

**FOR THE BEAUTY OF THE EARTH**<sup>1</sup>(words by **Folliot Sandford Pierpoint** (1835-1917))

For the beauty of the earth,  
For the beauty<sup>2</sup> of the skies,  
For the love which from our birth  
Over and around us lies:

**REFRAIN:**<sup>3</sup>

*Christ our God, to Thee we raise  
This our sacrifice of praise.*<sup>4</sup>

For the beauty of each hour  
Of the day and of the night,  
Hill and vale, and tree and flower,  
Sun and moon, and stars of light:

**REFRAIN**

For the joy of ear and eye,  
For the heart and mind's<sup>5</sup> delight,  
For the mystic harmony  
Linking sense to sound and sight:

**REFRAIN**

For the joy of human love,  
Brother, sister, parent, child,  
Friends on earth, and friends above,  
For all gentle thoughts and mild:<sup>6</sup>

**REFRAIN**

For each perfect gift of Thine  
To our race so freely given,  
Graces human and divine,  
Flowers of earth and buds of heaven:

**REFRAIN**

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<sup>1</sup> The original of the hymn was entitled 'The Sacrifice of Praise' and had eight verses when first published in 1864.

<sup>2</sup> In some hymn books, '*glory*' is used instead of '*beauty*' in verse 1 line 2.

<sup>3</sup> There are a few alterations in the refrain, mainly the first part of line 1 and the whole line 2. Two common alterations are '*Lord of all,*' and '*Gracious God,*' from the original '*Christ our God,*' in line 1 of the refrain.

<sup>4</sup> In some hymn books, line 2 of the refrain reads '*This our hymn of grateful praise.*' or '*This our grateful hymn of praise.*'

<sup>5</sup> In verse 3 line 2, '*mind's delight*' is an alteration from '*brain's delight*' in the original.

<sup>6</sup> In some hymn books, verse 4 line 4 is altered to '*Pleasures pure and undefiled,*'.

For Thy church<sup>7</sup> that<sup>8</sup> evermore  
 Lifteth holy hands above,  
 Offering up on every shore  
 This<sup>9</sup> pure sacrifice of love: <sup>10</sup>

**REFRAIN**

**REFERENCES:**

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- Richard Watson and Kenneth Trickett (editors), **Companion to Hymns & Psalms**. Peterborough, England: Methodist Publishing House. 1988.
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- WeddingGuideUK.com. **For The Beauty Of The Earth**. available at <http://www.weddingguideuk.com/articles/wordsmusic/hymns/Hymn-ForTheBeautyOfTheEarth.asp>

<sup>7</sup> In verse 6 line 1, '*Thy church*' is the widely adopted alteration from '*Thy Bride*' in the original. This is in line with the Bible that the church is regarded as the bride of Christ.

<sup>8</sup> In the hymn book *Hymns Ancient & Modern Revised*, '*which*' is used instead of '*that*' in verse 6 line 1.

<sup>9</sup> In some hymn books, '*Her*' is used instead of '*This*' in verse 6 line 4.

<sup>10</sup> The last two verses in original are now usually omitted:

*'For Thy Martyrs' crown of light,  
 For Thy Prophets' eagle eye,  
 For Thy bold Confessors' might,  
 For the lips of infancy.'*

*'For Thy Virgins' robes of snow,  
 For Thy Maiden-mother mild,  
 For Thyself, with hearts aglow,  
 Jesu, Victim undefiled.'*