

## Behind the Hymn: See How God's Flower Blossoms

*A shoot will spring from the stem of Jesse,  
And a Branch from his roots will bear fruit. (Isaiah 11:1, NASB)*

I love the warm, down-to-earth, yet mysterious flavor of Isaiah's prophecies of Messiah. What Spirit-inspired pictures he paints! Thus I had long been attracted to the Advent hymn, "Lo How a Rose E'er Blooming", translated from a 16<sup>th</sup> century German original.

In the mid 1980's I began supplying new words for familiar, well-loved Christmas melodies that lacked accessible Christian texts. I first tackled "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" in February, 1990, but wasn't able to finish until I came back to it on December 3-6, 1993. That version was titled "The Flower". It was musically much closer to the original and was primarily choral.

I first attempted adapting the music for congregational use in December, 2000, but I was never comfortable with that version and didn't use or distribute it. On August 7, 2008, I woke up having dreamed about "The Flower". That prompted another attempt at adapting the music for congregation, but I wasn't satisfied until August 14, 2008, when I condensed it all the way down to an even 4/4 meter, at which point I retitled it, "See How God's Flower Blossoms".

Jesus Christ -- what a mighty salvation God has brought from such a tiny seed! He is the full flower of the Father's glorious grace!

*--Ken Bible*

Hymn: [See How God's Flower Blossoms](#)