

**SONGS OF FAITH, HOPE,
AND LOVE: FOR
SUNDAY SCHOOLS AND
DEVOTIONAL MEETINGS**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649542383

Songs of Faith, Hope, and Love: For Sunday Schools and Devotional Meetings by Albert J. Holden

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

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ALBERT J. HOLDEN

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SONGS OF
FAITH, HOPE, AND LOVE.

"AND NOW ABIDETH FAITH, HOPE, LOVE; THESE THREE."

FOR
SUNDAY SCHOOLS
AND
DEVOTIONAL MEETINGS.

Compiled by

ALBERT J. HOLDEN.

NEW YORK :
WILLIAM A. POND & CO.,
25 UNION SQUARE.

CHICAGO :
CHICAGO MUSIC CO., 122 STATE ST.

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INTRODUCTORY.

Among the many helpful aids to better work in the Sunday-school, nothing is so much needed as a good collection of hymns: hymns which shall be earnest, stirring, useful, and fairly meet the test of literary criticism. The larger part of the popular Sunday-school hymnology is open to grave censure for many serious literary defects; barren doggerel rhymes, strained metaphors, unhealthy sentiments, are bad enough, but coupled with these is a trite, familiar use of sacred epithets, and the appellations of the Deity and the Saviour, which are as offensive to correct taste as is the general illiteracy which is so marked a feature of the host of Sunday-school singing books whose titles are almost as numerous as the mineral and floral products from which they are named.

The best which could be said for the greater part of the music associated with these so-called hymns, was, that it was quickly and easily caught up: but time tests all things, and the little, jingling, superficial tunes were as quickly and easily dropped and forgotten, and the usefulness of the book was exhausted within two years at most.

Hymns and music, if good, have this quality in common with truth,—they abide and endure: if on the other hand, they are hollow, false, superficial, they, like all error, will pass away.

SONGS OF FAITH, HOPE, AND LOVE

is an earnest effort at improvement in the place it seeks to occupy. A hymn, properly considered, is an expression of praise, an act of devotion, not a statement of creed or dogma; and sectarian theology will fail to find a hymn in this collection which can be claimed as its peculiar property; at the same time there is not a line or sentiment in the entire book which cannot be heartily approved by Christians of every denomination. The title of this book is no random choice; every hymn in it is what a hymn should be,—*a song of faith, hope, and love.*

The music, if good and true, will find friends without a word being said in its behalf: to those, however, who think that any departure from the simplest harmony is inadmissible in Sunday-school music, it might be well to say that the many years experience of the compiler of this book has proven the fallacy of that idea, and

shown conclusively that if the melody of a song be clearly and sharply defined, children will readily sing it without being misled by even more elaborate harmonies than any used in these pages.

Suitable hymns have been provided for the various festivals and occasions of special service, such as Christmas, Easter, the New Year, Anniversaries, National Holidays, Thanksgiving; and for such as may find it useful, a form of service with appropriate scriptural and musical selections for the opening exercises of a school will be found on the last pages. A number of standard hymns, with the names of familiar tunes attached, have been scattered through the book, and will be found serviceable at devotional meetings.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT is due in this place, to many kind friends and sympathetic well-wishers, whose helpful labor in verse and song has added so much of strength and beauty to the value of this book: very many of its pages bear friendly evidence either of poet or musician who, with generous promptness responded to my wish for their best efforts.

Gratitude is also due to many unknown friends whose exquisite verses I have sometimes gleaned from various periodical publications, often with no name of author attached; should this book, haply, fall into the hands of any such, I shall be glad to further express my obligation.

More than two years of happy labor have been given to the preparation of this work; may that happiness be increased an hundred-fold to all who sing, whether from these or other pages, the Divine songs of faith, hope, and love.

ALBERT J. HOLDEN.

New York, New Year's Day, 1888.

TO
MRS. C. M. SAWYER,
COLLEGE HILL, MASS,

THIS BOOK IS DEDICATED, WITH THE AFFECTIONATE REGARD
OF ONE OF HER SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHOLARS,
ALBERT J. HOLDEN.

SONGS OF FAITH, HOPE, AND LOVE.

THE ANGELS OF BETHLEHEM.

J. CAWOOD.

CHRISTMAS HYMN.


A. J. H.





1 Hark! what mean those ho - ly voic - es, Sweet - ly sound - ing through the skies?
2 'Peace on earth, good will from heav - en, Reaching far - as man is found;



Lo! th' an - gel - ic host re - joic - es; Heav'nly hal - le - lu - jahs rise.
Souls redeemed and sins for - giv - en; Loud our gold - en harps shall sound.



Lis - ten to the won - drous sto - ry Which they chant in hymns of joy:
Christ is born, the great A - nointed; Heav'n and earth His prais - es sing!



"Glo - ry in the high - est, glo - ry! Glo - ry be to God most high!"
O, re - ceive whom God ap - point - ed For your Proph - et, Priest and King."

