



In this series, we'll be looking at four favourite hymns. Take some time to listen to and reflect on the hymn—maybe outside in the sunshine! You might like to email your thoughts to us and we'll include them—friends in the parish might appreciate your insights and grow further in understanding hymns that can become so familiar we don't always think deeply about them.

## “Dear Lord and Father of Mankind”

Open your hymn book and sing through the hymn. You might also like to listen to a recording on YouTube [here](#).

Which sections of this hymn do you find moving or significant? Are there parts you don't like?

If you know an alternate tune for this hymn, now sing the hymn to this tune, or speak it out loud as if reading poetry. Does this impact the way you experience the hymn?

Does this hymn remind you of another? Is the theme similar or perhaps the music?

Does the hymn remind you of a passage in the Bible? Take out your Bible and read the passage. Has there been a time when this hymn or passage of scripture has been meaningful?

Finish this time with the doxology. Sing it yourself or listen to it on YouTube [here](#).

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him all creatures here below.  
Praise Him above ye heavenly host,  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.*

## About Last Week

### Now Thank We All Our God

“One of my favourite hymns, both words and tune. It talks to me about life. From our birth, He is there to guide and protect us as we go on our way.” *Gwen Passalacqua*

“This is a hymn I really like as it is so embracing of life. I used it at the funerals of my parents and would like it at mine (if we ever have such services again). The text is inspired by Ecclesiastes and written by a Lutheran minister in 1637 during an episode of severe plague. He had 50 funerals one day and buried 2000 during the year, including his wife. And he could still thank God for the blessings surrounding him. What an example! The tune was arranged by a German, Cruger, in the C17<sup>th</sup>, used by Mendelssohn in the C19<sup>th</sup> and there is a grand Rutter arrangement with orchestra from last century, which you can find on YouTube [here](#).” *Margaret Goode*

Dear Lord and Father of mankind,  
forgive our foolish ways:  
re clothe us in our rightful mind;  
in purer lives your service find,  
in deeper reverence, praise.

In simple trust like theirs who heard,  
beside the Syrian sea,  
the gracious calling of the Lord  
let us, like them, without a word:  
rise up and follow me!

O Sabbath rest by Galilee!  
O calm of hills above,  
where Jesus knelt to share with Thee  
the silence of eternity  
interpreted by love!

With that deep hush subduing all  
our words and works that drown  
the tender whisper of Thy call,  
as noiseless let Thy blessing fall  
as fell your manna down.

Drop Thy still dews of quietness,  
till all our strivings cease;  
take from our souls the strain  
and stress,  
and let our ordered lives confess  
the beauty of Thy peace.

Breathe through the heats  
of our desire  
Thy coolness and Thy balm;  
let sense be dumb, let flesh retire,  
speak through the earthquake,  
wind and fire,  
O still small voice of calm!

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