

Favorite Hymns for August 2, 2020

Procession Hymn #304 “I come with joy to meet my Lord”

Tune: *Land of Rest*

A favorite of Carol Westerberg Sedlacek.

Music and words to sing along with: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sRoIIVjn5V8>

St. Matthew’s Episcopal Church, Parker CO, 3 verses taped during the pandemic

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sRoIIVjn5V8>

Brian Wren (b. Romford, Essex, England, 1936) is a major British figure in the revival of contemporary hymn writing. He studied French literature at New College and theology at Mansfield College in Oxford, England. Ordained in 1965, he was pastor of the Congregational Church (now United Reformed) in Hockley and Hawkwell, Essex, from 1965 to 1970. He worked for the British Council of Churches and several other organizations involved in fighting poverty and promoting peace and justice. With a ministry throughout the English-speaking world, Wren now resides in the United States where he is active as a freelance lecturer, preacher, and full-time hymn writer.

Wren has been a strong proponent of the view that hymns are poetry and theology, instead of simply music. He has stated, "a hymn is a poem, and a poem is a visual art form. The act of reading a hymn aloud helps to recover its poetry and its power to move us—the power of language, image, metaphor, and faith-expression." It is through this power that he defined theology, in his book *Praying Twice: The Music and Words of Congregational Song*, as "done when anyone attempts, by artistic skill and creativity, the interplay of intellect and imagination, and/or the methods of reasoned enquiry, to grasp, know and understand the meaning of God’s creating, self-disclosing and liberating activity centered and uniquely focused in Jesus Christ."

A major part of Wren's work has been with inclusive language as well. In 1978, he began to look more closely at "he-man language" and began using language inclusive of women and oppressed or subordinate groups in his hymns. He has since sought to challenge the church to adopt this inclusive mindset. He writes that the vocation of a poet in the church is to not only "to write poems of faith which people will pick up and sing," but to also "speak truth by stepping beyond the church's limits of comfort and convention".

TUNE: *Land of Rest* (There is another tune, *St. Botolph*, which is often used with these words. In the 1982 Hymnal, *Land of Rest* is also the tune used for “Jerusalem, my happy home, #620) LAND OF REST is an American folk tune with roots in the ballads of northern England and Scotland. It was known throughout the Appalachians; a shape-note version of the tune was published in *The Sacred Harp* (1844) and titled NEW PROSPECT as the setting for "O land of rest! for thee I sigh." The tune was published again with that same text in J. R. Graves's *Little*

Seraph (Memphis, 1873). The name LAND OF REST derives from the tune's association with that text.

The tune was known to Annabel M. Buchanan (b. Groesbeck, TX, 1888; d. Paducah KY, 1983), whose grandmother sang it to her as a child. She harmonized the tune and published it in her *Folk Hymns of America* (1938), noting similarities between this tune and the tune for "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot" (616).

1. I come with joy to meet my Lord,
forgiven, loved, and free,
in awe and wonder to recall,
his life laid down for me.

2. I come with Christians far and near
to find, as all are fed,
the new community of love
in Christ's communion bread.

3. As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share,
each proud division ends.
The love that made us, makes us one,
and strangers now are friends.

4. And thus with joy we meet our Lord.
His presence, always near,
is in such friendship better known,
we see and praise him here.

5. Together met, together bound,
we'll go our different ways
and as his people in the world,
we'll live and speak his praise.

Sequence Hymn Wonder, Love and Praise #758

“You have come down to the seashore” Tune: *Pescador*
A favorite of Judy Atkinson.

Originally written in Spanish, this lovely hymn has many different versions in English. Whichever one you sing or listen to, the tune “Pescador do Hombres (Fishers of Men)” is reminiscent of a gently rocking boat. This hymn has also been translated into Polish and is a favorite in that country. Enjoy these renditions while you read about the hymn’s story.

A Polish version: <https://youtu.be/1c5IiTVDT6k>

Spanish: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mdXrgsqIZ8k>

English (Dean Phelps): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CH8O8QeGprk>

With the reforms, including liturgical music, brought about by the Second Vatican Council (1962-1965), Monseñor Cesáreo Gabaráin (1936-1991) became one of the best-known composers of Spanish liturgical music. He was inspired by the feelings and actions of the humble people he met in his ministry, writing over 500 songs.

At age 10 Gabaráin entered the minor seminary in Zaragoza, where he began his musical studies. In 1952 he continued his education at Seminario Mayor of San Sebastián, near his hometown, and was ordained to the priesthood at San Sebastián on Dec. 19, 1959.

He served as chaplain in various places as well as in parish ministry. He toured 22 U.S. cities to conduct workshops in conjunction with OCP (Oregon Catholic Press). In addition to his theological education, Gabaráin studied journalism and musicology. As a parish priest he was known for his athleticism and work with young people. His ministry to cyclists is legendary, taking so many tours with them that he became known as “priest of the cyclists.” In addition to spending many summer vacations ministering to cyclists participating in the Tour de France, he also performed a similar role with well-known soccer players in Madrid.

Written in 1979, “Tú has venido a la orilla” (the Spanish opening line) is based on the parallel passages found in the synoptic gospels on Jesus’ calling of his first disciples (Matthew 4:18-20; Mark 1:16-20; Luke 5:1-11). As found in the Scripture, Gabaráin captures the total obedience of disciples and their willingness to give up everything: “As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. ‘Come, follow me,’ Jesus said, ‘and I will send you out to fish for people.’ At once they left their nets and followed him.” (Matthew 4:18-20, NIV)

The hymn entreats us to follow Christ with the same obedience and commitment. The refrain is a call to surrender to Jesus in response to his command to follow him.

This hymn was used in the 1993 movie *Alive*, based on a book about the survivors of the Andes plane crash in 1972, and the Spanish film *Camino* (2008), about a girl who died of spinal cancer in 1985 who is in the process of canonization by the Catholic Church. Gabaráin’s obituary noted that he “would simply smile when guides in Palestine boasted that ‘Pescador de Hombres’ was composed along the shores of Lake Tiberias, when, in fact, it was written in Madrid

1) Lord, You have come down to the lakeshore
Seeking neither the wise nor the wealthy,
But only asking for me to follow.

Refrain

O Jesus, you have looked into my eyes;
Kindly smiling you've called out my name.
On the sound I have abandoned my small boat;
Now with you I will seek other seas.

2) You know full well my possessions.
Neither treasure nor weapons for conquest,
Just these my fish nets and will for working
Refrain

3) You need my hands, my exhaustion,
Working love for the rest of the weary
A love that's willing to go on loving.
Refrain

4) You, who have fished other waters;
You, the longing of souls that are yearning:
As loving Friend, you have come to call me. *Refrain*

1) Tú has venido a la orilla no has buscado
Ni sabios, ni a ricos,
Tan sólo quieres que yo te siga

Estrillo

Jesús, me has mirado a los ojos;
Sonriendo has dicho mi nombre;
En la arena he dejado mi barca;
Junto a ti buscaré otro mar.

2) Tú sabes bien lo que tengo:
En mi barca no hay oro ni espadas;
Tan sólo redes y mi trabajo.

Estrillo

3) Tú necesitas mis manos
Mi cansancio que a otros descansa,
Amor que quiera seguir amando.

Estrillo

4) Tú, Pescador de otros mares,
Ansia eterna de almas que esperan.
Amigo bueno, que así me llamas.

Estrillo