

LOVE DIVINE, ALL LOVES EXCELLING(words by **Charles Wesley** (1707-1788))

Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heaven, to earth come down,
Fix in us Thy humble dwelling,
All thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus¹, 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 second² rest;
Take away our power of³ sinning,
Alpha and Omega be,
End of faith, as its beginning,
Set our hearts at liberty. ⁴

Come, Almighty to deliver,
Let us all Thy grace⁵ 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 spotless⁶ 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.

¹ In some hymn books, the Latin-origin vocative '*Jesu*' is used in verse 1 line 5.

² In a modern variation, verse 2 line 4 reads '*Let us find the **promised** rest;*'.

³ In a modern variation, verse 2 line 5 reads '*Take away our **bent to sinning;***'.

⁴ In many hymn books, verse 2 of the original is omitted.

⁵ In the original, '*life*' was used in verse 3 line 2 before changing to '*grace*' which has been usually accepted.

⁶ In the original, verse 4 line 2 reads '*Pure and **sinless** let us be;*'.

REFERENCES:

- **Hymns Ancient & Modern Revised.** London: William Clowes and Sons Ltd. 1972.
- *The Church Hymnary* Revision Committee. **The Church Hymnary** (with Music), 3rd edition. London: Oxford University Press. 1973.
- Congregational Church in England and Wales, **Congregational Praise.** London: Independent Press Ltd. 1980.
- Richard Watson and Kenneth Trickett (editors), **Companion to Hymns & Psalms.** Peterborough, England: Methodist Publishing House. 1988.
- **BBC Songs of Praise.** Oxford, England: Oxford University Press, 1997.
- **Hymns and Psalms.** Peterborough, England: Methodist Publishing House. 2004.
- Gabriel C. S. Chi (editor). **New Songs of Praise.** Hong Kong: Baptist Press. 1976.
- The Cyber Hymnal. **LOVE DIVINE, ALL LOVES EXCELLING.** available at <http://www.hymntime.com/tch/htm/l/d/ldalexcl.htm>
- WeddingGuideUK.com. **Love Divine All Love Excelling.** available at <http://www.weddingguideuk.com/articles/wordsmusic/hymns/Hymn-LoveDivineAllLoveExcelling.asp>