

THY HAND O GOD HAS GUIDED¹

(words by **Edward Hayes Plumptre** (1821-1891))

Thy hand, O God, has guided
Thy flock, from age to age;
The wondrous tale is written,
Full clear, on every page;
Our fathers owned Thy goodness,
And we their deeds record;
And both of this bear witness,
One Church, one faith, one Lord.

Thy heralds brought glad tidings
To greatest, as to least;
They bade men rise, and hasten
To share the great King's feast;
And this was all their teaching,
In every deed and word,
To all alike proclaiming
One Church, one faith, one Lord.

When shadows thick were falling,
And all seemed sunk in night,
Thou, Lord, didst send Thy servants,
Thy chosen sons of light.
On them and on Thy people
Thy plenteous grace was poured,
And this was still their message,
One Church, one faith, one Lord.²

Through many a day of darkness,
Through many a scene of strife,
The faithful few fought bravely
To guard the nation's life.
Their gospel of redemption,
Sin pardoned, man restored,
Was all in this enfolded,
One Church, one faith, one Lord.

¹ The hymn was originally entitled 'Church Defence' when it was published in 1889.

² In some hymn books, verses 3 to 5 of the original are omitted.

And we, shall we be faithless?
Shall hearts fail, hands hang down?
Shall we evade the conflict
And cast away our crown?
Not so: in God's deep counsels
Some better thing is stored;
We will maintain, unflinching,
One Church, one faith, one Lord.

Thy mercy will not fail us,
Nor leave Thy work undone;
With Thy right hand to help us,
The victory shall be won;
And then, by men and angels,³
Thy name shall be adored,
And this shall be their⁴ anthem,
One Church, one faith, one Lord.

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³ In some modern hymn books, '*men an angels*' is altered to '*all creation*' in verse 6 line 5.

⁴ In some modern hymn books, '*their*' is altered to '*our*' in verse 6 line 7 corresponding to the alteration in verse 6 line 5.