

(Topics and Lead-in Below)

For Ruth Ann and Carol

Praise to You, Giver of Life!

TUNE: Come, Thou Almighty King (ITALIAN HYMN)

Genesis 1:26-31; Psalm 36:5-9

♩ = 92

F A G^m F C F F E F C⁷ C⁷ F C

1. Praise to You, Giv - er of Life, Shar - ing with love and de - light
2. Chil - dren of heav - en - ly grace, Each with a soul and a face,
3. Each one is pre - cious to You. Each is a prom - ise in bloom.

N.C. C E C C⁷ F C⁷_F F C E C⁷

All that You are - Life in its love - li - ness, Pleas - ures all
Born in Your heart, Shar - ing Your dig - ni - ty, Shaped for dis -
Lives great and small, Chil - dren of ev - 'ry age, Each in Your

F C⁷_F F N.C. F B^b F G^m F C⁷ F

meas - ure - less, Giv - ing Your ver - y breath With all Your heart!
cov - er - y, Glimps - ing e - ter - ni - ty In ev - 'ry star!
im - age made, May we love un - a - fraid, Fa - ther of all!

WORDS: Ken Bible
MUSIC: Felice de Giardini

ITALIAN HYMN
7.7.4.6.6.6.4.

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TOPICS: Creator; Life, Sanctity of; Relationships

LEAD-IN: *God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them... God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. (Genesis 1:27, 31, NIV)*

LEAD-IN DEVOTIONAL READING:

The Gift of Life

*God saw all that he had made,
and it was very good. (Genesis 1:31, NIV)*

Do you believe the whole universe simply came to be, with no cause or creator? Do you believe that all the matter in all the stars in all the vastness of space had no source? Do you believe that the well-ordered laws of nature somehow just happened on their own?

What about life? Your body is a miracle. It's made up of billions of microscopic cells, each alive, each intricately constructed, each carrying on complex functions that no factory or laboratory can match. And somehow they all perform together in a magnificent dance that keeps your body working around the clock, without you even being conscious of it.

You didn't ask to be born. You didn't create yourself. You do little to keep yourself alive. Most of your essential physical functions operate automatically, requiring no conscious effort on your part. Virtually all you have to do is feed and water yourself, and for that you've been given powerful, built-in drives.

Quite literally, life is a gift. Your life is a gift. Each human life is a precious gift.

How should we respond to this gift of life? We should receive it with awe...with reverence...with joyful gratitude...with sober thought for how we treat this life in ourselves and in others.

We should receive this gift with love. Life was given with love, and we should receive it with love—love for our Creator and love for His life in each human creation around us. Love preserves life, enriches life, and treats it with the care and respect that it deserves.

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