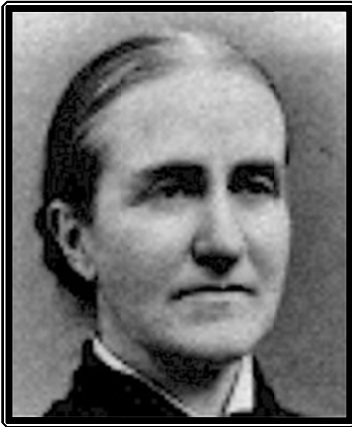


BENEATH THE CROSS OF JESUS

Elizabeth C. Clephane, Lyrics, 1868; Frederick C. Maker, Music; 1881

This hymn was written by Elizabeth Clephane, a frail Scottish Presbyterian woman. She was a well acquainted with grief, but never let that stop her. Her parents both died while she was young, and she was never very healthy herself. Despite her physical limitations, she was known throughout her community of Melrose, Scotland, for her helpful, cheery nature. She was one of those cheerful people who brightened every corner, perhaps because she focused on what she could do for others rather than sitting and feeling sorry for herself. Her friends called her "Sunbeam", a nickname that may have inspired the lines in this hymn that say: *"I ask no other sunshine than the sunshine of His face."*



"Beneath the Cross of Jesus" was written in 1868, one year before Miss Clephane's early death at the age of thirty-nine. She wrote eight hymns, all published posthumously in *"The Family Treasury"*, a Scottish Presbyterian magazine, in 1872, and entitled *"Breathing on the Border"*. Besides this hymn, only one other of her hymns has endured, *"The Ninety and Nine"*.

Originally, this hymn was paired with a tune written by Ira D. Sankey. He wrote the tune specifically for this Elizabeth Clephane's hymn and called it, *"Clephane"*. In 1881, Frederick Maker, a professor of music at Clifton College, composed a tune called, *"St. Christopher"*, which is the tune most often associated with this hymn. He composed the music for several other hymns, and was a well-known Irish musician and composer.



~ Tull