



Notable Tunes

This is a bit of a different way to organize the hymnal – I’ve prioritized musical considerations because the text is up to each individual to decide for themselves. As well, we already have the Topical Index at the back of the hymnal. It’s a great resource to pick hymns that suit the theme of the services – I don’t need to duplicate it.

My main motive is to give a little bit more musical help to you. It would be impossible to list every hymn – remember, there are many good workaday hymns that do the job but don’t fit into these categories. Keep using them!! The ones I picked list some of the most popular, help you avoid pitfalls, or have some background that is interesting.

I also tried to point to some less well-known tunes that can add variety. I hope this helps!

Most Used

Great tunes! Be careful not to over-use them

123 – Spirit of Life

168 – One More Step

311 – Let it be a Dance

346 Come Sing a Song With Me

Notable Tunes/very familiar

All the tunes here are very familiar – some of these are used by us almost as much as the top picks – but some are not. Use your own sense of how often a hymn has

been used recently to guide you.

- 10 Immortal Love
- 16 'Tis a Gift to be Simple
- 18 What Wondrous Love
- 21 For the Beauty of the Earth
- 34 Though I May Speak (to 'O Waly, Waly' or The Water is Wide)
- 38 Morning Has Broken
- 108 How Can I Keep from Singing
- 113 Where is Our Holy Church
- 131 Love Will Guide Us
- 159 This is My Song (Finlandia, Sibelius)
- 169 - We Shall Overcome
- 170 - We are a Gentle, Angry People
- 209 O Come, You Longing Thirsty Souls (arr. V. Williams)
- 281 O God, Our Help in Ages Past
- 283 The Spacious Firmament (The Heavens are Telling, Haydn)
- 289 Creative Love, Our Thanks We Give (Truth from Above)
- 298 Wake Now My Senses
- 303 We Are the Earth (Ein Feste Burg - Martin Luther/200)
- 309 Earth is Our Homeland (Brahms. I now have a descant for the last verse) *C
- 318 We Would be One (Finlandia, Sibelius)
- 324 Where My Free Spirit Onward Leads (arr. V. Williams)
- 327 Joy, Thou Goddess (Beethoven, Hymn to Joy)
- 337 Have I Not known (Parry, Jerusalem)
- 338 I Seek the Spirit of a Child (Christmas carol, arr. V. Williams)
- 342 O Slowly, Slowly They Return
- 361 Enter, Rejoice and Come In
- 409 Sleep My Child or All Through the Night

Notable Tunes/somewhat familiar

They are still pretty well known but may have a more original flavour than the first group.

- 6 Just as Long as I Have Breath
- 53 I Walk the Unfrequented Road

63 Spring Has Now
64 Oh, Give us Pleasure in Flowers
83 Winds Be Still
105 From Age to Age
128 For All that is Our Life
134 Our World is One World
136 Where Gentle Tides Go Rolling By
148 Let Freedom Span
163 For the Earth Forever Turning
291 Die Gedanken Sind Frei
299 Make Channels for the Streams of Love
300 With Heart and Mind
301 Touch the Earth, Reach the Sky
304 A Fierce Unrest
323 Break not the Circle
328 I Sought the Wood in Summer
331 (Brother James Air) Life is the Greatest Gift
343 A Firemist and a Planet
347 Gather the Spirit
352 Find a Stillness
353 Golden Breaks the Dawn
354 We laugh, We Cry

Twins

Same tune, diff words:

69 -112 Give Thanks/Do You Hear
159 - 318 This is My Song/We Would be One (Finlandia, Sibelius)
161 -213 Peace!/There's a Wideness in Your Mercy
200 - 303 We are the Earth / A Mighty Fortress
260 -415 Oshana/Hevenu Shalom Aleichem
166 - 207 - 1064 in Green Bk. Years are Coming/ Earth was Given/ Blue Boat Home
211 -212 Jacob's Ladder/Sarah's Circle

Same words, diff tunes:

189 -190 Light of Ages (190 Austrian/German nat'l anthem. The tune of 190 became famous, or infamous, as 'Deutschland uber alles')

Notable Spirituals

Here are at least some of the best known – there are probably more in the hymnal. They have a different feel than a four square hymn.

- 95 There is More Love Somewhere
- 97 Sometime I Feel Like a Motherless Child
- 100 I've Got Peace Like a River
- 104 When Israel was in Egypt's Land
- 162 Gonna Lay Down My Sword & Shield
- 199 Precous Lord
- 201 Glory, Glory Hallelujah
- 208 Every Time I Feel
- 210 Wade in the Water
- 211 -212 Jacob's Ladder/Sarah's Circle
- 348 Guide My Feet
- 350 The Ceaseless Flow of Endless Time

From Non-Western Traditions

These may be well-known, or less familiar tunes, but I've picked them for singability and the variety they add to the service.

- 62 When the Daffodils – Hassidic tune
- 146 Soon the Day will Arrive (Bashanah, Hebrew)
- 177 Sakura – Japanese cherry blossom song
- 194 Faith is a Forest – Chinese
- 182 – O, the Beauty in a Life – Filipino – only chord symbols, no written piano part
- 305 – All the Colors – Spanish

There's a big Jewish section starting at 214 – 223 with mostly singable congregational tunes. If in doubt, ask me. Also, 260 Oshana is a tune I know to different words, the twin, Havenu Shalom Aleichem (Peace be Unto You - 415). The Christmas section is from 224 – 259.

Better with notice to choir

These are doable - but would probably be improved with foresight & a look at musically with the choir.

* **All rounds** - ex., 188, 413

95 There is More Love Somewhere

171 & 172 - S. African.

N'kosi (God Bless Africa), Siph' (O God give us Power)

178 Raghupati - Hindu

179 - Yoruba

180 - Alhamdulillah

181 - No Matter if You Live - India

182 - O, the Beauty in a Life

184 - Be Ye Lamps unto Yourselves - plainchant like, Buddhist

188 - Come, come - round - words, Rumi

195 - Let us Wander - Taiwan

196 - Singer of Life - native

197 - There are Numerous Strings - Tagore, India

292 - If I Can Stop - English, irreg.

329 Life has Loveliness to Sell

413 Go Now in Peace

Getting Questionable

4, 7, 84, 102, 141, 149, 151, 152, 153, 155, 165, 167, 176, 197, 198, 202, 297, 316.

Probably don't work at all

13, 24, 58, 60, 185, 202, 302, 310, 319, 321, 332.

Good Stuff from the Green Book, 'Singing the Journey'

We have the words available for our screen & the congregation can easily sing along:

1008 When Our Heart is in a Holy Place
1067 Mother, Earth, Beloved Garden - *C - descant if choir notified.
1021 Lean on Me

also good, 1066, O Brother Sun, 1044, Eli, Eli

There are many earth centered rounds & chants:

1069 Ancient Mother, 1070 Mother I Feel You, 1071 On the Dusty Earth Drum, 1072 Evening Breeze, 1073 The Earth is Our Mother.

I hope this gives you more information that can help you make choices to get the right mix of hymns - not all familiar, not all unknown, but - hopefully - all singable!
Penny