

Hymn of the Month is a worship-focused initiative of the Salem Hellers Music Ministry. Worship is the most important thing we do; as part of our efforts to enrich and deepen our worship, each month we will focus on a less familiar or more recently composed song or hymn that we hope will become appreciated and loved by our congregation. We will explore different ways to introduce and incorporate these songs throughout the month; we want to help you become comfortable with them. May we grow together in faith as we learn these theologically rich hymns and join our voices in corporate worship.

Listen to a recording of this month's hymn on our new website at www.salemhellers.com. Look for *Hymn of the Month* in the Worship tab menu and click on "visit the download page".



HYMN OF THE MONTH

Salem Hellers Music Ministry

#286

Beneath the Cross

March 2026

1

*Beneath the cross of Jesus,
I find a place to stand,
and wonder at such mercy that calls me as I am;
for hands that should discard me
hold wounds which tell me, "Come."
Beneath the cross of Jesus,
my unworthy soul is won.*

2

*Beneath the cross of Jesus,
His family is my own:
Once strangers chasing selfish dreams,
now one through grace alone.
How could I now dishonor
the ones that You have loved?
Beneath the cross of Jesus,
see the children called by God.*

3

*Beneath the cross of Jesus,
the path before the crown,
we follow in His footsteps
where promised hope is found.
How great the joy before us
to be His perfect bride!
Beneath the cross of Jesus
we will gladly live our lives.*

The Story Behind the Hymn: Although the title of this month's hymn is borrowed from Elizabeth Clephane's 1873 hymn *Beneath the Cross of Jesus*, the verses written by Keith and Kristyn Getty are new. The original text describes the shelter from life's burdens found at the cross, while the Getty hymn focuses more on the community of faith gathered together. Keith Getty explains that while studying the book of James, his church was looking for a hymn that focused on the body of Christ and how we are to relate to each other. He states:

"While it is true that through the cross, we have been given unbelievable promises for the future, its implications for how we live our lives here and now are equally radical. One such implication is how we live together as a community. We are not saved for ourselves; disassociating ourselves from the rest of the body (regardless of how difficult others can be) is simply not an option."

The meaning: Kristyn Getty summarizes the message of each stanza:

Verse 1 "considers the individual coming to the cross and realizing that though they are so desperately unworthy, yet Christ has forgiven them.

Verse 2 - it's as if the camera pans back and we see not just ourselves standing there before the cross, but thousands and thousands of other people there in need of the same gospel, the same Savior, the same grace, and so it asks the question, 'How can I then dishonor the ones that you have loved when I consider what Christ has done for me?'

Verse 3 pushes us all out together, out the front door onto this path, beneath the cross, to follow the footsteps of our Lord, where one day it will lead us to be his perfect bride, praising Him at His throne."

In this season of Lent, may we fully understand that the cross is a place of refuge where we wonder at Christ's sacrifice and are confronted by our own unworthiness (new identity). We also experience the unity of believers (new family), and we look toward the promise of eternal life (new citizenship and new life).