

# Hymn: This is My Father's World

"This Is My Father's World" was originally written as a poem by Maltbie Davenport Babcock, which was published by his wife Katherine after he died in 1901. The couple lived in Lockport, New York, where he would frequently walk along the Niagara Escarpment to view the vast beauty of creation. He would often tell his wife that he was "going out to see the Father's world".

In 1915 his close friend, Franklin L. Sheppard, set the poem to music and published it in a Presbyterian songbook. The poem originally had sixteen verses, but Sheppard chose only three to be included.

The lyrics of this hymn draw heavily from Psalm 24, which describes the Lord as the creator of and ruler over the world. Babcock's poetic verse serves to remind us that we are all merely visitors on God's earth and that He is the ultimate master of all things.

In ancient times, people believed that as the planets revolved in the universe, they made music or harmony. This is the belief Babcock referred to in the line, "And round me rings the music of the spheres". Though this belief has since been disproven, we know that objects in space do in fact emit sounds.

Even more amazing, the ocean is also making noises at its very lowest and darkest depths - sounds that scientists are still unable to identify.

The whole universe is singing a song of its creation, revealing something to us about He who created it. But, as Albert Bailey writes, "In stanza three, the author realizes that all's not right with the world." (The Gospel in Hymns, 553). Creation is fallen and broken. Yet, it still belongs to God. We are thus charged to listen attentively to the voice of God in His world - from the heights of space to the depths of the ocean - and witness how He restores it, listening for our own calling to be stewards of Creation.

This hymn is a powerful reminder of God's ultimate authority over all creation and the everlasting security He provides for those who trust in Him. Whether sung in church or in private, "This Is My Father's World" offers an uplifting message of assurance and hope for all.

**FUN FACT:** Composer Howard Shore used the first seven notes of this hymn verbatim in his "Shire" theme music for *The Lord of the Rings* movie trilogy.

# This Is My Father's World

TERRA BEATA

Maltbie D. Babcock, 1901

Franklin Sheppard, 1915

Arr. Edward Shippen Barnes, 1926

1. This\_ is my Fa-ther's world, and to my lis-t'ning ears, all  
2. This\_ is my Fa-ther's world, the birds their car - ols raise, the  
3. This\_ is my Fa-ther's world, O let me ne'er for - get that

na - ture sings, and round me rings the mu - sic of the spheres. This  
morn - ing light, the lil - y white, de - clare their Mak - er's praise. This  
thought the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the Rul - er yet. This

is my Fa - ther's world: I rest me in the thought of  
is my Fa - ther's world: he sines in all that's fair; in the  
is my Fa - ther's world: the bat - tle is not done; Je -

rocks and trees, of skies and seas; his hand\_ the won - ders wrought.  
rus - tling grass I hear him pass, he speaks to me ev - ery where.  
sus who died shall be sat - is - fied, and earth\_ and heav'n be one.

Public Domain

This is my Father's world,

And to my listening ears

All nature sings,

and round me rings

The music of the spheres.

This is my Father's world:

I rest me in the thought

Of rocks and trees,

of skies and seas—

His hand the wonders

wrought.

This is my Father's world:

The birds their carols raise,

The morning light,

the lily white,

Declare their Maker's

praise.

This is my Father's world:

He shines in all that's fair;

In the rustling grass

I hear Him pass,

He speaks to me

everywhere.

This is my Father's world:

O let me ne'er forget

That though the wrong

seems oft so strong,

God is the Ruler yet.

This is my Father's world:

Why should my heart

be sad?

The Lord is King:

let the heavens ring!

God reigns;

let earth be glad!

This is my Father's world,

---

And to my listening ears

---

All nature sings, and round me rings

---

The music of the spheres.

---

This is my Father's world:

---

I rest me in the thought

---

Of rocks and trees, of skies and seas—

---

His hand the wonders wrought.

---

This is my Father's world:

---

The birds their carols raise,

---

The morning light, the lily white,

---

Declare their Maker's praise.

---

This is my Father's world:

---

He shines in all that's fair;

---

In the rustling grass I hear Him pass,

---

He speaks to me everywhere.

---

This is my Father's world:

---

O let me ne'er forget

---

That though the wrong seems oft so strong,

---

God is the Ruler yet.

---

This is my Father's world:

---

Why should my heart be sad?

---

The Lord is King: let the heavens ring!

---

God reigns; let earth be glad!

---

---

---

---

This is my Father's world,

And to my listening ears

All nature sings,

and round me rings

The music of the spheres.

This is my Father's world:

I rest me in the thought

Of rocks and trees,

of skies and seas

His hand the wonders wrought.

This is my Father's world:

The birds their carols raise,

The morning light, the lily white,

Declare their Maker's praise.

This is my Father's world:

He shines in all that's fair;

In the rustling grass

I hear Him pass,

He speaks to me everywhere.

This is my Father's world:

O let me ne'er forget

That though the wrong

seems oft so strong,

God is the Ruler yet.

This is my Father's world:

Why should my heart be sad?

The Lord is King:

let the heavens ring!

God reigns; let earth be glad!



