

Be still, for the presence of the Lord David J. Evans 1957–

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BE
still

PSALM 46:10

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*Be still, for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One, is here;
Come bow before him now with reverence and fear:
In him no sin is found – we stand on holy ground.
Be still, for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One, is here.*

*Be still, for the glory of the Lord is shining all around;
He burns with holy fire, with splendour he is crowned:
How awesome is the sight – our radiant King of light!
Be still, for the glory of the Lord is shining all around.*

*Be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place;
He comes to cleanse and heal, to minister his grace -
No work too hard for him. In faith receive from him.
Be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place.*

Many Christians believe ***Be Still for the Presence of the Lord*** ranks high among the best worship hymns of all time. It is a beautiful song with a clear and simple message, a call for us to tune out everything and focus on the Lord. The Holy One is here and nothing else matters.

It is one of the most beloved modern hymns that are full of the teachings of the scripture. It is a reminder of the tradition long gone where hymns were used as vehicles for spreading the teachings of the church.

The inspiration for this hymn is the story of Jacob fleeing from his brother. While in the wilderness he had a dream where he saw angels going up and down a ladder to heaven. The old Testament says, "then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, 'surely the Lord is in this place and I did not know it.'"

Some have suggested that this song is also based on Exodus 3: 1-6, the story of Moses and the burning bush where the fire did not burn up the bush. This made Moses curious and as he approached the fire the Lord called him by name from the burning bush. God told Moses not to come closer and to take off his sandals, as he was standing on holy ground. At this Moses hid his face because he was afraid to look at God.

David J. Evans was born in 1957 in Dartford, Kent, UK. However, as a child, he grew up in Winchester and was educated at the University of Southampton. He still lives in the city of Southampton. He has written many worship songs but *Be Still for the Presence of the Lord* is the most popular by far. He is a music teacher who has been involved in leading contemporary worship in a number of 'new' churches. and has also undertaken a Ph.D. researching into the psychology of music at the University of Southampton.

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