

## GOD IN OUR GARDEN



Our garden is in south-east Queensland.  
The two photos show the garden when we purchased here and  
a decade later.



As we spend time working or relaxing in the garden,  
we are aware of the Creator and His Creation.

We are also reminded of the gardens that were special locations for  
God's people, in both the Old and the New Testaments.

First there was the garden of Eden.

We see this place of plenty again in Revelation.

In between there is Gethsemane and  
also the garden with a new sepulchre.

The passing seasons of spring, summer, autumn and winter  
remind us of the rhythms of creation and especially of the Creator.

The gardens mentioned in the Bible remind us of  
what this same Creator has done for us  
as these gardens are special places for God's people.

We are constantly reminded of the Creator as we become involved  
with His creation.

We hope you enjoy some of the insights that come from our garden  
as we experience its beauty, peace and bounty.

'One is nearer God's heart in a garden,  
than anywhere else on the Earth'.

*Colleen and Geoff Keena*

Queensland  
AUSTRALIA.

[www.webhymns.net](http://www.webhymns.net)

## THE NEED FOR DEEP ROOTS

*Colossians 2:7 'rooted and built up in Him' (KJV).*



I was trying to think of hardy plants at this start to the new year when in our sub-tropical conditions, plants face heat and drought or excessive rain and humidity. I remembered that we had recently bought and planted out seedlings of Rosa vinca. The plain white and a mauve are already growing around the yard with no pampering but I wanted some different colours for flowers at church. We are treating the seedlings as a crop since they will be watered and fertilised to produce flowers for cutting. That doesn't happen to any other flowers in our acre of garden so it will be interesting to see how the Rosa vinca grow with this preferential treatment. It is dry again and they were drooping yesterday and needed watering. We have some plants that are considered 'indicator' plants. They are planted deliberately in beds of flowers grown for cutting. When these particular plants droop, we know it won't be long before the other plants would benefit from watering. Rosa vinca plants usually tolerate periods of dry conditions but being newly planted, our new ones are not yet hardy enough to survive without assistance as their roots have not yet reached out far into the surrounding soil.

Considering the need for plants to be strong enough or mature enough to tolerate tough conditions makes me think of the verse in Colossians 2:7 that tells us we need to be 'rooted and built up in Him'. I think this verse makes a wonderful start to a new year.

**Colossians 2:7 King James Version (KJV) Public Domain**  
<sup>7</sup>**Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving.**

## I COME TO THE GARDEN ALONE

Charles Austin Miles, 1912

PUBLIC DOMAIN at time of recording

To hear this hymn, copy and paste the following

<http://www.webhymns.net/viewsong.php?id=48>

and then click on [ICometotheGarden.mp3](#)

1. I come to the garden alone  
While the dew is still on the roses  
And the voice I hear falling on my ear  
The Son of God discloses.

***Refrain: 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.***

2. He speaks and the sound of His voice,  
Is so sweet the birds hush their singing,  
And the melody that He gave to me  
Within my heart is ringing. *Refrain*

3. I'd stay in the garden with Him  
Though the night around me be falling,  
But He bids me go; through the voice of woe  
His voice to me is calling. *Refrain*



## MAKING A 'JOYFUL' NOISE and GIVING THANKS



Hearing the 'singing' of frogs after rain reminds me of the verses in Psalms that tell us to make a 'joyful' noise to the Lord. My dad used to say that had the Psalms said: make a 'tuneful' noise, he would have been excluded. I think it is comforting to know that we are to make an effort to praise the Lord, no matter our skill level and not wait until we can reach our idea of perfection. I personally find it hard to make a 'joyful' noise, irrespective of circumstances and thought that it is worth considering the various passages from Psalms that tell us that this is what we should do. These are shown below.

However, the concept of a 'joyful' noise is taken even further in the New Testament. We are reminded in Ephesians 5:20 to be "**Giving thanks** always for **all things unto God** and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ" (KJ V). This means both making a 'joyful noise' and 'giving thanks for all things'. What a great way this is to start the beginning of the year.

Seven references about making a joyful noise can be found in Psalms. These references make it clear that making a joyful noise isn't an 'optional extra', but something we are asked to do.

1. **Psalm 66:1** Make a **joyful noise** unto God, all ye lands:
2. **Psalm 81:1** Sing aloud unto God our strength: make a **joyful noise** unto the God of Jacob.
3. **Psalm 95:1** O come, let us sing unto the LORD: let us make a **joyful noise** to the rock of our salvation.

4. **Psalm 95:2** Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving, and make a **joyful noise** unto him with psalms.
5. **Psalm 98:4** Make a **joyful noise** unto the LORD, all the earth: make a loud noise, and rejoice, and sing praise.
6. **Psalm 98:6** With trumpets and sound of cornet make a **joyful noise** before the LORD, the King.
7. **Psalm 100:1** Make a **joyful noise** unto the LORD, all ye lands

### NOW THANK WE ALL OUR GOD

Martin Rinkart, c.1636; Tr. German to English by Catherine Winkworth, 1856  
PUBLIC DOMAIN at time of recording.

To hear this hymn, copy and paste the following  
<http://www.webhymns.net/viewsong.php?id=25>  
and then click on [Now Thank We All Our God.mp3](#)

1. Now thank we all our God,  
with heart and hands and voices,  
Who wondrous things has done,  
in Whom this world rejoices;  
Who from our mothers' arms  
hath blessed us on our way  
With countless gifts of love,  
and still is ours today.
3. All praise and thanks to God  
the Father now be given;  
The Son and Holy Ghost,  
one Lord in highest Heaven;  
The one eternal God,  
whom earth and Heaven adore;  
For thus it was, is now,  
and shall be evermore.



## THE LILIES OF THE FIELD

Luke 12:27 Consider the lilies how they grow. (KJV)



The image for today is of *Zephyranthes*, or Rain Lilies. These flower prolifically after rain and hillsides can be a mass of colour after rain.

This lily brings to mind Christ's reference to the lilies of the field. We are invited in Luke 12:26-28 to ponder how much God cares for the lowly flowers of the field.

If He takes care of them, we can certainly trust that He'll care even more for us. This seems to me to be a great start to the New Year, knowing that our heavenly Father will be there for us and with us throughout the coming year.

**Luke 12:26-28 King James Version (KJV) PUBLIC DOMAIN**

**<sup>26</sup>If ye then be not able to do that thing which is least, why take ye thought for the rest?**

**<sup>27</sup>Consider the lilies how they grow: they toil not, they spin not; and yet I say unto you, that Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.**

**<sup>28</sup>If then God so clothe the grass, which is to day in the field, and to morrow is cast into the oven; how much more will he clothe you, O ye of little faith?**

## I NEED THEE EVERY HOUR

Annie S. Hawks, 1872

PUBLIC DOMAIN at time of recording

To hear this hymn, copy and paste the following <http://www.webhymns.net/viewsong.php?id=12> and then click on I Need Thee Every Hour.mp3

1. I need Thee every hour, most gracious Lord;  
No tender voice like Thine can peace afford.

***Refrain: I need Thee, O I need Thee;  
Every hour I need Thee, O bless me  
Now, my Saviour I come to Thee.***

2. I need Thee every hour, stay Thou nearby;  
Temptations lose their power when Thou art nigh. ***Refrain***

3. I need Thee every hour, in joy or pain;  
Come quickly and abide, For life is in vain. ***Refrain***

4. I need Thee every hour; teach me Thy will;  
And Thy rich promises in me fulfill. ***Refrain***

5. I need Thee every hour, most Holy One;  
O make me Thine indeed, Thou blessèd Son. ***Refrain***



## WATER IN THE BIBLE



A few weeks ago I was writing about drought and now we have had over 7" of rain. The dam is full, the tanks are overflowing and everything in the garden is a bright green. The surrounding paddocks are no longer brown as shown in the above photo, but all now look like a rich green carpet. Both photos were taken from the same position and show what a difference water makes in the landscape.

Thinking of the difference rain brings highlights the difference that Christ, the Living Water (John 4:10), brings when we accept his offer of 'living water'. John 4:10 makes it clear that to access this living water we only have to ask. In John 7: 37, Jesus promises that living water to all who sincerely ask for it. The image of refreshing water is used throughout the Bible to describe the renewal that Jesus offers those who open their hearts to Him. This invitation is extended to any who are thirsty to come to Jesus to find spiritual renewal through him.

### **John 4:10 King James Version (KJV)**

<sup>10</sup>**Jesus answered and said unto her, If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water.**

### **John 7: 37 King James Version (KJV)**

<sup>37</sup>**In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink.**

## YEARS I SPENT/AT CALVARY

*Text: [William R. Newell](#), 1895*

PUBLIC DOMAIN at time of recording.

To hear this hymn, copy and paste the following  
<http://www.webhymns.net/viewson.php?id=10>  
and then click on [Years I Spent In Vanity And Pride.mp3](#)

1. Years I spent in vanity and pride,  
Caring not my Lord was crucified,  
Knowing not it was for me he died on Calvary.

***Refrain: Mercy there was great,  
and grace was free;  
Pardon there was multiplied to me  
There my burdened soul found liberty, at Calvary.***

2. By God's Word at last my sin I learned;  
Then I trembled at the law I'd spurned,  
Till my guilty soul imploring turned to Calvary. *Refrain*

3. Now I've given to Jesus everything,  
Now I gladly own Him as my King,  
Now my raptured soul can only sing of Calvary! *Refrain*

4. Oh, the love that drew salvation's plan!  
Oh, the grace that brought it down to man!  
Oh, the mighty gulf that God did span at Calvary! *Refrain*

