



## Peters Green News Sheet Issue No: 11

Sunday 24th May 2020

### Favourite Hymns.

The hymn I've chosen is 'I am trusting Thee Lord Jesus' it was the hymn we sang at my baptismal service on Sunday, 7th January, 1951.

Four of my friends were also baptised with me at the old Park Street Baptist Church by the Rev. E. H. Robertson. Two were very special friends. They were: Pearl Lee (nee Impey). We were life long friends until she was called home, and Margaret Turnbull - for years we worked together on the Pastoral Care Committee.

This hymn was chosen then for new Christians to put their trust in Jesus, and it was the custom for a verse of the hymn to be sung after each baptism, In 2020 we can still sing 'I am trusting Thee Lord Jesus' as we go through these difficult times.

I am trusting Thee, Lord Jesus,  
Trusting only Thee,  
Trusting Thee for full salvation,  
Great and free.

I am trusting Thee for pardon,  
At Thy feet I bow,  
For Thy grace and tender mercy,  
Trusting now.

Rita M. Gibbs

I am trusting Thee to guide me,  
Thou alone shalt lead,  
Every day and hour supplying  
All my need.

I am trusting Thee for power,  
Thine can never fail,  
Words which Thou Thyself shalt give me  
Must prevail.

I am trusting Thee, Lord Jesus,  
Never let me fall  
I am trusting Thee for ever,  
And for all

*Frances Ridley Havergal, 1836-79*

How very difficult to choose just one hymn from all the many I have played!

I have chosen a John Wesley hymn;  
'And can it be, that I should gain?'

As a Methodist, I felt I should know more about John Wesley, and so, I have just finished reading his biography. I was reassured to find that he had many problems and faults. So many inspiring people have fought battles in their lives and had their failures. This adds experience and weight to these hymn words.

And can it be, that I should gain?

It was written in 1738 to celebrate Wesley's conversion, which he regarded as having happened on May 21st of that year. Like so many who grow up in Christian families, it was probably a gradual process, but this date gave him certainty.

The tune, Sagina, was written by Thomas Campbell, over a hundred years after the words.

The hymn words contain the whole Christian life.

Amazement in verse one, that the Son of God died for me.

Verse four is very special to me - particularly 'My chains fell off, my heart was free', This so describes my experience of Christian healing; the freedom from the chains of depression, and my mission, 'I rose, went forth, and followed Thee'.

Verse five is so full of confidence, that we have nothing to fear. It seems especially relevant in the middle of the Coronavirus, when many people are living with fear. Jesus is waiting for us, when He calls us home.

Liz Higgins

And can it be that I should gain An interest in the Savior's blood? Died He for me, who caused His pain? For me, who Him to death pursued? Amazing love! How can it be That Thou, my God, should die for me?	Long my imprisoned spirit lay, Fast bound in sin and nature's night; Thine eye diffused a quickening ray, I woke, the dungeon flamed with light; My chains fell off, my heart was free; I rose, went forth, and followed Thee.	No condemnation now I dread; Jesus, and all in him, is mine! Alive in him, my living head, And clothed in righteousness divine, Bold I approach the eternal throne, And claim the crown through Christ my own.
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My favourite hymn: When all thy mercies, O my God.

This hymn means a great deal to me. It is based on Lamentations chapter 3. It is very expansive in its range and opens with a burst of joy and praise to God for His continual care for life.

Next it reminds me of the fact that God was aware of me before I was born. His blessings were mine though I could not know that. I did not need to know because He was there.

Then follows a slippery path of youth, so familiar. How often they attract us because of its security, ignorance, or experiment. Any of these can often lead us astray. God knows our plight, instead of banishing us He lifts us up again.

I am so glad that the Lord was with me when I had a period of sickness. At the age of 3 I had tonsillectomy. When I was 6 years old at Christmas time I had diphtheria and was conveyed to the isolation hospital for 6 weeks. Even then, lockdown was known and no visitors were allowed at all. The following Christmas, now age 7, I had an abscess on my appendix and was operated on in the Children's hospital, I was there for 4 weeks and this time visitors were allowed, but only twice a week for one hour. In those conditions I was in no position to evaluate the benefits of redemption.

The verses continue with all His daily blessings and that Jesus came to enable us to walk with God. The Holy Spirit is involved working within me, I can be forgiven and can be used.

I was 13 years old when my mother died and fortunately all of my 10 years of Sunday School and Church began to take shape giving me enough confidence to take a risk and follow Jesus. When I was 15 years old, I asked to be baptised and join the church at Wellington Street, I was blessed with Christian friends and God given gifts of music and preaching and many more besides which I have been able to use for God. I have been blessed beyond my imagination many times throughout my life and I have the joy awaiting me when I can say, "Then in heaven receive me, my Saviour and my Friend." Can you see that all this is reflected in this hymn?

Tom Mower

When all thy mercies, O my God,  
My rising soul surveys,  
Transported with the view, I'm lost  
In wonder, love, and praise.

When in the slippery paths of youth  
With heedless steps I ran,  
Thine arm, unseen, conveyed me safe,  
And led me up to man.

Unnumbered comforts on my soul  
Thy tender care bestowed,  
Before my infant heart conceived  
From whom those comforts flowed.

When worn with sickness, oft hast thou  
With health renewed my face,  
And when in sins and sorrows sunk  
Revived my soul with grace.

Ten thousand thousand precious gifts  
My daily thanks employ;  
Nor is the least a thankful heart,  
That takes those gifts with joy.

Through every period of my life  
Thy goodness I'll pursue;  
And after death, in distant worlds,  
The pleasing theme renew.

Through all eternity, to thee  
A grateful song I'll raise;  
But O eternity's too short  
To utter all thy praise!

