

OUR APPROACH TO GOD

WELCOME AND OPENING PRAYER

Ben Van Haitsma

PRELUDE

Abide With Me

Robert Lau

CALL TO WORSHIP

We come before God this day through the struggles of life,

In the hardships we face and the deep places we must move through.

Yet our God brings us the joy of salvation and the grace of provision,

So that we may find encouragement amid the challenges of life.

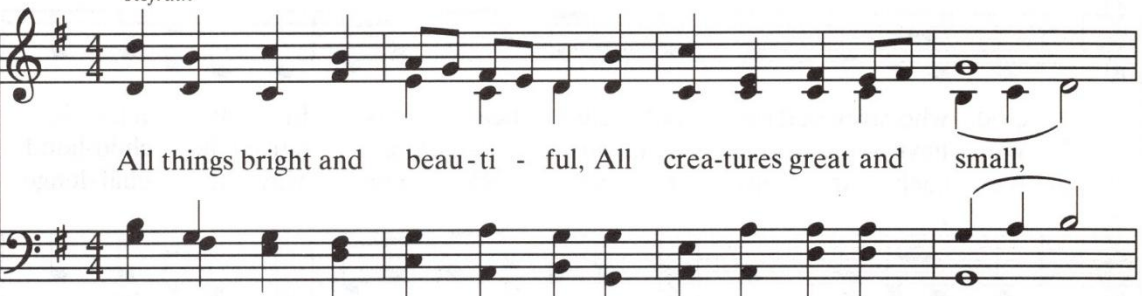
OPENING HYMN

All Things Bright and Beautiful

Cecil Frances Alexander, 1848

English melody, 17th century
Adapt. Martin Shaw, 1915
Harm. for *The Hymnbook*, 1953

Refrain

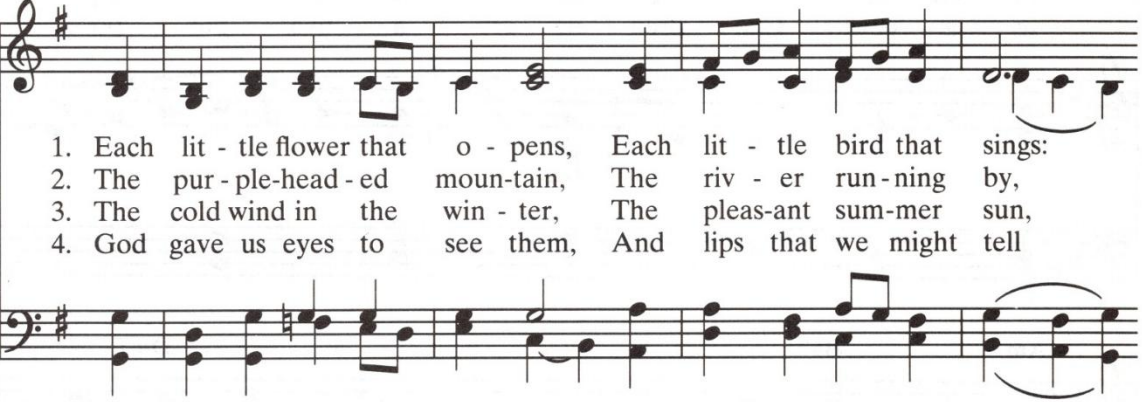


All things bright and beau-ti - ful, All crea-tures great and small,

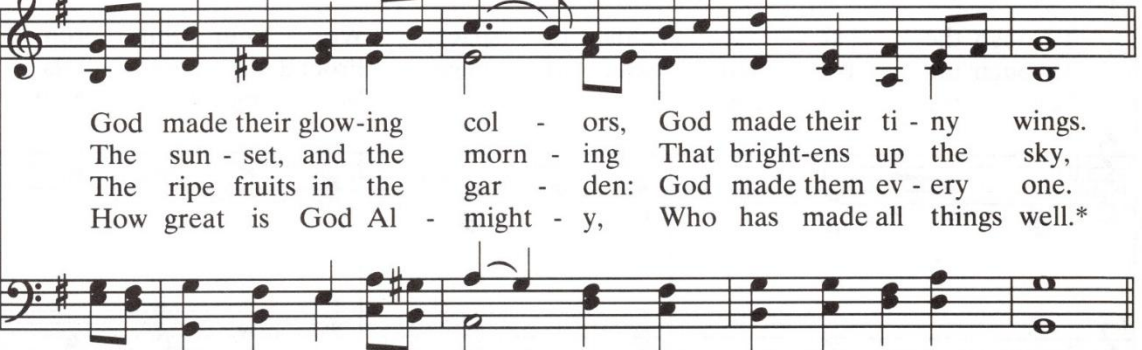
Fine



All things wise and won - der - ful: The Lord God made them all.



1. Each lit - tle flower that o - pens, Each lit - tle bird that sings:
2. The pur - ple-head - ed moun-tain, The riv - er run - ning by,
3. The cold wind in the win - ter, The pleas-ant sum-mer sun,
4. God gave us eyes to see them, And lips that we might tell



God made their glow-ing col - ors, God made their ti - ny wings.
The sun - set, and the morn - ing That bright-ens up the sky,
The ripe fruits in the gar - den: God made them ev - ery one.
How great is God Al - might - y, Who has made all things well.*

Music: Harmonization copyright, MCMLV, by John Ribble; renewed 1983; from *The Hymnbook*, published by Westminster Press.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious Lord, you are the Lord of our lives and we are your servants. You have uniquely created each of us and called us together to strengthen and support one another in the work of your kingdom. But too often, we allow our differences to divide us, rather than embracing them as a gift for the work you've entrusted to us. We confess that we have not always listened with open hearts or seen with open eyes the needs of those around us. Forgive us, O Lord. Open our hearts to your love, our ears to your call, our eyes to the needs of the world, and our spirits to do your will. Grant us courage and inspiration to be faithful servants, empowered by your Spirit to move forward in the work you have set before us. We ask for your grace to renew us for the future of your world...Time of silent reflection

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Hear the good news: God does not leave us in our failures. The Spirit of the Lord is upon us, renewing our hearts and empowering us to live out our calling. As we confess our shortcomings, God lifts us up, strengthens us, and equips us for the work of God's kingdom. Thanks be to God. Amen.

SEASONAL RESPONSE

John Greenleaf Whittier, 1872

Frederick Charles Maker, 1887

1. *Dear Lord and Fa - ther of man - kind, For - give our fool - ish
ways; Re - clothe us in our right - ful mind, In
pur - er lives Thy ser - vice find, In deep - er rev - erence, praise.

The musical score is written on three staves in treble clef, with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The first staff contains the first line of the response, the second staff contains the second line, and the third staff contains the third line. The music ends with a double bar line.

THE WORD OF GOD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING Deuteronomy 8:1-14

SERMON

HYMN

Sing Praise to God, Who Reigns Above

Johann Jacob Schütz, 1675; alt.
Trans. Frances Elizabeth Cox, 1864; alt.

Bohemian Brethren's *Kirchengesang*, 1566
Harm. Maurice F. Bell, 1906

*
1. Sing praise to God, who reigns a - bove, The God of all cre -
2. What God's al-might - y power hath made, God's gra - cious mer - cy
3. The Lord is nev - er far a - way, But through all grief dis -
4. Thus all my glad-some way a - long, I sing a - loud Thy

a - tion, The God of power, the God of love, The God of
keep - eth; By morn-ing glow or eve-ning shade God's watch - ful
tress - ing, An ev - er pres - ent help and stay, Our peace, and
prais - es That all may hear the grate-ful song My voice un -

our sal - va - tion; With heal-ing balm my soul is filled, And
eye ne'er sleep - eth; With - in the king-dom of God's might, Lo!
joy, and bless - ing; As with a moth-er's ten - der hand, God
wea - ried rais - es. Be joy - ful in the Lord, my heart, Both

ev - ery faith-less mur-mur stilled:
all is just and all is right:
gent-ly leads the cho-sen band: To God all praise and glo - ry!
soul and bod - y take your part:

OUR RESPONSE TO THE WORD

ANNOUNCEMENTS, CELEBRATIONS, AND PRAYER REQUESTS

OFFERING ANNOUNCEMENT

SONG OF PRAISE

4 This gift we now bring, this present, this token,
these words can't convey it, the joy of this day!
When grateful we come, remembering, rejoicing,
this song we now offer in honor and praise!

Text and music: Jane Marshall (b. 1924)

© 1982, Hope Publishing Co.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Loving and merciful God, we lay before your altar our successes and struggles, our hopes and hardships. We know that, in all circumstances, you stand ready to bless. Our gifts to you are borne of the hardships and struggles we face in life, so that our giving truly is an act of faith and love for you. We pray that you will bless our offerings today, but even more, our desire to serve you. Let your Spirit flow through these gifts, that they may support the work of your reign. Let us never forget that, whether wealthy or poor, we stand before you as humble and obedient servants. In the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

.

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth,

And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father almighty. From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PASTORAL PRAYER with the Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

HYMN

Lead On, O King Eternal

Ernest W. Shurtleff, 1888

Henry Thomas Smart, c. 1835

1. Lead on, O King e - ter - nal, The day of march has come;
 2. Lead on, O King e - ter - nal, Till sin's fierce war shall cease,
 3. Lead on, O King e - ter - nal: We fol - low, not with fears;

Hence-forth in fields of con - quest Thy tents shall be our home:
 And ho - li - ness shall whis - per The sweet a - men of peace;
 For glad-ness breaks like morn - ing Wher - e'er Thy face ap - pears;

Through days of prep - a - ra - tion Thy grace has made us strong,
 For not with swords' loud clash - ing, Nor roll of stir-ring drums;
 Thy cross is lift - ed o'er us; We jour-ney in its light:

And now, O King e - ter - nal, We lift our bat - tle song.
 With deeds of love and mer - cy The heaven-ly king-dom comes.
 The crown a - waits the con - quest; Lead on, O God of might.

CLOSING BLESSING

POSTLUDE

Fugue in C Major

J.S. Bach