

**Singing the Hymns of Our Faith
IN THE GARDEN**

The Story Behind the Hymn

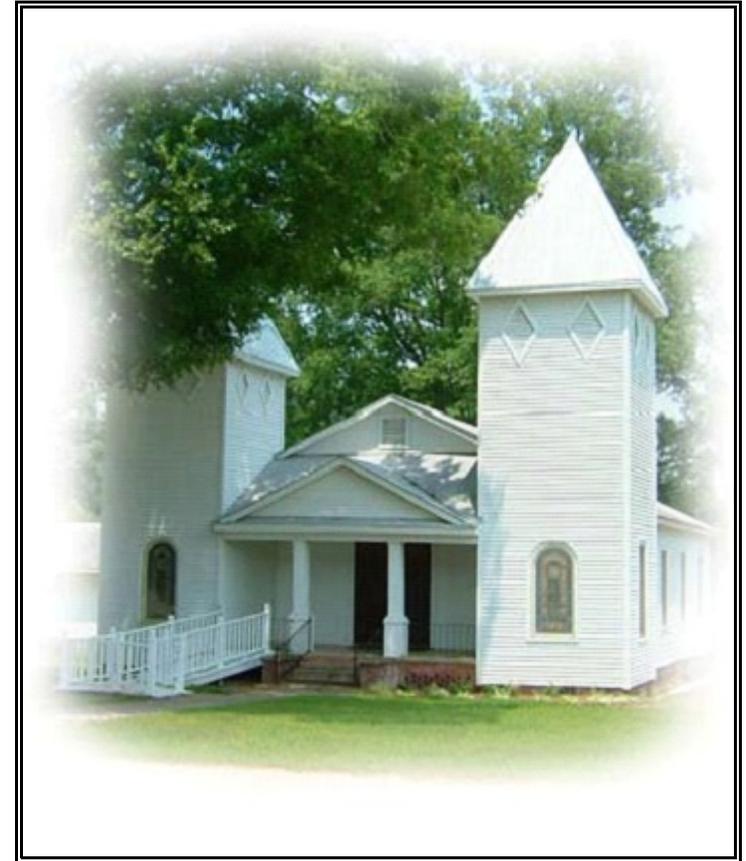
Here is the account of how this beautiful hymn was written from the hymn writer, C. Austin Miles, himself, "One day in April 1912, I was seated in the dark room where I kept my photographic equipment, and also my organ. I drew my Bible toward me and it opened at my favorite book and chapter, John chapter twenty. I don't know if this was by chance or by the work of the Holy Spirit. I will let you the reader decide. That story of Jesus and Mary in John 20 had lost none of its power and charm.

It was though I was in a trance, as I read it that day, I seemed to be part of the scene. I became a silent witness to that dramatic moment in Mary's life when she knelt before her Lord and cried, "Rabboni". I rested my hands on the open Bible, as I stared at the light blue wall. As the light faded, I seemed to be standing at the entrance of a garden, looking down a gently winding path, shaded by olive branches. A woman in white, with head bowed, hand clasping her throat, as if to choke back her sobs, walked slowly into the shadows. It was Mary. As she came unto the tomb, upon which she placed her hand, she bent over to look in and ran away.

John, in a flowing robe, appeared looking at the tomb. Then came Peter, who entered the tomb, followed slowly by John. As they departed, Mary reappeared leaning her head upon her arm at the tomb, she wept. Turning herself, she saw Jesus standing there, so did I. I knew it was He. She knelt before Him, with arms outstretched, and looking into His face cried, "Rabboni".

I awakened in sunlight, gripping my Bible with my muscles tense, and nerves vibrating, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. I wrote as quickly as the words could be formed the lyrics exactly as it is sung today. That same evening, I wrote the tune. It is sung today as it was written in 1912."

Sing the hymn as an act of worship. Then pray the hymn. Use this time to share with Jesus your concerns and hopes for others, for the church, and for yourself. A recording with lyrics can be found on the Fork Chapel website at www.forkchapelumc.org.



**FORK CHAPEL
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

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January 6, 2019

Epiphany

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Prelude

Greeting: Church Concerns

Opening Prayer - The Pastor

*Hymn 545: "The Church's One Foundation"

*Apostles' Creed Creed No. 881

Special Music - Danny Roland

Finding Our Way Forward - Dr. Gavalas

Scripture: 2 Peter 12:4-10

Meditation: "And Are We Yet Alive"

Prayers for the Church - Nancy Copelan, Prayer Leader

Scripture: Romans 12:1-8

Let us pray together:

**O God of all times and places, we pray for your Church,
which is set today amid the perplexities of a changing order,
and face to face with new tasks.**

Baptize her afresh in the life-giving spirit of Jesus.

**Bestow upon her a great responsiveness to duty,
a swifter compassion with suffering,
and an utter loyalty to your will.**

Help her to proclaim boldly the coming of your kingdom.

Put upon her lips the ancient gospel of her Lord.

**Fill her with the prophets' scorn of tyranny,
and with a Christlike tenderness for the heavy laden and
downtrodden.**

Bid her cease from seeking her own life, lest she lose it.

**Make her valiant to give up her life to humanity,
that, like her crucified Lord,
she may mount by the path of the cross to a higher glory;
through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*Hymn 553: "And Are We Yet Alive"

The Service of the Table 2: Hymnal 12

Hymn 557: "Blest Be the Tie that Binds"

Charge and Blessing

Dismissal Chorus

*"God be with you till we meet again; by his counsels guide, uphold you;
with his sheep securely fold you, God be with you till we meet again."*

Welcome to All Who Worship with Us Today

We welcome you to worship today. No matter who you are, or what your lifestyle may be, whether you are high on the "hog" or low down in the pits, we welcome you with open hands, open hearts, and open minds. We invite you to join with us in church membership. We promise you an exciting and meaningful way of life in Christ. If you desire to join with us, please meet the pastor at the altar during the last hymn.

Unshakable Hope - A 12 Week Study by Max Lucado

7:00 p.m. each Wednesday: January 9 - April 3

In a trembling, unsteady world, how do you gain stability, find peace, and learn to trust God? This 12 week video Bible study will help you to see your problems in light of God's many promises in Scripture.

Each participant will receive a copy of the book "Unshakable Hope" and a Study Guide. Plan to attend, invite a friend. The study will be introduced at our first session this Wednesday. Study materials will be distributed at this meeting.

Green County Food Pantry - January Food Items

Dried Peas and Beans - Bring to Church by Jan. 20

Praying and Fasting Our Way Forward

1. Engage in a weekly Wesley 24-hour fast from Thursday after dinner to Friday mid-afternoon. If your health prevents you from fasting, you might consider fasting from social media, emails or another daily activity.

2. Pause and pray for our church's mission and way forward daily for four minutes from 2:23 through 2:26 a.m. or p.m. OR at another time. This is because the Special Session of General Conference will be held February 23 through February 26, 2019.