

## O Valiant Hearts

Written by John Eager

Monday, 09 November 2009 13:48 - Last Updated Wednesday, 18 November 2009 16:05

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O valiant hearts who to your glory came  
Through dust of conflict and through battle flame;  
Tranquil you lie, your knightly virtue proved,  
Your memory hallowed in the land you loved.

Proudly you gathered, rank on rank, to war  
As who had heard God's message from afar;  
All you had hoped for, all you had, you gave,  
To save mankind—yourselves you scorned to save.

Splendid you passed, the great surrender made;  
Into the light that nevermore shall fade;  
Deep your contentment in that blest abode,  
Who wait the last clear trumpet call of God.

Long years ago, as earth lay dark and still,  
Rose a loud cry upon a lonely hill,  
While in the frailty of our human clay,  
Christ, our Redeemer, passed the self same way.

Still stands His Cross from that dread hour to this,  
Like some bright star above the dark abyss;  
Still, through the veil, the Victor's pitying eyes  
Look down to bless our lesser Calvaries.

These were His servants, in His steps they trod,  
Following through death the martyred Son of God:  
Victor, He rose; victorious too shall rise  
They who have drunk His cup of sacrifice.

O risen Lord, O Shepherd of our dead,

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Whose cross has bought them and Whose staff has led,  
In glorious hope their proud and sorrowing land  
Commits her children to Thy gracious hand.

From the poem published in *The Supreme Sacrifice* (1919) by [John Stanhope Arkwright](#) .  
Arkwright was MP for Hereford 1900-1912. The MP wrote the poem on a train while touring the country during the First World War. The poem was made into a hymn which was set to music by Dr Charles Harris, the vicar of Colwall. On November 11, 1920

[O Valiant Hearts](#)  
was sung at the dedication of the tomb to the unknown warrior at Westminster Abbey.

Part of the poem can be read on the Leominster war memorial.

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MQ\\_LZVShEnA](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MQ_LZVShEnA)

Video by Keith of Oxford University aka Skin 150263

**Sources:** Wikipedia, BBC, Wigstone Magna Methodist Church