



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

October 31, 2021

P.O. Box 416
129 S. Chamberlain Ave.
Rockwood, TN 37854
865-354-0855

Elders:

Kendall Bear
Dana Carter
Don Chandler

Deacons:

Larry Brackett
Aaron Evans
Larry Hill
Steve McCreary

Minister:

Dale Barger

Service Times:

Sunday

Bible Study 10 am
Worship Service 10:45 am
Worship Service 6 pm

Wednesday

Bible Study 7 pm

Email:

rockwdcc@gmail.com

Website:

Rockwoodchurchofchrist.com

How Great Thou Art

*“O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder,
Consider all the worlds thy hands have made;
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
Thy power throughout the universe displayed.”*

This wonderful song came from a Swedish Folk melody written in 1885. It was called “*O Mighty God.*” It was mostly forgotten until Stuart Hines revised it. Hines was in Russia near the Carpathian Mountains when he expanded the words and arrangement. The first verse was composed when he was caught in a thunderstorm near a Carpathian village. The second verse was composed when he heard the birds sing near the Romanian border. The third verse was written when he witnessed many of the Carpathian Mountain dwellers come to Christ. He wrote the fourth verse upon his return to England.

This song would definitely be among my favorite songs. The song inspires the awe in our spirit by focusing on the power of God’s nature. *“For the invisible things of Him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made” (Romans 1:20).*

God’s power can be seen by the stars, plant life, and by animal and human reproduction. The song writer heard rolling thunder and saw lightning bolts. If a person’s faith has weakened, he should sing this song and think about the power behind the creation.

The history of this song was taken from the book, ‘*Then Sings My Soul*’ by Robert J. Morgan.

Carrol Duncan
Clarendon Church of Christ
Clarendon, TX

Shelter in the Storm

A young man named Gus was taking a walk through the English countryside one day in 1753 when a sudden storm swept across the landscape. Running for cover, he spotted a wide rock formation with an opening where he sought shelter until the storm passed. He had been fortunate to find this hiding place so quickly, and he began to muse on the connection between his shelter and God's help in life's storms.

As he contemplated this scenario, the words for a poem began to form in his mind, but he had no paper on which to write them. Looking down on the floor of the cave-like structure, he saw a playing card—considered a sinful thing by the young cleric. Nevertheless, he picked it up and began to formulate his thoughts and write them on the card.

Sometime later, the life of the writer of those words, Augustus Toplady was cut short by tuberculosis. On August 11, 1778, he passed from this life and was buried in Tottenham Court Chapel in London. In his memory, a stone was erected; it was inscribed with the words he had jotted down on that playing card years before:

Rock of ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in Thee;
Let the water and the blood,
From Thy riven side which flowed,
Be of sin the double cure,
Cleanser me from its guilt and power.

These words had become the beloved Christian hymn, “Rock of Ages.” As Gus found shelter under a rock formation, so you and I can find “shelter” (forgiveness) from the “storm of sin” in the Rock of Ages, Jesus Christ.

Jesus endured God's wrath against sin on our behalf by dying on the cross. He paid the price for our redemption, “*In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace*” (**Ephesians 1:7**). Through His blood, we receive the “double cure:” We are cleansed from the guilt and the dominion of sin.

We find shelter in the Rock of Ages when we place our trust in Him (**Acts 16:30-31**), turn from our sins in repentance (**Acts 17:30-31**), confess Him before men (**Romans 10:9-10**), and are baptized (immersed) into Christ for the forgiveness of our sins (**Acts 2:38; Galatians 3:26-27**).

David Sargent
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Mobile, AL