

INTRODUCTION

This book contains hymns that I rewrote, mostly over the course of 2017, although a few of the songs I had written previously. I refer to them as parodies, because, in general, I am trying to use humor to poke fun at religious themes. However, parody may not be a proper description for all the songs herein. Some are not humorous, and some have nothing whatsoever to do with the original message of the hymn or even with Christianity or religion at all. I have peace songs, songs about hiking, kayaking and tennis, and even songs about eating. However, the main theme of this songbook is a humorous critique of Christianity, so I am referring to this as a book of parodies. (Any non-parody songs are covered by the "and More..." part of the subtitle.)

Whereas these songs are generally poking fun at religious ideas, sometimes in rather strong manner, many of them may be offensive to many Christians. But that's okay. I doubt that anyone would care if I wrote songs that made fun of Zeus, Thor or the sun god Ra. Ideas about god and Jesus are just as superstitious and preposterous as those are. So, fair game! If you find such humor offensive, then please feel free to not read or sing them. For the rest of you, I hope that you get as much pleasure out of reading or singing them as I did in writing them.

Attribution to the writers of the original hymns has been made as well as possible. Sources do not always agree. When they haven't, I have made my best guess. In a few cases where I have no idea what to make of confusing or conflicting information I have just inserted question marks.

As parodies, I try to keep some of the original words of the hymn and change some of the words. The songs range from very few words changes, such as "I'll Troll Where You Want Me to Troll", to those in which I have thrown the entire text away and completely written my own lyrics, such as "Job, He Is My Man", (and therefore is probably not truly a parody). In some cases (*e.g.*, Sunshine on My Pole) I have suckered you in by using the first verse exactly as originally written, then "unsuspectingly" changed words in following stanzas.

The songs or "hymns" are arranged in seven sections. The first five sections are in increasing order of "inclusiveness", that is, how broad of an audience they would likely appeal to (or, if you prefer, how outraged a Christian would be to read or hear the songs in that section). The first section contains songs that should be appropriate for anyone, that is, that probably no one will object to (or, if you prefer, would not likely outrage any Christians). Basically, these are songs which say nothing about Christianity or religion. The fifth section contains songs that would probably only be "appropriate" for die-hard atheists (ie, will probably outrage everyone who calls him- or herself a Christian). Of course, these are my own judgments. You may draw your own conclusions about how appropriately the songs are