Hymns are a traditional part of church weddings and there are so many to choose from. Whether you opt for a popular tune, or something different, there's a hymn to suit different parts of the service.
There are usually two or three hymns sung during a wedding service. The first is sung near to the beginning and helps everyone to feel that they are together in this place for a special purpose.

The last hymn comes right before the final blessing, and reflects a mood of celebration and joy.

Another hymn is included sometimes whilst the paperwork is being signed, or just after. If you can find hymns that are familiar to your guests and are easy to sing, it will encourage everyone to join in.

The vicar or the organist at the church where you are to be married, (or Directors of Music in some of the larger churches), will be pleased to help you decide. The capabilities of the organist and the type of organ they have in church need to be taken into account, so do seek their opinion even if you have already decided which hymns you’d most like to have.

Some churches have a choir which can be present at your wedding and help lead the hymn singing. Some choirs can also sing a suitable piece by themselves during the service, such as when you are signing the Register.

To help you get started, here’s a list of some of the most well-loved church wedding hymns. You can click to view the lyrics, and listen to a small extract of each.
All Things Bright And Beautiful

Tune: All things bright and beautiful

Refrain:
All things bright and beautiful,
All creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful,
The Lord God made them all.

Each little flower that opens,
Each little bird that sings,
He made their glowing colours,
He made their tiny wings:

Refrain

The purple-headed mountain,
The river running by,
The sunset, and the morning
That brightens up the sky:

Refrain

The cold wind in the winter,
The pleasant summer sun,
The ripe fruits in the garden,
He made them every one:

Refrain

The tall trees in the Greenwood,
The meadows where we play,
The rushes by the water
We gather every day:

Refrain

He gave us eyes to see them,
And lips that we might tell
How great is God almighty,
Who has made all things well:

Refrain

Cecil Frances Humphreys Alexander and William Henry Monk

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Amazing Grace

Tune: Amazing grace

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
Was blind, but now I see.

’Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed!

Through many dangers, toils and snares,
I have already come;
’Tis grace that brought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.
The Lord has promised good to me,
His word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures.

Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail,
And mortal life shall cease:
I shall possess, within the veil,
A life of joy and peace.

The earth shall soon dissolve like snow,
The sun forbear to shine;
But God, who called me here below,
Will be forever mine.

When we've been there a thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we'd first begun.

Words: vv.1-6 John Newton. v.7 Anon
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As Man And Woman We Were Made

Tune: Sussex Carol

As man and woman we were made
that love be found and life begun:
the likeness of the living God,
unique, yet called to live as one.
Through joy or sadness, calm or strife,
come, praise the love that gives us life.

Now Jesus lived and gave his love
to make our life and loving new
so celebrate with him today
and drink the joy he offers you
that makes the simple moment shine
and changes water into wine.

And Jesus died to live again
so praise the love that, come what may,
can bring the dawn and clear the skies,
and waits to wipe all tears away
and let us hope for what shall be
believing where we cannot see.

Then spread the table, clear the hall
and celebrate till day is done;
let peace go deep between us all
and joy be shared by everyone:
laugh and make merry with your friends
and praise the love that never ends!

Words: Brian Arthur Wren
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CCLI Song Number 178584

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At Cana's wedding, long ago,
you knew his presence by this sign,
a virtue none but Christ could show,
to turn their water into wine:
and still on us his blessing be
as in the days of Galilee.

What if the way be far to go
and life at times a weary load?
Yet may our hearts within us glow
as theirs on that Emmaus road:
the risen Christ become our guest,
with him to walk, in him to rest.

O Lord of all our life below,
O risen Lord of realms above,
eternal joy be theirs to know,
united in the bond of love:
one in the faith, with one accord,
one with each other and the Lord.

Words: Timothy Dudley-Smith
© Dudley-Smith, Timothy (Admin. by Oxford University Press)
CCLI Song Number 3271182

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Tune: Be still

Be still for the presence of the Lord,
The Holy One is here;
Come bow before Him now
With reverence and fear.
In Him no sin is found,
We stand on holy ground;
Be still, for the presence of the Lord,
The Holy One is here.

Be still, for the glory of the Lord
Is shining all around;
He burns with holy fire,
With splendour He is crowned.
How awesome is the sight,
Our radiant King of light!
Be still, for the glory of the Lord
Is shining all around.

Be still, for the power of the Lord
Is moving in this place;
He comes to cleanse and heal,
To minister His grace.
No work too hard for Him,
In faith receive from Him;
Be still, for the power of the Lord
Is moving in this place.

David J. Evans
Come To A Wedding

Tune: Bunessan (the same tune as Morning Has Broken)

Come to a wedding,
Come to a blessing,
Come on a day when happiness sings!
Come rain or sun,
Come winter or summer,
Celebrate love and all that it brings.

Thanks for the love,
That holds us together,
Parent and child, and lover and friend;
Thanks to the God,
Whose love is our centre,
Source of compassion, knowing no end.

Love is the gift,
And love is the giver,
Love is the gold that
Makes the day shine;
Love forgets self to care for the other,
Love changes life from water to wine.
Come to this wedding,
Asking a blessing,
For all the years that living will prove;
Health of the body,
Health of the spirit,
Now to you both we offer our love.

Words: Shirley Erena Murray
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CCLI Song Number 3372579

For The Beauty Of The Earth

Tune: Dix

For the beauty of the earth,
For the beauty of the skies,
For the love which from our birth
Over and around us lies,

Refrain:
Christ our God, to thee we raise
This our sacrifice of praise.

For the beauty of each hour
Of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale, and tree and flower,
Sun and moon, and stars of light:

Refrain

For the joy of ear and eye,
For the heart and mind's delight,
For the mystic harmony
Linking sense to sound and sight:

Refrain

For the joy of human love,
Brother, sister, parent, child,
Friends on earth, and friends above,
For all gentle thoughts and mild:

Refrain

For each perfect gift of thine
To our race so freely given,
Graces human and divine,
Flowers of earth and buds of heaven:

Refrain

For thy church that evermore
Lifteth holy hands above,
Offering up on every shore
This pure sacrifice of love:

Refrain

F.S. Pierpoint altd.
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Give Me Joy In My Heart

Tune: Sing Hosanna
Give me joy in my heart, keep me praising,
Give me joy in my heart, I pray,
Give me joy in my heart, keep me praising,
Keep me praising till the break of day.

Refrain:
Sing hosanna, sing hosanna,
Sing hosanna to the King of kings!
Sing hosanna, sing hosanna,
Sing hosanna to the King.

Give me peace in my heart, keep me resting,
Give me peace in my heart, I pray,
Give me peace in my heart, keep me resting,
Keep me resting till the break of day.

Refrain

Give me love in my heart, keep me serving,
Give me love in my heart, I pray;
Give me love in my heart, keep me serving,
Keep me serving till the break of day.

Refrain

Words: Traditional
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God In The Planning And Purpose Of Life

Tune: Slane

God, in the planning and purpose of life,
hallowed the union of husband and wife:
this we embody where love is displayed,
rings are presented and promises made.

Jesus was found, at a similar feast,
taking the roles of both waiter and priest,
turning the worldly towards the divine,
tears into laughter and water to wine.

Therefore we pray that his spirit preside
over the wedding of bridegroom and bride,
fulfilling all that they've hoped will come true,
lighting with love all they dream of and do.

Praise then the Maker, the Spirit, the Son,
source of the love through which two are made one.
God's is the glory, the goodness and grace
seen in this marriage and known in this place.

Words: John L. Bell and Graham Maule
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Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Tune: Faithfulness
Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father,
There is no shadow of turning with thee;
Thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;
As thou hast been, thou for ever wilt be.

Refrain:
Great is thy faithfulness, great is thy faithfulness,
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed thy hand hath provided,
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me.

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above,
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

Refrain

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for to-day and bright hope for to-morrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

Refrain

Words: Thomas O. Chisholm
Music: William M. Runyan

CCLI Song Number 18723

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Jerusalem
And did those feet in ancient time
Walk upon England's mountains green?
And was the holy Lamb of God
On England's pleasant pastures seen?
And did the countenance divine
Shine forth upon our clouded hills?
And was Jerusalem builded here
Among those dark Satanic mills?

Bring me my bow of burning gold!
Bring me my arrows of desire!
Bring me my spear! O clouds, unfold!
Bring me my chariot of fire!
I will not cease from mental fight,
Nor shall my sword sleep in my hand,
Till we have built Jerusalem
In England's green and pleasant land.

William Blake. Tune: Jerusalem
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Lead us Heavenly Father

Tune: Mannheim
1.
Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us
o’er the world’s tempestuous sea;
guard us, guide us, keep us, feed us
for we have no help but thee;
yet possessing every blessing,
if our God our Father be.

2.
Saviour, breathe forgiveness o’er us;
al our weakness thou dost know;
thou didst tread this earth before us,
thou didst feel its keenest woe;
lone and dreary, faint and weary,
through the desert thou didst go.

3.
Spirit of our God, descending,
fill our hearts with heavenly joy,
love with every passion blending,
pleasure that can never cloy:
thus provided, pardoned, guided,
nothing can our peace destroy.

James Edmeston
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Lord And Lover Of Creation
Tune: Westminster Abbey

Lord and lover of creation,
bless the marriage witnessed now:
sign of lives no longer separate,
sealed by symbol, bound by vow,
celebrating love's commitment
made to live and last and grow.

Praise and gratitude we offer,
for the past which shaped today.
Words which stirred and deepened conscience,
family life, good company,
friends who touched and summoned talent,
nourished all words can't convey.

On your children wed and welcome
here among us, we request
health in home and hearts, and humour
through which heaven and earth are blessed;
open doors and human pleasure,
time for touch and trust and rest.

Take them hence that, in each other,
love fulfilling love shall find
much to share and more to treasure,
such that none dare break or bind
those your name has joined together,
one in body, heart and mind.

Words: John L. Bell and Graham Maule
Lord Of All Hopefulness

Tune: Slane

Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,
Whose trust, ever childlike, no cares could destroy,
Be there at our waking, and give us, we pray,
Your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.

Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,
Whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe,
Be there at our labours, and give us, we pray,
Your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.

Lord of all kindliness, Lord of all grace,
Your hands swift to welcome, your arms to embrace,
Be there at our homing, and give us, we pray,
Your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.

Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,
Whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm,
Be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray,
Your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.
Lord Of The Dance

Tune: Lord of the dance

I danced in the morning
When the world was begun,
And I danced in the moon
And the stars and the sun,
And I came down from heaven
And I danced on the earth,
At Bethlehem I had my birth.

Chorus:
Dance, then, wherever you may be,
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he,
And I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,
And I'll lead you all in the Dance, said he.

I danced for the scribe
And the pharisee,
But they would not dance
And they wouldn't follow me.
I danced for the fishermen,
For James and John —
They came with me
And the Dance went on.

Chorus

I danced on the Sabbath
And I cured the lame;
The holy people
Said it was a shame.
They whipped and they stripped
And they hung me on high,
And they left me there
On a Cross to die.

Chorus

I danced on a Friday
When the sky turned black —
It's hard to dance
With the devil on your back.
They buried my body
And they thought I'd gone,
But I am the Dance,
And I still go on.

Chorus

They cut me down
And I leapt up high;
I am the life
That'll never, never die;
I'll live in you
If you'll live in me —
I am the Lord Of the Dance, said he.

Chorus
Love Divine All Loves Excelling

Tune: Blaenwern

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

Come, almighty to deliver,
Let us all thy grace 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 spotless 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!

Charles Wesley and William P. Rowlands

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Make Me A Channel Of Your Peace

Tune: Channel of Peace (St Francis)

Make me a channel of your peace.
Where there is hatred let me bring your love;
Where there is injury, your pardon, Lord;
And where there's doubt, true faith in you:
Refrain:
O Master, grant that I may never seek
So much to be consoled as to console;
To be understood as to understand;
To be loved, as to love with all my soul.

Make me a channel of your peace.
Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope;
Where there is darkness, only light;
And where there's sadness, ever joy:
Refrain
Make me a channel of your peace.
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
In giving of ourselves that we receive,
And in dying that we're born to eternal life.

Words: Sebastian Temple Dedicated to Mrs Frances Tracy
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Morning Has Broken

Tune: Bunessan

Morning has broken,
Like the first morning,
Blackbird has spoken
Like the first bird;
Praise for the singing,
Praise for the morning,
Praise for them springing
Fresh from the Word.

Sweet the rain's new fall,
Sunlit from heaven,
Like the first dewfall
On the first grass;
Praise for the sweetness,
Of the wet garden,
Sprung in completeness
Where his feet pass.
Mine is the sunlight,
Mine is the morning,
Born of the one light
Eden saw play;
Praise with elation,
Praise every morning,
God's re-creation
Of the new day.

Words: Eleanor Farjeon
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One More Step Along The World I Go

Tune: Southcott

One more step along the world I go,
One more step along the world I go.
From the old things to the new
Keep me travelling along with you.

Chorus
And it's from the old I travel to the new,
Keep me travelling along with you.

Round the corners of the world I turn,
More and more about the world I learn.
All the new things that I see
You'll be looking at along with me.

Chorus

As I travel through the bad and good
Keep me travelling the way I should.
Where I see no way to go
You'll be telling me the way, I know.

Chorus

Give me courage when the world is rough,
Keep me loving though the world is tough.
Leap and sing in all I do,
Keep me travelling along with you.

Chorus

You are older than the world can be,
You are younger than the life in me.
Ever old and ever new,
Keep me travelling along with you.

Chorus

Sydney Bertram Carter
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O Praise Ye The Lord!
Tune: Laudate Dominum

O praise ye the Lord! Praise Him in the height;
Rejoice in his word, ye angels of light;
Ye heavens adore him by whom ye were made,
And worship before him, in brightness arrayed.

O praise ye the Lord! Praise him upon earth,
In tuneful accord, ye sons of new birth;
Praise him who hath brought you his grace from above,
Praise him who hath taught you to sing of his love.

O praise ye the Lord, all things that give sound;
Each jubilant chord re-echo around;
Loud organs, his glory forth tell in deep tone,
And, sweet harp, the story of what he hath done.

O praise ye the Lord! Thanksgiving and song
To him be outpoured all ages along:
For love in creation, for heaven restored,
For grace of salvation, O praise ye the Lord!

Henry Williams Baker

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O Worship the King
O worship the King, all glorious above,
O gratefully sing His power and His love;
Our Shield and Defender, the Ancient of Days,
Pavilioned in splendor, and girded with praise.

O tell of His might, O sing of His grace,
Whose robe is the light, whose canopy space,
His chariots of wrath the deep thunderclouds form,
And dark is His path on the wings of the storm.

The earth with its store of wonders untold,
Almighty, Thy power hath founded of old;
Established it fast by a changeless decree,
And round it hath cast, like a mantle, the sea.

Thy bountiful care, what tongue can recite?
It breathes in the air, it shines in the light;
It streams from the hills, it descends to the plain,
And sweetly distills in the dew and the rain.

Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail,
In Thee do we trust, nor find Thee to fail;
Thy mercies how tender, how firm to the end,
Our Maker, Defender, Redeemer, and Friend.

O measureless might! Ineffable love!
While angels delight to worship Thee above,
The humbler creation, though feeble their lays,
With true adoration shall all sing Thy praise.

Praise My Soul The King Of Heaven
Tune: Praise my soul

Praise, my soul, the King of heaven,
To his feet thy tribute bring;
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
Who like me his praise should sing?
Praise him! Praise him!
Praise him! Praise him!
Praise the everlasting King!

Praise him for his grace and favour
To our fathers in distress;
Praise him still the same for ever,
Slow to chide, and swift to bless.
Praise him! Praise him!
Praise him! Praise him!
Glorious in his faithfulness.

Father-like he tends and spares us;
Well our feeble frame he knows;
In his hands he gently bears us,
Rescues us from all our foes.
Praise him! Praise him!
Praise him! Praise him!
Widely as his mercy flows.

Angels, help us to adore him;
Ye behold him face to face;
Sun and moon, bow down before him,
Dwellers all in time and space:
Praise him! Praise him!
Praise him! Praise him!
Praise with us the God of grace.

Henry Francis Lyte and John Goss

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Praise to the Lord, The Almighty

Tune: Lobe den Herren

Praise to the Lord, the almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and salvation:
Come ye who hear,
Brothers and sisters, draw near,
Praise him in glad adoration!

Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,
Shelters thee under his wings, yea, so gently sustaineth:
Hast thou not seen
All that is needful hath been
Granted in what he ordaineth?

Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work and defend thee!
Surely his goodness and mercy shall daily attend thee:
Ponder anew
All the Almighty can do,
He who with love doth befriend thee.

Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!
All that hath life and breath come now with praises before him!
Let the amen
Sound from his people again:
Gladly for aye we adore him!

Words: Joachim Neander. tr. Catherine Winkworth
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Tell out my Soul

Tune: Woodlands

1.
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!
Unnumbered blessings, give my spirit voice;
tender to me the promise of his word;
in God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.

2.
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his Name!
Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;
his mercy sure, from age to age the same;
his holy Name, the Lord, the Mighty One.

3.
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might!
Powers and dominions lay their glory by.
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,
the hungry fed, the humble lifted high.

4.
Tell out, my soul, the glories of his word!
Firm is his promise, and his mercy sure.
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord
to children's children and for evermore!

Timothy Dudley-Smith and Walter Greatorex

© Words: 1961 Dudley-Smith, Timothy (Admin. by Oxford University Press), Music: Oxford University Press

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That Human Life Might Richer Be

Tune: Sussex Carol (the same tune as for As Man And Woman We Were Made)

That human life might richer be
That children may be named and known,
That love finds its own sanctuary,
That those in love stay not alone.

Refrain: Praise, praise the Maker, Spirit, Son,
Blessing this marriage now begun.

As two we love are wed this day
And we stand witness to their vow,
We call on God, the Trinity,
To sanctify their pledges now.

Refrain

Parents and families they leave,
Their own new family to make;
And, sharing what their pasts have taught,
They shape it for the future's sake.

Refrain

This is as God meant it to be,
That man and woman should be one
And live in love and love through life,
As Christ on earth has taught and done.

Refrain

Then, bless the bridegroom, bless the bride,
The dreams they dream, the hopes they share;
And thank the Lord whose love inspires
Their joy, their lips and ours declare.

Refrain

Words: John L. Bell and Graham Maule

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The Grace Of Life Is Theirs

Tune: Darwall's 148th

The grace of life is theirs
who on this wedding day
delight to make their vows
and for each other pray.
May they, O Lord, together prove
the lasting joy of Christian love.

Where love is, God abides:
and God shall surely bless
a home where trust and care
give birth to happiness.
May they, O Lord, together prove
the lasting joy of such a love.

How slow to take offence
love is! How quick to heal!
How ready in distress
to know how others feel!
May they, O Lord, together prove
the lasting joy of such a love.

And when time lays its hand
on all we hold most dear,
and life, by life consumed,
fulfils its purpose here:
May we, O Lord, together prove
the lasting joy of Christian love.

Fred Pratt Green
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CCLI Song Number 225028

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Tune: Dominus regit me

The King of love my Shepherd is,
Whose goodness faileth never;
I nothing lack if I am his
And he is mine for ever.

Where streams of living water flow
My ransomed soul he leadeth,
And where the verdant pastures grow
With food celestial feedeth.

Perverse and foolish oft I strayed,
But yet in love he sought me,
And on his shoulder gently laid,
And home, rejoicing, brought me.

In death's dark vale I fear no ill
With thee, dear Lord, beside me;
Thy rod and staff my comfort still,
Thy cross before to guide me.

Thou spread'st a table in my sight;
Thy unction, grace bestoweth;
And O what transport of delight
From thy pure chalice floweth!

And so through all the length of days
Thy goodness faileth never;
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise
Within thy house for ever.
The Lord’s My Shepherd

Tune: The Lord is my shepherd

The Lord’s my Shepherd, I'll not want.
He makes me lie in pastures green.
He leads me by the still, still waters,
His goodness restores my soul.

And I will trust in You alone.
And I will trust in You alone,
For Your endless mercy follows me,
Your goodness will lead me home.

(Descant)
I will trust, I will trust in You.
I will trust, I will trust in You.
Endless mercy follows me,
Goodness will lead me home.

He guides my ways in righteousness,
And He anoints my head with oil,
And my cup, it overflows with joy,
I feast on His pure delights.

And though I walk the darkest path,
I will not fear the evil one,
For You are with me, and Your rod and staff
Are the comfort I need to know.

Stuart Townend

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We Pledge To One Another

Tune: Thaxted

We pledge to one another,
before the Lord above,
etire and whole and perfect,
this union of our love —
a love that will be patient,
a love that will be wise,
that will not twist with envy,
nor lose itself in lies;
a love that will not falter,
a love to hold us fast,
and bind us to each other
as long as life shall last.

We pray that God will guide us
through all the years to be,
our lives be shaped by courage,
hope and serenity.

Through joy and celebration,
through loneliness and pain,
may loyalty, compassion
and tenderness remain,
that those who share the blessing
of love that cannot cease
may walk the paths of gentleness
into the place of peace.

Jill Jenkins

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For queries, email: hymns@smlojkns.myzen.co.uk

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