

Magnificent Master of Time

Readings, prayers, and hymns

Ken Bible

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Contents

Reflections, Prayers, and *Hymns*

In Your Time	6
<i>Eternal God, Unbound by Time</i>	8
You Never Change	9
<i>These Things Are Always True</i>	11
Reflection on Psalm 39	12
<i>Psalm 39</i>	14
Reflection on Psalm 71	15
<i>Psalm 71</i>	17
Reflection on Psalm 102	19
<i>Psalm 102</i>	21
Boundless God	23
<i>Boundless God</i>	25
Time	26
<i>I Leave It in Your Hands</i>	28
You Are God	29
<i>God My Father</i>	31
I Trust You with My Time	32
<i>Lord of Time</i>	33
Turning Points	34
<i>Thank You for Your Perfect Will</i>	36
Nine Months Pregnant	37
<i>Wait on the Lord</i>	39
Working and Resting in You	41
<i>Each Moment by Faith</i>	43
Dangling Threads	45
<i>I Cannot See the Light, My Lord</i>	47

Fearing Change	48
<i>Unchanging Father</i>	50
My Time Is in Your Hand	51
<i>My Time Is in Your Hand</i>	53

Magnificent Master of Time

~

*Lord, You have been our dwelling place in all generations.
Before the mountains were born
Or You gave birth to the earth and the world,
Even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God. (Psalm 90:1-2, NASB)*

*With the Lord
one day is like a thousand years, and
a thousand years like one day. (2 Peter 3:8, NASB)*

~

“Be at peace in God’s presence.
Open your hands and
release control of the things around you.
Don’t fret about
what you cannot change.
God sees all those evils
more clearly than you,
yet lets them go on.
Just do well what little
He gives you to do.”
(paraphrased from Francois Fenelon)

In Your Time

*This is what the high and exalted One says –
He who lives forever, whose name is holy:
“I live in a high and holy place,
But also with the one who is contrite and lowly in spirit.”
(Isaiah 57:15, NIV)*

Transcendent God, You live in eternity
above all time,
unlimited,
unhurried,
untouched by its relentless flow.

You are the Lord of time,
not its servant.

Time means change, and
You are beyond all change.

You are unchanging fullness,
unchanging perfection.

Yet we humans need time, Father.

We need its opportunities to
change and grow.

We are only the seeds of
who we need to be.

And You are like a gardener,
content to work,
content to wait,
content to patiently nurture us
until the time is exactly right and
we are all Your love intended us to be.

You will not rush.

What seems like delays is
only Your mercy,
only Your unflinching determination to give
only Your best to Your children.

Transcendent God, we cannot think Your thoughts.

We cannot trace Your ways,
But we trust Your perfect wisdom and
Your unchanging love.
Help us to work and rest

in Your Spirit,
in Your time,
in Your peace.



O Everlasting God,
Your love takes
all the time it needs to
give us Your very best.
We are brief and
unworthy of You,
but in You we find
satisfaction and
joy and
fullness of life.
We want to live
every moment
forever
in You!



Hymn recording: [Eternal God, Unbound by Time](#)

Eternal God, Unbound by Time

Psalm 31:15; 90; John 15:5; 2 Peter 3:3-9

$\text{♩} = 92$

N.C. Em Bm $\frac{Bm}{D}$ C D Em $\frac{G}{D}$ C Bm⁷

1. E - ter - nal God, un - bound by time, Un - rushed and
 2. With You, O God, a thou - sand years Is but a
 3. We throw a - side our anx - ious plans To lis - ten in
 4. O Fa - ther, just to live and move At peace in

Am⁷ C⁶ B^{sus} $\frac{B\text{ sus}}{F\sharp}$ B $\frac{B}{A}$ G D⁷ $\frac{D^7}{E}$ $\frac{D^7}{F\sharp}$ Em $\frac{Em}{G}$ Am⁷

un - re - strained,
 pass - ing day.
 as You lead.
 all we do,

In pa - tient love You work and
 Your mer - cy has the fi - nal
 A - vail - a - ble, we work and
 To find the flow and fruit - ful -

B^{7 sus} B⁷ B C $\frac{Em^7}{B}$ Am⁷ Bm⁷ $\frac{Bm^7}{F\sharp}$ 1, 2, 3 4
 E sus $\frac{E\text{ sus}}{B}$ Em E sus $\frac{E\text{ sus}}{B}$ E

wait For all Your love or - dained.
 word, And love will have its way.
 wait, Your best is best in - deed.
 ness Of life im - mersed in You!

rit.

WORDS: Ken Bible
 MUSIC: Ken Bible, inspired by a Traditional Folk Song

UNHURRIED GOD
 C.M.

Alt. Tunes: AZMON, ST. ANNE
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You Never Change

Father, how can I cope with
all the threatening changes that
swirl around me in this evil world?

How can I handle the
new challenges that
face me personally
every day?

My concerns and
my uncertainties
seem so much bigger than me!

But Father, I stand firm on what is
always true and
never changes:

Your power,
Your wisdom,
Your goodness,
Your love,
Your unfailing faithfulness,
Your eternal promises in Your word:

*Be strong and courageous!
Do not tremble or be dismayed,
for the Lord your God is with you
wherever you go. (Joshua 1:9, NASB)*

*The Lord is my shepherd,
I shall not want. (Psalm 23:1, NASB)*

*You will keep in perfect peace
those whose minds are steadfast,
because they trust in you. (Isaiah 26:3, NIV)*

*Those who wait on the Lord
Will gain new strength;
They will mount up with wings like eagles,
They will run and not get tired,
They will walk and not become weary. (Isaiah 40:31, NASB)*

*When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
And through the rivers, they will not overflow you.*

*When you walk through the fire, you will not be scorched,
Nor will the flame burn you.
For I am the Lord your God,
The Holy One of Israel, your Savior. (Isaiah 43:2-3, NASB)*

*Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with
thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God,
which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in
Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:6-7, NASB)*

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. (Hebrews 13:8, NIV)

In this ever-changing, ever-threatening world,
I rest in what never changes.
Eternal Father, I rest in You.

~

In changing and uncertain times,
focus on the truths that
do not change.

~

Hymn recording: [These Things Are Always True](#)

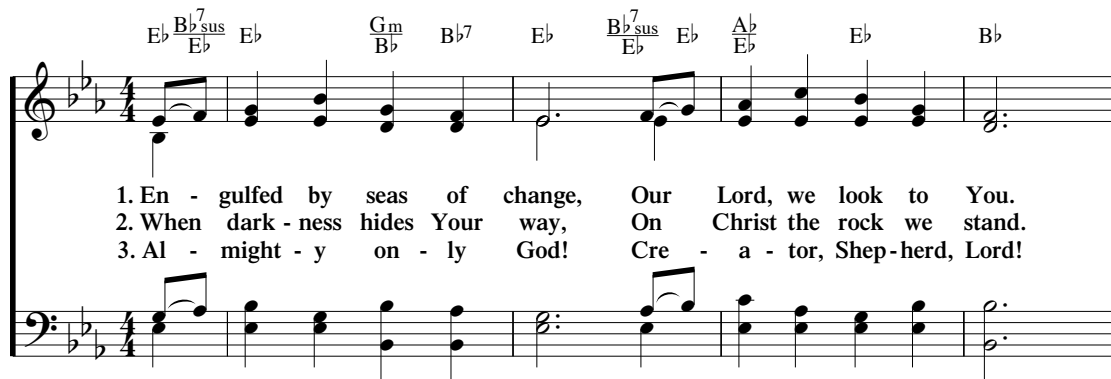
These Things Are Always True

TUNE: This Is My Father's World (TERRA BEATA)

Psalm 18:9-11; 90:1-2; 93:1-4; 136:1

♩ = 80

$E\flat$ $B\flat^7_{sus}$ $E\flat$ Gm $B\flat$ $B\flat^7$ $E\flat$ $B\flat^7_{sus}$ $E\flat$ $A\flat$ $E\flat$ $B\flat$



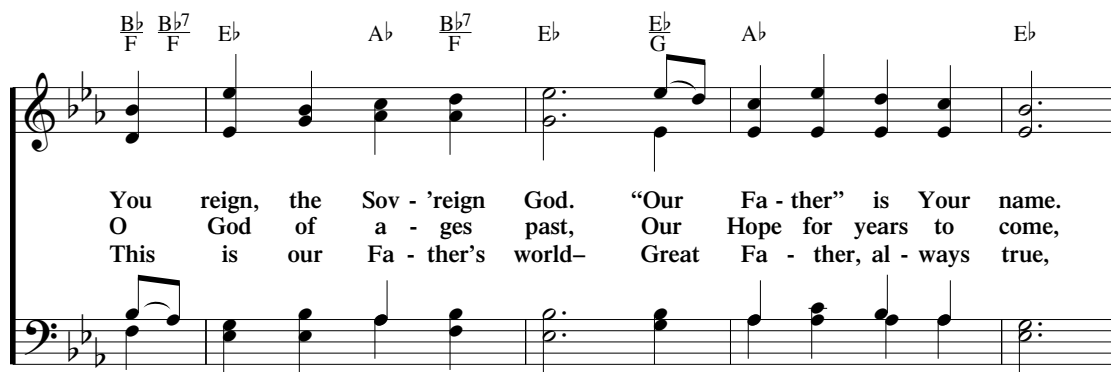
1. En - gulfed by seas of change, Our Lord, we look to You.
 2. When dark - ness hides Your way, On Christ the rock we stand.
 3. Al - might - y on - ly God! Cre - a - tor, Shep - herd, Lord!

$B\flat^9$ $E\flat$ Gm $B\flat$ $E\flat$ Gm $B\flat$ $E\flat$ $E\flat$ $B\flat^7_{sus}$ $E\flat$ $B\flat$ $B\flat^7B\flat^{13}$ $E\flat$



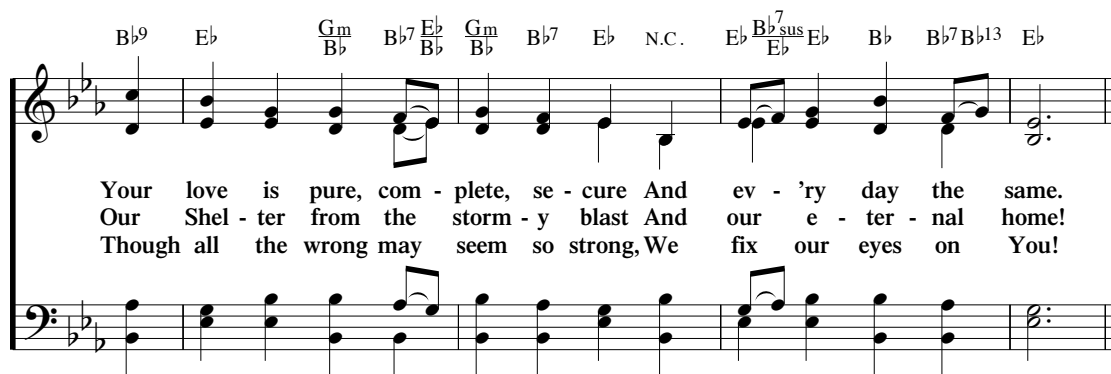
In peace and pain, in loss and gain, These things are al - ways true:
 By faith we trace un - chang - ing grace—All else is sink - ing sand.
 When faced by fear, with noth - ing clear, We rest up - on Your Word.

$B\flat$ $B\flat^7$ $E\flat$ $A\flat$ $B\flat^7$ $E\flat$ $E\flat$ $A\flat$ $E\flat$



You reign, the Sov - 'reign God. "Our Fa - ther" is Your name.
 O God of a - ges past, Our Hope for years to come,
 This is our Fa - ther's world— Great Fa - ther, al - ways true,

$B\flat^9$ $E\flat$ Gm $B\flat$ $E\flat$ Gm $B\flat$ $E\flat$ N.C. $E\flat$ $B\flat^7_{sus}$ $E\flat$ $B\flat$ $B\flat^7B\flat^{13}$ $E\flat$



Your love is pure, com - plete, se - cure And ev - 'ry day the same.
 Our Shel - ter from the storm - y blast And our e - ter - nal home!
 Though all the wrong may seem so strong, We fix our eyes on You!

WORDS: Ken Bible, Edward Mote, Isaac Watts, Maltbie D. Babcock
 MUSIC: Traditional English Melody

TERRA BEATA
 S.M.D.

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Reflection on Psalm 39

My life here is a single breath.

I am a mist,

a shadow,

a sigh,

a passing breeze.

I live but a few inches in this vast universe.

My possessions then go to another or
are discarded.

All my grand plans and pretensions
come to nothing.

They are as powerless and passing
as the breath in my nostrils.

I am a brief noise,
a minor disturbance, and then...
silence.

But Almighty God,

You are the fountain of being itself.

You are all wisdom,

all knowing,

all power,

all perfection.

You are eternity.

You are life without boundaries,
without beginning or end.

And as I trust in You, our Lord,

I share in You and

all You are –

me, though I am less than nothing.

I share Your glory,

Your excellence,

Your life,

Your holiness.

Almighty Father, all my hope,

all my future

is in You!

~

My life and all my “possessing” are
only a passing breath.

My hope is in You.

I will not complain about
what You have done, loving Father.

My hope is in You.

My problems and my future are
beyond my control.

My hope is in You.

~

Hymn recording: [Psalm 39](#)

Psalm 39

♩ = 84

Unison $\text{A}^\flat/\text{B}^\flat$ E^\flat E^\flat/G A^\flat Gm Gm/D Gm

1. My life on earth is but a breath, So quick - ly
 2. O God, how small and brief I am! My strength is
 3. In You a - lone I hope and wait, O God my
 4. I share in You and all You are, God ev - er -

A^\flat Fm $\text{B}^\flat7$ Cm A^\flat E^\flat/G G Cm Gm $\text{A}^\flat\text{M}7$ $\text{A}^\flat6$

pass - ing, A mist, a sigh from birth to death,
 noth - ing, My plans, a dream, my pride, a sham -
 Fa - ther! I love, I trust, I cel - e - brate
 last - ing, Be - yond, a - bove, so high, so far -

$\text{E}^\flat/\text{B}^\flat$ E^\flat/G Fm/A^\flat $\text{Fm}^9/\text{A}^\flat$ $\text{Fm}7$ Fm/B^\flat $\text{A}^\flat/\text{E}^\flat$ E^\flat

So quick - ly pass - ing. All this is pass - ing.
 All these are noth - ing. All fi - n'ly noth - ing.
 You, ho - ly Fa - ther! Great, gra - cious Fa - ther!
 Life ev - er - last - ing! You ev - er - last - ing!

WORDS: Ken Bible
 MUSIC: Ken Bible, inspired by an Appalachian folk tune

PSALM 39
 8.5.8.5.5.

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Reflection on Psalm 71

Sovereign God, You are
 without beginning and
 without end,
from everlasting to everlasting.
Unchanging fullness,
 unchanging perfection,
You will always be who You have always been:
 pure love forever overflowing,
 forever right and good and faithful,
 at peace in Your perfect well-being.

My brief life is
 framed in You and
 immersed in You.
You knit me together in my mother's womb.
You were there to deliver me at my birth.
You have been with me
 every day,
 every step,
 through every need and
 every moment of my life.

And now that I am aging,
now that I sense
 weakness and
 physical decay
 dogging my steps,
I am still immersed in You.
You still cradle me in Your arms,
 vulnerable and helpless as I am.
And You are still
 pure love,
 pure joy, and
 perfect peace.

Sickness or health,
now and every moment,
You are still
 my sure and certain hope,
 my deep, unfailing joy,
 my life,

my strength,
my Father, and
my everlasting God.

~

Father,
in this present struggle,
I remember and savor
the wonderful things You have done
throughout my life.
I trust You.
I wait
expectantly,
confidently,
joyfully
for You.

~

Hymn recording: [Psalm 71](#)

Psalms 71

Psalms 71; 2 Corinthians 4:16-17

Unison
♩ = 88

D A⁷_{sus} D G A GM⁷ A D D A D D F[#] G Em G D G A A E A

1. You have been my strength, Ev - er - last - ing Fa - ther.
2. In the face of fear, With this bod - y fail - ing,
3. Ev - er - last - ing God, Faith - ful, ev - er faith - ful,

D F[#]_m C[#] G B A C[#] G D D A E D F[#] G GM⁷ D F[#] GM⁷ A sus A⁷_{sus} E A A⁷

You were there to cra - dle me and soothe my in - fant cry.
I am grow - ing strong - er as I trust You need by need.
Grace and truth and ten - der - ness are al - ways who You are.

D A⁷_{sus} D G A GM⁷ A D G G⁶ G D D G A A E A

Now that I am old, Gripp'd by grow - ing weak-ness,
Fill each day with praise! Flood them all with sing - ing!
You are all my hope, You, my liv - ing prom - ise:

WORDS & MUSIC: Ken Bible

LOVE IN EPHESIANS
5.6.13.5.6.13.5.

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D $\frac{F\sharp m}{C\sharp}$ $\frac{G}{B}$ $\frac{A}{C\sharp}$ $\frac{G}{D}$ F \sharp Bm $\frac{D}{A}$ Em⁷ $\frac{D}{F\sharp}$ G⁶ $\frac{G^6}{B}$ $\frac{G}{B}$

Hold me ev - er clos - er, O my joy, my hope, my
 May my ev - 'ry word and deed be al - ways, on - ly
 Soon this seed will blos - som in - to ev - er - last - ing

A sus $\frac{A sus}{E}$ A sus A G $\frac{D}{F\sharp}$ Em⁷ A⁷ D $\frac{D}{A}$ D

song, God, my joy, my song!
 You, Al - ways, on - ly You!
 life, Rich and end - less life.

Reflection on Psalm 102

Father, with every passing day
 I feel my frailty more and more.
As I face my brevity,
I grasp the truth more clearly:
 You are forever.
 You are unchanging,
 introducing Yourself anew to every generation,
 untouched by time.

My own neediness is helping me to
 know You,
 trust You, and
 find constant peace in You.
As I grasp my weakness,
 I realize Your inherent strength.
You relate to us,
 not from a higher place,
 but from a higher being.

You created this universe for Your glory, and
 someday, it will have served its purpose.
 You will change it like a garment.
But we share Your very being.
 We breath Your eternal breath.
 You share Your permanence with us.
You are Everlasting Father, and
 we are Your children.
You are our Source and
 our Destination,
 our entire reality.

Continue to teach me,
continue to hold me,
 to draw me,
 to recreate me,
O boundless, magnificent God!
I am truly, eternally Yours!

Father,
You listen to
our groans,
our cries,
our weary sighs.
This life,
this world is passing away,
but You are forever.
And we will live in You!

~

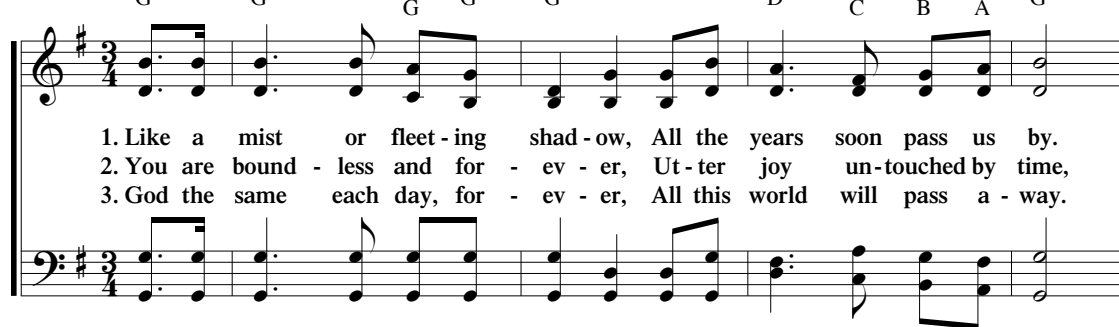
Hymn recording: [Psalm 102](#)

Psalm 102

TUNE: All the Way My Savior Leads Me (ALL THE WAY)

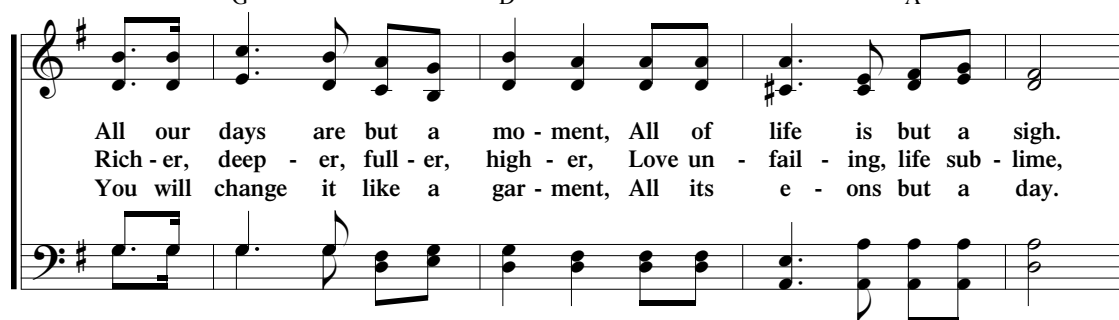
$\text{♩} = 66$

G G $\frac{D^7_{\text{sus}}}{G}$ G G D $\frac{D}{C}$ $\frac{G}{B}$ $\frac{D}{A}$ G



1. Like a mist or fleet - ing shad - ow, All the years soon pass us by.
2. You are bound - less and for - ev - er, Ut - ter joy un - touched by time,
3. God the same each day, for - ev - er, All this world will pass a - way.

G $\frac{C}{G}$ G D7 Em $\frac{G}{D}$ D A $\frac{D}{A}$ A7 D



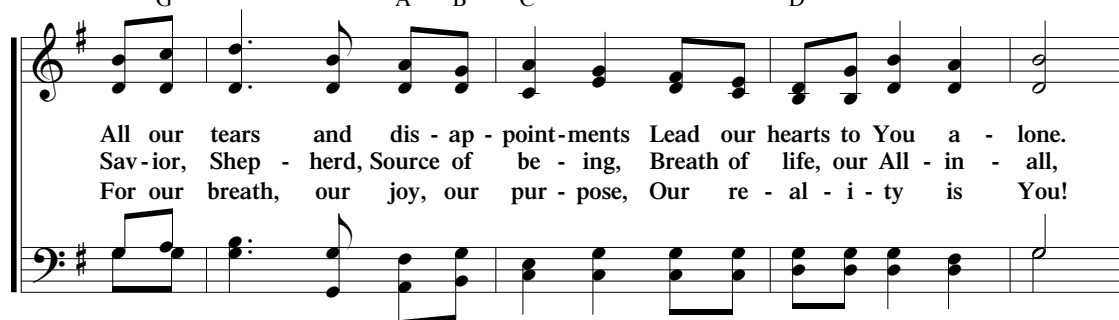
All our days are but a mo - ment, All of life is but a sigh.
Rich - er, deep - er, full - er, high - er, Love un - fail - ing, life sub - lime,
You will change it like a gar - ment, All its e - ons but a day.

$\frac{C}{D}$ D7 G $\frac{D^7_{\text{sus}}}{G}$ G $\frac{C}{G}$ G $\frac{G}{B}$ D G $\frac{C}{G}$ G D



All our fears and end - less fail - ures, All the toys we tried to own,
Great Cre - a - tor, ho - ly Fa - ther Ev - er lis - t'ning when we call,
But Your peo - ple share Your be - ing, Drink - ing life for - ev - er new,

G $\frac{D^7_{\text{sus}}}{G}$ G $\frac{D}{A}$ $\frac{G}{B}$ $\frac{A^m}{C}$ C $\frac{G}{D}$ D G



All our tears and dis - ap - point - ments Lead our hearts to You a - lone.
Sav - ior, Shep - herd, Source of be - ing, Breath of life, our All - in - all,
For our breath, our joy, our pur - pose, Our re - al - i - ty is You!

WORDS: Ken Bible
MUSIC: Robert Lowry (1826-1899)

ALL THE WAY
8.7.8.7.D.

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G $\frac{D^7_{sus}}{G}$ G D⁷ E_m $\frac{A^m}{C}$ C $\frac{G}{D}$ D⁷ G

All our tears and dis - ap - point - ments Lead our hearts to You a - lone.
Sav - ior, Shep - herd, Source of be - ing, Breath of life, our All - in - all!
For our breath, our joy, our pur - pose, Our re - al - i - ty is You!

Boundless God

Almighty, eternal God,
our brevity hides from us the full reality of
Your faithfulness,
Your eternal consistency, and
the certainty of Your promises and
purposes.

There is so much that we cannot see
from our limited viewpoint.

You see the end
from the beginning.
Time is no barrier to Your consistency.
I learn as I go and
constantly change.
You are perfect,
all-knowing, and
changeless.

You are pure,
so all that You desire,
You do.

You are omnipotent,
so all that You say,
all that You plan,
You complete.

And Your desire is
blessing.
Your purpose,
Your promise
is salvation and
complete well-being
in Yourself.

*Whom do I have in heaven but You?
And with You, I desire nothing on earth.
My flesh and my heart may fail,
But God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.
(Psalm 73:25-26, NASB)*

~

Father,
You are completely unlimited by
space and time.
You never lack
time or
materials or
expertise.
Help me to look beyond my own limitations and
simply rest in all You are.

~

Hymn recording: [Boundless God](#)

Boundless God

Psalm 73:25-26; 90:1-12; Isaiah 40:12-26; 46:8-13; 1 Timothy 1:17

♩ = 88

Unison C_m A_b F_m A_b C_m C_m C_m C_m F_m F_m⁷ C_m G⁷_{sus} G_m⁷ C_m C_{sus} C_m F_m⁶ C

1. Bound - less, e - ter - nal, sov - 'reign Ho - ly God,
 2. Faith - ful, un - chang - ing, yet how small our view,
 3. You are life's pur - pose, You, its grand de - sign.

F_m F_m C_m C_m⁷ A_b A_b G_m⁷ E_b G_m F_m A_b A_b G⁷_{sus} D⁷_{sus} G

In - fi - nite life, so pure, so deep, so broad;
 Blind - ed by self, im - pure, un - kind, un - true;
 You are its gift, its bless - ing all di - vine.

C_m C_m G_m F_m F_m⁶ C_m C_m C_m C_m E_b F_m A_b A_b F_m D_m G⁺ G

We, small and brief, and You, so high, so far That no
 Your thoughts so vast, Your prom - ise al - ways sure. All You
 Share all You are! Come fan this in - ner fire. Make Your -

A_b A_b E_b F_m⁷ F_m C_m G_m⁷ C_m C_m C_m

mind can im - ag - ine all You are.
 say, all You pur - pose will en - dure.
 self, Fa - ther God, our one de - sire.

WORDS: Ken Bible
 MUSIC: *Southern Harmony*, 1835, and Ken Bible

DISTRESS 2
 10.10.10.10.

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Time

“Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?” (Matthew 6:27, NIV)

When we consider the natural world, we begin to realize that **time hides from us many of the Creator’s most spectacular miracles**. Some are too split-second for us to perceive; others are too gradual to appreciate.

For instance, on one hand, consider a single beat of a hummingbird’s wing (up to 80 per second!). On the other hand, ponder the sculpting of the Grand Canyon.

Or think of the human body. Each simple function is a chain of interworkings, incredibly complex, yet almost instantaneous. But just as marvelous is the transformation of a microscopic egg into an adult human being, capable of reason, imagination, love, work, and worship. (Growth seems to be God’s favorite miracle. Up close, it’s invisible. From a distance, it’s breathtaking . . . too beautiful to rush.)

We are locked into the present, with narrow notions of fast and slow. We are caught in the blindness of time, space, and self. The Everlasting One blesses us, and we do not see Him coming or going. We fail to trace all the wonders of Him who is unhurried and unhindered by time, reigning in eternity. To the Overlord of all the ages, the Master of each moment, nothing is fast or slow. Time is not a barrier or a restraint, but a tool wielded by His wisdom.

How foolish, then, for us to pretend to be masters of our time. We frantically try to control what we cannot control. Rigid, rushed schedules are our attempts to bring productivity, consistency, and balance into our confusion and fatigue.

But the Lord reminded me years ago that **time anxiety is as foolish and unproductive as all other anxieties**. Anxiety blocks our free and open response to God’s moment-by-moment leadership. Worry produces only tension, selfishness, and insensitivity. It chokes out love, gentleness, and joy.

Turn to one of the Gospels in the Bible (Matthew, Mark, Luke, or John) and **read about Jesus. Notice that while He had so much to accomplish in so little time, He never rushed.** He was busy, but He never seemed tense or hurried.

That’s because He focused on only one priority: following His Father’s leadership step by step. Each moment was in His Father’s hands, so Jesus simply did as He was directed to do and worked as He was enabled to work.

Our Creator, our Father gives us the same privilege. We don’t need to juggle our priorities and obligations in our own wisdom. God wants us to lead and balance our lives by his wisdom. He calls us to listen and respond to His leadership regarding time. We are to use our self-discipline there rather than toward our own arbitrary schedules.

As we do, He breathes natural balance and joy, a peace and productivity into each moment, of both labor and rest. He slips accomplishments into our schedules that surprise and delight us.

He is personally with you always. He would be delighted to guide and provide for your time needs. This is just one more area in which He calls us into a closer, more constant fellowship with himself.

God's gifts are practical. They are more satisfying than we have tasted or imagined. He invites us to discover them all.

~

**God is never in a hurry.
He is the master of time,
not its slave.
Walk with Him in His peace.**

~

Hymn recording: [I Leave It in Your Hands](#)

I Leave It in Your Hands

♩ = 56

$E\flat$ $A\flat$ $E\flat 7$ $A\flat add 9$ $A\flat$ $A\flat$ $D\flat$ $C 7$ Fm $D\flat$
 $B\flat$ C C

I leave it in Your hands. I lay it at Your feet. I

$A\flat$ $D\flat$ $E\flat 7$ $A\flat add 9$ $A\flat$ Fm Fm $E\flat sus$ $E\flat$ $E\flat 7$
 $E\flat$ $D\flat$ $D\flat$ C C D

trust Your great com - pas - sion. I know that You will lead. Your

$A\flat$ $E\flat 7$ $A\flat add 9$ $A\flat$ $A\flat$ $D\flat$ $C 7$ $C 7$ Fm $D\flat$
 $B\flat$ C C E

heart is al - ways love. Your way has prov - en true. So

$A\flat$ $C+$ $C 7$ Fm $Fm 7$ $B\flat m 7$ $A\flat$ $A\flat$ $E\flat sus$ $E\flat 7$ $E\flat 7 sus$ $A\flat$
 $E\flat$ E E C $D\flat$

lis - t'ning for Your Spir - it, I rest, my Lord, in You.

WORDS & MUSIC: Ken Bible

OLATHE
6.6.7.6.D.

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CCLI Song #3696815. For CCLI information call 1-800-234-2446.

You Are God

God,
 You whom I see so dimly and
 trust so haltingly,
You are GOD.
I look up and around me,
 backward, then forward,
 as far as my imagination can stretch,
and You are there.

Creator God,
 You greet me when I rise in the morning.
God of Goliath and Jericho,
 You invite me to trust You
 when life seems impossible.
God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob,
 You will introduce yourself
 to my great-great-grandchildren.
 You will be God for them as well.
You wrap each of us,
 with all time and space,
 in Yourself.
And when You speak Your name,
 it is Compassion,
 it is Faithfulness,
 it is Father.

O Lord, my Lord,
 how excellent is Your name in all the earth!
Let me hope in nothing else,
let me long for nothing else,
let me worship nothing and no one else
 but You,
 Everlasting Father,
 my God.

~

Father,
all the earth,
all time,

all reality
is Yours,
under Your sovereign control, and
You are
all-wise and
all-loving.
Why should I ever be afraid?

~

Hymn recording: [God My Father](#)

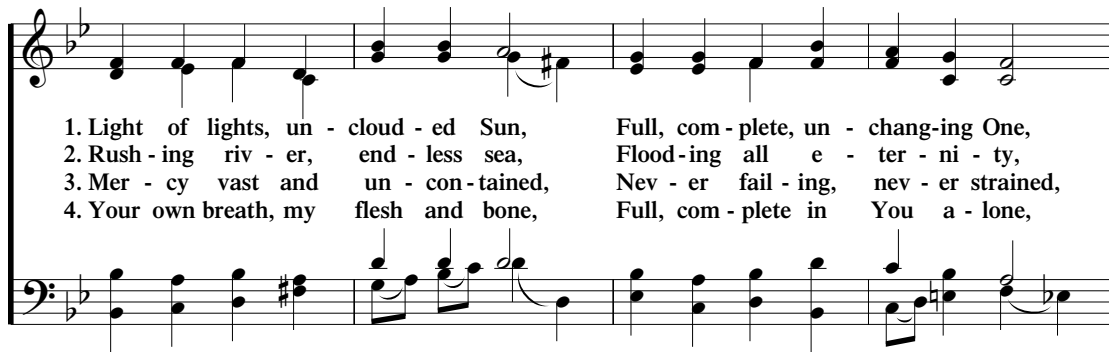
God My Father

TUNE: Hallelujah! What a Savior!

*Numbers 23:19; Psalm 104:29-30; Isaiah 6:3; Malachi 3:6; Matthew 6:9;
Luke 1:77-79; John 7:37-39; 14:21, 23; Acts 17:24-28; Romans 8:35-39;
1 Corinthians 13:12; Ephesians 3:20; 1 Timothy 1:17; 6:15-16; James 1:17*


♩ = 76

B \flat F \flat 7 C D \flat D \flat 7 F \sharp Gm Gm A Gm Gm B \flat C D \flat sus D E \flat Cm \flat B \flat D \flat B \flat F C F C \flat 7 F F E \flat



1. Light of lights, un - cloud - ed Sun, Full, com - plete, un - chang - ing One,
2. Rush - ing riv - er, end - less sea, Flood - ing all e - ter - ni - ty,
3. Mer - cy vast and un - con - tained, Nev - er fail - ing, nev - er strained,
4. Your own breath, my flesh and bone, Full, com - plete in You a - lone,

B \flat F \flat 7 B \flat Dm \flat 7 Gm E \flat B \flat B \flat F B \flat F \flat 7 Gm E \flat B \flat



Un - im - ag - ined, un - be - gun, Ho - ly, ho - ly, God my Fa - ther!
Liv - ing wa - ter here in me, Life un - bound - ed, God my Fa - ther!
Un - ex - plored and un - ex - plained, Love un - fath - omed, God my Fa - ther!
Deep - ly know - ing, deep - ly known - One for - ev - er, God my Fa - ther!

WORDS: Ken Bible
MUSIC: Philip P. Bliss; arr. by Ken Bible

HALLELUJAH! WHAT A SAVIOR!
7.7.7.8.

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I Trust You with My Time

My times are in Your hand. (Psalm 31:15, NASB)

Creator of all eternity,
Lender of my life,
I trust You with my time.
Help me relax and listen,
letting You be the Master of my moments,
accepting each one from Your hand
as I receive
each borrowed breath,
each meal,
each joy,
with appreciation and anticipation.

Teach me to walk in all the freedom Your love provides.
Thank You, my Father.

~

Calmly, quietly attend to what
God has assigned you today.
You can accomplish far more by
calm, thoughtful work
done in God's sight
than by hurried human busy-ness.
(paraphrased from Francois Fenelon)

~

Hymn recording: [Lord of Time](#)

Lord of Time

Psalm 31:14-15; John 15:5; Ephesians 5:15-16

♩ = 88

Unison

C⁷ F $\frac{F}{C}$ F⁶ G^m $\frac{G^m}{D}$ G^{m7} A^m $\frac{A^m}{E}$ A^{m7} $\frac{F}{A}$ B^b $\frac{B^b}{F}$ C⁷ D^m $\frac{D^m}{A}$ D^m

1. I fight with time. I rush. I wait. I plan. I
 2. Great Lord of time, a - bove its flow, You give us
 3. In Christ we learn what time can be: A frame for
 4. The fruit - ful - ness that we pur - sue Flows not from

G^m $\frac{G^m}{D}$ G^{m7} $\frac{F}{A}$ F $\frac{G^m11}{D}$ C^{sus} C C¹³ D^m $\frac{D^m}{A}$ D^m A^m $\frac{A^m}{E}$ D^m

press. I stay up late. I try so hard to
 time to change, to grow, To learn to live the
 love un - rushed and free, The pure and per - fect
 what our plans can do But Lord, from liv - ing

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

reg - u - late What on - ly You con - trol.
 love we owe To You, all - gra - cious God!
 har - mo - ny Of life im - mersed in You.
 all in You, The ev - er - fruit - ful Vine.

WORDS: Ken Bible

MUSIC: *The Southern Harmony*, 1835, and Ken Bible

PROSPECT 2

8.8.8.6.

Alt. Tune: DUNBAR

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Turning Points

The Lord is my shepherd. (Psalm 23:1, NASB)

Sometimes God's hand is only visible in the rearview mirror. Life's major turning points may masquerade as the small and ordinary. They only loom large when seen in retrospect.

I was 22 and in my first and only year of graduate school, pursuing a master's degree in music composition at the College-Conservatory of Music at the University of Cincinnati. My life plan was to compose classical music and teach at the university level.

The course was "Introduction to Graduate Studies", designed to teach us some of the basics of graduate-level study. The instructor had assigned us to prepare an annotated bibliography—a bibliography with brief descriptions for each book entry. Any subject would do.

I was also minister of music and youth director at a small church in Cincinnati. Killing time before an appointment, I was sitting alone in my pastor's study, idly looking over the books on his shelf. One caught my eye. It was a thin, black, clothbound book with "Wesley Hymnbook" on the spine. I began reading the introductory material, and it caught my interest. Methodist hymnody seemed as good a subject as any for my assignment.

Of course, to prepare the bibliography, I had to find and familiarize myself with other books on Methodist hymnody. Up to this point my interest had been classical music, not church music. But the more I read about Methodist hymns, the more I got hooked.

Soon I was haunting local used bookstores, hunting for old hymnals. (Side note: nearly 15 years later, having built up a collection of about 1,000 hymnals, I sold them to friend and composer Tom Fettke and purchased my first computer. They are now in the rare book section of the library at David Lipscombe University in Nashville.) In addition to old hymnals, I bought newer collections of hymns and Christian songs and hungrily perused them. I even went to the rare book room at the University library and photocopied entire old hymnals for study.

When that school year ended, so did my classical music studies. Instead, I accepted a job as college music instructor at God's Bible School there in Cincinnati. Among the courses I taught were hymnology and the history of church music, with my personal study as my only preparation.

After two years teaching, I decided to apply to Nazarene Theological Seminary in Kansas City. I was driven by a strong interest, not in pastoring, but in biblical languages and theology. Some at the seminary saw my application and connected me with Nazarene Publishing House, which was looking for a music editor at the time. I started

work there in June, 1975, and stayed until the end of 2009. I never went to seminary, except to audit a course now and again.

Soon after starting at NPH, I learned that *Wesley Hymnbook* had been one of their biggest flops ever. My pastor had a copy in his study only because NPH had given them as gifts to graduating seniors at Nazarene Theological Seminary.

But that terrible publishing investment got them a music editor, director, and product developer for 34 years. And it ignited in me a lifelong enthusiasm for hymns.

Our magnificent, incomprehensible God changes and redirects lives every day. Sometimes He reveals Himself through a dramatic divine encounter. We are struck down by a brilliant light like Saul on the road to Damascus, or we suddenly find ourselves on holy ground, standing before a burning bush. But sometimes God's hand is artfully subtle. He lights a tiny fire deep in the heart of a young person—a fire that in time becomes an all-consuming passion.

~

Our lives are so brief that
we have no idea what is important.
Accomplishments that seem so major are
quickly washed away by the river of time,
while minor events,
seen in context,
take on great significance.
But in this dark world,
a Christ-like life is like a
shining star, pointing people to
something higher,
forever glorifying its Creator.

~

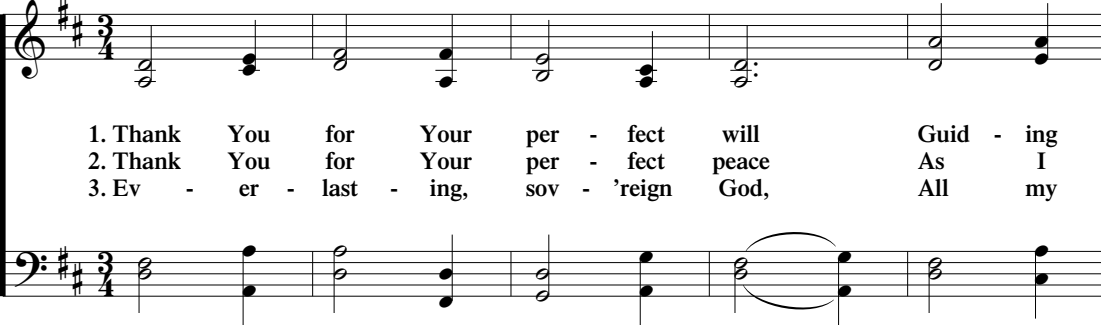
Hymn recording: [Thank You for Your Perfect Will](#)

Thank You for Your Perfect Will

TUNE: The Friendly Beasts, alt. (ORIENTIS PARTIBUS 2)
Psalms 31:14-15

♩ = 100

D A D $\frac{D}{F\#}$ G⁶ A⁷ D A⁷_{sus} D $\frac{A}{C\#}$



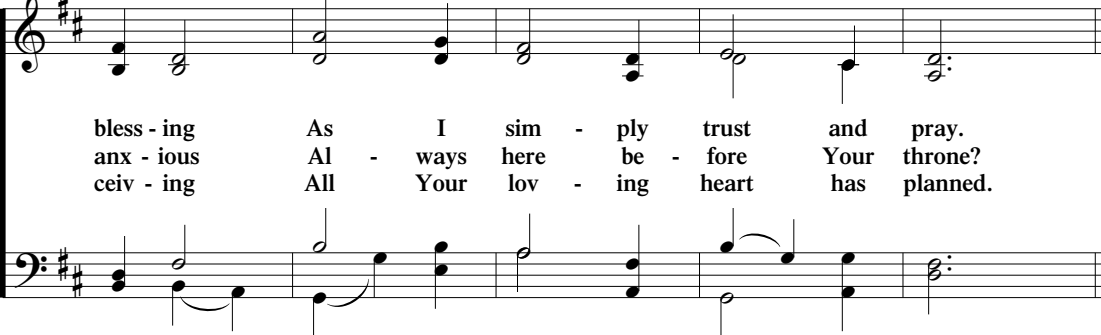
1. Thank You for Your per - fect will Guid - ing
2. Thank You for Your per - fect peace As I
3. Ev - er - last - ing, sov - 'reign God, All my

$\frac{G}{B}$ G A⁷_{sus} A⁷ B_m $\frac{B_m}{A}$ G M⁷ G⁶ E_m $\frac{D}{F\#}$ $\frac{E_m}{G}$ $\frac{G}{A}$



all my life to - day, Work - ing, weav - ing, teach - ing,
face to - day's un - known. Why should I, Your child, be
times are in Your hand. Here I bow, with joy re -

B_m $\frac{B_m}{A}$ Gadd⁹ E_m⁷ $\frac{D}{A}$ G⁶ A⁷ D



bless - ing As I sim - ply trust and pray.
anx - ious Al - ways here be - fore Your throne?
ceiv - ing All Your lov - ing heart has planned.

WORDS: Ken Bible
MUSIC: 13th c. French Melody and Ken Bible

ORIENTIS PARTIBUS 2
7.7.8.7.

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Nine Months Pregnant

“Do I bring to the moment of birth and not give delivery?” says the Lord.
(Isaiah 66:9, NIV)

I remember when my wife, Gloria, was pregnant with Jason, our first child. As we attended childbirth classes, she felt the insecurities that I’m sure most mothers-to-be share: Will I be able to do it? Will something go wrong? Even though I was only a coach and hand-holder, I too was apprehensive about the whole process.

I remember the teacher repeating to the class the same basic assurance over and over: childbirth is a natural function, and one way or another, the baby will be born. Unless you’ve been through it, that probably sounds laughable. But during the long months of waiting and wondering, we clung to those statements. And even when the day came, as Gloria’s intense pain gnawed relentlessly, and the hospital staff seemed so unhurried, we wondered if the delivery would ever really happen.

I’ve been through those times in my life. The relief that I desperately need, or the dream I cherish as deeply as life itself, doesn’t come for years...or decades. Most of us endure times when, in some important area, we feel nine months pregnant, with discomfort and pressure that won’t quit, but no relief in sight. We feel full term, but God is in no hurry.

During my “labor”, Isaiah 66:9 brings me assurance that helps me not only endure, but rejoice. I can testify that God never begins anything in our lives that He won’t finish – beautifully, completely, and perfectly. All that His love has conceived, He will deliver, and at the right time.

If you’re feeling nine months pregnant, learn to rest in Him more constantly and completely. He is drawing you to Himself. Even as you wait, He is working all things for your good and for the blessing of those around you.

~

God,
I cannot trace all Your ways,
but I know that You will always be the
all-powerful,
all-wise,
all-loving Father
that You are right now.
I trust You.

~

Hymn recording: [Wait on the Lord](#)

Wait on the Lord

Psalm 37

♩ = 76

C G^{sus} G C G⁷_{sus} D C_E F D^{m7}_F G^{sus} G C_E

1, 3. Wait on the Lord. Chil-dren, wait on the Lord. When your
2. Rest in the Lord. Chil-dren, rest in the Lord. You can

F C C_E F

sor - rows press you, And their voice is strong, When your dark - ness deep - ens And the
trust your Fa - ther - He is with you still. He can work His pur - pose, And you

C G⁹_B A^m F C_G G^{sus} G⁷ A^m F F^{add 9} C_G G^{sus} G⁷

pain is long, Just wait on the Lord. Chil-dren, wait on the Lord.
know He will, So rest in the Lord. Chil-dren, rest in the

1, 3 1st time: D.C.
2nd time: Fine
C^{sus} C

2 C^{sus} C C_E F F^{M7} F⁶ C_E C^{sus}_D C A^m_C

Lord. Yet a lit - tle while, Just a lit - tle while, You will

WORDS & MUSIC: Ken Bible

PSALM 37
Irregular

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D_m⁷ F G⁷ G⁹ G⁷ C G_{sus}_D C_E C_E F F_M⁷ F⁶

see, You will see. For He knows you, Tru - ly

C_E C_{sus}_D C C_B A_m⁷ E_m_G F E_C F⁶ F G⁷_{sus} G⁷ D.C. al Fine

knows you, and He is love, Al - ways love.

Working and Resting in You

Eternal God, I lift my eyes to You.
You are above all time and its sovereign Lord.
Time cannot rush You or restrain You.
You created it in love, and
 You wield it in perfect wisdom.

We are limited creatures, locked into the here and now.
So how foolish we are to pretend to be the masters of our time.
We frantically try to manage what is beyond our control.
Our rushed schedules are futile attempts at bringing
 productivity and balance into our
 confused and tired lives.

But Father, You show us Jesus.
Teach us to live as He lived.
He had so much to do
 in so little time,
 yet He never seemed rushed.
He was busy,
 but not hurried or tense.
His life was endless interruptions,
 yet He seemed to flow with them, easily and naturally.
Many of His most beautiful words and works
 grew out of encounters
 scheduled only by His Father.

How did He do it?
What made Him so different,
 so **able** in every situation?
He had only one agenda, Father:
 Your will, wherever it led, whatever it demanded.
He was constantly, completely available to You.
He was constantly, completely at peace in You.
Pleasing You was His only goal.

Like Jesus, Father, You are all my peace.
 You are all my fruitfulness.
Today, help me to live like Him.
Today, help me to live as a branch in the Vine, always
 working and resting in You.

~

Do you want your life to be
balanced and
fruitful?
Trust your time to God.
He will make it
balanced and
fruitful
naturally,
without all the unnecessary
stress and strain.
Simply follow His Spirit's leading
as Jesus did.

~

Hymn recording: [Each Moment by Faith](#)

Each Moment by Faith

TUNE: ASH GROVE

John 5:19-20, 30; 14:10; 2 Corinthians 12:9; Philippians 2:5-11

♩ = 104

F C E F F A Dm Gm Bb Gm Gm Bb C C Bb

1. From glo - ry de - scend - ing, Com - plete - ly de - pend - ing, You
2. Lord Je - sus, You lead us To faith that can free us, So

F A F F A Bb Bb D Gm7 F C C7 F F C E

trust - ed Your Fa - ther And lived to o - bey. In speak - ing and
trust - ing and hum - ble, We bow and o - bey. In speak - ing and

F F A Dm Gm Bb Gm Gm Bb C C Bb F A F F A

do - ing, His pleas - ure pur - su - ing, You joy - ful - ly
do - ing, Your pleas - ure pur - su - ing, We joy - ful - ly

Bb Bb D Gm7 F C C7 F F sus F F sus F Bb F F sus F

lis - tened And fol - lowed by faith. Through weak - ness came pow - er, A
lis - ten And fol - low by faith. Through weak - ness comes pow - er, A

WORDS: Ken Bible
MUSIC: Traditional Welsh Melody

ASH GROVE
6.6.6.5.6.6.6.5.D.

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C⁷ C $\frac{F}{C}$ C⁷ $\frac{A^m}{C}$ C⁷ $\frac{F}{C}$ C F $\frac{C^7_{sus}}{F}$ F $\frac{B^b}{F}$ F $\frac{A^7}{C^\sharp}$ D^m

strength ev - 'ry hour. Though emp - ty, You gave with A
 strength ev - 'ry hour. Though emp - ty, we give with A

$\frac{C}{G}$ G C F $\frac{C}{E}$ F $\frac{F}{A}$ D^m $\frac{G^m}{B^b}$ G^m $\frac{G^m}{B^b}$

heart un - a - fraid, Se - cure in the know - ing And full in the
 heart un - a - fraid, Se - cure in the know - ing And full in the

C $\frac{C}{B^b}$ $\frac{F}{A}$ F $\frac{F}{A}$ B^b $\frac{B^b}{D}$ G^{m7} $\frac{F}{C}$ C⁷ F

flow - ing Of God in His full - ness Each mo - ment by faith.
 flow - ing Of Your might - y Spir - it Each mo - ment by faith.

Dangling Threads

*As for me, I trust in You, O Lord,
I say, "You are my God."
(Psalm 31:14, NASB)*

Father, I bring You all the dangling threads of my life.

I bring you that annoying little task that has me stuck.
I can't move forward, and
I can't walk away.

I bring you that matter where all I can do is wait.
I am totally dependent on someone else, and
they are in no hurry.

I bring you that huge project that I'm just beginning.
I feel swamped with unknowns and
in over my head.

I bring You that threat hanging over me
that seeks to steal my peace.

I bring you that unique idea, that deep desire
that has long weighed on my heart.
It keeps calling me,
pulling me.

It has never gone away after all these years.
Father, I believe You have planted it in me.
I believe You have set aside this task for me.
I'm convinced it would glorify You and
draw other people to You.
But every time I try to press ahead,
You seem to check me.
I feel nine-months pregnant,
but I can't give birth.

And Father, I bring You that person
whom I love with all my heart.
They are so painfully, tragically incomplete.
O Lord, You know.

Father, I bring You all these dangling threads.
They keep my life unsettled.
They daily, hourly make me feel
ill-at-ease and

out of control.

Maybe that's one reason You allow them to stay.
They keep me turning to You,
 depending on You,
 crying out to You.
You are the First and the Last,
 the Source and the Goal.
You not only see the end from the beginning,
 You *are* the ending.
All things are flowing from You and to You.
All things are complete in You.
At the perfect time and
 in the perfect way,
You will beautifully finish everything You have begun.

I am a small-minded,
 anxious,
 time-bound creature,
at sea in a world beyond my understanding and control.
You are sovereign, wise, loving, and just.
You always do what is good and right.

Father, I will wait on You.

~

Who are we that we should ask God,
 “Why are you doing this?”
 It is the Lord—
 that is enough.
Let him do what seems good to Him.
 Let Him wound or heal,
 bring pleasure or pain,
 give life or death.
 He is always the Lord.”
(paraphrased from Francois Fenelon)

~

Hymn recording: [I Cannot See the Light, My Lord](#)

I Cannot See the Light, My Lord

TUNE: Lord, Lay Some Soul Upon My Heart

Chords: D \flat D \flat E \flat m / A \flat A \flat 7 A \flat 7 D \flat

1. I can - not see the light, my Lord; I
2. I have no strength to lift my - self, But
3. When all my joys have turned to pain And
4. My God, my God, my hope, my joy, You're

Chords: A \flat A \flat B \flat / A \flat 7 C D \flat G \flat G \circ 7 C / G \circ 7

on - ly feel the fear; And yet I know that
Lord, I lift my need. I spread be - fore You
hopes have fal - len through, I raise my eyes and
with me in this place! So in Your pres - ence,

Chords: D \flat / A \flat B \flat m G \flat m / B \flat D \flat / G \flat A \flat E \flat m / A \flat 7 D \flat

You are God When noth - ing else is clear.
all my fears. Come take my hand and lead.
fix my heart: My on - ly hope is You.
in Your peace, I trust, re - joice, and wait.

WORDS: Ken Bible
MUSIC: Ira D. Sankey

SOME SOUL
C.M.

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Fearing Change

"Listen to Me...

*You who have been borne by Me from birth
And have been carried from the womb;
Even to your old age I will be the same,
And even to your graying years I will bear you!
I have done it, and I will carry you;
I will bear you and I will deliver you."*

"I, the Lord, do not change."

(Isaiah 46:3-4; Malachi 3:6, NASB)

God of unfailing, unrestrainable love,
how often do I
 resent and
 resist
the blessings You send me!
I hide.
I argue.
I lash out.
I whine and complain like a child,
 fearful of change.
I cling to my poverty because it is
 familiar and
 safe.

O Father, forgive me!
Forgive me for mistrusting Your love!

You are the unchanging God,
 always only wisdom,
 always only good,
 always only bringing our best.
Through all the changes and seasons of life,
 I will look to You.
 I will bring my concerns to You.
 I will trust You.
And then, even in my ignorance,
I will rejoice in what
 Your omniscient love is doing for me.

You are good, Father!
You are always good, and

Your love endures forever!

~

God, the future is
out of control –
except in You.
You are almighty.
You are eternal.
You never change.
We lean forward into
a beautiful future in You!

~

Hymn recording: [Unchanging Father](#)

Unchanging Father

*Numbers 23:19; Psalm 23:1; 46:1-3; 90:1-2; 102:27;
Isaiah 46:3-4; Malachi 3:6; Hebrews 13:8; James 1:17*

♩ = 84

Unison
Cm C^{sus} Cm B^b/_{A^b} A^b B^b B^b_{sus}/_C B^b7/_D E^b

1. Un - chang - ing good - ness, Un - chang - ing peace,
2. Thro' ev - 'ry sea - son You are the same.

F^m E^b/_G A^b F^m/_{A^b} G

When chang - es threat - en, When fears in - crease,
Gra - cious and pa - tient, Love is Your name!

A^b E^b/_G B^b G^m/_{B^b} F^m/_{A^b} E^b/_G B^b7_{sus}/_G E^b A^b

You are so faith - ful, our Shep - herd a - dored,
You are all bless - ing, our joy, our re - ward,

F^m7 E^b/_G A^b *rit.* F^m7 E^b

Un - chang - ing Fa - ther, Al - might - y Lord!
Un - chang - ing Fa - ther, Un - fail - ing Lord!

WORDS & MUSIC: Ken Bible

OPEN YOUR HAND
5.4.5.4.10.5.4.

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My Time Is in Your Hand

My Father,
 Master of all time,
my time is in Your hand.
It is all under Your control,
 not mine.
Make it fruitful.
Make it loving.
Keep it balanced.
Use it entirely as pleases You.

All my “spare” moments –
 those unplanned moments between planned activities –
are Yours.
I give them to You now, and
 help me give them to you as they occur.
You will use wisely
 what I would simply waste.

When the needs of others interrupt my plans,
 keep me content.
 Keep me patient.
They are opportunities to express
 Your ever-surprising love.
The interruptions that came to Jesus
 produced some of His most fruitful moments.

Make me more like Him:
 relaxed in You,
 fully responsive to You,
 joyfully following wherever You led.
Rule my life with
 the one desire,
 the one ambition
that always ruled Him: to
 simply
 please
 You.

Father, I feel pressured by
a mounting list of things I need to do,
but only this is important:
to do what You want me to do,
the way You want me to do it.

~


Hymn recording: [My Time Is in Your Hand](#)

My Time Is in Your Hand

Psalm 31:14-15; Matthew 6:27


♩ = 66

C C $\frac{G^7}{C}$ C F C D⁷ G C⁶ D G



1. My time is in Your hand. Lord, give me all Your best
2. Each mo - ment, Lord, is Yours, Those sprin-kled thro' the day.
3. When in - ter - rup - tions come And needs ar - rive un - planned,
4. O make me more like Christ In all I say and do,

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



That I might live each hour in You To love and serve and rest.
I want Your will for ev - 'ry one. Just speak, and I'll o - bey.
Keep me con - tent to fol - low on And trust Your lov - ing hand.
Till all day long, my one de - sire Is sim - ply pleas - ing You.

WORDS: Ken Bible, inspired by William F. Lloyd (1791-1853)
MUSIC: Lowell Mason (1792-1872)

BOYLSTON
S.M.

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