

New and Old Hymns to Bless and Comfort

(21 May 2020)

“Bless the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name. Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.” (Ps 103:1, 2)

“God My Father Reigns”

Deborah Mae composed “God My Father Reigns” with lyrics from Joycelyn Chng after hearing that Jemima was stricken with cancer. It is comforting to know that God is on the throne and He is in control no matter what happens. Hear it at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pw2oXMcC5Fw>.

“Sovereign Ruler of the Skies”

The sovereignty of God in the affairs of mankind can also be gleaned from the Rev John Ryland’s poem “Sovereign Ruler of the Skies”. Our brother and Hymnpod founder Christopher Tan saw that the poem could be sung to the tune of “Holy Bible, Book Divine”. Find it here: <http://hymnpod.com/2020/05/20/sovereign-ruler-of-the-skies>.

HymnPod (<http://hymnpod.com>) is a traditional hymns podcast where you can listen to many good old hymns played on the piano and sing along.

“Arise, My Soul, Arise”

The True Life choir (men) gave a beautiful rendition of “Arise, My Soul, Arise”. The parts were separately recorded and then put together by brother Bee Heng using a digital app. Hear it here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kPI0sSJHcKM>.

“Alone with God”

The hymn “Alone with God” was introduced to us by the Rev Nguyen Gia Hien of Brisbane Bible-Presbyterian Church. It was his sister Bich’s favourite. She was called home to be with the Lord on 3 May 2020. Rev Hien shared, “I thank God for taking my sister home with Him in peace. When I talked and prayed with my sister over the phone, she asked me to help her to memorise Isaiah 41:10 and Habakkuk 3:17–19 because she only could remember some parts of those verses. Thank God that in the end she could memorise those verses. Only God and His Word is able to strengthen and comfort her in her weakness and pain until the end.” Here’s the hymn: <http://hymnpod.com/2020/05/10/alone-with-god>.

Isaiah 41:10, *“Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.”*

Habbakuk 3:17–19, *“Although the fig tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines; the labour of the olive shall fail, and the fields shall yield no meat; the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no herd in the stalls: Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation. The LORD God is my strength, and he will make my feet like hinds’ feet, and he will make me to walk upon mine high places. To the chief singer on my stringed instruments.”*

“Someday He’ll Make It Plain”

This hymn was brought to our knowledge by the Rev Dr Bob Klutz of Hokkaido Bible Center when he wrote a prayer letter for Berean Joshien (BJ)—the daughter of Dr and Mrs Einstine Opiso—who was in hospital in critical condition. On 14 May 2020, a day after the prayer letter was sent out, BJ went home to be with the Lord. Why did the Lord take her and not heal her? We don’t know, but “Someday He’ll Make It Plain”. The hymn was written by blind musician Adam Geibel (1855–1933) who served as a music teacher at the Pennsylvania Institution for the Instruction of the Blind. May this hymn bring comfort to your soul: <http://hymnpod.com/2020/05/20/someday-hell-make-it-plain>.