

Some Core Concepts of the Shakers

- Living in the **Millennium** – Christ’s spiritual return to establish **Heaven on Earth**
- Divine **Dualism** – God and Christ-Spirit
 - Any person can be filled with the Christ-Spirit → **Human Equality**
- **Dual-Gendered** Nature of God – Power & Wisdom
 - God as Divine Parents
 - Father God / Mother Wisdom
- Shakers are formally the “United Society of Believers in Christ’s Second Appearing”
 - Living in **UNION** is the Shakers’ highest shared aspiration
- The C’s of Shaker life: **Collective, Communal, Confession, Celibacy** (“Cross”)
- **ORDER** – from the creation of **Heaven on Earth**
 - Finding beauty and freedom in Order
 - **Obedience** contributes to Order
- Spiritual **FAMILIES**
 - All are **Sisters and Brothers**, obedient to the Ministry and to Father/Mother God.
 - Families are bound together by **LOVE**
 - **Child-like** spirituality – simplicity, innocence, obedience
- **Humility** – renouncing ego, being humble
 - bowing, bending, turning, twisting, being in the valley

Shaker Songs for Discussion

Testimony of Eternal Truth	(Goodwillie & Crosthwaite, 2008)
Christmas Hymn 1831	
Who Will Bow and Bend?	(Mary Ann Haagen, Enfield Shaker Singers)
O Ho the Pretty Chain	(Mary Ann Haagen, Enfield, Shaker Singers)
A Little More Zeal	
Love Universal	
The Pearl	
In Wisdom’s Lovely Pleasant Ways	(Mary Ann Haagen, Enfield Shaker Singers)

I am grateful to Shaker music scholars Christian Goodwillie and Mary Ann Haagen for sharing their transcriptions of the songs indicated above. The remaining transcriptions are my own.

Who Will Bow and Bend (Canterbury, New Hampshire -- 1843)

Who will bow and bend like a willow, Who will turn and twist and
reel in the gale of simple freedom, From the bower of union flowing,
Who will drink the wine of power, Dropping down like a shower,
Pride and bondage all forgetting, Mother's wine is freely working.
Oh ho! I will have it, I will bow and bend to get it, I'll be reeling,
turning, twisting, Shake out all the starch and stiff'ning!

The musical score is written in a single system with six staves. It begins with a treble clef, a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and a 2/4 time signature. The melody is simple and rhythmic, with lyrics printed below each staff. The piece concludes with a double bar line and repeat dots.

O Ho the Pretty Chain (South Union, Kentucky -- 1845)

O Ho the pretty chain that binds us all together, O Ho its links
are love that's wrought by faithful labor. And while this love we do
maintain, our spirits flow together, Within this chain we will remain,
its linked in pretty Mother's.

The musical score is written in a single system with four staves. It begins with a treble clef, a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and a 2/4 time signature. The melody is simple and rhythmic, with lyrics printed below each staff. The piece concludes with a double bar line and repeat dots.

A Little More Zeal (White Water, Ohio – ca 1830)

Voice

A lit-tle more zeal, more la bor in love, A lit - tle more stretch for the man-sions above, A
 5 lit - tle more pu - ri - ty un-ion and peace, A lit - tle more cou-rage to find an in - crease, A
 9 2. find an in-crease, A lit - tle more hat - red to all that is wrong That we to our pa-rents may
 13 tru - ly be - long, A lit - tle more clo - thed with Mo - ther's pure grace, A
 16 1. lit - tle more smi - ling on e - ve - ry face. A e - ve - ry face.

Love Universal (New Lebanon, ca. 1850)

Voice

O this love un - i - ver-sal I want to be gain-ing As pure as the hea-vens, with-out
 8 spot or blem - ish, I want to be for - giv-ing and to be for - gi - ven I will drink at this
 15 Foun - tain a - gain and a - gain. To live in the truth heed each ten - der con-
 22 vic-tion 'Tis the faith that my Mo-ther has gi - ven to me To live to the Or - der that's
 29 set for pro - tec - tion 'Tis here I find pow - er, O here I will be.

The Pearl

(Pleasant Hill, Kentucky – 1850)

1. Hu - mi - li - ty is a price - less gem I'll pledge my all to win it I'll
5. pledge my all to win it It cheers the heart a - dorns the mind And
9. pu - ri - fies the spi - rit And pu - ri - fies the spi - rit In - spire me O thou
14. sa - cred gift With thy re - deem - ing gra - ces With thy re - deem - ing gra - ces And
19. cause my feet hence - forth to walk In low & plea sant places In low and plea sant places. In - places.

In Wisdom's Lovely Pleasant Ways

(New Lebanon, NY – 1893)

1. In Wis - dom's love - ly plea - sant ways, I'll spend my days, I'll
4. spend my days. In spend my days. I'll learn to watch, to
7. pray and praise, And thus I'll learn pure Wis - dom's ways. Wis - dom's ways.

Testimony of Eternal Truth

(From Shakers' first published hymn collection, *Millennial Praises* – 1813)

God of sal - va - tion, pow'r and grace, Un - known to
 7 Now from a car - nal na - ture freed, Thy ev - er -
 13 man's a - pos - tate race, Thy glo - ry veil'd wi - thin a
 last - ing name we read; And love that full pa - ren - tal
 19 cloud, E - ludes the sear - ches of the proud. Thy
 name, From which our liv - ing spi - rits came. Long
 25 na - ture and e - ter - nal law, The wis - est mor - tal
 ere this flee - ting world be - gan, Or dust was fash - ion'd
 31 nev - er saw; Nor can thy works be tru - ly seen, But
 in - to man, There *Power* and *Wis - dom* we can view, Names
 by the soul that's pure and clean.
 of the *Ev - er - last - ing Two.*

3 The Father's high eternal throne
 Was never fill'd by one alone:
 There Wisdom holds the Mother's seat,
 And is the Father's helper-meet.
 This vast creation was not made
 Without the fruitful Mother's aid;
 For by the works of God we know
 The fountain-head from which they flow.

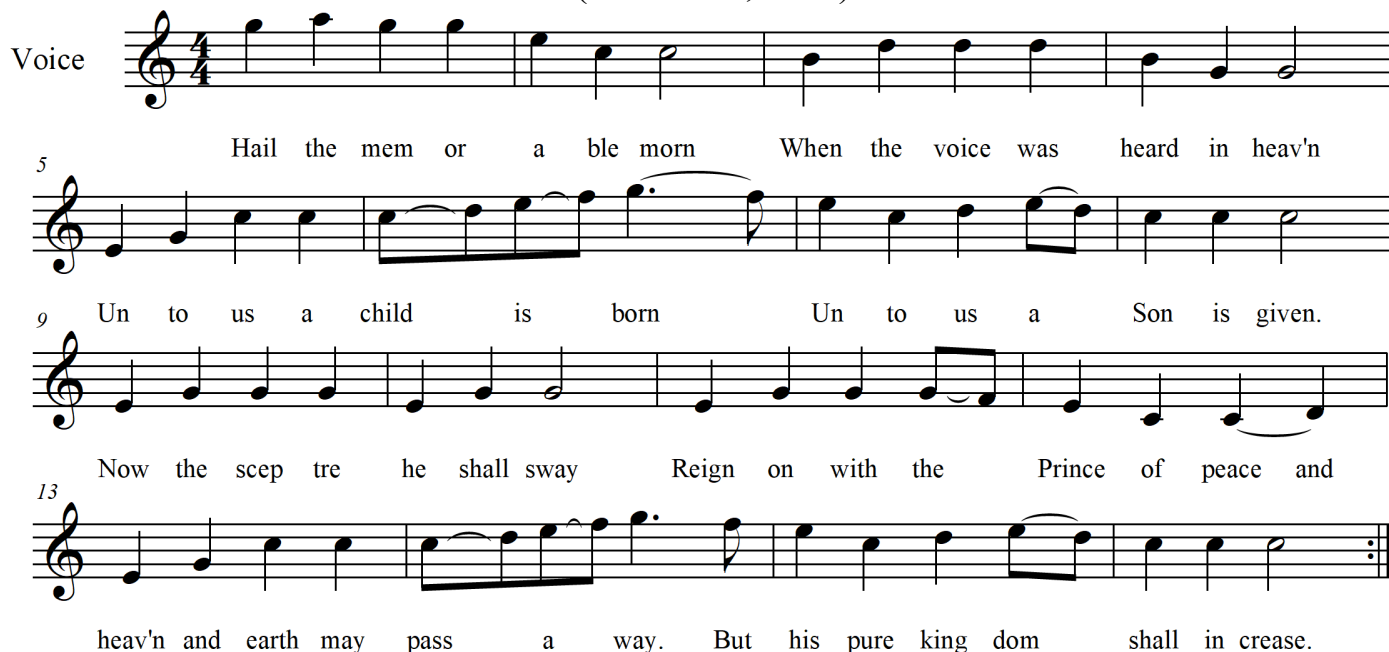
4 "Let us make man" was rightly said,
 And in God's image man was made,
 One flesh and blood, two in one name,
 Both naked, yet no cause of shame.
 While in one form alone he stood,
 His maker saw it was not good;
 Nor could his order be complete,
 Until he found an helper-meet.

(This is the opening hymn in the Shakers' first published hymn book, *Millennial Praises*. The hymn writer was an early Shaker from Ohio. I've included the first four of the hymn's eighteen verses!)

Christmas Hymn 1831

(Watervliet, Ohio)

Voice



5 Hail the mem or a ble morn When the voice was heard in heav'n

9 Un to us a child is born Un to us a Son is given.

13 Now the scep tre he shall sway Reign on with the Prince of peace and

heav'n and earth may pass a way. But his pure king dom shall in crease.

- 1. HAIL** the memorable morn!
When the voice came down from heav'n
"Unto us a child is born!
Unto us a Son it giv'n
Now the scepter he shall sway,
Reign on earth the Prince of peace,
And heav'n and earth may pass away,
But his pure kingdom shall increase.
- 2. Br.** Where did this new birth take place,
Was he the offspring of the Jews?
Was in from the fallen race
That angels got the news?
Sis. Nay, he was God's only Son,
And his parents did declare –
That the time was fully come,
To introduce their royal heir.
- 3. Br.** Was the kinship there complete?
Or when did Christ his reign begin?
And without an helper meet,
Could he make an end of sin?
Sis. Half the Savior then was own'd,
This was all the world could bear;
Still the whole creation groan'd,
Waiting for the Second Heir.
- 4. Br.** True, for many hundred years,
All creation's been in pain
Pouring out their cries and tears—
"O that Christ would come again."
Sis. Well, from this we plainly see
That the whole were jointly bound,
And till woman was set free,
Groaning was the common sound.
- 5. Br.** Can you confidently state
Who was God's peculiar one,
Whom he did predestinate
To bear the image of his Son:
Sis. Sure it could not be a man;
None with Jesus could compare.
Br. Was it your good Mother Ann?
Sis. Yea it was we do declare.
- 6. She** has form'd that union band,
That we are no longer two;
On the level now we stand,
And are just as free as you.
Br. Can you say beyond a doubt,
That salvation you have found?
Sis. If salvation you will shout,
We shall echo back the sound.
- 7. Br.** Shall we shout, or shall we laugh?
Surely we may feel releas'd,
When our lovely other half
Is deliver'd from the beast.
Sis. You may laugh or you may shake,
You may skip, or you may play;
We are say'd, there's no mistake,
For it is the woman's day.
- 8. Br & Sis.** Then our voices we'll unite,
Celebrate the gospel plan,
Walking in the mutual light
Of Jesus Christ and Mother Ann.
Let the old creation groan,
While in satan's dark employ.
Mother's children God will own,
They can shout with heav'nly joy.

(Intended to be sung as a dialogue between Sisters and Brothers.)