

## Sing with Understanding: Stories of Our Great Hymns, Part Three

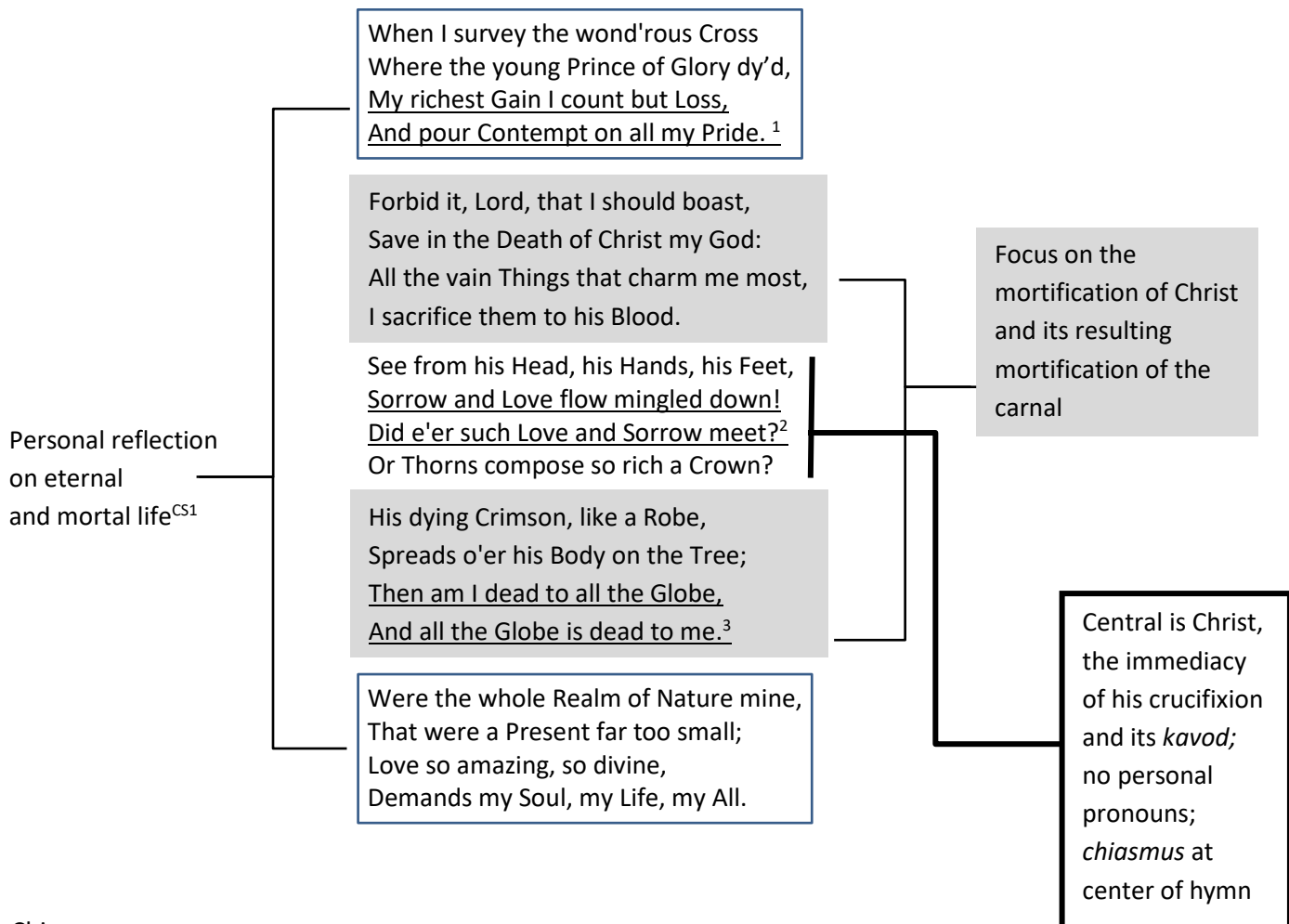
### Recommended reading:

Music, David W. (2014). "When I survey the wondrous cross": A commentary. *The Hymn - A Journal of Congregational Song*, 65(2), 7-13.

Geniesse, Jane Fletcher. *American Priestess: The Extraordinary Story of Anna Spafford and the American Colony in Jerusalem*. New York: Anchor, 2008.

### When I Survey the Wondrous Cross (1707)

Isaac Watts



### Chiasmus

<sup>1</sup> Gain-Pride, Loss-Contempt; <sup>2</sup> Sorrow-Sorrow, Love-Love; <sup>3</sup> Dead-Dead, Globe-Globe;

### Chiastic Structure

<sup>CS1</sup> St. 1v12-St. 5v34 (Christ's life-My life), St. 1v34-St. 5v12 (Earthly gain is worth losing-Earthly gain isn't enough to give)

<sup>CS2</sup> St. 2v12-St. 4v34 (Death of Christ-Death of Flesh), St. 2v34-St. 4v12 (Christ's blood-Christ's blood)

References: Philippians 3:7, Galatians 6:14, Philippians 1:20-30, John 19:34, Lamentations 1:12, John 15:13

# 224 When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

1 When I sur - vey the won - drous cross on which the  
2 For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast, save in the  
3 See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sor - row and  
4 Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, that were a

Prince of glo - ry died, my rich - est gain I  
death of Christ my God; all the vain things that  
love flow min - gled down; did e'er such love and  
pres - ent far too small; love so a - maz - ing,

count but loss, and pour con - tempt on all my pride.  
charm me most, I sac - ri - fice them to his blood.  
sor - row meet, or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?  
so di - vine, de - mands my soul, my life, my all.

**O Little Town of Bethlehem** (1868)

Phillips Brooks

O little town of Bethlehem,  
How still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
The silent stars go by;  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth  
The everlasting Light;  
The hopes and fears of all the years  
Are met in thee tonight.

Matthew 25:1-13

Isaiah 9:2  
Isaiah 60:1-3  
Isaiah 8:13-17; Galatians 4:4; Numbers 24:15-24  
Isaiah 52:1-10; Isaiah 11:1-10

For Christ is born of Mary;  
And, gathered all above,  
While mortals sleep, the angels keep  
Their watch of wondering love.  
O morning stars, together  
Proclaim the holy birth,  
And praises sing to God the king,  
And peace to men on earth.

Luke 2:5-7

Job 38:7

Isaiah 52:7-10  
John 14:27

How silently, how silently,  
The wondrous gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
The blessings of his heaven,  
No ear may hear his coming;  
But in this world of sin,  
Where meek souls will receive him, still  
The dear Christ enters in.

2 Corinthians 9:15  
John 14:15-17  
Revelation 21:1-5  
1 Corinthians 2:8-12

Isaiah 57:15

Where children pure and happy  
Pray to the blessed Child,  
Where misery cries out to thee,  
Son of the undefiled; (*son of the Mother mild*)  
Where charity stands watching  
And faith holds wide the door,  
The dark night wakes, the glory breaks,  
And Christmas comes once more.

*Stanza 4 printed in the church bulletin,  
withdrawn by author for publishing*

O holy child of Bethlehem,  
Descend to us, we pray;  
Cast out our sin, and enter in:  
be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels  
The great glad tidings tell:  
O come to us, abide with us,  
Our Lord Emmanuel.

Psalm 51:10-11  
John 1:9-12; John 3:3-8  
Luke 2:13-14

Luke 24:29  
Leviticus 26:11-12, 2 Corinthians 6:16, Revelation 21:3

## O Little Town of Bethlehem

FOREST GREEN CMD

Phillips Brooks, 1868

English folk melody  
Arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

1. O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, How still we see thee lie!  
 2. For Christ is born of Ma - ry; And gath - ered all a - bove,  
 3. How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, The won - drousgift is given!  
 4. O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, De - scend to us, we pray;

A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep The si - lent stars go by.  
 While mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep Their watch of won - dering love.  
 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts The bless - ings of His heav - en.  
 Cast out our sin and en - ter in, Be born in us to - day.

Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth The ev - er - last - ing light;  
 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er Pro - claim the ho - ly birth!  
 No ear may hear His com - ing, But in this world of sin,  
 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels The great glad tid - ings tell;

The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee to - night.  
 And prais - es sing to God the King, And peace to all on earth.  
 Where meek souls will re - ceive Him, still The dear Christ en - ters in.  
 O come to us, a - bide with us, Our Lord Em - man - u - el!

**Love Divine, All Loves Excelling (1747)**

Charles Wesley

Love divine, all loves excelling,  
Joy of heaven to earth come down,  
Fix in us thy humble dwelling,  
All thy faithful mercies crown;  
Jesus, thou art all compassion,  
Pure unbounded love thou art,  
Visit us with thy salvation,  
Enter every trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit  
Into every troubled breast,  
Let us all in thee inherit,  
Let us find that second rest:  
Take away our power of sinning,  
Alpha and Omega be,  
End of faith as its beginning,  
Set our hearts at liberty.

Come, Almighty to deliver,  
Let us all thy life receive,  
Suddenly return, and never,  
Never more thy temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing,  
Serve thee as thy hosts above,  
Pray, and praise thee without ceasing,  
Glory in thy perfect love.

Finish then thy new creation,  
Pure and sinless let us be,  
Let us see thy great salvation,  
Perfectly restored in thee;  
Changed from glory into glory,  
Till in heaven we take our place,  
Till we cast our crowns before thee,  
Lost in wonder, love, and praise!

**Fairest Isle, All Isles Excelling (1691)**

John Dryden, librettist for Purcell's *King Arthur*

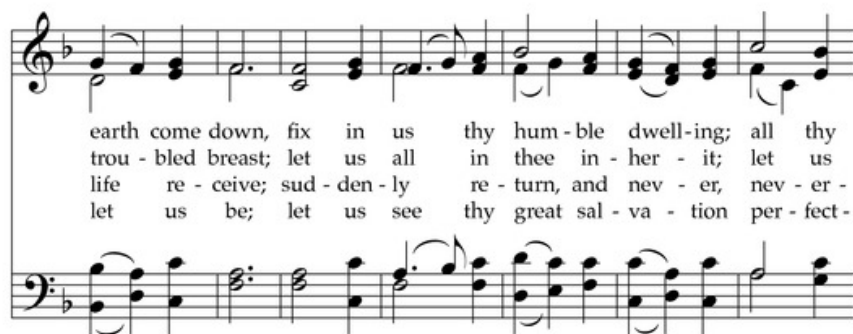
Fairest Isle, all Isles Excelling,  
Seat of Pleasures, and of Loves;  
Venus here, will choose her Dwelling,  
And forsake her Cyprian Groves.  
Cupid, from his Fav'rite Nation,  
Care and Envy will Remove;  
Jealousy that poisons Passion,  
And Despair that dies for Love.

Gentle Murmurs, sweet Complaining,  
Sighs that blow the Fire of Love;  
Soft Repulses, kind Disdaining,  
Shall be all the Pains you prove.  
Ev'ry Swain shall pay his Duty,  
Grateful every Nymph shall prove;  
And as these Excel in Beauty,  
Those shall be Renown'd for Love.

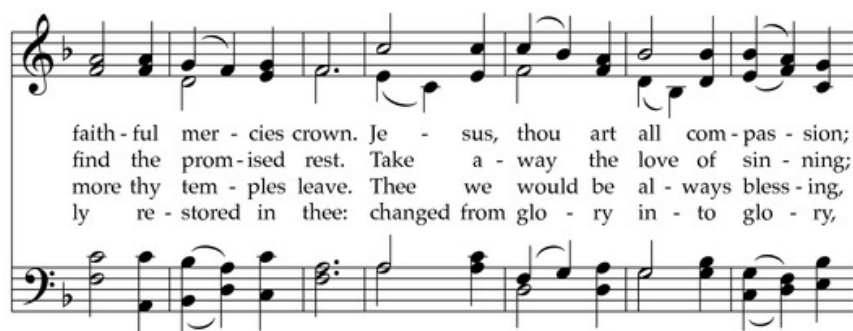
# 366 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling



1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of heaven, to  
 2 Breathe, O breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - ery  
 3 Come, Al - might - y, to de - liv - er; let us all thy  
 4 Fin - ish then thy new cre - a - tion; pure and spot - less



earth come down, fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing; all thy  
 trou - bled breast; let us all in thee in - her - it; let us  
 life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er -  
 let us be; let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect -



faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion;  
 find the prom - ised rest. Take a - way the love of sin - ning;  
 more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing,  
 ly re - stored in thee: changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry,



pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with  
 Al - pha and O - me - ga be; end of faith, as  
 serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise thee  
 till in heaven we take our place, till we cast our



thy sal - va - tion; en - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart.  
 its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.  
 with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.  
 crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise.