

A MUSICAL ESSAY ON THINGS TO COME

By Verna Kwiatkowski

This essay contains a selection of songs I have written on the topic of Heaven and things to come. These are from the collection of over 500 scriptural and devotional songs that I have written and used extensively, both personally and in my ministry.

I'm thinking of the songs as seeds. I have mixed them with brief commentary, hoping that a good crop of hope, encouragement, peace and joy will grow up in you as you contemplate these words. May God, the Source of Music, receive the glory.

I had no problem choosing the song I wanted to be first in this essay! 1 Corinthians 2:9,10 tells us that God has prepared for those who love him marvelous things that our human minds could not possibly imagine. BUT the Holy Spirit, who understands the deep things of God, is able to REVEAL to us what we cannot figure out on our own. While we are awaiting the time when our eye will see and our ears will hear, let's enjoy this time of anticipation. Something wonderful is going to happen!

I Corinthians 2:9,10 (NIV) No Eye Has Seen Verna Mae Kwiatkowski

"No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him - for those who love him - but God has revealed it to us by his Spirit - by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God."

While we are waiting, we have work to do. Here is a song, based on Matthew 6:19-21 that speaks of living life on two levels: simultaneously going about our jobs and laying up treasure in Heaven. I consider this to be a country-style song, with guitars and maybe an accordion used to accompany the singing. What do you think?

Verna Mae Kwiatkowski Treasures In Heaven Verna Mae Kwiatkowski

1. I'm lay-ing up treas-ures in Hea-ven, I'm go-ing to move there some day
 And when I get there they'll be wait-ing, those treas-ures I've laid a-way,
 Chorus:
 Lay-ing up treas-ures in Hea-ven - fol-low-ing Je-sus' Com-mand. My
 heart is al-rea-dy in Hea-ven, that beau-ti-ful treas-ure filled land.
 2. My treas-ures are safe up in Hea-ven. No moth or rust there to de-cay!
 No thieves can break in and re-move them. My treas-ures are there - to stay! To Chorus.

We who believe in our Lord Jesus Christ can face the future with confidence. Whether we do so or not depends on 1) our knowledge of what is to come, as revealed in the Bible and 2) our attitude toward these things, based partly on our personalities, but mostly on how much time we spend thinking about them. I believe suitable tunes help to fix scriptural truths in our minds, and from there, as we review them over and over again mentally, they make their way into our hearts.

Here are the things to come that we need to think about, and that are the subjects of the following songs:

- Death and our attitude toward it.
- The certainty that Jesus is going to return to the air some day to take his faith family home to him. The believers alive when that happens will never experience death, but they WILL be changed: their bodies will be turned into resurrection bodies. Meanwhile, the believers who have died, and are returning with Jesus, will receive their resurrection bodies. Then TOGETHER we will move to our heavenly home, where we will live forever. This event is commonly called the rapture.
- Heaven, as not only a happy place, but a place where things happen!

Here, now, are the rest of the songs. I consider this next one, entitled The Ascension, to be the first hymn I ever wrote. With its four part harmony, its four verses, and the Amen at the end, I think it would fit right into any hymnal.

In fact, it was precisely because I could find no hymn in our church's hymnal that mentioned the ascension of Jesus that this one came to be written! I was so happy when the words that came to me expanded to include OUR ascension! I used this hymn in several worship services.

Based on: Acts 1:9-11;
John 14:13; I Thess. 4:16,17

The Ascension

Verna Mae Kwiatkowski

1 Je-sus as-cend-ed in the air.
2 Je-sus is com-ing back a-gain.
3 Je-sus will take us home with him.
4 Then we'll for-e-ver be with him.

Je-sus as-cend-ed in the
Je-sus is com-ing back a-
Je-sus will take us home with
Then we'll for-e-ver be with

1 air. He was ta-ken up be-fore their ve-ry eyes
2-gain. This same Je-sus, the an-gel said to them,
3 him. With a loud com-mand and with a trum-pet call
4 him. There, to-ge-ther with those who've gone be-fore,

1 and a cloud hid him from-their-sight.
2 will re-turn in the way you've seen him go.
3 he'll come back and es-cort us to our home.
4 we will serve and en-joy our pre-cious Lord.

A — men.

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Next are two songs based on Philippians 1:21-26, where the apostle Paul compared his thoughts about life on earth and life in Heaven. There was no doubt in his mind that to be with Christ in Heaven was better BY FAR; it was pure gain for him! Yet staying on this earth would benefit others by giving him opportunities to serve them. After quite a struggle, he became content with the knowledge that he would remain on earth a while longer.

In both songs my words mingle with Paul's, as I find his attitude appealing.

Verna Mae Kwiatkowski Better By Far Verna Mae Kwiatkowski
From Philippians 1:21-26

Bet-ter by far - bet-ter by far. To be with Christ in Heav'n a-bove is bet-ter by far. O-pen my eyes - o-pen my mind - that I may know "To be with Christ is bet-ter by far." Un-til the time God calls me home I'll live on earth and do his will with joy in my heart. My yearn-ings here may go un-filled. This thought sus-tains me in my walk: Heav'n's bet-ter by far!

Verses: VMK
Chorus: Philippians 1:21 (NIV) To Be With Christ Verna Mae Kwiatkowski

1. To be with Christ - joy with-out meas-ure! To be with Christ - O what a pleas-ure! To
2. To be with Christ and sing his praise - with-out re-straints for end-less days - But

be with Christ and see his face, and bask in his a-maz-ing grace, while on earth the race I will run with-out com-plaints - His will be done!

Chorus:
For to me, to live is Christ and to die - to die is gain. For to
me, to live is Christ and to die - to die is gain.

Note: Sing both verse 1 and verse 2 before singing the chorus.

Here are some words of encouragement for us to live by on the earth:

Verse: Verna Mae Kwiatkowski
Chorus: 1 Thessalonians 4:14 (NIV) We Believe Verna Mae Kwiatkowski

We be-lie-ve that Je-sus died, and that He ro-se a-gain from the dead. We-be-lie-ve we too-shall rise to be-with Him-our

Li-ving Head, We be-lieve that Je-sus died and rose a-gain - (Rose a-gain) and so we be-lieve that God will bring with Je-sus those who sleep in Him (sleep in Him), We be-lieve that Je-sus died and rose a-gain - (Rose a-gain) and so we be-lieve that God will bring with Je-sus those who sleep in Him.

On this page are three songs concerning the rapture. Do you like a mystery? In the first song, I picture Paul dropping his voice as if to confide in us a secret too good for him to keep to himself. His listeners are thrilled with the news! Since we don't know when that day will come, we must always be ready, for we are certain of this: the day WILL COME!

I Corinthians 15:51,52 (NIV) I Corinthians 15:51,52 Verna Mae Kwiatkowski

List-en, I tell you a mys-ter-y: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed—
in a flash, in the twink-ling of an eye, at the last trump-et. At the last trump-et,
we will all be changed. For the trump-et will sound, the dead will be raised im-
per-ish-a-ble, and we will be - changed. We will be changed.

Verna Mae Kwiatkowski Oh, Be Ready! Verna Mae Kwiatkowski

keep your eye— on the sky—: The Lord— Je-sus is com-ing to the clouds one—
day. He'll call us to Him and take us with Him to the home He's pre-pared. Oh, be
read-y! Let's be read-y! We don't want to be a-shamed when He ap-pears. Keep your

Revelation 1:7 (NIV) Look, He Is Coming Verna Mae Kwiatkowski

Look, he is com-ing with the clouds, and ev-ery eye will see him, e-ven
those who pierced him; and all peo-ples of the earth will mourn be-cause of him. So shall it
be! A - men, a - men. So shall it be! A - men, a - men.

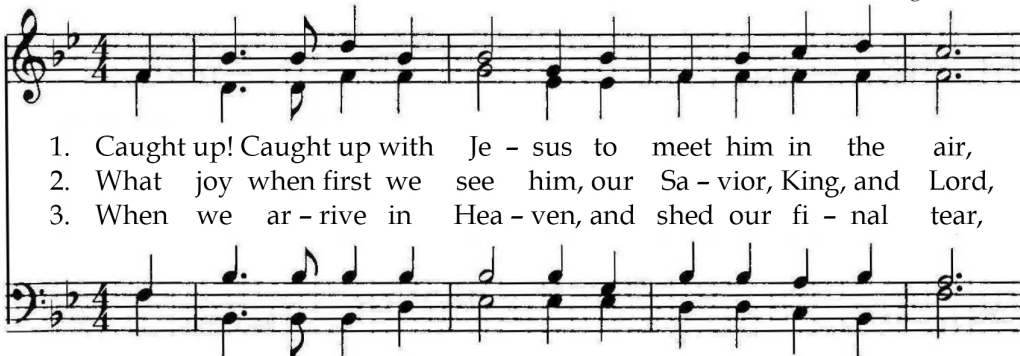
Another hymn. The words are based on 1 Corinthians 15:51,52 and 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, sung to the tune of "Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus."

Going Home

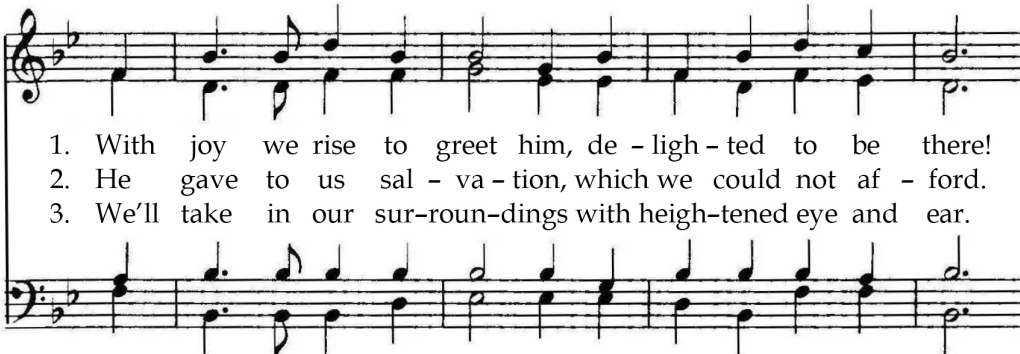
"Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed — in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet" — 1 Corinthians 15:51,52

Verna Kwiatkowski

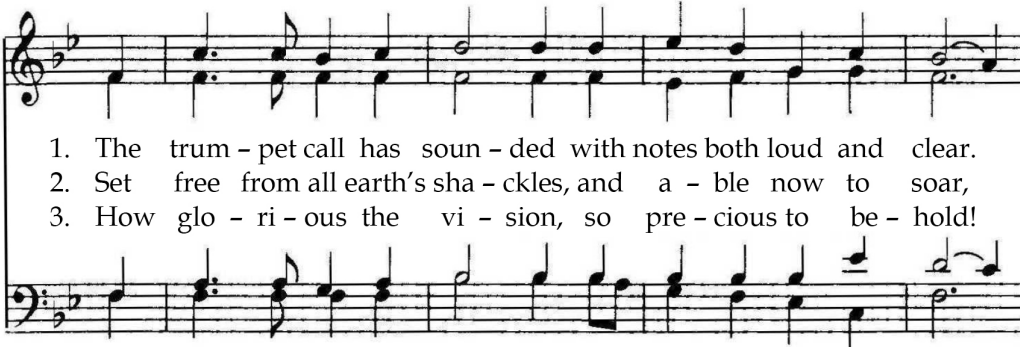
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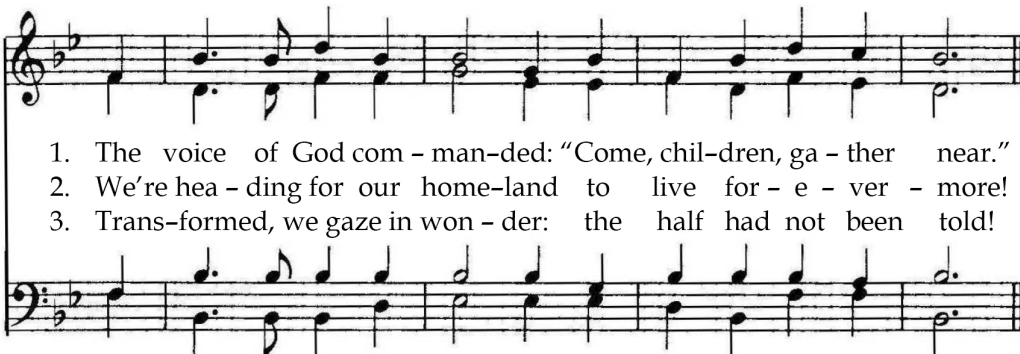
1. Caught up! Caught up with Je - sus to meet him in the air,
2. What joy when first we see him, our Sa - vior, King, and Lord,
3. When we ar - rive in Hea - ven, and shed our fi - nal tear,



1. With joy we rise to greet him, de - ligh - ted to be there!
2. He gave to us sal - va - tion, which we could not af - ford.
3. We'll take in our sur-round-ings with heigh-tened eye and ear.



1. The trum - pet call has soun - ded with notes both loud and clear.
2. Set free from all earth's sha - ckles, and a - ble now to soar,
3. How glo - ri - ous the vi - sion, so pre - cious to be - hold!



1. The voice of God com - man-ded: "Come, chil-dren, ga - ther near."
2. We're hea - ding for our home-land to live for - e - ver - more!
3. Trans-formed, we gaze in won - der: the half had not been told!

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I love the 15th chapter of 1 Corinthians, which ends with Paul's explanation of the defeat of death.

I Corinthians 15:20, 55-57 (NIV) Victory Song Verna Mae Kwiatkowski

But Christ has in-deed been - raised from the dead, the first-fruits of those who have
fall-en a-sleep. Christ has in-deed been - raised from the dead, the first-fruits of those
who have fall-en a-sleep. **Chorus** Where, O death, is your vic-tor-y? Where, O death, is your
sting? Where, O death, is your vic-tor-y? And where, O death, is your sting? The
sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God!
He gives us the vic-tor-y through our Lord Je- sus Christ.

[See also my essay ["Resurrection, Changed!"](#)]

The final four songs are from the book of Revelation. The first three are musical settings for some of the happy events that will take place in Heaven.

Revelation 5:13 (NIV) Revelation 5:13 Verna Mae Kwiatkowski

"To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and
hon-or and glor-y and pow-er, for e-ver and e-ver!" "A-men!" "For
e-ver and e-ver!" "A-men!"

Revelation 19:5 (NIV) Revelation 19:5 Verna Mae Kwiatkowski

"Praise our God, all you his ser-vants, you who fear-him, both small and great!" you who
fear-him, both small and great!" Hal-le-lu-jah! Hal-le-lu-jah! Hal-le-lu-jah!
A-men! Praise our God, all you his ser-vants, you who fear-him, both small and great!"

Revelation 19:7, 8

The Wedding of the Lamb

Verna Mae Kwiattkowski

Let us re-joice and be glad and give God glo-ry! For the wed-ding of the Lamb has

Come, and his bride has made her-self rea-dy. Fine lin-en, bright and clean was giv-en

her to wear-fine lin-en, bright and clean. Let us re- joice and be glad and give God

glo-ry for the wed-ding of the Lamb has come!

When I told a friend I planned to put Revelation 22:20 last, he smiled and said, “I think someone else had the same idea.” Then we both laughed. “Coming Soon” is one of the Scripture songs that I used frequently in my ministry. Don’t you agree that it’s a great way to end the Bible, worship services – and this essay?

Revelation 22:20 (NIV) Coming Soon Verna Mae Kwiatkowski!

Handwritten musical score for the hymn 'Coming Soon'. The score is written on two staves in treble clef, with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 3/4 time signature. The melody is simple and uses a limited range of notes. Chords are indicated by letters above the notes: D7, G, D7, G, C, G, D7, G, C, G, D7, G. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff contains the first line of the hymn, and the second staff contains the second line. The score ends with a double bar line.

Je-sus Says, "Yes, I am Com-ing soon." "Yes, I am Com-ing Soon."

A-men. Come, Lord— Je—sus. "Yes, I am Com-ing Soon."