

FAVORITE HYMNS AND WORSHIP SONGS

In our March/April issue, in the article "Worship Wars," we invited readers to tell us their favorite and least favorite hymns or worship songs. There was little agreement in the responses we got. In both favorites and least favorites, respondents leaned toward traditional hymns and praise music. Some songs and hymns appear both as favorites and least favorites, and we were amazed at a few that were picked as least favorites. In any case, we hope you enjoy perusing the lists and comments. And if you find your favorite among the least favorites (or vice versa), remember that God joyously accepts all these songs and many others, in every language, culture and musical style, as adoring worship from his people.—*the editors*

I so enjoyed "Worship Wars" by Greg Hartman. It was well-written and thought-provoking.—Wisconsin

I have no particular least favorite song, but my least favorites are the "praise choruses" that have only a few words, but repeats them over and over and over again. Chuck Swindoll calls them "7-11" songs—7 words repeated 11 times.—Colorado

My husband's favorite is "Let It Be," but I informed him it's not really a hymn, although it talks about Mother Mary.—California

I dislike songs with lots of repeated words or phrases. Though I'm sure the worship leader is well-meaning, I get the creepy feeling he is trying to work me into an altered state of mind.—South Dakota

Among my least-liked hymns are 98 percent of those silly, shallow, praise choruses.—Maryland

"Amazing Grace" has been done to death. It seems that every television show or movie that has religious music uses that tune. It is also played quite often with those awful bagpipes, which bothers me to no end.—Ohio

"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" is very rousing indeed. Whether Martin Luther actually used the tavern songs of his day for the melodies of some of his hymns is debatable. Yet hymns such as these are so exuberantly and joyously powerful they are something one could easily imagine swinging a tankard to.—Wisconsin

FAVORITES

FREQUENTLY MENTIONED

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God
Amazing Grace
Grace Alone
How Great Thou Art
In the Garden
Shout to the Lord
The Power of His Love
When I Survey the Wondrous Cross
You Are Holy

LESS FREQUENTLY MENTIONED

All People That on Earth Do Dwell
Awesome God
Be Thou My Vision
Beneath the Cross of Jesus
Change My Heart, O God
Come Thou Fount of Many Blessings
Dear Lord and Father of Mankind
Great Is Thy Faithfulness
He is Worthy
He Knows My Name
His Eye Is on the Sparrow
I Can Only Imagine

I Know Whom I Have Believed
I Would Rather Have Jesus
Immortal, Invisible God Only Wise
In the Cross of Christ I Glory
It Is Well With My Soul
Just a Closer Walk With Thee
Just As I Am
Life in the Arms of Jesus
Lord I Lift Your Name On High
Lord of the Harvest
Majesty
My Jesus I Love Thee
My Savior First of All
Now Thank We All Our God
O God, Our Help in Ages Past
O Worship the King All Glorious Above
Oh For a Thousand Tongues
Rock of Ages
The King of Love My Shepherd Is
The Old Rugged Cross
What a Friend We Have in Jesus
What Child Is This?
When He Sees Me
Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life
You Know My Name

LEAST FAVORITES

FREQUENTLY MENTIONED

Amazing Grace
Shine, Jesus, Shine

LESS FREQUENTLY MENTIONED

As the Deer
Blessed Assurance
Blest Be the Tie That Binds
Come Thou Almighty King
Fairest Lord Jesus
God Be With You
How Great Thou Art
I Wish We'd All Been Ready

I'll Fly Away
In the Garden
Jesus Loves Me, This I Know
Let the Walls Fall Down
My Jesus, I Love Thee
Nearer My God to Thee
Now Thank We All Our God
Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow
Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus
The Church's One Foundation
The Old Rugged Cross
The Solid Rock

"Shine Jesus Shine" reminds me of those little glow-in-the-dark dashboard Jesus statues so popular with some Christian folk in the '50s and '60s. Not a fitting mental image to have when attempting to worship the Supreme Being.—Texas

Thank you for giving your readers the opportunity to express their love of certain hymns.—Maryland

My least favorite hymns are those that put themselves in control of their relationship with God and appear to say, "I have Jesus and you don't."—California