

WHO AM I



Was born in Chatam
New Brunswick



This is how
the choir sees him



WHERE IS THIS



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CHURCH MOUSE

Last October and November Rev. Carey Jo was teaching the children a song about how they can shine in this world if they love and obey Jesus. These efforts reminded me of my youth many mouse moons ago. There are two children's hymns that stand out after these many years. One is "Jesus Loves Me" and the other is a response to that song, "Jesus Bids Us Shine".

This hymn is in our present day Hymnal and is worth reviewing. It rests well towards the end of our Hymnal and is sadly neglected. If you study the words, it has as much relevance as it did when I was learning it.

I will highlight the third verse. You can look up the first two.

*"Jesus bids us shine, then for all around,
many kinds of darkness in this world abound-
sin and want and sorrow, so we must shine,
you in your small corner, and I in mine."*

Note that the author did not promise a cakewalk through life.

The hymn was published in 1868 and written by Susan Bogert Warner (1819-1885). The music was by Edwin Othello Excell (1851-1921). Coincidentally Susan urged her sister Anna to write the first verse of "Jesus Loves Me". Both sisters were converted to Christianity in the late 1830's, and became members of Mercer Street Presbyterian Church in New York. The sisters held Bible studies at the West Point Military academy. That would have been during the difficult years leading up to the American Civil War. Susan wrote children's fiction, religious fiction and theological works. She also wrote under the name of "Elizabeth Wetherell". Her first novel was "The Wide Wide World" (1850) which was translated into many languages and was the most popular of her thirty novels.

The basis of this hymn is Matt. 5:14-16, "You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do

