

MS Hymns for Wedding Anniversaries¹

Charles Wesley celebrated his own wedding to Sarah Gwynne, and the first anniversary of that wedding, in verse (see MS Richmond, 45, 123–24). He apparently also wrote anniversary hymns for some of his close friends. There is one manuscript, in particular, containing three hymns for a couple on the anniversary of their wedding. In the margin next to the first hymn, Wesley adds a note that it is for “Mr. and Mrs. B.” This likely designated Wesley’s close friend Ebenezer Blackwell and either his first or second wife (depending on the date, which is not given).

We have placed this set of verse in the “family” subsection of this collection both because the Blackwells were close family friends and because Sarah Wesley Jr. appears to have read the hymns as also reflecting on her parents anniversary as well (see her notation on hymn two).

MS Hymns for Wedding Anniversaries is part of the collection in the Methodist Archive and Research Centre, DDWes 1/45. The transcription below is provided with permission of the Librarian and Director, The John Rylands Library, The University of Manchester.

¹This 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.
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**Hymn for Two Persons
on the Anniversary of Their Wedding²**

- [1.] Great Author of the Mystick Grace,
Whose Providence hath join'd our Hands,
Hath join'd our Hearts, to seek thy Face,
By sure, indissoluble Bands:
Ordain'd in Life and Death to prove
The Dignity of Nuptial Love;
2. To Thee, great GOD of Truth and Power,
Our Sacrifice of Thanks we pay,
Thy Grace Unspeakable adore,
And bless the glad revolving Day
Which mix'd our Souls in Bliss unknown
And made of Twain forever One.
3. Our growing Happiness and Love
From Thee we joyfully receive,
Our Comforts to thy Praise improve,
Our Body, Soul, and Spirit give
Thee, Saviour, Thee to glorify,
Thine, wholly Thine to live and die.
4. For This we first together came,
For This we still continue One,
T'experience all thy glorious Name,
To make thy glorious Nature known,
To magnify the Sacred Sign,
And prove the Ordinance Divine.
5. For This we met, with lowly Fear,
T'insure on Earth the Joys above,
To work out our Salvation here,
With chaste Delight and purest Love,
T'injoy the Sense of Sins Forgiven,
And travel Hand in Hand to Heaven.
6. O may we ever keep in view
And labour toward the Blissful End,
In every Step the Prize pursue,
Till Both on Angels' Wings ascend,
Both in the Wedding Garment drest
To share the Lamb's Eternal Rest.

²Published posthumously in *Unpublished Poetry*, 3:379–80. Wesley identifies the two person in the margin as: “Mr. and Mrs. B.”

Another³

- [1.] Being of Beings, Lord of all,
On Thee with trembling Hearts we call,
Thy Favour seek, thy Grace implore,
Till Life's uneasy Dream is o'er
And Both obtain the Lasting Rest,
And meet in GOD forever blest.
2. Thou know'st the State of shortliv'd Man,
His longest Life is but a Span,
A thousand years are as one Day,
So soon with Thee they pass away,
So soon we all from Earth are gone,
And stand arraign'd before thy Throne.
3. How needless then our anxious Fear
Of Momentary Evils here,
How fondly we our Pains employ
T' insure a Momentary Joy,
As Life would last for Ages sure,
Or Time eternally endure.
4. So teach us, Lord, to count our Days,
That Both may live but to thy Praise,
In mutual League of purest Love
Our short uncertain Time improve,
To Heavenly Things our Hearts apply,
And wisely live, and calmly die.
5. With that celestial Prize in view,
And guided by thy Spirit's Clue,
Still may we walk before thy Sight,
Unblameable, in spotless White,
And keep our Wedding Garments pure,
And Faithful unto Death endure.
6. Our Work perform'd, when She or I
Obtain the glorious Grace to die,
Let Neither, long condemn'd to stay,
Expect our Second Bridal-Day⁴
But call us Both in Heaven to join,
To meet within the Arms Divine.

³Published posthumously in *Unpublished Poetry*, 1:273–74.

⁴Sally Wesley underlined this line, adding “Amen!” in the margin.

III

To — “’Tis Finish’d, ’Tis Done!”⁵

- [1.] Come, let us away
 To Jesus, his Throne,
On this happy Day
 That made our Hearts One,
With Prayer and Thanksgiving
 Acknowledge his Grace,
Delightfully living
 To Jesus’s Praise.
2. His Counsel we see;
 Together we came
That Both might agree
 In Praise of the Lamb,
In close Imitation
 Of Him we adore
And in His Salvation
 Rejoice evermore.
3. Then let us lift up
 Our Voices and Hearts,
Rejoicing in Hope
 Till Mercy imparts
That Seal of His Favour
 Who brings us to GOD,
Renew’d in the Laver
 Of Jesus’s Blood.
4. O Jesus, appear
 Thy Blood to apply,
And hallow us here,
 And fit for the Sky,
To glorious Salvation
 Our Spirits receive
In full Consummation
 Of Rapture to live.

⁵Published posthumously in *Unpublished Poetry*, 1:274–75.