

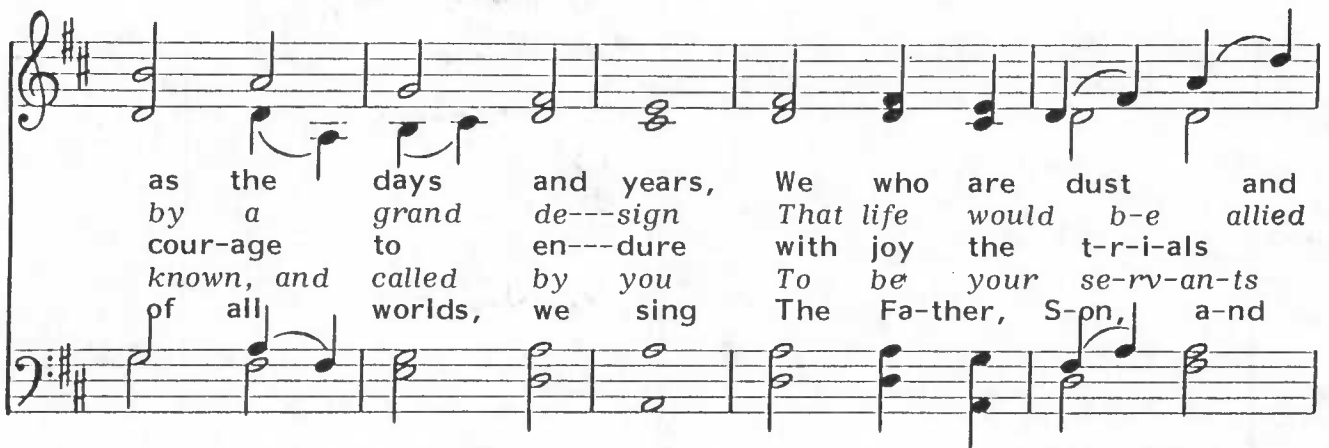
Eternal God, whose mercy spans

Willis Elliott, 2000

Duke Street L.M.



ETERNAL GOD, whose mercy spans The decades
In ages past, as in our youth, You purposed
And now, with fears of pain and loss, We pray for
The future is to us unknown, But we are
ETERNAL GOD, our Lord and King, Cre-----a---tor



as the days and years, We who are dust and
by a grand de---sign That life would b-e allied
cour-age to en---dure with joy the t-r-i-als
known, and called by you To be your se-rv-an-ts
of all worlds, we sing The Fa-ther, S-on, a-nd



sp-i-r-it raise Our da-ily praise through joys and tears.
t-o truth And light would through all dark-ness shine.
w-e mu-st face, Sus-tained by look-ing to the Cross.
to-ward you-r goal. Our trust be in your grace a-lone.
Sp-i-r-it, one, One power, one love, one hope we sing.

NOTES: (1) This hymn, a work in progress, was written because I'd asked others to present each a hymn to present today (2.13.00) in adult education, on the general theme of time/eternity. (I presented mine after they'd presented theirs.) (2) Here, time (past/present/future stanzas) is enveloped by eternity (stanza 1, our praise to the Eternal; stanza 5, our song to the Trinity)....In this category of time-oriented hymns, the best known is "Our God, our help in ages past." It, too, is an envelop hymn (the 1st & last stanza being similar: in this case, identical except for one line; & both prayers, whereas the other stanzas are affirmations. Throughout, past-present-future are wove on the warp of the Eternal God's omnipresence. (3) In Long Meter, each line has 8 syllables--expressed 8.8.8.8 for Duke Street because its stanzas are quatrains (i.e., 4 lines per stanza). (4) In the hymn above, the lines are iambic (i.e., accent on the 2nd syllable) tetrameter (i.e., four measures). (4) A "hymn" consists of a text (the hymn proper) & a tune (the music). Duke Street is a familiar tune (used, e.g., with "Jesus shall reign"). While I chose Duke Street among a dozen possible tunes, another good match would be Truro ("Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates")....A good hymn, as the compositions of Anton Bruckner, "renders the transcendent real," "attracting, even compelling, the divine into our human world" (as said, of A.B., the program of a N.Y. Philharmonic concert I attended--including A.B.'s Symphony No.7). The aim is that "the heavens open"!

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