

## MS Drew<sup>1</sup>

In the collection of Wesley Family Papers at the Methodist Library of Drew University is a bundle of looseleaf poems, all in the same nineteenth-century hand.<sup>2</sup> The bundle is entitled “Sixty Unpublished Hymns of Revd. Chas. Wesley.”<sup>3</sup> In point of fact, there are sixty-seven hymns on the sheets in the bundle, and most of them had been published by John or Charles Wesley. But a set of six related sheets contain eight hymns that are not among those Wesley published.<sup>4</sup> The first of these eight hymns is clearly by Charles Wesley, because it appears in a looseleaf draft in his hand among the collection at MARC. The clear grouping of the other seven hymns with this one, combined with their strong resonance with Wesley’s style, give solid warrant for considering them genuine as well.

Drew has generously made digital images of the sheets in this bundle of hymns available online through the Cooperative Digital Resources Initiative of the American Theological Library Association. In an appendix to the present file we give a complete list of the images, along with indication of the online address to access the image. We also cite the original location where the hymn was published during Wesley’s life. In the case of the eight hymns that were not published during Wesley’s life, that online address is repeated in the initial footnote for each hymn.

The eight manuscript hymns presented below are generally on unnumbered pages, and the scribe has a tendency to place the stanzas in unusual order on the pages. We present them below on discrete pages for each hymn. Readers will likely want to cite by hymn number rather than page number.

The transcription below is provided with the permission of the Drew Methodist Library.

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<sup>1</sup>This document was produced by the Duke Center for Studies in the Wesleyan Tradition under the editorial direction of Randy L. Maddox, with the diligent assistance of Aileen F. Maddox. Last updated: August 1, 2010.

<sup>2</sup>The bundle uses the same paper stock, bearing a faint watermark: “E Towgood, 1851.”

<sup>3</sup>The hymns are in Folder: 2135-6-4:13. The folder Title: “60 Unpublished Hymns, Undated.”

<sup>4</sup>Numbering shows that there were originally nine hymns, but number II is missing.

**Prayers for the Divine Blessing  
on a Temporal Undertaking.  
Sept 1784.<sup>5</sup>**

1. O God, who dost the motives know  
From which our various actions flow,  
    And what we now intend,  
If Thee our Lawful Purpose please  
Prevent, accompany, and bless  
    With a successful end.
  
2. Unmov'd by avarice or pride  
Things honest, Lord, we woud provide  
    According to thy will,  
And, (while thy hand points out our way,)  
The providential call obey  
    And thy designs fulfil.
  
3. By thy paternal love decreed  
To labour for our daily bread,  
    Our business we pursue,  
In every step look up to Thee,  
And ask, with meek docility,  
    What woudst Thou have us do?
  
4. Who dost from man his purpose hide,  
If from thy path we turn aside,  
    Our wandring feet repress,  
Stop us impatient to proceed,  
Nor let us snatch with eager speed  
    At dangerous success.
  
5. Deceiv'd by each appearance fair,  
The specious bait, the secret snare,  
    Thou know'st we cannot shun,  
Unless we thy direction find,  
Who promisest to bring the blind  
    A way we have not known.

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<sup>5</sup><http://www.atla.com/CDRIImages/WESLEYMS/00000545.pdf> An earlier draft, in Charles Wesley's hand, is present at MARC, MA 1977/583/32, item #7 (present on this online collection in Assorted Looseleaf Manuscript Verse, 23–24). Published posthumously in *Unpublished Poetry*, 3:73–74

6. But thro' the world's insidious arts,  
The labyrinth of human hearts,  
    Thou wilt thy children lead,  
Who biddest us of men beware,  
Thou wilt with kind continued care  
    Supply our every need.
  
7. Thee then we joyfully confess,  
In all our purposes and ways,  
    Disposer of thine own,  
And satisfied with God our Friend,  
Soul, body, and estate commend  
    Into thy hands alone.
  
8. We trust our never failing Guide,  
Thou wilt for all our wants provide,  
    And all our paths attend,  
Giver of every gift and grace,  
Till happily our earthly race  
    In life immortal end.

### III<sup>6</sup>

- [1.] Father, thou know'st whate'er we need  
    Before our wants we own;  
Nor wilt refuse thy children bread,  
    Or mock us with a stone;  
If nature's gifts thou dost bestow  
    They speak the giver kind;  
Not hurtful presents of a foe,  
    But for our good design'd.
- [2.] The talents to my offspring lent  
    I thankfully confess;  
O may they answer thy intent,  
    And use them for thy praise!  
What to put on, and drink, and eat,  
    Hard toiling<sup>7</sup> to procure,  
But more laborious for the meat,  
    Which always shall endure.
- [3.] Thou seest my fears lest thee their God  
    They should forget and slight;  
Follow the unregenerate crowd,  
    And in the world delight;  
To evil with the many run,  
    Fantastic man to please,  
By lawful means, alas, undone,  
    And thro' their own success.
- [4.] But thou can'st turn aside the ill,  
    And pluck them from the flame;  
Can'st from their rash designs conceal  
    And blast their surest aim;  
Or from, or in, the dangerous hour  
    Ready to save thou art;  
To guard from pride and passion's power  
    Their unsuspecting heart.

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<sup>6</sup><http://www.atla.com/CDRIImages/WESLEYMS/00000555.pdf> Published posthumously in *Unpublished Poetry*, 3:423–24. This poem expresses Charles Wesley's well-justified concern that his sons' musical talents might prove a snare.

<sup>7</sup>Ori., "laboring"; with the scribe writing the correction over the original.

[5.] The thing whose consequence unknown  
I tremble to<sup>8</sup> foresee,  
Or let it in thy name be done,  
Or let it never be.  
To thee the matter I resign,  
And in thy pleasure rest;  
For order'd by the will divine,  
Whatever is, is best.

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<sup>8</sup>Ori., "humbly do"; over which the scribe has written the correction.

#### IV<sup>9</sup>

1. O God, from whom our blessings flow,  
Orderer of all events below;  
With gracious smile thy children see  
Who hope success from none but thee.
2. But if thou favour our design  
Tho' men and fiends<sup>10</sup> against us join,  
They cannot thy decree<sup>11</sup> repeal,  
They cannot contradict thy will.
3. The counsel of the Lord shall stand,  
For all bow down to thy command;  
It must be done, whate'er it be,  
And lo! we wait our work to see.
4. Thou wilt not let us hence remove  
Without the convoy of thy love;  
And if thy love our steps attend,  
Our toil on earth in heaven shall end.

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<sup>9</sup><http://www.atla.com/CDRIImages/WESLEYMS/00000546.pdf> Hymns IV and V are on same page, but oddly arranged. Published posthumously in *Unpublished Poetry*, 3:424–25.

<sup>10</sup>Ori., “friends”; over which the scribe has written the correction.

<sup>11</sup>Ori., “design.”; over which the scribe has written the correction.

1. Prosper, for our Redeemer's sake,  
What in his name we undertake,  
Who our appointed task fulfil,  
And serve thy providential will.
2. The gift thou hast on us bestow'd,  
Productive of our needful food,  
As a sure token of thy<sup>13</sup> grace,  
We use it to the Giver's praise.
3. And if we lawfully pursue  
What thou commandest us to do,  
Let it thy approbation meet,  
Or else our surest hopes defeat.
4. A thousand ways thou can'st prevent  
The deed that hath not thy consent;  
And O! forbid it to be done,  
If ours, O Lord, is ours alone.

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<sup>12</sup><http://www.atla.com/CDRIImages/WESLEYMS/00000546.pdf> Hymns IV and V are on same page, but oddly arranged. Published posthumously in *Unpublished Poetry*, 3:425.

<sup>13</sup>Ori., "the"; over which the scribe has written the correction.

VI<sup>14</sup>

- [1.] Except the Lord conduct the plan,  
We put forth all our powers in vain;  
We waste our utmost strength and skill  
For something must be wanting still.
- [2.] Something unmark'd by human eye  
Shortsighted man cannot supply;  
But God, who makes our deed his own,  
And speaks the word, Let it be done.
- [3.] If God upon the action shine  
And stamp it with the stamp divine,  
And graciously vouchsafe to bless,  
His blessing ascertains success.
- [4.] Then all th' opposing mountains flow,  
And God's intent we plainly know;  
And thankful at his feet approve  
The fiat of Almighty love.

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<sup>14</sup><http://www.atla.com/CDRIImages/WESLEYMS/00000550.pdf> Published posthumously in  
*Unpublished Poetry*, 3:425–26.



## VII<sup>15</sup>

1. Man, sinful man, to labour born,  
    And urg'd by the divine command,  
Till, dust he doth to dust return,  
    Idle on earth should never stand;  
But still his six days' work pursue,  
And do what God appoints to do.
  
2. The work, the time, the manner show,  
    And if we now our path mistake,  
No farther suffer us to go,  
    But warn, and stop, and turn us back,  
Who would on thee alone confide,  
And into all thy counsel guide.
  
3. Our way by reason's glimmering light  
    Unable clearly to perceive,  
Teach us to think and act aright,  
    A more distinct direction give;  
And let thy providence declare  
The work it doth for us prepare.

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<sup>15</sup><http://www.atla.com/CDRIImages/WESLEYMS/00000553.pdf> Hymns VII and VIII are on the same page but oddly arranged. Published posthumously in *Unpublished Poetry*, 3:426.

## VIII<sup>16</sup>

1. With readiness and lowly fear  
    We come, O God! to serve thy will,  
Sentenc'd to toil incessant here,  
    And then to rest on Sion's hill.  
But while<sup>17</sup> thy justice we obey  
O let thy love point out our<sup>18</sup> way.
  
2. Infinite in thy means and ways  
    The wants of nature to supply;  
Thou can'st maintain the chosen race,  
    By making windows in the sky,  
Can'st in the barren desert feed,  
Or bid the ravens bring us bread.
  
3. O might we seek the kingdom first,  
    Th' unutterable joy and peace,  
For God the living fountain thirst,  
    And hunger after righteousness;  
We then should by thy promise prove  
The all-sufficient power of love.

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<sup>16</sup><http://www.atla.com/CDRIImages/WESLEYMS/00000553.pdf> Hymns VII and VIII are on the same page but oddly arranged. Published posthumously in *Unpublished Poetry*, 3:417.

<sup>17</sup>Ori., "whilest."

<sup>18</sup>Ori., "the."

IX<sup>19</sup>

- [1.] Safe in all events and blest  
The man who trusts in Thee;  
What shall violate his rest,  
And calm serenity?  
Loss he cannot dread, or pain,  
He cannot disappointment know,  
Confident, the Lord doth reign,  
And orders<sup>20</sup> all below.
- [2.] While on Thee, my God, I wait,  
And on thy word rely,  
Blind, inexorable fate  
And fortune I defy.  
Not by destiny compell'd  
Not by chance at random driven,  
In the hand Almighty held,  
And kept by watchful heaven.<sup>21</sup>
- [3.] Him who for his servant cares  
In all things I respect;  
Him who numbers all my hairs,  
And doth my paths direct:  
He demands my utmost love,  
And loving him with all my heart,  
Neither men nor fiends<sup>22</sup> can move,  
Nor life, nor death can part.
- [4.] Jesus, shelter'd in thy name,  
My adamant tower,  
Thee I joyfully proclaim,  
Supreme in love and power;  
Power that earth and hell controuls,<sup>23</sup>  
Love which none can e'er explain,  
Love that reigns in faithful souls,  
And shall for ever reign.

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<sup>19</sup><http://www.atla.com/CDRIImages/WESLEYMS/00000554.pdf> Published posthumously in *Unpublished Poetry*, 3:428.

<sup>20</sup>Ori., “ordains”; over which the scribe has written the correction.

<sup>21</sup>The second verse is crossed out vertically, presumably as an indication that the copyist did not intend to use it.

<sup>22</sup>Ori., “friends”; over which the scribe has written the correction.

<sup>23</sup>Ori., “confronts.”

## Appendix Contents of MS Drew

The following list identifies the contents of MS Drew, correlated to the address for the online images provided in the ATLA CDRI collection.<sup>24</sup>

Columns give:	1) ATLA CDRI image number <sup>25</sup>		
	2) Any page number or item number on original sheet		
	4) Titles when given		
	5) Where Published (items in <b>red font</b> not published during Wesley's life)		
00000545	I		
00000546	IV–V		
00000547	p. 2		<i>Nativity Hymns</i> (1745), 2–3
00000548		for the Traveller	<i>Intercession Hymns</i> (1758), 23
00000549	p. 26	Fatherless and Widows	<i>Intercession Hymns</i> (1758), 24–25 (combines 2)
00000550	VI		
00000551		Eph. 4:8	<i>CPH</i> (1738), 36–37 (sts. 1, 3, 4)
00000552	1	Luke 2:10	<i>Nativity Hymns</i> (1745), 12–13
00000553	VII–VIII		
00000554	IX		
00000555 [-56]	III		
00000557	p. 14		<i>Scripture Hymns</i> 2:313–14
00000558		Jn 1:12	<i>Scripture Hymns</i> 2:239
00000559 [-60]		To the Trinity	<i>HSP</i> (1742), 121
00000561		1 Cor. 16:14	<i>Scripture Hymns</i> 2:297
00000562		Matt 5:15	<i>Scripture Hymns</i> 2:133
00000563		Jn 14:9	<i>Scripture Hymns</i> 2:257–58, sts. 3–4
00000564	p. 20	1 Pet. 3:8	<i>Scripture Hymns</i> 2:393–94
00000565		Eph. 2:18	<i>Scripture Hymns</i> 2:312
00000566	p. 18	1 Jn. 5:13	<i>Scripture Hymns</i> 2:403
00000567		Rom. 15:2	<i>Scripture Hymns</i> 2:287
00000568		1 Cor. 8:1	<i>Scripture Hymns</i> 2:292
00000569	p. 10	Heb. 7: 25	<i>Scripture Hymns</i> 2:358, sts. 2–3
00000570	p. 13	Rev. 1:4–5	<i>Scripture Hymns</i> 2:412
00000571		Matt 5:14	<i>Scripture Hymns</i> 2:132
00000572	p. 16	Eph. 6:13	<i>Scripture Hymns</i> 2:315
00000573		Luke 13:3	<i>Scripture Hymns</i> 2:224
00000574		Gen. 28:12	<i>Scripture Hymns</i> 1:28
00000575		Rom 12:11	<i>Scripture Hymns</i> 2:285–86
00000576		Rev. 3:20	<i>Scripture Hymns</i> 2:423
00000577		Matt 28:2	<i>Resurrection Hymns</i> , p. 2 (sts. 6ff of hymn 1)
00000578		Mark 5:41	<i>Scripture Hymns</i> 2:203

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<sup>24</sup>The abbreviations stand for The American Theological Library Association Cooperative Digital Resources Initiative.

<sup>25</sup>To access the online image use the following sample address, substituting the desired number:  
<http://www.atla.com/CDRIImages/WESLEYMS/00000545.pdf>.

00000579		Rev. 3:21	<i>Scripture Hymns</i> 2:424
00000580		Gal. 5:22–23	<i>Scripture Hymns</i> 2:309
00000581	p. 9	Heb. 4:15	<i>Scripture Hymns</i> 2:349–50
00000582		Exod. 20:24	<i>Scripture Hymns</i> 1:51
00000583	p. 17	Heb. 4:16	<i>Scripture Hymns</i> 2:351
00000584	p. 4	Jn. 6:63	<i>Scripture Hymns</i> 2:249–50
00000585	p. 22	2 Cor. 13:9	<i>Scripture Hymns</i> 2:305
00000586		Jn. 1:9	<i>Scripture Hymns</i> 2:238–39
00000587		Luke 2:11	<i>Nativity Hymns</i> , 15–16
00000588		1 Cor. 2:2	<i>HSP</i> (1742), 257–58 (sts. 7–8)
00000589		Acts 2:42	<i>Hymns of Intercession</i> (1758), 15–16
00000590	p. 7	Rom. 4:25	<i>Resurrection Hymns</i> , 3–4
00000591	p. 13	Gal. 6:15	<i>Scripture Hymns</i> 2:310–11
00000592		Mark 5:19	<i>Scripture Hymns</i> 2:202–3
00000593		Jn 4:35	<i>Hymns of Intercession</i> (1758), 10.
00000594	p. 23	Job 14:2	<i>Funeral Hymns</i> (1759), 18–19
00000595	p. 8	Jn 14:2–3	<i>Ascension Hymns</i> , 9–10
00000596		Jn 16:7	<i>Whitsunday Hymns</i> , 6–7 (sts. 2–5)
00000597		James 1:4	<i>Scripture Hymns</i> 2:378–69
00000598		Heb. 1:3	<i>Scripture Hymns</i> 2:345–46
00000599 [–600]	p. 11	Ps. 68:18 (600 = p. 11)	<i>Resurrection Hymns</i> , 12–13
00000601	p. 12	Rom. 8:16	<i>Scripture Hymns</i> 2:282
00000602		Rom 8:3–4	<i>Scripture Hymns</i> 2:281
00000603	p. 25	Matt 9:37	<i>Hymns of Intercession</i> (1758), 8–9
00000604		Matt 1:21	<i>HSP</i> (1740), 68–69
00000605		Jn 1:14	<i>Scripture Hymns</i> 2:239–40
00000606 [–7]		James 5:17–18	<i>Scripture Hymns</i> 2:389–90
00000608 [–9]	p. 3	Rev. 2:28 (609 = p. 3)	<i>Scripture Hymns</i> 2:418–189
00000610		Matt 25:33	<i>Scripture Hymns</i> 2:188
00000611	p. 5	Luke 4:19	<i>HSP</i> (1740), 142–46 (sts. 1, 10–12)
00000612		Jn 1:14	<i>Scripture Hymns</i> 2:239–40 (same as 605)