

# OVERLOOKED FUNERAL HYMNS

SINGABLE TUNES, GREAT WORDS

**The problem: Overused hymns.** When you're planning a funeral, do you worry about falling into the same-old, same-old?

*How Great Thou Art* is a beautiful hymn but one that is overused, especially for funerals. The same is true for *Amazing Grace*.

There are other singable hymns which proclaim the gospel clearly. Consider the following:

## **My Hope Is Built On Nothing Less**

My hope is built on nothing less  
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness;  
No merit of my own I claim,  
But wholly lean on Jesus' name.

When he shall come with trumpet sound,  
Oh, may I then in him be found,  
Clothed in his righteousness alone,  
Redeemed to stand before the throne.

\* \* \*

"O Day Full of Grace" is listed as a Pentecost hymn, but just leave out verse 4 which mentions Pentecost and you have a profound funeral hymn.

## **O Day Full of Grace**

Oh day full of grace that now we see  
Appearing on earth's horizon,  
Bring light from our God that we may be  
Replete in his joy this season.  
God, shine for us now in this dark place;  
Your name on our hearts emblazon.  
For Christ bore our sins, and not his own,  
When he on the cross was hanging;  
And then he arose and moved the stone,  
That we, unto him belonging,  
Might join with angelic hosts to raise  
Our voices in endless singing.  
When we on that final journey go  
That Christ is for us preparing,  
We'll gather in song, our hearts aglow,  
All joy of the heavens sharing,  
And walk in the light of God's own place,  
With angels his name adoring.

\* \* \*

## **O God, Our Help in Ages Past**

O God, our help in ages past,  
Our hope for years to come,  
Our shelter from the stormy blast,  
And our eternal home:

A thousand ages in your sight  
Are like an evening gone,  
Short as the watch that ends the night  
Before the rising sun.

\* \* \*

Another gem: The cadence of the tune captures the sadness and glory of a Christian funeral.

## **When Peace, like a River**

When peace, like a river, attendeth my way;  
When sorrows, like sea billows, roll;  
Whatever my lot, Thou has taught me to say,  
It is well, it is well with my soul.

He lives – oh the bliss of this glorious thought,  
My sin, not in part, but the whole,  
Is nailed to his cross, and I bear it no more.  
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!

\* \* \*

## **Rock of Ages**

Not the labors of my hands  
Can fulfill thy law's demands;  
Could my zeal no respite know,  
Could my tears forever flow,  
All for sin could not atone;  
Thou must save, and thou alone.

Nothing in my hand I bring;  
Simply to thy cross I cling.  
Naked, come to thee for dress;  
Helpless, look to thee for grace;  
Foul, I to the fountain fly;  
Wash me, Savior, or I die.

\* \* \*

## **Abide with Me**

Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;  
Earth's joy's grow dim, its glories pass away;  
Change and decay in all around I see;  
O thou who changest not, abide with me.

Hold thou thy cross before my closing eyes,  
Shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies;  
Heav'n's morning breaks, earth's vain shadows flee;  
In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

**Confirmation Hymns.** If confirmands memorized the hymns above and then sang them on Confirmation Sunday, just think how these hymns could comfort and teach them through the years.