Words by Reginald Heber 1783-1826, tune by John B. Dikes 1861

Sing along with the Concordia Publishing House Choir @ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RK0iaF05KJI

 D^7

G

 G^7

 G^6

C A^m G C F

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!

 $C G^6 A^m D^7 G C G^6$

Early in the mor - - ning our song shall rise to thee:

 $A^m G C F$

Holy, holy, merciful and mighty!

 $A^m C C^7 F C D^m$

God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

 $Key \sim D^{\#}$ Tempo ~ 90bpm *Time* ~ 4/4

Capo 3rd fret to play the chord patterns on this sheet.

 $A^m G C F$ C

Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee,

 $C G^6 A^m D^7 G C G^6$

Casting down their golden crowns a-round the glassy sea;

 A^m G C F

Cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,

C C^7 F C D^m G^6

Which wert and art, and evermore shall be.

 $A^m G C F$ C

Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee,

 $C G^6 A^m D^7 G C G^6 D^7$

Though the eye made blind by sin thy glory may not see, $G \ C \ F$ C A^m

Only thou art holy; there is none beside thee,

 $A^m C C^7 F C D^m$

Perfect in power in love and purity.

 $A^m G C F$

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!

C G^6 A^m D^7 G C G^6

All thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky and sea.

 $A^m G C F$ C

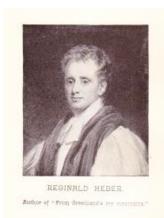
Holy, holy, merciful and mighty!

 $A^m C C^7 F C$ $D^m G^6 C$

God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

History

Reginald Heber was born in 1783 into a wealthy, educated family. He was a bright youth,



translating a Latin classic into English verse by the time he was seven, entering Oxford at 17, and winning two awards for his poetry during his time there. After his graduation he became rector of his father's church in the village of Hodnet near Shrewsbury in the west of England where he remained for 16 years.

Heber's hymns were all written during the Hodnet period. The finest and most powerful of them, is the beautiful and majestic anthem founded on the rhythm of the English Bible, "Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty."

During this portion of his life he had often had a lurking fondness for India, and had been tempted to wish himself Bishop of Calcutta. When

he was forty years old the literary life was closed by his call and appointment as Bishop of Calcutta in 1823. No memory of Indian annals is holier than that of the three years of ceaseless travel, splendid administration, and saintly enthusiasm, of his tenure of the see of Calcutta. He worked tirelessly for three years and ordained the first Christian native—Christian David.

The weather and travel took its toll on his health, he was prostrated with fever and died of a stroke in 1826.

from Greg Scheer and Rev. H. Leigh Bennett, M.A. on www.hymnary.com

Reginald Heber's widow found the words to "Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty," among her dead husband's papers. But years would pass before the lines took their place in worship services around the world.

In 1861, a publisher rediscovered the words and asked John Bacchus Dykes to furnish him with a tune. John had graduated with a music master that year, and been a church organist since he was ten-years-old. He was co-founder and president of the Cambridge University Musical Society. John accepted the work and within thirty minutes had written the tune "Nicea," which carried the praise of the Trinity to Christians everywhere.

In 1862 John was appointed vicar of St. Oswald and put in charge of a parish. He was thirtynine and had already held several lesser church posts. John's people came to love him.

His bishop, however, did not care for John's views stressing the continuity of the Church of England with the Roman Catholic church from which it had sprung. He believed that church and monarchy had divine rights which were being washed away by modern changes. There was long-lasting disagreement between John and his bishop because of this.

Worn out with his labors and constant friction with his bishop, John died on January 22, 1876 at 53. Those who loved and admired him, raised £10,000 to support his widow and children.

from /www.christianity.com and godtube.com

