

Yes, My Jesus Loves Me

*Jesus loves me! This I know,
For the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to Him belong;
They are weak but He is strong.
Yes, My Jesus loves me!*



If I mentioned the name Anna Bartlett Warner to you, could you tell me who she is? If you guessed that she was the author of *Jesus Loves Me*, you would be right! Anna was an American writer and lived in the late 19th century and into the early 20th. She is known for being the author of several books, and also known for being the author of several poems that were then turned into hymns. One of her most famous poems was *Jesus Loves Me*. I would guess that *Jesus Loves Me* is one of the most well known hymns next to others like *Amazing Grace* or *Jesus Paid It All*. Honestly speaking, it is not the first hymn that I would think about singing as an opening hymn of praise. You may have noticed that I use it periodically in worship as the "Congregational Chorus" after the children's moment and before our time of prayer. I find that it is a good song to use as that transition point in worship while the children are moving from the sanctuary to children's church. It has such a simple melody, but the message is bold and strong!

*Jesus loves me! He who died, heaven's gates to open wide!
He will wash away my sin, let His little child come in.
Yes, Jesus loves me, the Bible tells me so!*

I chose this topic for my article because, over the next several weeks, the Chancel Choir will be preparing a piece to present in worship titled, *Yes, My Jesus Loves Me*. The anthem was composed by Mary McDonald, a well-known church music composer. If you pay attention to the arrangers and composers of the various music we use in worship, you have probably seen her name! I have a special connection with this piece as it was the first anthem I ever conducted! I was serving as choral scholar at my home church First Baptist of Wilson under the direction of Kelley Garris, Minister of Music and Organist. It was during my freshman or sophomore year of college while I was attending WCC. I don't remember all of the specifics, but I do remember being in front of the choir, thinking to myself, "I have no idea what I am doing!" In the end, I made it and I directed my first choral piece.

The anthem begins with the piano tenderly playing the main theme with the sopranos and altos entering in shortly after. They sing the familiar words that we know and love but they are heard in a new way. After the first verse the text is passed to the tenors and basses as it continues to grow and build going through several changes in key. After that climactic build in text and sound, the piece takes a drastic turn and brings in the melody that we all know and love. I hope you enjoy the anthem and the gentle reminder that Jesus loves you.

Blessings,
Blaine Pittman

NASHVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH

THE BYLINE

APRIL 2024

New Sunday Morning Times

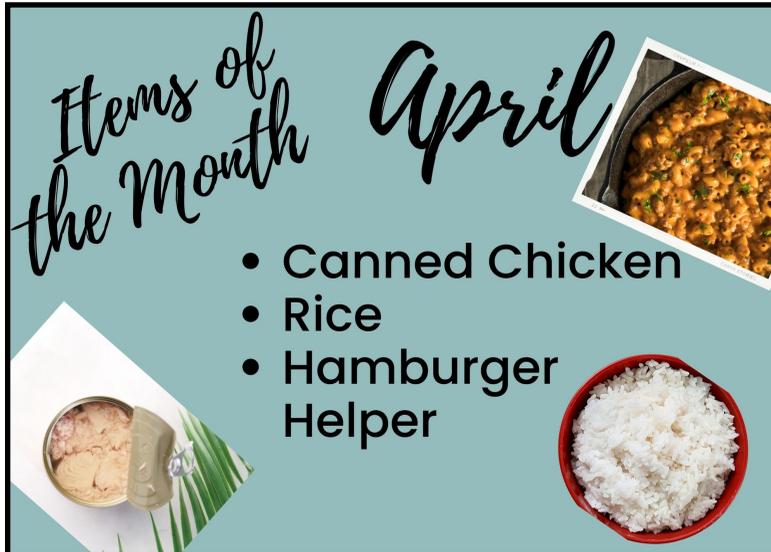
9:00 - 9:15 a.m. - Fellowship
(Coffee & Doughnuts)

9:15 - 10:15 a.m. - NBCU

10:30 a.m. - Worship Service

After much consideration, a plan to implement a schedule change starting Sunday morning May 5, 2024. We hope this will provide an opportunity for individuals not presently attending NBCU to do so and add a "cushion" in the schedule for worship preparation (especially for the choir and musicians).

Items of the Month April



- Canned Chicken
- Rice
- Hamburger Helper

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FROM THE PASTOR

I am both confused and relieved that my April article will not include an invitation to join NBC in Easter worship. A sense of confusion settles as I often associate Easter Sunday with this month, and the relief comes from the realization that we made it through the Holy Week marathon! The three days leading to Easter, beginning on the evening of Maundy Thursday, are called the *Triduum*. The simple translation of the term is *Three Days*.

Those *Three Days* came early this year with our Easter celebration on March 31. The earliest date for Easter is March 22, determined by the Spring Equinox and lunar calendar. The latest date for Easter is April 25; next year, we celebrate on April 20, Lord willin'. This process is termed a *Moveable Feast*, in consideration that the date moves based upon specific parameters. In this case, it is the lunar cycle.

I have grown accustomed to the roving date of Easter and hearing, "Easter's early/late this year." The church plans activities and events, understanding each year provides a specific timeframe. No matter the date, there are six Sundays in Lent and 46 days from Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday. If Ash Wednesday occurs on February 14 or March 5, the main focus will be **Easter's Comin'!**

Easter is our celebration. Although Christmas battles secular domination, and it too is at the heart of our worship, society appears to roll over Christmas like a tidal wave. Believers cannot relinquish the miracle of Easter. The Resurrection of Christ is at the core of Christian belief and central to our faith.

In those *Three Days* leading to Easter, believers journey from deep despair to exuberance. As the disciples thought they were lost and without hope following the crucifixion, we, too, experience times of wandering. The Easter celebration awakens us and pulls us from our aimless journeys. Easter is HOPE!

Maybe the moveable date of Easter provides more than realized. If the date of Easter was fixed, might it become another time overtaken by those beyond the church? We know that if time stands and the Lord does not return, there will be an Easter Sunday each year. Each year, it will fall on a different date following the lunar cycle, which was placed in motion by the Lord. The date of Easter is moveable, and our Lord is a constant. I pray you find peace in the Lord in an overwhelming world. We are EASTER PEOPLE!

Nan Strickland Flower Ministry

How can you support this ministry?

-You can provide monetary donations to purchase flowers and supplies. Mark your donation:

Missions/Flower Ministry.

-You can participate by assisting in flower arranging/delivery.

Volunteer Schedule:

Join us on Friday, April 12 & 26

@ 10 am in the Fellowship Hall.

Hosted by:
Visioning
Team

Family Night Meal

April 17, 2024, @ 5:30 PM

Fellowship Hall

\$5 payable at the door

Quarterly Business meeting to follow.

Sign-up
sheets are
in the
Narthex
and
Fellowship
Hall.

Nashville Baptist CHURCH

Service Time:
Sundays | 10 a.m.

Join us in worship
either in person or via
live stream.

Office Hours:
Mon. - Thurs.
9 am - 2 pm

Friday - closed

CONTACT US

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