



HYMN OF THE MONTH JUNE 2018 "IN CHRIST ALONE"

Songwriter Stuart Townend grew up as the youngest of four children in a Christian family in West Yorkshire, England, where his father was a vicar in the Church of England. The Townend family always enjoyed music, and young Stuart began to play the piano at the age of seven.

(crosswalk.com)

Townend met Keith Getty, an Irish composer, through a common friend at a worship conference in 2000. Getty was impressed by Townend's hymn "How Deep The Father's Love For Us," and wanted him to listen to some of his musical ideas. Townend had been successful producing albums for several British worship leaders. Getty, with a classical background, had success with orchestrating for TV commercials, as well as soundtrack recordings for movies including "The Lord of the Rings" trilogy.

Written in 2002, "In Christ Alone" is the first contemporary Christian hymn Getty and Townend collaborated on. The song has a strong Irish melody by Getty and original lyrics by Townend. "It is considered a Christian credal song for belief in Jesus Christ. The theme of the song is the life, death and resurrection of Christ, and that he is a God who even death cannot hold.

Townend and Getty both admit they are motivated by the idea of capturing biblical truth in songs and hymns that will not only cause people to express their worship in church, but will build them up in their Christian lives.

"I've been amazed by the response to this song," says Townend. "We've had some incredible e-mails about how people have been helped by the song through incredibly difficult circumstances." One e-mail described how a U.S soldier serving in Iraq would pray through each verse of the song every day, and how the promises of God's protection and grace helped to sustain him through the enormous pressures and dangers of life in a war zone. (crosswalk.com)

"According to the Christian licensing group CCLI, "In Christ Alone" remains one of the most popular songs in churches, as their charts indicate it has been the number-one used hymn in the United Kingdom for the past seven years and among the top ten in the United States, Canada, and Australia for almost as long. It was recently used at the enthronement of the archbishop of Canterbury and also has become an anthem for underground churches throughout the world. Artists as varied as Alison Krauss, MercyMe, Natalie Grant, the Newsboys, OwlCity, and most recently Kristian Stanfill (Passion 2013) have recorded the hymn. Timothy George, the dean of Beeson Divinity School at Samford University, recently said he believes the hymn is well on its way to becoming the "Amazing Grace" of this generation." (church.org 2004)

Resources: Crosswalk.com; Wikipedia; Church.org 2004

Dear Church Family,

I want to share my very heartfelt thanks to each member of the Chancel, Handbell and Children's Choir for their outstanding performances at our Music Sunday Worship and for their dedication through the years. Also, I wish to thank my Church family, Pastor Brown, Cliff Sloan, Jane Martin and the Board for the cards, letters, roses, wonderful dinner and beautiful bracelet that I will treasure forever. As I tried to state, it has been my extreme privilege to serve in the music program for the past 43 years. This church has been so good to me in furthering my music education over the years. I learned more about teaching music at the Church Music conferences I attended than in my college courses. I hope to continue to participate in the choirs as a participant rather than leader, as my voice and neck problems will allow. Each of you have been a constant blessing to me and I can't thank you enough for making Music Sunday such a special day for me and my boys.

In Christian Love,

Judy Wingate

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DEATH:

Charles Huddleston passed away on April 26, 2018
Richard Owings passed away on May 15, 2018

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