

# Father eternal, Ruler of creation

Geoffrey Shaw, 1925

Langham  
11.10.11.10.10

The first system of musical notation consists of five measures. It features a treble and bass clef with a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat) and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is primarily in the treble clef, with accompaniment in the bass clef.

The second system of musical notation consists of five measures, numbered 6 through 10. It continues the melody and accompaniment from the first system.

The third system of musical notation consists of five measures, numbered 11 through 15. It continues the melody and accompaniment.

The fourth system of musical notation consists of five measures, numbered 16 through 20. It concludes the hymn with a final cadence in the bass clef.

Father eternal, Ruler of creation,  
Spirit of life, which moved ere form was made,  
through the thick darkness covering every nation,  
light to our blindness, O be thou our aid:

*Refrain:*  
*thy kingdom come, O Lord, thy will be done.*

Races and peoples, lo, we stand divided,  
and, sharing not our griefs, no joy can share;  
by wars and tumults Love is mocked, derided;  
his conquering cross no nation wills to bear:

**Refrain:**

Envious of heart, blind-eyed, with tongues confounded,  
nation by nation still goes unforgiven,  
in wrath and fear, by jealousies surrounded,  
building proud towers which shall not reach to heaven:

**Refrain:**

Lust of possession worketh desolations;  
there is no meekness in the powers of earth;  
led by no star, the rulers of the nations  
still fail to bring us to the blissful birth:

**Refrain:**

How shall we love thee, holy hidden Being,  
if we love not the world which thou hast made?  
O give us brother-love for better seeing  
thy Word made flesh and in a manger laid:

**Refrain:**

Laurence Housman