

Hymn of Promise

UMH 707

In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree;
in cocoons, a hidden promise; butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

There's a song in every silence; seeking word and melody;
there's a dawn in every darkness, bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity;
in our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity.
In our death, a resurrection; at the last, a victory,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

Mark 4:26-34

²⁶ And He was saying, "The kingdom of God is like a man who casts seed upon the soil; ²⁷ and he goes to bed at night and gets up by day, and the seed sprouts and grows--how, he himself does not know. ²⁸ "The soil produces crops by itself; first the blade, then the head, then the mature grain in the head. ²⁹ "But when the crop permits, he immediately puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come." ³⁰ And He said, "How shall we picture the kingdom of God, or by what parable shall we present it? ³¹ "It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the soil, though it is smaller than all the seeds that are upon the soil, ³² yet when it is sown, it grows up and becomes larger than all the garden plants and forms large branches; so that THE BIRDS OF THE AIR can NEST UNDER ITS SHADE." ³³ With many such parables He was speaking the word to them, so far as they were able to hear it; ³⁴ and He did not speak to them without a parable; but He was explaining everything privately to His own disciples.

You Are the Seed

UMH 583

You are the seed that will grow a new sprout; you're a star that will shine in the night;

you are the yeast and a small grain of salt, a beacon to glow in the dark.

You are the dawn that will bring a new day; you're the wheat that will bear golden grain;

you are the sting and a soft, gentle touch, my witnesses where'er you go.

Refrain:

Go, my friends, go to the world, proclaiming love to all, messengers of my forgiving peace, eternal love.

Be, my friends, a loyal witness, from the dead I arose;

"Lo, I'll be with you forever, till the end of the world."

You are the flame that will lighten the dark, sending sparkles of hope, faith, and love;

you are the shepherds to lead the whole world through valleys and pastures of peace.

You are the friends that I chose for myself, the word that I want to proclaim.

You are the new kingdom built on a rock where justice and truth always reign.

(Refrain)