

Hymn: O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go

George Matheson, a Scottish minister and theologian, wrote the beloved hymn "O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go" in 1882. This hymn is considered one of his most famous works and has been translated into multiple languages.

Matheson himself had an intriguing and moving life story. Born in 1842, he was the son of a prominent Scottish businessman. Despite being born with poor eyesight, Matheson excelled academically and went on to study at the University of Glasgow and the University of Edinburgh. After completing his studies, Matheson became a minister in several parishes in Scotland. However, his eyesight continued to deteriorate, and he began to go blind. This did not deter him from pursuing his calling as a minister and theologian.

"O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go" was written during one of Matheson's most difficult periods in life. He had been engaged to be married, but unfortunately, his fiancé ended their engagement after realizing the challenges of being married to a blind man. His sister stepped in and faithfully assisted him herself for many years, but would eventually fall in love and get married, moving away. On the eve before his sister's wedding, Matheson was inspired to write this hymn, realizing that God would always be there for him and be his source of strength, even when people in his life left.

The lyrics of "O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go" reflect Matheson's personal struggles and faith in God's unending love and support. The hymn has four stanzas, each stanza expressing a beautiful picture of finding solace and joy in God during times of hardship.

Today, the hymn is beloved by Christians all around the world and has been featured in many hymnals. It is a testament to Matheson's personal experiences and his unshakable belief in God's unwavering love for all. This hymn continues to be a source of comfort and solace for many who face challenges and hardships in their own lives. It is a powerful reminder that no matter what we may face, God's love will never let us go.

O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go Lyrics

O Love that will not let me go,
I rest my weary soul in thee.
I give thee back the life I owe,
that in thine ocean depths its flow
may richer, fuller be.

O Light that follows all my way,
I yield my flick'ring torch to thee.
My heart restores its borrowed ray,
that in thy sunshine's blaze its day
may brighter, fairer be.

O Joy that seekest me through pain,
I cannot close my heart to thee.
I trace the rainbow through the rain,
and feel the promise is not vain,
that morn shall tearless be.

O Cross that liftest up my head,
I dare not ask to fly from thee.
I lay in dust, life's glory dead,
and from the ground there blossoms red,
life that shall endless be.

O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go

George Mathenson

Albert L. Peace

O Love that wilt not let me go, _____ I
O Light that fol - lowest all my way, _____ I
O Joy that seek - est me through pain, _____ I
O Cross that lift - est up my head, _____ I

rest my wea - ry soul in thee; _____ I give thee back the life I
yield my flick - ering torch to thee; _____ my heart re - stores its bor - rowed
can not close my heart to thee; _____ I trace the rain - bow through the
dare not ask to fly from thee; _____ I lay in dust life's glo - ry

owe, _____ that in thine o - cean depths its
ray, _____ that in thy sun - shine's blaze its
rain, _____ and feel the prom - ise is not
dead, _____ and from the ground there blos - soms

flow may rich - er, full - er be.
day may bright - er, fair - er be.
vain that morn shall tear - less be.
red life that shall end - less be.