

Singing *with the* Saints

in:progress
WEBINARS



Singing *with the* Saints

PART TWO

■ Introduction

- *16-17th Century: shaping of worship*
- *18-19th Century: influence of surrounding culture*

Singing with the Saints

PART TWO

Reason & Passion (18th Century)

- *Isaac Watts*

- Context:

- Enlightenment rationalism
- Exclusive Psalmody

To see the dull indifference, the negligent and the thoughtless air that sits upon the faces of a whole assembly, while the psalm is on their lips, might tempt even a charitable observer to suspect the fervency of inward religion; and 'tis much to be feared that the minds of most of the worshippers are absent or unconcerned.



Singing *with the* Saints

PART TWO

Reason & Passion (18th Century)

- *Isaac Watts*
 - Rewriting Psalms
 - Writing 'modern hymns'



Singing with the Saints

PART TWO

Reason & Passion (18th Century)

- *Isaac Watts*
 - Guiding principles
 - Need for understanding

If the verse appears so gentle and flowing as to incur the censure of feebleness, I may honestly affirm, that sometimes it cost me labour to make it so.



Singing with the Saints

PART TWO

Reason & Passion (18th Century)

- *Isaac Watts*
 - Guiding principles
 - Need for understanding

I would neither indulge any bold metaphors, nor admit of hard words, nor tempt an ignorant worshipper to sing without his understanding.



Singing with the Saints

PART TWO

Reason & Passion (18th Century)

- *Isaac Watts*
 - Guiding principles
 - Need for understanding
 - Expression of passion

Let us remember, that the very power of singing was given to human nature chiefly for this purpose, that our own warmest affections of soul might break out into natural or divine melody, and that the tongue of the worshipper might express his own heart.



Singing with the Saints

PART TWO

Reason & Passion (18th Century)

- *Isaac Watts*
 - Guiding principles
 - Need for understanding
 - Expression of passion

*Now shall my inward joys arise,
And burst into a song;
Almighty love inspires my heart,
And pleasure tunes my tongue.*



Singing with the Saints

PART TWO

Reason & Passion (18th Century)

- *Isaac Watts*
 - Guiding principles
 - Need for understanding
 - Expression of passion

*Thus might I hide my blushing face
While His dear cross appears,
Dissolve my heart in thankfulness,
And melt my eyes to tears.*

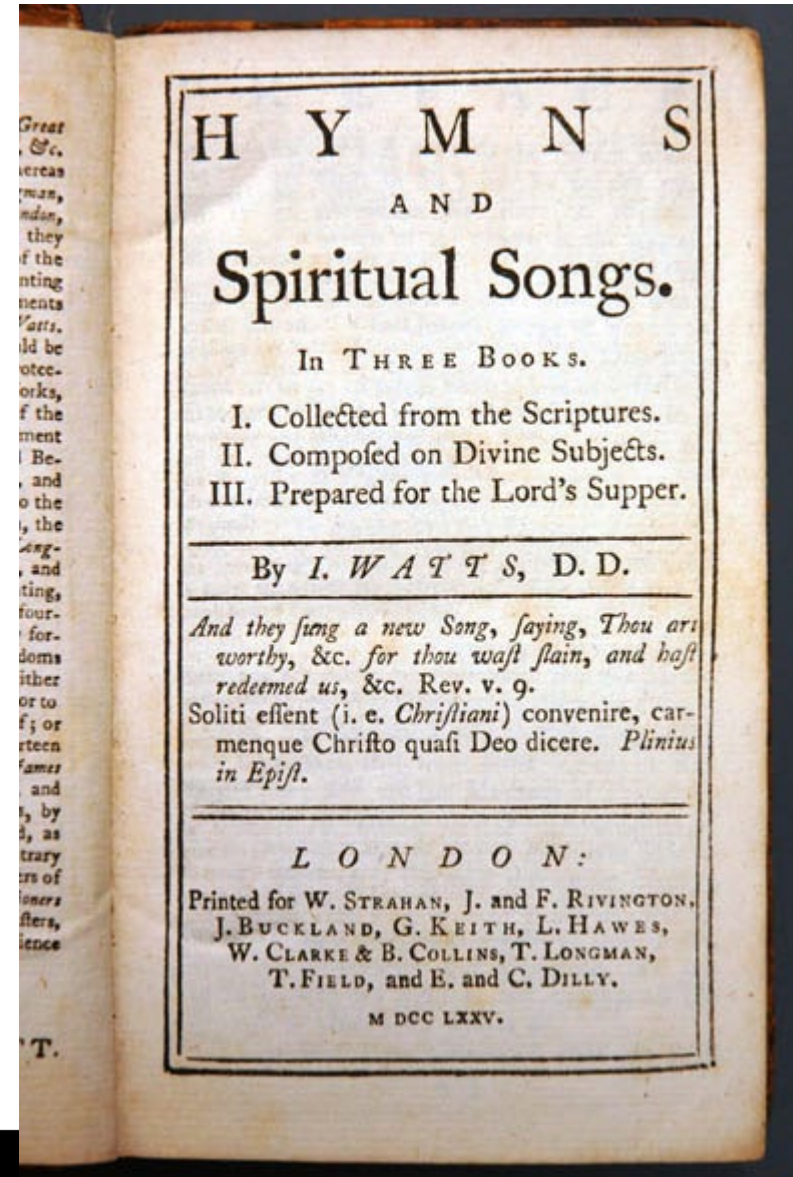


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PART TWO

Reason & Passion (18th Century)

- *Isaac Watts*
 - Hymns (1707)



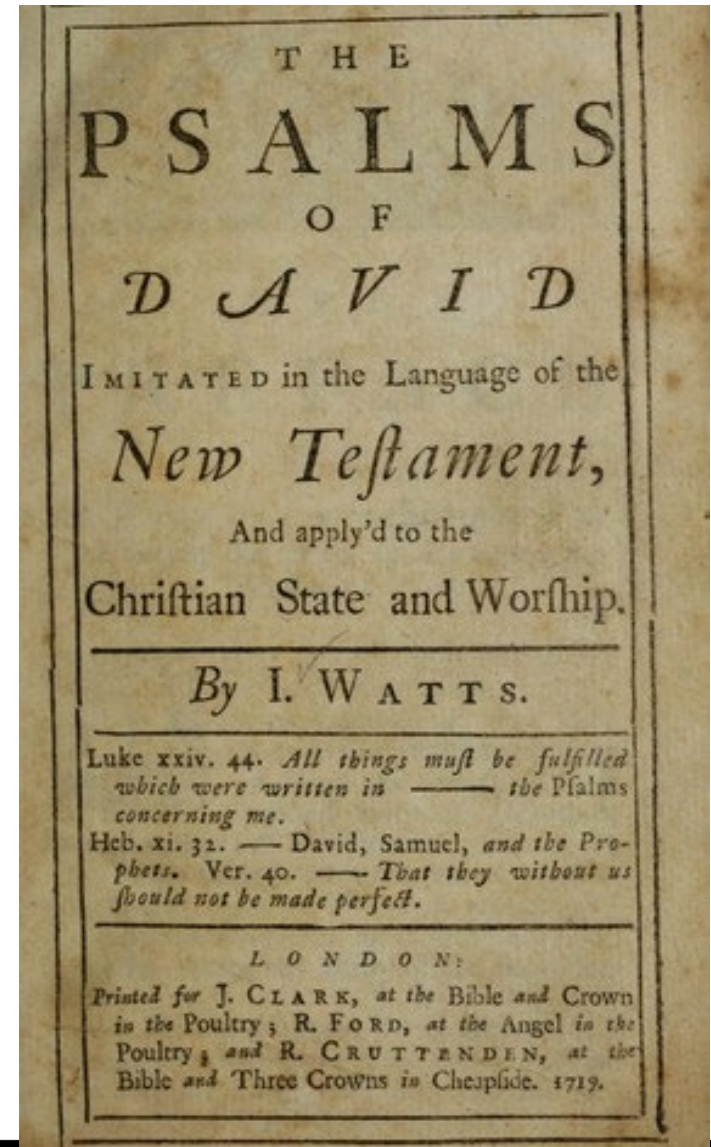
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PART TWO

Reason & Passion (18th Century)

- *Isaac Watts*
 - Re-writing Psalms
 - 'Updating'

Thus by keeping too close to David in the house of God, the veil of Moses is thrown over our hearts.



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PART TWO

Reason & Passion (18th Century)

- *Isaac Watts*
 - Re-writing Psalms
 - 'Updating'

Psalm 16

Old Version

Thou, Lord, when I resign my
breath,
my soul from hell shall free;
Nor let thy Holy One in death
the least corruption see.

Watts' version

Thus, in the name of Christ, the
Lord,
The holy David sung;
And Providence fulfils the word
Of his prophetic tongue.

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PART TWO

Reason & Passion (18th Century)

- *Isaac Watts*
 - Re-writing Psalms
 - 'Updating'

Psalm 72

Old Version

His uncontrolled dominion shall
from sea to sea extend,
Begin at proud Euphrates'
streams,
at nature's limits end.

Watts' version

Jesus shall reign where're the sun
Does his successive journeys run;
His kingdom stretch from shore to
shore,
Till moons shall wax and wane no
more.

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PART TWO

Reason & Passion (18th Century)

- *Isaac Watts*
 - Rewriting Psalms
 - Writing 'modern hymns'
 - Influence

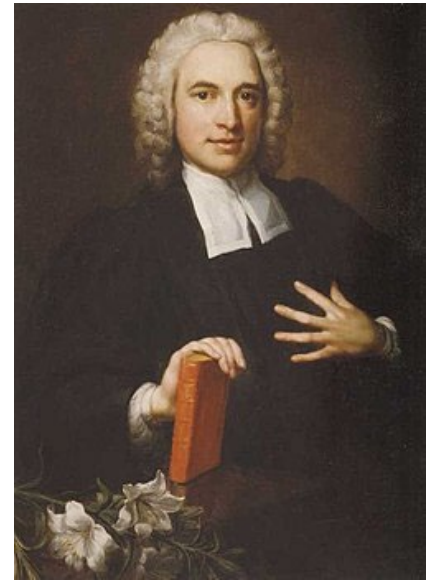


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PART TWO

Reason & Passion (18th Century)

- *Evangelical Revival*
- *Impact on corporate worship*
 - John & Charles Wesley
 - Hymn writing
 - 'Alternative' services
 - Expression of passion



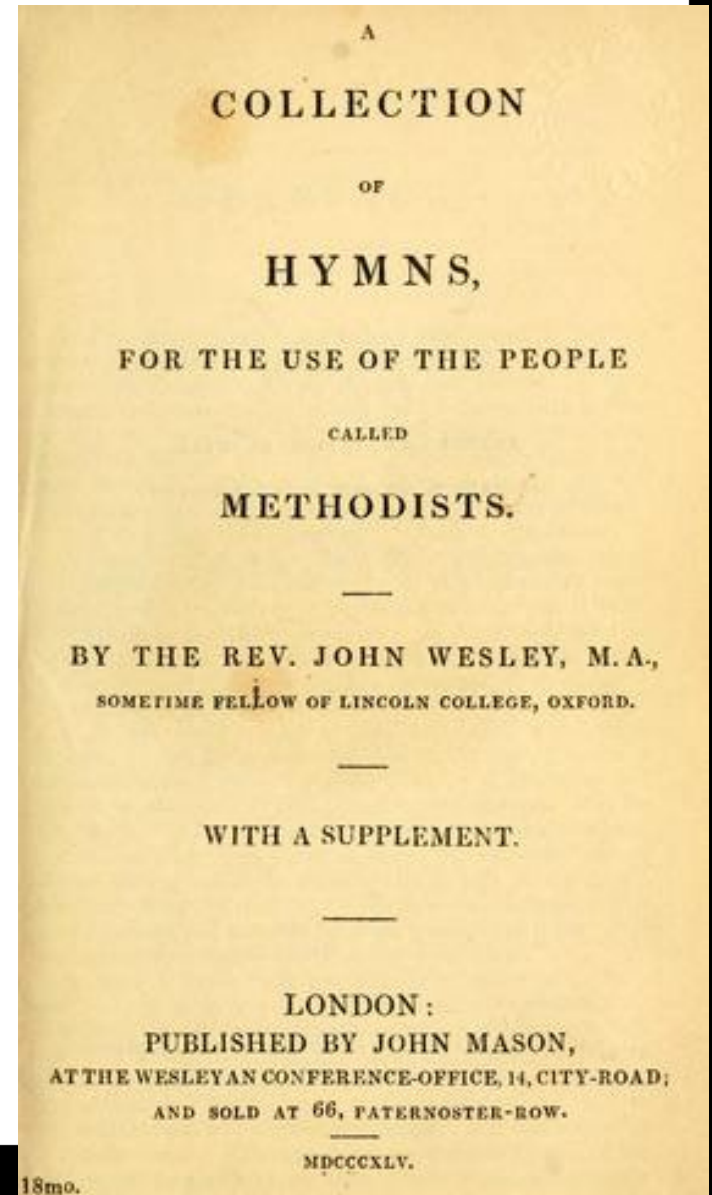
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PART TWO

Reason & Passion (18th Century)

- *Evangelical Revival*
- *Impact on corporate worship*

That which is of infinitely more moment than the spirit of poetry, is the spirit of piety. And I trust, all persons of real judgment will find this breathing through the whole Collection. It is in this view chiefly, that I would recommend it to every truly pious reader, as a means of raising or quickening the spirit of devotion; of confirming his faith; of enlivening his hope; and of kindling and increasing his love to God and man.



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PART TWO

■ Reason & Passion (18th Century)

- *Key lessons*
 - Combination of head and heart
 - Awareness of cultural pressures
 - Aiding of worshippers
 - Use of the Psalms

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PART TWO

■ Respectability & Reaction (19th Century)

- *Influence of respectability*
 - Background: 'arrival' of non-conformity

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PART TWO

■ Respectability & Reaction (19th Century)

- *Influence of respectability*
 - Effect: Buildings



Singing with the Saints

PART TWO

■ Respectability & Reaction (19th Century)

- *Influence of respectability*
 - Effect: Buildings



Singing with the Saints

PART TWO

■ Respectability & Reaction (19th Century)

- *Influence of respectability*
 - Effect: Singing & Instruments



Singing with the Saints

PART TWO

■ Respectability & Reaction (19th Century)

- *Influence of respectability*
 - Effect: Singing & Instruments



Singing with the Saints

PART TWO

■ Respectability & Reaction (19th Century)

- *Influence of respectability*
 - Effect: Liturgy
 - *A New Directory for Nonconformist Churches Containing Remarks on Their Mode of Public Worship, and a Plan for the Improvement of it* (1812)
 - Focus on prayer: extempore / use of 'Scripture forms'

Singing with the Saints

PART TWO

■ Respectability & Reaction (19th Century)

- *Influence of respectability*
 - Effect: Liturgy
 - *A New Directory for Nonconformist Churches Containing Remarks on Their Mode of Public Worship, and a Plan for the Improvement of it* (1812)
 - Focus on singing

We recommend it to ministers to reserve to themselves the right of fixing on what shall be sung, and especially after the sermon, as there are few clerks with whom it can be safely entrusted.

Singing with the Saints

PART TWO

■ Respectability & Reaction (19th Century)

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 - Effect: Liturgy
 - *A New Directory for Nonconformist Churches Containing Remarks on Their Mode of Public Worship, and a Plan for the Improvement of it* (1812)
 - Focus on singing

To render the service more pleasant, let due care be taken to secure a person well qualified, both by voice and judgement, to take the lead, and to supply a sufficient variety of agreeable tunes.

Singing with the Saints

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■ Respectability & Reaction (19th Century)

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 - Effect: Liturgy
 - *A New Directory for Nonconformist Churches Containing Remarks on Their Mode of Public Worship, and a Plan for the Improvement of it* (1812)
 - Focus on singing

An over solicitude to please the ear, tends to take off a due regard to the devotion of the heart; and when singing of psalms becomes a mere musical entertainment it degenerates into profaneness.

Singing with the Saints

PART TWO

■ Respectability & Reaction (19th Century)

- *Influence of respectability*
 - Effect: Liturgy
 - *A New Directory for Nonconformist Churches Containing Remarks on Their Mode of Public Worship, and a Plan for the Improvement of it* (1812)
 - Focus on singing

The grand use of an organ, or any other instrument in divine worship, is to assist the congregation in the exercise of their voices in celebrating the praises of God. So far as it proves the occasion of preventing this, or as it only delights the ear, to the suppression of the melody of the heart, the use of this fine instrument must be condemned as highly injurious and of course criminal.

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PART TWO

■ Respectability & Reaction (19th Century)

- *Key lessons*
 - Awareness of cultural pressure
 - Thoughtfulness over conduct of corporate worship
 - Historical perspective

Singing with the Saints

PART TWO

■ Respectability & Reaction (19th Century)

- *Reaction against respectability*
 - Primitive Methodists (1811)

Never shall I forget the singing of that service... such a glorious outburst of music as could not fail to help the spirit of devotion. We felt the Divine enchantment of the hour. The glory of the Lord was in his sanctuary.

Singing with the Saints

PART TWO

■ Respectability & Reaction (19th Century)

- *Reaction against respectability*
 - Primitive Methodist (1811)

There are men who have what the old Methodists called the ‘gift of prayer’ and the preacher had that gift... He carried his congregation along on the strong pinions of his own faith, until a low rumbling of murmured responses broke forth in loud ‘Amens’. Suddenly one man sprang to his feet, and with a loud shout of ‘Praise the Lord’ jumped into the air... ‘Make the place of Thy feet glorious’, exclaimed the preacher, and with cries of ‘He does it’, ‘He does it now’, the petition came to a close.

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PART TWO

■ Respectability & Reaction (19th Century)

- *Reaction against respectability*
 - Brethren (1827)
 - 'Breaking of Bread'
 - 'Voluntary contributions'

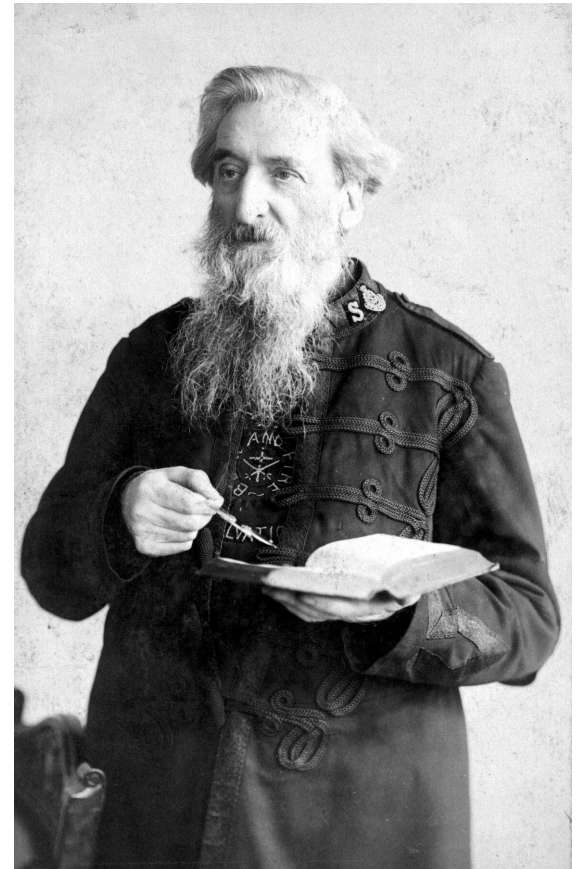
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PART TWO

■ Respectability & Reaction (19th Century)

- *Reaction against respectability*
 - Salvation Army (1865)

You must sing good tunes. Let it be a good tune to begin with. I don't care much whether you call it secular or sacred. I rather enjoy robbing the devil of his choicest tunes, and, after his subjects themselves, music is about the best commodity he possesses. It is like taking the enemy's guns and turning them against him.



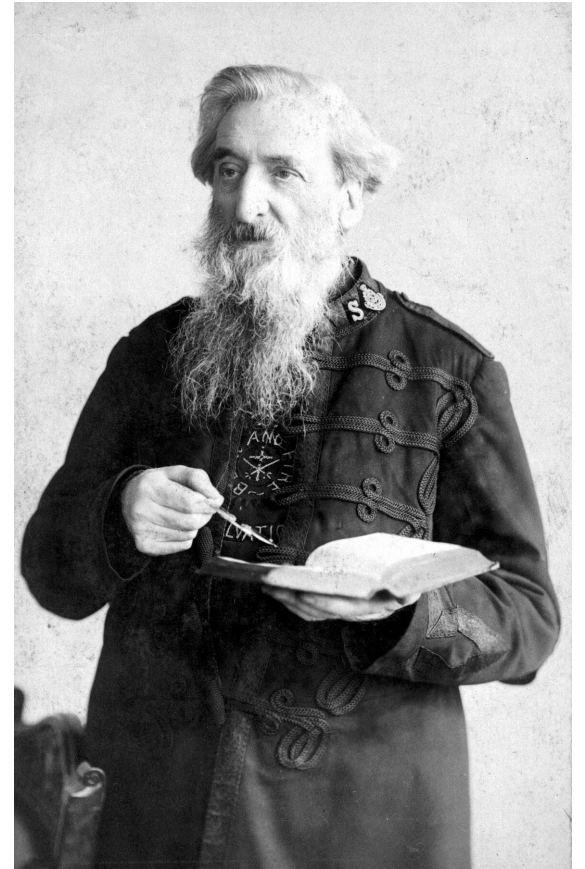
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PART TWO

■ Respectability & Reaction (19th Century)

- *Reaction against respectability*
 - Salvation Army (1865)

Let us have a real tune, that is a melody with some distinct air in it, that one can take hold of, which people can learn, nay which takes hold of them and goes on humming in the mind until they have mastered it. That is the sort of tune to help you; it will preach to you, and bring you believers and converts.



Singing with the Saints

PART TWO

■ Respectability & Reaction (19th Century)

- *Reaction against respectability*
 - Revivalism
 - Moody & Sankey (1870s-1880s)

Well, the fact that hymns, which are simple even to childishness, are sung by grown people with so much earnestness, that hymns with no literary merit kindle new fire in the hearts of men and women... is surely worth investigating.



Singing with the Saints

PART TWO

■ Respectability & Reaction (19th Century)

- *Reaction against respectability*
 - Revivalism
 - Moody & Sankey (1870s-1880s)

Give the people a collection of hymns characterised by equal fervour, expressing with the same directness the elementary convictions and the deepest emotions of the Christian heart... and they will become equally popular, and more enduring. But our hymn books are too stiff and cold. People want to sing not what they *think*, but what they *feel*.



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PART TWO

■ Respectability & Reaction (19th Century)

- *Key lessons*
 - Recognise 'reactions'
 - Need to aid expression of Christian feeling
 - Raises question: aid versus manipulation