

GOD THE FATHER: GOD THE CREATOR

All Things Bright and Beautiful

Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. Jn. 1:3

Refrain

Harmony

All things bright and beau-ti-ful, all crea-tures great and small,

Fine

all things wise and won-der-ful; the Lord God made them all.

Unison

1. Each lit-tle flower that o-pens, each lit-tle bird that sings,
2. The pur-ple-head-ed moun-tain, the riv-er run-ning by,
3. The cold wind in the win-ter, the pleas-ant sum-mer sun,
4. He gave us eyes to see them, and lips that we might tell

D.C.

he made their glow-ing col-ors, he made their ti-ny wings.
the sun-set, and the morn-ing that bright-ens up the sky.
the ripe fruits in the gar-den: he made them ev-ery one.
how great is God Al-might-y, who has made all things well.

VLEUGEL
7.6.7.6.D.

WORDS: Cecil F. Alexander, 1848
MUSIC: Cornelius Vleugel, 1957

I've traced this hymn through many collections & hymnal companions &--unusual for a popular sacred song--have found no variations from its first appearance in Ms. (yes, "Cecil") Alexander's *HYMNS FOR LITTLE CHILDREN* (1848), though two of her stanzas no longer appear (I've photocopied from *THE WORSHIPING CHURCH: A HYMNAL* [Hope/90].)....It was in the supplemental hymnal of the congregation of my long pastorate but till recently had not appeared in the formal hymnals of most denominations (the Anglicans being the exception: she was the wife of an Anglican bishop, & it began to appear in Anglican hymnals in 1916)....The youth movement of the 1960s put "Amazing Grace" on the map of pop songs; & British veterinarian Jas. Herriot's four recent books, one for each line of the hymn's refrain, has nudged our hymn at least near the map, as has the general culture's rising eco-consciousness....Of her many hymns, my favorite is "Jesus calls us, o'er the tumult / Of our life's wild, restless sea....In our joys and in our sorrows, / Days of toil and hours of ease, / Still he calls, in cares and pleasures--Christian, love me more than these....// Serve and love thee best of all!"....Our hymn's first word is "All": thus biodiversity! It's based on the Creed's second article, viz "Maker of heaven and earth."....Miss Hymphreys (her maiden name; she was Irish) was "the greatest of women hymn-writers in English" (says Eric Routley, *HAHL*, 214)...."Intergenerational" is a word we'd use today for her hymns for children: their simple piety embraces all us Christians.