

Hymn of the Week

Trinity XVII

Stand up, stand up for Jesus

Words: George Duffield (1818 – 1888)

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Tune: Morning Light by **George James Webb** (1803 – 1887)

This hymn, based on Ephesians 6.14 has its origins in Philadelphia USA where it was written in 1858. The author, himself the son of a Presbyterian Minister, was a Presbyterian Pastor and a close friend Rev. Dudley Atkins Tyng, rector of the Epiphany Church, Philadelphia, who died in 1854 following an accident. Tyng had been much persecuted in those pro-slavery days for his persistent course in pleading the cause of the oppressed, his last words were, “Tell them to stand up for Jesus: now let us sing a hymn.” and, inspired by his friend’s dying words Duffield set out to write the hymn we are going to hear. Absurdly in recent times the hymn has been shunned by some who claim it disrespectful to those unable to stand, the exhortation of course does not relate to physical posture!

The tune Morning Light is the work of George Webb who was born in Salisbury, he trained as a musician in that city and began his career as an organist in Falmouth. In 1830 Webb resigned his post and immigrated to the United States where he initially settled in Boston, Massachusetts, he composed this tune during the voyage

The hymns is sung here with considerable precision and joy by a massed choir from Bangalore in India.

<https://youtu.be/8x7XfGHm7lE?list=RD8x7XfGHm7lE>