

*Oh how wondrous His birth, when He came to this Earth
Sent by God, who so loved that He sent His own Son.
Born in a stable, suffered the cross, now is our Savior
Interceding for us.
What wondrous love, indeed.*

"Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us. For it is written: 'Cursed is every-one who hangs on a tree.'" Galatians 3:13

The words of "What Wondrous Love Is This" have been found in two collections of hymns published in 1811. One was a camp-meeting songbook, containing words only, published in Lynchburg, Virginia. The other, a hymnbook compiled by a Baptist preacher in Frankfort, Kentucky. This indicates that by 1811 the song was known in those areas of Virginia and Kentucky. The tune "Wondrous Love" does not appear in print until the 1843 printing of William Walker's Southern Harmony, an oblong shape-note notebook, whose first edition is dated 1835." (1)

Those who research American folk and gospel music tell us that this song before us now is probably the best sacred folk song where the music and words are indigenous to the United States. Please stop and think about the musical gifts we have received from sources even unknown.

Wondrous Love

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul,
What wondrous love is this, O my soul;
What wondrous love is this
That caused the Lord of bliss
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul.

Prayer Focus: Express aloud your gratitude for the folks that left wonderful sacred folk songs for our generation.

(1) William J. Reynolds, Songs Of Glory (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker Book House., 1990), p. 322.

What Wondrous Love Is This

WONDROUS LOVE 12 9.12 9.
Southern Harmony, 1835
Harm. by C. R. Y.

American Folk Hymn

Unison

1. What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul, What
2. What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul, What

won-drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is this that
won-drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is this that

caused the Lord of bliss To bear the dread-ful curse for my soul,
caused the Lord of life To lay a-side his crown for my soul,

for my soul, To bear the dread-ful curse for my soul.
for my soul, To lay a-side his crown for my soul. A-men.

What Wondrous Love Is This

1811

Words: Mead's General Selection, 1811

Music: Walker's Southern Harmony 1940