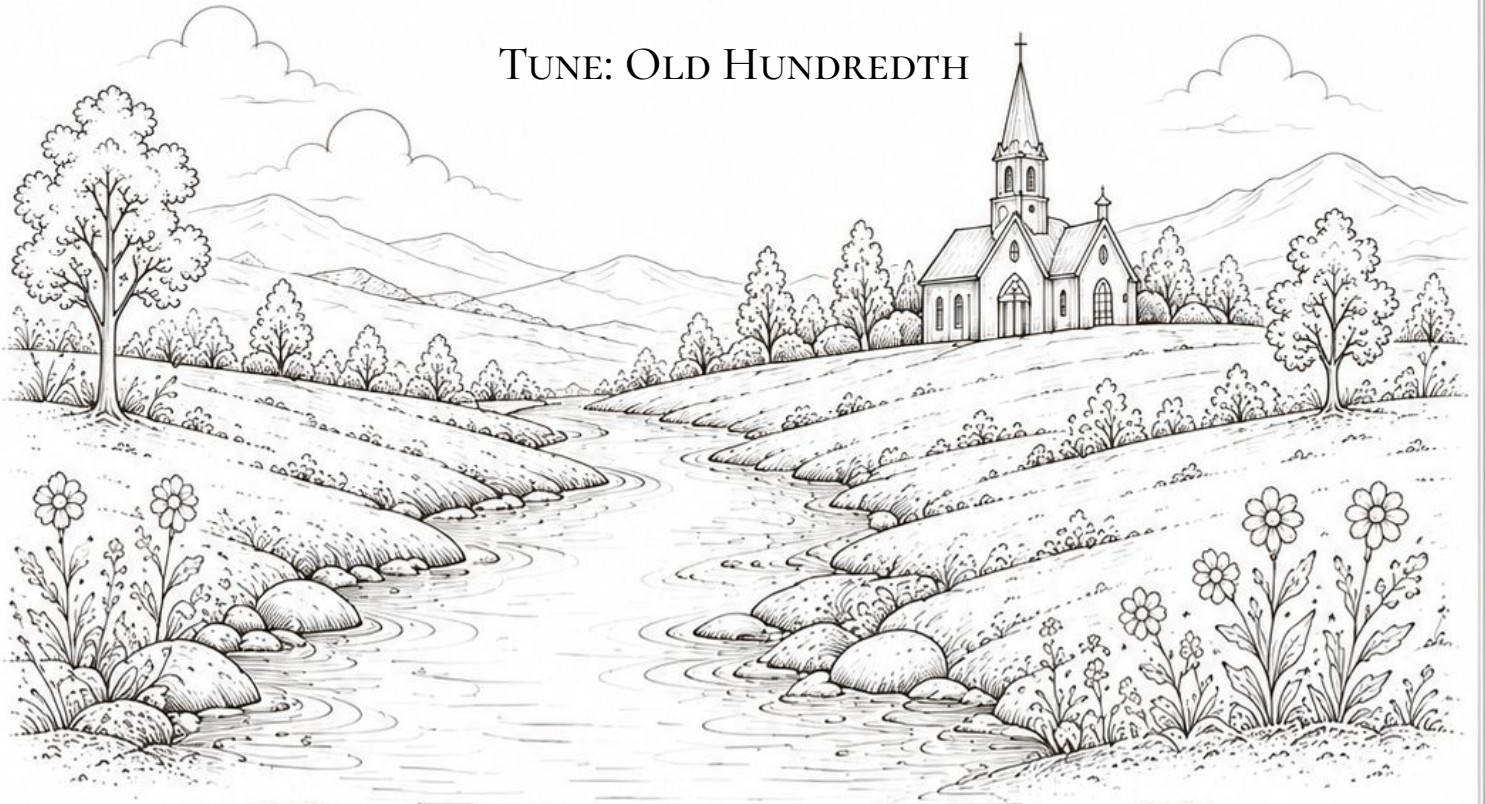


The Doxology

*Praise God, from Whom
All Blessings Flow*

TUNE: OLD HUNDREDTH



Let everything that has breath
praise the LORD! - Psalm 150:6



INTRODUCTION



The Doxology is one of the shortest hymns in the English language, but it is also one of the richest.

Children often memorize it long before they understand it. This month, our goal is not simply to learn the words but to delight in the God to whom they point.

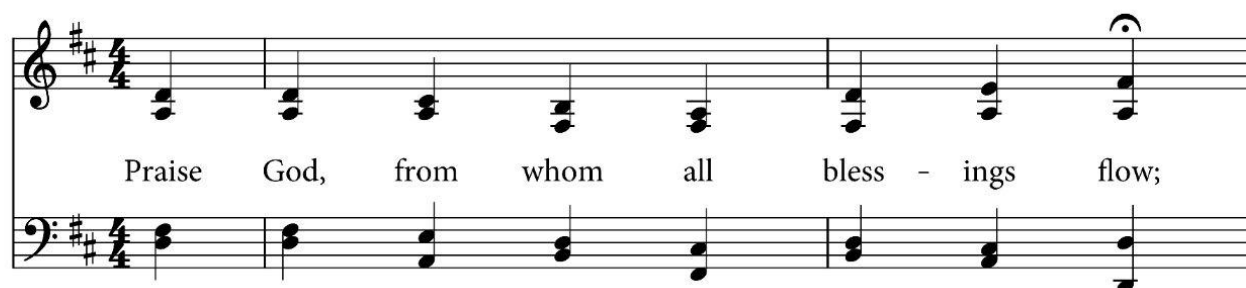
Charlotte Mason believed that children should feast upon "living ideas." Rather than reducing a hymn to vocabulary words or fill-in-the-blank worksheets, we want students to wonder, notice, narrate, and worship.

Throughout this study encourage children to:

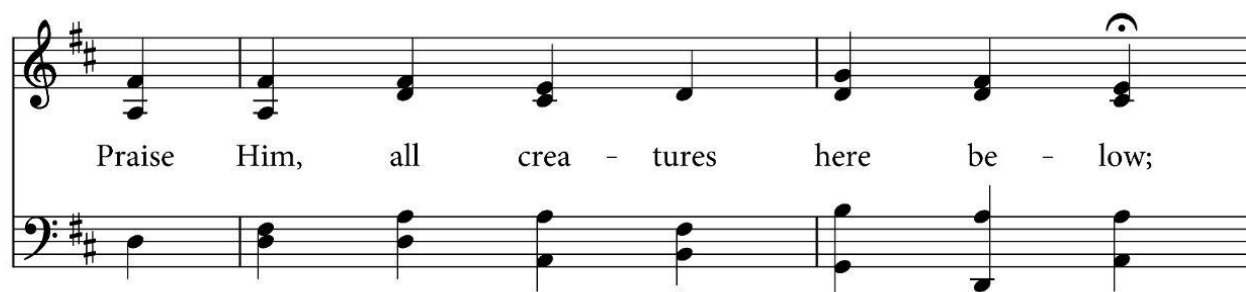
- Sing beautifully.
 - Listen carefully.
 - Ask questions.
 - Notice God's character.
 - Connect Scripture with song.
 - Respond in gratitude.
- 
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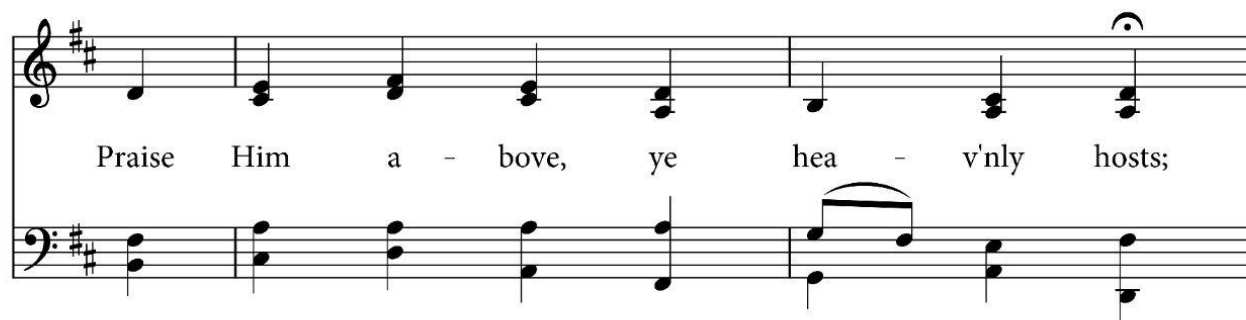
DOXOLOGY



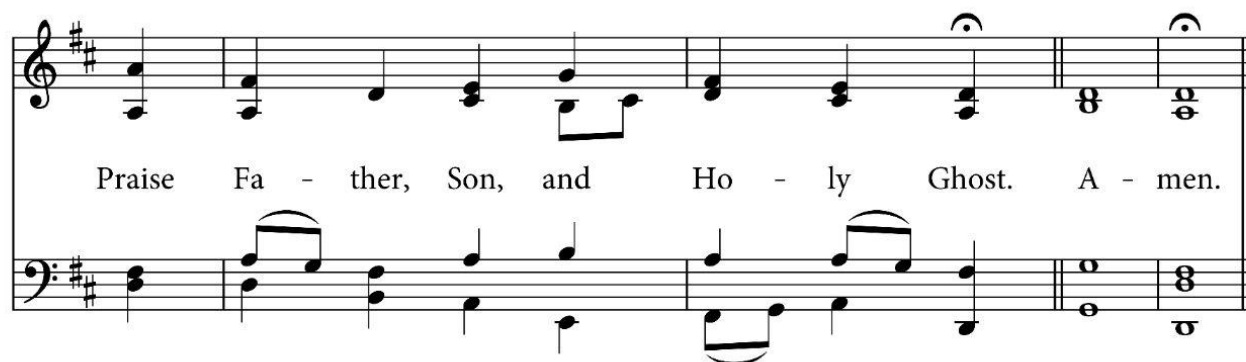
Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow;



Praise Him, all crea - tures here be - low;



Praise Him a - bove, ye hea - v'nly hosts;



Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.



Thomas Ken, 1674

OLD HUNDREDTH
Louis Bourgeois, 1551





THE DOXOLOGY



Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise Him, all creatures here below;

Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Amen.





LIVING QUESTIONS



- What do these four lines teach us about God?
 - Which words seem especially beautiful to you? Why?
 - If all blessings come from God, what blessings have you noticed today?
 - Go outside. Spend five quiet minutes observing. Look for three blessings you had never noticed before.
 - Why does this hymn invite *all* creatures to praise God together?
 - Why is it good for us to remember that we are below and that God is high above us?
 - What do you imagine the "heavenly host" looks like?
 - Why do we praise Father, Son, and Holy Spirit instead of only saying "God"?
 - If someone had never heard of Christianity, what could they learn about God from this hymn?
 - When in your own life could singing this hymn help your heart?
- 
- 



VOCABULARY



Doxology

Comes from two Ancient Greek roots:

doxa, meaning “praise”

logos, meaning “word”

so a doxology is a “word of praise”

Blessings

Every good gift God gives

Flow

Come continually from

Creatures

Everything God has made

Heavenly host

The angels who worship God

Holy Ghost

An older English expression for the Holy Spirit





SCRIPTURE CONNECTIONS



James 1:17

"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above..."

Psalm 150

"Let everything that has breath praise the Lord!"

Psalm 148

All creation is called to praise God.

Isaiah 6:1-3

The heavenly host continually worships God
around His throne!

Matthew 28:19

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

Revelation 4

Heaven's unending worship

Psalm 100

The basis for the original tune - Old Hundredth





THE STORY



Imagine England nearly four hundred years ago. The roads are muddy. Candles light the evenings. There are no cars. No electricity. No microphones or radios.

A young minister named Thomas Ken is working as a chaplain, or a college minister, for students at Winchester College. As he ministers to these students, he notices something - they often begin their day without thanking God. They hurry into breakfast. They rush off to work. Some complain about their troubles before remembering the One who gives them life. Thomas wanted to help people remember something very simple - Every good thing comes from God.

So he wrote two hymns for his students. One was to be sung every morning. One every evening. At the very end of both hymns, he added four little lines. Not because they were the most important part, but because he wanted every day to end—and begin—with praise. Those four lines were:

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Amen.

Thomas Ken probably never imagined that those few lines would travel farther than he ever could. Today they have been sung by kings and farmers. By children and grandparents. By missionaries in jungles. By believers meeting secretly where Christianity is forbidden. By churches on every continent.

The little ending to two forgotten hymns became one of the best-loved hymns in the history of the Church, and every time Christians sing it, they join voices with millions of believers across the centuries saying exactly the same thing:

God alone deserves our praise.



THE AUTHOR



THOMAS KEN

Born: 1637

Died: 1711

Country: England

Occupation: Pastor, bishop, poet, hymn writer

Interesting Facts

- Educated at Winchester College.
- Refused to compromise biblical convictions even when it cost him his job.
- Imprisoned for his faithfulness during political upheaval.
- Wrote many hymns, but the Doxology became famous around the world.
- Remembered as a humble pastor who loved Scripture.

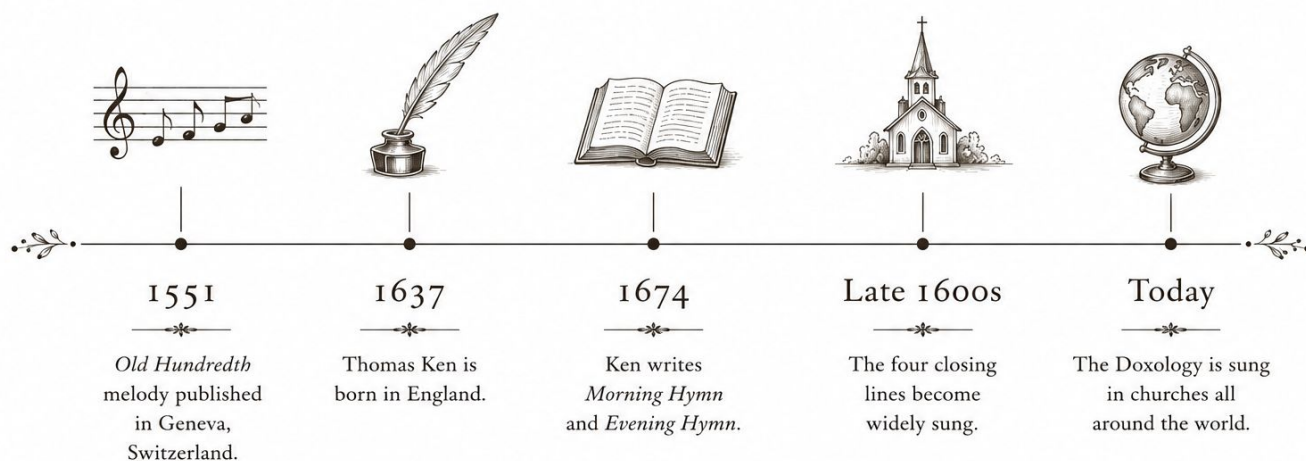
THE TUNE

OLD HUNDREDTH

Although Thomas Ken wrote the words, the tune is actually much older. The melody comes from the Genevan Psalter, published in 1551 during the Protestant Reformation.

It was composed by Louis Bourgeois, a French musician who helped churches sing Scripture together. Originally the tune accompanied a setting of Psalm 100. That Psalm begins: "Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth!" That is why musicians still call this tune Old Hundredth.

Children are often surprised to learn that two different people—living in different countries and different generations—combined to create the hymn we sing today.



GEOGRAPHY



Two places shaped this hymn:

GENEVA, SWITZERLAND

The melody was written here during the Protestant Reformation, when Christians worked to fill churches with congregational singing.

ENGLAND

More than one hundred years later, Thomas Ken wrote the words while serving churches and schools throughout England.

Ask students:

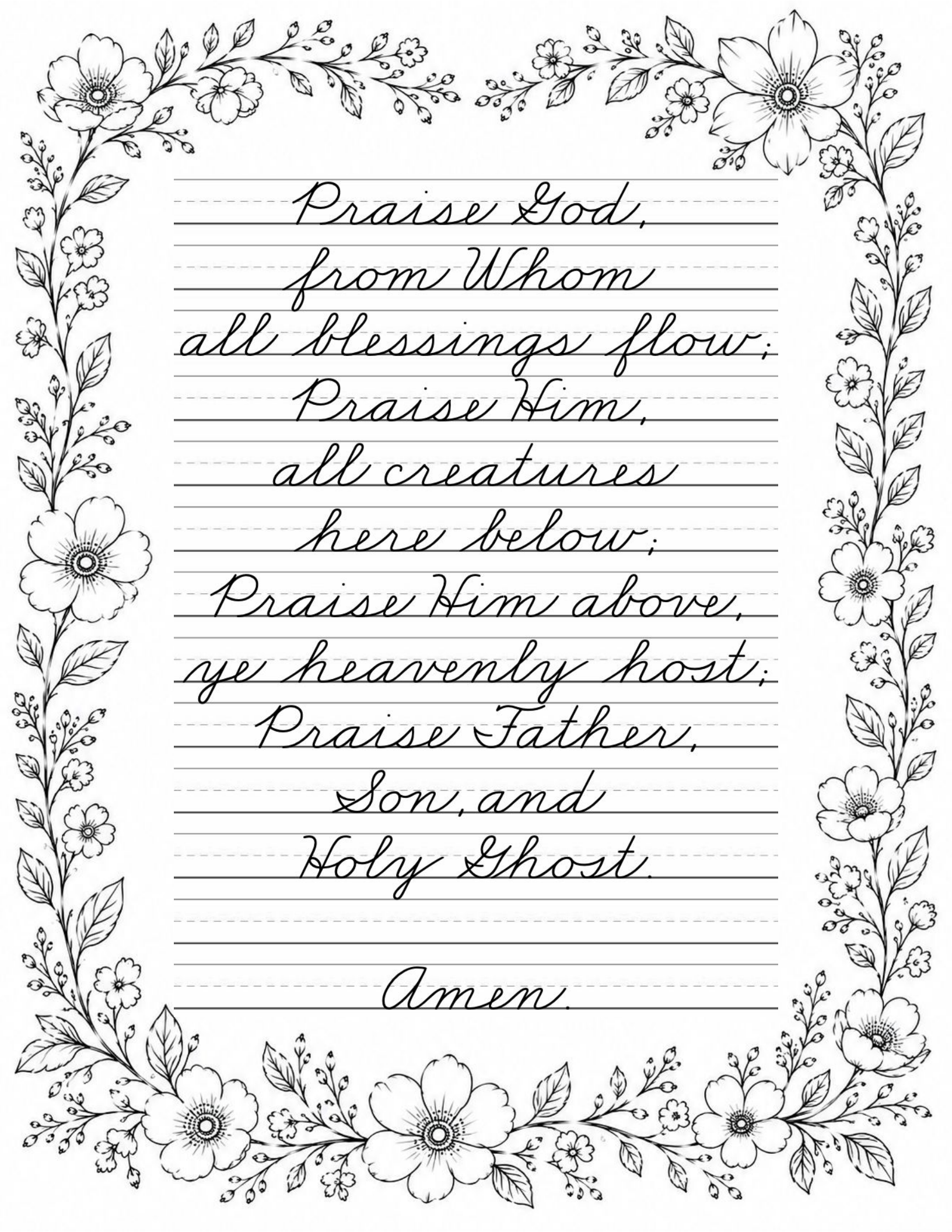
Christians on every continent for generations have sung this hymn. Why do you think people in so many different places, cultures, and time periods can worship together using the same hymn?



Praise God,
from Whom all
blessings flow;
Praise Him,
all creatures
here below.

Amen.

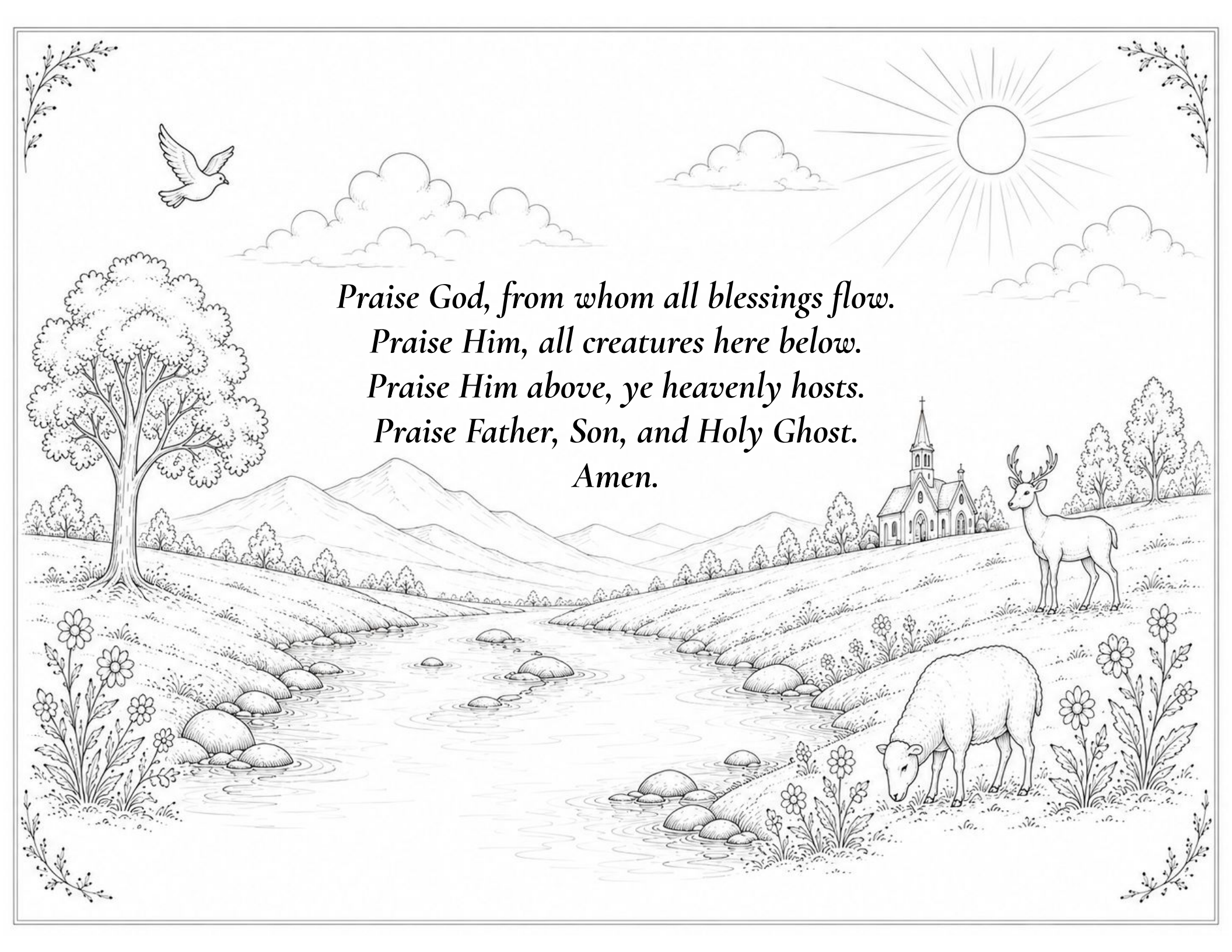




Praise God,
from Whom
all blessings flow;
Praise Him,
all creatures
here below;
Praise Him above,
ye heavenly host;
Praise Father,
Son, and
Holy Ghost.

Amen.





*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise Him, all creatures here below.
Praise Him above, ye heavenly hosts.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Amen.*