Before the Lord’s eternal throne Hymnal 1982 no. 391 Melody: Winchester New L.M.

British spelling



Before the Lord’s eternal throne,

ye nations, bow with sacred joy;

know that the Lord is God alone;

he can create, and he destroy.

His sovereign power without our aid

formed us of clay and gave us breath;

and when like wandering sheep we strayed,

he saved us from the power of death.

We are his people, we his care,

our souls, and all our mortal frame:

what lasting honours shall we rear,

almighty Maker, to thy Name?

We’ll crowd thy gates with thankful songs,

high as the heaven our voices raise;

and earth, with her ten thousand tongues,

shall fill thy courts with sounding praise.

Wide as the world is thy command,

vast as eternity thy love;

firm as a rock thy truth must stand,

when rolling years shall cease to move.

Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748)

Music: Adapted from *Musicalisches Hand-Buch* (Hamburg, 1690), harmony by William Henry Monk (1823-1889)