

The pastor who wrote this hymn in our UCC hymnal [THE PILGRIM HYMNAL, now replaced by the 1976 HYMNAL, which also includes it] combines the moods of transcendence and immanence in his ministry, as I've observed him through the years. Once he told me his disappointment when the church, which had worshipped a year in the basement because the upstairs had burned out, returned from the intimacy-immanence of the basement to the ultimacy-transcendence of "the sanctuary"! Why, asked he, is it so hard to keep the two dimensions together? Well, do you agree with me that he's managed it in this hymn?

[NOTE: He wrote this ca.1960, before the women's movement. He'd be pleased with my elimination of sexism in the last line.]

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O How Glorious, Full of Wonder

Based on Psalm 8
Curtis Beach, 1914-

IN BABILONE 8.7.8.7.D.
Traditional Dutch Melody

1 O how glo-rious, full of won-der Is thy name o'er all the earth;
2 When we see thy lights of heav-en, Moon and stars, thy power dis-played,
3 Thou hast giv-en man do-min-ion O'er the won-ders of thy hand,
4 O how won-drous, O how glo-rious Is thy name in ev-ery land!

Thou who wrought cre-a-tion's splen-dor, Bring-ing suns and stars to birth!
What is man that thou shouldst love him, Crea-ture that thy hand hath made?
Made him fly with ea-gle pin-ion, Mas-ter o-ver sea and land.
Thou whose pur-pose moves be-fore us Toward the goal that thou hast planned.

Rapt in rev-erence we a-dore thee, Mar-veling at thy mys-tic ways.
Child of earth, yet full of yearn-ing, Mix-ture strange of good and ill,
Soar-ing spire and ru-ined cit-y, These our hopes and fail-ures show.
'Tis thy will our hearts are seek-ing, Con-sci-ous of our hu-man need.

Hum-bly now we bow be-fore thee, Lift-ing up our hearts in praise.
From thy ways so of-ten turn-ing, Yet thy love doth seek him still.
Teach us more of hu-man pit-y, That we in thine im-age grow.
Spir-it in our spir-it speak-ing, Make us ~~sons of God~~ ^{servants} in-deed! A-men.

954.2

April 21, 1983

Dear Willis,

Thanks again for your perceptive and stimulating message yesterday. Since you're concerned (praise God!) about inclusive language, you'll be interested in the revised version of Curtis Beach's fine hymn as it appears in Everflowing Streams (ed. Ruth C. Duck and Michael G. Bausch; Pilgrim Press, 1981). The hymn is listed as written in 1958 and revised in 1980--whether by Beach or the editors I don't know. I've inserted in your xerox copy the changes made in ES. Please give the inclosed item to Loree. Why not save 20¢?!

Peace,

Paul Silling
(M.L.K., Jr. - Ph.D.)

B. Umrigar
Co-mentor of
King's
PhD dissertation -
Elliott read his copy

~~Hymns of
Creation / Hymn
Creation / Hymn
Gloria / Hymn~~