

Songs of Life
(Original Words and Lyrics by)
R. Tom Sutton RTS

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1. My Savior, My Friend

"Ye are my friends," the Savior said to His apostles at the last supper. He gave them a commandment to love one another as He had loved them. He also invites us to be His friends as He said, "Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you." He is our truest friend, our Savior, our Redeemer. He invites us to come unto Him with our burdens that they may be made light. He invites us to behold the wounds in His hands and in His feet. He invites us to be faithful and keep His commandments, that we shall see His face and dwell with Him in the kingdom of our Father in Heaven. **May we be a friend of the Savior as we accept His great atoning sacrifice and follow Him faithfully as a true disciple.** This song reflects my feelings for, "My Savior, My Friend."

My Savior, My Friend

There was a man from Galilee, the Son of God was He.
He healed the sick, the dead He raised, the sinner He set free.
Oh, my Lord and my Savior, help me follow thee.

Though the road was long He did not shirk His mission to fulfill.
His greatest sacrifice He made for us on Calvary's hill.
Oh, I thank Thee my Savior, Thou who loves me still.

His atoning sacrifice He made that death would not be our end,
But light and life eternally through He who is our friend.
Hear the words of the Savior, He, who endured to the end.

(Savior's response)

Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest.
Take my yoke upon you and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart
And ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.
Behold the wounds which pierced my side,
And the prints of the nails in my hands and feet;
Be faithful, keep my commandments and ye shall
Inherit the kingdom of heaven. Please come, come unto Me.

(Matt. 11:28-30, D&C 6:37). R. Tom Sutton

2. Do You Know the Shepherd?

Our great quest in life is to come to know our Savior, Jesus the Christ. That quest is worth whatever price we have to pay and opens the pathway for us to receive eternal life. Our Savior stands with outstretched arms, pleading on our behalf. He is our Advocate, our Redeemer, our Lord, and our God. May we come to know Him, to kneel before Him with tears of gratitude for His great sacrifice and infinite love for us.

Do You Know the Shepherd?

Do you know the Shepherd? Have you heard His voice?
Have you felt His presence standing near your side?
Have you searched in tears for the meaning of His life?
Have you knelt in a quiet place, your cares to Him confide?

He gave the atonement to bring us home to God.
He wants us to travel the path that He once trod.
Come and follow Me is the invitation clear,
That's the one sure way to go to find our Shepherd dear.

First chorus:

All our lives have trials and we oftentimes fall,
Searching for His lost ones He's had to find us all.
Once His blood was shed for us on Calvary's lonely tree,
Now He asks a broken heart that we, His lambs may be.

I now give my all that I may come to Thee.
One small gift I give Thee, help me to know Thee.
May I kneel before Thee, My Lord, My God, My King!
Take my hand to walk with Thee, then how my heart shall sing!

Second Chorus:

All our lives have trials and we oftentimes fall,
Searching for His lost ones He's had to find us all.
May we ever hear His voice and strive His lambs to be
That He may our Shepherd be through all eternity. R. Tom Sutton

3. A Night in the Garden

The greatest event in the history of the world is the great atoning sacrifice of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. In some way incomprehensible to us our Savior took upon Himself the combined weight of all our sins. Can we ever thank the Savior enough for all that He has done for us? "A Night in the Garden" reflects my thoughts on our Savior and His great infinite and atoning sacrifice for you and me and all mankind.

A Night in the Garden

There was a night in the garden there, where Christ, our dear Lord prayed.

The Word He was, the world He made but the world knew Him not.

He bowed His head and knelt alone, His heart grew heavy there.

The foreordained one met His hour in a garden called Gethsemane.

Three times He prayed, oh so earnestly in awesome agony.

The three disciples He left near, and asked, would ye watch with Me!

Three times He came as they slept on and He was left alone.

The burden of a world in sin there He suffered and for us atoned.

Gethsemane He overcame, then on to Calvary.

The mockery of a trial He bore, then they nailed Him to a tree.

Again He bore the weight of sin, the sins of you and me.

No greater love was ever shown as the Savior gave His life for me.

Conclusion.

Great drops of blood fell from every pore, the world's sins He meekly bore.

Dear Father please remove this cup, yet if Thou wilt, I'll drink it up.

He trembled 'neath the awful load that He alone could bear.

Two thousand years have come to pass, His grand return is near.

The Living Christ has overcome that we not slaves but heirs may be.

May we remember evermore His sacrifice divine

That to His presence we'll return; to Father's light and love divine. R. Tom Sutton

4. A Carol to My King

As we contemplate the wondrous birth of the Savior into the world our hearts are filled with gratitude for that sacred event. No greater gift has ever been given or will be given, and it is a gift to each of us. He has indeed given us everything so we must ask, "What can I give in return?" As we contemplate the gift that we can give to our beloved Savior the answer becomes clear. We can give Him a broken heart and a contrite spirit. We can accept His invitation to "Come unto Him." We can become His hands to minister and serve our fellowman. The Savior's gift was truly a gift of love. May we give back to Him those gifts of everlasting value: our hearts, our obedience, our service, and our love. May we desire to someday return home to His arms of love, our one small gift we can give to our precious Lord and Savior.

A Carol to My King

A carol to my King, it makes my heart now sing,
In praise and joy and adoration.
It fills my heart with love, for His great gift of love
Descending from His home of glory, of glory, of glory.

His birth had been foretold by prophets, those of old,
Declaring Him the promised Savior.
A vision comes to me, my eyes they now can see,
A Babe who left His throne of glory, of glory, of glory.

A gift may now be giv'n, a gift to He who's ris'n,
To give to Christ, the Holy Shepherd.
A gift from you and I, as one of the Magi,
That gift we choose to give the Savior, Our gift to the Savior.

Chorus:

Give glory to the Lord,
Sing praises to the Lord,
Give glory to the Lord now forever.
Give Glory now and forever. R. Tom Sutton

5. Keep My Heart

Keep thy heart with all diligence, for out of it are the issues of life. Within our hearts we carry our emotions, our desires, our dreams, and our treasures. Our hearts are the very center and the lifeblood of our being here upon the earth. Remember always to guard your heart and keep it centered on the things of God, for if you do it will be well with you. This song invites us to keep our focus on the Savior.

Keep My Heart

Keep my heart, oh my Lord, in the straight and narrow way.
Help me follow in Thy footsteps, as did those of yesterday.
Help me find the greatest treasure, that of life eternally.
Keep my heart turned unto Thee, filled with love and charity.

As Thy life spread Thy love, from the royal courts above,
Help me truly love my neighbor, as I come to know thy love.
Help my heart to feel more keenly, train my eyes each need to see.
Keep my heart turned unto Thee, filled with love and charity.

Thanks I give unto Thee, for Thy mercy shown to all,
For Thy light shines through all, giving life to great and small.
May Thy glory shine forever, throughout all eternity.
Keep my heart turned unto Thee, help me come dear Lord to Thee.

Chorus:

Keep my heart, my Lord, my Savior, keep my eyes turned unto Thee.
Help me see life's greatest beauty, feel Thy love and majesty.
Cast me not away my Savior; help me draw now nigh to Thee.
Help me follow in Thy footsteps, on the path that leads to Thee. R. Tom Sutton

6. Follow The Light

A Group on an overnight campout went on a night hike to spend some time in observation and meditation. They climbed out of a deep ravine and each took their place along the path to spend some time alone. On that night there was one object which shone far above the rest, a beacon light which radiated light to the entire area. During that time of reflection hearts were turned to the Savior. He truly is the light and life of the world, and the light that we should follow throughout our lives. As we live in His light we also can become a beacon to others in a dark and troubled world. This song speaks of following the light of the Savior.

Follow the Light

Follow the light of the Savior. Follow the light of His love.
Drink of His living water, as sent from the Father above.
Drink of the cup of His mercy. Bask in the light of His love.
Follow the shepherd that calls you, into the arms of His love.

Follow the light, flee the darkness; Let your light shine before men.
See now the light that will guide you, that light which gives hope once again.
Keep your eyes turned ever upward, up to the beacon of life.
Follow the light of the gospel, leading to eternal life.

Let that light shine now within you, glowing yet stronger each day.
Walk to the edge of the darkness, then into the light of the day.
Open your hearts to the Savior, as He said, "Come follow me."
Follow the light everlasting, throughout all eternity.
Chorus:

Follow the light, follow the light, feel now His light within you.
Follow His light by choosing the right and the Lord will be ever with you. R. Tom Sutton

7. All Things Are Possible

All Things Are Possible

All things are possible to him that believeth,
All things are possible to those filled with faith.
That faith is within us and starts as a seed
But when it is grown, it becomes a great tree.
A tree filled with fruit from the vine of our Lord.
And we are the branches believing His word.

Help Thou mine unbelief once pleaded a father.
Lord, have compassion and help my dear son.
His faith in the Savior, though unsure at first,
Became ever brighter and his soul did thirst.
His son was then healed by faith in the Lord.
He followed the Savior, believing His word.

All things are possible when we know the Savior.
All things are possible when we pray in faith.
That seed is within us, let's help it to grow.
Let's follow the Savior, the path He will show.
Let's follow the Savior in faith and in love,
And His tender mercies will flow from above.

Chorus:

All things are possible to him that believeth
All things are possible when we take His hand.
All things are possible through faith in the Savior.
All things are possible when we take His hand.
R. Tom Sutton

Just as the father knew that his faith was not perfect, even so his faith became knowledge as his son was healed. Even so, our faith may grow brighter and brighter toward the perfect day as we walk by faith and see answers to our prayers through the tender mercies of the Lord.

8. The Beatitudes

One of the greatest discourses ever recorded is found in the teachings of the Savior in the Sermon on the Mount. In the Beatitudes He outlined a pattern of living that would teach us to follow Him and one day return to the presence of our Father in Heaven. He outlined a process that begins when we are poor in spirit and teachable, and culminates when we are willing to be persecuted for the word's sake and sacrifice all for the cause of the Master. Peter was a great example of the transformation that occurs when touched by the Master's hand. It was Peter who, seeing the miracles of the master, declared, "Depart from me for I am a sinful man." It was also Peter who, when he tried to walk on water and saw the boisterous waves, began to sink. It was Peter who three times denied knowing the Christ. But it was a transformed Peter who fed the Savior's sheep and who performed miracles, so that even those who came under his shadow could be healed. It was Peter who ultimately gave his life, being crucified upside down because he did not consider himself worthy to be crucified in the same manner as the Savior. If the Savior were speaking to you I could hear Him say, "Blessed are ye..."

The Beatitudes

And He open His mouth and taught them saying:

Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are they that mourn for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are the meek for they shall inherit the earth.

Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness for they shall be filled.

Blessed are the merciful for they shall obtain mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called the children of God.

Blessed are they who are persecuted for righteousness sake,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

As He said once to them, He says now unto you:

Blessed are ye poor in spirit for yours is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are ye that mourn for ye shall be comforted.

Blessed are ye meek for ye shall inherit the earth.

Blessed are ye which do hunger and thirst after righteousness for ye shall be filled.

Blessed are ye merciful for ye shall obtain mercy.

Blessed are ye which are pure in heart for ye shall see God.

Blessed are ye peacemakers for ye shall be called the children of God.

Blessed are ye which are persecuted for righteousness sake, for yours is the kingdom,

Yours is the kingdom, yes, yours is the kingdom of heaven. Adapted by R. Tom Sutton (Matt. 5:2-10).

9. Ye Have Done it Unto Me

The Savior taught His disciples: "And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant: Even as the Son of Man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and give his life a ransom for many."

(Matt. 20:27-28). Just as the Savior was the servant of all, so we should strive to serve in every way that we can to build the kingdom of God here upon the earth. The words to this song serve as an invitation to do good unto others and in so doing, become the hands of the Savior in any way that we can.

Ye Have Done it Unto Me

There's a truth we must know on our journey, that no one stands alone.
There are others who've walked in our footsteps with trials as our own.
Yes, others who share our burdens, that they may be found light.
Yes, others who stand beside us to help us choose the right.

We are children of God that is certain, of Father up above.
He has sent us to help one another, to share His gift of love.
To lift up the sick and weary, to help each soul in need.
He wants us to light a candle, His lambs for us to feed.

There is much to be done on our journey, to show all that we care.
There are brothers and sisters to carry, their load for us to share.
Remember the Savior's message, give unto those in need.
That He may say unto you, "Ye have done it unto me."

Chorus:

Yes, brothers and sisters surround us, yes, brothers and sisters dear.
With hearts knit together we'll journey in faith and not in fear.
Our lives, they grow together, as woven by our love.
As children of the Father, go share His love from above. R. Tom Sutton

10. The Leap of Faith

The Leap of Faith

When the storm clouds gather, and you feel alone,
Search and pray, then listen, you are not alone.
When the night seems darkest, do not lose your faith,
Gather all your courage, take the leap of faith.

When your dreams seem shattered, when all hope seems lost,
Know that you are rescued, He has paid the cost.
Know that there's a Light there, showing you the way,
In your darkest hours, He'll turn night to day.

Faith is then the secret, faith is why we're here,
Faith leads to the Shepherd, He's our Savior dear.
Faith can move our mountains, He will show the way,
Faith leads to our Shepherd, He'll turn night to day.

Chorus:

Take the leap of faith, don't let fear o'ercome you.
Take the leap of faith, choose faith, hope and love.
Take the leap of faith, His light will surround you.
Take the leap of faith, strength comes from God above. R. Tom Sutton

There are times in each of our lives when we know that alone we cannot handle the situation before us. It is in those times that our faith is tested and we must take the step of faith into the unknown. Know that in those moments and hours, our Savior is there, to strengthen us, guide us and show us the way. In this life we are to walk by faith and not by sight. Let us walk the path of faith throughout our lives until our faith does become sight through the merits, mercy and infinite love of our Elder Brother, Jesus the Christ. This song invites us to **Take the Leap of Faith** that we may pass through our darkest hours into the light of day.

11. Charity Never Faileth

Charity Never Faileth

Charity never faileth, all other things may fail.
It abideth forever in the hearts of those who dwell
In peace and love in all they do among their fellow man;
Who reach out arms to lift and serve in every way they can.

Following the Savior throughout His life we see
The perfect example of love and charity.
He gave His all in all He did in service and in love.
He lifted up each troubled heart with mercy from above

May we then always serve Him in every act we do
By asking this question: Lord, what wilt thou have me do?
I'll go dear Lord where thou would ask and spread Thy love to all
Of Thy dear children here on earth, to all both great and small.

Chorus after 1st and 3rd verses.

Yes, loving all people whoever they are.
Yes, loving all people wherever they've been.
Yes, loving all people as Jesus loves them
Yes, loving each person with unconditional love. R. Tom Sutton

Of all the qualities one can develop here on the earth, charity, or the pure love of Christ should be our deepest desire. The ability to see as He would see, to love as He would love, and to do as He would do is the perfect example for us to follow. May we pray to the Father that we may receive the gift of charity, which He bestows upon all who are true followers of His Son; that we may become the sons and daughters of God. (See Moroni 7:48).

12. Through Our Trials We Come to Know God

Some time ago I spoke with a lady who had been suffering from cancer for an extended time. I asked her how she was doing and how she was coping with her illness. Her answer was profound. She said, "It has been difficult but I wouldn't change a thing, for through my trials I have come to know God." The early pioneers in the handcart company expressed the same sentiment. Through their trials they had come to know God. When they could push their handcart no further they felt someone else pushing it for them. We will all have trials. Let us remain faithful in them that we may indeed, "Come to Know God."

Through Our Trials

Through our trials we come to know God.
Through our trials, humbled is our heart.
Through our trials comes the refiner's fire
Through our trials He carries us home.

Learn of Him and know He is near.
Trust in Him, He is always there.
Go to Him pleading in mighty prayer.
Lean on Him, rely on His care.

Cry in Faith that His will be done.
Cry in Hope through His precious Son
Cry in love, sharing all gifts from Him.
Cry in all that you may know Him.

(Bridge between 2nd and 3rd verses)

Through our trials we come to know God,
Through our trials we feel of His love
Through His love we see life's meaning,
Through His love He carries us Home
R. Tom Sutton

13. Have You Ever Pushed a Handcart?

In the treks across the plains several of our ancestors walked for days with feet that had turned black with frostbite. Many had received only four ounces of flour for rations each day and many of the men gave that to their children and spouses. Those were trying times which tested men's souls. Today we do not have to push handcarts but we still face trying times in a difficult world. Sometimes it seems that we are swimming upstream against a current that is forever pushing us backward. Just as our forebears were resolute in times of adversity so must we be. It has been said that successful people do things they don't like to do but they do them anyway because they know that those things are necessary for success. It is said that smooth seas do not a skilled mariner make. We need to have trials and challenges to develop our faith, courage and perseverance to face and navigate the storms of life successfully. This song reflects on the sacrifices and trials of those early pioneers.

Have You Ever Pushed a Handcart?

Have you ever pushed a handcart on a dusty mountain trail?
Have you ever walked through snow with frozen feet?
Have you ever suffered hunger? Have you ever lost your way?
Have you ever felt alone and knelt to pray?

There were many pushing handcarts in that fateful trying hour.
They had struggled facing death on every side.
When they faced the raging waters, their great hearts were torn again.
They felt helpless and defeated and they cried.

1st Chorus

Dear Lord, they cried in agony. We've come too far to fail.
Our strength is gone, our courage too, we've given now our all.
A miracle we ask dear Lord, please come now to our aid.
We beg for mercy now dear Lord, our lives and souls to save.

In a tender heroic moment, three young men to rescue came
And they carried on their shoulders all the lame.
They were valiant in their service and they carried well their cross
As they went to search and find those who were lost.

2nd chorus

We honor now those pioneers, their sacrifice for us.
It's our turn now to carry on, to move the work along.
The time has come for us to share the treasure's we've been giv'n.
To serve and lift our fellow man, then enter into heav'n. R. Tom Sutton

14. Hang On

There are times in our lives when we are at the end of our rope, so to speak, and we don't know where to turn. There may be trying times when we are ready to give up, to lose faith or hope. Sometimes it seems that all we can do in those times is simply to hang on until help arrives and indeed it will arrive. The Savior is aware of us in our desperate hours and indeed will succor us or run to our aid if we will only endure a little longer. Have faith that He will never ask us to do more than we can do without His help, for indeed with His help we can do all things. This song expresses the encouragement to "Hang On" in difficult times.

Hang On

Hang on till the night is over, Hang on till the day dawn breaks.
I know the times are lonely, The burden seems so great.
Hang on, Hang on, Hang on, Hang on till the battle's o'er.
There's one who will watch and carry you, Hang on, Hang on, Hang on.

Hang on when you seem defeated, Hang on when all hope seems lost.
Hang on when others falter, Hang on through pain and grief.
Hang on, Hang on, Hang on, Hang on through the darkest hours.
There's one who will watch and carry you, Hang on, Hang on, Hang on.

Bridge after the second verse

When times are hard and you can't go on,
Your strength and courage are gone,
Just look at the footprints in the sand
And know that He's carried you.

Hang on when your dreams seem shattered. Hang on when your strength is gone.
You'll find your burden lifted. A rainbow arc in the sky.
Hang on, yes please hang on. Hang on 'till the battle's o'er.
There's one who will watch and carry you, Hang on, hang on, hang on.
R. Tom Sutton

15. Slay Your Goliaths

The account is told of a father and son who went on an outing to the mountains. While they were there the son decided to move a large rock to build a fort. He struggled and struggled and was unable to move the rock even an inch. In defeat he said, "I can't do it." The father asked, "Have you done everything you could?" The son replied "yes." The father then said, "Did you ask me to help you?" With the father's help they easily moved the rock. So it is with us. There are things in this life that try as we may we are unable to do alone. It may be something physical that we are unable to move, or lift or do. It may be some physical ailment that we are unable to overcome. Our challenge may be mental in some class that we are unable to comprehend or some problem that we are unable to solve. Our challenge may be social where we find ourselves intimidated and unable to step forward with confidence. Lastly, our challenge may be spiritual where there is some sin we are unable to overcome or some spiritual quality in which we find ourselves lacking. Even as our challenges tower over us, if we step forward in faith in His power we can do all things and overcome all challenges. This song reflects thoughts about facing our Goliaths in life.

Slay Your Goliaths

I sat one day with a lad on my knee and told him the story of old;
Of David and Goliath, the small against the great as measured by strength of men.
And he looked me right square in the eye and he said; Why aren't there Goliaths today?
Where can be found men with faith as David had, and where are those battles so great?

I thought of this world we live in today with pressures and trials so great.
Like one against an army of evil pulling down, there standing midst foes on all sides.
Then I thought of the strength that I see in our youth, with courage and strength to o'ercome.
To fight the battles and foes we meet today, we each have Goliaths to slay.

Chorus: after 2nd and 3rd verses

Go and slay your goliaths, God will give you strength.

Reach down deep inside, you'll find that pillar of faith,

Shrink not from your trials, remember David's quest.

So strike with your might that foe you see.

Yes, slay your Goliaths today.

(Final) Yes, slay your Goliaths today.

And so you see that Goliaths we'll meet, the same as did David of old.

Our trials may tower o'er us and seem as ten feet tall,

o'empowering and pressing us down.

But remember that we in our trials lay claim to strength that is greater than man's.

There are no battles we cannot overcome, if we take the armour of God.

R. Tom Sutton

16. Ye Shall Not Fear

It has been said that faith and fear cannot coexist at the same time in our lives. We have been taught that perfect faith casts out fear. As we put our lives in the hands of the Lord, we start to gain the eternal and not the mortal perspective. The Savior taught us not to fear that which can kill the body, but rather to avoid those things that will destroy our souls or make us unworthy to return to His presence. We have also been taught: "If ye are prepared ye shall not fear." (D&C 38:30). As we place our faith in Jesus Christ we are able to accomplish all things that are needed with His help. The Lord has said that "Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there I am in the midst of them." (Matt. 18:20). The following verses help us understand how to have faith not fear in our lives.

Ye Shall Not Fear

Ye shall not fear (ye shall not fear) if ye are prepared.

Ye shall not fear (ye shall not fear) if you're filled with love.

Ye shall not fear (ye shall not fear) if your heart is pure.

Ye shall not fear, for the Lord is near.

Ye shall not fear (ye shall not fear) nor shall ye fall.

If ye have followed (if ye have followed) the Lord in all.

Fear not what man (fear not what man) nor the world can do.

The Lord is there and will stand by you

Lift up your heart (lift up your heart) and be of good cheer.

Go take the hand (go take the hand) of the Savior dear.

Go forth in love, (go forth in love) yes perfect love.

There's one who loves you in heav'n above.

Chorus

Ye shall not fear, no ye shall not fear.

Ye shall not fear, for the Lord is near. R. Tom Sutton

17. A Friend

How important is a friend? On some occasions friendship may save a life as Jonathan did in warning his friend David about the evil desires of his father, Saul. Friends help us make it through the crises of life and bring a smile and a positive outlook on the circumstances we face. Friends share experiences with us and give us a sense of purpose and commitment to see the beauty in life and feel the deep feelings of kinship with one another. **Having a friend is one of the great gifts of life and is something that we should each treasure and take the time to develop and nourish as we walk along the pathway of life.**

A Friend

What is a friend in this world today? Who can you count on in every way?

A friend is one who's there for you when times be good or bad.

A friend is one who knows your faults, but brushes them aside.

A friend does not just offer help, a friend lifts up your hand.

A true friend is worth more than gold, yes, more than wealth untold.

Who is your friend in whom you confide? Who'll take the time to stand by you?

A friend you love to be around, a friend can make you smile.

A friend is one who teaches you to stop and sit a while.

A friend will knit their heart with yours, a friend gives of his soul.

A friend will make you feel alive and warm your heart inside.

Chorus: after 2nd and 3rd verses

Friends bring joy and happiness to life.

Friends bring a smile and a sparkle to the eye.

In this whole world a better gift you'll never find

Than a true friend, who's faithful to the end.

Go be a friend and you'll find a friend. Give of yourself and you will find

A friend who's there to pick you up when you are feeling down.

A friend who'll help you start again, when you have run aground.

A friend will bring the sunshine in to brighten up your day.

A friend will put your hands in theirs and chase your fears away. R. Tom Sutton

18. We Need One Another

We Need One Another

We need one another, we need one and all.
Brother lifting brother, each step lest he should fall.
Each man is our brother, each man we should befriend.
Faithful to our brother, faithful to the end.
May we do to others as we'd have them do.
May we live as brothers, may our love be true.

We need one another, no man stands alone.
Each man needs a brother, each man needs a home.
May our eyes now open, may our ears now hear,
Loving words now spoken, to a sister dear.

Conclusion:

We need one another, we need everyone.
We need hands of service, reaching for the one.
Hand to hand let's reach out, eye to eye let's see.
Arm in arm let's walk now, on toward eternity. R. Tom Sutton

Truly none of us stand alone. Man was not meant to be alone. We are gathered as friends, neighbors, brothers and sisters, husbands and wives. In a world of turmoil we need to build bridges of understanding, harmony and love with our fellow man. There is more that unites us than divides us is the great truth we must come to understand. Let us each do our part to help make this world a better place and we strive to lift one another up rather than tear one another down as we walk the path of life together.

19. Love's Ever Widening Circle

We live in a world in which there is much of love and much of hate. Hate seems to be contagious when anger and misunderstandings occur. Love provides a healing balm where it is allowed to enter in, but there needs to be more of it to heal and calm our troubled world. **We cannot affect the entire world, but we can begin where we are; and just like the ripples of a stone thrown into the water, we can affect others for good.** This song expresses the need to share and spread love around the world.

Love's Ever Widening Circle

Love is an ever widening circle. Love, it touches all,
It glistens in the heart of one, then reaches yet another.
Love, it breaks down walls of stone and warms the ice cold heart.
It breathes the breath of life again into the weary soul.

Hate flows in waves when men wrong others.
Wounding with scars that go so deep.
It sears the heart and minds of men and oft lasts generations.
Hate, it leaves us cold and worn and robs us from all peace.
Its bitter fruit the marrow kills until we make it cease.

Love comes from changing deep inside us.
Love comes from opening our hearts.
It heals the wounds and dries the tears,
Then springs a well of life re-born.
Love, its circle ever grows and gives our lives new meaning.
It opens doors to all men when they reach out arms of love.

Conclusion

Love, it starts within you, then it must reach outside.
People and nations must open their hearts and trust in the power of love.
So open your hearts, reach out your hands and fill this whole world with love.
Yes, reach out and show love. R. Tom Sutton

20. Talk to God

Talk to God

Talk to God each morning, Talk to God each evening.
Talk to God whenever you feel the need to pray.
He will always hear you and will gently lead you
Through the darkest hours of night into the light of day.

Pray about your families, watch and pray always.
Pray that we may be one as Christ once prayed for us.
Pour out all your souls, let your hearts be full,
Drawn out in a prayer to Him wherever you may be

Then when you have asked Him, do as he prompts you.
Give as He has giv'n you to each who has the need.
Take no task to do it, 'till you've asked the Father
In the name of Christ our Lord, His blessing to obtain.

Conclusion:

Prayer will bring you close to Him, then He will point the way
If you will but ask Him, so talk to God each day. R. Tom Sutton

Nephi taught, "But behold, I say unto you that ye must pray always, and not faint; that ye must not perform any thing unto the Lord save in the first place ye shall pray unto the Father in the name of Christ, that He will consecrate thy performance unto thee, that thy performance may be for the welfare of thy soul." (2 Nephi 32:9). Prayer invites revelation to help us know the will of our Father and will guide us during each step of our lives as we put our trust in Him.

21. Thank You Father

Heavenly Father always hears our prayers, but it is often through the efforts of others around us that our prayers are answered. If we are in tune we can truly be instruments in the hands of the Lord to carry on His work here on the earth. This song expresses a time of need when I was stranded in the mountains with a carload of young children and the answer came from Father above through one of our unknown brothers here on earth.

Thank You Father

Thank you Father, my prayer was answered. I was heard in time of need.
I was rescued by a brother, yes a brother sent by Thee.
I was alone, alone and helpless, with nowhere left to turn,
Then I bowed my head to ask Thee for Thy guidance where to turn.

Then a quiet small voice was heard, whispering peace unto my soul.
To my mind there came an answer pointing which way I should go.
I started down along the pathway with darkness drawing nigh,
Then I saw a lantern glowing, and I gave a grateful sigh.

Yes, my brother came to my rescue with a spirit, kind and good.
Soon I found my burden lifted and they did all that they could.
I stopped again along the pathway to bow my head once more.
Thank You Father, my dear Father, Thou hast blessed me evermore. R. Tom Sutton

22. Together, Forever Together

Who is there among us that has not experienced the loss of a loved one through death? For some, death comes as a welcome friend after extended suffering and is greeted by nearly all as a blessing. Far too often death comes as an unexpected visitor, taking away those who are so dear to us without warning. Death can appear to be a tragedy if we look only at the perspective of mortality. The destiny of man reaches far beyond the veil of death. Death comes for those who are prepared as a step forward along the path of becoming more like our Father in Heaven. We lay down our mortal body but our spirit continues to grow and develop toward greater perfection. We truly miss those who have passed on and we long to be with them again; there is great comfort in knowing that families can be together forever. Those who have passed on have completed their test in mortality. It is for us who remain to live worthy to the end of our lives, that we may experience that great reunion with our loved ones when it becomes our turn to pass through the veil of death. May we take advantage of each day to enjoy relationships with those we hold dear to us. May we walk with honor along the pathway of life that we may indeed be together forever with those loved ones we hold so dear.

Together, Forever Together

How strong are the ties that bind us as families here?
How strong is the love that spans through the passing years?
How deep are the feelings that reach beyond the veil?
How bright are the eyes, the eyes of love?

What memories are held, held deep now within your heart?
What dreams carry on, what hope for the better part?
What vision now lifts you, yes through the veil of tears?
How deep is your love, Eternal love?

How great is the plan that fills us with faith and love?
How great is the joy of knowing our God above?
How great is our Savior, who gave the gift of life?
How great is our thanks, for Eternal life?

Chorus:

Together, forever together, forever together we'll be.
Our hearts turn to loved ones departed, we long for their faces to see.
May we strive to be found worthy, to see our loved ones dear.
And dwell with them forever, in the kingdom of our Father dear. R. Tom Sutton

23. Return Home With Honor

Return Home with Honor

Return home with honor, my daughter, my son.
Return home with honor when your battle's won.
Return home to Father in heaven above.
Return to His presence, to His arms of Love.

Be true to your family, your covenants, your Lord.
Find faith, hope and love as you feast on His word.
Find joy in the journey and light from above.
Be faithful and valiant through faith forged in love.

Return home to loved ones who've gone on before.
Return to the glory you knew once before.
Return home to Father and Mother above.
Return home to heaven, to Their arms of love. R. Tom Sutton

Returning home with honor is indeed the object, purpose and ultimate goal on our mortal journey. May we live in such a way to bring honor to ourselves, our families, our communities, and to our Lord and Savior as we walk the wonderful pathway of life. We have a Heavenly Father and Heavenly mother who prepared us for eons of time for us to come to the earth and find the way to return triumphantly back to their glorious presence.

24. Our Eternal Home

- Our Eternal Home

Home with God we hope to dwell in our eternal home.
His presence shineth all around and fills all there with peace and love.
Pure knowledge flows and fills each soul with wondrous views of all
his creations. His course is one eternal round, He reigneth over all.

Heirs are we of all He hath, His purpose faileth not.
His greatest gift He shares with us, that of eternal life with Him.
There are no words which can describe the majesty and glory of all.
Our voices raise this chorus sweet, praise God forevermore.

Praise God in all that He hath done, His glorious plan revealed.
He gave His son that we might live in heav'n with them forevermore.
Be faithful now until the end, then join the heavenly throng.
That we may meet as a family there through all eternity.

(Conclusion)

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, praise to His name!
Alleluia, Alleluia, praise Him Forevermore!
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia in the highest, Alleluia! R. Tom Sutton

Truly we shouted for joy at the privilege of coming to the earth. We were led by a champion, our Savior Jesus Christ, who came and showed us the way to return to our eternal home. None of us can make it back on our own, but through the marvelous grace and enabling power of the atonement we do have the possibility to return back to the presence of God and our Redeemer. God's love and light fill the immensity of space. May we live in that light and develop that true love or charity which will help us to come to know God and the Christ and be able to dwell in their presence in the eternities.

25. Premortal Reflections

Premortal Reflections

There once was a battle at a different time and place
And I know we stood valiant before the Savior's face.
We walked with the Father, in the light of day.
With exactness and honor each command we did obey.
Then why do things seem so different here?
And why does my mind seem unclear?
And why do I seem to question now if I have the strength to endure?

We held sacred callings and our spirits there were pure.
We followed the Savior with a knowledge sweet and sure.
We've left that home eternal to learn to walk by faith
Once again we must discover and choose which path to take.
And then we'll feel as we felt before
And then will our minds become clear
And there will be no question then if we have the strength to endure.

Conclusion:

So now in this field of battle we must prove ourselves once more
And rise again to the stature we knew one time before.
It's time to show our true colors and stand as warriors true
And so with exactness and honor, let's go on now, me and you.
Yes, now is the time of probation my friend,
Let's be faithful to the end.
That we may stand with our loved ones dear
In the presence of our Savior there. R. Tom Sutton

The battle rages on for the souls of men. Even before we came to earth there was a battle; a battle or war of ideas regarding a great plan of salvation that would bring us here to the earth. In that great battle, our Savior, Jesus the Christ and His followers were victorious. We were among those followers and as a result of that have the wonderful opportunity to come to the earth to gain experience, knowledge, and to make covenants that will prepare us to return to the Father's presence. But the battle is not over. Once again we must choose which path we will follow; the plan of our loving Father in Heaven championed by our Savior, or to follow the enticings of the adversary. We truly are in a battle for the souls of men. Let us rise to the stature that we knew one time before in the premortal realms. May we prove ourselves valiant and worthy through the infinite atoning sacrifice of our Savior, to once again be able to return to the presence of the Father and to dwell in His presence for the eternities.

26. When I Enter the Temple

As we prepare to enter the temple we are invited to leave the things of the world behind us and focus on those things of an eternal nature. As we think about it, everything in the temple teaches us about our Savior, Jesus Christ, and our relationship with Him and our Heavenly Father. It truly is the house of the Lord and invites us to pattern our own homes and traditions after the spirit of the temple. This song expresses feelings about the temple and the work done there.

When I Enter the Temple

When I enter in the temple, how I feel God's presence there.
There I leave the world behind me, as I enter in with prayer.
There I go to feel the spirit full of beauty, peace, and love;
There I go to hear instruction from the Father up above.

Sacred covenants we enter there between ourselves and God;
That we'll follow His commandments and obey His law and word.
Dressed in white we go and labor, there we find true charity.
Purify us Lord we ask thee. Help us become more like thee.

Conclusion:

The temple is the Lord's own house, His spirit calls us there;
To His house of prayer and fasting, His house of faith and learning,
His house of glory and order, His house, a house of God.
The house of the Lord. R. Tom Sutton

May we always strive to be found temple worthy and involved in the work of salvation for our brothers and sisters on both sides of the veil.

27. The Temple on the Hill

How great a blessing to have temples in our midst. Over the years prophets have worked diligently to bring temples to the people and it has blessed those on both sides of the veil. Temples serve as a beacon and a source of light to all around. Temples are frequently located on a hill for us to look up to. They elevate our thoughts and patterns of living. This song expresses gratitude for the great privilege to have a temple so close to us.

The Temple on the Hill

There's a temple on the hill, shining as a beacon still.
Sharing light that all may see, teaching who we'll one day be.
There we enter courts of love, filled with peace from heav'n above.
There we learn of revelation, and the path to exaltation.

There we learn of His great plan, how to serve our fellowman.
There our minds are filled with light, heaven's beauty-oh so bright!
There we learn of God's great Son, and the vict'ry He has won.
There our hearts are knit together, and our families blessed forever.

There we labor, dressed in white, striving for the cause of right.
Searching for our kindred dear, that's the reason why we're here.
Let us serve more faithfully, and be blessed eternally.
Let us focus on our Savior, and receive His loving favor.

Chorus:

Holiness to the Lord! Holiness to the Lord!
Fill our hearts with love and peace, May our praises never cease.
Bless this temple Lord we pray. Help us follow in Thy way.
Help us come to Thee this day. Yes, come to Thee this day. R. Tom Sutton

28. I Love You America

I Love You America

As I saw the sights and wonders all across this vast, grand land
I met many different people, and I came to feel God's hand.
I saw beauty all around me, Oh, the sights that I did see!
And I came to love this land of ours, this land of liberty.

I Love you America, for all you've given me.
I love you for the vision of great men who could see.
I love you for the freedom to be who I would be.
I love you for your treasures, America, the free.

Each new day I see the sunrise, I just close my eyes again,
To thank the God of heaven for this blessed land I'm in,
May we each count our blessings and our trials overcome.
May we cherish this land of ours and cherish our freedom.

I love you America, for all you've given me.
I love you for the vision of great men who could see.
I love you for the freedom to be who I would be.
I love you for your treasures, America, the free.

Yes, I know that we have problems, and you know we always will.
We must learn to pull together as we climb this rugged hill.
We must learn to stand united, for divided we will fall.
We must learn to love this land of ours as those who gave their all.

I love you America, for all you've given me.
I love you for the vision of great men who could see.
I love you for the freedom to be who I would be.
I love you for your treasures, America, the free. R. Tom Sutton

America, the free!

Of all the people in the history of the world we are privileged to live in one of the greatest ages and places of all time. We live in America: America with its majestic mountains and scenery, her abundant natural resources and her heritage made rich by so many who gave their very lives that we may have the comforts and freedoms that we enjoy today. This land has been spoken of as a land of promise, and we have been promised that as we keep the commandments of God we will prosper in the land. America is great because of its resources, because of its people, because of its freedom.

29. Take My Hand

(A love song)

We are here on the earth to have joy, and a major part of that joy is found in marriage and family. Some never have that opportunity in this life and some find themselves alone later in life after divorce or other unforeseen circumstances. Know that a loving Heavenly Father will not leave you alone forever and that He has provided a way for each of His sons and daughters to someday, either in this life or the next to enter into the sacred covenant of marriage. The invitation to or from a son or daughter of God to be your eternal companion is a decision that should not be taken lightly and should be prepared for carefully. We are all invited to strengthen our marriages, our families, and our relationships as we walk along the covenant path. "Take My Hand," refers to marriage and commitment to walk hand in hand with God. It goes as follows:

(An alternating male and female duet)

Take My Hand (Alternating and overlapping duet)

This day I'll take your hand forever to love and to cherish through all.

I see in your eyes a sparkle to whisper you love me too.

This ring I give unto you; a symbol of endless love.

I'll love you now and forever, please come and take my hand.

Through tears of joy and pain and sorrow I promise I'll stand by you.

A kiss I will give each morning, my heart I give to you.

I'll walk with you beside me each step that I take through life.

I'll love you now and forever, please come and take my hand.

Let's hold these feelings now forever, these feelings of love and joy.

With hopes, dreams and trials before us may our eyes now see as one.

I promise I'll be faithful to guard and hold close our love.

I'll love you now and forever, please come and take my hand.

Chorus:

This day is our day, the day new life begins.

Come help me build a castle; where all our dreams we'll share.

Let's learn to live together in love and harmony.

I give my heart, my soul to you, please come and take my hand.

Final (I give my heart, my soul to you, please come and take my hand.)

R. Tom Sutton

30. A Dream Within

What are your dreams and the deepest desires of your heart? We need to set goals that will stretch us to the limit and never fear failure, for temporary failure is the stepping stone to success. It has been said: "Dream no small dreams, for they do not have the power to stir men's souls." We must start with the end in mind and work toward that end with a tenacity and fervor to overcome any obstacle. We need to find out who we really are, for there is an untapped potential in each of us that is far greater than we can begin to imagine. This song reflects on the dreams and aspirations that we should each strive to attain during our pathway through life.

A Dream Within

I have a dream that lies deep within me, guiding me on through the paths unknown.

I have a dream that gives me a vision, giving me strength that's beyond my own.

I have a dream, we must have a dream, to guide us to our star.

What are your dreams that you hope and long for, in your mind's eye can you see them now?

Who would you be like, and what could you do? Gather a strength that's beyond your own.

Take time to dream, then fulfill your dreams, go find out who you are.

Dreams fill our lives with joy and purpose, all great success started with a dream.

Dreams lift us upward and carry us onward, on through the trials of life we face.

Dream, oh let's dream, we must have a dream, to guide us to our star.

Chorus:

Go, dream your dreams, follow your dreams; keep them alive and burning within.

Go sail the oceans, go climb the mountains; soar through the sky as on eagles wings.

Reach for the highest that is within you; follow your dreams to the stars.

Final (Follow your dreams to the stars!) R. Tom Sutton

31. Special Moments

It has been said that the richness of our lives should not be measured by the number of breaths we take, but by the number of moments that take our breath away. To search for those treasured moments that enrich our lives forever should be the goal for each of us. There are so many voices competing for our time, our efforts, and our resources that we cannot choose all of them. In our lives when it comes right down to it there are priorities which must reach a higher level: God, family, country and service to our fellow man that will bless the lives of all. Reflect on those moments that have taken your breath away; the birth of a child, a special feeling in the temple, a cherished experience with a friend, or finally accomplishing the seemingly impossible. Do not let those special moments pass you by, but experience them to the fullest, for that is a measure of the true value and meaning of life. This is another song, written in free verse that encourages us to look for and experience those special moments in our lives.

Special Moments

Special moments now and then, cross our lives as sons of men
And we feel God's presence there,
A kindly word, a sweet caress, the sparkle of an eye.
A wedding ring, a newborn babe, reunions sweet and dear;
Yes, special moments now and then bring back those dreams so dear.

Special moments in our lives lift us up into the skies
Life's great majesty to see.
A rainbow clear, a quiet stream, a mountain peak to climb.
With feelings deep a teardrop falls, the memories linger near.
Yes, special moments we all need to bless our lives each day.

Special moments we can find hidden midst our troubled mind
If we'll reach with all our might.
A place to go, a friend to see, a special gift to share.
A choice to make that must not wait for happiness to find.
Yes, special moments we can have, don't let them pass you by.

Chorus:

Then capture those moments and hold them close
We will not pass this way again.
Just close your eyes and remember those wonderful feelings you felt.
Now search in your heart for those feelings deep, for those special moments you'd have;
Then go and do while it's not too late, those special moments to share.
(Final) Yes, go and do while it's not too late, those special moments to share. R. Tom Sutton

32. A Fire Burns

Winning life's battles doesn't always go to the strongest or superior team. Winning life's battles usually goes to those with the deepest fire of desire and courage to come out victorious regardless of the odds against them. During the revolutionary war John Paul Jones was involved in a battle on the high seas. His ship was heavily damaged and the foe asked if he was ready to surrender. John Paul Jones' inspiring response was: "I have not yet begun to fight." Inspired, his crew fought like dragons and on to victory against a far superior foe. We all face the furnace of affliction at some time in our lives. We all seem to be at the brink of failure in some of our pursuits, but it is in those moments that our true character can shine through. If we are prepared and striving toward a worthy cause we are entitled to a power greater than man's. God did not send us here to fail, but we must demonstrate the burning desire to draw out the best in us and to achieve the greatest victories. This song refers to some challenges of life and the need for that fire in our souls during our most desperate hours.

A Fire Burns

There's a feeling inside of me that carries me on.

There's a power that lifts me and drives me along.

There's a vision to reach for that lights me inside.

There's a burning and will to win that makes me alive.

There's a fire now burning, the fire won't die.

There's a will to go on, There's a fight I must win.

I must shoot for the stars, I must never look down.

I must see the grand prize, I must pay the full price.

I must go win the race and give it my all,

Then I'll know that I've done my best.

The fire will burn as I give my all, the fire, my will to win.

When the breaks never go your way, you feel down and out.

When the others seem better and you start to doubt.

Just remember the words of John Paul Jones,

I have not yet begun to fight, then stand straight and tall.

There's a strength that's within you, a strength you will find.

You must reach deep inside, you must answer the call.

Have faith in yourself as you come to the line.

Have a vision within as you reach for the stars.

Find a heart with a will to never give up, then focus with all your might.

The power's within you to be the best. The fire can always burn.

Conclusion:

Go run the race, play the game, lift up your eyes to the prize

Never say die, stay alive, give your all, yes your all.

Go feed off the fire of desire my friend, yes, give it your all, do your best.

R. Tom Sutton

33. Arbon Valley

When you are moving to a new place for only a few months what is your attitude? Do you think, "well, I won't take the time to develop relationships because I'll only be here for a short time." Wherever you are, act as if you may be there forever. Take time to develop friendships and relationships. Beautify your home or apartment and make it a place where you can feel joy, peace and fulfillment. This song is really about two places, Archer, where I grew up and Arbon, which fit the words to the song. The message is that home is where the heart is and we should drive our roots down deep, wherever we are or whatever circumstances we may find ourselves in. May you find your Arbon Valley and find the peace, fulfillment, and joy you desire.

Arbon Valley

There's a place called Arbon Valley, the place that I call home
With its rolling hills and valley, up to the timber line;
With its grain fields, hay, and horses, with its neighbors near and far,
There is life in Arbon Valley, the place I long to be.

Not a place for the weak hearted, it tests men's strength and will,
When those clouds keep floating o'er you, yet not a raindrop falls.
Yes, men learn to watch the weather, as their lives are weathered too,
Then the neighbors pull together, that's how they make it through.

1st Chorus:

For home is where the heart is, yes, that's what I believe.
Go find your Arbon Valley, the place you long to be.

Have you found your Arbon Valley, the place you long to be?
Where your heart finds peace within you, and dreams find heaven there.
Have you measured what's of value? Is it found worth fighting for?
Yes, I've found Arbon Valley, the place I long to be.

2nd Chorus

Then go and build your homestead, yes, drive those roots down deep.
Go find your Arbon Valley, the place you long to be.
(The place you long to be). R. Tom Sutton

34. Can You See Inside?

Many people have suffered from dementia, strokes or other disorders that leave them unable to share what lies inside them. Our hearts go out to them and their families for the agony, the separation and loneliness they must feel. How hard must it be for a spouse to visit his/her companion in a nursing home and not be recognized, or even treated with anger. Many hearts are broken and scarred with deep wounds. The trial of life appears to have passed for many of these dearly beloved companions and friends, for they can no longer consciously choose their actions. The challenge goes on for those of us who remain; to continue to show love and encouragement along with patience and understanding in the most difficult of situations. This song describes some of the feelings that these dear ones may share if they only could. It may be a poor attempt and the better day will probably not be in this life, but hopefully it gives a thought to consider for those who find themselves in this situation.

Can You See Inside?

Can you see inside beneath the surface, past the shell that others see?
Can you hear the words unspoken, do you know they come from me?
A thousand things I'd tell you if only words would come,
But the silence overwhelms me, all these feelings locked inside.

Can I tell you now that I do love you, though at times it doesn't show?
And I thank you for your kindness, for your gracious tender love.
My body now seems shackled, but one day I'll be free.
Now be patient, understanding; let's hold on now, you and me.

When you come again, please look and listen, there's a part I still can share.
Bring a smile and conversation, for I love your gentle words.
Yes, hand in hand we'll walk through the days that lie ahead.
Now, remember that I love you, please reach out and take my hand.

Chorus:

Yes, look inside, yes, look inside and hear the words unspoken.
You bring a rainbow to my soul, I love to have you near me.
The road is long but must go on, let's journey to the end.
For we shall see a better day, together we will be.

(Final) For we shall see a better day, together we will be. R. Tom Sutton

35. Mother

We owe so much to our mothers. They have gone to the brink of death to bring us into the world. They are on call twenty four hours a day and give of themselves in so many ways. My mother was my greatest teacher, example and supporter. She led by love and she led by example. She believed in me when most others did not and her encouragement was always felt. Once the great Albert Einstein was a young boy doing poorly in school. One day he was sent home with instructions to give a note only to his mother. He asked her what it said. "Oh, it says you have great potential and will one day accomplish great things." She took about teaching him herself until he advanced to university studies where he became one of the greatest scientists of our time. Years later he found the old note, opened it and it read, "Your son is mentally deficient and will never accomplish anything. He is no longer invited to attend this school." What a difference love, support and encouragement make in our lives and we owe so much of it to our mothers. This song attempts to pay tribute to mothers everywhere for all that they have given to us individually.

Mother

Mother, may I tell you of my love for you?
Love that grows deeper each time I think of you.
Thank you for my life and thank you for your strength,
Thank you for your struggle to bring me here on earth.
Thank you for your teachings, thank you for your love.
Thanks for your example, thanks for all you've done.

Mother, I remember sitting at your knee,
As you told me stories of God and family.
I remember working and playing at your side.
I remember hoping that you would be my guide.
Time has flown so quickly, days, they glide away.
Mother, I remember the days of yesterday.

Mother, how I love you and have felt your love.
May I take this moment to thank the Lord above.
May I teach my children the lessons you taught me.
May I ever live that honored you may be.
I would now embrace you, hold you close to me.
Mother, I will love you through eternity.

Conclusion:

Mother, my dear mother, walk this day with me.
Take my hand in your hand, the way things used to be
Mother, may heav'ns treasures now be yours eternally
Your station stands exalted, a queen of heaven you'll be.
R. Tom Sutton

36. A Gracious Teacher

Heaven be thanked for teachers! Everyone has someone who has made a difference in his/her life, and it usually involves teaching. Teachers affect so many lives yet quite often they are not aware of the great influence that their efforts have had on so many. We are all teachers at one time or another and we have all had a teacher. May teachers be blessed for their efforts. Please take a moment to thank that special teacher who has blessed your life in some small or large way.

A Gracious Teacher

A gracious teacher you've been to me. You trained my eyes that they may see.
You taught my hands to touch and feel. You touched my soul that it may heal.
You taught my ears to hear and listen. You taught me how to see life glisten.
You taught me oh, so many things. I thank you now, for my heart sings.

How many hours you must have given, How many times you must have listened.
You had a vision of who we'd be. Your mission was to help us see.
You touched so many through your service. Through generations you have blessed us.
Your talents have been magnified, they flow now as the ocean tide.

What words can say how we now feel? What words but thanks for faithful zeal.
Your hands now worn will live within us. Your teachings too, will now inspire us.
Your music has found life within us, To stir our souls to reach beyond us.
With all our hearts we thank you so, Please feel our love forever glow.

Conclusion:

May your days be filled with happiness

And may God's smile upon you rest.

Yes, may your heart be filled with love,

Now returned by those who once received your love. R. Tom Sutton

37. Be Ye Clean

When Heavenly Father sent us here to the earth, He gave us a precious gift that He wanted us to guard throughout our lives. This gift is so precious that we should fight and lay down our lives before surrendering the precious gift of chastity. Our body is a temple, a marvelous miracle that records all the events of our lives. When we return home one question will be, "What have you done with your body? Have you kept it pure and clean?" May we always treat our body as a temple and we will be entitled to the great peace and joy that comes through the spirit. This song expresses the blessings and responsibility to be clean in all that we do.

Be Ye Clean

Be ye clean that bear the vessels of the Lord,
Be ye clean in every thought and deed and word.
Be ye clean that ye may be as leaven,
Ye must be clean to enter into heaven.

By the grace of God ye may be purified,
Trust the Lord, lean on His arm when you are tried.
Gather strength to overcome temptation;
Go share the joy and message of salvation.

Serve the Lord with all your heart, might, mind, and strength;
Take His spirit with you by the prayer of faith.
He will guide you and his arms surround you
If you are faithful, He will come to you. R. Tom Sutton

38. Joseph, Joseph, Joseph

In the year 2005 the church celebrated the 200th anniversary of the birth of the prophet Joseph Smith. We visited that sacred site and felt a wonderful spirit as we listened to the music and reflected on the life, sacrifices, contributions, and martyrdom of our beloved prophet. In 2005 we were asked to write a tribute to the prophet. This song is a tribute to our beloved prophet, Joseph Smith, the prophet of the restoration. The song goes as follows:

Joseph, Joseph, Joseph

A mighty seer the Lord raised up in these, the latter days.
His marvelous work had been foretold as the gospel was restored.
A humble boy whose prayer was heard that beautiful spring morning,
As Joseph knelt and talked with God the heavens again were opened.

He suffered much but saw great things as the revelations came.
The power of God again was felt and great blessings were received.
The truth again was on the earth, the message of salvation.
A dispensation was unfurled to share with all the world.

His mission great he has fulfilled As he's done the Father's will.
He walked with courage and with love As directed from above.
Another testament is given of Jesus Christ, our Lord.
The light and truth have been restored as Joseph saw the Lord.

Conclusion:

Joseph, this is my beloved Son, Hear Him. Oh, what glorious words.
Joseph listened and obeyed the Lord and received his holy word.
A prophet had again been called to lead the world from darkness.
The prophet, yes, that mighty seer called Joseph, Joseph, Joseph.
R. Tom Sutton

39. Be Still

“Be still, and know that I am God.” (Isa. 46:10). What a promise is found in these simple words. We live in a world of chaos and commotion. It is wonderful to know that amidst all the turmoil we can find peace. Where can peace be found? It is found in the quiet whisperings of the spirit as we step away from all worldly cares and focus on hearing the voice of the Father. Just as the Lord was not found in the earthquake or the mighty wind, if we will but be quiet and listen, then we can hear Him and eventually come to see Him and dwell with Him. These simple words give a guide to help us be still and **HEAR HIM!**

Be Still

Be still, and know that I am God.
Be still, hear answers to your prayers.
Be still, and you shall see my pow’r.
Be still, and walk with Me each hour.

Be still, and you shall hear My voice.
Be still, and find in Me your choice.
Be still, though waves and thunder roll.
Be still, My peace I will bestow.

Be still, and you shall feel My love.
Be still, find mercy from above.
Be still and you My face shall see,
And dwell with Me eternally. R. Tom Sutton

40. Hearts

Hearts

Hearts were made for loving, hearts were made to care.
Hearts were made for feeling, hearts were made to share.
A deeper sense than sight or touch, a heart can feel all things.
The purest strains of love are heard when from the heart one sings.

Hearts were made for laughter, hearts were made to give.
Hearts make the day brighter, hearts teach us to live.
A heart can make things right again when everything's gone wrong.
A heart gives courage in our trials and hope to carry on.

Hearts help us remember simple, precious things.
Hearts draw us together, a tenderness it brings.
A heart can fill our minds with joy and speak peace to our soul.
There's a language without words to hear, to heal the weary soul.

Chorus:

Hearts need not be broken, hearts need to be healed.
Hearts need to be followed, hearts need to be heard.
What precious truths the heart can tell if we, the chance will give.
So listen to your heart, yes, learn what hearts can give.
(Final) Yes, listen to your heart. R. Tom Sutton

In our minds we contemplate decisions and actions to follow, but if we will truly listen to our heart, we will feel the right choice in the hour when choice hangs in the balance. The feelings of the heart are the feelings of the Spirit; that spirit which leads to do good and to show love in a world filled with hatred and animosity. May we learn to listen and then act on the tender feelings of the heart that will lead to peace, joy, and love during each day in our sojourn of mortality.

41. Springtime

Springtime

Springtime, how I love the springtime, when earth's reborn again!
Springtime, the trees are filled with blossoms and I smell a fragrance in the air.
I hear children laughing on the playground, lying on the grass as clouds drift by.
Springtime, how I love the springtime, when nature comes alive.

Springtime, full of gentle showers that breathe life into flowers.
Springtime, the birds are busy singing as the nests they're building everywhere.
I see kites go soaring in the breezes as the children smile and watch in awe.
Springtime, don't you love the springtime when life is everywhere.

Springtime lifts up the downhearted, the sigh turns to a smile.
Springtime, a chance to start all over, learning how to live nature's way.
May we listen, may our hearts feel gladness,
May our minds find peace amidst the storm.
Springtime, how I love the springtime, when earth is full of life.

Chorus:

Springtime, how I love the springtime, the world is filled with beauty.
Springtime, a symbol of God's love is sent from heav'n above to us all.
Springtime, how I love the springtime, a symbol of God's love. R. Tom Sutton

There is beauty to every season, but particularly in the springtime when nature comes alive and the air, the trees, the birds, and all nature rejoices. May we experience many springtimes in our lives and feel God's love as He watches over us in all that we do. May we appreciate the variety and the splendor of all that is around us from the tiniest insect to the greatest marvels of the universe. Enjoy every day and find that there truly is beauty all around, particularly in the springtime.

42. Listen

(A children's song)

Listen

Listen to the voice within that speaks from God above.
He'll listen and He'll guide you and bless with His love.
He loves us as His children, each and every one.
He wants us to come back to Him to see his face again.

So He sent His spirit to fill our lives with peace.
He's filled this world with beauty and sent His Son with love.
Oh, may we ever listen, faithful to the end,
That to His presence we'll return through He who is our friend.

I know if I'm faithful I'll live with Him someday,
If I'll but learn to listen, and how to watch and pray.
So listen to the Spirit, yes, listen and obey.
Hold on the rod that leads along the straight and narrow way.

Conclusion:

I may not know about everything, but this much I do know
God lives and hears us when we pray,
And He'll walk with us day by day
As throughout this life we now go
Because He loves us so. R. Tom Sutton

Isn't it marvelous that a loving Father has prepared a way for a member of the Godhead to be with us always through His Spirit, even the comforter, the Holy Ghost to guide and be with us always? God speaks, and it is up to us to learn to listen and then obey those marvelous promptings that will align our will with God and make us instruments in His hands to accomplish His great work that will lead us home to Him.

43. What is Life?

The great questions, "Where did we come from, why are we here, and where are we going?" cause us to reflect on the purpose of our existence here. Life is a teacher, a tester, a refiner and a rewarder as we strive to come to an understanding of our place in the universe. This song, "What is life?" explores some of those questions and potential answers as we walk arm in arm with each other along the pathway of life.

What is Life?

What is life? Can you find the answer? Who are we and where shall we go?
What's the treasure we came here to find? Where's the key and map to help us climb
Upward on our journey here through the trials and tests of life?
Where's the greatest joy to be found, in the choices we each make.
Life's a teacher, a tester, a refiner, a rewarder, with sorrow and heartache,
But joy and bliss too. It's gaining experience, talents and friends
And giving of service and love to all men.
It's a great opportunity we all enjoy, to live now in the great race of life.

Each man has his set of life's experience that he's gained through choices
That he's made. What's he putting into life's great vessel? Will it last
Or slowly fade away? Combinations are limitless. We each are different
In many ways. Still there's the essence of life to be found. That's the reason why
We're here. There are choices around us, yes in all that we do
Between light and darkness and shades of gray too. Yes many directions
And voices that call and put forth their treasures to us one and all.
May we search for the treasure that perisheth not and fulfill our great mission on earth.

Conclusion:

Life, join the great race of life! Begin where you are now. Knock and listen,
Search and find, the answers can be found. Mortality's veiled in purpose
We cannot understand all, but if we're faithful one day we'll see the reason of
Why it's now so. Yes, the reason of why it's now so. R. Tom Sutton

44. Becoming

Becoming

Becoming, becoming, becoming what you say?
Becoming all that I can be in each and every way.
I'll learn each day from days gone by,
And not those same mistakes let slide.
To grow in every test I meet that I, my foe might beat.
My foe you say and who be he? He be many, yes, many.
Yes, all those things that limit me and betray, (betray me).
All those things within and out I've not yet overcome.
All those things, which if left be, would surely defeat me.
Just look inside what do you see that isn't fitting, (not fitting)?
All those habits, thoughts and deeds that leave you hurting, (yes, hurting).
All those things that you should do that somehow don't get done.
All those things you've tried before, but not yet overcome.

Becoming, becoming, becoming who you'd be.
By weeding out those little faults and things that pull you down.
Buy changing habits one by one and doing deeds that should be done.
Oh yes, we all have room to grow, so start and don't be slow!
Just look outside at forces there that will try men, (will try men).
It may be friends or worldly cares that entice them, (entice them).
Just be sure to hold the good and toss out all the bad.
Then you know you will be glad and not the one who's sad.
Then start today within yourself to become better, (yes, better).
Don't delay your sights to raise and to shoot higher, (yes, higher).
Make every day in every way better than before.
Go ahead and try it now, you may find that you like it!

Conclusion:

Becoming, becoming, becoming is your life.
A project huge to mold your life
Into the one you'd be someday.
It's why you're here on this great sphere
So BECOME WHAT YOU MAY! R. Tom Sutton

Our life is a process of becoming: of becoming more like our Savior, becoming of greater service, and fulfilling our mission here upon the earth. You only have one life to live so make it a great one!

45. Expectations Await You

Expectations Await You

What awaits you my friend, as you ponder life's adventure?
What's the dream that you have to unfold?
Would you be a prince, or a king, or a queen?
What awaits you remains to be seen.
So reach outside yourself and touch hands with the infinite,
That you may know your potential is great indeed.
There are great sights to be seen, great deeds to be done.
Great mountains to climb and great lands to explore,
Great service to render, great love to extend.
Yes, great expectations await you, my friend.

If a child, then an heir as you grow in light and knowledge
Find the talents and gifts that you have,
Help them blossom and grow as a flow'r in its beauty.
Take from this life its true wealth untold.
Yes, you can do great things with the help of the Savior,
That through your faith you may learn to overcome all things.
Yes, you can move mountains if only you will,
Yes, all of these things and things greater still.
Set your sights on the stars and never look back.
Keep your eye on the Savior, He'll lead you along
Through tempests and trials 'till you're safely home.

Then put on that helmet, that buckler and shield.
Yes, put on the armour of God.
With the gospel of peace and your loins girt with truth
And the sword of the spirit to fight
Against darkness, against the darts of the wicked,
Against the wiles of the devil that you may stand.
Go see those sights to be seen, do those deeds to be done.
Go climb those great mountains, explore those great lands.
Give service to all and extend that great love.
Yes, great expectations await you my friend. R. Tom Sutton

We all have expectations in life. The problem for most of us is that we aim too low. It is better to shoot for the stars and land on the moon than to shoot for a molehill and hit it. With the help of God all things are possible. Let us have hope, faith, and courage to run the race before us and achieve those great expectations of life.

46. Ven a Mi

Ven a Mi

Ven a mi sigue me y entra en mi reino
Si, entra al agua a bautizarte
La Puerta al Señor.

Ven a mi se' fiel, y encuentra vida eterna.
Escucha la voz de paz y luz
El don del Salvador.

Ven a mi, siempre ven, se' fiel al fin de tu vida.
Se' fiel y Mi rostro vera's siempre
Contigo estare'

Ahora, nace del agua y espiritu cambia tu corazon.
Te espero aqui en Mi reino, Ven a Mi, sigue Me ven con fe. RTS.

Come Unto Me (Baptismal Song)

Come my child, follow me, and enter into my kingdom,
Yes, enter the water and be baptized, the gate that leads to heav'n.

Come my child, hear my voice, the voice that speaks to the soul.
The Holy Ghost will guide your path, and each day you shall grow.

Come my child, come to me, endure to the end of your journey.
Yes, enter the kingdom and faithful be and you my face shall see.

Chorus:

Be born of the water and spirit, be born with a heart that is pure.
Come enter the gate to my kingdom, Come dwell in my home evermore. R. Tom Sutton

The Savior invited us to "Come unto me" and to "Follow Me" as we strive to enter the Kingdom of God. Nephi counseled us to follow the Savior and to repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. After we are baptized we also receive the baptism of fire by receiving the Holy Ghost. Baptism is the gate to the celestial kingdom and the doorway to return back to the presence of the Father. (See 2 Nephi 31: 10-20). This song expresses an invitation to follow the Savior and to "Come unto Him" as He has shown us the way to attain eternal life. (Also see Matt. 11:28-30).

47. Faith, Hope, and Love

Faith, hope, and charity or love establish the foundation for a life of joy, peace, and progression toward eternal life. Faith allows us to take the first step in obedience to the will of God. Hope gives the courage to follow through in the difficult hours as we persevere onward in the earnest expectation that we will achieve what we desire and long for. Charity or Christlike love is the greatest power in the universe as God first loved us and we have the opportunity to love and serve Him and our fellow man. This song reflects the message that Faith, Hope, and Love will lead us along the pathway home to God.

Faith, Hope, and Love

Faith in our Savior gives strength to obey,
Leading us onward and lighting the way.
Faith gives us courage, casting out fear.
Faith helps us follow our Savior so dear.

Hope has a power to beam as the sun.
Hope helps us follow the Anointed One.
Hope gives us vision, helping to see
On through our trials to eternity.

Love is the gift from our Father above,
Filling our hearts and our lives with that Love.
Love fills us with peace and joy from above.
Love helps us feel of our dear Savior's love.

Chorus:

Faith, hope, and love; faith, hope, and love.
Precious are gifts from our Father above.
Gifts of the spirit guide us each day,
Lifting us upward, for them we pray. R. Tom Sutton

48. My Child, My Child

What becomes of those little children who die in infancy or very early childhood? The prophet Joseph Smith taught: "The Lord takes many away even in infancy, that they may escape the envy of man, and the sorrows and evils of this present world; they were too pure, too lovely to live on earth; therefore, if rightly considered instead of mourning we have reason to rejoice as they are delivered from evil, and we shall soon have them again." Although it is heartbreaking to lose a little one, we can take comfort that their souls are saved through the atonement of Christ and they shall arise pure and whole in the resurrection. This song is dedicated to those who have experienced the heartbreak of losing one of those little ones; may they always hold a tender place in our hearts.

My Child, My Child

My child, my child, my precious little one,
Your spirit shines bright as the sun.
A gift from God above, a symbol of His love,
His everlasting arms of love.

How great the plan that we may come to earth,
That miracle that we call birth;
Then back to God we'll go, to live with Him again,
The Savior's love brings life again.

How great that day when we shall one day meet,
And humbly there we'll kiss His feet.
The love of God will guide us to our heav'nly home,
His love will guide us safely home.

Chorus:

Your spirit soars through blazing light,
Your eyes, they shine as morning bright.
Your spirit pure shows us the way,
To be with you someday we pray. R. Tom Sutton

49. Remember, Remember

One of the most important words in the English language is *Remember*. To remember helps us to learn lessons from the past and to be more wise in the future. Another of the most important words is *Covenants*, for covenants bind us to God and provide the avenue to return to His presence. In the sacrament prayers the word *remembrance and remember* are mentioned in the prayers on both the bread and the water. If we will remember Christ and turn our eyes and hearts to Him we will be on the path leading to eternal life. We need to also remember who we are and the heritage that has been given to each of us. This song reflects on the importance of remembering and the guide it will be to us.

Remember, Remember

Remember, remember, remember who you are.
Remember those who came before, who came from near and far.
Remember those who gave their all, that we may now be free.
Remember those who bore your name, whose seed you came to be.

Remember your lineage, your heritage so dear.
Remember now their sacrifice, their joy and trials and tears.
Remember those who served their God, their work, their toil, their love.
Remember now your Father dear, your Father up above.

Remember your Savior, His blood once shed for you.
Remember now your covenants, to stand in all things true.
Remember now your loved ones dear, those of your family tree.
Remember that in Father's eyes, we're one great family.

Conclusion:

Remember, remember, remember why we're here.
Remember where we came from, the circle of life's sphere.
With hearts now knit together, let's journey not alone.
Let's walk the path together, to our eternal home. R. Tom Sutton

50. Love's Found in Giving

_ Love's Found in Giving

Love's found in giving, giving our all.
Love's found in serving, both the great and small.
Love's found in doing, in answering the call.
Love's found in being, as God showed us all.

Love is a feeling to brighten the day.
Love's found in sunshine, to show us the way.
Love is a beacon that turns night to day.
Love lasts forever when with God we stay.

Love's filled with beauty when truly I see,
The world all around me, all given to me.
Love is a heart filled with eyes now to see.
What Father wants now, yes, for you and for me. R. Tom Sutton

Love is truly found when we give of ourselves in serving, seeing, and being what
God would have us to be. Love is found in the beauty all around us in the world
we live in and in His children here upon the earth.

51. A Song of Thanksgiving

We have been blessed with life, health and strength; freedom to move as we desire and to choose which path we will follow. We have a wonderful earth filled with everything we need to not only survive, but to thrive. When you think about it, we have so many blessings that it is impossible to count all of them. Truly our hearts should overflow with gratitude to our great God for all that he has given us, and all that he continues to give us each moment and each hour of every day that we live here upon the earth. This song attempts to express a small portion of gratitude and thanks for all we enjoy here on the earth.

A Song of Thanksgiving

A song of Thanksgiving and praises I'll sing,
Give thanks for my blessings to my Lord and King;
I'll give honor and glory for His love divine.
I'll thank Him for beauty and all that is mine.

I'm grateful for freedom to choose who I'd be.
I'm grateful for light, health, and vision to see.
I give thanks for a Savior who bled once for me,
Whose sacrifice opened the door to be free.

I'm grateful for life, breath, and strength to go on.
I'm grateful for fam-lies, a place to belong.
I give thanks for a gospel of service and love.
May we now live worthy to join God above.

Conclusion:

A song of Thanksgiving, may we now rejoice;
Give thanks for each other and freedom of choice.
May we treasure our blessings and help from above,
And return to His presence, to His arms of love. R. Tom Sutton

52. Go My Son

The mandate from the Lord is for the gospel to be preached throughout all the world. What a great opportunity and responsibility. Lives are changed and hearts knit together forever that changes not only individual lives but generations. Are you not grateful for those who sacrificed to share the gospel with your ancestors so you would enjoy the heritage that is yours today? Truly the worth of souls is great in the sight of God. This song expresses support for those who are part of the Lord's army and are on His errand.

Go My Son

Go my son and rejoice at the call from the Lord.
Take His hand and go forth seeking souls of worth.
Teaching there those prepared to receive the truth restored.
Go my son, take His hand, go and share His holy word.

There are souls waiting there whose hearts your life can touch.
Precious souls, brothers, sisters who need you so much.
Let your light now shine forth as your mission now unfolds.
All our prayers go with you, in this work of worth untold.

Then you'll come home again, with the Spirit so near.
With a love of all men and the Savior so dear.
But you'll bring something more, fruits of everlasting life
To the souls that you've touched, bringing the words of life.

Chorus:

Go now and our prayers will go with you.
Go now and walk with God.
His words and voice will be in you.
His message, revealed through you.
Eternal shall be your joy.
Eternal shall be our joy. R. Tom Sutton

53. Majesty, Love, and Honor

Are there any words to describe the majesty, power, and love of our Father in Heaven and our Savior Jesus Christ? Words fall far short in any effort to convey the depth of what we feel for all that we have been given. These few verses express in a small way the feelings of the heart in recognizing the great power, love, and kindness shown to us by our Maker. May He always be praised and honored for all that we have received at His merciful hand.

Majesty, Love, and Honor

Glory be to the Father, blessed be ever His name.
For His loving kindness, ever His love we'll proclaim.
Truly the greatest gift He gave, that of His precious Son.
Who prayed in His atoning hour, that we become as one.

Never was shown a greater love than in Gethsemane.
There the gate was opened, that through His blood we'll be free.
May we accept His gift of love, from the royal courts above.
May we be now filled with that love, that gift from God above.

Then may our eyes look upward, up to the light of the world.
May we live the gospel and see its banner unfurled.
May we have the strength to love and serve as He would have us do.
May we always remember Him and all our lives be true. RTS.

Chorus:

Majesty, love, and honor unto Christ the King.
May we ever serve Him and to Him praises sing.
Glory be to God on high for all that He has giv'n.
May we here obey His law, then enter into heav'n. R. Tom Sutton

54. Receive the Gift

Receive the Gift

Receive the gift of the Savior,
Receive the gift of His love.
Receive the gift of the Spirit,
Receive His light from above.
Receive the joy of the gospel,
Receive the strength to overcome.

Receive His servants and message,
Receive His covenants so dear.
Receive the power of His priesthood,
Receive revelation through prayer.
Receive all that life has to offer,
Receive as you walk now by faith.

Receive truth and life everlasting,
Receive God through His gracious Son.
Receive of His mercy and goodness,
Receive Him that we may be one.
Receive now His plan laid before us,
Receive Christ, the anointed one. R. Tom Sutton

There are many priceless gifts that we are invited to receive during our sojourn here upon the earth. As we accept the Savior and are baptized we are invited to receive the precious gift of the Holy Ghost. As we return to the table of grace and receive the sacrament we are invited to be cleansed through the infinite atonement of our Savior, Jesus the Christ. That remarkable gift of forgiveness is a well of water that we must drink deeply from again and again, for that is the way we are born again unto life eternal. As we receive the gift of the atonement and come to know the Savior we also come to know the Father, even God, our Heavenly Father. "And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom thou hast sent." (John 17:3). May we receive all the gifts that our loving Father has offered to us: The gift of the Holy Ghost, the gift of the atonement of Jesus Christ, and the ultimate gift of coming to know God and dwelling eternally with Him and our beloved Savior in Their royal courts above. RTS

55. Testimony

In the days of the early Christians there were many who gave their lives as a testament of their faith and testimony. In the early days of this dispensation, Joseph Smith, Hyrum Smith, and several others gave their lives as well, to seal their testimonies with their blood. They became martyrs to the cause of the gospel. Today we are not asked to die for our testimony but to live according to that which we profess in our testimony. Even today there are those who have had to give up family relationships, friends and jobs, or endure other hardships to walk the covenant path. May we each be willing to sacrifice whatever is necessary to stand true to our testimonies and the convictions of our hearts.

Testimony

There is something, yes something that lies deep within my soul,
That I cherish and sustains me as throughout this life I go.
There's a burning in my bosom that speaks softly but rings true,
It gives me hope and greater knowledge to do what God would have me do.

As you search for things of value in the choices that you face,
Have you felt an inner yearning to know God and feel His grace?
Have you pondered where we're going, where we came from, why we're here?
We search for answers from our Father to find those things we hold most dear.

What's the reason we were sent here? Was it not to walk by faith;
And to gain a testimony, now before it grows too late?
He's sent prophets, parents, teachers and the scriptures as a guide,
We must but listen to the Spirit, then choose the path that leads to life.

Conclusion:

It's a pearl of priceless value for which I'd give up all,
It shines and glows within my heart and whispers peace to me.
A knowledge of the Savior, from the Father up above.
It's my testimony, the thing I hold most dear. R. Tom Sutton

56. Through His Gift I Live

Through His Gift I Live

I am a disciple of Jesus Christ, answering His call, "Come all ye that thirst."
I hear His voice, I read His word, I learn of Him and call Him Lord.
And come to see His will for me, and through His suff'ring I am free.

I'll follow Him, I'll choose Him. All that He asks I'll give,
He is the way, He is the Light, and through His gift, I live.

Though I am weak through His grace I'll be strong,
And through the darkness He'll lead me along.
I'll honor Him, I'll serve Him, His every word I will obey
Through covenants I'll follow Him, and come to see His face someday.

I'll follow Him, I'll choose Him. All that He asks I'll give,
He is the way, He is the Light, and through His gift, I live.

I thank Thee Lord, for Thy love shown to me. Though I was blind, my eyes now see.
I love Thee Lord with all my heart, I need to choose the better part.
I need to give as Thou hast giv'n, that I may enter into Heav'n.

Chorus:

I'll follow Him, I'll choose Him. All that He asks I'll give,
He is the way, He is the Light, and through His gift, I live.
Oh----, and all He asks, I'll give. He is the way,
He is the light, and through His gift I live.

Tom Sutton

In the Book of Third Nephi, Mormon, the abridger of much of the book, takes a moment to pronounce a message from his heart: "**Behold, I am a disciple of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.** I have been called of him to declare his word among the people, that they might have everlasting life." (3rd Nephi 5:13). In the last verse of the same chapter he declares: "And then shall they know their redeemer, who is Jesus Christ, the Son of God"; (3rd Nephi 5:26). Much of that knowledge of discipleship will come through diligently searching and pondering the message of the Book of Mormon. Just a few chapters later as the Savior descended among the Nephites who were spared the great destruction at the time of his death, He declared: "Behold, I am Jesus Christ whom the prophets testified shall come into the world. And behold, I am the light and the life of the world; and I have drunk out of that bitter cup which the Father hath given me, and have glorified the Father in taking upon me the sins of the world, in the which I have suffered the will of the Father in all things from the beginning." (3rd Nephi 11:10-11). We have the invitation to come to know Jesus Christ and to be a true follower through the pathway of **discipleship** which will lead us to accept His great atoning sacrifice and gain the greatest gift of Eternal Life.

57. As a Child

As the Savior spoke to the Nephites he taught them, “Whoso repenteth and cometh unto me as a little child, him will I receive, for of such is the kingdom of God. Behold, for such I have laid down my life and have taken it up again.” (3 Nephi 9:22). There are many wonderful Christlike qualities that little children have. It begins with an innocence and purity coupled with an abiding faith that makes one teachable. It denotes kindness and tenderness and no guile or desire to deceive. A child is quick to forgive and assumes a positive perspective of those around him or her. A child is obedient to those in authority and has pure love. A child exhibits a wonderment and fascination for the beauties of nature and a desire to do that which is good. A child loves light and expresses a desire to follow the Savior. A child is honest, just as the children in the “Emperor’s’ New Clothes.” A child truly believes that all things are possible and does not have the preconceived notions and ideas that limit his or her potential. This song expresses some of the perspectives about becoming as a child to receive the great gift of eternal life.

As a Child

As a child we must be if we hope to find the key;
The key of faith, the key of hope, of love and charity.
Submissive, meek and humble, that’s how our lives should be.
For unless we are as children, we’ll not enter into heaven.

As a pure little child is the greatest found in heav’n,
Then let us cast away our pride, our greed, our worldliness.
Dear Father up in heaven, help us to see the light
And become as little children, there to find eternal life.

And he spake unto the multitude and said unto them: Behold your little ones.
And they looked to behold...And they saw angels descending as it were in the
Midst of fire..and encircled those little ones about... with fire;
And the angels did minister to them. (3rd Nephi 17:23-24). R. Tom Sutton

58. Love the Children

It has been said that it takes a community to raise a child. Of course we have our own children, but what of all those children that we see grow up through the years? The ripples of life affect so many and the impressions on the minds of young children during the formative years makes an indelible imprint on their minds that will affect their lives forever. May we always remember the importance of children, seeing them not only for who they are now but who they will someday become. This song is entitled "Love the Children," pointing to children all around us and the importance of showing them love and teaching them who they really are.

Love the Children

Love the children every one, as a daughter or a son.
Teach them how to love the Lord and obey His every word.
Teach them who they really are, help them find out why they're here.
Help them drink the water clear, water from the Savior dear.

Pray for them each day and night, keep your candle shining bright.
Take the spirit as your guide, become humble without pride.
Find the joy true service gives, teach those spirits that God lives.
Give your strength, yes, give your all, show your love to one and all.

Now be faithful in your call, for it matters to us all.
Father's helpers we must be, walking toward eternity.
Father's plan is full of love and He watches from above.
Love the children as your own, help them find their way back home.
R. Tom Sutton

59. The Table of Grace

Have you ever heard of the sacrament table as the table of grace? Partaking of the sacrament and renewing our covenants faithfully with the Lord opens the door to His great infinite atoning sacrifice for each of us. Grace has been described as the enabling power that comes to us as we bind ourselves to the Savior through the covenants of the gospel. As we weekly renew those covenants we receive His grace and His power to do all things that are expedient for us to accomplish during our sojourn here in mortality. May we drink deeply from the cup the Savior offers to us, and may we come to see Him and know Him as we walk along the covenant path.

The Table of Grace

I come now to the table of grace,
Trusting my Savior and seeking His face.
He is the way, He is the Life.
He is the path to Eternal Life.

How great the price He had to pay.
How great the suff'ring as He knelt to pray.
He bore my sins; He bore yours too.
His life He gave for me and you.

May we accept His great gift divine,
Pass through our trials and find peace sublime.
May we now say, "Thy will be done."
May we now follow His great Son.

Chorus:
As He broke bread, His grace we see.
The cup He gives to you and me.
Our sins He bore to set us free
To dwell with Him eternally.

R Tom Sutton

60. Broken

In Psalms 31:12 we read: "I am like a broken vessel." David had many wonderful qualities, as do we, but he also had his weaknesses. When it comes to it we are all broken, for all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. Because we are each broken, in a sense, we all need healing. That healing comes through our Savior, Jesus Christ. He took upon Himself our infirmities, our pains, our sorrows, and sins; and through His healing and enabling power of the atonement we can be healed. Oh, let us ever praise Him for the great gifts of redemption, of salvation and even the greatest gift, that of eternal life; let us accept His great atoning sacrifice, make covenants with Him, and then honor those covenants throughout our lives. Even though we are broken, through His stripes we are healed.

Broken

Broken, we are broken, each and every one.
Rescued, we are rescued, through His precious Son.
Needful, we are needful, of His tender love.
Grateful, we are grateful, thanking God above.
Healing, we need healing; Oh, how great our needs!
Praise Him, may we praise Him, as our cause He pleads.

Come ye broken hearted and ye shall be healed.
I have borne your sorrows; with My stripes you're healed.
Look and see My light shine, showing you the way;
Growing ever brighter, turning night to day.

Sorrows, we have sorrows, each and every one.
Struggling, we are struggling; help us seek Thy Son.
Prayerful, ever prayerful, may we turn to Thee.
Blinded, we were blinded; may our eyes now see.
Blessings, count our blessings, all that we've been given.
Journey, let us journey, on the path to heaven.

Come ye broken hearted and ye shall be healed.
I have borne your sorrows; with My stripes you're healed.
Look, and see My Light shine, showing you the way;
Growing ever brighter, turning night to day.

Final:
Let's walk in the Light now; He'll turn night to day.

R. Tom Sutton

We live in a day when many question miracles. Among those who believe, miracles continue to occur on a frequent basis. When you take time to consider, everything is a miracle: the creation of the world, our birth, our bodies with ears to hear, hands to touch, a nose to smell, and eyes to see all of the beauty within and around us. The plan of salvation is a miracle, with a Savior provided to bridge the gap between us and our Father in Heaven, to allow us to become cleansed and return home to Their presence. There are miracles of healing, answered prayers, revelation, guidance, and the impressions that come to us through the Holy Ghost, if only we will listen. A God of miracles? As long as there are any on the earth who have faith, miracles will continue to occur to help us along our pathway that leads us home to heaven. May we open our minds, and our hearts, and increase our faith that all things will indeed become possible for us.

A God of Miracles

A God of miracles, how blest are we?
A God of miracles, may you now see
His wondrous works, His glorious plan;
He came to earth as Son of Man.
He has all pow'r on heav'n and earth.
Oh, what a miracle, His humble birth!

Do you see miracles in this our day?
Through faith see miracles after you pray.
Open your eyes His works to see
Each precious birth, each mountain tree,
This precious earth, home to us all!
Oh, what a miracle, on Him to call.

How great the miracles, our sight, our heart.
How great the miracle to choose our part.
Have you not heard, He came to save;
And through His death overcame the grave!
He rose again that we may see
The greatest miracle, with Him we'll be.

Chorus:

A God of miracles, through faith we see
A God of miracles, He sets us free.
A God of miracles, let's do our part.
A God of miracles, give Him our heart.

R. Tom Sutton

President Nelson has taught us that the answers to all of life's questions and challenges can be found in our Savior, Jesus Christ and His teachings. We covenant in the sacrament prayers to always remember Him with the promise that as we do, His Spirit will always be with us. Two wonderful words, always and remember, can be the anchor to our lives and bind us to the Savior through covenant. As we always remember Him, we are endowed with His redeeming and enabling power to do all things that we have been sent here to accomplish in this life. When you are faced with a challenge or dilemma in life, remember that the answer is always found through Him.

Always Jesus

The answer is always Jesus, for He is always there.
The answer is always Jesus, draw near to Him in prayer.
His light and love will flow through you, His words will show you the way
The Holy Spirit will guide you in all that you do and say.

For Jesus is filled with mercy, and love from heav'n above.
His perfect life shows us the pattern; let's fill our hearts with love.
His life was filled with service; He reached out to the one.
May we now strive to be like Him; May we say, "Thy will be done."

So when you are facing your trials, look up and see His light.
His loving arms will surround you, you'll feel His power and might.
Remember, seek His spirit. He will not leave you alone.
For He is always the answer. So, follow His way back home.

Chorus:
Choose to follow Jesus, choose to follow His way.
Strive to become like Him in all that you do and say.

R. Tom Sutton

63. Hear Him!

President Nelson has taught us a wonderful message in these words: “Hear Him,” echoing the words of Heavenly Father as He and the Savior appeared to the young man Joseph Smith in the Sacred Grove saying, “This is My Beloved Son, Hear Him!” That is a message that applies to each of us, wherever we may be. May we always “Hear Him” each and every day of our lives. This song is an invitation to Hear the Voice of the Father and the Son in all we do.

Hear Him!

Hear Him! Oh, let's hear Him! Each and every day.
Listen to the Spirit; hear Him as we pray.
Search, then pray and ponder; He will come to you,
Then show you through the Spirit, what He'd have you do.

Hear Him as did Moses on mount Sin-a-i.
Hearken to His message, on His words rely.
Hear Him, always Hear Him, He will point the way.
Then follow His example, each and every day.

Hear Him, as the prophets teach His mind and will.
Hearken to their message, speaking His words still.
We are not forgotten; children dear are we.
Let's open up our minds now, His will and face to see.

Chorus

Hear Him as did Joseph in the Sacred Grove.
Hear Him as did prophets, in those days of old.
Hear Him, then draw near Him, Come to know His will.
Hear Him, ever Hear Him; Come and do His will.

R. Tom Sutton

64. Blessed Repentance

Many of us have a negative perception about repentance when in fact, it is a glorious principle. Repentance is in fact, turning toward God and aligning our will with His. It is coming to recognize how we can improve and do better. First, it begins by stopping doing things that are wrong and then advances to overcoming sins of omission; not doing the good that we should do. Repentance is truly a wonderful gift, for without it, none of us could return to the presence of God. Many prophets have counseled us to repent daily. Repentance is a blessing and an opportunity to improve during our mortal probation. May we have a fresh view of life and our relationship with our Heavenly Father, coming closer to Him through the infinite and eternal atonement of our Savior.

Blessed Repentance

Blessed repentance, is Fathers great gift
Showing us mercy, our spirits to life.
Blessed repentance for you and for me
Through it we're rescued and we come to see
Hopeless without it, but with it we'll be
Blessed with a new life, transformed we will be.

Blessed repentance can cleanse us from sin,
Lift us, transform us from the state we're in.
Changed are our hearts to a new way of life
Helping us turn from a life filled with strife.
Through His atonement redeemed we can be
Through His atonement for you and for me.

Blessed repentance, renewed we can be
Praised be our Savior, whose face we shall see.
Blessed through His mercy, and blessed through His love
Patient through trials, let's seek Him above.
Lifting each other, His servants we'll be
There we will dwell through all eternity.

Chorus or conclusion:

Help me turn to Thee, Help my eyes to see
Help me turn around, when I've run aground.
Help me change my heart, to the better part
Help me come to Thee, faithful I will be. R. Tom Sutton

65. Take Up Your Cross

In the gospel of Matthew the Lord taught: "Then said Jesus unto his disciples, if any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me." (Matt 16:24). We all have our trials or crosses to bear. Fortunately the Lord will stand by us in our trials and strengthen us to accomplish whatever it is He would want us to do and become. Our trials help to refine us, to strengthen us, and to draw us nearer to Him as we remain faithful. Let us become as the apostle Paul who rejoiced in facing challenges, opposition and even suffering for the cause of the Lord. Let us daily carry our crosses, whatever they may be, that we may become true disciples of our Lord and Savior, and someday be able to thank Him for all that He has done for each and every one of us.

Take Up Your Cross

Take up your cross and follow Me.
Go meet me there in Gethsemane.
Do not turn back when you feel alone.
For there I knelt, and for you atoned.

Take up your cross and--- walk each day.
When times are hard, kneel and humbly pray.
Your heavy load you can share with Me.
Your eyes now blind, will-- come to see.

Take up your cross, fresh--- courage take.
Look to the light, I'll not thee forsake.
Your trials now hard I will consecrate
And lift thee up to a holier state.

Chorus:

Take up your cross and follow me.
Take up your cross and you shall see.
God's wondrous plan, full of grace and love,
Will guide us home, home to heav'n above. R. Tom Sutton

66. Wait Upon the Lord

Isaiah 40:23

We all have our times of trials and hardship. In those times we seek for relief and understanding; often we want it on our own time frame and not the Lord's. We want to build character, but usually not the challenges that accompany that growth. We look at others and see their successes side by side with our failures and wonder why the Lord seems to favor them more than us. There are many challenges; illness, broken relationships, pain, sorrow, grief, any multitude of obstacles to our growth and happiness. But are they really obstacles; or are they stepping stones in disguise? The prophet Isaiah long ago declared: "But they who wait upon the Lord...shall run and not be weary and shall walk and not faint.: (Isaiah 40:23). Can we really expect to receive those wonderful promises without first paying the price? Let us choose to "Wait upon the Lord" and accept His time table which will tutor and refine us, sometimes in the furnace of affliction, that we may be prepared to return to His presence, having become who He would have us to be.

Wait Upon the Lord

I will wait upon the Lord, I will trust His every word.
I will hope to do His will, as He did His Father's will.
I will watch and I will pray, as He turns my nights to day.
I will humbly seek His face, and rely-- on His grace.

He is merciful and kind, He can heal my heart and mind.
He can succor me in trials, help me pass through Satan's wiles.
He is strong though I am weak, He's the anchor that I seek.
He brings peace to wounded hearts, as great mercy He imparts.

Conclusion:

But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength,
They shall mount up with wings of eagles;
And they run and not be weary
And shall walk and not faint. (Isa. 40:23)
(We shall run and not be weary, we shall walk and not faint.) R. Tom Sutton

67. Tender Mercies

The prophet Nephi recognized the hand and voice of the Lord. He taught: "But behold, I, Nephi, will show unto you that the tender mercies of the Lord are over all those whom he hath chosen, because of their faith, to make them mighty even unto the power of deliverance." (1 Ne. 1:20). We see His tender mercies all around us; from the creation of the earth and the marvelous plan of salvation to even the air we breathe. Even as the Savior took upon Himself our infirmities through His infinite atoning sacrifice, we are blessed through accepting him, and walking in the ordinances He has prescribed, to be able to walk back to the presence of the Father. May we open our spiritual eyes to see and express gratitude for the multitude of tender mercies we receive each and every day.

Tender Mercies

Tender mercies of the Lord come to those who keep His word.
Tender mercies we shall see as we turn our hearts to Thee.
Tender mercies give us peace, may our praises never cease.
Tender mercies show His love as we're blessed from heav'n above.

Chorus:

Tender mercies show God's love as He watches from above.
Tender mercies show His care, may we treasured blessings share.
May we care for those in need, then from sin we shall be freed.
May we walk the narrow way, and return to Him someday.

Bridge between 1st and 2nd verses

In this world of toil and strife, help us find the path of life.
Help us overcome our fear, and our hearts be of good cheer.
Help us humbly seek Thy face and receive of Thy great grace.
Choosing the better part and giving Thee our broken heart.

May our hearts be filled with joy, and with praise our tongues employ.
For the gift of Thy great Son, and the vict'ry He has won.
True disciples we shall be and draw nearer unto Thee.
For Thy mercy now we pray, wilt Thou change our night to day.

Chorus:

Tender mercies show God's love as He watches from above.
Tender mercies show His care, may we treasured blessings share.
May we care for those in need, then from sin we shall be freed.
May we walk the narrow way, and return to Him someday.

R. Tom Sutton

68. A Broken Heart

The Lord, speaking to those on the American continent after his crucifixion declared: "And ye shall offer for a sacrifice unto me a broken heart and a contrite spirit. And whoso cometh unto me with a broken heart and a contrite spirit, him will I baptize with fire and with the Holy Ghost." (3 Nephi 9:20). Just as the Lord gave a broken heart to save us, so we must offer our broken heart to accept His offering to save. The Savior literally died of a broken heart on the cross of Calvary. May we look to Him and his great sacrifice that through his sufferings we may be healed and born again to a new and everlasting life with Him. May we lay upon the altar our broken heart to receive His gift of fire through the marvelous gift of the Holy Ghost.

A Broken Heart

A broken heart, that gift we give;
That through our Savior we shall live.
He died for us on----- Calvary
Through His broken heart, He set us free.

That broken heart can cleanse our soul,
Can heal our wounds and make us whole.
That broken heart, we--- offer now
In rev-e-rence we-- humbly bow.

Our tears of sorrow will wash away
The darkest night He will turn to day.
Our gift though small, let us consecrate
And know that He will not us forsake.

Chorus:

A broken heart He gave for me
Though I was blind, I have come to see.
His broken heart when combined with mine
Will lift me up to a life divine.
R. Tom Sutton May 2024

69. My Lord, My God

There are times in our lives when we reach to the depths of our soul to reach out to our Father in Heaven. In those times, the things of greatest worth come to us in our search to deepen our relationship with Him and to draw nearer to Him. Truly, to come to know God and our Savior, Jesus Christ is the quest that will lead us to eternal life with Them. Although we are very limited in our finite minds at times we can experience glimpses of eternity. God's work and glory is: "To bring to pass the immortality and eternal life of man." (Mos. 1:39). As we reach out to Him we may know with confidence that He is there and He truly loves and cares about each and every one of us.

My Lord, My God

My Lord, my God, I plead that I may see
Thy wondrous works and how things came to be.
Thy power throughout the universe I see
Thy name be praised through all eternity.

My Lord, my God, help me to see Thy light
And let it shine and ever grow more bright.
Help me to know Thee and Thy precious Son.
Help me find life through the atoning One.

My Lord, my God, I humbly come to Thee.
I hear Thy voice, I'll ever follow Thee.
I'll call on Thee, Thy purposes to see.
Thy name be praised, through all eternity.

Chorus:

Thy perfect love flows down from heav'n above.
Thy plan divine, in splendor ever shines.
Thy work rolls forth, of everlasting worth.
Thy home in heav'n, may we there meet again.

(final)

May we there meet again. R. Tom Sutton 2024

70. Walk With Me

The Savior invites us to follow him, but He also invites us to walk with Him. We walk with Him and talk with Him through prayer and meditation, studying and pondering upon His word and then striving to obey Him in all that we do. Of course, we all fall short at times, but that is part of the pattern of life; falling down and coming up short, then getting up and trying again, until we become better and truer disciples of our Savior, Jesus Christ. The disciples of old walked with Him through the roads and paths of Palestine. We walk with Him as we enter the covenant path and then follow that covenant path throughout our lives. As we walk with Him, we become closer to Him and begin to know Him. We walk with Him as we say the things He would say and strive to do the things He would do. Then we have done all that we can, He will make up the difference through His great and eternal atoning sacrifice. May we walk with Him and talk with Him each and every day of our lives.

Walk With Me

Walk with me and I will walk with thee.
Talk with me and I will answer thee.
Hear My voice and you My will shall see.
Follow Me and you My face shall see.

Feed My lambs, who came to you from heav'n.
Feed My sheep, that you may enter into heav'n.
Share My love, be merciful and kind.
Share your gifts with all your heart and mind.

Love and serve Me and your fellow man.
Trust in Me, do all the good you can.
Learn of Me, and I the way will show.
Look to Me, which way to go you'll know.

Chorus:

Walk with Me now each and every day.
Talk with Me, when on your knees you pray.
Lift and serve and love your fellow man.
Follow Me in every way you can.

R. Tom Sutton, 2024

71. We Thank Thee Father

We have been given so much; our lives and bodies, the air we breathe and the freedoms we enjoy. We are blessed with the gospel and an understanding of the mission of our Savior, Jesus Christ. We have been blessed with families, temples, earth's beauties and the companionship of the Holy Ghost. Of all the people in the history of the world we have been blessed with so much. May our hearts be filled with gratitude for the multiplicity of blessings showered upon our heads. For, even if we praise our Father with all the energy of our hearts, we will still be unprofitable servants. Let us thank Heavenly Father daily for all that we receive at His hand and may we take the time to stop and reflect, ponder, and then praise Him each and every day.

We Thank Thee Father

We thank Thee Father in heaven above
For Thy great mercy, Thy kindness and love.
Thanks for our lives, homes, and fam'lies so dear.
Thanks for the ea-rth and its treasures here.

Father, we thank Thee for Thy gospel light.
Sending Thy Spirit to guide in what's right.
Thanks for Thy Son, who gave us His all.
Thanks for our blessings, for all, great and small. (possibly one verse as a bridge)

We thank Thee Father for night and for day.
Thanks for the pathway that shows us the way.
Thanks for our cov'nants that bind us to Thee.
Thanks, may we thank Thee through e-ter-ni-ty.

Chorus:

Father, we thank Thee, our voices we'll raise.
Father, we thank Thee in anthems of praise.
Father, dear Father, who dwells up above.
Father, we thank Thee for Thy arms of love.
Tom Sutton, 2024