

June's hymn of the month 2019

By  
Bill Dagle

We live in a time when it seems tragedy can strike anywhere, sometimes in the most unlikely places. So it is with life. Sadness and heartache know no boundaries. Even for the Christian, we are not immune to the pains that tragedy can bring. The challenge for the believer is to learn to trust that God is in control and knows what's best for us. Then, act on what He's teaching so others might prosper from our instruction. So it was for Pastor Luther Bridges.

This 26-year-old preacher had promised his wife that when enough money was saved, they would visit her parents in Harrodsburg, Kentucky. When the day finally came, excitement filled the hearts of the three grandchildren in anticipation of seeing their grandparents. The hugs and kisses at the end of the day's trip made the long dusty trail all worthwhile. As the sun set over that loving family's home, in 1910, joy filled the hearts of the Bridges' family. Then, tragedy struck.

Thinking it was the rising sunlight coming through his bedroom window, a neighbor across the street soon realized it was the light from a fire. The house in which the Bridges were sleeping was a mass of flames. The alarm was sounded. Luther made it out and the grandparents, too. But the efforts to rescue his wife and children were in vain; and as the sun rose over Harrodsburg, Kentucky, that fateful day, in 1910, sadness had displaced the joy of the day before. In the days that followed, as the deep waters of sorrow were flooding over Pastor Luther and the darkness of night surrounded him, he remembered the Lord had promised, "Songs in the night," and that he also would never leave or forsake him.

It was during this period of heart-searching and sorrow that he wrote:

There's within my heart a melody,  
Jesus whispers sweet and low.  
Fear not, I am with thee, peace be still  
In all of life's ebb and flow.

The lessons from that tragedy have been passed down to us by the way of a hymn. From the words of *He Keeps Me Singing*, we can learn, by example, to trust God in life and in death and that Romans 8:28 contains both laughter and tears. For those who trust in Jesus, there is coming a day when heartache will be no more.

There's within my heart a melody  
Jesus whispers sweet and low,  
Fear not, I am with thee, peace, be still,  
In all of life's ebb and flow.

All my life was wrecked by sin and strife,  
Discord filled my heart with pain,  
Jesus swept across the broken strings,  
Stirred the slumbering chord again.

Feasting on the riches of His grace,  
Resting 'neath His sheltering wing,  
Always looking on His smiling face,

That is why I shout and sing.

Though sometimes He leads through waters deep,  
Trials fall across the way,  
Though sometimes the path seems rough and steep,  
See His footprints all the way.

Chorus

Jesus, Jesus, Jesus,  
Sweetest name I know  
Fills my every longing,  
Keeps me singing as I go.

The hymn of the month for June 2019: **He Keeps Me Singing**