

Hymns for All Saints Sunday

***For all the Saints who from their
labour's rest
who thee by faith before the world
confessed,
thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest.
Alleluia! Alleluia!***

Thou wast their rock, their fortress, and
their might;
thou, Lord, their captain in the well-fought
fight;
thou, in the darkness drear, their one true
light.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

O may thy soldiers, faithful, true, and bold,
fight as the saints who nobly fought of old,
and win with them the victor's crown of
gold.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

O blest communion, fellowship divine,
we feebly struggle, they in glory shine;
yet all are one in thee, for all are thine.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

And when the fight is fierce, the warfare
long,
steals on the ear the distant triumph song,
and hearts are brave again, and arms are
strong.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

***The golden evening brightens in the
west;
soon, soon to faithful warrior cometh
rest;
sweet is the calm of paradise the blest.
Alleluia! Alleluia!***

***But lo! there breaks a yet more glorious
day;
the saints triumphant rise in bright
array;
the King of glory passes on his way.
Alleluia! Alleluia!***

***From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's
farthest coast,
through gates of pearl streams in the
countless host,
singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
Alleluia! Alleluia!***

This is a hymn of thanksgiving for the lives of
the faithful and a hymn to inspire us to stand
firm and keep up the good fight. In terms of the
life of William How the hymn writer - this fight
would be to continue to take up the cause of
the destitute- the poor (See below). One of the
images in this hymn is a reference to Elijah who
sheltered in a cave as God's glory passed by. As
saints we are all called to be prophets that
speak and labour for God's kingdom.

For All the Saints who from their labours rest
written by William W How, who was born in
Shrewsbury 1823 and studied at Wadham
College Oxford and Durham Universtiy. He was

ordained priest in 1847. He was Suffragan
bishop of East London in 1879 and bishop of
Wakefield in 1888. He was called the 'poor
man's bishop' and the 'children's bishop.' due
to his he work amongst the destitute in the
London slums and the factory workers in
Yorkshire.

***Lord Jesus Christ, You have come to us
You are one with us, Mary's Son.
Cleansing our souls from all their sin
Pouring Your love and goodness in
Jesus our love for You we sing,
Living Lord.***

***Lord Jesus Christ now and every day
teach us how to pray, Son of God.
You have commanded us to do
This in remembrance Lord of You
Into our lives, Your power breaks
through,
Living Lord.***

***Lord Jesus Christ, I would come to you
Live my life for you, Son of God.
All your commands I know are true,
Your many gifts will make me new,
Into my life, Your power breaks through,
Living Lord.***

This hymn reminds us of the offering of our
lives to God, the desire to learn to pray and the
knowledge that God's gifts of prayer and Holy
Communion can sustain us so that God's
powerful love can be shown in our lives.

Lord Jesus Christ was written by Patrick Appleford, who was an Anglican priest and hymn writer. Along with Geoffrey Beaumont and others he was a founder of the "Twentieth Century Church Light Music Group" around 1960, which significantly affected the development of hymn-writing and hymn-singing across English-speaking churches from that time onwards. It was at Trinity College, Cambridge, where Beaumont was chaplain, that Appleford found his vocation to the priesthood. He studied for the ministry at Chichester, served his first curacy at All Saints Poplar, in the East End of London and then as chaplain of Bishops' College, Cheshunt. From 1961 to 1966 he served with USPG, then moved to Lusaka, Zambia as Dean and Rector of Holy Cross Cathedral until 1972. On his return to England he was curate-in-charge of Sutton St Nicholas with Sutton St Michael (1973-75), then Chelmsford Diocesan Director of Education (1975-90) and Canon of Chelmsford Cathedral (1978-90).

***I will sing the wondrous story
Of the Christ who died for me.
How He left His home in glory
For the cross of Calvary.***

***I was lost, but Jesus found me,
Found the sheep that went astray,
Threw His loving arms around me,
Drew me back into His way.***

***I was bruised, but Jesus healed me;
Faint was I from many a fall;***

***Sight was gone, and fears possessed
me,
But He freed me from them all.
Days of darkness still come o'er me,
Sorrow's paths I often tread,
But the Saviour still is with me;
By His hand I'm safely led.***

***He will keep me till the river
Rolls its waters at my feet;
Then He'll bear me safely over,
Where the loved ones I shall meet.
Yes, I'll sing the wondrous story
Of the Christ who died for me,
Sing it with the saints in glory,
Gathered by the crystal sea.***

This hymn speaks of the compassion of God who came to earth and died on the cross in his Son Jesus. The images from the bible speak of the Good Shepherd and the Welcoming father. There is a sense of freedom in the second verse which names life's sorrows but also the companionship of Christ in life's journey. The final verse speaks God's power to bring us through darkness into bright hope and from life in this world to live in heaven 'crossing the river' to a place where saints shall gather together to sing God's praise.

I will sing the wondrous story was written by Francis Rowley. He was born in Hilton, New York. He was ordained into the Baptist ministry in 1879 and served in various Baptist churches in Boston, Pennsylvania and Massachusetts. Rowley was a trustee of the University of Chicago Divinity School and

preached at Harvard University. Rowley was a hymn writer best known for this hymn. It was composed by Rowley's associate Peter P. Bilhorn and was presented to Ira D. Sankey as a gift. Sankey was impressed with the song and published it in *Gospel Hymns and Sacred Songs and Solos*, in 1887. Along with his work as a pastor he was also an animal welfare campaigner.