

How Would Jesus Jam?



Building Communities
through Music



**Blessed are the poor in spirit:
for theirs is the kingdom of Heaven.**

— Matthew 5:3

We all need a spiritual connection. Musicians find that connection when they jam. Nobody likes to practice, but everyone loves to gig. So, give them a gig!

Old, familiar songs learned in childhood take long-time Christians to the hour they first believed. Even if singing in church feels like a formality, singing for fun is a party. So, throw them a party!

Time to shake the bushes. God loves a full house.

The Church In The Wildwood

Dr. WilHam S. Pitts

^G There's a church in the valley by the ^D Wildwood,
^G No lovelier spot in the dale
^C No place is so dear to my ^G childhood,
^D as the little brown church in the ^G vale

(Chorus)

^G Come to the church in the ^D Wildwood,
^G Oh come to the church in the vale
^C No spot is so dear to my ^G childhood,
^D as the little brown church in the ^G vale

Oh, come to the church in the Wildwood
To the trees where the wild flowers bloom
Where the parting hymn will be chanted
We will weep by the side of the tomb
(Chorus)

How sweet on a clear Sabbath morning,
To list to the clear ringing bell
Its tones so sweetly are calling,
Oh come to the church in the vale.
(Chorus)

From the church in the valley by the Wildwood
When day fades away into night
I would fain from this spot of my childhood
Wing my way to the mansions of light



**Blessed are they that mourn:
for they shall be comforted.**

– Matthew 5:4

When **Beth** lost her husband, her Jam friends rallied to mourn with her. They give her a ride every week.

Alton didn't have a church, but he had the Jam, where he met the pastor. The family called hospice. Alton called the pastor. Pastor called the Elders. The Elders served him like any church member. They put him on the rolls.

Friendships are built on common ground. Music is that for many people. Love is common ground for everyone. We grieve with those who grieve and comfort the sick among us, no matter what church they attend — if any.

Angel Band

Traditional

G C G D G C G
My latest sun is sinking fast, my race is nearly run
 G C G D G $G7$
My longest trials now are past, my triumph has begun

Chorus:

D G D G
Oh, come, Angel Band, come and around me stand
 C G G D G
Bear me away on your snow white wings, to my immortal home
 C G G D G
Bear me away on your snow white wings, to my immortal home

Oh bear my loving heart to him, who bled and died for me
Whose blood now cleanses from all sin, and gives me victory
{Chorus}

I've almost reached my heavenly home, my spirit loudly sings
The holy ones, behold they come, I hear the noise of wings .
{Chorus}



Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.

- Matthew 5:5

Gail was too shy to sing alone. Now, she's in the choir.

Rebecca, 13, said she couldn't play. We handed her a ukulele. Now, she leads worship at a megachurch.

Beth played piano in church all her life. When the music changed, she lost her position and became a shut-in. Now, she plays every week.

The meek are afraid to sing, expect rejection, and feel out of place. Some say meekness is serving others with humility, gentleness, and kindness.

Bless the meek. Invite them. Include them. Join them.

Whosoever Meaneth Me

James Edwin McConnell

D E
I am happy today, and the sun shines bright
A7 D A7
The clouds have been rolled away
D E A7 D G D
For the Savior said, whosoever will, may come to Him to stay

{chorus}
D E
"Whosoever" surely meaneth me
A7 D
Surely meaneth me, O surely meaneth me
D E
"Whosoever" surely meaneth me
A7 D G D
"Whosoever" meaneth me

All my hopes have been raised, O His Name be praised
His glory has filled my soul
I've been lifted up, and from sin set free,
His love has made me whole
{chorus}

O what wonderful love, O what grace divine,
that Jesus should die for me
I was lost in sin, for the world I pined,
but now I am set free
{chorus}



**Blessed are they which do hunger
and thirst after righteousness:
for they shall be filled.**

— Matthew 5:6

Gary gave up on church after a messy divorce. He met others at the Jam who had walked in his shoes. Now, he is a committed church member.

Betsy hated that Beth lost her church pianist position, knowing how she loved to play. Betsy invited her to the Jam. Now, she plays every week.

Bob and his husband grew up in the Pentecostal tradition. They love old Gospel music. The Jam led them to join the church.

To **Jesus**, righteousness is not ceremonial. It is a right relationship with God and one another

Footsteps of Jesus

Mary B.C. Slade / A.B. Everett

D G D A
Sweetly Lord have we heard Thee calling "Come, Follow me"
D G D Bmi A D
And we see where thy footprints falling, Lead us to Thee

(chorus)

G D A
Footprints of Jesus that make the pathway grow
D G D Bmi A DGD
We will follow the steps of Jesus, Where ere they go

D G D A
Tho they lead o'er the cold dark Mountain, Seeking His sheep
D G D Bmi A D
Or along by Siloam's fountain, Helping the weak

(chorus)

If they lead thro the temple Holy, Preaching the Word
Or in homes of the poor and lowly, Serving the Lord
(chorus)

Then at last when on high He sees us, Our journey Done
We will rest where the steps of Jesus end at His throne.



Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.

— Matthew 5:7

Bill is an adult learner on clarinet. He plays one note for every chord. He brings his family to the Jam. They love to see Dad play.

Stan was a real showboat. He played with great skill, but was oblivious to the other players. Now, he has mercy on lesser players and sensitive ears.

Fred hated the thought of the wrong kind of people entering the church. The Jam is not church. Fred met such people at the Jam. He decided they might be a good fit after all.

Above all, show mercy.

Will The Circle Be Unbroken?

Ada Ruth Habershon / Charles Hutchinson Gabriel

G

There are loved ones in the glory,

C

G

whose dear forms you often miss

G

When you close your earthly story,

A

D

will you join them in their bliss?

CHORUS:

G

C

G

Will the circle be unbroken, by and by, Lord, by and by?

G

Em

G

D

G

C G

In a better home awaiting, in the sky, Lord, in the sky?

In the joyous days of childhood,

oft they told of wondrous love

Pointed to the dying Savior,

now they dwell with Him above. {chorus}

You remember songs of heaven,

Which you sang with childish voice

Do you love the hymns they taught you,

or are songs of earth your choice? {chorus}

You can picture happy gath'ings, round the fireside long ago

And you think of tearful partings, when they left you here below.

{chorus}

One by one their seats were emptied, one by one they went away

Now the family is parted..... will it be complete one day?



Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.

— Matthew 5:8

Larry is an atheist. He loves the music and people at the Jam. Now, he asks for prayer and talks about God.

Helen has a tin ear. She brings the best apple cobbler ever to the Jam every week. It's her contribution.

Jimmy hates church. He loves the Jam, and the people.

Jesus serves everyone in the room. He condemns no one. He heals before conversion. He is our best example of a pure heart in action.

Be blessed. Be pure in heart.

Just a closer walk with Thee

Words: unknown / Music: traditional

G *D* *D7* *G*
I am weak, but Thou art strong. Jesus keep me, from all wrong
G *G7* *C* *G* *D* *G*
I'll be satisfied as long, as I walk, let me walk close to Thee

{Chorus}

G *D*
Just a closer walk with Thee
D7 *G*
Grant it, Jesus, is my plea
G *G7* *C* *Cm*
Daily walking close to Thee
G *D* *G C G* *D7*
Let it be, dear Lord, let it be

G *D* *D7* *G*
Through this world of toil and snares, if I falter, Lord who cares?
G *G7* *C*
Who with me my burden shares?
G *D* *G*
None but Thee, dear Lord, none but Thee

{Chorus}

G *D* *D7* *G*
When my feeble life is o'er, time for me will be no more
G *G7* *C* *G* *D* *G*
Guide me gently, safely o'er, to Thy kingdom shore, to Thy shore

{Chorus}



Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.

— Matthew 5:9

Dan, 10, is a virtuoso on piano. His little sister, **Melinda**, 8, is a beginner on mandolin. Both are invited to play. Peace is restored.

Gary brings his kids when he has custody. His ex is pleased that they get at least some church exposure.

Jesus says whoever welcomes children in His name welcomes Him. Want my support? Be nice to my kids! If the environment isn't good for kids, it isn't good for parents.

The **Jam Leaders** are also peacekeepers at the Jam. If needed, Leaders address problems gently and privately, always looking for a positive spin.

Keep On The Sunny Side

Alvin Pleasant Carter / Gary Garrett

G *C* *G*
There's a dark and a troubled side of life
G *D*
There's a bright and a sunny side too
C *G*
Though we meet with the darkness and strife
D *G* *C* *G*
The sunny side we also may view

G {Chorus} *C* *G*
Keep on the sunny side always on the sunny side
G *D*
Keep on the sunny side of life
G *C* *G*
It will help us every day, it will brighten all the way
G *D* *G* *C* *G*
If we keep on the sunny side of life

The storm in its fury broke today
Crushing hopes that we've cherished so dear
Clouds and storms will in time pass away
The sun again will shine bright and clear{Chorus}

Let us sing with a song of hope each day
Though the moment be cloudy or fair
Let us trust in our Savior always
To keep us every one in His care



**Blessed are they which are
persecuted for righteousness' sake:
for theirs is the kingdom of
Heaven.**

— Matthew 5:10

Who is persecuted for righteousness' sake? Sadly, many of the people who encounter church members. Are they righteous enough? To the correct standard?

Stay away from rules that don't matter. Don't become liturgical or sectarian at the Jam. Condemn no person or group. It is not needed. It is not righteous.

Righteousness is how we conduct ourselves, not something to impose on others.

I Shall Not Be Moved

H.F.M.

G D
Glory hallelujah, I shall not be moved
D G
Anchored in Jehovah, I shall not be moved
C G E G D G C G
Just like a tree, that's planted by the waters, I shall not be moved

(CHORUS)

G D
I shall not be, I shall not be moved
D G
I shall not be, I shall not be moved
C G E G D G C G
Just like a tree, that's planted by the waters, I shall not be moved

In His love abiding, I shall not be moved
And in Him confiding, I shall not be moved
Just like a tree, that's planted by the waters, I shall not be moved

(CHORUS)

Tho all hell assail me, I shall not be moved
Jesus will not fail me, I shall not be moved
Just like a tree, that's planted by the waters, I shall not be moved

(CHORUS)

Tho the tempest rages, I shall not be moved
On the Rock of Ages, I shall not be moved
Just like a tree, that's planted by the waters, I shall not be moved

A little advice



NO SPOTLIGHT

There are no stars at the Jam. The greatest serve the least. It has to start with leaders who get it and avoid the spotlight.



NO OFFERING PLATE

“Churches are always asking for money.” Here’s your chance to prove them wrong. Let the church support the Jam; the Jammers will return the favor.



NO REJECTIONS

The Jam has an open door policy. If you show up, you’re one of us. No rehearsals. No auditions. No credentials needed.



NO AMPS

Keep volume low enough to permit conversation. If you use amps, keep a tight reign. Otherwise, an amp becomes a spotlight.

Brighten The Corner Where You Are

Words: Ina Mae Duley Ogdon / Music: Charles Hutchinson Gabriel

D A7
Do not wait until some deed of greatness you may do
A7 D A7
Do not wait to shed your light afar
D G
To the many duties ever near you now be true
D A7 D
Brighten the corner where you are

D {Chorus} A7
Brighten the corner where you are!
A7 D
Brighten the corner where you are!
D G
Someone far from harbor you may guide across the
bar
D A7 D
Brighten the corner where you are!

Here for all your talent you may surely find a need
Here reflect the bright and Morning Star
Even from your humble hand the Bread of Life may feed
Brighten the corner where you are
{Chorus}

In Conclusion

Bridge clubs, bowling leagues, volunteer projects, and classes are great for developing friendships. So is the Jam. You might be surprised to learn you have more musicians than bowlers.

Conversions at the Jam are by example, without pressure. A Jammer might show up for years before finding faith in Jesus or showing any interest in church. Let it be OK. Serve everyone. Include everyone. Jesus does the converting on His schedule.

The style of the Jam should fit your community. Old, familiar tunes are comforting to those who know them. They garner support from people who miss them. Start with the old hymns of your tradition, and let the musicians find new ways to play them. It's a great way to blend generations and music styles.

You might start small. Two musicians will suffice to get started. Our first Jam was a weekly gathering of four musicians with an open-door policy.

Be ready to grow. A newspaper feature drew 95 people to one Jam. Some kept coming. Another church promoted it in the service. Eight church members dusted off guitars for the first Jam. We never knew they could play! One invites another until the house is full.

Precious Memories

J. B. F. Wright

G C G
 Precious memories, unseen angels,
 D
 sent from somewhere to my soul
 G C G D G C G
 How they linger, ever near me, and the sacred past unfolds

{chorus}

G
Precious memories, how they linger
C G
How they ever flood my soul
G C G
In the stillness of the midnight
D G CG
Precious, sacred scenes unfold

Precious father, loving mother, fly across the lonely years
And old home scenes of my childhood, In fond memory appear
{chorus}

In the stillness of the midnight, echoes of the past I hear
Old-time singing, gladness bringing, from that lovely land
somewhere

{chorus}

As I travel on life's pathway,
 know not what the years may hold
 As I ponder, hope grows fonder,
 Precious memories flood my soul.

In The Garden

By C. Austin Miles

G *G7*
I come to the garden alone
C *G*
While the dew is still on the roses
D *D7* *G* *Em*
And the voice I hear, falling on my ear
A7 *D* *D7*
The Son of God discloses
G *D*
And He walks with me, and He talks with me
D7 *G*
And He tells me I am his own
{Chorus} *G* *G7* *C* *Am*
And the Joy we share as we tarry there
G *D G*
None other has ever known
G *G7*
He speaks and the sound of his voice
Is so sweet the birds hush their singing
And the melody that He gave to me
With in my heart is ring-ing

{chorus}

I'd stay in the garden with Him
Tho' the night around me is falling
But He bids me go thru a voice of woe
His voice to me is call-ing

Amazing Grace

Words: John Newton / Music: James P. Carrell, David S. Clayton

G C G G D
Amazing grace! How sweet the sound,
G A
that saved a wretch like me!
G C G Em D C G
I once was lost, but now am found, was blind but now I see

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved
How precious did that grace appear, the hour I first believed!

Through many dangers, toils, and snares, I have already come
'Tis grace that brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home

The Lord has been so good to me, His Word my hope secures
He will my shield and portion be, as long as life endures

Yea, when this flesh and heart shall fail,
And mortal life shall cease
I shall possess, within the veil, A life of joy and peace

When we've been there ten thousand years,
bright shining as the sun
We've no less days to sing God's praise,
than when we first begun.

Life Is Like A Mountain Railway

M. E. Abbey / Charles D. Tillman

G *C* *G*
Life is like a mountain railway, with an engineer that's brave
G
We must make the run successful,
A7 *D*
from the cradle to the grave
G
Watch the hills, the curves, and tunnels;
C *D*
Never falter, never fail
G *D* *G*
Keep your hands upon the throttle, and your eyes upon the rail

{chorus}

C *G*
Blessed Savior, Thou wilt guide us
D
Till we reach that blissful shore
G *C*
Where the angels come to join us
G *D* *G*
In God's grace forevermore

As you roll across the trestle, spanning Jordan's swelling tide
You behold the Union Depot, into which your train will glide
There you'll meet the Superintendent,
God the Father, God the Son
With the hearty, joyous, plaudit,
"Weary pilgrim, welcome home!"

What A Friend We Have In Jesus

Words: Joseph M. Scriven / Music: Charles C. Converse

D G D A
What a Friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear

D G D A D GD

What a privilege to carry, everything to God in prayer

G D G D A

Oh what peace we often forfeit; Oh what needless pain we bear

D G D A D GD

All because we do not carry, everything to God in prayer

D G D A

Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?

D G D A D GD

We should never be discouraged, take it to the Lord in prayer

G D G D A

Can we find a friend so faithful, who will all our sorrows share?

D G D A D GD

Jesus knows our every weakness, take it to the Lord in prayer

D G D A

Are we weak and heavy laden, cumbered with a load of care?

Do thy friends despise forsake thee?

Take it to the Lord in prayer

In His arms He'll take and shield thee,

Thou wilt find our comfort there.

Since Jesus Came Into My Heart

Words: Rufus Henry McDaniel / Music: Charles Hutchinson Gabriel

G

What a wonderful change in my life has been wrought

C

G

Since Jesus came into my heart!

G

I have light in my soul for which long I had sought

A

D

Since Jesus came into my heart!

{chorus}

G

C

G

Since Jesus came into my heart, Since Jesus came into my heart,

G C

G

G

G

Floods of joy o'er my soul like the sea billows roll

C

G

D

G

C G

Since Jesus came into my heart

2. I have ceased from my wand'ring and going astray

Since Jesus came into my heart!

And my sins, which were many, are all washed away

Since Jesus came into my heart!

3. I'm possessed of a hope that is steadfast and sure

Since Jesus came into my heart!

And no dark clouds of doubt now my pathway obscure

Since Jesus came into my heart!

4. There's a light in the valley of death now for me

Since Jesus came into my heart!

And the gates of the City beyond I can see

Since Jesus came into my heart!

5. I shall go there to dwell in that City, I know

Since Jesus came into my heart!

And I'm happy, so happy, as onward I go

Since Jesus came into my heart!

Please share and reuse this material, with our blessings:

Joel Tucker and his brother Tommy ran a Jam in Florida for 25 years. Joel became a pastor there and served for 16 years. He pastored in Georgia 7 years, bringing the Jam with him.

Tommy Tucker was song leader at that first Jam. He now leads worship at Tropical Sands Christian Church, Palm Beach Gardens, FL — where it all began.

Vicki Tucker (Mrs. Joel) is a member of the Georgia Christian Church Regional Board. As chief elder, then board chair at Guyton Christian Church, she spearheaded support for the Jam. She sings good, too!

Jesus Christ lays the groundwork for every Christian endeavor, including the Jam. When in doubt, follow His lead.

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Scripture passages are from the King James Version.

Illustrations by Joel Tucker via ChatGPT.

Chord sheets by Tommy & Joel Tucker

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For downloadable copies and a starter book of more than 40 public domain hymns suitable for jamming, send an email to:

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