## I AM WITH YOU ALWAY



2. Like him I thought that to a b i d e w i t h t h e e, I needs must leave the busy haunts of men; in some far, tranquil solitude must be, – nor n e a r thee till such pause came round again.

- 3. Each day my heart more full of sadness grew, nor thought to serve thee in life's simplest things; that I was one thy blood had bought I knew; I would have flown to thee had I had wings.
- 4. For oh! I longed no more to leave thy side, not understanding thou art ever near, nor how with thee in spirit to abide throughout the needed desert-training here.
- 5. "Home to thy friends" was thy own gracious charge (thy earlier rescued one since Home to thee); for love may offices on earth discharge, such as are not, where soon I too shall be.
- 6. And I have proved thy power to stay the mind amid the turmoil of this outer life; what perfect peace the wearied heart may find, e'en in the very thickest of the strife.
- 7. I have been learning how thy presence, Lord, is my pavilion, my repose, my shield; here rest is found, according to thy word safe garrison though on the battle-field.
- 8. Henceforth I fain would be apart with thee, in quiet sweet communion of soul; whilst hands and outward thoughts in service free fulfill their share of God-allotted toil.
- 9. "The Carpenter" they called thee here below; so many years thou hadst this lowly place: men knew thee not; thou, Lord, alone couldst know how glorious shone on thee the Father's face.
- 10. O blessèd Jesus! Thou hast made me thine; teach me to mark thy every tone and word: deepen thou still this fellowship divine, until the welcome summons home be heard.

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