



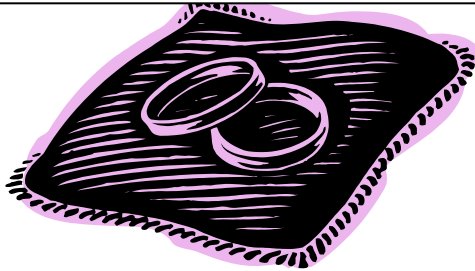
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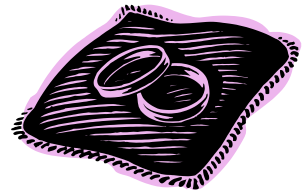
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A selection of suitable hymns

Suitable Hymns for Weddings

If your congregation consists mostly of wedding guests who are not regular churchgoers, it is important to choose hymns with well-known tunes so everyone can join in easily.



These hymns all fit well known tunes, and unless noted otherwise, are no longer in copyright, so can be freely reproduced.

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Some additional ideas are available online at

<http://www.yourchurchwedding.org/hymns-media-player.aspx>

You may, of course, choose any Christian hymn or worship song as part of your wedding service; you will know best what kind of music is likely to be known to your guests so that they can take part in the singing.

Grateful thanks to [Roy Hopp](#) and contributors to the [Society of St Gregory webforum](#) for ideas of hymns included in this booklet.

All People That On Earth Do Dwell

All people that on earth do dwell,
Sing to the Lord with cheerful voice.
Him serve with fear, His praise forth tell;
Come ye before Him and rejoice.

The Lord, ye know, is God indeed;
Without our aid He did us make;
We are His folk, He doth us feed,
And for His sheep He doth us take.

O enter then His gates with praise;
Approach with joy His courts unto;
Praise, laud, and bless His Name always,
For it is seemly so to do.

For why? the Lord our God is good;
His mercy is for ever sure;
His truth at all times firmly stood,
And shall from age to age endure.

To Father, Son and Holy Ghost,
The God Whom Heaven and earth adore,
From men and from the angel host
Be praise and glory evermore.

Words: from Fourscore and Seven Psalms of David (Geneva, Switzerland: 1561); attributed to William Kethe (d. 1594).

Tune: [Old 100th](#)

At Cana's Wedding, Long Ago

At Cana's wedding, long ago,
they knew his presence by this sign, ...

Words: 1976 Timothy Dudley-Smith. © 1984 by Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. Reproduced at St Dyfrig's Church, Treforest, under CCL Licence No: 1234197.

Tunes: [Sussex Carol](#) or [Melita](#)

Be Our Chief Guest, Lord

Be our chief guest, Lord,
Lord of all living,
Lord of all loving,
This wedding day;
Bind us together,
In your sure keeping,
So we may never,
Wander away.

Bless all who brought us,
Up from our childhood,
Caring, forgiving,
Through the long day;
May the same spirit,
Shine in our home, Lord,
Lighting our pathway,
We humbly pray.

Bless all our friends, Lord,
Happy and true friends,
Laughing or crying,
Always the same;
Bright with this friendship,
May our own home be,
Ready to welcome,
All in your name.

Be our chief guest Lord,
Lord of all living,
Warm with compassion,
Showing the way;
Keep us together,
In loving service,
Fam'lies and friends, Lord,
This wedding day.

Words: author unknown

Tune: [Bunessan](#)

***The words make the hymn
suitable as an opening hymn,
especially if the Wedding at
Cana is to be the Gospel.***

Be Thou My Vision

Be Thou my Vision, O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art.
Thou my best Thought, by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.

Be Thou my Wisdom, and Thou my true Word;
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;
Thou my great Father, I Thy true son;
Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one.

Be Thou my battle Shield, Sword for the fight;
Be Thou my Dignity, Thou my Delight;
Thou my soul's Shelter, Thou my high Tower:
Raise Thou me heavenward, O Power of my power.

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise,
Thou mine Inheritance, now and always:
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart,
High King of Heaven, my Treasure Thou art.

High King of Heaven, my victory won,
May I reach Heaven's joys, O bright Heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my Vision, O Ruler of all.

Words: Attributed to Dallan Forgaill, 8th Century (Rob tu mo bhoile, a Comdi cride); translated from ancient Irish to English by Mary E. Byrne (1880-1931), in Eriú, Journal of the School of Irish Learning, 1905, and versed 1912 by Eleanor H. Hull (1860-1935), alt.

Tune: [Slane](#)

Calon Lân

Nid wy'n gofyn bywyd moethus,
Aur y byd, na'i berlau mân:
Gofyn wyf am galon hapus,
Calon onset, calon lân.

*Calon lân, yn llawn daioni,
Tecach yw na'r lili dlos:
Dim ond calon lân all ganu,
Canu'r dydd a chanu'r nos.*

Pe dymunwn olud bydol,
Edyn buan ganddo sydd;
Golud calon lân rinweddol
Yn dwyn bythol elw fydd.

Calon lân

Hwyr a bore fy nymuniad
Gwyd i'r nef ar edyn cân:
Ar i Dduw,
er mwyn fy Ngheidwad,
Roddi i mi galon lân.

Calon lân

Words: Daniel James (1848-1920)

Tune: [Calon Lân](#)

Calon Lân - Translation

I ask not for ease and riches
Nor earth's jewels for my part
But I have the best of wishes
For a pure and honest heart.

*Oh, pure heart so true and tender
Fairer than the lilies white.
The pure heart alone can render
Songs of joy both day and night.*

Should I cherish earthly treasure
It would fly on speedy wings
The pure heart a plenteous measure
Of true pleasure daily brings.

Eve and morn my prayers ascending
To God's heaven on wings of song
Seek the joy that knows no ending
The pure heart that knows no wrong.

Words: Daniel James (1848-1920), translator into English unknown.

Tune: [Calon Lân](#)

God, In the Planning

God, in the planning and purpose of life,
hallowed the union of husband and wife: ...

Words: John L Bell (b.1949) and Graham Maule (b.1958)

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Licence No: 1234197.*

Tune: [Slane](#)

God of All Living

God of all living,
Father, we praise you,
Full of thanksgiving,
For so much love;
Now in this wedding,
Come down among us,...

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St Edmunds, IP33 1RT, United Kingdom E-Mail: hr50@dial.pipex.com
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Tune: [Bunessan](#)

God of Love, O God of Goodness

God of love, O God of goodness,
Bless this couple on this day.
As you showed concern at Cana,
Help and guide them in your way.
Bless this holy, sacred union;
May their love be ever new.
May they see their children's children;
May they come to be with you.

May the grace of Christ our Savior,
And the Father's boundless love,
With the Holy Spirit's favor,
Rest upon them from above.
Thus may they abide in union
Praising Christ, their Lord, thereby,
And possess, in sweet communion,
Joys which earth cannot supply.

Words: <http://www.svfparish.org/weddings/weddingode2joy.html> - source
not otherwise identified.

To: [*Ode to Joy*](#)

Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer (Bread of Heaven)

Guide me, O Thou great Redeemer
Pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak, but Thou art mighty;
Hold me with Thy powerful hand.
Bread of Heaven, Bread of Heaven,
Feed me till I want no more;
Feed me till I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain,
Whence the healing stream doth flow;
Let the fire and cloudy pillar
Lead me all my journey through.
Strong Deliverer, strong Deliverer,
Be Thou still my Strength and Shield;
Be Thou still my Strength and Shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan,
Bid my anxious fears subside;
Death of deaths, and hell's destruction,
Land me safe on Canaan's side.
Songs of praises, songs of praises,
I will ever give to Thee;
I will ever give to Thee.

*Words: 1745 William Williams (1717-1791); translated from Welsh 1771
by Peter Williams (1723-1796)*

Tune: [Cwm Rhondda](#)

Hear Us Now, Our God and Father

Hear us now, Our God and Father,
Send your spirit from above
On this Christian man and woman
Who here make their vows of love!...

*Words: Vs 1 & 2 Harry N. Huxhold b.1922 and © 1978 Lutheran Book of
Worship; Vs 3 1779 by John Newton 1725-1807, alt. Reproduced at St Dyfrig's
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Tune: [Hyfrydol](#) or [Blaenwern](#) or [Ode to Joy](#). [OCP](#)

How Great Thou Art (O Lord My God)

O Lord my God! When I in awesome wonder
Consider all the works Thy hands have made...

*Words: 1885 Carl Gustav Boberg (1859–1940), translated from Swedish.
English text © 1953 Stuart K. Hine (1899-1989), admin. Kingsway's ThankYou
Music. Reproduced at St Dyfrig's Church, Treforest, under CCL Licence No:
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Tune: [O Store Gud](#)

Jesus, the Lord of Love and Life

Jesus, the Lord of love and life,
draw near to bless this man and wife;

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Tune: [Winchester New](#)

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee,
God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flowers before Thee,
opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;
drive the dark of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness,
fill us with the light of day!

All Thy works with joy surround Thee,
earth and heaven reflect Thy rays,
Stars and angels sing around Thee,
centre of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
flowery meadow, flashing sea,
Singing bird and flowing fountain
call us to rejoice in Thee.

Thou art giving and forgiving,
ever blessing, ever blessed,
Wellspring of the joy of living,
ocean depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ our Brother,
all who live in love are Thine;
Teach us how to love each other,
lift us to the joy divine.

Mortals, join the happy chorus,
which the morning stars began;
Father love is reigning o'er us,
brother love binds man to man.
Ever singing, march we onward,
victors in the midst of strife,
Joyful music leads us Sunward
in the triumph song of life.

*Words: 1907 Henry Jackson
van Dyke (1852-1933)*

Tune: [Ode to Joy](#)

Lord and Lover of Creation

Lord and lover of creation,
bless the marriage witnessed now:
sign of lives no longer separate,
sealed by symbol, bound by vow, ...

Words: John L Bell (b.1949) and Graham Maule (b.1958)

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Licence No: 1234197.*

Tune: [Lauda Anima](#) or [Westminster Abbey](#)

Lord Of All Loving

Lord of all loving, we stand before you,
Asking your blessing on us to-day...

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Tune: [Bunessan](#)

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Love divine, all loves excelling, Joy of heaven to earth come down;
Fix in us thy humble dwelling; All thy faithful mercies crown!
Jesus, Thou art all compassion, Pure unbounded love Thou art;
Visit us with Thy salvation; Enter every trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe Thy loving Spirit, Into every troubled breast!
Let us all in Thee inherit; Let us find that second rest.
Take away our bent to sinning; Alpha and Omega be;
End of faith, as its Beginning, Set our hearts at liberty.

Come, Almighty to deliver, Let us all Thy life receive;
Suddenly return and never, Never more Thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing, Serve Thee as Thy hosts above,
Pray and praise Thee without ceasing, Glory in Thy perfect love.

Finish, then, Thy new creation; Pure and spotless let us be.
Let us see Thy great salvation Perfectly restored in Thee;
Changed from glory into glory, Till in heaven we take our place,
Till we cast our crowns before Thee, Lost in wonder, love, and praise.

Words: 1747, Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

Tune: [Hyfrydol](#) or [Blaenwern](#)

Lord Jesus Christ, Invited Guest and Saviour

Lord Jesus Christ, invited guest and Saviour,
with tender mercy hear us as we pray; ...

*Words: 1982, Michael Perry © 1982 Hope Publishing Co., Carol Stream, IL
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Tune: [Strength and Stay](#)

May Your Love Grow Like A Flower

May your love grow like a flower;
Strong to break through frozen ground,

...

Words: Simon Walkling, pastor in Pontypridd (alive in 2010)

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Tune: [Hyfrydol](#) or [Blaenwern](#)

Now Thank We All Our God

Now thank we all our God,
with heart and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things has done,
in Whom this world rejoices;
Who from our mothers' arms
has blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love,
and still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God
through all our life be near us,
With ever joyful hearts
and blessed peace to cheer us;
And keep us in His grace,
and guide us when perplexed;
And free us from all ills,
in this world and the next!

All praise and thanks to God
the Father now be given;
The Son and Him Who reigns
with Them in highest Heaven;
The one eternal God,
whom earth and Heaven adore;
For thus it was, is now,
and shall be evermore.

*Words: circa 1636, Martin Rinkart; translated from German in 1856
by Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878).*

Tune: [Nun Danket](#)

O God, Our Help In Ages Past

O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast,
And our eternal home.

Under the shadow of Thy throne
Thy saints have dwelt secure;
Sufficient is Thine arm alone,
And our defense is sure.

Before the hills in order stood,
Or earth received her frame,
From everlasting Thou art God,
To endless years the same.

Thy Word commands our flesh to dust,
“Return, ye sons of men:”
All nations rose from earth at first,
And turn to earth again.

A thousand ages in Thy sight
Are like an evening gone;
Short as the watch that ends the night
Before the rising sun.

The busy tribes of flesh and blood,
With all their lives and cares,
Are carried downwards by the flood,
And lost in following years.

Time, like an ever rolling stream,
Bears all its sons away;
They fly, forgotten, as a dream
Dies at the opening day.

Like flowery fields the nations stand
Pleased with the morning light;
The flowers beneath the mower’s hand
Lie withering ere ‘tis night.

Our God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Be Thou our guard while troubles last,
And our eternal home.

Words: 1719, Isaac Watts (1674-1748).

Tune: [St Anne](#)

O Perfect Love

O perfect Love, all human thought transcending,
lowly we kneel in prayer before thy throne,
that theirs may be the love which knows no ending,
whom thou forevermore dost join in one.

O perfect Life, be thou their full assurance,
of tender charity and steadfast faith,
of patient hope and quiet, brave endurance,
with childlike trust that fears nor pain nor death.

Grant them the joy which brightens earthly sorrow;
grant them the peace which calms all earthly strife,
and to life's day the glorious unknown morrow
that dawns upon eternal love and life.

Words: 1883 Dorothy Frances Blomfield Gurney (1858-1932)

Tune: [Strength and Stay](#)

Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven

Praise, my soul, the King of heaven;
to his feet thy tribute bring;
ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
evermore his praises sing:
Alleluia, alleluia! Praise the everlasting King.

Praise him for his grace and favor
to our fathers in distress;
praise him still the same for ever,
slow to chide and swift to bless:
Alleluia, alleluia! Glorious in his faithfulness.

Father-like, he tends and spares us;
well our feeble frame he knows;
in his hand he gently bears us,
rescues us from all our foes.
Alleluia, alleluia! Widely yet his mercy flows.

Angels, help us to adore him;
ye behold him face to face;
sun and moon, bow down before him,
dwellers all in time and space.
Alleluia, alleluia! Praise with us the God of grace.

Words: 1834, Henry Francis Lyte (1793-1847)

Tune: [Lauda Anima](#)

Praise To The Lord, The Almighty

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise Him, for He is thy health and salvation!
All ye who hear, now to His temple draw near;
Praise Him in glad adoration.

Praise to the Lord, who over all things so wondrously reigneth,
Shelters thee under His wings, yea, so gently sustaineth!
Hast thou not seen how thy desires ever have been
Granted in what He ordaineth?

Praise to the Lord, who hath fearfully, wondrously, made thee;
Health hath vouchsafed and, when heedlessly falling, hath stayed thee.
What need or grief ever hath failed of relief?
Wings of His mercy did shade thee.

Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work and defend thee;
Surely His goodness and mercy here daily attend thee.
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do,
If with His love He befriend thee.

Praise to the Lord, O let all that is in me adore Him!
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before Him.
Let the Amen sound from His people again,
Gladly for aye we adore Him.

*Words: 1680, Joachim Neander (1650-1680); translated from German in 1863
by Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878).*

Tune - [Lobe den Herren](#)

Praise We Our God With Joy

Praise we our God with joy
And gladness never ending;
Angels and saints with us
Their grateful voices blending.
He is our Father dear,
O'erfilled with parent's love;
Mercies unsought, unknown,
He showers from above.

He is our Shepherd true;
With watchful care unsleeping,
On us, his erring sheep,
An eye of pity keeping;
He with a mighty arm
The bonds of sin doth break,
And to our burden'd hearts
In words of peace doth spake.

Graces in copious stream
From that pure fount are welling,
Where, in our heart of hearts,
Our God hath set his dwelling.
His word our lantern is,
His peace our comfort still,
His sweetness all our rest.

Words: Johann Crüger (1598-1662), translator unknown.

Tune: [Nun Danket](#)

Surprised By Joy No Song Can Tell

Surprised by joy no song can tell,
no thought can compass, here we stand

...

*Words: Erik Routley. © 1985 by Hope Publishing Co., Carol Stream, IL 60188.
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Tune: [Tallis's Canon](#) or [Old 100th](#)

The Grace of Life is Theirs

The grace of life is theirs
who on this wedding day

...

Words: Fred Pratt Green © 1970 by Hope Publishing Co., Carol Stream, IL 60188, adm. Stainer & Bell. Reproduced at St Dyfrig's Church, Treforest, under CCL Licence No: 1234197.

Tune: [Love Unknown](#)

The Servant Song

Brother, sister, let me serve you,
let me be as Christ to you;

...

*Words: Richard A. M. Gillard (b. 1953) © 1977 Scripture in Song / Maranatha!
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Tune: [Servant Song](#)

Vows Have Been Spoken

Vows have been spoken,
prayers have been offered
ring as a token
placed on the hand
Now with elation
spirits are lifting
in celebration
joyful we stand

Two lives now binding
each to the other
in your love finding
they are one;
keep them and mould them
let joy enfold them
in your peace hold them
till life is done

Their marriage brighten
with understanding
their sorrows lighten
by your care
with trust increasing
in your love's blessing
may hope unceasing
be their share

Praise and thanksgiving
Lips are now voicing
Lord of the living
God above
For all around us
Hearts are rejoicing
As you surround us
With your love.

Words: author unknown

Tune: [Bunessan](#)

***NB This must be a final hymn,
i.e. AFTER the vows have
been spoken!***

Wedding Carol

As man and woman we were made
that love be found and life begun

...

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Tunes: [Sussex Carol](#) or [Melita](#)

When Love Is Found

When Love is found and hope comes home,
sing and be glad that two are one.

...

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Treforest, under CCL Licence No: 1234197.*

** Original words – “in calm or strife”*

Tune: [O Waly Waly](#) or [Winchester New](#) or a brisk

Your Love, O God, Has Called Us Here

Your love, O God, has called us here,
for all love finds its source in you;

...

Words: Russell Schulz-Widmar © Russell Schultz-Widmar, P.O. Box 2247, Austin, TX 78768. Possibly under Selah publishing Co.? Reproduced at St Dyfrig's Church, Treforest, under CCL Licence No: 1234197.

Tune: [Tallis's Canon](#) or [Old 100th](#)

TWO SHORTER CHANTS

Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow

Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Words: 1674 Thomas Ken (1637-1711)

Words: [Old 100th](#)

A Wedding Blessing

May the Lord, our great Creator,
bless you this day;
give you peace and hope and courage
along your way.
May you stay within God's keeping
in your walking, in your sleeping,
in your joy, and in your weeping.
God be with you.

Text: Unknown

Tune: [Ar Hyd Y Nos](#) (All Through The Night)

