

if you
don't like
jesus
and
other
songs



tim sullivan

Words from a friend

Our Creator, in His divine wisdom, knew His beloved man should not be alone. Because He gave Adam his Eve, we have family. But He also gave us a bonus – friends. I was grateful to get to know Tim in high school, and find a friend who shared common grounds – a strong sense of humor, ping pong, and a passion to create (art, music, photography, writing). My passion for photography grew, so my parents gifted me a camera for my high school graduation. Like any other budding teenage photographer, I was taking photos of any and everything ... including this photo I took of my friend performing on stage at school in 1975. Self-taught, I could tell even then he loved this form of expression. Fast-forward: We lost each other for a few decades; I prayed that Jesus was looking out for Tim during that void, then Tim somehow found me. Reunited, it filled my heart with tremendous joy to find Jesus was his Lord, as He was mine. On a much smaller level, it was also joyful to discover how Tim's musical talents had blossomed, including his songwriting. As you will discover here, his songwriting and melody-creations are personal, from his heart, and in praise of, inspired by, Jesus, our Savior. And by a purposeful life still living, with family and friends. Enjoy Tim's music and message.



Steve Welsh

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- 1 You Are My Refuge
- 2 He's Reaching
- 3 My Joy And Crown
- 4 How I Wish
- 5 Now I Know
- 6 The Oxen Know
- 7 If You Don't Like Jesus

You Are My Refuge (2016)

I cried to the Lord with my voice,
With my voice, I made my plea.
I poured out my complaint before his throne,
The things that were troubling me.
When my heart was overwhelmed,
When a trap was set for me,
You were always on my side.
You never turned your back on me.

I looked around and saw no one
Who could offer more than sympathy.
I knew that I had nowhere to hide,
From the arrows of my adversaries.
Attend unto my cry, I prayed,
My enemies are stronger than me.
I am brought so very low.
Only you can set me free!

You are my savior, my refuge! My heart will trust in thee!
I will walk in the land of the living for all eternity!
You are my shield! You are my strength! You are my victory!
I will walk in the land of the living for all eternity!

I cried to the Lord with my voice,
With my voice, I made my plea.
Now my heart sings out praises unto God,
From my fears, he set me free.
When my heart was overwhelmed,
When a trap was set for me,
You were always on my side.
You never turned your back on me.

You are my savior, my refuge! My heart will trust in thee!
I will walk in the land of the living for all eternity!
You are my shield! You are my strength! You are my victory!
I will walk in the land of the living for all eternity!
I will walk in the land of the living for all eternity!

I'll never lose with Jesus on my side!
I cannot lose!
I'll never lose with Jesus on my side!

.....
This song was inspired by Psalm 142. It is an affirmation of our eternal victory in Christ. I sing of that blessed instant of enlightenment when a person's fears about his impending death are displaced by the joyful realization he is moments away from being with the Lord.

Psalm 142:1-7

- 1 I cried unto the LORD with my voice;
with my voice unto the LORD did I make my supplication.
 - 2 I poured out my complaint before him;
I shewed before him my trouble.
 - 3 When my spirit was overwhelmed within me, then thou knewest my path.
In the way wherein I walked have they privily laid a snare for me.
 - 4 I looked on my right hand, and beheld, but there was no man that would know me:
refuge failed me; no man cared for my soul.
 - 5 I cried unto thee, O LORD: I said,
Thou art my refuge and my portion in the land of the living.
 - 6 Attend unto my cry; for I am brought very low:
deliver me from my persecutors; for they are stronger than I.
 - 7 Bring my soul out of prison, that I may praise thy name:
the righteous shall compass me about;
for thou shalt deal bountifully with me.
-

He's Reaching (1978, revised 2021)

Let him wipe those teardrops from your eyes.
He knows about the pain you hold inside.
Let my people go, the Lord did say,
The risen Son has made a brand new day.

Now's the time for living!
Come, let's walk along the way!
God's love has swept in.
Take his hand. He's reaching.

You're not alone. We've all been scared before.
But love can open every prison door.
A new day's come. Let Jesus be your light.
And walk into the newness of his life.

Now's the time for living!
Come, let's walk along the way!
God's love has swept in.
Take his hand. He's reaching.

He'll be with you when you can't see past your tears.
Break the chains that bind you. Quiet all your fears.

So let him wipe those teardrops from your eyes.
And take away the pain you try to hide.
Weeping may endure for the night,
But joy comes in the morning with his light.

Now's the time for living!
Come, let's walk along the way!
God's love has swept in.
Take his hand. He's reaching.
Now's the time for living!
Take his hand. He's reaching.



Psalm 30:5 says, "Weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning." In our pilgrimage through this life, we all face times of trouble and heartache, but as Christians, we never face them alone.



My Joy and Crown (1978)

You're my joy and crown, dearly beloved.
You're my joy and crown, named in the book of life.
And the peace of God that passes all understanding
Shall keep your heart and mind through Christ.
And the peace of God that passes all understanding
Shall keep your heart and mind through Christ.

You're my joy and crown, oh how I've longed for you.
You're my joy and crown, called to life.
For what is our hope or joy, or crown of rejoicing?
Are not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming?
Glory and joy!
For what is our hope or joy, or crown of rejoicing?
Are not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ
at his coming?
Glory and joy!

You're my joy and crown, dearly beloved.
You're my joy and crown, named in the book of life.
You're my joy and crown, oh how I've longed for you.
You're my joy and crown! You've been called to life.


.....

These verses were taken from Paul's epistles in which he expresses the depth of his love for the people he reached through his ministry. There is a special joy that an attentive student brings to his teacher. I wrote this song for the first person I ever led to Christ but now I dedicate it to everyone who I've ever had the privilege to teach, and in particular, to my students at the Nepal Presbyterian Theological Seminary in Kathmandu.

Philippians 4:1 and 7

- ¹ Therefore, my brethren dearly beloved and longed for,
my joy and crown,
so stand fast in the Lord, my dearly beloved.
- ⁷ And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding,
shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

1 Thessalonians 2:19-20

- ¹⁹ For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing?
Are not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming?
- ²⁰ For ye are our glory and joy.
- 

How I Wish (2022)

How I wish I never had to write this song,
Of how it feels to be still here when you are gone.
I know you're in a better place,
And I still have to run my race,
But how I wish I never had to write this song.

How I wish you never had to say goodbye,
And leave me here to stare in space and wonder why.
I know you're in a better place,
And I still have to run my race,
But how I wish you never had to say goodbye.

Yes, I know how this story ends,
But now is now, and then is then.
There was so much that we planned to do.
It won't be the same without you.

How I wish that I could talk to you again,
And tell you what it meant to me to be your friend.
I know you're in a better place,
And I still have to run my race,
But how I wish I never had to write this song.

.....
This song poured out of my broken heart after the unexpected passing of my dearly beloved brother in Christ, mission companion, and friend, Daniel Bucher. This is the first of many songs in this collection to which Evan Pyle made a special musical contribution.



Now I Know (2021)

I was just a slave to sin,
Serving ev'ry lustful whim.
So proud to do the things that brought me shame.
Like a drunk who's had too many,
Like a clown who isn't funny,
Worst of all is how I blasphemed your name.

Even when I heard you calling,
I just kept on falling,
Too proud to think I needed help from you.
So I tried to hide my fear
with another glass of beer.
Too cool to see I was a fool.

I was blind but I thought that I could see.
But you, Lord, could see right through me.
You held a mirror to my face,
Then you gave me saving grace.
Hallelujah, now I know that I believe.
Hallelujah, now I know that I believe.

Now I want the world to see,
You can live eternally.
Jesus broke the chains that held you to the grave.
All you did, he can undo.
What is old, he will make new.
He's my Lord and God, the one who came to save.

Praise the Lord, our God is near.
Open up your heart and cheer.
Jesus gave his life on Calvary for you.
He'll forgive your ev'ry sin.
Give you brand new life within.
He's the one who can cleanse you through and through.

I was blind but I thought that I could see.
But you, Lord, could see right through me.
You held a mirror to my face,
Then you gave me saving grace.
Hallelujah, now I know that I believe.
Hallelujah, now I know that I believe.

.....
My friend Jay Pearson has written more songs that he can remember. One day, he gave me a page of unfinished lyrics and invited me to complete the song. I added some of my own ideas and came up with this, the first song I ever wrote to be played on a ukulele.

The Oxen Know (2022)

The oxen know their master,
And the donkeys know where they are fed.
But my people, they don't know, says God.
They go backward and not ahead.

All your self-reliance,
What has that done for you?
You say you're gonna nail it,
Then you end up getting screwed!

The oxen know their master,
And the donkeys know where they are fed.
But my people, they don't know, says God.
They go backward and not ahead.

Like an axe that has a dull edge,
We hack our way through life.
But God's Word is a sharpened sword
That cuts through all our strife.

God sees around the corners.
He knows what lies ahead.
Stop thinking for yourself, my friend,
And look to Christ instead.


The oxen know their master,
And the donkeys know where they are fed.
But my people, they don't know, says God.
They go backward and not ahead.
They go backward and not ahead.
They go backward and not ahead.

.....
*Our walk with the Lord is a story
of trust. As we trust in God, we
move forward. But when we trust
rather in ourselves, we go
backward. Isaiah's words speak
to the heart of the matter, and
Solomon gives us words to live by.*

Isaiah 1:3 and 4b

- ³ The ox knoweth his owner, and the ass his master's crib:
but Israel doth not know, my people doth not consider.
- ⁴ ... they have forsaken the LORD,
they have provoked the Holy One of Israel unto anger,
they are gone away backward.

Ecclesiastes 10:10

- ¹⁰ If the iron be blunt, and he do not whet the edge,
then must he put to more strength:
but wisdom is profitable to direct.
- 

If You Don't Like Jesus (2022)

Well I know you don't like people telling you what to do.
But I think you ought to know the consequences of what you choose.
There are no second chances
when the flames of fire 'round your feet start dancin',
And you're called on the carpet for the Savior you refused.

Now please don't think that I want bad things for you.
I want you to know the one who died on the cross for you.
You still have time for repentance.
Forsake your sins and ask God for forgiveness,
And believe on the one who's the way, the life, and truth.

But if you don't like truth, and you don't like love,
And you don't like peace from the Father above,
If you think heaven's just a tale they tell,
And you don't like Jesus, you can go to hell.

It's your pride that's telling you you're good enough as you are.
You gave a dollar to the church, and you drive an electric car.
But who's gonna save the planet,
When the sins of man force God to damn it,
And the whole wide world goes up in a ball of fire?

But if you don't want truth, and you don't want love,
And you don't want peace from the Father above,
If you think heaven's just a tale they tell
And you want to hear yourself gnash and wail,
'Cause you don't want Jesus, you can go to hell.

You need truth, and you need love,
And you need peace from the Father above
Heaven isn't just a tale they tell
No one wants to hear you gnash and wail.
You need Jesus so you don't go to hell.

●

*Jack Schroeder has been my friend since my earliest days as a Christian. We were talking in his garage in Maryland when this phrase popped into my head, and I told him I was going to turn it into a song. I hope such bold talk about Jesus doesn't offend you.
But if it does ...*

Come unto me,
all ye that labour and are
heavy laden,
and I will give you rest.

Matthew 11:28

You Are My Refuge

Tim Sullivan, vocals, keyboards.

He's Reaching

Tim Sullivan, vocals, acoustic guitar.

Tanpura and tabla loops from youtube.com

My Joy and Crown

Tim Sullivan, vocals, acoustic guitar, keyboards.

How I Wish

Tim Sullivan, vocals, acoustic guitar.

Evan Pyle, acoustic guitar, dobro resonator guitar.

Now I Know

Tim Sullivan, vocals, ukulele, electric bass.

Evan Pyle, acoustic guitar, kalimba, maracas.

The Oxen Know

Tim Sullivan, vocals, acoustic guitar, electric bass.

Murray Clark, banjo, mandolin

If You Don't Like Jesus

Tim Sullivan, vocals, electric bass.

Evan Pyle, electric guitar

Drum loops by Studio One recording software.

All songs by Tim Sullivan except "Now I Know" by Tim Sullivan & Jay Pearson.

About the artist

Tim Sullivan was born in 1957, the fourth of five children born to Howard and Namiko Sullivan. His ancestry can be traced back to both the Mayflower pilgrims and the Samurai warriors of ancient Japan. As a young man, his self-directed exploration for truth led him only further into spiritual darkness, but through the grace and mercy of God, he came to know Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior shortly before his 20th birthday.

Tim's musical education began in the fourth grade classroom of Miss Bader, a woman of Hawaiian decent, who taught her students to play the ukulele. That same year he began to play acoustic guitar, the instrument that has accompanied him since. But with the single exception of playing in a band that accompanied a high school drama production, Tim sang and played only for himself. His only venture into songwriting came in his one year at college – an angst-filled protest song that had more length than substance.

But around the time of his conversion, the Holy Spirit made known his presence by giving Tim melodies and lyrics seemingly “out of the blue” that were quickly crafted into finished songs. It wasn't that these songs were musical masterpieces (as might be expected of a song birthed by God). But Tim knew God was speaking through him, working within the confines of his limited musical ability to produce something far greater than he could alone. This was both thrilling and a bit frightening to someone who had only recently accepted the possibility that God existed. In addition, this painfully insecure and introverted young man discovered he enjoyed playing these new songs in front of an audience.

A few months later, he volunteered for a year-long missionary service and was sent with three other young people to a small town in West Virginia. It was a significant year. For the first time ever, he led someone to Christ. He met Jack and Jan Schroeder who become life-long friends. And he met Bill Covert, his first musical partner, who encouraged Tim's



songwriting and used his own skills to make the songs sound much better. Tim penned nine songs that year, two of which are in this collection. Bill made a reel-to-reel recording of these songs, adding harmony vocals, electric bass, and an additional acoustic guitar. This photo is of Tim and Bill playing at a Christian music festival. Sadly, this partnership ended when Tim left West Virginia, and Bill has since passed away.

In the years that followed, Tim's songwriting continued, but his source of inspiration was far less the Holy Spirit and far more the tenets of the church he was attending. Ironically, the more he involved himself with the church, the less he felt the touch of God. His well of inspiration – along with his Christian fervor – ran dry in the mid-1980s. Thankfully, Tim's passion for serving the Lord was revived in the early 1990's through the ministry of B. G. Leonard, an aged man of God who loved him like the grandfather he never knew. This man was a prolific writer of insightful and challenging biblical teachings, poetry, and inspirational songs. Tim dusted off his guitar and used it to lead the church song-service.



Rev. Leonard ordained Tim to the Christian ministry in 1993, and the Holy Spirit directed him into the ministry of a teacher. In 1999, Tim founded Workers Together With Him, a non-profit organization that provided him with the legal standing needed to do the work of a gospel minister. Soon after, the Spirit began to direct him to write seminars of spiritual instruction, and then opened doors for Tim to teach those courses. He accepted invitations to teach in Germany, Mexico, the USA, Australia, England, Switzerland, Wales, Greece, Austria, Ireland, and the Netherlands. In 2003, he made the first of many missions to East Africa – first in Tanzania, and then in Uganda, Kenya, and once in Rwanda. Then in 2016, he was invited to teach in Nepal. This led to his joining the teaching staff of the Nepal Presbyterian Theological School in Kathmandu, something even the global pandemic could not disrupt.

During these years, the Holy Spirit led Tim to focus on writing sermons, books, and classes. Then, in 2016, he wrote his first new song in over three decades, a song based on Psalm 142 which he called “You Are My Refuge”. In 2019, he sang that song and another from his days in West Virginia, “My Joy and Crown” for the students at the Nepal Presbyterian Theological School – the first time he performed on stage in over 30 years. The reception by the students stirred up a gift that had long sat dormant. The icing on the cake occurred in 2020 when he reconnected with his friend Jack and discovered that Jack was still a fan of those early songs, and had sung them to his daughters when they were young.



Since that time, the Holy Spirit has once again visited Tim with inspiration for songs – once even in a moment of overwhelming grief. But more often in times of gratitude and joy. The mark of the Holy Spirit is still the same – a flash of inspiration and the song practically writes itself. In the end you have an imperfect man with limited skills singing about his perfect and limitless God.

Tim is a minister by vocation and a musician by hobby, but cheerfully offers this recording for your spiritual edification and listening pleasure. He gratefully acknowledges the help he received from Evan Pyle, Jay Pearson and Murray Clark to make this recording, and his Leilehua High classmate and friend, Steve Welsh, who put this booklet together.





*Booklet design:
Steve Welsh*

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