

## ALL THINGS BRIGHT AND BEAUTIFUL



Let your “mind’s eye” picture the most beautiful outdoor spot you’ve ever seen!

One by one, break the “whole picture” into its parts: mountains, clouds, trees, rivers, rocks, living creatures. What else was a part of your picture?



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If we made a list of all that each of us saw, we might have many of the things that Mrs. Cecil Frances Alexander names in her hymn, “All Things Bright and Beautiful”. Perhaps we would want to join her in saying, “The Lord God made them all”, as she does in the refrain.

What is a refrain? \_\_\_\_\_ When is it sung in this hymn? \_\_\_\_\_

Having our “mind’s eye” full of such memories and knowing that all things are created by God *is not enough!* God’s plans could not grow and expand if we just kept on *consuming* all that God gives us without *using* His resources *to produce more goods and services* for His purposes.

Think of some ways that the following God-given “Resources” might be used to produce more resources: Our minds; Our voices; Love; Specific Talents; Land; Money.

Mrs. Cecil Frances Alexander, daughter of a Major in the Royal Marines in Ireland, was said to be both near-sighted and extremely shy. But rather than be handicapped, she invested her other resources to produce both goods and services for her Lord. The “goods” were the many hymns she wrote and the “services” were her responsibilities as the wife of the Archbishop Alexander of Ireland.

Look in your hymnal and list at least two other hymns written by Mrs. Alexander \_\_\_\_\_

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Lightly mark the intervals between each note of the melody. Scalestep progressions – from one note to the very next note, up or down on the staff – are easy to sight sing, but listen very closely to the skips of a sixth or a seventh.

How many sixths do you find? \_\_\_\_\_ How many sevenths do you find? \_\_\_\_\_

Are there octaves? \_\_\_\_\_

Can you think of a reason eighth notes were chosen instead of quarter notes on the words: “beautiful”, “and”, “wonderful”, “them”, “that”, “little”, “bird” and “He” in the first stanzas? \_\_\_\_\_

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If your choir is to memorize this hymn, key words taken from the phrases in order will help especially if you picture them in that “mind’s eye” – such as “flower, bird, colors, wings.” But the most important part of learning a hymn is when you use it in services which help more to know, “The Lord God Made them All!”