

**Ecclesiastes 3:11**

Many things

**43 GOD OF ALL BEING, BEAUTY, FORM**

1 God of all being, beauty, form,  
of number, weight and measure,  
you give us nature, seed and life,  
our true, eternal treasure:  
you made the rocks and sands and skies,  
our fire and precious metals,  
all beasts and cattle, fish and fowl,  
great trees and fragile petals.

2 Your image shaped our human form,  
a hint of unseen glories;  
and when your Son was seen on earth  
we marvelled at his stories;  
for here is so much pain and wrong,  
such emptiness, such sadness,  
in flood and flame, in war and waste;  
how can we sing with gladness?

3 Great God, we share the human blame  
for much of mortal sorrow;  
we cannot grasp the 'why' and 'how'  
nor look beyond tomorrow.  
We wrestle with the mysteries  
and long to find their meaning;  
yet do not know ourselves, or see  
the end from the beginning.

4 Our Father, you have sent your Son  
enduring, suffering, giving;  
to be our life, our strength and song,  
the spring of all our living.  
As you still face the worst with us  
when every hope unravels,  
so may your perfect will be done  
through all our earthly travels.

87870 iambic Tune: GOLDEN SHEAVES, or new tune

**Scriptures:** Gen 1-2    Eccles 3: 11    Isa 46:8-10    Matt 6: 10    John 16:33  
Rom 8:18-23    Jas 4:14    1 John 4:14-16

**Written:** Herne Hill, SE London, 2013-15

That is, summer to winter 2013 and July 2015. I cannot now recall what prompted these lines.

Words: @Christopher Idle / Jubilate Hymns, copyrightmanager@jubilatehymns.co.uk.

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