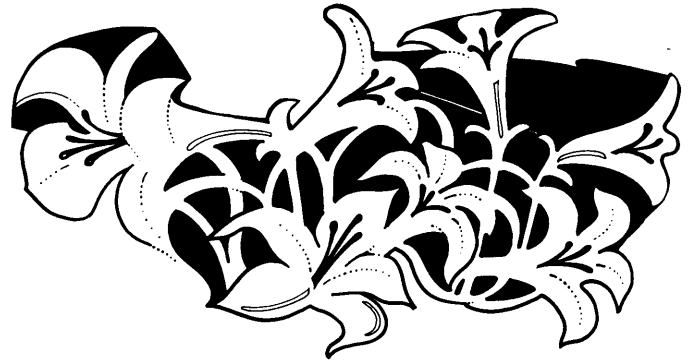


Consider The Lilies



Why do we sing hymns in church? How do you feel when you sing? A great composer and hymnal editor (Ralph Vaughan Williams, in the preface to *The English Hymnal*) once said that when churches sing, they forget their arguments, and the singers forget that they feel unable to do many things. All this is possible because when we sing we become totally involved in praising God, and nothing else really matters.

Write about a time when you were sad or angry, and singing made you feel happy again. _____

Another important reason that we sing hymns is that music makes words very special. Read Matthew 6:25-34 in your Bible. Now read the text of "Consider the Lilies." Don't you agree that Alice Williams Brotherton, the author of this text, has written a beautiful text expressing what the scripture has to say?

Think about some of the hymns that you know. Can you think of any that are based on familiar scriptures?

The tune is a folk song. Folk songs are often the common songs of communities, or countries, instead of having been composed by one person. They are generally learned by one person teaching another the melody, until many years later the tune is written down. Folk songs are characterized by their singable melodies, and their simplicity. Sing this tune, see how easy it is to sing, and how easy it would be to memorize and teach to another friend.

Music and singing are special gifts that God has given us. Not only can singing make us stop arguing and feeling sad, but God can use music to help us learn what the Bible says. By singing "Consider The Lilies," we can be reminded over and over that God knows and loves each of us – even more than God loves the lilies, ravens, and sparrows!

Other questions about what you have learned:

Why do we sing hymns in church? _____

What is a folk song? _____

What is the most important message of this hymn? _____

Hymn Study by Mark Acker