



# Hymn of the Week

March 31 • Fourth Sunday in Lent, Year C

## How Far Away Is Heaven (Prodigal Son)

**Text:** Richard Leach.

**Music:** CISCO, Carson Cooman

**About the Hymn:** “How Far Away Is Heaven” uses the Prodigal Son story (which has also been called the story of the Waiting Father), to tell of heaven’s remoteness and nearness. It was written as part of a cycle of hymns on The Lord’s Prayer published in *Pray Then Like This*.

**Topics:** Heaven, Parables, Redemption

**Scriptural References:** Matthew 6:9; Luke 15:11–24

### Publications

*And Jesus Said: Parables in Song* (Selah, 2008)

*Pray Then Like This* (Selah, 2002)

*How Far Away Is Heaven* choral anthem [SATB, keyboard, 420-644] (Selah, 2005)




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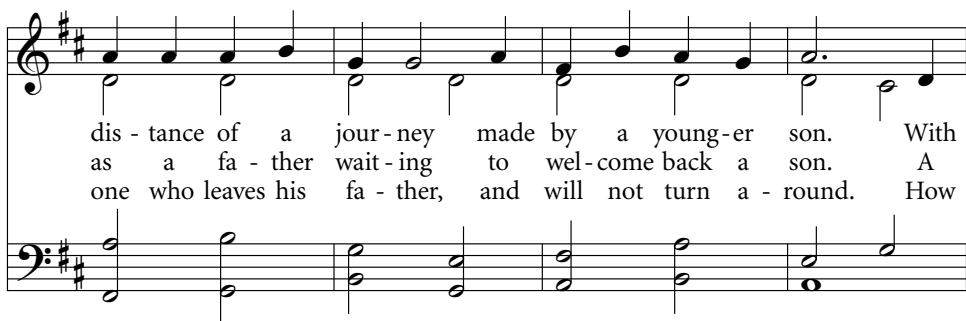
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# How Far Away Is Heaven

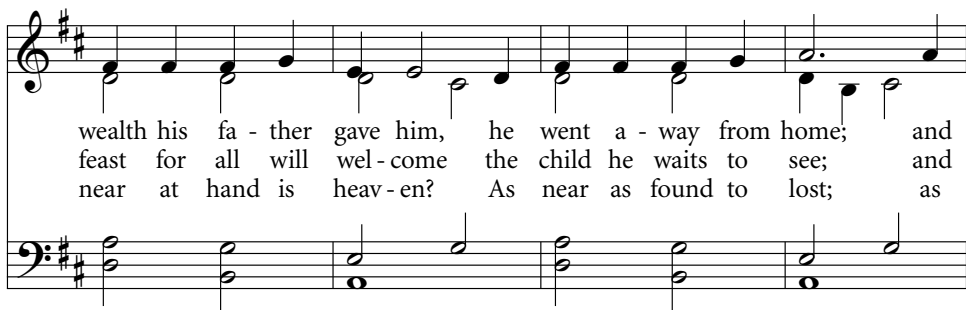
*Unison*



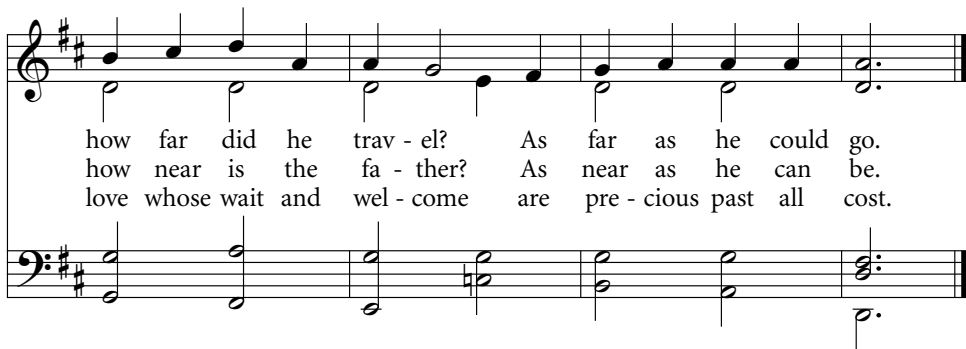
1 How far a - way is heav - en, your home, O Ho - ly One? The  
 2 How near at hand is heav - en, your home, O Ho - ly One? Near  
 3 How far a - way is heav - en? As far as lost from found; as



dis - tance of a jour - ney made by a young - er son. With  
 as a fa - ther wait - ing to wel - come back a son. A  
 one who leaves his fa - ther, and will not turn a - round. How



wealth his fa - ther gave him, he went a - way from home; and  
 feast for all will wel - come the child he waits to see; and  
 near at hand is heav - en? As near as found to lost; as



how far did he trav - el? As far as he could go.  
 how near is the fa - ther? As near as he can be.  
 love whose wait and wel - come are pre - cious past all cost.

# How Far Away Is Heaven



1 How far a - way is heav - en, your home, O Ho - ly One?  
2 How near at hand is heav - en, your home, O Ho - ly One?  
3 How far a - way is heav - en? As far as lost from found;



The dis - tance of a jour - ney made by a young - er son.  
Near as a fa - ther wait - ing to wel - come back a son.  
as one who leaves his fa - ther, and will not turn a - round.



With wealth his fa - ther gave him, he went a - way from home;  
A feast for all will wel - come the child he waits to see;  
How near at hand is heav - en? As near as found to lost;



and how far did he trav - el? As far as he could go.  
and how near is the fa - ther? As near as he can be.  
as love whose wait and wel - come are pre - cious past all cost.

# How Far Away Is Heaven

How far away is heaven,  
your home, O Holy One?  
The distance of a journey  
made by a younger son.  
With wealth his father gave him,  
he went away from home;  
and how far did he travel?  
As far as he could go.

How near at hand is heaven,  
your home, O Holy One?  
Near as a father waiting  
to welcome back a son.  
A feast for all will welcome  
the child he waits to see;  
and how near is the father?  
As near as he can be.

How far away is heaven?  
As far as lost from found;  
as one who leaves his father,  
and will not turn around.  
How near at hand is heaven?  
As near as found to lost;  
as love whose wait and welcome  
are precious past all cost.