

I Sing the Mighty Power of God

Ps. 136:5-9; James 1:17

Isaac Watts, 1715; alt.

Descant

3 On earth there's not a plant or flower but makes your glo - ry known.

1 I sing the might - y power of God that made the moun - tains rise,
 2 I sing the good - ness of our God that filled the earth with food;
 3 On earth there's not a plant or flower but makes your glo - ry known.

That spread the flow - ing seas a - broad, and built the loft - y skies.
 God formed the crea - tures with a word, and then pro - nounced them good.
 The clouds a - rise and spread their showers by or - der from your throne.

I sing the wis - dom that or - dained the sun to rule the day;
 Oh, how your won - ders are dis - played, wher - e'er I turn my eye:
 All life is but a gift from you and ev - er in your care;

The moon shines full at God's com - mand, and all the stars o - bey.
 If I sur - vey the ground I tread, or gaze up - on the sky!
 Wher - ev - er peo - ple gath - er, you, O God, are pres - ent there.

The tune Ellacombe was named for a place in Devonshire, England. It was first published in a collection of tunes used in the private chapel of the Duke of Wirtemberg, and was possibly sung with the text "Ave Maria, klärer."

Tune: ELLACOMBE C.M.D.
 Gesangbuch der herzoglichen
 Wirtembergischen katholischen Hofkapelle, 1784
 Descant, The New Century Hymnal, 1993

O Jesus, I Have Promised

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John E. Bode, 1868; alt.

Luke 9:57; John 14:1-4

1 O Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve you to the end;
 2 O let me hear you speak - ing in ac - cents clear and still,
 3 O Je - sus, you have prom - ised to all who fol - low you

re - main for - ev - er near me, my Sav - ior and my Friend:
 a - bove the storms of pas - sion, the mur - murs of self - will!
 that where you are in glo - ry your ser - vant shall be, too;

I shall not fear life's strug - gles if you are by my side,
 O speak to re - as - sure me, to has - ten or con - trol!
 And, Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve you to the end;

nor wan - der from the path - way if you will be my guide.
 O speak, and make me lis - ten, O guar - dian of my soul!
 O give me grace to fol - low my Sav - ior and my Friend!

John Ernest Bode wrote these words when his daughter and two sons were confirmed. Although the Oxford scholar and rector wrote books of hymns, this is the only one to achieve lasting fame.

Tune: ANGEL'S STORY 7.6.7.6.D.

A. H. Mann, 1883

Alternate tune: MUNICH

This Little Light of Mine

African-American spiritual

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Matt. 5:14-16

1 This lit - tle light of mine, I'm gon-na let it shine,

this lit - tle light of mine, I'm gon-na let it shine,

This lit - tle light of mine, I'm gon-na let it shine, let it

shine, let it shine, let it shine. (let it shine.)

2 Ev-ery-where I go, I'm gon-na let it shine . . .

3 All--through the night, I'm gon-na let it shine . . .

This was the favorite song of civil rights activist Fannie Lou Hamer, who could sing as well as she could give powerful speeches. During that era this spiritual was sometimes modified and sung as "This little light of freedom."

Tune: LATTIMER Irr.
African-American spiritual
Adapt. William Farley Smith, 1987