

God Our Author and Creator

530

Carl P. Daw, Jr., 1985

Gen. 1:1-2:3; Acts 17:22-31; Rom. 12:2; John 3:16-17

Unison

1 God our Au - thor and Cre - a - tor, in whose life we find our own,
 2 Like those first a - pos-tles, Sav-ior, give us strength to love and serve:
 3 Keep us faith-ful, Ho-ly Spir-it, help us bear the mes-sage true,

make our dai - ly wit - ness great-er, by our lives make your love known.
 when our faint-ing spir - its wa-ver, fire our hearts and steel our nerve.
 that at last all lands may hear it: "God is love; Christ died for you."

Help us show how love em-brac-es those whom fear and greed down-trod;
 Teach us wis - dom and com-pas-sion: bid our rest - less thoughts be still;
 Join our lives in might-y cho-rus till we come from ev - ery place,

in all yearn-ing hearts and fac - es let us see a child of God.
 by your guid-ance help us fash-ion lives con-formed un - to your will.
 with all those who went be - fore us, to the full - ness of God's grace.

In 1985, a hymn competition was held to commemorate the centennial of the Women's Missionary Union of the Southern Baptist Convention. This winning text by Carl P. Daw, Jr., fulfilled the guideline that the hymn address mission in the context of daily life.

Tune: JEFFERSON 8.7.8.7.D.
 Southern Harmony, 1835
 Harm. John Ferguson, 1973

REALM OF GOD

606

Nearer, My God, to You

Gen. 28:10-22; Matt. 16:24

Sarah Flower Adams, 1841
Adapt. Thomas H. Troeger

1 Near - er, my God, to you, near - er to you. I'll bear the
2 When I am wan - der - ing as Ja - cob did, and in the
3 Let Ja - cob's lad - der fill the sky a - bove, and an - gels
4 Then, wak - ing from the night to morn - ing air by Beth - el's

cross as Christ calls me to do and pray each day a - new:
deep - est night the path is hid, my dreams will bring me, too,
car - ry down the faith and love to keep this goal in view:
stone, I'll know you heard my prayer, and how my yearn - ing grew:

1-4 Near - er my God, to you, near - er my God, to you, near - er to you.

Sarah Flower Adams, daughter of a well-known English editor, was a successful actress in London. During her short life she wrote prose and poetry for religious publications, a five-act drama, and a children's catechism.

Tune: BETHANY 6.4.6.4.6.6.6.4.
Lowell Mason, 1856

HOLY COMMUNION

332

As We Gather at Your Table

Carl P. Daw, Jr., 1989

Matt. 22:1-10; Luke 14:16-24

1 As we gath - er at your ta - ble, as we lis - ten to your word,
 2 Turn our wor - ship in - to wit - ness in the sac - ra - ment of life;
 3 Gra - cious Spir - it, help us sum - mon oth - er guests to share that feast

help us know, O God, your pres - ence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.
 send us forth to love and serve you, bring - ing peace where there is strife.
 where tri - um - phant Love will wel - come those who had been last and least.

Nour - ish us with sa - cred sto - ry till we claim it as our own;
 Give us, Christ, your great com - pas - sion to for - give as you for - gave;
 There no more will en - vy bind us nor will pride our peace de - stroy,

teach us through this ho - ly ban - quet how to make Love's vic - tory known.
 may we still be - hold your im - age in the world you died to save.
 as we join with saints and an - gels to re - peat the sound - ing joy.

In this hymn, commissioned by an Episcopal parish in Virginia for the celebration of its tricentennial, Carl P. Daw, Jr., utilized a familiar phrase from Isaac Watts' "Joy to the World," which was the motto for the celebration: "Repeat the sounding joy."

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Tune: BEACH SPRING 8.7.8.7.D.
 The Sacred Harp, 1844
 Harm. The New Century Hymnal, 1992