

# Bring Many Names

Brian Wren  
(♩ = 69)  
Unison

Carlton Young  
Westchase, 9.10.11.9.

1. Bring man - y names, beau - ti - ful and good,

cel - e - brate, in par - a - ble and sto - ry, ho - li - ness in

glo - ry, liv - ing, lov - ing God. Hail and Ho -

san - na! bring man - y names! great, liv - ing God!

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**Notes from the Author:** If the human race is created in the image and likeness of God (Genesis 1:27), it follows that both femaleness and maleness reveal the divine, and (since we are not static but have a changing life cycle), both youth and age give glimpses of God. The hymn originally began with what is now the second stanza, the first version being completed in February 1986. In mid-1987 the present first stanza was added whilst the hymn was under consideration by the Hymnal Revision Committee of the United Methodist Church (UMC) (USA). The line "strong mother God" caused controversy, and the hymn failed by one vote to gain acceptance in that hymnal. The fifth stanza ("Young, growing God") was revised in August 1988 after conversations with the Mennonite-Brethren Hymnal Council (USA). The original read: "Young, growing God, eager still to know, / willing to be changed by what you've started, / quick to be delighted, / singing as you go etc.". I stand by the theology, but believe the revision better suggests God's "youthfulness." WESTCHASE was composed by Carlton Young, Editor of the UMC Hymnal Revision Committee, in September/October 1987, and superbly interprets the words.

Bring many names, beautiful and good,  
celebrate, in parable and story,  
holiness in glory  
living, loving God.  
Hail and Hosanna!  
bring many names!

Strong mother God, working night and day,  
planning all the wonders of creation,  
setting each equation,  
gen-i-us at play:  
Hail and Hosanna,  
strong mother God!

Warm father God, hugging every child,  
feeling all the strains of human living,  
caring and forgiving  
till we're reconciled:  
Hail and Hosanna,  
warm father God!

Old, aching God, grey with endless care,  
calmly piercing evil's new disguises,  
glad of good surprises,  
wiser than despair:  
Hail and Hosanna,  
old, aching God!

Young, growing God, eager, on the move,  
seeing all, and fretting at our blindness,  
crying out for justice,  
giving all you have:  
Hail and Hosanna,  
young, growing God!

Great living God, never fully known,  
joyful darkness far beyond our seeing,  
closer yet than breathing,  
everlasting home:  
Hail and Hosanna,  
great, living God!

—Brian Wren

—Brian Wren, in *Bring Many Names*