Faith Begins by Letting Go

1 Faith begins by letting go, giving up what
had seemed sure, taking risks and pressing on,
though the way feels less secure; pilgrimage both
right and odd, trusting all our life to God.

2 Faith endures by holding on, keeping memory’s
roots alive so that hope may bear its fruit;
promise fed, our souls will thrive, not through merit
we possess but by God’s great faithfulness.

3 Faith matures by reaching out, stretching minds, en-
larging hearts, sharing struggles, living prayer;
binding up the broken parts; till we find the
common place ripe with witness to God’s grace.

This text affirms that faith is not a state of being but a process of becoming what we are called to be in relationship to God, other people, and the world. The movement from one stage of faith to another is suggested by gestures of the hand: letting go, holding on, reaching out.

TEXT: Carl P. Daw Jr., 1995
MUSIC: Charles F. Gounod, 1872
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LUX PRIMA
7.7.7.7.7.7
Glory Be to the Father

Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the be - ginning, is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men, a - men.

TEXT: Trad. liturgical text
MUSIC: Henry W. Greatorex, 1851
GLORIA PATRI (Greatorex)
I, the Lord of Sea and Sky
Here I Am, Lord

1 I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people's cry.
2 I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain.
3 I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.

All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save. I, who
I have wept for love of them. They turn away. I will
I will set a feast for them. My hand will save. Finest

made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.
break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone.
bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied.

Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?
I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?

Refrain
Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you

The stanzas here need to be understood as representing the voice of God, while the refrain (based on Isaiah 6:8) is the faithful human response to God’s call. This becomes clearer if a leader or small group sings the stanzas, with the congregation joining on the refrain.

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HERE I AM (Schutte)
Jesus Loves Me!

1  Jesus loves me! This I know, for the Bible tells me so.

2  Jesus loves me! This I know, as he loved so long ago,

Little ones to him belong. They are weak, but he is strong.
Taking children on his knee, saying, “Let them come to me.”

Refrain

Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!

Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

Few songs of faith have supported people from cradle to grave like this one. The great theologian Karl Barth said that its opening two lines were a summary of all that he had learned. The composer formed the refrain from those lines when creating this universally used tune.
When Peace like a River
It Is Well with My Soul

1 When peace like a river attendeth my way, when
sorrows like sea billows roll, whatever my lot, thou hast
taught me to say, it is well, it is well with my soul.

2 Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come, let
this blest assurance control, that Christ hath regarded my
helpless estate, and hath shed his own blood for my soul.
bear it no more. Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!

3 He lives: O the bliss of this glorious thought. My
sin, not in part, but the whole, is nailed to the cross and I
Lord shall descend; even so it is well with my soul.

4 Lord, hasten the day when our faith shall be sight, the
clouds be rolled back as a scroll, the trumpet shall sound and the
thought.

This text is a remarkable expression of faith born of grief. The author, an active Presbyterian layman who
had just lost four daughters in a tragic shipwreck, wrote it while sailing to Paris to meet his wife, who had
survived. The tune was named for the ship that sank.

TEXT: Horatio G. Spafford, 1876, alt.
MUSIC: Philip P. Bliss, 1876

VILLE DU HAVRE
11.8.11.9 with refrain
TRUSTING IN THE PROMISES OF GOD

God is my strong salvation; what foe have I to fear?

Place on the Lord reliance; my soul, with courage wait;

In-ild and temp-tation my light, my help, is near.

God's truth be thine af-fi-nance, when faint and des-o-late.

it is well; it is well with my soul.

hosts en-camp a-round me, firm to the fight I stand;

God's might thy heart shall strength-en; God's love thy joy in-crease;

what ter-ror can con-found me, with God at my right hand?

mer-acy thy days shall length-en; the Lord will give thee the peace.
Time, like an ever rolling stream,
beats all our years away;
they fly forgotten, as a dream
dies at the opening day.

5 Many people sing this hymn unaware that it paraphrases Psalm 90, partly because this text speaks so immediately to the human condition. Since the middle of the 19th century, it has usually been joined to this tune named for the London parish where the composer was organist.

687 Our God, Our Help in Ages Past

(Psalm 90)

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