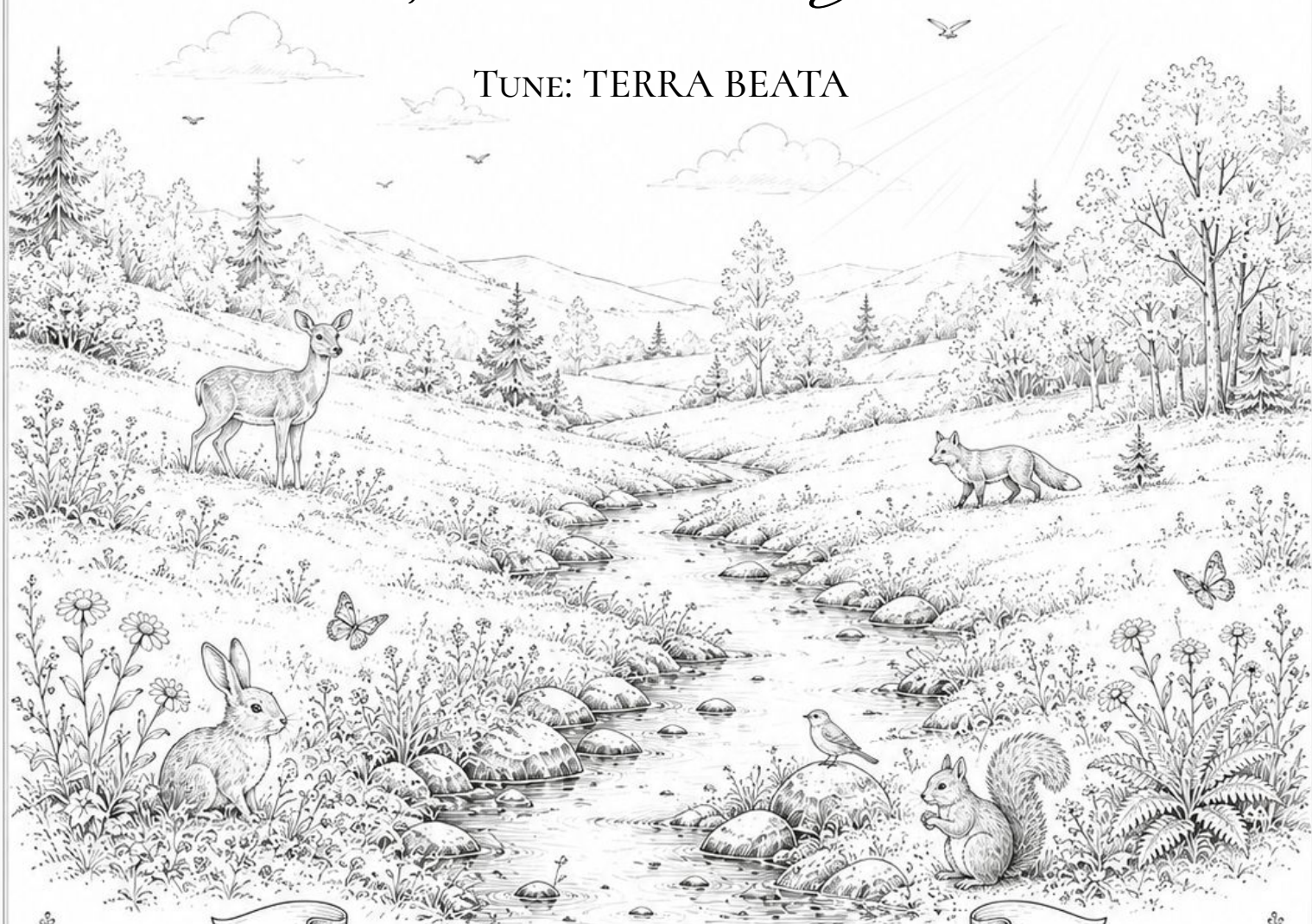


This Is My Father's World

*God Reigns,
Let Earth Be Glad*

TUNE: TERRA BEATA



The heavens declare the glory of God,
and the sky above proclaims His
handiwork. - Psalm 19:1



INTRODUCTION



Every child delights in the beauty of creation. Collecting acorns, watching spiders spin webs, listening to birds as they gracefully fly overhead, feeling the cool water and smooth stones underfoot as they wade in a creek - children naturally marvel at the world around them. This hymn invites us to see something even greater—that every beautiful thing points us to its Creator.

As you learn this hymn together, encourage your students to slow down and notice God's creation. Listen for birdsongs. Feel the breeze. Watch clouds drift across the sky. Help them understand that nature is not something to worship in itself, but something that leads us to worship the Creator.

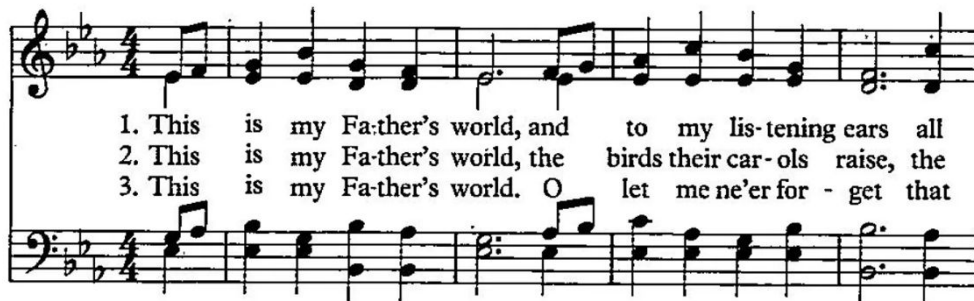
The Bible tells us,

"The heavens declare the glory of God." (Psalm 19:1)

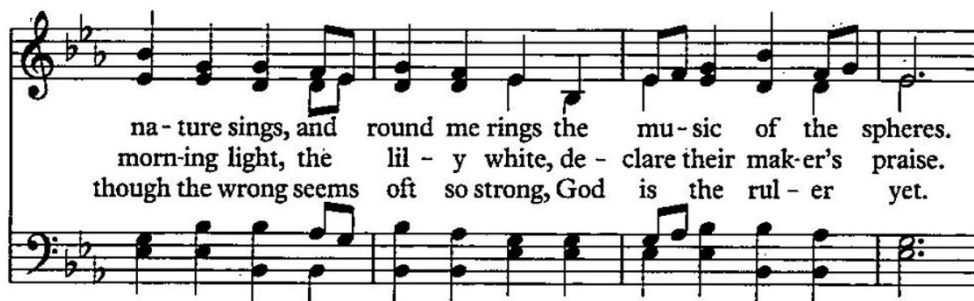
May this hymn teach your students to see God's handiwork everywhere they look.



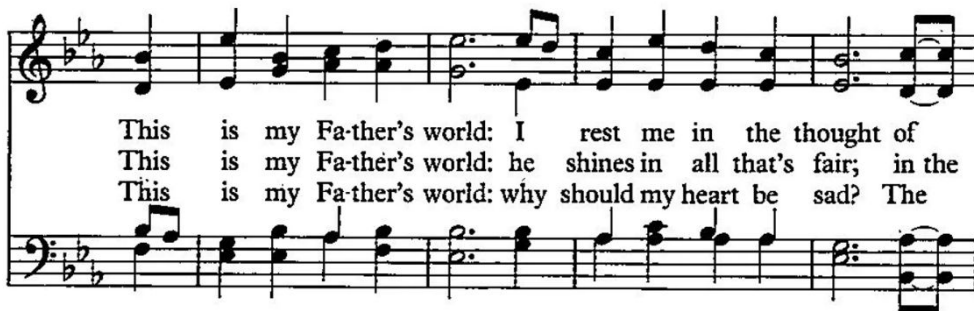
THIS IS MY FATHER'S WORLD



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



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



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



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

WORDS: Maltbie D. Babcock, 1901
MUSIC: Trad. English melody; adapt. by Franklin L. Sheppard, 1915

TERRA BEATA
SMD



THIS IS MY FATHER'S WORLD



This is my Father's world,
And to my listening ears
All nature sings, and round me rings
The music of the spheres.
This is my Father's world:
I rest me in the thought
Of rocks and trees, of skies and seas;
His hand the wonders wrought.

This is my Father's world,
The birds their carols raise,
The morning light, the lily white,
Declare their maker's praise.
This is my Father's world,
He shines in all that's fair;
In the rustling grass I hear him pass;
He speaks to me everywhere.

This is my Father's world.
O let me ne'er forget
That though the wrong seems oft so strong,
God is the ruler yet.
This is my Father's world:
Why should my heart be sad?
The Lord is King; let the heavens ring!
God reigns; let the earth be glad!





LIVING QUESTIONS



- What does this hymn teach us about who God is?
 - Why do you think God created such a beautiful world?
 - Describe something in creation that has caused you to marvel (say, “Wow! God is amazing!”)?
 - This hymn says that “all nature sings.” What does that mean? Can you describe some of the beautiful sounds we hear in nature?
 - This hymn says, “He [God] speaks to me everywhere.” This sounds a bit like Psalm 19:1-2. What does God teach us about Himself as we enjoy the earth He created?
 - Why does the hymn call the earth “my Father's world” instead of simply “the world”?
 - How does knowing that God is King over all creation give us peace?
 - Take a quiet walk outside. Look carefully for five beautiful things God has made. Draw or write about them. What do these things teach you about your Creator?
- 
- 



VOCABULARY



Reign

To rule as a king.

Music of the spheres

A poetic way of describing
the sun, moon, stars, and planets praising God.

Wrought

Made or created.

Carols

Joyful songs of praise.

Fair

Beautiful or lovely.

Ne'er

An old-fashioned word meaning never.

Oft

An old-fashioned word meaning often.





SCRIPTURE CONNECTIONS



Psalm 19:1

"The heavens declare the glory of God,
and the sky above proclaims His handiwork."

Psalm 24:1

"The earth is the LORD'S and the fullness thereof."

Genesis 1:31

"And God saw everything that He had made,
and behold, it was very good."

Matthew 6:26-34

"Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow
nor reap nor gather into barns,
and yet your heavenly Father feeds them..."

Romans 1:20

"For His invisible attributes, namely,
His eternal power and divine nature,
have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation
of the world, in the things that have been made."





THE STORY



Rev. Maltbie Davenport Babcock was a pastor who lived in New York in the late 1800s. He loved spending time outdoors, and whenever he went for a walk through the woods and fields near his home, he would smile and tell his wife, "I'm going out to see my Father's world."

As he walked, he listened to birds sing, watched the wind move through the trees, and admired the beauty of flowers, streams, and sunsets. Everywhere he looked, he saw reminders of God's greatness. Those simple, quiet walks inspired the words of this hymn.

In 1901, while traveling in Israel, Rev. Babcock became ill and died unexpectedly at only forty-two years old. After his death, a friend discovered this poem among his papers and shared it with others. Before long, Christians around the world were singing these beautiful words.

More than one hundred years later, this hymn still reminds us that the world belongs to God. Even when life feels uncertain, we can rejoice because our Father is the Creator, and He reigns as King over all He has made.



THE AUTHOR



MALTBIE DAVENPORT BABCOCK

Born: 1858

Died: 1901

Country: USA (New York)

Occupation: Pastor, teacher, athlete, musician, and lover of nature

Interesting Facts

- Was tall and athletic - an expert pitcher and fantastic swimmer.
- Played various musical instruments, directed his school's orchestra, was a lead vocalist and head of the glee club, and played and composed music for the organ
- Loved poetry and was sometimes found reciting from his favorite poet, Wordsworth
- Was described as having a "magnetic and magnificent personality."
- Although he lived only forty-two years, his simple poem has become one of the world's best-loved hymns.
- His life reminds us that ordinary walks with God can inspire extraordinary things.



THE TUNE



TERRA BEATA

Although Rev. Babcock wrote the poem, it was not originally written as a hymn. Several years later, English musician Franklin L. Sheppard paired the words with a beautiful English folk melody called Terra Beata, which means "Beautiful Earth" in Latin.

The joyful melody perfectly matches the hymn's message of delight in God's creation. Today, Christians around the world sing these words to the same familiar tune.



GEOGRAPHY





GEOGRAPHY

Lockport, New York

When Rev. Maltbie Babcock lived in Lockport, New York, in the late 1800s, the area looked much different than it does today.

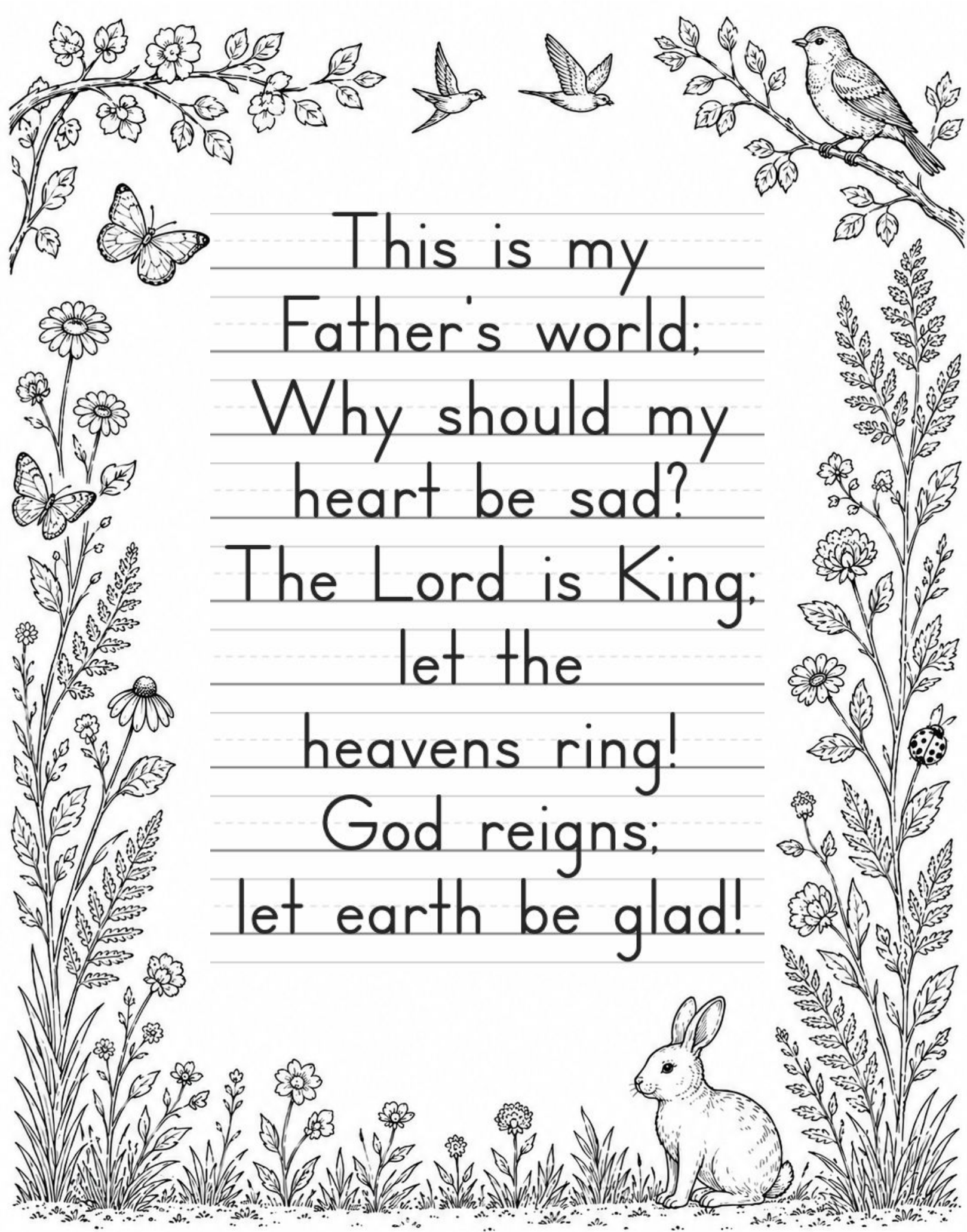
Although Lockport was already a busy canal town, it was surrounded by open countryside. Just beyond the homes and shops were forests, meadows, streams, rocky cliffs, orchards, and farmland. Rev. Babcock often left town to enjoy long walks through these peaceful places.

One of his favorite walking routes followed the Niagara Escarpment, a long rocky ridge that stretches across western New York. From the top, he could look out over forests, fields, and the winding Erie Canal below.

During his walks, he would have seen towering maple, oak, and beech trees. In spring, wildflowers carpeted the forest floor. Songbirds such as robins, cardinals, bluebirds, meadowlarks, and chickadees filled the air with music. Squirrels, rabbits, foxes, white-tailed deer, turtles, and countless butterflies and bees were common sights. It is easy to imagine how these quiet walks inspired the words of this hymn.

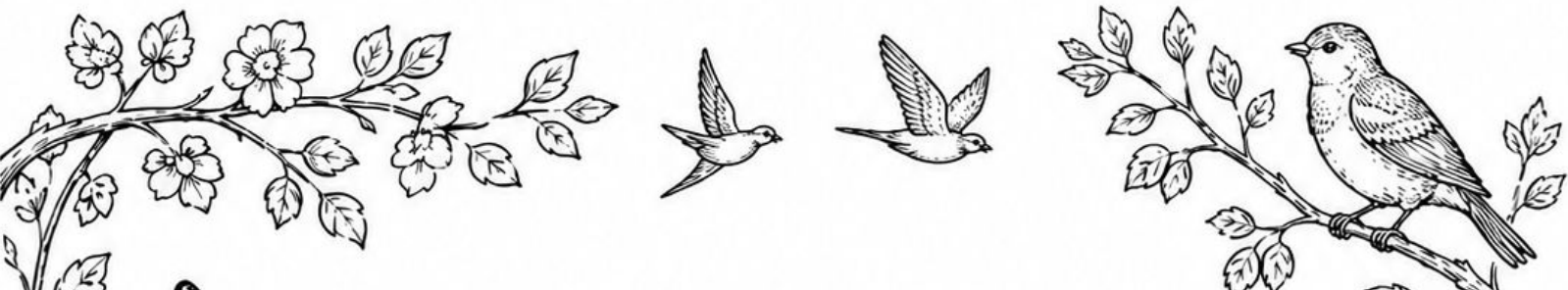
As you study this hymn, remember that God's creation is not only beautiful in New York. Whether you live in the mountains, near the ocean, on a farm, or in your own neighborhood, every part of creation reminds us that our Father is the Creator and King.





This is my
Father's world;
Why should my
heart be sad?
The Lord is King;
let the
heavens ring!
God reigns;
let earth be glad!



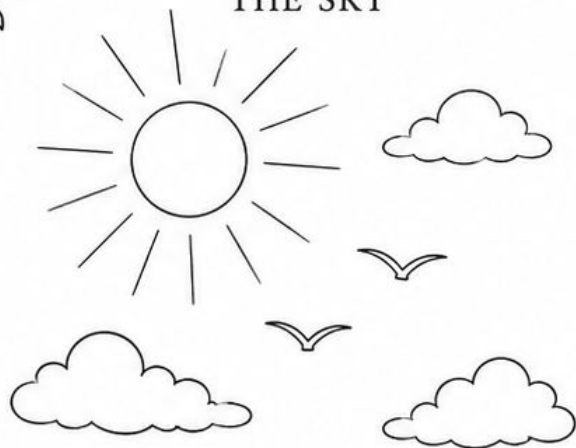


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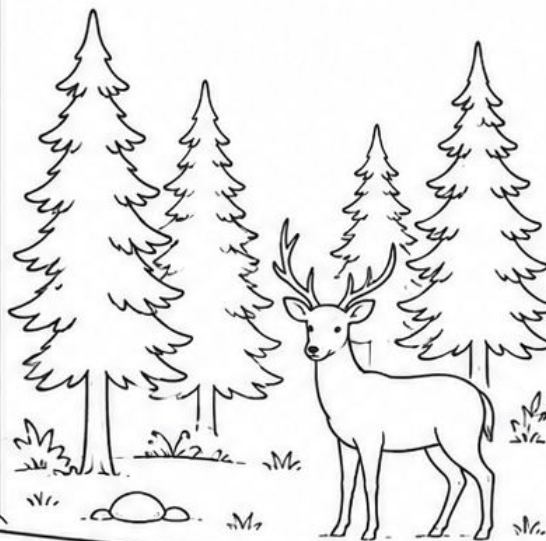




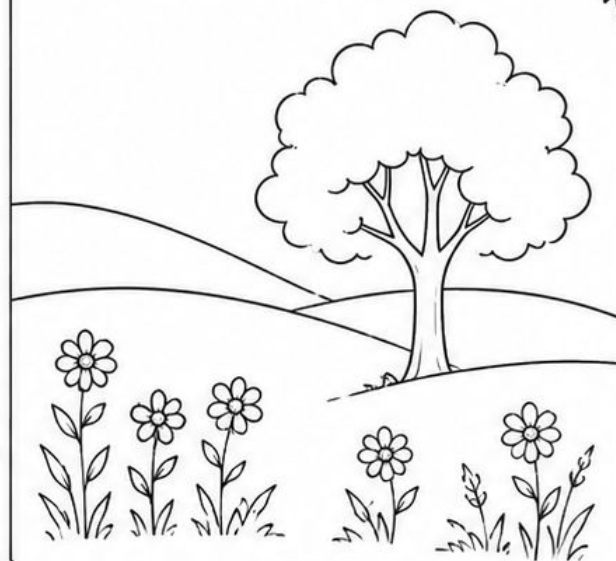
THE SKY



THE FOREST

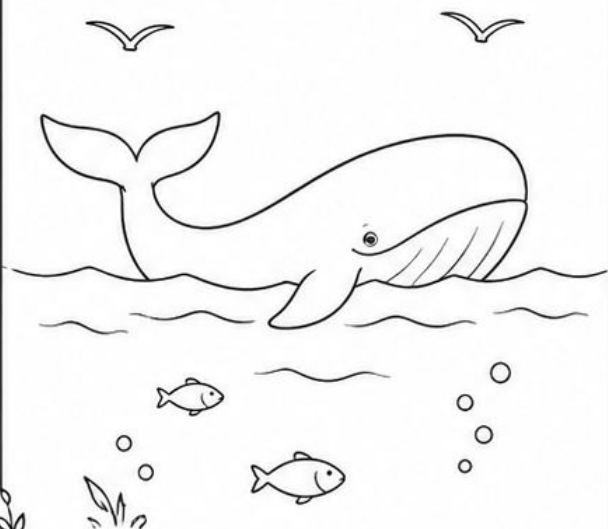


THE MEADOW

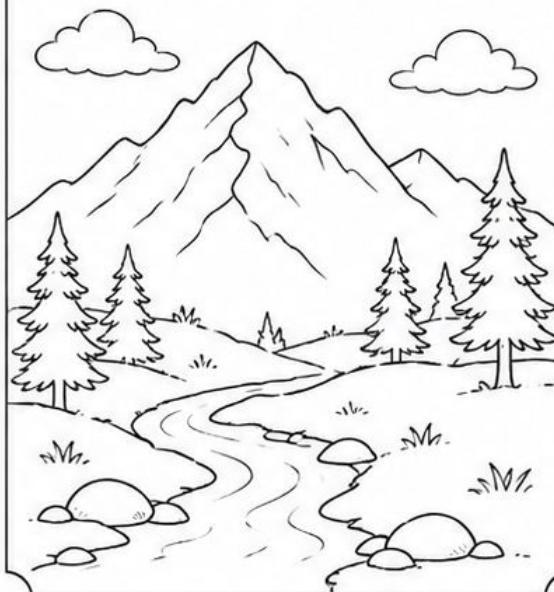


This is my Father's world.

THE OCEAN



THE MOUNTAINS



THE ANIMALS

