

DEAR LORD AND FATHER OF MANKIND

(words by **John Greenleaf Whittier** (1807-1892))

Dear Lord and Father of mankind,  
Forgive our foolish ways;  
Reclothe us in our rightful mind;  
In purer lives Thy service find,  
In deeper reverence, praise. <sup>1</sup>

In simple trust like theirs who heard,  
Beside the Syrian sea,  
The gracious calling of the Lord,  
Let us, like them, without a word,  
Rise up and follow Thee.

O Sabbath rest by Galilee!  
O calm of hills above,  
Where Jesus knelt to share with Thee  
The silence of eternity,  
Interpreted by love.

With that deep hush subduing all  
Our words and works that drown  
The tender whisper of Thy call,  
As noiseless let Thy blessing fall  
As fell Thy manna down. <sup>2</sup>

Drop Thy still dews of quietness,  
Till all our strivings cease;  
Take from our souls the strain and stress,  
And let our ordered lives confess  
The beauty of Thy peace.

Breathe through the heats of our desire  
Thy coolness and Thy balm;  
Let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;<sup>3</sup>  
Speak through the earthquake, wind, and fire,  
O still, small voice of calm!

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<sup>1</sup> The last line of each verse is usually repeated when the hymn is sung.

<sup>2</sup> In some hymn books, verses 3 or 4 or even both are omitted.

<sup>3</sup> In the hymn book *Congregational Praise*, verse 6 line 3 reads '*Let sense be dumb, its heats expire*'.

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