

## Lift Every Voice and Sing

*James Weldon Johnson, 1921; alt.*

1 Lift ev-ery voice and sing, till earth and heav - en ring, ring with the  
 2 Ston-y the road we trod, bit-ter the chas-tening rod, felt in the  
 3 God of our wea - ry years, God of our si - lent tears, God who has

har - mo - nies of lib - er - ty; Let our re - joic - ing  
 days when hope un - born had died; Yet with a stead - y  
 brought us thus far on the way; God, who by your

rise, high as the lis - tening skies, let it re - sound loud as the  
 beat, have not our wea - ry feet, come to the place for which our  
 might, led us in - to the light, keep us for - ev - er in the

roll - ing sea. Sing a song full of the  
 peo - ple sighed? We have come o - ver a  
 path, we pray. Lest our feet stray from the

Tune: LIFT EVERY VOICE Irr.  
 J. Rosamond Johnson, 1921

*Poet James Weldon Johnson was the first African-American to pass the bar examination in the state of Florida, and served as U.S. consul in Venezuela and Nicaragua. He collaborated with his composer brother, John Rosamond Johnson, to write Broadway operettas and edit song collections. John appeared in vaudeville, directed London musicals, and headed the Music*

faith that the harsh past has taught us, Sing a song full of the  
 way that with tears has been wa - tered, We have come, tread - ing our  
 plac - es, our God, where we met you, Lest our hearts, drunk with the

hope that the pres - ent has brought us; Fac - ing the  
 path through the blood of the slaugh - tered, Out from the  
 wine of the world, for - get you; Shad - owed be -

ris - ing sun of our new day be - gun, let us march  
 gloom - y past, till now we stand at last where the white  
 neath your hand, may we for - ev - er stand, true to our

on till vic - to - ry is won.  
 gleam of our bright star is cast.  
 God, true to our na - tive land.

## Give Me a Clean Heart

Ps. 51:1-12

Margaret J. Douroux, 1970; alt.

Give me a clean heart so I may serve you.

God, fix my heart so that I may be used by you.

For I'm not worthy of all these blessings.

Give me a clean heart and I'll follow you.

Margaret J. Douroux, the daughter of a Baptist minister, is known especially for this gospel song, which was recorded by singer James Cleveland. Among her other popular songs found in church hymnals is "God Is Not Dead."

Tune: DOUROUX 10.12.10.10.  
Margaret J. Douroux, 1970  
Arr. Albert Denis Tessier, 1987

# There Is a Balm in Gilead

*African-American spiritual; alt.*

*Jer. 8:18-22; 46:11; Acts 10:34-43*

*Refrain*

There is a balm in Gil-e-ad, to make the wound-ed whole,

there is a balm in Gil-e-ad, to heal the sin-sick soul.

*Last time, end*

1 Some - times I feel dis - cour-aged, and think my work's in vain,  
 2 Don't ev - er feel dis - cour-aged, for Je - sus is your friend,  
 3 If you can - not preach like Pe - ter, if you can - not pray like Paul,

*to Refrain*

But then the Ho-ly Spir-it re-vives my soul a-gain.  
 who, if you ask for knowl-edge, will nev-er fail to lend.  
 you can tell the love of Je-sus, who died to save us all.

*This is one of the most moving of the African-American spirituals because it illustrates the way in which the enslaved tried to encourage those who were feeling especially weighed down by*

Tune: BALM IN GILEAD Irr. with refrain  
*African-American spiritual*