

Tuesday, December 9, 2025

Joy F. Patterson, born in 1931 Lansing Michigan, began writing hymns in 1975; she served on the committee for The Presbyterian Hymnal; she has seven texts in that hymnal and six in Glory to God. The focus of the poem becomes clear in the rhyming scheme. Note, how the “near rhymes” of the first stanza (come/lamb, peace/sea) become precise rhymes in the second stanza (child/wild, destroy/joy). The poem thus takes us from a vague to a clear understanding of God’s reign of peace on earth. Think about how your images of God’s realm on earth has changed in your own heart and mind.

Isaiah the Prophet Has Written of Old.

1 Isaiah the prophet has written of old
how God's new creation shall come,
instead of the thorn tree, the fir tree shall grow;
the wolf shall lie down with the lamb.
The mountains and hills shall break forth into song,
the peoples be led forth in peace,
for the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of God
as the waters cover the seas.

2 Yet nations still prey on the meek of the world,
and conflict turns parent from child.
Your people despoil all the sweetness of earth;
the brier and the thorn tree grow wild.
God, bring to fruition your will for the earth,
that no one shall hurt or destroy,
that wisdom and justice shall reign in the land
and your people shall go forth in joy.

Think about how your images of God’s realm on earth has changed in your own heart and mind. How would you describe Isaiah’s vision of the Peaceable Kingdom today?

Heree two very different settings:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M-bOgu-CS0E>

<https://www.google.com/search?client=safari&rls=en&q=Videos+of+Isaiah+the+Prophet+Has+written+of+Old&ie=UTF-8&oe=UTF-8#fpstate=ive&vld=cid:13c6ebc2,vid:wgX4Qng6fhk,st:0>

Prayer: *Renew your vision on our hearts and minds, that we will see your design, call out our failures, and seek to live your peace. Amen.*