

PROVERBS 4:10-18 (NIV)

- ¹⁰ Listen, my son, accept what I say,
and the years of your life will be many.
- ¹¹ I instruct you in the way of wisdom
and lead you along straight paths.
- ¹² When you walk, your steps will not be hampered;
when you run, you will not stumble.
- ¹³ Hold on to instruction, do not let it go;
guard it well, for it is your life.
- ¹⁴ Do not set foot on the path of the wicked
or walk in the way of evildoers.
- ¹⁵ Avoid it, do not travel on it;
turn from it and go on your way.
- ¹⁶ For they cannot rest until they do evil;
they are robbed of sleep till they make
someone stumble.
- ¹⁷ They eat the bread of wickedness
and drink the wine of violence.
- ¹⁸ The path of the righteous is like the morning sun,
shining ever brighter till the full light of day.

1 PETER 2:1-10 (NIV)

² Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. ² Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, ³ now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.

The Living Stone and a Chosen People

⁴ As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him—
⁵ you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house^[a] to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶ For in Scripture it says:
“See, I lay a stone in Zion,
a chosen and precious cornerstone,
and the one who trusts in him
will never be put to shame.”^[b]

⁷ Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe,
“The stone the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone,”^[c]

⁸ and,
“A stone that causes people to stumble
and a rock that makes them fall.”^[d]

They stumble because they disobey the message—which is also what they were destined for.

⁹ But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. ¹⁰ Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

JOHN 14:1-14 (NIV)

Jesus Comforts His Disciples

¹⁴ “Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God^[a]; believe also in me. ² My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. ⁴ You know the way to the place where I am going.”

Jesus the Way to the Father

⁵ Thomas said to him, “Lord, we don’t know where you are going, so how can we know the way?”

⁶ Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷ If you really know me, you will know^[b] my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.”

⁸ Philip said, “Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us.”

⁹ Jesus answered: “Don’t you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? ¹⁰ Don’t you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak on my own authority. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. ¹¹ Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the works themselves. ¹² Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³ And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.”

These Treasured Children 487

1 These treasured children present now are bound to
 2 Our ancient story we shall tell, till these our
 3 We long to trust as children do and so en-
 4 Come, Holy Spirit, help us be a nurtur-
 5 Then, tender God, each child embrace; God give them

us by sacred vow: with love, we make a
 children know it well within their souls and
 trust our days to you; in their young lives we
 ing commu-ni-ty; em-pow-er us to
 bless-ings, grant them grace. Surprise them, God, with

heart-felt claim to welcome them in Jesus' name.
 minds and hearts, for this is where their journey starts.
 clearly see a lesson in humility.
 realize God's kingdom through our children's eyes.
 wonders still, and gently guide them to your will.

This text emphasizes the covenantal dimensions of baptism, most obvious in the baptism of children (though also present in the baptism of adults), including the worshiping community's commitment to acquaint children with salvation history and to learn from their humble trust.

Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness 314

Christ, Be Our Light

1 Long-ing for light, we wait in dark-ness. Long-ing for
 2 Long-ing for peace, our world is trou-bled. Long-ing for
 3 Long-ing for food, man-y are hun-gry. Long-ing for
 4 Long-ing for shel-ter, man-y are home-less. Long-ing for
 5 Man-y the gifts, man-y the peo-ple, man-y the

truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,
 hope, man-y de-spair. Your word a-lone
 wa-ter, man-y still thirst. Make us your bread,
 warmth, man-y are cold. Make us your build-ing,
 hearts that yearn to be-long. Let us be ser-vants

your ho-ly peo-ple, light for the world to see.
 has power to save us. Make us your liv-ing voice.
 bro-ken for oth-ers, shared un-til all are fed.
 shel-ter-ing oth-ers, walls made of liv-ing stone.
 to one an-oth-er, mak-ing your king-dom come.

Refrain
 Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the

dark-ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your

church gath-ered to-day.

By blending biblical images and current vignettes in the present tense, this hymn connects Christ's promise that he is the Light of the world (John 8:12, 9:5) and his charge to his followers to be the light of the world (Matthew 5:14). This is part of the church's servant calling.

Go, My Children, with My Blessing 547

1 "Go, my chil-dren, with my bless-ing, nev-er a-lone.
 2 "Go, my chil-dren, sins for-giv-en, at peace and pure.
 3 "Go, my chil-dren, fed and nour-ish-ed, clos-er to me.

Wak-ing, sleep-ing, I am with you, you are my own.
 Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
 Grow in love and love by serv-ing, joy-ful and free.

In my love's bap-tis-mal riv-er I have made you mine for-
 Here you heard my dear Son's sto-ry; here you touched him, saw his
 Here my Spir-it's pow-er filled you; here my ten-der com-fort

ev-er. Go, my chil-dren, with my bless-ing, you are my own."
 glo-ry. Go, my chil-dren, sins for-giv-en, at peace and pure."
 stilled you. Go, my chil-dren, fed and nour-ish-ed, joy-ful and free."

Because this Welsh melody usually sets evening texts, the author was asked to create one for use in daytime. His recasting of the Aaronic blessing in Numbers 6:22-27 imagines that passage as a benediction that might be spoken by God at the conclusion of a worship service.