

FOREWORD

Founded in 1892, Hope Publishing Company is an independent, non-denominational publisher of church music. Our first publication was a collection of “advance pages” for a hymnal released in 1894. Throughout our history we have continued to produce new hymnals for the churches of North America. Being responsive to the scriptural imperative, “Sing a new song to the Lord,” our mission is unmistakably clear: the high calling and privilege of providing new music resources to aid the church in worship. Today, churches are drawing their music from both traditional and contemporary sources, from near and far. *Worship & Rejoice* was conceived to meet all the worship needs of that church in this new day.

We have tried to open our hearts and our hands, to cast our nets wider, to be more inclusive in assembling the contents of this collection. The historic hymns, those passed down to us from generation to generation, have been carefully scrutinized to assure their clarity and relevance. In the same thoughtful manner, the selection of music features tunes that are both musically satisfying and singable. The best new hymns by today’s hymnwriters have been selected, and serious consideration has been given to multicultural expressions of faith through song. Acknowledging the usefulness of the best new contemporary music, we have included a wide selection of praise and worship, and contemporary Christian songs.

Here at the dawn of the 21st century we are reminded that new beginnings are always filled with hope, and those of us who work for a company that claims that name have dedicated our time and effort to producing a book that we trust will encourage and support the faith community well into this new century. To quote hymnwriter Fred Pratt Green:

*When in our music God is glorified,
And adoration leaves no room for pride,
It is as though the whole creation cried,
“Alleluia!”*

May *Worship & Rejoice* fulfill the challenge we set for ourselves when this project began. Our prayer is that this hymnal will be used as an instrument of God's grace and peace, and serve today's church in the worship of Almighty God.

George H. Shorney
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