

Healing Leaves *of* Grace
A THOMAS PAVLECHKO HYMNARY

FOREWORD BY JOHN THORNBURG



AUGSBURG FORTRESS



Dedicated to
all my musician friends, family, and music supporters in
Youngstown, Canfield, Cincinnati, Akron, Petersburg, Memphis and Austin
with whom I have ministered in all these cities represented in this collection.
Your inspiration and encouragement have been valuable fuel for my work.
Thank you all!

HEALING LEAVES OF GRACE
A Thomas Pavlechko Hymnary
Thomas Pavlechko

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INTRODUCTION

Healing Leaves of Grace represents a wide range of composing for me. After my first two collections premiered in 2002 and 2004, I found myself quite busy with presentations, commissions, and new avenues of composition, including orchestral music, concert band arrangements, and symphonic pops. Even recording as an organist for film soundtracks became an unexpected part of my work. Granted, hymn tunes were also being composed throughout this time, but not intentionally collected.

It was not until a summer sabbatical in 2015 that I was able to sit down and compile the hymns that had been composed since the last collection. I also found several of my sketches of tunes, incomplete, from way back in the twentieth century. Thus, this collection contains a vast array of composing styles influenced both by the texts and by the people in the churches I was serving as early as the 1980s. It had also become a tradition for me to honor those singers in the choirs who retired into “emeritus” status with a new hymn tune, as well as recognizing clergy and friends whose ministries outside of music were profoundly moving to me.

I thank all those who were an inspiration, and give thanks to the Holy Spirit for guiding my creativity.

I also wish to acknowledge and thank:

My friend, colleague, and co-writer, the Rev. John Thornburg, for agreeing to write the foreword to this collection. John, I am deeply honored.

The clergy, choirs and congregations of Calvary Episcopal Church, Memphis, Tennessee, and St. Martin’s Lutheran Church, Austin, Texas, for their encouragement and willingness to test these tunes.

Sumner Jenkins and Steve Wager, who typeset several of these hymns early on so that the choirs and congregations could test them.

Lynda Gayle Deacon, Leanne Kleinmann, and Arlene Pavlechko, who provided their literary expertise.

The proofreaders: Lynda Gayle Deacon, Robert Friedrich, Calvary Choir, Memphis; St. Martin’s Choir, Austin.

The writers of these hymn texts, without whom there would be no music.

Thomas Pavlechko
2005–2019



PUBLISHER'S NOTE

Thomas Pavlechko's hymns and musical compositions have been premiered and sung at national and regional conferences of the American Guild of Organists, the Association of Anglican Musicians, the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians, and The Hymn Society in the United States and Canada, which presented him as its 2002 Emerging Hymn Tune Composer.

Pavlechko's compositions can be found with Augsburg Fortress, Church Publishing, Covenant Publications, G.I.A., Hope Publishing, St. James Music Press, and Selah Publishing, which published his first two hymn collections, *Radiant City* and *Wellspring*. Hymns and service music are included in the hymnals and hymnal supplements of the Community of Christ, the Episcopal Church, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Evangelical Covenant Church, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), Roman Catholic Church, the Protestant Churches in China, and the Ecumenical Churches of Australia. Over twenty published hymn collections also contain his hymn tunes. In 2018, his biography was included in the Canterbury Dictionary of Hymnology, a reference resource for scholars of global hymnody.

In addition to his work with Catholic, Episcopal, and Lutheran churches in Ohio, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia, Pavlechko has served as Chapel Musician and Adjunct Faculty for the Lutheran Seminary Program in the Southwest, Austin, Texas, and Adjunct Professor of Music at William and Mary's Richard Bland College, Prince William, Virginia. He also held a seat on the liturgical music editorial team for *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, the worship book of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. And, with Carl Daw, he co-wrote *Liturgical Music for the Revised Common Lectionary*, the three-volume worship planning guide for the Episcopal Church.

Pavlechko is an honors graduate of the Dana School of Music at Youngstown State University where he studied counterpoint with Mark Walker. He received the Master of Music from the College-Conservatory of Music at the University of Cincinnati where he studied composition and counterpoint with Allen Sapp. Post-graduate study in symphonic and concert band orchestration has been with Donald Grantham at the University of Texas at Austin and Randol Alan Bass.



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FOREWORD

The collaboration of a hymn poet and a tune composer might be likened to the partners in a trapeze act. There is a lot at stake. Both the flyer and the catcher have precise movements which each must execute so that their hands entwine securely. Inches matter. They must place full and complete trust in each other.

I have full and complete trust that when I send a text to Thom Pavlechko, his musical artistry will give my words flight. Notes matter, intervals matter, sequence matters and Thom is as disciplined as he is creative in weaving them together.

We met when we were both learning our craft. At once I saw the curiosity, the playfulness and the joy that are necessary to becoming good at something. We were in a group of about two dozen aspiring poets and composers, and his energy and dedication to the craft stood out.

Since that time, our paths have crossed many times as we have collaborated on hymns, on leading song in worship, and on fashioning hymn festivals. Friendship over time is a rich gift in and of itself, but artistic collaboration over time is even richer. We have seen each other's work grow and flex to fit new ministry contexts and new moments in American religious culture. I could not be more grateful that our paths have crossed.

This collection has the variety, the nuance, and the passion that are hallmarks of Thom's work. I thank God for giving Thom such a unique set of gifts.

John Thornburg, FHS

A CHILD, MOST EAGER TO BELONG

Descant

Oo Oo

1 A child, most ea - ger to be - long, ob - served an
 2 "Be - cause we can," the el - der said. "To know that
 3 "A song u - nites us with our past, re - minds us
 4 The child in us still wants to know why tunes can
 5 Cre - a - tor God, con - duct each phrase, in - spire the

Oo

el - der lost in song. She asked a time - less thing: "Please tell me
 we're a - live, not dead; to feel that God is near, to free us
 of the truths that last. And now, the most pro - found, God's love is
 cause our hearts to grow. In truth, we can - not say, and so, with
 beat, re - new our praise so sing - ing in this place re - flects your

BE AT PEACE, MY CHILD DESPAIRING

Descant

3 Share your life with grace for-bear-ing, no wound too deep to

1 Be at peace, my child de-spair-ing, you are not of this
 2 Find my com - fort in your suf-f'ring, em - brace the in - fi -
 3 Share your life with grace for-bear-ing, no wound too deep to

heal; your pre - cious life my hope, as I am yours;

world; your life will find its place a - mong the stars
 nite; in faith reach out be - yond the mo - ment's grief,
 heal; your pre - cious life my hope, as I am yours;

my strength a - bides with - in, for I am there.

that bathe each night with hope, and I am there.
 re - turn - ing on - ly love, for I am there.
 my strength a - bides with - in, for I am there.

IN OUR NATION'S INFANCY

1 In our na - tion's in - fan - cy the
 2 May the mem - 'ries we re - call of
 3 Friends and fam - 'ly all are we, the
 4 Lead us forth in con - fi - dence! What

church was plant - ed here; a seed fed with the
 lov - ing lives out - poured in - spire us all to
 ties are bound se - cure. For - giv - ing, heal - ing,
 need we now to fear? Be - yond the span of

hopes and dreams of Chris - tians far and
 ded - i - cate our lives to you, O -
 shar - ing all, God's fam - 'ly shall en -
 space and time your king - dom is now

YOU ARE THE WAY

Descant

4 You are the way, the truth, the life;

1 You are the way, to you a - lone
 2 You are the truth, your word a - lone
 3 You are the life, the rend - ing tomb
 4 You are the way, the truth, the life;

grant us that way, that way to know,
 from sin and death we flee;
 true wis - dom can im - part;
 pro - claims your con - qu'ring arm;
 grant us that way to know,



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When the Busy-ness of Life

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In Boldness, Look to God



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