

O Thou Glorious Sovereign Lord!

Accounts about the hymn by Mary Blood vary, and the tune to which it was originally sung is unknown. Nevertheless, it remains a treasure from the early history of the First Congregational Church of Manhattan, Kansas.

The Church history prepared by Professor Charles M. Correll, church historian, for the centennial celebration of the congregation records three stanzas as being sung at the dedication of the original church building (now Pioneer Hall) on July 24, 1859.

Another source records six stanzas and indicates that the hymn was used in that form for the laying of the cornerstone of Bluemont Central College in the same year. Certainly the added stanzas indicate that the subject matter was a cornerstone ceremony. That version bears the note: "This poem is copied from the original owned by Miss Hattie Parkerson. The mounds referred to are the hills or bluffs with which our beautiful city is surrounded." What follows is the version preserved by Parkerson.

1. O Thou glorious sovereign Lord!
Forming all things by thy word.
Architect of wondrous power!
Bless us in this joyful hour.
2. Pilgrims from afar we came,
Suffering, toiling, in thy name;
Leaving all for freedom's cause,
All for heaven's eternal laws.
3. Now as conq'ers we have come,
here to raise a hallowed dome,
Glorious Leader, heavenly King,
own our humble offering.
4. As the mounds around us stand,
Bulwarks planted by thy hand,
Let thy mighty power alone
firmly plant this cornerstone.
5. Raise this building from our youth,
Lead them, O thou God of truth!
Here may peace and love abide,
Here may heavenly wisdom guide.
6. When we meet around thy throne,
pilgrims gathered to our home,
Future names a song shall raise
Glorious Father, to thy praise.