

## 2. It Is Well with My Soul

**A righteous man may have many troubles, but the LORD delivers him from them all. (Psalm 34:19)**

*You may choose to listen to the video provided (<https://youtu.be/RxSjDZjbCz8>) or to read the passage below. The content is from the same source.<sup>1</sup>*

When the great Chicago fire consumed the Windy City in 1871, Horatio G. Spafford, an attorney heavily invested in real estate, lost a fortune. About that time, his only son, age 4, succumbed to scarlet fever. Horatio drowned his grief in work, pouring himself into rebuilding the city and assisting the 100,000 who had been left homeless.

In November of 1873, he decided to take his wife and daughters to Europe. Horatio was close to D. L. Moody and Ira Sankey, and he wanted to visit their evangelistic meetings in England, then enjoy a vacation.

When an urgent matter detained Horatio in New York, he decided to send his wife, Anna, and their four daughters, Maggie, Tanetta, Annie, and Bessie, on ahead. As he saw them settled into a cabin aboard the luxurious French liner *Ville du Havre*, an unease filled his mind, and he moved them to a room closer to the bow of the ship. Then he said good-bye, promising to join them soon.

During the small hours of November 22, 1873, as the *Ville du Havre* glided over smooth seas, the passengers were jolted from their bunks. The ship had collided with an iron sailing vessel, and water poured in like Niagara. The *Ville du Havre* tilted dangerously. Screams, prayers, and oaths merged into a nightmare of unmeasured terror. Passengers clung to posts, tumbled through darkness, and were swept away by powerful currents of icy ocean. Loved ones fell from each other's grasp and disappeared into foaming blackness. Within two hours, the mighty ship vanished beneath the waters. The 226 fatalities included Maggie, Tanetta, Annie, and Bessie. Mrs. Spafford was found nearly unconscious, clinging to a piece of the wreckage. When the 47 survivors landed in Cardiff, Wales, she cabled her husband: "Saved Alone."

Horatio immediately booked passage to join his wife. En route, on a cold December night, the captain called him aside and said, "I believe we are now passing over the place where the *Ville du Havre* went down." Spafford went to his cabin but found it hard to sleep. He said to himself, "It is well; the will of God be done."

He later wrote his famous hymn based on those words.

The melody for "It Is Well," titled VILLE DU HAVRE, was written by Philip Bliss who was himself soon to perish, along with his wife, in a terrible train wreck in Ohio.

### **Meditation/Reflection:**

1. When you are in times of trials, are you able to response like the author of this hymn by proclaiming "It is well; the will of God be done"? Pray for yourself that you may constantly seek God's will and trust on God's abundant promises.
2. Give thanks for your current situation and pray for your friends and family members who are in times of difficulties.

*You may sing with the video provided: [https://youtu.be/AHe\\_qmo3gX4](https://youtu.be/AHe_qmo3gX4)*

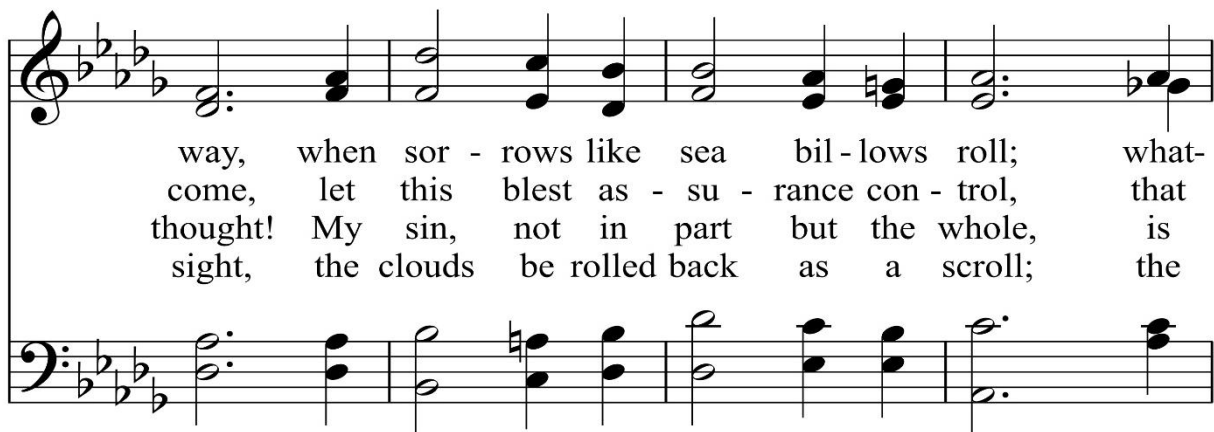
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<sup>1</sup> Robert J. Morgan, *Then Sings My Soul: 150 of the World's Greatest Hymn Stories* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2003), 185.

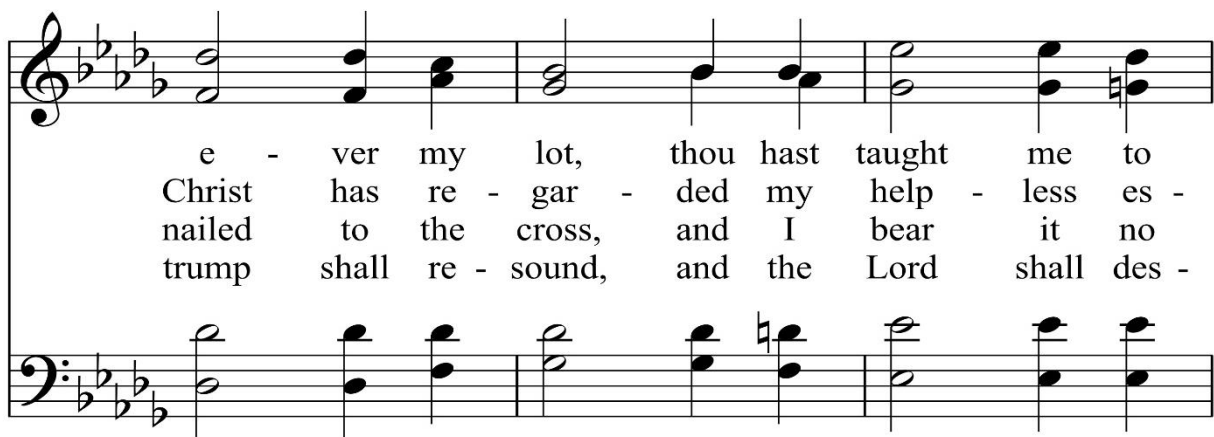
# It Is Well with My Soul



1. When peace, like a ri - ver, at - tend - eth my  
2. Though Sa - tan should buf - fet, though tri - als should  
3. My sin, oh, the bliss of this glo - ri - ous  
4. And, Lord, haste the day when my faith\_ shall be



way, when sor - rows like sea bil - lows roll; what-  
come, let this blest as - su - rance con - trol, that  
thought! My sin, not in part but the whole, is  
sight, the clouds be rolled back as a scroll; the



e - ver my lot, thou hast taught me to  
Christ has re - gar - ded my help - less es -  
nailed to the cross, and I bear it no  
trump shall re - sound, and the Lord shall des -



say, It is well, it is well with my soul.  
tate, and hath shed his own blood for my soul.  
more, praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!  
cend, e - ven so, it is well with my soul.



# Peace

## Refrain

It is well with my soul,

It is well with my

it is well, it is well with my soul.

soul,

The musical score is written for a soprano and bass voice. The key signature has four flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat, D-flat), and the time signature is common time (C). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a refrain that repeats. The lyrics are written below the notes, and the music ends with a double bar line.

*Hymnary.org*

## **Prayer:**

God of heaven and earth, we thank you for giving us Your peace, and we are grateful that the peace You leave with us does not like the world gives. In this world, there are troubles, but You have overcome the world; and we who believed and accepted Jesus Christ as our personal saviour will always experience your peace. Lord, grant us faith and courage to press on in times of difficulties as we have Your peace in us. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

