

This is my Father's world Maltbie Davenport Babcock 1858–1901

v.3 Mary Babcock Crawford

Hymn 149 from *Together in Song*
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This is my Father's world, and to my listening ears
all nature sings, and round me rings the music of the spheres.
This is my Father's world: I rest me in the thought
of rocks and trees, of skies and seas; his hand the wonders wrought.
This is my Father's world, the birds their carols raise,
the morning light, the lily white, declare their maker's praise.
This is my Father's world, he shines in all that's fair;
in the rustling grass I hear him pass; he speaks to me everywhere.
This is my Father's world. O let me ne'er forget
that though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the ruler yet.
This is my Father's world: why should my heart be sad?
The Lord is King; let the heavens ring! God reigns; let the earth be glad.



Maltbie Davenport Babcock was a noted American clergyman and writer of the 19th century. He authored the familiar hymn, *This is My Father's World*, among others.

Babcock was born on August 3, 1858 at Syracuse, New York, eldest son of Henry and Emily Maria (Maltbie) Babcock. As a young man, Babcock was described as "tall and broad-shouldered" and a muscular swimmer and baseball player. He was educated in the public schools of Syracuse and graduated in 1879 from Syracuse University with highest honours. He played Baseball on the University's ball team and was a member of the Psi Upsilon Fraternity. He was selected to give the Alumni Address in 1895. He studied theology at the Auburn Theological Seminary, receiving his degree there in 1882. He became pastor of a church at Lockport, New York and was described as having "an unusually brilliant intellect and stirring oratorical powers that commanded admiration, [that] won for him a foremost place among the favourites of his denomination".

From 1887 to 1900, Babcock was senior minister of the prestigious Brown Memorial Presbyterian Church in Baltimore, Maryland. While pastoring Brown Memorial, he was acclaimed for his oratory and use of colourful metaphors in his sermons. He also led a fund-raising effort to assist Jewish refugees from Russia who were victims of an anti-Jewish pogrom in the 1880s. Babcock was honoured by a Doctor of Divinity degree from Syracuse University in 1896.

In 1900 he was called to the Brick Church of New York City in 1900; so popular was he that many prominent Baltimoreans, including the faculty of Johns Hopkins University, unsuccessfully implored Babcock to remain at Brown instead of accepting the call to Brick Presbyterian Church.

When Babcock lived in Lockport, he took frequent walks along the Niagara Escarpment to enjoy the overlook's panoramic vista of upstate New York scenery and Lake Ontario, telling his wife he was "going out to see the Father's world". She published a poem by Babcock shortly after his death, entitled *This is My Father's World*.

Babcock died at age 42 in Naples, Italy, on May 18, 1901, returning from a trip to the Holy Land. At his funeral in New York City, the presiding clergyman eulogized him, "We do not need a candle to show a sunbeam...The work our brother has done – the life he lived speaks for him." In Baltimore, a memorial service was held on June 2, 1901, where he was eulogized by various prominent educators, including Daniel C. Gilman, the first president of Johns Hopkins University, John Goucher, the founder of Goucher College, and Francis L. Patton, president of Princeton University. Babcock was praised as "always wise, patient, sympathetic and inspiring". He is buried at Oakwood Cemetery in Syracuse, New York.

source: Wikipedia en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maltbie_Davenport_Babcock

sung by the congregation of **St Killian's College Chapel, Country Antrim**, Northern Ireland
[www.fddr.unitingchurch.org.au/music/This is my Father's world.mp4](http://www.fddr.unitingchurch.org.au/music/This%20is%20my%20Father's%20world.mp4)