

## ROCK OF AGES

(words by **Augustus Montague Toplady** (1740-1778))

Rock of ages, cleft for me,  
Let me hide myself in Thee;  
Let the water and the blood,  
From Thy riven side which flowed,  
Be of sin the double cure;  
Cleanse me from its guilt and power.

Not the labours of my hands  
Can fulfil the<sup>1</sup> law's demands;  
Could my zeal no respite know,  
Could my tears for ever flow,  
All for sin could not atone;  
Thou must save, and Thou alone.

Nothing in my hand I bring;  
Simply to Thy cross I cling;  
Naked, come to Thee for dress;  
Helpless, look to Thee for grace;  
Foul, I to the fountain fly;  
Wash me, Saviour, or I die.

While<sup>2</sup> I draw this fleeting breath,  
When my eye-strings break in death,<sup>3</sup>  
When I soar through tracts unknown,<sup>4</sup>  
See Thee on Thy judgment throne;  
Rock of ages, cleft for me,  
Let me hide myself in Thee.

### REFERENCES:

- **Hymns Ancient & Modern Revised**. London: William Clowes and Sons Ltd. 1972.
- *The Church Hymnary* Revision Committee. **The Church Hymnary** (with Music), 3<sup>rd</sup> edition. London: Oxford University Press. 1973.
- Congregational Church in England and Wales, **Congregational Praise**. London: Independent Press Ltd. 1980.

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<sup>1</sup> 'In many hymn books, it reads '**Thy** law's demands' instead of '**the** law's demands' of the original in verse 2 line 2.

<sup>2</sup> In verse 4 line 1, the original starts with '**Whilst**' instead of '**While**' altered since 1776 in the hymn book *Psalms and Hymns*.

<sup>3</sup> Verse 4 line 2 is commonly altered to '**When mine eyes shall close in death,**' and '**When my eyelids close in death,**' in many hymn books.

<sup>4</sup> Verse 4 line 3 was altered to '**When I soar to worlds unknown**' in the hymn book *Psalms and Hymns* published in 1776. The alteration is adopted in some hymn books.

- 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. **ROCK OF AGES**. available at <http://www.hymntime.com/tch/htm/r/o/rockages.htm>
- Timeless Truths Publications. **Rock of Ages**. available at [http://library.timelesstruths.org/music/Rock\\_of\\_Ages/](http://library.timelesstruths.org/music/Rock_of_Ages/)

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