can be Has on - ly just be - gun.
burst with joy And praise His wise de - sign.
heav - en holds Are all com - plete in You.

WORDS: Ken Bible

MUSIC: Traditional Folk Tune; arr. by Ken Bible

LAND OF REST
C.M.

Alt. Tunes: ST. ANNE; AZMON; CORONATION; MAITLAND

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