

IV. Background of the Tune Writer, William B. Bradbury (1816-1868)

- One of America's great hymnody leaders in the mid 1800's
 - ⊙ Born in Maine, he lived in many eastern cities where he served as organist and music minister at prominent Baptist churches.
 - ⊙ He was largely responsible for the introduction of music instruction in New York City schools.
 - ⊙ Other famous hymn tunes he composed include "The Solid Rock," "Sweet Hour of Prayer," "Jesus Loves Me," and "Just as I Am."
- Bradbury's melody to "Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us" is written in the style of a children's lullaby.

V. Recording Samples on YouTube:

- Grace Community Church, Congregational Singing



- *Hymns of Grace* arrangement



HYMN HISTORY

for Mother's Day



I. Contributors to the Hymn

- Text: Dorothy A. Thrupp, 1836
- Tune: William B. Bradbury

II. Biography of Dorothy Ann Thrupp (1779-1847)

- Born in London, she lived there all her life as a single woman.
 - ⊙ She was raised in an Anglican family renowned in the arts, military, ministry, academics, and industry.
 - ⊙ She never had a family of her own, but she loved children and devoted her life to ministering to them.
- She became a prolific writer of children's literature.
 - ⊙ Despite publishing many poems, hymns, devotionals & articles, she was often unrecognized for her work—largely by choice.
 - ⊙ She seldom attached her name to her compositions, and when she did, she preferred to use pseudonyms such as "D.A.T." and "Iota" [the Greek name of the smallest letter, "i"].
- In her own day, her most famous children's hymn was, "A Little Ship was on the Sea," a song about how Jesus stilled the storm on Galilee.
- Today her most famous hymn is "Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us" which first appeared in a collection of songs she published in 1836 called, *Hymns for the Young*.
- The entire song is addressed as a prayer to the Lord Jesus who is described as a shepherd.

Verse 1

Savior, like a Shepherd lead us,
 Much we need Thy tender care.
 In Thy pleasant pastures feed us,
 For our use Thy folds prepare.
 Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
Thou hast bought us, Thine we are;
 Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
Thou hast bought us, Thine we are.

The opening line borrows wording from Isaiah 40:11, "Like a shepherd He shall lead His flock."

The references to going in and out of pastures and sheepfolds borrows imagery from Psalm 23 & John 10.

The language of the sheep being purchased echoes concepts found in Hebrews 13:20 and 1 Peter 2:24-25.

This request for Jesus' friendly care is based on John 15:15, "I have called you 'friends'"

The phrase, "Be the Guardian of our way," is adapted from 1 Peter 2:25b, "the Shepherd & Guardian of your souls." The phrase, "Seek us when we go astray" borrows imagery from 1 Peter 2:25a, "you were continually straying like sheep."

The repeated requests that Jesus hear us when we pray is not born out of doubt but is the language of supplication, as is often found in the Psalms.

The third stanza takes a break from the shepherd imagery, speaking more plainly about the believer's relationship of dependence on Christ's mercy and grace.

The expression "Early let us turn to Thee" is borrowed from Psalm 63:1 (KJV), "O God, Thou art my God. Early will I seek Thee." This speaks of turning to God first through prayer in times of need.

The repeated references to "early" prayer, carried over from stanza 3, reflect how this song was intended as a bedtime lullaby. The child's mind is filled with thoughts of looking to the Lord first thing in the morning when he awakes.

The closing prayer, "love us still," should not be taken as an expression of uncertainty about Christ's love but a desire to know more of the fulness of His love day by day.

Verse 2

We are Thine, do Thou befriend us,
Be the Guardian of our way;
 Keep thy flock from sin; defend us;
Seek us when we go astray.
 Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
Hear, O hear, us when we pray.
 Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus.
Hear, O hear, us when we pray.

Verse 3

Thou hast promised to receive us,
 Poor and sinful though we be;
 Thou hast mercy to relieve us,
 Grace to cleanse and pow'r to free.
 Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
Early let us turn to Thee;
 Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
Early let us turn to Thee.

Verse 4

Early let us seek Thy favour,
Early let us do Thy will.
 Blessed Lord and only Saviour,
 With Thy love our beings fill.
 Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
Thou hast loved, us love us still;
 Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
Thou hast loved us, love us still.