In Life’s Earnest Morning

Words: Ebenezer S. Oakley, 1887
Music: Thomas Morley, 1867

1. In life’s earnest morning, When our hope was high, Came Thy voice in summons Not to be put by: Nor in toil nor sorrow, Weakness humbled As we know Thee more: Let the larger vision Bring the kindness, Shine thru nature’s light, In the face of loved ones, In the passion Be the love of souls; Let us live and labor, Father, nor dismay, Need we ever falter,— Art not Thou our stay?

2. Teach us, Lord, Thy wisdom, While we seek men’s lore, May the mind be childlike heart, And our deeper knowledge Holier zeal impart.

3. Should Thy face be clouded To our spirit’s sight, Speak thru human ties of home— Only, gracious Father, To Thy children come.

4. Save us, Lord, from seeking Earth’s unallowed goals; May our life-long in Thy sight, Thru the grace of Jesus, By the Spirit—its might. Amen.