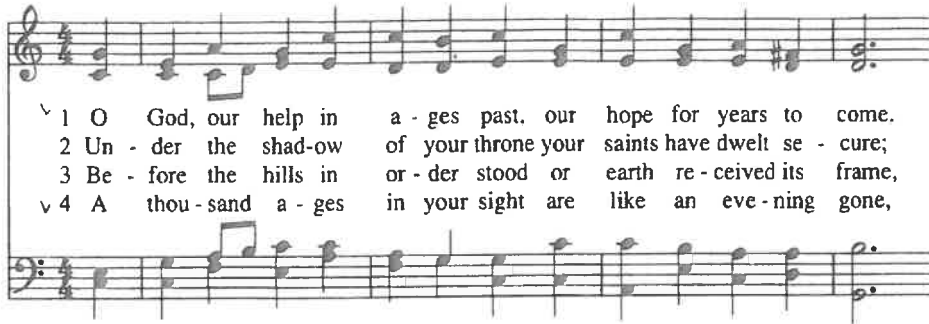


O God, Our Help in Ages Past

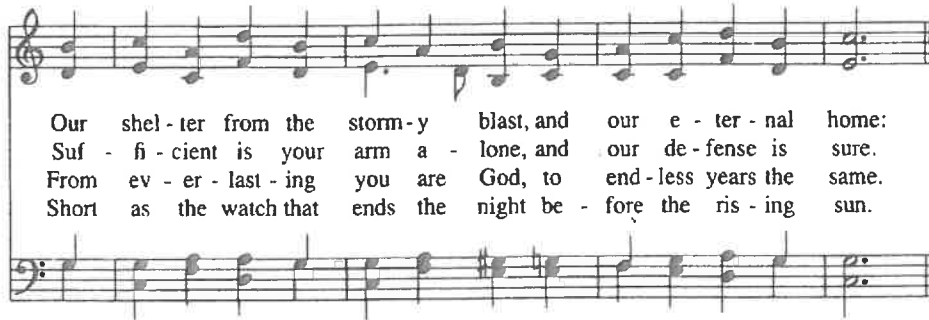
25

Isaac Watts, 1719; alt.

Ps. 90:1-2, 4-5



1 O God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come.
2 Un - der the shad-ow of your throne your saints have dwelt se - cure;
3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood or earth re - ceived its frame,
4 A thou - sand a - ges in your sight are like an eve - ning gone,



Our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home:
Suf - fi - cient is your arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.
From ev - er - last - ing you are God, to end - less years the same.
Short as the watch that ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.

5 Time, like an ev - er - roll - ing stream,
soon bears us all away;
We fly for - got - ten, as a dream
fades at the o - pening day.

6 O God, our help in a - ges past,
our hope for years to come,
Still be our God while trou - bles last,
and our e - ter - nal home!

Watts, minister of a Congregational church in London, wrote theological and philosophical works and hundreds of "hymns of human composure" (everyday language). He augmented the congregational singing of psalms with a new style of hymnody.

Tune: ST. ANNE C.M.
William Croft, 1708

Music: Kirchenordnung, Braunschweig, 1528

O Christ, the Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;

The first system of musical notation consists of a treble and bass staff. The treble staff contains a vocal line with a melodic contour that rises and then falls. The bass staff contains a harmonic accompaniment of chords and moving lines. The lyrics are printed below the treble staff.

have mer - cy up-on us. O Christ, the Lamb of God, you

The second system of musical notation continues the vocal and accompaniment lines. The lyrics are printed below the treble staff.

take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy up-on us.

The third system of musical notation continues the vocal and accompaniment lines. The lyrics are printed below the treble staff.

O Christ, the Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;

The fourth system of musical notation continues the vocal and accompaniment lines. The lyrics are printed below the treble staff.

grant us your peace. A - - - men.

The fifth system of musical notation concludes the piece. The vocal line features a long, sustained note for the word 'men'. The lyrics are printed below the treble staff.