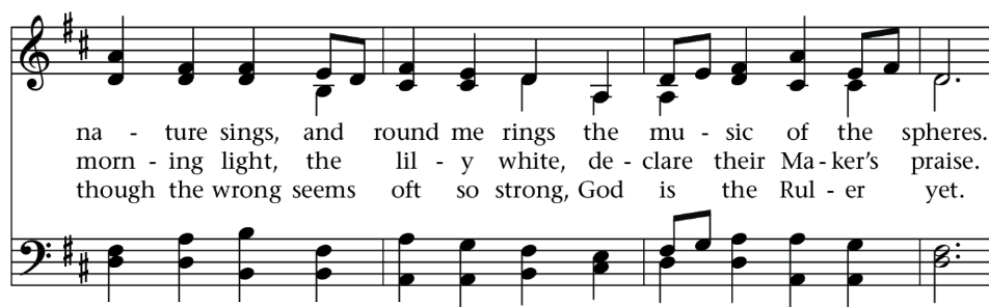


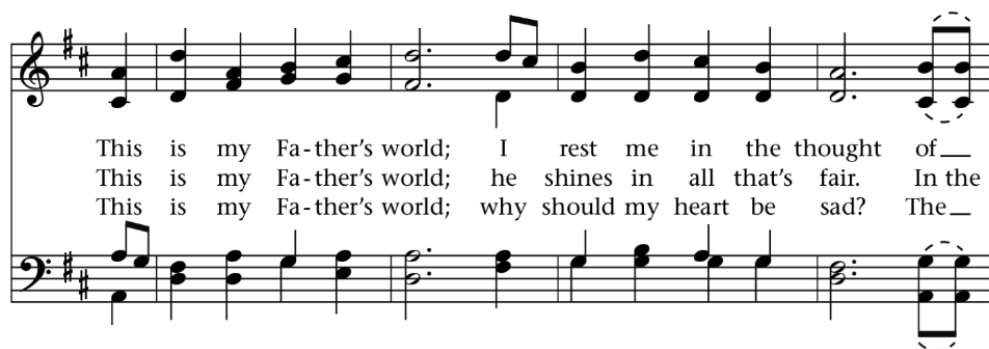
This is My Father's World



1 This is my Fa-ther's world, and to my lis-tening ears all
 2 This is my Fa-ther's world; the birds their car - ols raise; the
 3 This is my Fa-ther's world; oh, let me ne'er for - get that,



na - ture sings, and round me rings the mu - sic of the spheres.
 morn - ing light, the lil - y white, de - clare their Ma - ker's praise.
 though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the Rul - er yet.



This is my Fa-ther's world; I rest me in the thought of—
 This is my Fa-ther's world; he shines in all that's fair. In the
 This is my Fa-ther's world; why should my heart be sad? The—



rocks and trees, of— skies and seas; his hand the— won-ders— wrought.
 rus - tling grass I— hear him pass; he speaks to— me ev-ery-where.
 Lord is King, let the heav-ens ring! God reigns; let the earth be— glad.

This is My Father's World originates from Maltbie Babcock's usual remark to the church secretary right before going on a walk: "I am going out to see my Father's world."

Babcock was a talented scholar, baseball player, and musician whom the Lord called to pastoral ministry in the late 1800s. He served primarily in his home state of New York but also in Baltimore, preaching and teaching and serving and writing. His friends and church members spoke only positively of his talents, Christlikeness, and persevering joy.

That joy endured serious testing. He and his wife tried unsuccessfully to start a family, losing their only two children in infancy. Soon after, Babcock's church gifted him with a sabbatical trip to Israel to visit the Holy Land. But during his travels, he was struck with a terrible bacterial infection that brought severe fever, pain, and depression. He died in tragedy while overseas.

After his death, Babcock's wife compiled the best of his poems and published them. She and his closest friends maintained and honored his example of Christlikeness, desiring to share his lyrical and pastoral gifts with others. One friend, Franklin Sheppard, composed the tune we sing today based on a remembered childhood lullaby. Babcock's original poem contains sixteen couplets, each beginning with "*this is my Father's world.*" Sheppard selected particular couplets and paired them together to fit his melody, resulting in the hymn we sing today.

A possible fourth verse could be added using some of the other couplets from the original poem, capturing the hope the faithful suffering find in their Father through Jesus: "*This is my Father's world, from His eternal throne, He watch doth keep when I'm asleep, and I am not alone. This is my Father's world, His love has filled my breast, I'm reconciled, I am His child, my soul has found His rest.*"

Scripture to consider:

Genesis 1
 Psalm 19
 Psalm 93

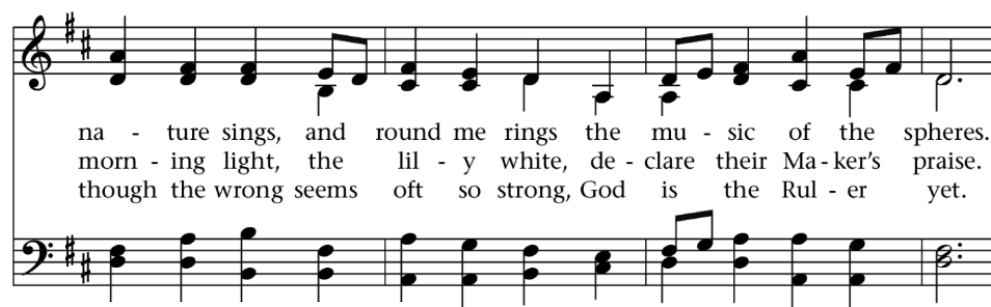
Matthew 6
 Romans 8
 1 Corinthians 15

Revelation 11
 Revelation 21-22

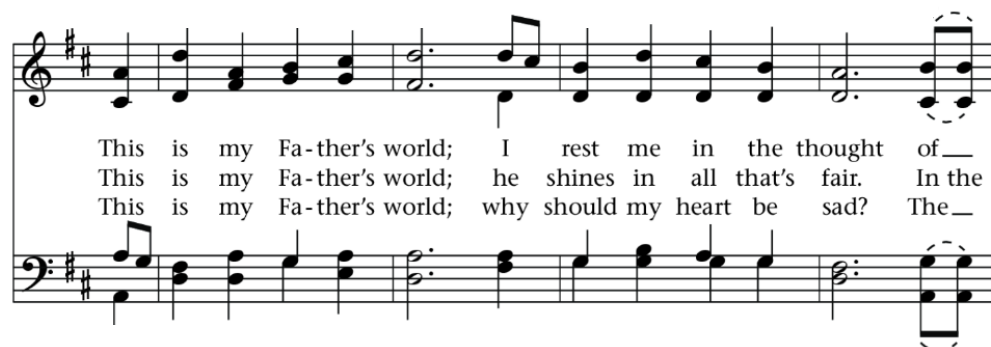
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