

Teach Our Eyes New Ways of Seeing

Hymns by
Joy F. Patterson



Printed on recycled and acid-free paper

Teach Our Eyes New Ways of Seeing: Hymns by Joy F. Patterson
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Dedication

This hymn collection is dedicated
to the memory of my grandmother,
Ella Blachly Andrews,
from whose contagious example
I first learned to love hymns.

Foreword

It is a privilege once again to introduce a collection of hymns by Joy Patterson. Like her earlier *Come, You People of the Promise* (Hope Publishing Co., 1994), this new collection contains both texts and tunes that she has written. In any given hymn she may have written the words, the music, or both. So the first general impression these hymns convey is her creative versatility as author and composer.

The range of topics within her texts is remarkable, yet there are some threads that weave themselves into almost every hymn. For one thing, there is nearly always a significant scriptural connection. Sometimes a text of scripture has been restated, as in the paraphrases of Psalms 51 and 104. In other cases events narrated in scripture are retold from a particular point of view, often with an interpretation or application in the final stanza. In both these ways, the hymn imparts a new liveliness and a fresh appreciation to a passage that may have become dulled by frequent use.

Among the biblical narratives included here, a high proportion of them center on some aspect of the life of Jesus: on the Sea of Galilee with his frightened disciples, telling parables, associating with social and religious outcasts, having his feet washed by “a woman of the streets,” at the Last Supper, in Gethsemane, rising from death, reigning in glory and in compassion. These hymns help to continue and interpret the mystery of the Incarnation by giving the singers a more intimate view of a Jesus who may have seemed a distant abstraction.

At the same time many of her texts explore the implication of the Incarnation for how Christians live out their faith: we are challenged to continue the work Jesus began and entrusted to his first disciples—as well as to all those who come after them. There is no room here for a private faith that does not have public consequences. On the contrary, faith carries with it certain imperatives for justice, peace, mercy, and love. Yet there is careful attention here not to make the task of discipleship so daunting that it becomes immobilizing:

Everyone here can help to build God’s Kingdom,
we can help bring a New Creation here—
sisters and brothers, fathers and mothers,
each one can help to bring the Kingdom near.
 (“Building God’s Kingdom”)

There’s work for everyone to do—
to pray or help or learn or teach.
We’ll work to bring God’s kingdom in,
with gifts God gives to each.
 (“We’re All Members of God’s Family”)

Lord, stir up in us the leaven
of your Kingdom’s rising power;
teach us how to build that Kingdom,
inch by inch and hour by hour.
 (“Long Ago Isaiah’s Vision”)

Go into all the world!
As equal partners in the task,
respecting each one's gift,
whatever work our Lord may ask—
across the world, across the street,
wherever hope and hunger meet.
("Go into All the World")

The concern for engaging the singers is no less evident in the music for these texts. Many of them are set to well-known tunes so that new words can easily be sung to familiar melodies. Where she has crafted new tunes for her own texts or for the texts of others, Joy shows no less attention to making the music accessible and memorable. She customarily writes for unison singing, frequently using some sort of patterning (sequences, repeats, recurring rhythms, refrains) in order to enhance the sense that this new melody has not been so much newly created as it has been reclaimed from some half-forgotten musical treasury.

The hymn from which a line has been used as the title of this collection concludes with a prayer to the Holy Spirit:

Shape our vision, stretch our hearts,
God's way for this time revealing.
Grant us deepened understanding,
strength to follow God's commanding.
("Holy Spirit, Teacher, Friend")

These are indeed the qualities evident in the hymns Joy Patterson offers to us here.

Carl P. Daw, Jr.
Executive Director
The Hymn Society in the U.S. and Canada

Acknowledgments

Many people have been important to my work as hymnwriter and composer. I would like to thank the congregation of the First Presbyterian Church, Wausau, for their warmth and openness to my hymns. In particular, I want to thank the following people:

Larry Brandenburg, minister of music 1985–2000, and Nancy D. Siebecker, interim director of music 2000–2003, at First Presbyterian, both of whom gave generously of time, inspiration, and encouragement.

Rev. Joy M. Nelson-Jeffers, Minister of Visitation/Parish Associate at First Presbyterian, who has been an ongoing colleague in wrestling with words, and refining theological language.

My husband, Duane, for insightful poetic criticism, rigorous but gentle, and for 50 years of patience, forbearance, and unflinching love.

Joy F. Patterson

1 Loving God Who Gave Us Music

1 Lov - ing God who gave us mu - sic, source of
 2 Thank you, God, for mu - sic's bless - ings, sounds that
 3 For the gifts of those who lead us, blend - ing
 4 Now let ev - ery - thing cre - a - ted join in

joy and means of praise, hear the grate - ful hymns we
 make our spir - its soar, psalms that lift our hearts in
 to har - mon - ious whole trum - pet, or - gan, strings and
 one ec - stat - ic song, prais - ing God who loves and

of - fer for all sounds that grace our days. Al - le -
 wor - ship, songs to praise you, and a - dore. Al - le -
 voic - es, mu - sic of the heart and soul. Al - le -
 seeks us cease - less - ly, through a - ges long. Al - le -

lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Thank - ful hearts to you we raise!
 lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Thanks to you for - ev - er more!
 lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise shall be our mu - sic's goal!
 lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Prais - es all to God be - long!

*Written in thanksgiving for the music ministry of Larry K. Brandenburg
 at First Presbyterian Church, Wausau, Wisc.*

The Wilderness and Desert Shout 2

1 The wil - der - ness and des - ert shout, a
 2 Make whole the weak, make firm the frail, tell
 3 Then souls grown tired shall take a risk, like
 4 Cas - cades shall burst forth from the sands to

mil - lion blos - soms burst - ing out with scent and col - or
 all who walk this des - ert trail, "Be strong! Be strong and
 moun - tain deer shall prance and frisk. Their tan - gled tongues and
 slake the thirst of ar - id lands. By pools shall reeds and

now ap - plaud the maj - es - ty of God.
 have no fear! Be - hold, your God is here!"
 speech - less ways shall find the voice for praise.
 rush - es rise be - neath the brill - iant skies.

5 And by their banks God's people trace
 a highway built of love and grace,
 a road marked clear that all may roam
 on pilgrimage toward home.

6 Now fearless let us move along,
 and echo back the desert song.
 We learn as sighs and sorrows flee:
 the journey sets us free!

3 Creator God, How Many Are Your Works

1 Cre - a - tor God, how man - y are your works! In
 2 All these your crea - tures look to you for food, re -
 3 We live and die en - com - passed by your time; your
 4 Send forth your spir - it, Lord, re - new the earth; your

deep - est wis - dom you have made them all. Your crea - tures
 ceiv - ing each in sea - son what they need, for from your
 spir - it caus - es new - formed life to spring. Our scroll of
 glo - ry shall for - ev - er - more en - dure! Your praise shall

fill the earth and sea and sky: Al - le -
 o - pen hand come all things good:
 life un - rolls by your de - sign:
 sound as long as I shall live:

1-3

lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

CREATION AND PROVIDENCE

God of Unknown, Distant Worlds 4

1 God of un-known, dis-tant worlds, ru-ler of all time and space,
 2 Ten-der God who stoops to earth, nur-turing us with par-ent's love,
 3 God whose shel-tering love sur-rounds all cre-a-tion, near and far

far a-bove all hu-man thought, mind be-yond our power to trace,
 guid-ing, teach-ing us to stand, free-ing us to live and move,
 crea-ture, hu-man, a-tom, flower, gal-ax-y and moon and star,

teach us, God, to com-pre-hend ma-jes-ty which has no end.
 teach us, God, to com-pre-hend giv-ing love which has no end.
 help us our own love ex-tend like your love which has no end.

Text: Joy F. Patterson, 1991.

Music: Roy Hopp, 1990.

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SISTER BAY

alternate tune: RATISBON

5 My Faith Is Grounded, God, in You

My faith is ground-ed, God, in you whose wis - dom
 My faith is found-ed, Christ, in you who came to
 My faith, O Spir - it, rests in you who speak God's
 Great God, e - ter - nal Three in One, since time be -

made both time and space, whose power made earth and
 earth, the Chos - en One, who taught and healed, pro -
 truth in ev - ery age, whose sound - less voice still
 fore all time you are; you stand a - bove all

sea and sky, whose breath brought life in ev - ery place—your
 claimed in power the King - dom here on earth be - gun— and
 guides our way though na - tions fall and peo - ples rage—your
 earth - ly powers and still shall stand for - ev - er - more—in

might is clothed in mys - ter - y, a light too bright for eyes to see.
 then you died up - on a cross, re - deem-ing us from sin and loss.
 word re - veals God's pur - pose new and shows us what we now must do.
 joy - ful faith we lift our song, our praise to you, through a - ges long.