

# LOCC SUMMER HYMN SING – 2017

- Sunday, July 23 -



1. Be not dis-mayed what-e'er be-tide, God will take care of you;—  
4. No mat-ter what may be the test, God will take care of you;—



be-neath his wings of love a-bide, God will take care of you.  
lean, wea-ry one, up-on his breast, God will take care of you.



Refrain



God will take care of you, through ev-ery day, o'er all the way;



he will take care of you, God will take care of you.



It is believed that the ladder theme was included in African American spirituals as early as 1824. In *We Are Climbing Jacob's Ladder*, the slave poet is expressing his determination to rise from his low estate and to progress up the material and spiritual ladder, round by round. One must understand, however, that the “climbing” is a struggle and a fighting operation, not a sports activity. The dream Jacob describes at Bethel which involves a ladder going up to heaven, enabled Jacob to see the pattern of his life more clearly. Jacob was exalted, frightened, and humbled.

The familiar words of Martin Luther (1483-1546), based on Psalm 46, were probably written in response to the martyrdom of his friend and fellow ‘protestor’ Leonhard Kaiser. Kaiser was executed in Bavaria on August 16, 1527, during the rise of a new anti-Lutheran authority. *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God* was written in the two year span of 1527-29 and has been translated into over 50 languages. Martin Luther, a monk in the Augustinian order, was ordained in 1507, and earned his Th.D. from Wittenberg University. Luther broke with Rome and became the leader of the German Reformation in 1521. He translated the Bible into German, wrote dozens of original hymns and melodies, revised many Latin hymns to German texts, and was a skilled musician, articulate writer, translator, and preacher.

The poet Civilla Martin (1866-1948) wrote the words of *God Will Take Care of You* confined to bed during an illness in New York, while her husband was spending several weeks there teaching and compiling a songbook for the president of a local Bible college. Civilla’s husband was reluctant to fulfill a preaching obligation due to his wife’s illness. It is reported that their son asked them both, “Do you not think that if God desires one to be away doing God’s work, God will take care of the one who must remain at home?” Civilla wrote the hymn that Sunday afternoon while her husband was away preaching. Upon his return, she gave him the text, and he immediately sat down and wrote the music. The composer, W. Stillman Martin (1862-1935) was a Harvard-educated Baptist minister who later joined the Disciples of Christ. The Martins moved to Atlanta in 1919 to join a team of evangelists who travelled the country, while utilizing Atlanta as their base. Both passed away while living in Atlanta and are buried in the historic Westview Cemetery.

1. We are climb-ing Ja-cob's lad-der, We are climb-ing Ja-cob's  
 2. Ev'-ry round goes high-er, high-er, Ev'-ry round goes high-er,

lad-der, We are climb-ing Ja-cob's lad-der, Sol-diers of the cross.  
 high-er, Ev'-ry round goes high-er, high-er, Sol-diers of the cross.

Repeat Stanza One

1. A might-y for-tress is our God, a bul-wark nev-er fail-ing;  
 3. And though this world, with dev-ils filled, should threat-en to un-do us,

our help-er He, a-mid the flood of mor-tal ills pre-vail-ing.  
 we will not fear, for God has willed His truth to tri-umph through us.

For still our an-cient foe doth seek to work us woe; his craft and power are  
 The Prince of Dark-ness grim, we trem-ble not for him; his rage we can en-

great, and, armed with cru-el hate, on earth is not his e-qual.  
 dure, for lo, his doom is sure; one lit-tle word shall fell him.