

## Behind the Hymn: Give Me Jesus

Over the years, this spiritual has appeared in various collections under a variety of writers' names, and with a wide selection of lyrics in the verses. I had often come across it and was always moved by this simple, heartfelt prayer. A few times I had heard it performed, but I don't ever remember hearing it sung as a congregational hymn.

It was pressed on my mind when my wife and I bought several coffee mugs with the opening words of the spiritual printed on the side: "In the morning when I rise, give me Jesus." As I thought about the spiritual in the following months, I began to wonder if it had not enjoyed broader usage because the lyrics were too repetitious. Each verse had only one phrase of text, sung three times, followed by "Give me Jesus".

In August, 2023, I felt impressed to revise the melody slightly and to give each verse of text three rhyming phrases. I pray simply that these changes help give this hymn the usage it deserves.

Father, all Your blessings, all Your life, love, and holy beauty come to us in Jesus Christ. All day long, whatever comes, now and forever, give me Jesus!

--Ken Bible

Hymn: [Give Me Jesus](#)