

DEVOTIONAL POETRY

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SHARON SWAIN

KW  
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PUBLISHING

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# Endorsements

—ALL MY DESIRE—

Delightful! Sharon's poetry is both timely and relevant, cultivated from her life's journey. She's passionate for the reader to understand their union with Christ. Sharon is a loving friend, prayer warrior, and gifted writer.

—Leslie Peters, Hidden in Christ Prayer Ministry

I met Sharon L. Swain several years ago at Operation 220 Ministries while she was taking a course to help her grow in Christ. I had the pleasure of advising Sharon as she navigated through the weeks of study. It was wonderful to watch her grow each week and realize her identity in Christ; knowing she is loved and cherished. I am excited to recommend her new book, *All My Desire*, and I hope you will see yourself as you read through this beautiful gift of poetry that God has given to Sharon.

—Sheila Powell, Counselor, Operation 220 Ministries

The poems Sharon writes come straight from a heart of knowing intimacy with her Lord. They are meaningful, comforting, and authentically written. The beauty of her inner self is revealed clearly through her writing. What a blessing to read!

—Jan Mugele, Counselor, Operation 220 Ministries

Sharon Swain is one of those people who desires to follow after the Lord in whatever she does. In her search for His will and way for her life, she has had very personal, revelatory conversations with Jesus that results in heartfelt and Holy Spirit-filled poetry.

—Rainy Mitchell, Author, Big Fat Failure

Sharon's poetry is a songwriter's dream. Her poems evoke such clear imagery that they are easily adapted to song. I immediately hear music in my head as soon as I start reading her poetry. She has been a joy to work with in songwriting projects, and I am looking forward to her next set of poems. Who knows? Maybe another collaborative album of songs will come from her new work. I sure hope so! If you haven't heard her poems put to

song yet, check out “Revelation” by Rainy Mitchell. Sharon is gifted with the ability to speak right to the heart of the reader.

—Allen Joanis, Owner and Founder, Ketos Creative, LLC

I’m so excited for my friend Sharon Swain’s latest book of poems! Her perspective and language is like punching holes through the veil of the temporal world to see the eternal reality of our life in Christ in the here and now. Leading us from our emotions and circumstances within the world to the garden of delights that is our union with Christ, I know you will be encouraged and inspired by Sharon’s refreshing voice of grace and life in Jesus. Enjoy these precious poems even as God in Christ is enjoying you today!

—Ridiculously graced...MikeQDaniel.com,

Awakening souls to the spiritual reality of Our Life in Christ!

As I daily read a poem from her first book, God encouraged me. If you want something that will speak to your heart, her new book is for you as well!

—John Best, President, Emeritus, Operation 220

Poetry, to me, is a form of music that can speak to the soul in ways prose cannot. Sharon uses her gift to do just that—reminding us of the incredible hope that’s found in our oneness in Christ. She highlights the reality of how “Christ in you” plays out in our daily life in an approachable way and encourages us to find our identity in Jesus.

—Hannah Morrell, Broken & Hopeful Ministry

Sharon has done a masterful job at weaving together the truths of Scripture into beautiful poetry. This book will cause you to fall more in love with your Heavenly Father!

—Zach Maldonado: Author, The Cross Worked and Perfect and Forgiven; Pastor, Church Without Religion



# Introduction

Have you ever found yourself wishing you could just crawl out from under the turmoil continually plaguing your life? That's certainly where I was for years and years. Many of the difficulties I dealt with as a child carried over into adulthood—things like insecurities, fears, guilt, doubt, condemnation, and shame.

Probably the number one insecurity in my life was the fear that I was never enough. I felt I was not as smart or as talented as others. I believed that others had better ideas, were more popular, were more this or more that. I felt I was never enough. Who was I really? Did I have a purpose in this life? Was I created for anything? Why was I here?

To say I was eaten up with all these underlying doubts and fears is an understatement. Then, one Sunday morning, at the age of twenty-nine in a suburb of Chicago, I gave my life to Christ. Jesus came into my life, and I was born again. Life instantly took on new meaning and purpose. I knew I had eternal life. I had passed out of the darkness and into His marvelous light (1 Peter 2:9)!

However, in the process of growing as a new Christian, I guess I “missed the memo” and thought it was all up to me to live this Christian life on my own because that's exactly what I attempted to do—live for God in my own strength. I did all the good works in an attempt to live for God, yet I still felt condemned, insecure, and riddled with guilt. I pictured in my mind that God was running away from me whenever I did something wrong. I believed that He was surely turning His back on me and would refuse to hear me or answer me when I prayed. In my mind, He was like a swivel chair. If I did good, I was back in His good graces. If I did bad, He would turn His back towards me again. Was all this really what I signed up for?

In addition to the hard path of trying to please God, my relationships were also hard for me, and I went through some tough times. I was either “too religious” and turned people off, or I would pull away, withdrawing from people completely. It seemed easier to simply pull away than to risk getting hurt.

Through some tough times and crushing crises in my life, God used a few amazing people to help me understand who I really am in Christ. One day a light bulb came on for me, an “aha moment” that was pivotal for me in my Christian life and has been so to this day.

I finally realized I was never meant to live this Christian life on my own. I now know ***Christ is my life, and He lives His life through me.***

Why did it take me so long to figure this out? At last, I know I am in union with Christ, and contrary to what I used to think and believe, I will never, ever again be out of fellowship with Him. Christ is in me, and I am in Him (John 14:20).

I was given a brand-new heart at the moment I accepted Jesus. The old has gone, and the new has come (2 Corinthians 5:17). As a believer, my “wanter” has changed. From the moment I first accepted Christ, I have truly wanted to please God. That’s my new nature, my new heart. Do I always succeed in doing what pleases Him? No, but *my desire is for Him, and that has made all the difference.*

Twenty years ago, I began to realize God had placed in me a gift to write poetry. It became an outlet and got me through some tough times. My first book, *Come and Sit with Me Awhile*, is a compilation of poems the Lord gave me during those years. God was using the very poetry He was giving me to heal my heart as I learned to pull away into the secret place with Him.

The book you are holding in your hands today, *All My Desire*, is a collection of poetry God downloaded into my heart throughout 2019 and 2020. I am sharing with you my personal journal through poetry. Since it is always coming forth through the relationship Jesus and I have together, you will find sometimes the words are in first person, and other times they are in third person. Some poems are just encouragement, and others are cries of the heart. You will note that a Scripture or two is added after each poem. I encourage you to reflect further on its meaning. Scripture says it will not return void (Isaiah 55:11), and my desire is that you will bear fruit and that God will speak to you personally.

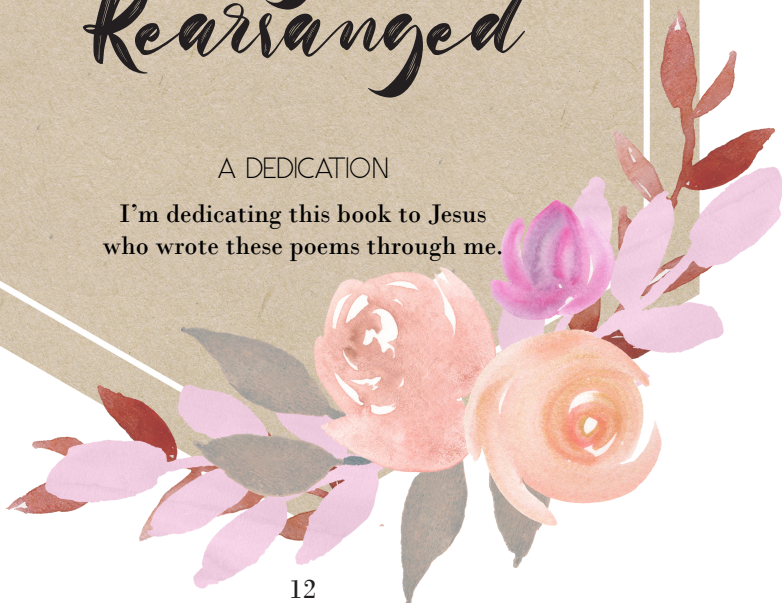
It is my prayer you will experience healing and comfort and encouragement through this poetry, just as I have. He has healed me in so many ways. Now my greatest desire is to crawl up in His lap and let Him love me. My life now flows out of Christ, and my identity is in Him. I am in union with Him—Christ in me and me in Him.

*-Sharon Swain*

# Changed & Rearranged

A DEDICATION

I'm dedicating this book to Jesus  
who wrote these poems through me.





## CHANGED AND REARRANGED

You're not at all like what I thought;  
I've changed my mind for sure.  
I used to think You were way up there,  
And I was just a blur.

I used to think You did not care  
For such a one as me.  
How did You know, or would you dare  
To hear my desperate plea?

But then one day You made a way.  
You found me long ago.  
My emptiness brought me to You,  
That ache within my soul.

I've changed my mind, surprisingly,  
As I've come to know You more.  
You're not at all like what I thought;  
You're the One I now adore.

Oh, what a price You paid for me  
As you died and rose again  
To change and rearrange my life  
And give me peace within.

You live in me and we are one;  
You're no longer far away.  
Cuz I've learned to trust You,  
You're my Life; your love is here to stay.

So thank you, Jesus. I've changed my mind  
Since You've made me all brand new.  
Cuz I was lost and far away,  
And now I'm one with You!

---

*"But the one who joins himself to the Lord is one spirit with Him."*

*1 Corinthians 6:17*

Sharon Swain



A MESSAGE WORTH SHARING:

“...Christ in you,  
the hope of glory!”  
~Colossians 1:27





Sharon Swain

THAT GLORIOUS DAY

Soon is the day;  
Just what will I say  
As I'm standing in line  
On that glorious day!

I've waited so long  
For that day to arrive—  
Will I simply pass out?  
Will I even survive?

Cuz You are the One  
Who took all my strife  
And wrote my name down  
In the Lamb's Book of Life.

So give me a minute  
As I try to compose  
How grateful I am  
That You died and arose.

You did it for me  
And how can I repay  
To say thank you somehow  
On that glorious day!

Your goodness to me  
No words can I find,  
And my heart may explode  
As I now stand in line

And muster the words  
As I bow at Your feet,  
Cuz You are the One  
Who's made me complete.

You did it for me

## *All My Desire*

Oh, how could it be?  
You took all my sin  
As You died on that tree.

So what will I say  
And how will I act  
As I look in Your face  
And Your love gazes back?

But one thing's for sure  
On that glorious day,  
I'll be quick to bow down,  
Cuz You wore my crown.

Oh, the Ancient of Days  
Is the Lamb that was slain,  
Where I'll be home at last  
And will forever remain.



---

*"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive compensation for his deeds done through the body, in accordance with what he has done, whether good or bad."*

*2 Corinthians 5:10*

Sharon Swain

THE TRUMPET SOUND

It's almost time—  
It's getting close;  
It won't be long,  
You say.

We're waiting, Lord,  
It won't be long  
You'll catch us  
All away!

The trumpet sound  
You'll blow it loud  
For all the saved  
To hear.

You'll beckon us  
We'll hear Your voice,  
But we don't  
Have to fear.

The dead in Christ  
Will all go first  
And then those  
Of us down here.

We're waiting, Lord,  
We'll work till then  
Until You do appear.

We'll yield to You  
And share Your love  
And tell as many  
As will hear.

Oh, what a day,

---

*"Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His bride has prepared herself. It was given to her to clothe herself in fine linen, bright and clean; for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints. Then he said to me, 'Write, "Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb."'" And he said to me, "These are true words of God.""*

*Revelation 19:7-9*



*All My Desire*

A glorious day,  
When you finally  
Do appear!

We won't be late.  
We are His saints;  
Our invitations stand.

Our place is set;  
We'll be His guests  
At the Marriage Supper  
Of the Lamb!





Sharon Swain

WAITING FOR JESUS

Where is your hope  
That strengthens your trust?  
What grips at your heart  
From morning till dusk?

Are you waiting for Jesus?  
Do you believe He'll appear?  
That the Rapture is soon,  
That His return is so near?

Nation against nation  
And signs in the skies,  
Plagues and distress  
Are now on the rise.

The birth pangs are here,  
Right at the door;  
Seasons and times  
Are in quite an uproar.

The news is all gloom,  
And strife does abound.  
But peace is in Jesus,  
Cuz He can be found.

So make time today  
And don't put it off;  
Don't be like the others  
Who make fun and scoff.

He wants you to be sure  
With no remorse or disdain;  
What a day that will be  
As He calls home His saints!

The trumpet will sound

## *All My Desire*

And the saints will appear;  
The ones in the graves  
Will be out of here!

Then those on this earth  
That are called by His Name  
Will be caught up together  
And will all rule and reign!

The Rapture will happen;  
The Scriptures say so.  
The saints are all waiting  
And ready to go.

But how about you?  
Are you ready today?  
You've been putting it off,  
But today is the day.

Believe on His Name;  
He died in your place.  
Repent and receive,  
And your sins, He'll erase.

Then you will be ready—  
He loves you the same.  
He's waiting for you,  
So believe on His Name!

---

*“For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who remain, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. Therefore, comfort one another with these words.”*

*1 Thessalonians 4:16-18*