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Journey to Gethsemane



James Montgomery, born of Moravian missionary parents, edited a newspaper in England. Risking imprisonment, he published articles advocating human rights, including the abolition of slavery. He wrote more than 400 hymns.

Tune: REDHEAD NO. 76 7.7.7.7.7. Richard Redhead, 1853

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What Wondrous Love Is This

John 19:17; Rev. 5:13

19th century, United States; alt. First published in Mercer's Cluster, 1836



This anonymous folk hymn, with its modal (dorian) tune, has appeared in many versions. William Walker, compiler of Southern Harmony, one of the most important nineteenth-century tune books in the United States, lived and died in Spartanburg, South Carolina.

Tune: WONDROUS LOVE 12.9.12.12.9. (CHRISTOPHER)

Appendix to Wm. Walker's Southern Harmony, c. 1843

Harm. The New Century Hymnal, 1993

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O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

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Medieval Latin, attrib. to Bernard of Clairvaux (1091–1153) German paraphr. by Paul Gerhardt, 1656 Isa. 53; John 19:1-3



This hymn is drawn from an extended Latin poem in seven sections, each addressed to a member of Christ's body on the cross. It comes to us by way of a German translation by Lutheran pastor and hymnwriter Paul Gerhardt.

Tune: PASSION CHORALE 7.6.7.6.D. (HERZLICH TUT MICH VERLANGEN)

Melody by Hans Leo Hassler, 1601

Harm. J. S. Bach, 1729

For another harmonization, see 179

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Were You There?



While many spirituals begin solemnly but end on a high pitch of praise, this is one of the true "sorrow songs" that W. E. B. DuBois spoke about in his book The Souls of Black Folk.

Tune: WERE YOU THERE Irr.

African-American spiritual

Arr. Joyce Finch Johnson, 1992