

Celebrating Lowell Mason

The Hymn Society's first effort to connect its aims with music widely known by congregations came in 1942 with the observance of the 150th anniversary of Lowell Mason's birth.

Collaborating with the Music Educators National Conference and the Federal Council of Churches, THS promoted commemoration of this leading figure in American church music and music education.

A free overview described resources.

OBSERVING

the 150th anniversary of the birth of

LOWELL MASON

Lowell Mason was born at Medfield, Massachusetts, January 8, 1792. The 150th anniversary of his birth is being celebrated among the churches and public schools of the country under the national leadership of The Hymn Society of America, the Music Educators National Conference, and the Commission on Worship of the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America.

Lowell Mason

Lowell Mason is one of the noteworthy figures in American life. Among educators, he is honored as the father of public school music; among the churches, as a pioneer in American hymnody. The use of his hymn tunes is a constant reminder of his wide influence in improving the musical standards of the churches. The present day system of music education in the public schools is a monument to his vision and ability.

The National Celebration

The National Celebration will take place on Thursday, January 8, 1942, under the auspices of the three organizations noted above. It will consist of three occasions. *The Service at the Grave* in Rosedale Cemetery, Orange, N. J. where Lowell Mason is buried. A bronze plaque will be dedicated commemorating his service to the public schools and the churches. This will be in the early afternoon; and will be followed by *The Memorial Service* at the Highland Avenue Congregational Church, Orange, N. J. Lowell Mason was a founder of this church, and a deacon, and precentor. The chimes in the church were dedicated in his honor. *The Lowell Mason Dinner* will be held in the evening at the Hotel Pennsylvania, New York City, with a program of music, drama, and addresses.

Everyone is cordially invited to these occasions. Detailed information regarding them may be obtained from The Hymn Society of America, 2268 Sedgwick Ave., New York, N. Y.

Local Observances

Plans are being laid for local observances throughout the nation. The particular day is optional. Thursday, January 8th, will coincide with the national celebration; but other days will be satisfactory. Church services are suggested for Sunday, January 11th; but may be held during that month or later. The celebration gives unusual opportunity for the churches and public schools to unite in a commemorative program. Local observances may be sponsored by the churches, the public schools, the chapters of the American Guild of Organists,

hymn societies, music teachers associations, and other groups interested in music and hymnody.

Printed Order of Service

A commemorative *Service of Divine Worship* has been prepared by Rev. William Chalmers Covert, D.D. of Philadelphia. This Service is simple, dignified and representative of the best of the well loved Mason tunes. Copies may be obtained from the Commission on Worship, 297 Fourth Ave., New York, N. Y. at \$1 per hundred postpaid.

Biographical and Resource Material

The Hymn Society of America has published for this occasion a brief biographical sketch of Lowell Mason by his grandson, Henry Lowell Mason. This contains within limited scope the results of years of intimate study of this great figure. It will be invaluable to those desiring a background for the celebration or material for commemorative addresses. Copies may be obtained for 15c each from the Hymn Society of America, 2268 Sedgwick Ave., New York, N. Y., or from the Commission on Worship, 297 Fourth Ave., New York, N. Y.

The Music Educators National Conference, 64 East Jackson Boulevard, Chicago, Ill., has available a song sheet prepared especially for the celebration of the anniversary in the public schools, which contains several songs written or arranged by Lowell Mason. Copies may be obtained from the Conference at 1c each in quantities of 25 or more, plus 10 per cent for postage and handling.

The *Music Educators Journal* published by the Conference has a series of articles on Lowell Mason. Copies of the Journal may be obtained for 25c each.

The current numbers of the religious press have information about the Lowell Mason observance.

The Radio Program

Arrangements are being made for broadcasting during the week of January 1-8 programs which will include Lowell Mason music. Communities planning celebrations will find them helpful as a build-up for their own observances.

The Spirit of the Observance

America has in Lowell Mason a figure of great significance. Millions of music lovers have been created by the training of the public schools and the hymnody of the Church. Both have been deeply influenced by Lowell Mason. This observance is a fitting tribute to a man whose devoted Christian faith issued in such an achievement. It is also an opportunity to renew in the mind of the American people an appreciation of the spiritual realities which find expression in our music and worship.

January 1942

Copies of this sheet and sample copies of the *Service of Divine Worship* may be obtained gratis by those interested in a Lowell Mason observance. Address the Commission on Worship, 297 Fourth Avenue, New York, N. Y.

Copies of a model service were available in multiples of 100 for a penny each.

A SERVICE OF DIVINE WORSHIP

Commemorating the 150th Anniversary of the Birth of

LOWELL MASON

prepared by

WILLIAM CHALMERS COVERT



Lowell Mason was born at Medfield, Massachusetts, January 8, 1792. The 150th anniversary of his birth gives occasion for the churches and public schools of the nation to honor his memory as a pioneer leader in hymnody and as the founder of American school music. His noble hymn tunes and the improved standards of choir and congregational singing for which his leadership was responsible have added richly to the worship life of the nation. This commemorative service is a timely tribute by a singing church to this devout musician.

THE HYMN SOCIETY OF AMERICA

COMMISSION ON WORSHIP
OF THE FEDERAL COUNCIL OF THE CHURCHES
OF CHRIST IN AMERICA

Let us now praise famous men . . . such as sought out musical tunes and set forth verses in writing. Peoples will declare their wisdom and the congregation telleth out their praise.

—Ecclesiasticus 44:1, 5, 15.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

THE ORGAN PRELUDE

THE PERSONAL MEDITATION AND PRAYER

O Lord God, who didst endue thy servant with singular gifts of thy Holy Spirit; leave us not, we beseech thee, destitute of thy manifold gifts nor yet of thy grace to use them always to thy honor and glory, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN "O day of rest and gladness" *Mendebras*

This is an arrangement of an Old German melody made by Lowell Mason for the well known hymn by Bishop Wordsworth, a nephew of the poet. It was first published in 1839 in *The Modern Psalmist*.

THE CALL TO PRAISE (*The congregation will remain standing*)

MINISTER Because thy loving kindness is better than life my lips shall praise thee;

PEOPLE So will I bless thee while I live; I will lift up my hands in thy name.

MINISTER Because thou hast been my help, therefore in the shadow of thy wings will I rejoice.

PEOPLE O magnify the Lord with me and let us exalt his name together.

THE GLORIA PATRI (*The congregation standing*)

THE INVOCATION (*In unison, the congregation seated or kneeling*)

Direct us, O Lord, in all our doings, with thy most gracious favor, and further us with thy continual help; that in all our works begun, continued, and ended in thee, we may glorify thy holy Name, and finally, by thy mercy, obtain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE RESPONSE

Boylston

(Sung by the congregation seated or kneeling. Two stanzas)

"Blest be the tie that binds
Our hearts in Christian love"

This tune appeared in *The Choir* in 1832 and was named for one of the villages in Lowell Mason's native State.

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

The Old Testament—I. Chronicles 25:1-8
The New Testament—Colossians 3:12-17

THE LITANY

MINISTER Beloved, the Apostle Paul earnestly exhorts us to let the word of Christ dwell in us richly; in all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in our hearts unto God. In order that we may here and always accept these hymns of praise that have come down the ages from godly men, and profitably use them to his praise as his spirit doth direct,

Let us pray

MINISTER O Holy Spirit, who dost give light and life to all who earnestly seek thee, and who dost ever comfort and inspire our souls while we wait on thee in worship,

PEOPLE Help us now and always truly to worship and adore thy Holy Name.

MINISTER O Lord our God whom angels worship, accept, we beseech thee, the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts. Whether we sing or pray make our love and devotion to thee deep and abiding.

PEOPLE Help us now and always truly to worship and adore thy Holy Name.

MINISTER O thou who hast moved the hearts of men in all ages to worship thee, and hast endowed men with gifts of mind and heart, and breathed upon them thy Spirit, setting melody in their hearts, accept our worship in hymns and spiritual songs. May these ever be for the direction and inspiration of thy blessed Church to thine everlasting glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

PEOPLE Help us, O Lord, to worship thee not only with our lips, but also with our hearts. Teach us, we pray thee, so to use the sacred legacy of praise, born of our fathers' faith, that thy name may be glorified, the souls of men everywhere be comforted, and thy Kingdom advanced in all the earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A HYMN OF PATRIOT DEVOTION

Dort

"God bless our native land;
Firm may she ever stand."

The tune *Dort* by its simplicity and directness has held its place in the front rank of favorite tunes for more than a hundred years. It appeared first in Lowell Mason's *Spiritual Songs* in 1832.

THE ANTHEM

THE OFFERING

THE OFFERTORY RESPONSE

Schumann

"We give Thee but Thine own"

The tune *Schumann* is an arrangement by Lowell Mason and George J. Webb which appeared first in *Cantica Laudis* (1850). This was an effort to take themes for hymns from the great masters of music in the hope "that choirs and churches might make sure progress in tasteful cultivation, appreciation, execution and love of musical truth and beauty."

THE ANNOUNCEMENTS

A HYMN OF MISSIONARY HOPE

Wesley, 1830

"Hail to the brightness of Zion's glad morning"

In this hymn are associated two men who did more than all others to lay the foundations of American hymnody. Thomas Hastings and Lowell Mason together with Thomas Bradbury published sixty song books whose total circulation reached ten million copies. They influenced the singing of the Church and Sunday School for all time. Thomas Hastings composed a thousand tunes and six hundred hymns.

THE SERMON

A HYMN OF FAITH "My faith looks up to Thee"

Olivet, 1832

This tune was written especially for the beloved hymn to which for more than a century it has been attached. The words were written by Ray Palmer at twenty-two years of age. The fitness of the tune to this potent hymn of faith is evidenced by its long and constant use.

THE PRAYER (*The Minister*)

O God our Father, grant that thy praises may ever more be enriched and made glorious by the beauty and blessing of holy hymns born of thy Spirit. May we ever sing with gladness in our hearts, and show forth thy praise in worthy and triumphant songs. Let thy Spirit so dwell in the hearts of thy people here and everywhere that they may be led to sing with grace and deep gratitude as unto thee. Grant that all who here find joy in worshipping thee may be numbered at last with those who shall sing the new song before thy heavenly throne; through Jesus Christ our Lord who liveth and reigneth with thee, O Father, and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, world without end. Amen.

THE BENEDICTION

THE RESPONSE

Dennis, 1845

"His goodness stands approved
Down to the present day;
I'll drop my burden at His feet
And bear a song away. Amen."

This familiar tune is an arrangement from the Swiss musician, Hans Nägeli, a prominent figure in the school music of his country. His work naturally attracted the attention of Lowell Mason who was destined to be remembered as the founder of public school music in America.

All tunes used in this service were composed or arranged by Lowell Mason.



Copies of this Service of Divine Worship may be obtained from the Commission on Worship, 297 Fourth Ave., New York, N. Y., for \$1 per hundred postpaid.