

In Him We Live = Narration only

1. Prelude 2. In Him We Live

Narrator: In him we live: in Jesus Christ, our Savior, who is the light and the life of the world, for "by him, and through him, and of him, the worlds are and were created, and the inhabitants thereof are begotten sons and daughters unto God."

It is his work and glory to bring to pass our immortality and eternal life. Even before the foundation of the world, Jesus began this great work. We lived with him in that premortal realm, as spirit children of our Heavenly Father. It was our Father's plan for us that we should leave his presence for a season to live in a mortal world, to gain bodies of flesh made in his image, and to learn by our own experience to choose right from wrong.

He appointed his Son to carry out this plan, to be our Savior, and the Creator of our world. And Jesus said: "We will go down...and we will make an earth whereon these may dwell; And we will prove them herewith, to see if they will do all things whatsoever the Lord their God shall command them."

And so it was that in the beginning, God, through his son Jesus Christ, created for us the heaven and the earth. And in response, the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy.

3. Shout for Joy Ye Sons of God

Narrator: The creation of the world set in motion our Father's great plan of salvation. We were among the host of heaven who shouted for joy at its commencement, and then, at the appointed time, each of us left our heavenly home to be born of mortal parents on this earth. A veil of forgetfulness was drawn across our memory, and we began our earthly lives as infants, pure and innocent. Little wonder that we feel a sense of awe and reverence as we hold a newborn child, so lately come from the presence of God. In response to these feelings, the poet Wordsworth wrote:

Our birth is but a sleep and a forgetting
The soul that rises with us, our life's star
Hath had elsewhere its setting,
And cometh from afar:
Not in entire forgetfulness
And not in utter nakedness,
But trailing clouds of glory do we come
From God who is our home
Heaven lies about us in our infancy!

4. Our Birth is but a Sleep

Narrator: Though we are born in innocence, we soon learn to choose for ourselves and to follow our own will. The Spirit of Christ, given to every man at birth, teaches us good from evil. It speaks to our hearts, touches our conscience, and prompts within us a yearning for the heavenly realm we once knew. It invites us to look beyond this mortal sphere for meaning and guidance. But despite these promptings, we inevitably stray from the path of righteousness, setting our own will above God's will. In our pride, our ignorance, our foolishness, we violate his laws and thereby cut ourselves off from him. "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way..." As we become aware of our lost and fallen condition, we realize anew our dependence upon Christ, the Shepherd of our souls, who alone can save us and return us to his fold.

5. Come and Save Me, Oh My Shepherd

Narrator: From Adam's day forward, men and women of faith have trusted in the Savior for that redemption from sin and death which was promised to us before the world began. Prophets throughout the ages looked

with hope toward a time when a virgin would conceive, and bear a son, and call his name Immanuel. A time when "God himself should come down among the children of men, and take upon him the form of man, and go forth in mighty power upon the face of the earth."

Two thousand years ago, the people of Bethlehem also waited for their Savior to come, watching for him to appear among men as a mighty king, in majesty and glory. And so it was, that as Mary brought forth her firstborn son and laid him in a manger, the people were unaware that the greatest story in the history of the world was unfolding in their very midst.

6. What Sound Upon the Midnight Air?

Interlude: Where Lies the Lord?

7. There Within a Stable

8. Look On Him and Live

Interlude: Look Upon the Son of God

9. Behold the Man

Interlude: Weep for Joy/In Him We Live

10. In the Silent Garden

Narrator: How gratefully we testify that the creator of the world "was made flesh and dwelt among us"; that he, in his infinite love, suffered for the grief and sin of every man and woman born into mortality; that he arose from the grave and lives today. Of the reality of his resurrection, many have testified, beginning with an angel who announced to the grieving disciples: "Fear not, for I know that ye seek Jesus which was crucified. He is not here; for he is risen." And, in our own time, a prophet declared: "And now, after the many testimonies which have been given of him, this is the testimony, last of all, which we give of him: That he lives! For we saw him, even on the right hand of God..."

Because he lives, we have the promise that we, too, will be freed from the grave by his power, for by his own victory over death, Jesus conquered death for all mankind. In this assurance, we gain strength to meet the challenges of our lives, we find comfort in our times of sorrow, and we live in hope of eternal life because Jesus lives.

11. Because He Lives

Narrator: Because Jesus lives, we are blessed to have his power and guidance in our own lives. Through his spirit, given to each of us freely, and through living prophets who speak in his name, he leads and directs us as we strive to fulfill our purpose on this earth. And in accordance with his Father's great plan, in a time not far distant, he will return to us in glory, to reign upon the earth as our king. In that day, "God shall wipe away all tears from [our] eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain...", "nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall [we] learn war anymore." In anticipation of this glorious time of peace, we echo the words of John: Even so, come, Lord Jesus.

12. Come, Lord Jesus

Narrator: Whether we meet him with shouts of acclamation at his triumphant return, or meekly enter his presence after we pass from this life, we look forward to that glad reunion with our Savior. Then, as we fully comprehend the magnitude of his work for us, our hearts will swell with gratitude, and every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord and all his ways are perfect.

Until that joyful day, let us press forward in hope, upheld by our faith in him. He is our Lord and Master, our Redeemer and our Savior, the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him. In him we live! What debt of love and faith we owe to Christ who is our King.

13. In Him We Live