

# Hymn – All Creatures of Our God and King

The words of the hymn were initially written by St. Francis of Assisi in 1225 in the "Canticle of the Sun" poem, which was based on Psalm 148. The words were translated into English by William Draper, who at the time was rector of a Church of England parish church at Adel near Leeds. Draper paraphrased the words of the Canticle and set them to music. It's unclear when Draper first wrote the hymn, but it was between 1899 and 1919. Draper wrote it for his church's Whitsun (the name Anglican churches use for Pentecost) children's festival celebrations and it was later published in 1919 in the *Public School Hymn Book*.

The hymn is currently used in 179 different hymn books. The words written by St Francis are some of the oldest used in hymns after "Father We Praise Thee", written in 580 AD.

Like "Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones", Draper's text is usually set to the tune of "Lasst uns erfreuen", a German Easter hymn published by Friedrich Spee in 1623 in his book *Auserlesene Catholische Geistliche Kirchengesäng*. This tune became widespread in English hymn books starting with a 1906 arrangement by Ralph Vaughan Williams. John Rutter also wrote a piece of music for the hymn. Despite it being initially written by Draper for Whitsun, the hymn is mostly used in the earlier weeks of the Easter season.

# 31 All Creatures of Our God and King

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

1. All crea - tures of our God and King, lift  
 2. Thou rush - ing wind that art so strong, ye  
 3. And all ye men of ten - der heart, for -  
 4. Let all things their Cre - a - tor bless and

up your voice and with us sing Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -  
 clouds that sail in heav'n a - long, O praise Him! Al - le -  
 giv - ing oth - ers, take your part, O sing ye! Al - le -  
 wor - ship Him in hum - ble - ness, O praise Him! Al - le -

lu - ia! Thou burn - ing sun with gol - den beam, thou  
 lu - ia! Thou ris - ing morn, in praise re - joice, ye  
 lu - ia! Ye who long pain and sor - row bear, praise  
 lu - ia! Praise, praise the Fa - ther, praise the Son, and

sil - ver moon with soft - er gleam, O praise Him,  
 lights of ev - ning, find a voice! O praise Him,  
 God and on Him cast your care! O praise Him,  
 praise the Spir - it, Three in One! O praise Him,

WORDS: Francis of Assisi, 1225; tr. William H. Draper, 1925

8.8.8.8.8 with refrain

MUSIC: *Geistliche Kirchengesäng*, 1623; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

O praise Him! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -

The first system of music consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). It begins with a whole note chord (F#4, C#5, F#5) followed by a half note (G4), a quarter note (A4), and a quarter note (B4). The lower staff is in bass clef with the same key signature. It begins with a whole note chord (F#2, C#3, F#3) followed by a half note (D3), a quarter note (E3), and a quarter note (F#3).

lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

The second system of music also consists of two staves. The upper staff continues from the first system with a half note (C#5), a quarter note (B4), a quarter note (A4), and a whole note (G4). The lower staff continues with a half note (F#3), a quarter note (E3), a quarter note (D3), and a whole note (C#2). Both systems end with a double bar line.