

Lord of the dance

TiS 242 Tune: Lord of the dance

1. I danced in the morning
when the world was begun,
and I danced in the moon
and the stars and the sun;
and I came down from heaven
and I danced on the earth,
at Bethlehem I had my birth:

Chorus

*Dance then, wherever you may be;
I am the Lord of the dance, said he;
and I'll lead you all
wherever you may be,
and I'll lead you all
in the dance, said he.*

2. I danced for the scribe
and the pharisee,
but they would not dance
and they wouldn't follow me.
I danced for the fishermen,
for James and John,
they came with me
and the dance went on:

Chorus

3. I danced on the Sabbath
and I cured the lame:
the holy people
said it was a shame.
They whipped and they stripped
and they hung me high
and they left me there
on a cross to die:

Chorus

4. I danced on a Friday
when the sky turned black;
it's hard to dance
with the devil on your back.
They buried my body
and they thought I'd gone;
but I am the dance
and I still go on:

Chorus

5. They cut me down
and I leapt up high,
I am the life
that'll never, never die;
I'll live in you if you'll live in me:
I am the Lord of the dance, said he:

Chorus

Sydney Bertram Carter 1915-2004 alt.

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Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.

TiS 387. Tune: TiS 594 Duke Street.

1. Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.
The cross stands empty to the sky.
Let streets and homes with praises ring;
Love, drowned in death, shall never die.
2. Christ is alive! No longer bound
to distant years in Palestine,
but saving, healing, here and now,
and touching every place and time.
3. In every insult, rift and war,
where colour, scorn or wealth divide,
Christ suffers still, yet loves the more,
and lives, where even hope has died.
4. Women and men, in age and youth
can feel the Spirit, hear the call,
and find the way, the life, the truth,
revealed in Jesus, freed for all.
5. Christ is alive, and comes to bring
good news to this and every age,
till earth and sky and ocean ring
with joy, with justice, love, and praise.

Brian Arthur Wren b1936

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O God, Our Help in Ages Past.

TiS 47. Tune: St Anne.

1. O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast,
and our eternal home:
2. under the shadow of your throne
your saints have dwelt secure:
sufficient is your arm alone,
and our defence is sure.
3. Before the hills in order stood,
or earth received its frame,
from everlasting Thou art God
to endless years the same.
4. A thousand ages in your sight
are like an evening gone:
short as the watch that ends the night
before the rising sun.
5. Time like an ever-rolling stream,
bears all of us away;
we fly forgotten as a dream
dies at the opening day.
6. Our God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
remain our guard while troubles last,
and our eternal home.

Isaac Watts 1674-1748 alt.

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On Eagles Wings

TiS 48. Tune: On Eagles Wings.

1. You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord,
who abide in this shadow for life,
say to the Lord:
"My refuge, my rock in whom I trust!"

CHORUS

*And he will raise you up on eagles' wings,
bear you on the breath of dawn,
make you to shine like the sun,
and hold you in the palm of his hand.*

2. The snare of the fowler will never capture you,
and famine will bring you no fear,
under his wings your refuge
his faithfulness your shield.

CHORUS

3. You need not fear the terror of the night,
nor the arrow that flies by day;
though thousands fall about you,
near you they shall not come.

CHORUS

4. For to the angels God's given a command
to guard you in all of your ways;
upon their hands they will bear you up,
lest you dash your foot against a stone.

CHORUS

Michael Joncas b1951

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God gives us a future

TiS 687 Tune: Camberwell

1. God gives us a future,
daring us to go
into dreams and dangers
on a path unknown.
We will face tomorrow
in the Spirit's power,
we will let God change us,
for new life starts now.
2. We must leave behind us
sins of yesterday,
for God's new beginning
is a better way.
Fear and doubt and habit
must not hold us back:
God gives hope, and insight,
and the strength we lack.
3. Holy Spirit, teach us
how to read the signs,
how to meet the challenge
of our troubled times.
Love us into action,
stir us into prayer,
till we choose God's life, and
find our future there.

Elizabeth J. Smith b1956

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