

Hymn: For the Beauty of the Earth

"For the Beauty of the Earth" is a hymn that resonates deeply with many people due to its timeless message of gratitude and reverence for the natural world. Written by Folliott Sandford Pierpoint in the 19th century, its origins are steeped in both personal reflection and the broader cultural context of the Victorian era.

Pierpoint, born in 1835, was an English poet, teacher, and hymnist. His composition of "For the Beauty of the Earth" is said to have been inspired by the scenic beauty of the countryside surrounding his hometown of Bath, England. The hymn is a celebration of the wonders of nature, from tall trees to delicate flowers, and it reflects Pierpoint's profound appreciation for the beauty found in the world around him.

During the Victorian period, there was a growing interest in nature and the natural world, fueled in part by the Romantic movement. Poets and writers of the time, such as William Wordsworth and John Keats, emphasized the importance of connecting with nature as a source of inspiration, solace, and spiritual renewal. Pierpoint's hymn emerged within this cultural setting, capturing the sentiments of many who sought to find meaning and beauty in the midst of industrialization and urbanization.

The hymn's enduring popularity can be attributed to its message, which celebrates God for creating life and the wonders of nature. Its opening line, "For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies," sets the tone for a hymn that praises the Creator for the splendor of the natural world. Each stanza offers gratitude for different aspects of creation, from the "joy of ear and eye" to the "love which from our birth over and around us lies." The simple yet profound lyrics invite listeners to be grateful for the little wonders that surround us each and every day and above all, to the One who formed everything.

Throughout the years, "For the Beauty of the Earth" has been embraced by various Christian denominations and has become a beloved staple in hymnals around the world. Its melody, composed by Conrad Kocher, adds to its enduring appeal, inviting congregations to join in singing praises to God for the wonders of creation.

This hymn continues to resonate with people of all backgrounds as a reminder to pause, reflect, and give thanks for the beauty that surrounds us. In an increasingly fast-paced and technology-driven world, the message of "For the Beauty of the Earth" remains as relevant as ever, inviting us to cultivate a deeper appreciation for the natural world and the Creator who made it all possible.

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For the Beauty of the Earth

1 For the beau - ty of the earth, for the
 2 For the won - der of each hour of the
 3 For the joy of ear and eye, for the
 4 For the joy of hu - man love, broth - er,
 5 For thy - self, best gift di - vine, to our

glo - ry of the skies, for the love which
 day and of the night; hill and vale, and
 heart and mind's de - light, for the mys - tic
 sis - ter, par - ent, child, friends on earth, and
 world so free - ly giv'n; for that great, great

from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies:
 tree and flow'r, sun and moon, and stars of light:
 har - mo - ny link - ing sense to sound and sight:
 friends a - bove; for all gen - tle thoughts and mild:
 love of thine, peace on earth and joy in heav'n:

Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grate - ful praise.

Text: Folliot S. Pierpoint, 1835–1917, abr., alt.
 Music: Conrad Kocher, 1786–1872, alt.

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