HYMNS

FOR THE

NATIONAL FAST,

Feb. 8, 1782.

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HYMN I.

1 LET every prophet cry aloud,
   Lift up the voice, the trumpet blow,
Shew their transgression to the crowd,
   The nation's sin to Britons show,
That sin which marks the worst of times,
   Which Heaven with most displeasure sees,
Which fills the measure of our crimes,
   Profane, extreme UNGODLINESS!

2 Thro' every rank and order spread:
   The poor and rich, the low and high,
Alike disdain their God to dread,
   And Him throughout their lives deny:
His laws, thro' ignorance of Him,
   His Providence they dare disown,
Neglect, despise, insult, blaspheme,
   And all defy the God unknown.

A 2 3 Their
Their Oaths have caus’d the land to mourn,
   The land to its foundations shook,
And still the prosligates foresworn
   Are blind to the impending stroke:
His outstretched Arm they will not see,
   His thunder’s voice they will not hear,
But mock at their calamity,
   And triumph in destruction near.

God is not in their thoughts, or ways;
   As Atheists in the world they live,
A curfing, curst, abandon’d race,
   To Satan’s will themselves they give,
Daily devote themselves to hell;
   And when they in their sins expire,
Convinc’d, alas, too late, they feel
   The real, true, eternal fire.

The pit of bottomless despair
   Hath oped its mouth to take them in:
Yet still our nation doth not bear
   The utmost penalty of sin:
Some unknown Friend before the throne
   To God the just for mercy prays,
And will not let his wrath alone;
   To swallow up our impious race.

A few at this tremendous hour,
   Whose faithful prayer doth heaven assail,
One with their Head, exert their power,
   And wrestling on with God prevail:
Their prayer a longer space supplies,
   Their prayer hath power with God, we know,
Who are not lifting up our eyes
   With fiends and infidels below.

God of all grace and patience, hear.
   The prayer presented thro’ thy Son,
Who doth our Advocate appear,
   Who made our every sin his own:

Justice
Justice and us He stands between;
His blood hath quench'd the wrath of Heaven,
His blood—which cleanses from all sin,
And speaks a guilty world forgiven.

H Y M N II.

1 GOD of tremendous power,
   Our evils we confess,
   And prostrate in the dust, adore
   Thy sov'reign Righteousness,
   Which cuts our Israel short,
   Which lays our Nation low,
   And gives us up the scorn and sport
   Of every taunting foe.

2 Stricken so oft, we mourn,
   But fear to ask thy aid,
   By vile, intestine vipers torn,
   By faithless friends betray'd,
   By factions fierce and bold,
   Rebellion's sworn allies,
   Traitors, who have their Country sold,
   And on its ruins rise.

3 'Gainst our Anointed Lord
   The Parricides conspire,
   With lies and calumnies abhor'd
   Th' unthinking people fire,
   From all restraint set free,
   Fit instruments of ill,
   And mad with rage of liberty
   To do whate'er they will.

4 Of sense Thou dost bereave
   The slaves of every vice,
   And to our own confusions leave,
   And sin by sin chastise;
   A 3
   While
While from one wickedness
We to another fall,
Till the dark, bottomless abyss
Yawns, and receives us all.

Alas, what shall we do,
T' escape our instant doom?
If Thou art just, if Thou art true,
The threatened curse must come;
On such a land as this
Thy soul must vengeance take,
Nor can thy plagues and judgments cease,
Till we our fins forswear.

O were the work begun,
O were our hearts inclin'd
The dire Destroyer's paths to shun,
The way of peace to find!
Casting our sins away,
Might all our nation grieve,
To-day, while it is call'd to-day,
Return, repent, and live!

Father, if still we have
An Advocate with Thee,
Who can ev'n to the utmost save
From sin and misery,
Let Justice strike, or spare,
We leave it to thy Son,
And only offer up his prayer,
Father, thy will be done!

HYMN III.

THOU awful God of righteousness,
Whose heavy chastisements we bear,
We mournfully our sins confess,
Which would not suffer thee to spare,
But urg'd the lingering ruin on,
And forc'd thy heaviest judgments down.

2 Year
Year after year, thy patient grace
Hath waited our return to Thee,
With mercies bless'd a thankless race,
With wide-extended victory,
And forc'd the nations to submit,
And bruised our foes beneath our feet.

But drunk with insolence of power,
And surfeited with every good,
We thought not in our prosperous hour,
How soon thou couldst abase the proud.
The victors crush, the vanquish'd raise,
And crown our enemies with success.

Therefore a sad reverse we find,
So suddenly of late brought low,
Scourged by the basest of mankind,
Who aimed by one destructive blow
Our plunder'd Cities to consume,
And seal a sinful nation's doom.

Therefore the sword abroad bereaves,
And thousands and ten thousands fall;
America the yoke receives
Of Rebels, and perfidious Gaul;
We weep our friends in pieces torn,
And the dismember'd Empire mourn.

Thou haft an evil spirit sent,
Brethren from brethren to divide,
Our land is into parties rent,
And discord storms on every side,
And Britain's sons, her curse and shame,
Throw oil on the outrageous flame.

Britain Thou haft to Traitors fold,
To Faction's and Rebellion's friends,
Who having quench'd their thirst of gold,
And serv'd their own flagitious ends,
For shelter to a Party fly,
And laws, and King, and God defy.
8 Wild, independent anarchy,
Sad preface of a nation's fall,
And every order and degree
Corrupt, profane, for vengeance call,
The noble and ignoble crowd,
Whose lives declare There is no God.

9 Yet haft thou, Lord, a remnant still,
Who for their guilty brethren plead,
And wait the counsels of thy will,
Th' event by sov'reign love decreed,
Whether thou wilt no longer spare,
Or give us to thy people's prayer.

10 Father of everlasting love,
In Jesu's Name and Spirit we cry,
Thy judgments with their cause remove,
Who wouldst not have one sinner die,
Millions in Christ accepted see,
And bid us live, restor'd, to Thee.

HYMN IV.

Habbakuk i.

1 HOW long, to Thee, O God, shall I
Of violence and oppression cry,
And Thou refuse to hear?
Fesh scenes of wickedness I see,
Of bloody strife and cruelty,
But no deliverance near.

2 Why dost thou to thy servants show
Spoiling, and waste, and grievous woe,
Which force me to complain:
Tyrants and demagogues arise,
Where'er I turn my blasted eyes,
And fill my heart with pain.

3 The
3 The silent laws have lost their force,
Where Rebels arm'd obstruct their course,
And grasp at sov'reign power,
Their law their own despotic will,
Their whole delight to slay and kill,
To murther and devour.

4 Suffer'd by Thee, their swift allies,
Whom treach'rous Babylon supplies,
To their assistance haste,
March thro' a land that is not theirs,
Impatient to demand their share,
And seize the whole at last.

5 As hungry wolves, they come from far,
With violent rage to rend, and tear
America opprest,
As eagles to the carcase fly,
And enemies and friends must die,
To furnish out the feast.

6 O Lord, my God, my holy One,
High on thine everlasting Throne,
Whom Britain's crimes offend,
Thou wilt not give our nation up
To the Destroyer's will, but hope
And peace is in our end.

7 More righteous than ourselves are they
Who scourge us in our evil day?
Or dost thou chuse the worst,
Thy wrath vindictive to reveal,
Thy lighter chastisements to deal,
And punish us the first?

8 Thy purer eyes abhor to see,
Or look upon iniquity,
Nor wilt Thou always hear
With treach'rous and blood thirsty men,
Who have their juster brethren slain,
And all thy judgments dare.
9 Fishers of men, by Satan sent,
They hunt them thro' the continent,
And catch them in their toils,
As reptiles vile they tread them down,
And then proclaim their own renown,
And glory in their wiles.

10 But soon their evil day shall come,
And Thou, the righteous God, consume
The weapons of thine ire:
Yet merciful when once severe,
O let them have their chaft'ning here,
And 'scape th' eternal fire!

H Y M N V.

1 HAPPY, for ever happy they,
Taken from the evil day,
Who will not live to see
Their Country wasted and o'erthrown,
Or swell the sympathizing groan
At Britain's misery.

2 The great vindictive Day's begun,
God's destructive work we own,
Which general horror spreads;
His thunders roar, his lightnings shine,
And vials big with wrath divine
Are bursting on our heads.

3 But while the showers of vengeance come,
May not prayer prevent our doom,
And save us from the fire?
Have we no part in Abraham's God?
Or is it not in Jesus's blood
To quench thy flaming ire?

4 With the flagitious multitude
Wilt Thou slay the just and good,
In whom Thou dost delight,
The men who tremble at thy word?
Or shall not the great Judge and Lord
Of all the earth do right?

Wouldst Thou for Fifty righteous men,
Wouldst Thou for the sake of Ten
Have spar’d the wicked place?
And wilt Thou not Ten thousand hear,
Who ceaseless advocates appear
For our abandon’d Race?

Ten thousand now unite their cries
Mingled with that Sacrifice
Which did for all atone;
Thy church, in one request agreed,
For mercy ask, and only plead
The Death of Abraham’s Son.

The Son of Abraham, and thine,
Just with righteousness divine,
Doth in his members pray:
Our powerful Advocate and Head,
He ever lives to intercede,
And turn thy wrath away.

Thou always hear’st thy favourite Son:
Make in Him thy mercy known,
That all again may see
Britannia pluck’d out of the flame,
And glorify our Saviour’s Name,
For ever One with Thee.

HYMN VI.

Mal. iv. 1.

Lord of hosts, to whom are known
Thy works of judgment and of grace,
If thy great day is now begun,
And doth as a fierce furnace blaze,
The sons of pride shall be cast in,
And all the harden’d slaves of sin.
2 Expos'd to thy vindictive ire
  The workers of iniquity,
As fewel for the quenchless fire,
  As stubble, all burnt up shall be,
(So doth thy righteous will ordain)
And neither root nor branch remain.

3 But we who truly fear thy name,
  And languish to attain thy love,
May we not now thy promise claim,
  The Light to bless us from above,
The Sun of Righteousness to rise,
The Glory both of earth and skies.

4 O Sun of Righteousness, appear,
  Appear with healing in thy wings,
With grace which doth the mourners cheer,
  Which pardon and salvation brings;
Which strong immortal health imparts,
And fills with love the fearful hearts.

5 Then shall we all go forth in peace,
  And up to full perfection grow,
And strong in finish'd holiness
Trample on our infernal foe,
Till call'd the Saviour's throne to share,
We mount, and reign for ever there!

HYMN VII.

1 RIGHTEOUS, O Lord, thy judgments are,
   Yet let us plead with Thee,
Thy mercies manifold declare,
   To stop thy stern decree;
Before the word bring forth the woe,
And thy uplifted hand
By sword and pestilence o'erthrow
Our execrated land.

2 If fully purpos'd to destroy
   Thou art in vengeance come,
Why dost Thou instruments employ
   To bring thy wand'ringers home?

Why
Why doth thy grace its work revive,  
Converting us from sin?  
And still we find thy Spirit strive  
Our worthless hearts to win.

3 Thy messengers run to and fro,  
Believers are increas’d,  
And thousands their Redeemer know,  
With life eternal bless’d;  
Lost sheep for half a century  
Have flock’d into thy fold;  
And more are daily call’d by Thee,  
And in thy book enroll’d.

4 But didst Thou, Lord, thy kingdom send,  
Thy kingdom to remove,  
To make of sinners a full end  
Excluded from thy love?  
Corrected, and chastis’d, we trust,  
Thou wilt not give us o’er,  
But spare the wicked for the Just,  
And curse our land no more.

5 Out of the deep thy call we wait  
To bid our Nation rise,  
Aspiring to our first estate,  
And by affliction wise;  
That following after righteousness,  
We may thy grace retrieve,  
Repent, believe, and go in peace,  
And for thy glory live.

6 For this ten thousand faithful souls  
Are weeping round thy throne,  
And while thy angry thunder rolls,  
They in thy Spirit groan:  
We join the heaven-invading cry,  
And mercy, mercy claim,  
O let thy bowels, Lord, reply:  
We ask in Jesu’s Name!

B HYMN
II Y M N VIII.

1 HOW happy, Lord, are we
   Who have a part in Thee!
Following after righteousness,
   Hidden in thine anger's day,
We enjoy an heart-felt peace,
   Peace which none can take away.

2 When plagues the land o'erflow,
   We share the common woe:
But our patriotic love
   Is not selfish, or confin'd,
But our yearning bowels move
   Tow'd the whole afflicted kind.

3 With every sufferer
   We drop the generous tear,
(Whom thy tendering Spirit leads)
Pity no distinction knows,
   Love for all the wounded bleeds,
Love embraces friends and foes.

4 Yet tho' for all we feel,
   Our souls are happy still:
Soft, compassionate distress
   On a wretched world bestow'd,
Cannot violate our peace,
   Cannot shake our trust in God.

5 With deepest sympathy,
   Saviour, we cry to Thee:
Listening to thy chosen Race,
   Come, thou universal Friend,
Shorten these vindictive days,
   Bring the joy which ne'er shall end.

6 Ev'n now with eagle's eye
   We see thee in the sky;

Soon
Soon with eagles’ wings we soar,
Our descending Lord to meet:
Then the cup of bliss runs o’er,
Then the rapture is compleat!

II Y M N IX.

1  
W
HO on the Lord most high
With humbly servent zeal,
With loving faith rely,
And in his presence dwell,
In dangers safe and undisinay’d,
We rest beneath th’ Almighty shade.

2  
The ill we cannot fear,
Which worldly souls alarms,
Or shrink appal’d to hear
Of nations up in arms,
Assur’d, if empires are o’erthrown,
The Lord is King, and reigns alone.

3  
His wife, permissive will
In all events we see,
Who orders good and ill
T’accomplish his decree;
Who kindly for his people cares,
And counts, and keeps their precious hairs.

4  
O that the world might feel
What none can comprehend,
The joy unspeakable,
The peace which ne’er shall end,
The happiness his people prove,
Who trust in their Redeemer’s love!

5  
Then would their vain concern
For earthly toys be o’er,
The nations then would learn
Pernicious war no more,

But
But bless the mild Immanuel's sway,
And count it heav'n on earth t' obey.

6 Come, O thou common Lord,
    Thou universal King,
In every soul restor'd
    Thy peaceful kingdom bring,
The forces of the sea receive,
And bid the heathen world believe.

7 Hasten the promis'd hour
    Of Monarchy divine,
And exercise thy power
    Thro' endless ages thine,
Again thine ancient Israel call,
And change their hearts, and save them all.

8 Not one of Adam's race
    Shall then unavailing be found,
But peace and righteousness
    Throughout the earth abound,
The thrones shall to thy saints be given,
And the New Earth be turn'd to heaven.

H Y M N X.

1 CAN the disciples of our Lord
With unconcern their Country see
Destroy'd by Parricides abhor'd,
    And not complain, O God, to Thee?
The little flock, the pious few,
    Whose number we aspire t' increase,
When sinners reign, what can we do,
    But pray against their wickedness?

2 Snatch'd from the flames by grace divine,
We see the dire assassin-band
Pursuing still their cursed design,
    To spread confusion through the land,
In league with our inveterate foe,
Indignant Britons to inthral,
And gainers by the public woe
To triumph in their Country’s fall.

The factious enemies to peace,
The friends of Gaul, and tools of hell,
They know, if wars and tumults cease,
They must their due demerits feel;
Their darkest works shall then appear,
If laws revive and order reign
And rulers, freed from servile fear,
No longer bear the sword in vain.

O might they, Lord, this moment rise,
With courage firm inspir’d by Thee,
Nor suffer Rebels to despise
Their mild, irresolute lenity!
Too mild, alas, for times like these,
Which sterner discipline require,
To stem the tide of wickedness,
And pluck us from th’ infernal fire.

Strengthen their hands, Almighty Lord,
Incline their hearts to seek thy face,
That truth and righteousness restor’d
May flourish as in ancient days,
That all the pardoning God may know,
Thy kingdom in their hearts receive,
And serve thy blessed will below,
And fav’d by grace for ever live!

H Y M N XI.

Part the First.

LORD of hosts, and God most high,
Canst Thou a nation bless,
Who thy Providence deny,
And rob thee of thy praise,
Of their fleets and armies boast;
For sure success and victory
In themselves entirely trust,
And never look to Thee?

2. Thee the Christian-Infidels
   From thy own world exclude,
   "Skill and stratagem prevails
   "And strength, and multitude:"
   They on these alone depend;
   And if Thou make thy mercy known,
If thine Arm deliverance send,
   They cry, "'Tis all their own!"

3. Fifty thousand Britons brave
   To the New World pass o'er,
   Never yet th' Atlantic wave
   So huge a burthen bore:
   Who the prowes can withstand
   Of fleets and hosts invincible?
   I.o! they fly, they reach the land,
   They see, and conquer all!

4. But if Thou in anger frown,
   No longer on their side,
   O how suddenly cast down,
   They suffer for their pride!
   Let but One* his trust betray,
   A sad reverse their Legions know,
   Yield—and waste—and sink away
   Before a conquer'd Foe!

5. Yet th' infatuated crowd
   Will not thy hand confess,
   When Thou dost abase the proud,
   And when the abject raise;
   When they pass beneath the yoke,
   Thy scourge the chance of war they call;
   In the instruments o'erlook
   The sovereign Cause of all.

*Sir W. H.
6 But the men who fear thy Name,
Thy power and wisdom own;
Now as yesterday the same,
Thou sittest on the throne:
Good, the creature of thy will,
Thou only dost to mortals send,
Only Thou permittest ill,
Which all in good shall end.

7 In this last tremendous blow
Thy righteousness we see,
Thousands taken by the foe,
Tho' flush'd with victory:
Scandal of the British name,
Their brethren they no more oppress:
Let their glory end in shame,
And let their Rapines cease.

8 Such their Country's Cause to fight,
Thou wilt not, Lord, employ,
Without human power or might
Who canst our foes destroy:
When the conquerors come, prepar'd
To execute their furious boasts,
Then thy mighty arm is bar'd,
And scatters all their hosts.

9 Vapours, fire, and hail, and snow
Are servants of our Lord,
Winds by thy direction blow,
And storms fulfil thy word;
Storms go forth at thy command,
And with resistless fury sweep,
Dash our foes against the flord,
Or plunge them in the deep.

10 This the Lord himself hath done,
Which, wondrous in our eyes,
Fills us, who thy love have known,
With rapturous surprise:
Jesus, at whose throne we bow,
In thee we full alliance have:
Surely Thou hast sav'd us now,
And shalt for ever fave!

† Lord C.
IIYMN XII.

Part the Second:

1 Foolish world, thy vain reply
   Is to the Faithful known,
   "If we must on God rely,
    "And God doth all alone,
   "Rust our arms, our useless bands
    "And navies be dispers'd abroad,
   "Let us idly fold our hands,
    "And leave it all to God."

2 God who doth appoint the end
   The proper means bestows,
   Wills us bravely to defend
   Our country from her foes:
   "Fight with Amalek," He cries,
   While Moses on the mountain prays,
   Brings assistance from the skies,
   And ascertains success.

3 Still the battle is the Lord's,
   Who doth the victory send:
   Bring forth all your spears and swords,
   Yet still on God depend:
   Courage, strength, and skill exert,
   Every nerve and sinew strain,
   Yet unless he takes your part
   Your utmost effort's vain.

4 Did we in our evil day
   Low at thy footstool mourn,
   Cast our daring fins away,
   And to our Smiter turn,
   Then Thou would'st for us appear,
   As a wall of brass surround,
   Put our vaunting foes in fear,
   And all their force confound.

5 Did we, Lord, in every step
   Look up to Thee for aid,
   Us thou would'st in safety keep
   Beneath th' almighty shade;

While
While our weapons we employ,
And in thine only Name confide,
None cou’d hurt us, or annoy,
With Jesus on our side.

6 Britain Thou again wouldst chuse,
   And call our nation thine,
Teach us means, as means to use,
   And answer thy Design,
Wouldst our sins, not us, destroy,
   Us out of the dunghill raise,
Turn our sorrow into joy,
   And nature into grace.

7 Rife, the Lord of armies, rise
   In thy appointed hour,
Scattering evil with thine eyes,
   And every adverse power:
Then let earth and hell engage,
   Lodg’d in thine arms to pluck us thence,
Raging against us, they rage
   Against Omnipotence.

8 Crush’d by thine almighty hand,
   Do Thou our foes suppress,
Then throughout the earth command
   Infernal wars to cease,
Bid the ransom’d World be still
   And know that Thou art God alone,
Seated on thy holy hill,
   On thy millennial Throne!

H Y M N X I I I .

1 J E S U S, thy flaming eyes
   Full on the wicked dart,
Who in Rebellion’s Cause arise,
   And take the murtherer’s part,
Their bloody path pursuè,
   A Congress from beneath,
A daring, dark, and desperate Crew,
   In league with Hell and Death.

2 Possèst
2 Possess of lawless power,
   Of absolute command,
The beasts with iron teeth devour
   A fad distraeted land:
  Traitors with Gaul combin'd
  Their cruel sway maintain,
The feum and refule of mankind
   As sovereign lords they reign.

3 Their heart, O Lord, thou know'st
   Elated with success,
Who triumph now, and make their boast
   Of prosperous wickedness,
  Who blasphemously claim
  Divine authority,
As acting treasons in thy name,
   And countenanc'd by Thee.

4 How long, O God, how long
   Wilt Thou their crimes pass by,
And suffer their oppressive wrong
   Who all thy plagues defy?
 Blast the aspiring Fiend,
 Avenge us of the foe,
Confound his sworn Allies, and end
   Their Empire at a blow.

5 So shall thy people sing
   The Power that lets us free,
The Arm that doth deliverance bring
   From hellish tyranny;
  The fame in heart and mind
 - With loyal Britons prove,
In strictest bonds fraternal join'd;
   In everlasting love.

6 Then, when the work is done
 Which fiends in vain withstand,
America and Britain, One
   In thy all-healing Hand,
The Lord's Redeem'd shall come,
 And crown'd with joy arise
To Sion's heights, their long-fought home,
 Their Country in the skies!

HYMN
COME, thou choicest gift of heaven,
Far from earth by sinners driven,
While we for thy absence mourn,
Lovely, lasting Peace return.

Forfeited by Britain’s sin,
Lost to us thou long hast been,
Us for our iniquity,
Punish’d with the want of Thee.

Never can we know thy way,
While we from our Maker stray:
But we now our sin deplore;
Come, and never leave us more.

Prince of Peace, and Israel’s King,
With Thyself the blessing bring:
Peace divine thy Spirit imparts;
Plant thy kingdom in our hearts.

Every stubborn spirit bow,
Turn us, Lord, and turn us now,
Thou who hear’st thy people’s prayer,
End this dire intestine war.

Sprinkling us with thy own blood,
Reconcile us first to God,
Then let all the British race
Kindly, cordially embrace.

Concord, on a distant shore,
To our Countrymen restore,
Every obstacle remove
Melt our hatred into love.

Gospel-grace to each extend,
Every foe, and every friend,
Then in Thee we sweetly find
Peace with God, and all mankind.
WITH tender affection inspir'd,
With pity for mountains of slain,
My soul is of murderers tir'd,
And bitterly forc'd to complain;
Heavy-laden, and weary of life,
Whose sorrows and troubles increase,
I pine for an end of the strife,
I sigh for the blessing of Peace.

O Peace, thou art banish'd and fled!
The cause of our evils I see:
By sin such a havock is made;
By sin we have forfeited Thee:
No peace for the wicked there is,
Unles we our wickedness mourn,
No good for a Nation like this,
Unles to our God we return.

O God, who art always the same,
Whole nature is still to forgive,
Permit us in Jesus's name
To cry for a farther reprieve:
Our sins let us fully confess,
Our sins let us deeply deplore;
And when from offending we cease,
Thou wilt to thy favor restore.

When once reconcil'd to our God,
We shall with each other agree,
Possess of the blessing bestowed,
And one with our Lord on the tree:
His blood the alliance hath seal'd,
The blessing his Spirit imparts,
And peace with its Author reveal'd
Eternally reigns in our hearts!