

HYMN STUDY: REPRODUCIBLE CHORISTER PAGE



HYMN STUDY: FOR THE BEAUTY OF THE EARTH

by Michael Bedford

What a beautiful world we live in! All you have to do is go outside and look around to catch a glimpse of the beauty of God’s creation. Take a moment, close your eyes, and try to remember one of the most beautiful places you have ever seen. It might be at the lake, at the seashore, in the forest, in the countryside, or perhaps even in your own back yard.

List or draw some of the beautiful things you saw there:

This text is often set to the hymn tune *Dix*, composed by a German musician, Conrad Kocher, and published in 1838. In 1861, it was harmonized by the London organist and teacher, William Henry Monk. It was given the name *Dix* because it is sometimes used with the text *As With Gladness Men of Old* by William Chatterton Dix. Listen to the three lines of the melody played on the piano.

Which lines are alike? ___

Which line is different? ___

As you listen to the melody once again, see if you can find the highest note. Does it add interest to the melody when the highest note is found so close to the end of the tune? How?

Although this hymn may be sung at different times throughout the year, it is especially meaningful at one particular time. Circle the time when this hymn seems most appropriate:

Christmas
Lent
Easter
Thanksgiving

Does it seem especially fitting that each verse concludes with the words “. . . to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise”? As we thank God for the gift of Creation, let us work to preserve the beauty of our world, that all who come after us may enjoy it as well.

It is obvious that the British poet and hymn writer, Folliot Sandford Pierpoint, had seen some beautiful places and had enjoyed some wonderful experiences when he wrote the words of *For the Beauty of the Earth* in 1864. As you read this text together, think about the things for which Mr. Pierpoint was grateful. See if you can find them in the word puzzle below.

S	I	S	T	E	R	E	H	E	A	R	T
E	A	R	Q	B	R	O	T	H	E	R	E
E	X	P	A	R	E	N	T	C	H	P	E
Y	S	C	X	L	O	V	E	E	B	F	E
E	E	W	S	U	N	E	C	H	I	L	D
M	O	M	K	P	U	E	E	E	R	O	E
E	U	E	I	R	Y	V	E	M	T	W	E
T	R	E	E	F	U	A	S	O	H	E	E
E	M	I	D	A	D	L	E	O	W	R	E
W	I	R	S	K	T	E	V	N	X	S	S
U	N	I	G	H	T	S	R	E	G	R	W
V	D	A	Y	O	E	P	S	T	A	R	S

Puzzle answers on page 7

S I S T E R E H E A R T
E A R Q B R O T H E R E
E X P A R E N T C H P E
Y S C X L O V E E B F E
E E W S U N E C H I L D
M O M K P U E E E R O E
E U E I R Y V E M T W E
T R E E F U A S O H E E
E M I D A D L E O W R E
W I R S K T E V N X S S
U N I G H T S R E G R W
V D A Y O E P S T A R S