

Tuesday, November 27, 2012 – This is My Father's World

Songs can send powerful messages. "The Star-Spangled Banner" is the national anthem of the United States of America. The lyrics come from "Defence of Fort McHenry", a poem written in 1814 by the 35-year-old lawyer and amateur poet, Francis Scott Key, after witnessing the bombardment of Fort McHenry by the British Royal Navy ships in Chesapeake Bay during the Battle of Fort McHenry in the War of 1812. Key was inspired by the American victory and the sight of the large American flag flying triumphantly above the fort.

Hymns can have much the same effect. We are moved by the thoughts put forth as we sing praises unto Jehovah God announcing our awe, love and reverence for Him. While we find ourselves in a world that continually tries to shut God out of our everyday existence, we reflect on the fact that mankind's thoughts regarding God do NOT change the fact that He is, always has been and forever will be.

The hymn "This is My Father's World" reminds us that we are temporary sojourners on an earth that cries out with proof of His existence all around us; we need only open our eyes.

Please reflect on these words:

This is my Father's world, and to my listening ears
All nature sings, and round me rings the music of the spheres.

This is my Father's world: I rest me in the thought
Of rocks and trees, of skies and seas;
His hand the wonders wrought.

This is my Father's world, the birds their carols raise,
The morning light, the lily white, declare their Maker's praise.

This is my Father's world: He shines in all that's fair;
In the rustling grass I hear Him pass;
He speaks to me everywhere.

This is my Father's world. O let me ne'er forget
That though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the ruler yet.

This is my Father's world: the battle is not done:
Jesus Who died shall be satisfied,
And earth and Heav'n be one.

This is my Father's world, dreaming, I see His face.
I ope my eyes, and in glad surprise cry, "The Lord is in this place."
This is my Father's world, from the shining courts above,
The Beloved One, His Only Son,
Came—a pledge of deathless love.

This is my Father's world, should my heart be ever sad?
The lord is King—let the heavens ring. God reigns—let the earth be glad.
This is my Father's world. Now closer to Heaven bound,
For dear to God is the earth Christ trod.
No place but is holy ground.

This is my Father's world. I walk a desert lone.
In a bush ablaze to my wondering gaze God makes His glory known.
This is my Father's world, a wanderer I may roam
Whate'er my lot, it matters not,
My heart is still at home.