

VINTAGE ADVENTURE

@ HOME

Our Creator God



Dear Vintage Adventure at Home friends,



Are you beginning to feel that Spring is in the air? I have recently spotted clusters of tiny white snowdrops along the roadside, purple and yellow crocus emerging in the borders in a park, red and pink camellia blossoms opening in local gardens. The sight of new life and colour appearing all around us certainly lifts our spirits.

This March edition of Vintage Adventure @ Home focuses on the hymn How great Thou art. In the Worship and the Reflection you will find out more about the fascinating story behind this familiar hymn, from its origins in Sweden to translations in several languages including German and Russian and its eventual rendering in English.

Ann has found out about the composer Joseph Haydn who wrote the oratorio The Creation and one of our readers, Gillian Gain, shares memories of another hymn, which has special significance for her but also raised a smile on her wedding day!

One of our Caraway Trustees, Barry Toward, offers us some beautiful photos he has taken of the natural world in all its grandeur and closer to home, Margaret, our Anna Chaplain, has contributed some photos of delightful roses in her garden.

We also trust that you will enjoy the images of birds and flowers which are part of the puzzles for this month and have fun with some of the activities which remind us of the incredible detail of God's creation. And remember that our Creator God loves every part of His creation, including each one of us, and that you are tenderly loved by Him.

With love and blessings from Cynthia and your Caraway friends

How great Thou art

O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
Consider all the works Thy hand hath made.
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,
Thy power throughout the universe displayed.

*Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to Thee,
How great Thou art, how great Thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to Thee,
How great Thou art, how great Thou art!*

When through the woods and forest glades I wander
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
And hear the brook and feel the breeze.
Then sings my soul

And when I think that God His Son not sparing,
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in:
That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing
He bled and died to take away my sin!
Then sings my soul,

When Christ shall come, with shout of acclamation
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then shall I bow in humble adoration
And there proclaim, my God, how great Thou art.
Then sings my soul,

Carl Boberg, translated from the Swedish by Stuart K Hine
1949 and 1953 Stuart Hine Trust CIO

WORSHIP



*"Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise.
His greatness no one can fathom." Psalm 145:3*

*Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to Thee:
How great Thou art! How great Thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to Thee:
How great Thou art! How great Thou art!*

Prayer



We praise You Lord for You are a great God.
You are the God of gods and the Lord of lords.
You created the heavens and the earth.

You made humankind in Your own image and yet in Your greatness You value and love each one of us and are mindful of all that is going on in our lives today. So we praise and worship You, the one true God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

The hymn we are looking at this month is all about God's greatness and has an interesting history. It is a hymn that has travelled through various countries and been translated and adapted and added to by other hymn writers.

The story of verses 1 & 2

The poem was first written in Sweden in 1885 by Carl Boberg, a member of the Swedish Parliament. One day he was walking home through the countryside from church near Kronobäck, in Sweden, and listening to bird song and church bells. A sudden heavy storm blew up with thunder and lightning and strong winds, and he had to shelter, but then the storm was over and the clear sky appeared with a beautiful rainbow.

That evening Boberg wrote his poem, which was later set to a Swedish folk tune. So 'O Store Gud,' (How Great Thou Art) came into being.

In 1907, Manfred von Glehn translated it into German. Five years later a Russian pastor, Ivan Prokhanoff, made a Russian adaptation of the song. In the early 1920s, the Rev. and Mrs. Stuart K. Hine left England and went to Poland as missionaries, where they learned the Russian version of Boberg's song, 'O Store Gud.' Hine then wrote what became the original English lyrics and made his own arrangement of the Swedish melody.

And so we have the words of the first two verses of this hymn we know so well.

1. *O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder.
Consider all the works Thy hands hath made.
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
Thy power throughout the universe displayed:*



2. *When through the woods and forest glades I wander
and hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees.
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur,
and hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze:*



Reflection

In His sermon on the mount Jesus says, "Consider the birds of the air and the lilies of the valley." This springtime let us take time to consider God's amazing creation and handiwork as we see the daffodils blooming and watch the trees blossom and birds flying around, and as we observe the clouds and stars. Yes, all things, both cosmic and tiny, created and cared for by God.

The story of verse 3

One day the Hines arrived in a village and approaching the house of a known Christian, Dmitri, they heard a strange and wonderful sound: Dmitri's wife was reading from the gospel of John about the crucifixion of Christ to a houseful of guests. The Hines heard people calling out to God, saying how unbelievable it was that Christ would die for their sins, and praising Him for His love and mercy. They didn't barge in but stayed outside and listened as the folk inside repented before God.

This act of repentance and God's mercy inspired Stuart Hine to write the third verse –

3. *And when I think that God, His Son not sparing
sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in;
that on the cross, my burdens gladly bearing,
He bled and died to take away my sin:*



Reflection



Let us pause quietly to consider God's mercy and His amazing offer of forgiveness available to us today, using the words of Psalm 51:10-12 as a prayer of confession:

Create in me a clean heart, O God
and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

Do not cast me from Your presence
or take Your Holy Spirit from me.

Restore to me the joy of Your salvation
and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.

The story of verse 4

The final verse was added by Stuart in 1948 in the aftermath of the second world war; he was visiting displaced Russian soldiers in a camp in Britain,

When one of the few Christians he met talked about the second coming of Christ and how, although he realised he might not see his wife again down here, they would meet in heaven and worship Christ together. This prompted Stuart to write the fourth verse of the hymn.

4. *When Christ shall come with shouts of acclamation
to take me home, what joy will fill my heart!
Then I will bow in humble adoration,
and there proclaim, my God, how great Thou art!*



Reflection

As Christians we have a sure and confident hope that, when this life is over we shall be with Christ and share in His new kingdom, when He returns in glory one day. Do you have that hope, are you sure of your eternal future? If not, ask one of the Caraway team.

We have looked at this lovely hymn and how it came into being, we have reflected on its meaning for us, so what should our response be? Well, it is in the chorus, we are called to honour and worship our Saviour God!

*Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to Thee:
How great Thou art! How great Thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to Thee:
How great Thou art! How great Thou art!*

Take a moment to ponder on the greatness of God in creation. His amazing love in salvation and the wonderful hope of eternal life.

A prayer of thanksgiving



Thank You God our Father for all You have done for me.
Thank You for my home, my family and friends, and for the joy of Your creation. Thank You for freedom to worship You and forgiveness of my sins and for the assurance of life in God's new world to come.
May I honour and worship You with all my heart, mind and soul.

Carl Boberg

Have you found the story behind this month's hymn fascinating? I did, and have discovered a little more about the two hymn writers involved.

Born in the coastal town of Mönsterås, Sweden, in 1859, Carl Boberg was the son of Nils Petter Jonsson, a carpenter. Converted in his teenage years at the time of spiritual revival in the area, he became a sailor for a short time. Perhaps it was while at sea, that Boberg looked up at the dark night sky and wondered how the countless billions of stars had been created?



After this, Boberg returned to his hometown, where he attended a Bible school and eventually became a lay preacher, as well as editor of a free church magazine Sanningsvitnet (meaning Witness of the Truth), from 1889-1916. As this magazine had its own printing house, Boberg was able to use it to publish his own books and poetry, buying the business in 1894. He was a preacher at Flora Church between 1890 and 1892 and then Immanuel Church, from 1892-1909, both in Stockholm.

Alongside his role as pastor, Boberg was not only a member of the Swedish Parliament but also a government official. Indeed, he was so well thought of, that he was awarded a Knight of the Order of Vasa in 1917 and Order of the Polar Star in 1923. He died, aged 80, in 1940, having published over 60 hymns.

As Frances has recounted in the Worship, on his way home to Mönsterås, on Sweden's south-eastern coast, the might of a terrific thunder storm changed the peaceful day into a display of nature's might. Boberg was filled with awe at God's power. When the storm began to die down, Boberg ran home. He opened his windows to let in the fresh air from the bay, and what he saw,

stirred his heart deeply. The sky had cleared, thrushes were singing and in the distance he could make out the tolling of church bells. The sun broke through the clouds and Boberg was so struck by the beauty of the rainbow, that he was moved to write nine verses in praise of creation, which were set to music in 1891. This poem was included in Swedish hymn books, translated into many other languages and sung for about 25 years.

Stuart K Hine was a British Methodist missionary born in 1899. As an evangelist in the Ukraine, he had first heard the hymn sung in Russian in the 1930s. Indeed, Hine was so impressed by the beauty of the Carpathian mountains on the border of Russia and Rumania, that he added new verses and particularly

*When through the woods and forest glades I wander
And hear the birds sing sweetly I the trees
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
And hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze.*



With famine in Eastern Europe and World War 2, Hine brought his family to England, where they settled in Somerset serving as missionaries to Polish refugees. The plight and faith of some of these displaced people, prompted Hine to add a fourth verse. His theme the promise of a home in heaven achieved through the cross:

*When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
And take me home – what joy shall fill my heart
Then shall I bow in humble adoration
And there proclaim, ‘My God how great Thou art!’*



The final version of *How Great Thou Art* in English was published in 1949. Set to the original Swedish folk tune, it quickly became well known and loved in evangelical circles, spreading across Britain, Africa, India, and America and being sung at Billy Graham Crusades in the 1950s and 60s.

My Garden of Prayer

My garden beautifies my yard
and adds fragrance to the air.....

But it is also my cathedral
and my quiet place of prayer

So little do we realise
that ‘The Glory and The Power’
of He who made the universe
lies hidden in a flower

Helen Steiner Rice

My Favourite Roses

Here are some of the roses from our garden *Margaret*



“Margaret Merrill”
- given to me by a friend on a very
special birthday!

“Mum in a Million”
- a Mother’s Day gift from one of our daughters.
It has the most heavenly fragrance



“Compassion” -
a thank you gift from a neighbour

Rosa “Salvation” - named after the Salvation
Army - given to my Dad (a lifelong member)
on one of his last birthdays.



“Crimson Glory” - an old fashioned rose with
glorious scent. As it was my parents’
favourite, it reminds me of them.

My Favourite Hymn



Like many other people, my favourite hymn has always been 'Dear Lord and Father of Mankind', sung to the Parry tune 'Repton'.

When my husband and I were married in a big Methodist Church in Luton, by the future President of the Methodist Conference, Reverend William Gowland, in 1955, there was no aisle to walk down and my father and I entered the Church from the front, behind the altar and so I was facing the congregation.

As the opening bars of my favourite hymn struck up on the organ, I could see people laughing, as they joined in the singing. 'Dear Lord and Father of Mankind, forgive our foolish ways' was perhaps not an appropriate hymn for the beginning of a marriage.

Oh dear! It took me a long time to live that one down! Fortunately, my plea did not come true and we lived very happily until John died in 1990.

Gillian Gain

Dear Lord and Father of Mankind
forgive our foolish ways,
re-clothe us in our rightful mind,
in purer lives Thy service find,
in deeper reverence praise.

Have you enjoyed listening to the majestic music of many oratorios? Here Ann has found out more about Joseph Haydn's Creation.



Everything you wanted to know about Haydn's Creation but were afraid to ask

1. Joseph Haydn came from Vienna to London in 1791, at the age of 58. He was fascinated by all things British from warships to cockney slang.
2. He was amazed by the strong choral tradition that he found, particularly performances of Handel's Israel in Egypt, and Messiah sung by a chorus of over 1000 at Westminster Abbey.
3. He developed an ambition to create an equally powerful oratorio of his own. As he left for home in 1795 he was given an English libretto based on Milton's Paradise Lost, in which three angels – Gabriel, Uriel and Raphael with Adam and Eve, recount the story of creation from Genesis.
4. The work was completed in 1797 with the title The Creation and it was to become almost as popular as Messiah in both English and German versions. He believed that the greatest impact came from hearing the work in the language of the audience.
5. It begins with a quiet overture representing the state of Chaos, which is defeated by a tremendous burst of sound in C Major as God creates Light.
6. The oratorio is built round stirring choruses, one of the best known being 'The Heavens are telling the glory of God' taken from Psalm 19.
7. Choruses are interspersed with recitative and arias of both beauty and comedy as the animals make their presence heard.
8. Not content with writing about the stars, Haydn made a study of astronomy, with instruction from astronomer William Herschel, and a powerful modern telescope.
9. Haydn believed he had been inspired by God, writing that he was never so devout as when he was working on this oratorio, but the music is as full of joy as devotion.
10. At his final performance in 1808 the appreciative audience, which included a young Beethoven, applauded loudly but Haydn stood up and said 'Not from me, it all comes from above'.

Do you like a good story? I recently came across this book: 'Sagas, Finding faith after fifty.' Here is part of Brenda's story.....

The Search

Used with permission and taken from D.J. Carswell, Sagas (10Publishing, 2012)

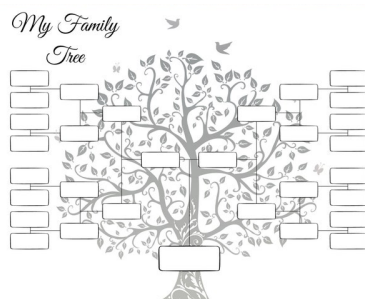
Brenda is a searcher. She loves to find out about all sorts of things. When she embarked on tracing the generations of her family, she never dreamed just how far she would go back.

In her seventies, Brenda's search had taken her to the staggering early date of AD 870. ...

There are also descendants recorded in the Domesday Book. ... A connection with Royalty was discovered when, in later years, a woman called Sophia, who originally came from

Suffolk, ended up in London. Desperately looking for work, she was granted a position as kitchen maid in Buckingham Palace....

Brenda was delighted to read of her great grandmother, Sophia.... Brenda's search for information entered a new phase, with her own memories filling in gaps in her family tree. She remembers quite clearly living partly in Yorkshire and later in Northumberland in a little two bedroom stone cottage. ...



'There was a large kitchen-cum-living room but no scullery or washing facilities – only a pantry. The lavatory was outside... Everything was so muddy. The young and old women would hang out their washing on lines across the street. In those days, all the groceries were delivered by horse and cart, so the women had to dash out and hoist up the washing lines with wooden props so that the delivery man could get through....

My dad died when I was only eleven. He contracted silicosis, the miner's disease affecting the lungs, through working at the stone colliery. ...'

Eventually the pit was closed, followed by the demolition of the stone houses. Families were rehoused and Brenda found herself living at Newbiggin by the Sea. She met a man whom she married and gave birth to three children. This man filled her life with abuse and fear for the next nineteen years until she ran away. ... Brenda took up nursing, and met her second husband, with whom she had a daughter....

Although she was more settled, Brenda was still, in her heart, searching for something. ...It was her daughter, who was instrumental in leading her to a place where her long search ended, and, as well as finding answers to her questions, she made the biggest discovery of her life.



It was Christmas 2008 when Sharon invited Brenda along to a special candlelit service. ... Right from the start, Brenda knew she had come 'home'. After the service, there was an invitation for people who wanted to know more about becoming a Christian to go along to a 'Just Looking' group. Brenda joined with anticipation. Her search was nearly over.

'There were all the answers that I had looked for. The puzzle was complete. What I discovered was so simple. Jesus wanted me to come to Him, confess my sins, and let Him into my life. Why did it take me so long?'

Religion had not been the answer, but rather a relationship with Jesus Christ... Brenda's husband had never read the Bible. She, on the other hand, was rapidly devouring it ... they started going along to church together, and slowly things began to change in his life and heart too....

Another Christmas drew near with all the hectic preparations, presents and partying. Brenda and her husband managed to find time to go along to church on Christmas Day, where he received the greatest gift of all. Many shed a tear, as this father and husband trusted Christ as his Lord and Saviour at that service.

GOD'S WONDERFUL CREATION

Did you know?

1. An average cup (250ml) would have at least 2 million grains of sand. On the basis of that calculation, a cubic metre of sand would have no less than 8 thousand million particles. Think how many grains of sand there are on a beach?
2. There are approximately 200 billion trillion stars in the universe.
3. There are over 700 quintillion planets in the universe.
4. There are more than 60,000 tree species worldwide.
5. 100,000 hairs: you have more than 100,000 hairs on your head, but you lose some every day. About 50 to 100 hairs fall out each day while you're washing your hair, brushing or combing it, or just sitting still. Isn't it amazing that God knows how many hairs are on your head at this very moment and that He is constantly recalculating the number!
"And the very hairs on your head are all numbered. So don't be afraid; you are more valuable to God than a whole flock of sparrows." Luke chapter 12 verse 7 NLT
6. Human hair can be found in five different colours: black, brown, blond, white/gray and red.



7. Your fingerprints are unique. That means that no one else in the world has the exact same set of ridges and lines that you have on your fingers.
8. There are 11,400 known grasses.
9. There are over 400,000 types of flowering plants.
10. There are over 150 species of roses and thousands of hybrids.
11. Scientists have estimated that there are around 8.7 million species of plants and animals in existence with only around 1.2 million species currently identified.

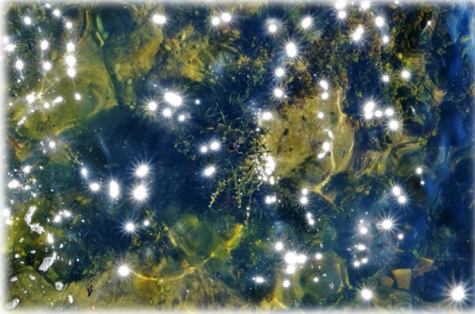


How many are your works, LORD! In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures. Psalm 104:24

Q what a variety of things you have made!

God's Creation

Barry Toward is a keen photographer who has captured many examples of God's wonderful creation across the world on his travels and here are just a few.



Reflections: the sun reflecting on the rippling water of Pittenweam harbour in Scotland, but to me it looked more like a galaxy of stars. *When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and stars which you have set in place..... Psalm 8:3*

Grand Canyon

*In His hand are the depths of the earth, and the mountain peaks belong to Him.
Psalm 95:4*



Applecross: the start of the Pass of Cattle in western Scotland, just after a rainstorm had passed.

I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth. Genesis 9:13



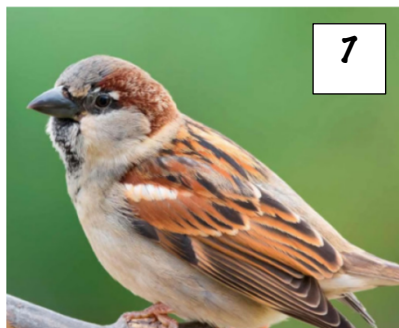
Finish the lines of these creation hymns

Draw a line to link the beginning and the end.

All things bright and beautiful		For the glory of the skies
All creatures of our God and King		The Almighty, the King of creation
God of the earth, the sky, the sea		Maker of all above, below!
We plough the fields and scatter		To Thee all praise & glory be
O Lord of heaven & earth & sea		Consider all the works thy hand has made
For the beauty of the earth		All creatures great & small
Praise to the Lord		The good seed on the land
O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder		Lift up your voice & with us sing

All things bright & beautiful	All creatures great and small
All creatures of our God & King	Lift up your voice & with us sing
Praise to the Lord	The Almighty, the King of creation
God of the earth, the sky the sea	Maker of all above, below
We plough the fields and scatter	the good seed on the land
O Lord of heaven & earth & sea	To thee all praise and glory be
O Lord my GOD when I in awesome wonder	consider all the works thy hand has made
For the beauty of the earth	For the glory of the skies

Guess the bird.....

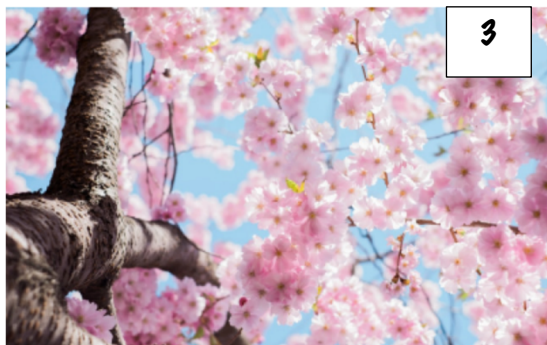
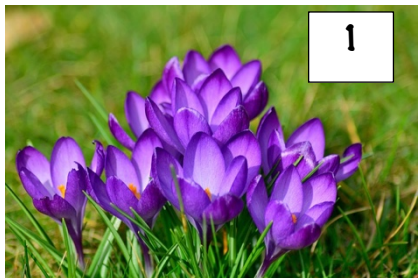




Spring is on its way!

Things to look out for this Spring, can you name them all?

?? ? ? ?
QUIZ
? ? ? ? ?



Word Search

TULIPS



N T D T U L I P A W W M P A
P N U Z G T H J J L N I A F
E R I R Z E U P G E G B R E
R E N H K F O L Z M O U R R
E F E U E E E P I T B L O T
N R T D H R Y A H P L B T I
N I H P U Z B E T Y E I R L
I G E O L C W A O H T F T I
A E R F P A H Z C X E E R Z
L R L F R I N G E E U R S E
E A A S I A B T H Q O O M R
P T N H R L U I U K B U J W
W E D X U A S O P Y O S S S
P C S B X A B S W I N T E R

Asia

Feather

Goblet

Perennial

Tulipa

Bouquet

Fertilizer

Herbaceous

Plant

Turkey

Bulb

Fringe

Netherlands

Refrigerate

Winter

Bulbiferous

Geophytes

Parrot

Tulip

FIND THE HIDDEN OBJECTS

Can you find all 10?





Word Search

COUNTRYSIDE



I	T	T	S	H	O	R	E	L	I	N	E	G	G
L	W	O	O	D	L	A	N	D	E	K	J	H	R
H	W	R	M	M	O	O	R	L	A	N	D	E	A
O	K	U	G	O	A	I	A	F	X	J	D	D	S
B	U	S	U	L	U	Q	B	M	F	I	S	G	S
P	Z	T	R	G	O	N	D	M	S	K	W	E	L
A	B	I	D	J	S	W	T	L	N	L	O	R	A
S	R	C	M	O	O	R	L	A	N	D	S	O	N
T	A	R	D	Q	O	I	B	A	I	Y	P	W	D
O	C	H	U	P	H	R	T	R	N	N	V	S	F
R	K	M	Y	R	E	W	S	P	Q	D	S	D	E
A	E	A	C	V	A	O	A	H	T	Y	S	U	L
L	N	H	I	G	H	L	A	N	D	S	E	D	L
B	A	R	N	R	F	E	N	L	A	N	D	K	S

Rural

Woodland

Fenland

Lowlands

Moorlands

Rustic

Grassland

Moorland

Bracken

Shoreline

Outdoors

Barn

Hillside

Mountains

Hedgerows

Pastoral

Tor

Highlands

Fells

Riverbanks

Guess the bird answers

1. Starling
2. Great Tit
3. Chaffinch
4. Gold Finch
5. Blue Tit
6. Wren
7. House Sparrow
8. Jay
9. Dunnock
10. Goldcrest
11. Greenfinch
12. Long Tailed Tit
13. Blackbird

Spring Quiz answers

1. Crocus
2. Tulips
3. Cherry Blossom
4. Daffodials
5. Bluebells
6. Bee
7. Butterfly
8. Ladybird
9. Chick
10. Deer

FIND THE HIDDEN OBJECTS

Can you find all 10?



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from The Bible Reading Fellowship

