

“Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”

Scripture:

“Lift up your heads, O gates, And be lifted up, O ancient doors, That the King of glory may come in! Who is the King of glory? The LORD strong and mighty, The LORD mighty in battle.

Lift up your heads, O gates, And lift them up, O ancient doors, That the King of glory may come in! Who is this King of glory? The LORD of hosts, He is the King of glory.”

(Psalm 24:7-10 NAS, Ref. 1)

Background:

Georg Weissel (1590 – 1635) was a German Lutheran minister and hymn writer. Born in Domnau in East Prussia, Weissel studied theology and music at the University of Königsberg. After working as a rector in Friedland, he was ordained as minister of the Altrossgarten Church in Königsberg on the second Sunday in Advent 1623. (Ref. 2) Weissel was one of the most important of the earlier hymn-writers of Prussia. (Ref. 3)

Georg Weissel lived through and “died at the height of the Thirty Years War – a period of unspeakable horror in Germany. Due to the war, repeated plagues, and other disasters, the population of sixteen million dwindled to only six million in thirty short years.” (Ref. 4)

Despite the horrors that surrounded him, Pastor Weissel, was inspired by Psalm 24 to write this hymn. “In that psalm, David was calling the people of Jerusalem to prepare for the coming of the Ark of the Covenant into the city—the Ark that was destined to reside in the Holy of Holies, the holiest part of the temple—the Ark that represented the presence of the Lord among the people. David was calling his people to open the gates so that the Lord could enter their city—so that God could dwell among them and be Lord of their lives.” (Ref. 5)

“In like manner, this hymn calls us to open the gates of our hearts so that the Lord can enter there. It calls us to make our heart a temple—a holy place fit for the Lord’s presence—a place ‘adorned with prayer and love and joy.’ ” (Ref. 5)

“As we sing this hymn, consider whether you have invited God to dwell in your heart. Consider whether you have invited God to dwell in your home. Consider whether you have welcomed God to be a part of your life.” (Ref. 5)



The Altrossgarten Church in Königsberg, Germany which Weissel inaugurated in 1623 and where he served as minister (Ref. 2)

References:

1. <https://www.biblestudytools.com/nas/psalms/passage/?q=psalm+24:7-10>
2. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Georg_Weissel
3. https://hymnary.org/person/Weissel_Georg
4. “The One-Year Book of Hymns,” Devotions written by William J. Petersen and Randy Petersen, Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., 1995
5. <https://www.sermonwriter.com/hymn-stories/lift-heads-yemighty-gates>
6. Music: “Hymns for the Family of God,” Paragon Associates, Inc., 1976

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

Give unto the Lord the glory due His name.

— I Chronicles 16:29

Based on Psalm 24:7

Georg Weissel

Tr. by Catherine Winkworth

TRURO

Psalmodia Evangelica

1 Lift up your heads, ye might-y gates: Be - hold, the King of
 2 O blest the land, the cit - y blest, Where Christ the rul - er
 3 Fling wide the por - tals of your heart: Make it a tem - ple,
 4 Re - deem - er, come! I o - pen wide My heart to Thee: here,
 5 So come, my Sov - ereign, en - ter in! Let new and no - bler

1 glo - ry waits! The King of kings is draw - ing
 2 is con - fessed! O hap - py hearts and hap - py
 3 set a - part From earth - ly use for heaven's em -
 4 Lord, a - bide! Let me Thy in - ner pres - ence
 5 life be - gin! Thy Ho - ly Spir - it guide us

1 near, The Sav - ior of the world is here.
 2 homes To whom this King of tri - umph comes!
 3 ploy, A - dorned with prayer and love and joy.
 4 feel: Thy grace and love in me re - veal.
 5 on, Un - til the glo - rious crown be won. A - men.

Mr. Whitney V. Myers is a pianist, church music composer and arranger, as well as a devotion and Bible Study writer. He is retired as a Program Manager and a satellite communications engineer. He and his wife, Sally, moved to Gettysburg, Pennsylvania in 2014.

Mr. Myers is a volunteer pianist at First Baptist Church Gettysburg. He previously served in leadership positions at Gaithersburg Presbyterian Church, Gaithersburg, Maryland, and at Faith United Methodist Church, Rockville, Maryland.

Mr. Myers has published over 30 choral arrangements, hymns, and songs on the www.whitneytunes.com website. Church musicians are invited and encouraged to visit this site and to download and use this music for free in worship. Mr. Myers' email address is whitney@whitneytunes.com.

In 2016 and 2017, Mr. Myers published six music videos. His music videos feature hymns about inner healing and telling children about God. Please visit the Whitneytunes Youtube video channel at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCJbcUsgCRWyxvysgTkdpOxQ>.

In 2018, Mr. Myers plans to establish a new website for publishing Bible-based devotions and articles.

Mr. Myers is a graduate of Gettysburg College (B.A.), George Washington University (M.S.), and the University of Maryland (MBA, with honors).

