

Hymns for Children (1787)¹
[Baker list, #445; abridgment of #258]

Editorial Introduction:

When John Wesley visited the German Moravians at Herrnhut, he made note of an item (#12) in their constitution: “ Our little children we instruct chiefly by hymns; whereby we find the most important truths most successfully insinuated into their minds” (see his *Journal*, 11–14 Aug. 1738). Encouraged by this precedent, John Wesley published a short volume of *Hymns for Children* (1747), including nine hymns drawn from *HSP* (1740), *CPH* (1741), and *HSP* (1742).

Charles Wesley shared the concern of providing appropriate singing material for those of younger years, and published a much longer collection of *Hymns for Children* in 1763. This collection was quite successful, going through four editions in two decades.

In 1787 an abridged form of *Hymns for Children* (1763) was published. Given Charles’s declining health, the abridgment and scattered editorial changes were surely done by John Wesley, who added a preface to a 1790 reprint.

Editions:

[Charles Wesley.] *Hymns for Children*. [Abridged by John Wesley.] [London: Paramore, 1787].
London: New Chapel, 1790. [preface added]

Preface added to 1790 edition on p. iii:

There are two ways of writing or speaking to children: the one is to let ourselves down to them, the other to lift them up to us. Dr. Watts has wrote on the former way, and has succeeded admirably well speaking to children as children, and leaving them as he found them. The following hymns are written on the other plan. They contain strong and manly sense, yet expressed in such plain and easy language as even children may understand. But when they do understand them they will be children no longer, only in years and in stature.

¹This document was produced by the Duke Center for Studies in the Wesleyan Tradition under editorial direction of Randy L. Maddox, with the diligent assistance of Aileen F. Maddox. Last updated: April 13, 2017.

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**HYMNS
FOR
CHILDREN.**

**Hymn 1.²
Of God.**

- 1 Hail Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
One God in Persons Three,
Of thee we make our early boast,
Our songs we make of thee.
- 2 Thou neither canst be felt or seen,
Thou art a Spirit pure,
Who from eternity hast been,
And always shalt endure.
- 3 Present alike in every place,
Thy Godhead we adore,
Beyond the bounds of time and space
Thou dwell'st for evermore.
- 4 In wisdom infinite thou art,
Thine eye doth all things see,
And every thought of every heart
Is fully known to thee.

²Appeared first in *Hymns for Children* (1763), 3–4.

- 5 Whate'er thou wilt, in earth below
 Thou dost, in heav'n above:
But chiefly we rejoice to know
 Th' Almighty God is love.
- 6 Thou lov'st whate'er thy hands have made;
 Thy goodness we rehearse,
In shining characters displayed
 Throughout the³ universe.
- 7 Mercy, and love, and endless grace
 O'er all thy works do⁴ reign:
But mostly thou delight'st to bless
 Thy fav'rite creature, man.
- 8 Wherefore let every creature give
 To thee the praise designed;
But chiefly, Lord, the thanks receive,
 The hearts of all mankind.

Hymn 2.⁵
Of the Redemption of Man.

- 1 Saviour from sin, from death, from hell,
 Thee, Jesus Christ, with joy we own,
The man who loved our souls so well,
 The Father's everlasting Son.
- 2 Thou for our sake a man wast made,
 The burden of a virgin's womb,
Didst live and suffer in our stead,
 And rise triumphant from the tomb.
- 3 What hath thy death for sinners gained?
 What hath thy life to sinners giv'n?
For every soul of man obtained
 Pardon, and holiness, and heav'n.

³1763 original read "our universe."

⁴1763 original read "doth reign."

⁵Appeared first in *Hymns for Children* (1763), 5–6.

- 4 Soon as our broken hearts repent,
 Soon as I do in thee believe,
The power into my soul is sent,
 And then my pardon I receive.

Hymn 3.⁶

The Same [Of the Redemption of Man].

- 1 Come, Holy Ghost, the grace impart,
 Reveal the dying deity,
And feelingly convince my heart
 He loved, and gave himself for me.
- 2 The pardon on my conscience seal,
 Inspire the sense of sin forgiv'n,
And all my newborn soul shall feel
 That holiness is present heav'n.

Hymn 4.⁷

- 1 Teacher, guide of young beginners,
 Let a child approach to thee,
Thee, who cam'st to ransom sinners,
 Thee who diedst to ransom me:
Into thy protection take me,
 Full of goodness as thou art,
After thine⁸ own image make me,
 Make me after thy own heart.
- 2 Exercise the potter's power,
 Over this unshapen clay:
Call me in the morning-hour,
 Teach my simpleness the way:
With a tender awe inspire,
 That I never more may rove;
The faint spark of good desire
 Blow into a flame of love.

⁶Appeared first in *Hymns for Children* (1763), 6; stanzas 3–4.

⁷Appeared first in *Hymns for Children* (1763), 11–12.

⁸1763 original read “thy own.”

- 3 O my everlasting lover,
Thee that I may love again,
To mine inmost soul discover
All thy dying love for man;
By thy Spirit's inspiration
Make thy depths of mercy known,
Seal the heir of true⁹ salvation,
Then translate me to thy throne.

Hymn 5.¹⁰

- 1 Almighty God, to thee I cry,
Assist a child's infirmity,
Nor let me with my lips draw nigh,
While my heart wanders far from thee.
- 2 Ah, never let me speak a word,
But what with all my soul I mean;
Or lie to thee, thou glorious Lord,
By whom my every thought is seen.
- 3 With what submissive lowliness
Shall I approach thy gracious throne?
How can I hope by words to please,
To please a God I have not known?
- 4 I know not what to do, or say,
Till I thy blessed Spirit receive,
And Jesus teaches me to pray,
And Jesus teaches me to live.

Hymn 6.¹¹

- 1 O thou whom none hath seen or known,
But he that in thy bosom lies,
Thine heav'nly best-beloved Son,
Creator both of earth and skies,
He only knows and can explain
Thy Godhead to the sons of men.

⁹1763 original read "sure salvation."

¹⁰Appeared first in *Hymns for Children* (1763), 12.

¹¹Appeared first in *Hymns for Children* (1763), 14.

- 2 Not all the things we read or hear
Can thee unto our souls reveal,
Not all the art of man declare;
Thy Spirit must the secret tell,
Into our deepest darkness shine,
And manifest the things divine.
- 3 Father of everlasting grace,
The Spirit of the¹² Son impart,
To us who humbly seek thy face,
Who pray for light with all our heart,
And long to know thy blessed will,
And all thy counsel to fulfil.

Hymn 7.¹³

- 1 All pow'r to save, O Lord, is thine,
Receive this ruined soul of mine,
Upon thy mercy cast;
Do with me what, and as thou wilt
But th'roughly purge away my guilt,
And save my soul at last.
- 2 What I into thy hands commend,
Keep, and continue to defend,
In humble faith I pray,
Evil and danger turn aside,
And me, and my companions hide,
Against that awful day.
- 3 Then, Lord, by thine almighty pow'r
Our bodies and our souls restore,
Committed to thy care;
Our hidden life with Christ reveal,
And lift us to thy heav'nly hill,
To see thy glory there.

¹²1763 original read "thy Son."

¹³Appeared first in *Hymns for Children* (1763), 15.

Hymn 8.¹⁴

- 1 God is goodness, wisdom, pow'r,
Love him, praise him evermore,
Let us strive and never cease,
Him in every thing to please.
- 2 Born for this intent we are,
Our Creator to declare,
God to love, and serve, and praise,
God to honour all our days.
- 3 Lift we then our hearts to God,
Like the church above employed,
Day and night the angels sing
Praises to their heav'nly King.
- 4 Him that sitteth on the throne,
Him that died for man t' atone,
God and the triumphant Lamb,
They eternally proclaim.
- 5 Let us then to God aspire,
Rivals of the heav'nly choir;
Cherubim our faces wear,
Let us their enjoyments share.
- 6 Holy, holy, holy Lord,
Live by heav'n and earth adored,
Filled with thee let all things cry,
Glory be to God most high!

Hymn 9.¹⁵

- 1 Father of mercies, show
What we by nature were,
Children of wrath, and doomed below
Eternal pains to bear;

¹⁴Appeared first in *Hymns for Children* (1763), 17–18.

¹⁵Appeared first in *Hymns for Children* (1763), 20; stanzas 2–5.

When Jesus Christ thy Son
For helpless sinners died,
That all who trust in him alone,
May know thee pacified.

2 In him if we believe,
Thy mercies we partake,
Who all good things art pleased to give
To man for Jesu's sake:
We durst not ask thine aid,
Or hope t' obtain thy love,
But that his blood for us was shed,
And speaks for us above.

3 Wherefore to thee we cry,
Through thy beloved Son,
And fix on him our steadfast eye,
Who stands before thy throne;
The good desires we feel,
From him, we own, they came,
And then,¹⁶ according to thy will,
Present in Jesu's name.

4 Our prayers to his unite,
And as thy Son's receive,
And give, who ask in Jesu's right,
To us thy blessing give,
Whate'er we thus desire,
The suit of Jesus is:
Hear then, and raise thy glory higher,
By our eternal bliss.

Hymn 10.¹⁷

1 Teacher of babes to thee,
I for instruction flee;
In my natural estate,
Thee, my God, I cannot know;
Let thy grace illuminate,
Thee let thy own Spirit show.

¹⁶1763 original read "And them."

¹⁷Appeared first in *Hymns for Children* (1763), 22–23.

2 Ah, give me other eyes
 Than flesh and blood supplies,
Spiritual discernment give:
 Then command the light to shine,
Then I shall the truth receive,
 Know by faith the things divine.

3 For this I ever pray,
 The darkness chase away
From a foolish, feeble mind,
 Humbly offered up to thee:
Help me, Lord; my soul is blind,
 Give me light, and eyes to see.

4 Thou seest my heart's desire,
 Whate'er thy laws require
Freely, faithfully to do:
 But I know not how t' obey;
Till thy Spirit lend a clue;
 Pointing out the living way.

5 Now, Father, send him down,
 To make thy Godhead known,
Let him thee in Christ reveal,
 Now diffuse thy blood¹⁸ abroad,
Show me things unsearchable,
 All the heights and depths of God.

Hymn 11.¹⁹

1 Foolish, ignorant, and blind,
 Is sinful, short-lived man,
All which in the world we find
 Is perishing and vain,
Man must quickly turn to dust,
The world will be destroyed by fire;
Who would then on either trust
 Or dotingly admire?

¹⁸1763 original read "thy love."

¹⁹Appeared first in *Hymns for Children* (1763), 24–25.

- 2 God is good, and great alone,
 In wisdom infinite:
 Let us render him his own,
 And still in God delight,
 Fix on him our trust, and choice,
And sing, and wonder and adore,
 In his holy will rejoice,
 And triumph evermore.

Hymn 12.²⁰

- 1 Rejoice in the Lord, rejoice evermore!
 Who gave us the word, shall give us the pow'r:
 His grace is a treasure, which when we obtain,
 Obedience is pleasure, and duty is gain.
- 2 The pleasure and gain of them that believe,
 The reason of man can never conceive:
 Too big for expression the comfort and peace,
 'Tis present possession of heavenly bliss.
- 3 Who share it above, they never can lose
 His heav'nly love, or forfeit, like us,
 Immanuel's favour, and therefore they rest
 Wrapped up in their Saviour, and perfectly blest.

Hymn 13.²¹

- 1 Come let us embrace,
 In our earliest days,
 The offers of life and salvation by grace;
 Let us gladly believe,
 And the pardon receive,
 Which the Father of mercies through Jesus doth give.

²⁰Appeared first in *Hymns for Children* (1763), 26.

²¹Appeared first in *Hymns for Children* (1763), 28.

- 2 His kingdom below
He hath called us to know,
And in stature and heav'nly wisdom to grow;
In his work to remain,
Till his image we gain,
And the fulness of Christ in perfection attain.
- 3 Then let us begin,
By renouncing all sin,
And expecting the blood that shall wash our hearts clean:
With endeavour sincere
To Jesus draw near,
And be instant in prayer till our Saviour appear.
- 4 If now thou art nigh,
Appear at our cry,
Thy love to reveal, and thy blood to apply,
Thy little ones own,
And perfect in one,
And admit us at last to a share of thy throne.

Hymn 14.²²

- 1 Holy child of heav'nly birth,
God made manifest on earth,
Fain I would thy follower be,
Live in every thing like thee.
- 2 Thou whom angels serve and fear,
Subject to thy parents here,
Didst to me the pattern give,
How with mine I ought to live.
- 3 Teach me then betimes t' obey
Those who under God bear sway:
Masters, ministers to love,
All their just commands approve.

²²Appeared first in *Hymns for Children* (1763), 29–30.

- 4 Let me to my betters bend,
Never wilfully offend,
By my meek submissiveness
Strive both God and them to please.
- 5 Thy humility impart,
Give me thy obedient heart,
Free and cheerful to fulfil
All my heav'nly Father's will.
- 6 Keep me thus to God resigned,
Till his love delights to find
Fairly copied out on me,
All the mind that²³ was in thee.

Hymn 15.²⁴

- 1 The Lord he knows the thoughts of men,
That they are foolish all and vain,
Till chastened by affliction's rod,
The sinners mourn, and turn to God.
- 2 O might his grace victorious prove,
And draw us with the cords of love,
To seek him in the dawn of day,
And gladly from our hearts obey.
- 3 Father the kind instruction give,
And let us now begin to live,
To live the life of piety,
To live like creatures born for thee.
- 4 Taught by the Spirit of thy grace
O may we rightly count our days,
To wisdom's rules our hearts apply,
And warm in life prepare to die.

²³1763 original read "which was."

²⁴Appeared first in *Hymns for Children* (1763), 31–32.

- 5 And when our spirits we resign
 Into those gracious hands of thine,
 Thy newborn children, Lord, receive,
 With thee eternally to live.

Hymn 16.²⁵

- 1 Let children proclaim their Saviour and King!
 To Jesus's name hosannas we sing,
 Our best adoration to Jesus we give,
 Who purchased salvation for all to receive.
- 2 The meek Lamb of God from heaven came down,
 And ransomed with blood, and made us his own;
 He suffered to save us from sin and from thrall,
 And Jesus shall have us, who purchased us all.
- 3 To him will we give our earliest days,
 And thankfully live, to publish his praise,
 Our lives shall confess him who came from above,
 Our tongues they shall bless him, and tell of his love.
- 4 In innocent songs his comings²⁶ we shout:
 Should we hold our tongues, the stones would cry out:
 But him without ceasing we all will proclaim,
 And ever be blessing our Jesus's name.

Hymn 17.²⁷

- 1 Father, with joy we praise
 Thy providential care,
 Snatched in our youthful days
 From sin and Satan's snare.

²⁵Appeared first in *Hymns for Children* (1763), 33.

²⁶1763 original read "coming."

²⁷Appeared first in *Hymns for Children* (1763), 42–43.

We own and thankfully approve
Thy merciful design,
And vow to seek the things above,
And live entirely thine.

2 But vain our vows we know,
And strongest promises,
Unless our God bestow,
The power himself to please:
Nor men, nor means can change the heart,
Or render it sincere,
Till thou the principle impart,
Of godly, gracious fear.

3 Hear then thy children's call,
Fulfil thy own desire,
And kindle in us all
A spark of heav'nly fire,
A taste of God, a seed of grace
Let every soul receive,
And now begin the Christian race,
And now begin to live.

4 Trained up in the true way
Wherein we ought to go,
Preserve us, lest we stray,
When more in years we grow:
O let us not, when old, depart
From our integrity,
But love our God with all our heart,
And live and die to thee.

Hymn 18.²⁸
Before School.

1 Father, to thee our souls we raise
And for a blessing look,
Prevent, and help us by thy grace,
In learning of our book.

²⁸Appeared first in *Hymns for Children* (1763), 47.

- 2 Give us an humble, active mind,
From sloth and folly free,
Give us a cheerful heart, inclined
To truth and piety.
- 3 A faithful memory bestow,
With solid learning store,
And still, O Lord, as more we know,
Let us obey thee more.
- 4 Let us things excellent discern,
Hold fast what we approve,
And above all delight to learn,
The lessons of thy love.

Hymn 19.²⁹
Against Lying.

- 1 Happy the well-instructed youth
Who in his earliest infancy,
Loves from his heart to speak the truth,
And like his God abhors a lie.
- 2 He that has³⁰ practised no deceit
With false equivocating tongue,
Nor ev'n³¹ durst o'erreach, or cheat,
Or sland'rously his neighbour wrong:
- 3 He in the house of God shall dwell,
He on his holy hill shall rest,
The comforts of religion feel,
And then be numbered with the blest.
- 4 But who or guile or falsehood use,
Or take God's name in vain, or swear,
Or ever lie themselves t' excuse,
They shall their dreadful sentence bear.

²⁹Appeared first in *Hymns for Children* (1763), 50.

³⁰1763 original read "hath practised."

³¹1763 original read "Nor ever."

- 5 The Lord, the true and faithful Lord,
Himself hath said, that every liar,
Shall surely meet his just reward,
Assigned him in eternal fire.

Hymn 20.³²
For the Lord's Day.

- 1 Come, let us join with one accord,
In hymns around the throne!
This is the day our rising Lord
Hath made and called his own.
- 2 This is the day which God hath blest,
The brightest of the seven,
Type of that everlasting rest
The saints enjoy in heaven.
- 3 Then let us in his name sing on,
And hasten to that day,
When our Redeemer shall come down,
And shadows pass away.
- 4 Not one, but all our days below,
Let us in hymns employ,
And in our Lord, rejoicing, go
To his eternal joy.

HYMNS FOR THE YOUNGEST.

Hymn 21.³³

[Part 1.]

- 1 Gentle Jesus, meek and mild,
Look upon a little child,
Pity my simplicity,
Suffer me to come to thee.

³²Appeared first in *Hymns for Children* (1763), 56.

³³Appeared first in *HSP* (1742), 194–95; included here through *Hymns for Children* (1763), 65–66.

- 2 Fain I would to thee be brought,
Dearest God, forbid it not:
Give me, dearest God, a place
In the kingdom of thy grace.
- 3 Put thy hands upon my head,
Let me in thine arms be staid,
Let me lean upon thy breast,
Lull me, lull me, Lord to rest.
- 4 Hold me fast in thine embrace,
Let me see thy smiling face,
Give me, Lord, thy blessing give,
Pray for me, and I shall live.
- 5 I shall live the simple life,
Free from sin's uneasy strife,
Sweetly ignorant of ill,
Innocent and happy still.
- 6 O that I may never know,
What the wicked people do!
Sin is contrary to thee,
Sin is the forbidden tree.
- 7 Keep me from the great offence,
Guard my helpless innocence,
Hide me from all evil hide,
Self, and stubbornness and pride.

Hymn 22.³⁴

Part 2.

- 1 Lamb of God, I look to thee,
Thou shalt my example be,
Thou art gentle, meek, and mild,
Thou wast once a little child.

³⁴Appeared first in *HSP* (1742), 194–95; included here through *Hymns for Children* (1763), 66.

- 2 Fain I would be as thou art,
Give me thy obedient heart;
Thou art pitiful and kind,
Let me have thy loving mind.
- 3 Meek, and lowly may I be,
Thou art all humility!
Let me to my betters bow,
Subject to thy parents thou.
- 4 Let me above all fulfil
God my heav'nly Father's will,
Never his good Spirit grieve,
Only to his glory live.
- 5 Thou didst live to God alone,
Thou didst never seek thine own,
Thou thyself didst never please,
God was all my³⁵ happiness.
- 6 Loving Jesus, gentle Lamb,
In thy gracious hands I am,
Make me, Saviour, what thou art,
Live thyself within my heart.
- 7 I shall then show forth thy praise,
Serve thee all my happy days,
Then the world shall always see
Christ, the holy child in me.

Hymn 23.³⁶

- 1 Lamb of God, I fain would be
A meek follower of thee,
Gentle, tractable, and mild,
Loving as a little child.
- 2 Simple, ignorant of ill,
Guided by another's will,
Trusting him for heav'nly food,
Casting all my care on God.

³⁵1763 original read "all thy."

³⁶Appeared first in *HSP* (1742), 196–97; included here through *Hymns for Children* (1763), 67.

- 3 Let me in thy footsteps tread,
Be to all the creatures dead,
Dead to pleasure, wealth, and praise,
Poor, and humble all my days.
- 4 Prepossess my tender mind,
Let me cast the world behind,
All its pomps and pleasures vain,
Help me, Saviour to disdain.
- 5 Thou my better portion art,
Earth shall never share my heart,
I on all its goods look down,
I expect a starry crown.
- 6 I aspire to things above,
Lord, I give thee all my love,
I will nothing know beside,
Jesus, and him crucified.

Hymn 24.³⁷

- 1 Come let us join the hosts above,
Now in our youngest days,
Remember our Creator's love,
And lisp our Father's praise.
- 2 His majesty will not despise
The day of feeble things:
Grateful the songs of children rise,
And please the King of kings.
- 3 We all his kind protection share,
Within his arms we rest:
The sucklings are his tenderest care,
While hanging on the breast.
- 4 We praise him with a stamm'ring tongue,
While under his defence,
He smiles to hear the artless³⁸ song
Of childish³⁹ innocence.

³⁷Appeared first in *HSP* (1742), 197–98; included here through *Hymns for Children* (1763), 68–69.

³⁸“Artless” changed to “childish” in 2nd edn. (1790).

³⁹“Childish” changed to “artless” in 2nd edn. (1790).

- 5 He loves to be remembered thus,
And honoured for his grace,
Out of the mouth of babes like us,
His wisdom perfects praise.
- 6 Glory to God, and praise, and pow'r,
Honour and thanks be given,
Children, and cherubim, adore
The Lord of earth and heaven!

Hymn 25.⁴⁰

- 1 O happy state of infancy!
Strangers to guilty fears,
We live from sin and sorrow free,
In these our tender years.
- 2 Jesus the Lord, our shepherd is,
And did our souls redeem,
Our present and eternal bliss,
Are both secured in him.
- 3 His mercy every sinner claims;
For all his flock he cares,
The sheep he gently leads, the lambs
He in his bosom bears.
- 4 Loving he is to all his sons,
Who hearken to his call,
But us, his weak, his little ones,
He loves us best of all.
- 5 If unto us our friends are good,
'Twas he their hearts inclined,
He bids our fathers give us food,
And makes our mothers kind.
- 6 Then let us thank him for his grace,
He will not disapprove
Our meanest sacrifice of praise,
Our childish prattling love.

⁴⁰Appeared first in *HSP* (1742), 198–99; included here through *Hymns for Children* (1763), 69–70.

Hymn 26.⁴¹

- 1 Come let us our good God proclaim
 By earth and heaven adored;
 Children are bid to praise his name,
 And magnify the Lord.
- 2 Let us with all his saints agree,
 With all his hosts above;
 Part of his family are we,
 His family of love.
- 3 Worthless are our best offerings,
 Our songs are void of art,
 Yet God accepts the smallest things,
 Giv'n with a willing heart.
- 4 Us for the sake of Christ he loves
 Who did our souls redeem,
 And all our childish thoughts approves,
 When offered up through him.
- 5 He makes us his peculiar care;
 While by his Spirit led,
 We all his genuine children are,
 And on his bounty feed.
- 6 Though men despise our infancy,
 Angels attend our ways,
 On us they wait, yet always see
 Our heavenly Father's face.
- 7 Surrounded by a flaming host,
 The bright cherubic pow'rs:
 Not all the kings of earth can boast
 Of such a guard as ours.
- 8 And while th' angelic army sings,
 With them we feebly join
 T' extol the glorious King of kings,
 The majesty divine.

⁴¹Appeared first in *HSP* (1742), 200–201; included here through *Hymns for Children* (1763), 70–71.

Hymn 27.⁴²

- 1 Lover of little children, thee,
O Jesus, we adore:
Our kind and loving Saviour be,
Both now and evermore.
- 2 O take us up into thine arms,
And we are truly blest,
Thy newborn babes are safe from harms,
While harboured in thy breast.
- 3 There let us ever, ever sleep,
Strangers to guilt and care,
Free from the world of evil keep
Our tender spirits there.
- 4 Still as we grow in years, in grace
And wisdom let us grow,
But never leave thy dear embrace,
But never evil know.
- 5 Strong let us in thy grace abide,
But ignorant of ill;
In malice, subtlety and pride,
Let us be children still.
- 6 Lover of little children, thee,
O Jesus, we adore,
Our kind and loving Saviour be
Both now and evermore.

Hymn 28.⁴³

- [1] Jesus, Son of David, hear,
Thou whom angels glorify,
Bless thine infant-worshipper,
Me who now hosanna cry,

⁴²Appeared first in *HSP* (1742), 201–2; included here through *Hymns for Children* (1763), 71.

⁴³Appeared first in *Hymns for Children* (1763), 72.

Hardly understand the word,
Yet I humbly pray for grace,
Teach my heart to call thee Lord,
Teach my heart to mean thy praise.

2 Me, they say, thy hands have made,
Me, thy precious blood hath bought:
But without thy Spirit's aid,
This surpasses all my thought:
Saviour, to my heart explain,
Maker both of earth and sky,
How could God become a man?
How could God for sinners die?

3 Take me young into thy school,
Me, in my simplicity,
By the⁴⁴ word and Spirit rule,
Thou my kind instructor be:
Then I shall my Master prize,
Then I shall my Saviour love,
Till on angels' wings I rise,
Rise, and sing thy praise above.

Hymn 29.⁴⁵
For the Morning.

1 Father, I wake thy love to praise,
Which hath my weakness kept,
Thy mercy did the angels place,
To guard me while I slept.

2 I laid me down in peace, and rise
Thy goodness to proclaim,
Present my morning sacrifice,
My thanks in Jesu's name.

⁴⁴1763 original read "thy word."

⁴⁵Appeared first in *Hymns for Children* (1763), 72–73.

- 3 Because he bought me with his blood,
Into thy favour take,
And still be merciful and good
To me for Jesu's sake:
- 4 Throughout this day thy mercy show,
And still thy child defend,
Till all my spotless life below
In heav'nly glories end.

Hymn 30.⁴⁶
For the Evening.

- 1 Saviour, thou hast bestowed on me
The blessing of the light,
And wilt my kind preserver be
Through this approaching night:
- 2 Evil from me far off remove,
That with thy favour blest,
Beneath the shadow of thy love
I in thine arms may rest.
- 3 Thy gracious eye which never sleeps
Is always fixed on man;
Thy love the slumb'ring children keeps
From sorrow, fear, and pain.
- 4 Wherefore I safely lay me down,
And trust myself to thee,
The Father's well-beloved Son,
Whoever pray'st for me.

Hymn 31.⁴⁷

- 1 Hosanna to him who ruleth on high!
A world to redeem, he came from the sky;
Th' Almighty Creator (O how could it be?)
Appear'd in our nature, an infant like me.

⁴⁶Appeared first in *Hymns for Children* (1763), 73.

⁴⁷Appeared first in *Hymns for Children* (1763), 73–74.

- 2 Who all the bright train angelical made,
Subjected to man, his parents obeyed,
On sinners attended, their minister was,
And patiently ended his life on a cross.
- 3 O how shall I praise thy wonderful love?
Thy Spirit of grace send down from above;
If still the dear lover of children thou art,
My Saviour, discover thyself to my heart.

Hymn 32.⁴⁸

- 1 The children in their earliest days
To Jesus brought, are truly blest:
He folds them in his kind embrace,
He warms them in his tender breast.
- 2 One of those happy children, me
Saviour, into thy arms receive,
Brought by my parents' prayers to thee,
O may I in thy kingdom live.
- 3 They tell me thou art good indeed,
And would'st to all thy grace impart;
Put then thy hands upon my head,
Put faith into my simple heart.
- 4 Thee may I for my portion choose,
To thee through life obedient prove,
And now obtain, and never lose
The blessing of my Saviour's love.

Hymn 33.⁴⁹

- 1 In my earliest hour
I acknowledge thy pow'r,
Thy wisdom approve,
And am taught by my parents to pray for thy love:

⁴⁸Appeared first in *Hymns for Children* (1763), 74.

⁴⁹Appeared first in *Hymns for Children* (1763), 75; stanzas 2–3.

Thee, an infant of days
With wonder I praise,
Thee God⁵⁰ over all
I confess, and on thee for salvation I call.

- 2 Let mercy attend,
My soul to defend
From offences and sins,
While I scarcely can tell what iniquity means;
But deliver thine own
From the evil unknown,
And assist me to cry,
“Let me live to be good, or in innocence die!”

Hymn 34.⁵¹

- 1 In vain are children taught to pray,
Or praise a God unknown:
Christ is the true and living way,
And God and Christ are one.
- 2 Whene'er we think on God most high,
Whene'er his praise proclaim,
We think on him who stooped to die,
We bow to Jesu's name.
- 3 My God in Jesus reconciled,
Declare thyself to me,
If still an uncorrupted child,
Yet still I know not thee.
- 4 To make my sinful nature pure,
Thy Spirit, Lord, impart,
And me from actual sin secure,
By dwelling in my heart.

⁵⁰1763 original read “Thee the God”; which throws off the metre.

⁵¹Appeared first in *Hymns for Children* (1763), 77.

Hymn 35.⁵²

O might I in my youthful days
Reflect on my Creator's grace,
Call on my heav'nly Father's name,
Whose mercy made me what I am,
Whose love out of his bosom gave
His only Son, a world to save,
To buy, and wash me with his blood,
And bring my newborn soul to God.

Hymn 36.⁵³

- 1 Children have a right to sing
Praises to their Infant-King,
Tell how Christ the holy child
God and man hath reconciled.
- 2 Whom the heav'ns cannot contain,
Very God and very man,
God was in his infancy,
Weak and ignorant like me.
- 3 Wherefore did he stoop so low?
Jesus, help my heart to know,
Thou who didst my flesh receive,
Unto me thy Spirit give.
- 4 Thus explain the mystery;
Then I shall be one with thee,
Then I shall above the sky
Endless hallelujahs cry.

⁵²Appeared first in *Hymns for Children* (1763), 77.

⁵³Appeared first in *Hymns for Children* (1763), 78.

Hymn 37.⁵⁴

- 1 To God the Creator of all
My earliest tribute I pay,
On him with humility call,
And promise his laws to obey:
I promise alas, but in vain,
Unless he his Spirit bestow,
From folly and sin to restrain,
And keep me wherever I go.

- 2 O Father of mercies, attend,
(Though now I in ignorance cry,)
And teach me on him to depend,
My Advocate there in the sky:
Whatever I ask in the name
Of Jesus, I hear, shall be done,
As due to that innocent Lamb,
As claimed by thine heav'nly Son.

Hymn 38.⁵⁵

- 1 The judge of all shall soon come down,
Bright on his everlasting throne,
Summon the nations to his bar,
And I shall take my trial there.

- 2 Jesus, be now my friend with God,
And wash me in thy precious blood,
That at thy last appearance I
May shouting meet thee in the sky.

Hymn 39.⁵⁶

- 1 Happy beyond description he,
Who in the paths of piety
Loves from his birth to run:

⁵⁴Appeared first in *Hymns for Children* (1763), 78.

⁵⁵Appeared first in *Hymns for Children* (1763), 79–80.

⁵⁶Appeared first in *Hymns for Children* (1763), 80.

Its ways are ways of pleasantness,
And all its paths are joy and peace,
And heav'n on earth begun.

- 2 If this felicity were mine,
I every other would resign
With just and holy scorn;
Cheerful and blithe my way pursue,
And with the promised land in view,
Singing to God return.

Hymn 40.⁵⁷

- 1 O Father, I am but a child,
My body is made of the earth,
My nature alas, is defiled,
And a sinner I was from my birth;
Not worthy to lift up my face
To a God on his heav'nly throne,
Yet allow me to pray for thy grace,
For without it I must be undone.
- 2 I cannot obey thy commands
Unassisted by grace from above:
No grace I deserve at thy hands,
Yet I hope to recover thy love:
Thy mercy is promised to all,
The giver of Jesus thou art,
And therefore attend to my call,
And discover his love to my heart.

Hymn 41.⁵⁸

- 1 To me thy compassion extend,
For the sake of thy heav'nly Son,
From Satan and sin to defend,
And a world full of evil unknown:

⁵⁷Appeared first in *Hymns for Children* (1763), 82.

⁵⁸Appeared first in *Hymns for Children* (1763), 82–83.

An invisible enemy's pow'r
Ever near to destroy me I have,
A lion intent to devour:
Let mercy be nearer to save.

- 2 That mercy I languish to feel,
If mercy infuse the desire,
My need of a Saviour reveal,
My soul with the hunger inspire:
O Father, an infant allure
In a way that I never have known,
And me by thy Spirit assure
That mercy and Jesus are one.

Hymn 42.⁵⁹

- 1 Come, my companions dear,
With mine your voices raise,
Let us with heart sincere
Attempt our Saviour's praise,
And while our souls to heav'n ascend,
Begin the song that ne'er shall end.
- 2 Of whom should children sing,
But of that holy child
Who to their heav'nly King
Hath rebels reconciled?
Peace upon earth he doth bestow:
Rejoice in God revealed below.
- 3 Who earth and heav'n commands
In years and wisdom grew,
Till seized by wicked hands,
They wounded him and slew:
But in his blood our peace is sealed,
And by his wounds our souls are healed!

⁵⁹Appeared first in *Hymns for Children* (1763), 83–84; titled “Thanksgiving.”

- 4 Then let us bless his name,
 And thank him for his grace:
 Worthy is Christ the Lamb
 Of universal praise,
Praise be on him by all bestowed
Who lives, the one eternal God!

Hymn 43.⁶⁰

- 1 Meet and right it is, that I
 Should my Maker glorify,
 Born for this alone I am,
 God to praise through Jesu's name:
 Author of my life, receive
 Praise the best a child can give.
- 2 Teach me as I older grow,
 Thee in Christ aright to know,
 That I may thy blessings prize,
 Bring thee Jesu's sacrifice,
 Thee with understanding praise,
 Love, and serve thee all my days.

Hymn 44.⁶¹

- 1 Praise the Father for his love,
 Christ he sent us from above
 Publish the Redeemer's praise,
 Bless the Spirit of his grace,
 He reveals the Trinity,
 Three in One, and One in Three.
- 2 Glory be to God alone,
 One in Three, and Three in One,
 God from whom all blessings spring
 Every child of Adam sing,
 Praise him all ye heav'nly host,
 Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

⁶⁰Appeared first in *Hymns for Children* (1763), 84.

⁶¹Appeared first in *Hymns for Children* (1763), 84.