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:


Preface added to 1790 edition on page 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.

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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: Nov. 5, 2008.
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HYMNS FOR CHILDREN.

Hymn I. 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 ev’ry 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 ev’ry thought of ev’ry heart
   Is fully known to thee.

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 display’d
   Throughout the3 universe.

7 Mercy, and love, and endless grace
   O’er all thy works do reign:
But mostly thou delight’st to bless
   Thy fav’rite creature, man.

8 Wherefore let ev’ry creature give
   To thee the praise design’d;
But chiefly, Lord, the thanks receive,
   The hearts of all mankind.

Hymn II.\(^5\)

Of the Redemption of Man.

1 Saviour from sin, from death, from hell,
   Thee, Jesus Christ, with joy we own,
The man who lov’d our souls so well,
   The Father’s everlasting Son.

2 Thou for our sake a man wast made,
   The burthen 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 gain’d?
   What hath thy life to sinners giv’n?
For ev’ry soul of man obtain’d
   Pardon, and holiness, and heav’n.

\(^3\)1763 original read “our universe.”
\(^4\)1763 original read “doth reign.”
\(^5\)Appeared 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 III.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 lov’d, and gave himself for me.

2 The pardon on my conscience seal,
    Inspire the sense of sin forgiv’n,
    And all my new-born soul shall feel
    That holiness is present heav’n.

Hymn IV.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 thine 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 true salvation,
   Then translate me to thy throne.

**Hymn V.***

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 ev’ry 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 VI.***

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.

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*1763 original read “sure salvation.”
*Appeared first in *Hymns for Children* (1763), 12.
*Appeared first in *Hymns for Children* (1763), 14.
Hymn VII.\textsuperscript{13}

1 All pow’r to save, O Lord, is thine,
Receive this ruin’d soul of mine,
Upon thy mercy cast;
Do with me what, and as thou wilt
But throughly 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.

\textsuperscript{12}1763 original read “thy Son.”
\textsuperscript{13}Appeared first in \textit{Hymns for Children} (1763), 15.
Hymn VIII.\textsuperscript{14}

1 God is goodness, wisdom, pow’r,
Love him, praise him evermore,
Let us strive and never cease,
Him in ev’ry 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 employ’d,
Day and night the angels sing
Praises to their heav’nly King.

4 Him that sitteth on the throne,
Him that died for man to’ atone,
God and the triumphant Lamb,
They eternally proclaim.

5 Let us then to God aspire,
Rivals of the heav’nly quire;
Cherubim our faces wear,
Let us their enjoyments share.

6 Holy, holy, holy Lord,
Live by heav’n and earth ador’d,
Fill’d with thee let all things cry,
Glory be to God most high!

Hymn IX.\textsuperscript{15}

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

\textsuperscript{14} Appeared first in \textit{Hymns for Children} (1763), 17–18.

\textsuperscript{15} Appeared first in \textit{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 to’ 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 stedfast eye,
Who stands before thy throne;
The good desires we feel,
From him, we own, they came,
And then,\textsuperscript{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.

\textbf{Hymn X.}\textsuperscript{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.

\textsuperscript{16}1763 original read “And them.”
\textsuperscript{17}Appeared first in \textit{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 offer’d 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 to’ 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 blood\textsuperscript{18} abroad,
Shew me things unsearchable,
All the heights and depths of God.

Hymn XI.\textsuperscript{19}

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

\textsuperscript{18}1763 original read “thy love.”
\textsuperscript{19}Appeared 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 XII.**

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
    Wrapt up in their Saviour, and perfectly blest.

**Hymn XIII.**

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 thro’ Jesus doth give.

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20 Appeared first in *Hymns for Children* (1763), 26.
21 Appeared first in *Hymns for Children* (1763), 28.
2 His kingdom below
   He hath call’d 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 XIV. 22

1 Holy child of heav’’nly birth,
   God made manifest on earth,
Fain I would thy follower be,
   Live in ev’ry 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 to’ obey
   Those who under God bear sway:
   Masters, ministers to love,
   All their just commands approve.

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 resign’d,
Till his love delights to find
Fairly copied out on me,
All the mind that\footnote{1763 original read “which was.”} was in thee.

\textbf{Hymn XV.}\footnote{Appeared first in \textit{Hymns for Children} (1763), 31–32.}

1 The Lord he knows the thoughts of men,
That they are foolish all and vain,
Till chasten’d 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.
5 And when our spirits we resign
Into those gracious hands of thine,
Thy new-born children, Lord, receive,
With thee eternally to live.

_Hymn XVI._

1 Let children proclaim their Saviour and King!
To Jesus’s name hosannas we sing,
Our best adoration to Jesus we give,
Who purchas’d salvation for all to receive.

2 The meek Lamb of God from heaven came down,
And ransom’d with blood, and made us his own;
He suffer’d to save us from sin and from thrall,
And Jesus shall have us, who purchas’d 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 comings 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 XVII._

1 Father, with joy we praise
Thy providential care,
Snatch’d in our youthful days
From sin and Satan’s snare.

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25 Appeared first in _Hymns for Children_ (1763), 33.
26 1763 original read “coming.”
27 Appeared 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 ev’ry soul receive,
And now begin the Christian race,
   And now begin to live.

4 Train’d 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 XVIII. 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, inclin’d 
   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.

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Hymn XIX. 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 has 30 practis’d no deceit 
   With false equivocating tongue, 
Nor ev’n 31 durst o’er-reach, 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 number’d with the blest.

4 But who or guile or falsehood use, 
   Or take God’s name in vain, or swear, 
Or ever lie themselves to’ excuse, 
   They shall their dreadful sentence bear.

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29 Appeared first in Hymns for Children (1763), 50.
30 1763 original read “hath practised.”
31 1763 original read “Nor ever.”
5 The Lord, the true and faithful Lord,
Himself hath said, that ev’ry liar,
Shall surely meet his just reward,
Assign’d him in eternal fire.

Hymn XX. 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 call’d 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 XXI. 33

[Part the First.]

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

32 Appeared first in Hymns for Children (1763), 56.
33 Appeared 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 stay’d,
   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 XXII.\footnote{Appeared first in \textit{HSP} (1742), 194–95; included here through \textit{Hymns for Children} (1763), 66.}

   Part the Second.

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.
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 my 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 shew forth thy praise,
  Serve thee all my happy days,
Then the world shall always see
  Christ, the holy child in me.

Hymn XXIII.

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 XXIV. \(^{37}\)

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 artless \(^{38}\) song
   Of childish \(^{39}\) innocence.

\(^{37}\) Appeared 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 remember’d thus,
   And honour’d 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 XXV.\(^{40}\)

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 secur’d in him.

3 His mercy ev’ry 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 inclin’d,
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.

\(^{40}\)Appeared first in *HSP* (1742), 198–99; included here through *Hymns for Children* (1763), 69–70.
Hymn XXVI.\textsuperscript{41}

1 Come let us our good God proclaim
   By earth and heaven ador’d;
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 offer’d 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
To’ extol the glorious King of kings,
   The majesty divine.

\textsuperscript{41}Appeared first in \textit{HSP} (1742), 200–201; included here through \textit{Hymns for Children} (1763), 70–71.
Hymn XXVII.\textsuperscript{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 new-born babes are safe from harms,
   While harbour’d 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 XXVIII.\textsuperscript{43}

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

\textsuperscript{42} Appeared first in \textit{HSP} (1742), 201–2; included here through \textit{Hymns for Children} (1763), 71.

\textsuperscript{43} Appeared first in \textit{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 the 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 XXIX.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 XXX.**

*For the Evening.*

1 Saviour, thou hast bestow’d 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 fixt 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,
   Who ever pray’st for me.

**Hymn XXXI.**

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.

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46 Appeared first in *Hymns for Children* (1763), 73.
47 Appeared first in *Hymns for Children* (1763), 73–74.
2 Who all the bright train angelical made,
Subjected to man, his parents obey’d,
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 XXXII.\textsuperscript{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’ pray’rs 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 chuse,
To thee through life obedient prove,
And now obtain, and never lose
The blessing of my Saviour’s love.

Hymn XXXIII.\textsuperscript{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:

\textsuperscript{48} Appeared first in \textit{Hymns for Children} (1763), 74.
\textsuperscript{49} Appeared first in \textit{Hymns for Children} (1763), 75; stanzas 2–3.
Thee, an infant of days
With wonder I praise,
Thee God 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 XXXIV.

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 stoop’d to die,
We bow to Jesu’s name.

3 My God in Jesus reconcil’d,
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.

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50 1763 original read “Thee the God”; which throws off the metre.
51 Appeared first in Hymns for Children (1763), 77.
Hymn XXXV.  

O might I in my youthful days  
Reflect on my Creator’s grace,  
Call on my heav’ly 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 new-born soul to God.

Hymn XXXVI.

1 Children have a right to sing  
Praises to their Infant-King,  
Tell how Christ the holy child  
God and man hath reconcil’d.

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.

52 Appeared first in Hymns for Children (1763), 77.
53 Appeared first in Hymns for Children (1763), 78.
Hymn XXXVII.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 claim’d by thine heav’nly Son.

Hymn XXXVIII.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 XXXIX.56

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

54 Appeared first in *Hymns for Children* (1763), 78.
56 Appeared 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 ev’ry other would resign
With just and holy scorn;
Cheerful and blithe my way pursue,
And with the promis’d land in view,
Singing to God return.

Hymn XL. 57

1 O Father, I am but a child,
My body is made of the earth,
My nature alas, is defil’d,
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 promis’d to all,
The giver of Jesus thou art,
And therefore attend to my call,
And discover his love to my heart.

Hymn XLI. 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:

57 Appeared first in Hymns for Children (1763), 82.
58 Appeared 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 XLII.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 reconcil’d?
Peace upon earth he doth bestow:
Rejoice in God reveal’d below.

3 Who earth and heav’n commands
In years and wisdom grew,
Till seiz’d by wicked hands,
They wounded him and slew:
But in his blood our peace is seal’d,
And by his wounds our souls are heal’d!

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 bestow’d
Who lives, the one eternal God!

Hymn XLIII. 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 XLIV. 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
   Ev’ry child of Adam sing,
Praise him all ye heav’nly host,
   Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

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