

## **All Creature of of God and King**

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The Hymns of Faith series 1

*Let them praise the name of the Lord,  
For his name alone is exalted.  
His majesty covers heaven and earth.  
(ESV Psalm 104:24)*

There's deep theology in the old hymns that we miss when we don't sing them. We live in a time when we try to cram a lot of living into each hour, and the hymns are long and wordy--not something we can really do as a community. It's wonderful to hear the old words reborn into new forms, but it's good to step back at some of the hymnody of the Church, too.

*All Creatures of Our God and King* began as a poem by St. Francis of Assisi in about 1225. He was reflecting on Psalm 148 before his death at age 45, after a life that began in wealth, privilege and hedonism and ended in suffering, poverty, and blindness. He founded the Franciscan Order, whose emphasis was poverty, charity, and service to the poor and marginalized, using their humble actions to draw people to Christ. A key tenet is simple living, in harmony with creation as an act of gratitude to the Creator.



One of Francis' most notable characteristics was his joy. He gave away everything that he had, including his birthright, so that he would be free to follow and serve the Lord without any hindrance. In some ways, he was like the rich young ruler of Mark 10, who kept the law, but could not give up his wealth. Francis recognized that God was his source and provider.

We are so busy with our lives that we often forget that we are called to praise the Lord wherever we are. Surrounded by nature's beauty and power, we often choose to fill our calendars instead of our hearts. Jesus said that, if we do not praise him, the rocks will cry out (Luke 19). Perhaps he was thinking about this psalm. If we stop for a moment to see the beauty around us, we can easily imagine the creation offering accolades to the Creator. We, as *Imago Dei*, should lead the way in proclaiming the power and love of God, who made all these things for our enjoyment. When we choose to fill our days with joy, we see God's hand in the sun, moon, and stars, the wind and the fire, the rushing waters, and the flowers and fruits that feed us body and soul.

From a heart of joy, the natural extension is to love each other well, to forgive others, to cast our burdens before Him, and to minister to those in need. Rejoicing in Jesus leads to loving others the way he did: in authenticity, in sacrifice, and with the power of humility. This is our worship: praise and honor to the Creator while working out His will through the Spirit to make His Name known.

**Reflect:**

- How does nature help you see God?
- How can your actions lead others to see Jesus in you?

**Dig a little deeper:**

- Read Psalm 148
- Listen to the versions of this hymn linked below. Which speaks to you?
- Prayer: *Lord, let your creation point me to Your glory. Let my actions point others to Your heart. Praise your Holy name, Alleluia!*

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[Disney Hall: All Creatures of Our God and King](#)(traditional)

[All Creatures of Our God and King | Anthem Lights](#)(traditional for a born in the 90s audience)

[All Creatures Of Our God & King- Bristol House, Mia Musso](#)(traditional with a folk feel)

[All Creatures Of Our God And King - David Crowder Band](#)(traditional--but Crowder)

[All Creatures \(Sing the Harmony\) \[Live\] | Shane & Shane](#)(non-traditional, but familiar to Fellowship Roswell)

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Words: St. Francis of Assisi circa 1225

Translation by William H. Draper, 1919 (alternative traditional text in Verse 1)

Music Setting: Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

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1 All creatures of our God and King, lift up your voice and with us sing! alleluia, alleluia! Thou burning sun with golden beam, thou silver moon with softer gleam, O praise Him, O praise Him, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

2 Thou rushing wind that art so strong, ye clouds that sail in heav'n along, alleluia, alleluia! Thou rising morn in praise rejoice, ye lights of evening, find a voice, O praise Him, O praise Him, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

3 Thou flowing water, pure and clear, make music for thy God to hear, alleluia, alleluia! Thou fire so masterful and bright, that givest all both warmth and light, O praise Him, O praise Him, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

4 Dear mother earth, who day by day, unfoldest blessings on our way, alleluia, alleluia! The flow'rs and fruits that in thee grow, let them God's glory also show, O praise Him, O praise Him, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

5 And ev'ryone, with tender heart, forgiving others, take your part, alleluia, alleluia! Ye who long pain and sorrow bear, sing praise and cast on God your care, O praise Him, O praise Him, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

6 And thou, most kind and gentle death, waiting to hush our final breath, alleluia, alleluia! Thou ledest home the child of God, as Christ before that way hath trod, O praise Him, O praise Him, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

7 Let all things their Creator bless, and worship God in humbleness, alleluia, alleluia! To God all thanks and praise belong! Join in the everlasting song: O praise Him, O praise Him, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

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## REFERENCES

English Standard Version Bible (2008) Crossway Bibles  
Faith Bible Church. "Hymnology: All Creatures of Our God and King." *Faith Bible Church*, <https://fbchurch.org/resource/hymnology-all-creatures-of-our-god-and-king>.  
"What are the lyrics to 'All Creatures of Our God and King'?" *Classical Music*, Immediate Media Company, 3 Mar. 2022, <https://www.classical-music.com/articles/all-creatures-of-our-god-and-king-lyrics>.

