

St. Mark's Chronicles

AUGUST 2023



Ten Memorable Classic Hymns: How Many Do You Remember?

By The Rev'd Canon Lynne Thackwray

1. "A Mighty Fortress is Our God" - a song of victory in spiritual battle.

This old classic, written by Martin Luther, is based on Psalm 46 and speaks of the confidence we can have in God as our defense against Satan and his attempts to thwart us. Besides the majestic descriptions of God this hymn reminds us of the victory we have through Christ (whom Luther calls the right Man on our side).inflict on others? What is the difference between "bad" and evil?

2. "And Can it be That I Should Gain" - a reminder of immense grace.

Although the refrain in this hymn has been repeated in the contemporary worship song "You Are My King", written by Billy James Foote, Charles Wesley was the first to pen the lyrics: Amazing love! How can it be That Thou my God, shouldst die for me? Besides the rich theology in this song about the atoning blood of Jesus, based on Rom 5:8, there is also the presence of joy as the lyrics describe God's pursuit of our hearts.

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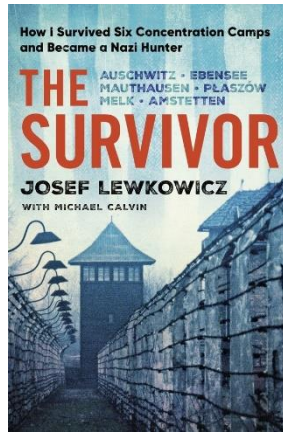
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Book Review

By The Rev'd Canon Lynne Thackwray

***The Survivor* by Josef Lewkowicz with Michael Calvin**

I first heard Josef interviewed on CBC and was so taken with his story that I just had to go and get his book. I have read many books on the Holocaust but this book seemed special. It was written by a man in his mid-nineties who was finally able to write about this horrible traumatizing time of his life. His personal recollections were so real that it was impossible to put down and equally impossible not to be emotionally involved. Josef survived six concentration camps and was the only one left alive in his extended family of 150. After the war he helped to rescue hundreds of orphaned children and became a Nazi hunter responsible for bringing to justice many of the worst men in Jewish history including his greatest tormentor, the murderous SS camp commandant Amon Goeth. Writing this memoir at his age says that Josef took to heart the advice of Rabbi Jonathan Sacks: *"To survive tragedy and trauma, first build the future. Only then, remember the past."* This is a profound and courageous book well worth reading.



The Quiet Corner

By Ruth Harriet Jacobs

Bag Ladies

We are all bag ladies
or becoming so
Nothing lasts
not love
or the beloved
or hope.
Even mountains crumble
only the ocean waits
to catch our tears.

Bags of
memories
tell us who we were
before we were wise.

The bags burden us.
Carrying about
our losses,
we
stumble
clutching our unfreedom
against all threats
or promises
it being all we have
it being all we know
it being all we are.

Recipe of the Month

Irish Soda Bread

2 ¼ cups flour
1 cup buttermilk
1 tbsp baking soda
2 eggs
2 cups raisins plumped
in water and drained



Mix ingredients in turn. Add raisins. Briefly knead dough on a floured surface. Place into buttered and floured 8 inch round pan. Dough will be sticky. Bake approximately 45 minutes in a 350 degree oven. Makes 1 loaf.

The Month of August

By The Rev'd Canon Lynne Thackwray

August was named after a major figure of the ancient Roman World, Augustus Caesar (63 B.C.–A.D. 14). He was the first Roman emperor (though he never claimed the title) and and grandnephew of the previous ruler Julius Caesar (who named July after himself).

- August 1 is a Civic Holiday in many parts of Canada. Celebrations and names for this holiday vary across the country. For example, in Alberta, it's celebrated as Heritage Day; in British Columbia, it's known as British Columbia Day!
- August 10 is St. Lawrence's Day. "Fair weather on St. Lawrence's Day presages a fair autumn."
- August 11 marks the end of the Dog Days of Summer, which began on July 3.
- August 17 is when the Cat Nights begin, harking back to a rather obscure Irish legend concerning witches; this bit of folklore also led to the idea that a cat has nine lives.
- August 19 brings National Aviation Day, chosen for the birthday of Orville Wright who piloted the first recorded flight of a powered heavier-than-air machine in 1903.
- August 24 is St. Bartholomew Day. "At St. Bartholomew, there comes cold dew."
- August 26 is Women's Equality Day, which celebrates the 1920 ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment and, with it, women's right to vote in the United States.

A Few Comments

By The Rev'd Canon Lynne Thackwray

It's holiday time for clergy, so no Clergy Corner this month. This will be a short easy-to-read newsletter as we take a rest and get ready for September.

No one has yet to think about someone who could be profiled as we get to know each other better.

A Quote to Reflect On

The older you get, the more you realize how precious life is. You have no desire for drama, conflict, or stress. You just want good friends, a cozy home, food on the table and people who make you happy.

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3. "It is Well with My Soul" - a song of peace during heartache and loss.

The story behind Horatio Spafford's writing of this hymn puts us into perspective when we think we've had it rough. The traumatic events in Spafford's life—including the loss of his son at the age of 2, followed by his financial ruin as a result of the Great Chicago Fire in 1871—came to a head when he received a telegraph from his wife who had been travelling on a ship ahead of him, with his family. His wife's telegraph informed him that all four of his daughters had been killed when their ship sunk and his wife was one of the few survivors. Shortly after, as Spafford traveled to meet his grieving wife, he was inspired to write this famous hymn as his ship passed near where his daughters had died.

4. "Crown Him with Many Crowns" - a reminder that Jesus reigns.

Every Easter Sunday we sing about Christ conquering the grave and reigning as King. This hymn is about "Jesus victorious!" not "Jesus, come rescue us!" The lyrics remind us that not just on Easter, but today, now, and forever Christ sits at the right hand of God the Father (Hebrews 12:2).

5. "How Great Thou Art" - a song that emphasizes Him, not us.

In a day and age when we can so easily slip into a "me-perspective" and feel that we are the ones who are great, this old Swedish hymn, originally titled "O Store Gud" by Carl Boberg, gets the focus off of us and forces our eyes onto the One whose power is displayed throughout creation, through what Christ did on the cross, and through the return of our Savior.

6. "In the Garden" - a glimpse of the intimacy that is possible with God.

One of the most beloved songs that celebrates the relationship of God with man is C. Austin Miles' "In the Garden." He starts by singing I come to the garden alone, While the dew is still on the roses and his last stanza begins with I'd stay in the garden with Him Though the night around me be falling.... The precious chorus speaks of an intimacy that we all long to have with our Maker: And He walks with me, and He talks with me, and He tells me I am His own, And the joy we share as we tarry there, None other has ever known.

7. "Come Thou, Fount of Every Blessing" - a song to keep us in perspective and on guard.

When you think of your blessings today, do you think of material possessions? Your house, a nice car to drive, a great job? Do you think of your family, children, loved ones? This hymn writer thought of his salvation, God's love, and streams of mercy, never ceasing. When we consider what we have in Christ Jesus, it brings perspective to our lives and also makes us want to value and protect our relationship with Him above anything else.

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8. "The Old Rugged Cross" - a reminder of the power of the atonement.

Who—other than Christ-followers—would sing so affectionately about an instrument of execution? Yet the cross upon which Jesus died—this emblem of suffering and shame—is what writer George Bennard says he'll cherish till my trophies at last I lay down. I will cling to the old rugged cross, and exchange it some day for a crown.

9. "All That Thrills My Soul is Jesus" - a decree that He is the Only One who satisfies.

Today it's easy to get sidetracked with what this world promises will satisfy. Long before Mick Jagger and Keith Richards of The Rolling Stones wrote "I Can't Get No Satisfaction," Hymn writer Thoro Harris penned this song letting us know where true satisfaction really lies: Who can cheer the heart like Jesus, by His presence all divine? The fourth stanza celebrates the result of finding our delight and satisfaction in Jesus: Every need His hand supplying, Every good in Him I see

10. "Great is Thy Faithfulness" - a song of gratitude and praise.

This hymn by Thomas Chisholm reminds us of God's great faithfulness that is new every morning (Lamentations 3:22-23). As we sing it we proclaim there is no shadow of turning with Thee; Thou changest not, Thy compassions they fail not, As Thou hast been, Thou forever wilt be.

A Photo from the Archives

A view of St. Mark's on a sunny day in August 2008.



Poems for the Journey

By Lee Moir

August

August the heat will abound
 And showers are few
 When Summer is in full swing
 And when flowers are in bloom
 Where starts vacation time
 And over so soon
 The next one is Labour Day
 And back to the grind

We're still in the throws of Summer
 To suffer with the heat
 Waiting for Fall
 And the break in the weather

Autumn to come
 We now look forward to
 But this means that snow is near
 And Christmas too

So enjoy it when you can
 For it will not stay
 Will have to try another day
 That is all I have to say



Church Information

Connect With Us

Website: www.saintmark.ca
 YouTube: [saintmarkorangeville](https://www.youtube.com/saintmarkorangeville)
 Facebook: [saintmarkorangeville](https://www.facebook.com/saintmarkorangeville)

Phone: 519-941-0640
 Email: office@saintmark.ca

Services

Sunday Eucharist – 8:30 a.m.
 Sunday Choral Eucharist – 10:00 a.m.
 Thursday Eucharist – 10:00 a.m.

Office Hours (Summer)

Monday, Thursday & Friday
 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

Food Cupboard Hours

Monday, Tuesday & Thursday
 11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.

The Beacon Drop-In Centre

Monday & Friday
 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Address

5 First Avenue
 Orangeville, ON
 P.O. Box 22
 L9W 2Z5