

***“I know that my Redeemer lives;
What comfort this sweet sentence gives!
He lives, He lives, who once was dead;
He lives, my ever living Head.”***

This Sunday is the 4th Sunday of Easter and we continue our praise and thanksgiving to our Lord who has conquered death in the singing of another Easter Hymn. ***“I Know That My Redeemer Lives”*** penned in 1775 by Samuel Medley is perhaps one of the most well-known of the Easter hymns.

Often times, some of the best-known works in the religious world come from people that did not begin their life in a religious way. Samuel Medley was a prime example of this. Born in 1738 in Chestnut, England, Medley was the son of a schoolteacher, educated privately by his grandfather. As a youth, Medley rejected the Christian values and teachings of his grandfather, fell into the wrong crowd, and by age 14 was apprenticed to an oilman in London. The work was hard, the master stern and ruthless and young Medley after three years wanted out of the apprenticeship contract. He discovered that a person can leave an apprenticeship and join the military service, which led him to join the British Royal Navy. While in the Navy, Medley’s outlook and behavior did not improve, but rather became even more crass and profane than before. He was severely injured during a naval battle in 1759 and the ship’s physician told Medley his leg would have to be amputated. During the night, Medley, in his agony, remembered what his grandfather had taught him when he was younger, and he began to pray vigorously that his leg may be spared. The next morning, to the surprise of all on the ship, the physician examined the leg and determined that it had begun to heal, and that amputation was no longer needed. Medley retrieved the Bible his grandfather had given him and began reading. When Medley’s ship had finally returned to England, he was sent to his grandfather’s house where he convalesced. Medley accepted Christ as his savior, attended a Baptist church and eventually became a schoolmaster at a private school in London. He began preaching at the Baptist church and eventually was called as a Pastor to Baptist congregations in Watford and Liverpool England. Medley took a special interest in the souls of Seamen and Servicemen and was so wildly popular that soon his churches grew to have hundreds attending each Sunday. In addition to preparing sermons and Bible classes, Medley wrote hymns; penning over 230 hymns.

The best known of his hymns is “I Know That My Redeemer Lives”. This hymn is one of great praise, especially coming from someone who did not know God’s love until later in life. The story of Samuel Medley serves to show that God does not leave us alone, even when we constantly tell ourselves that we do not want, nor do we believe in, God’s love. This hymn reminds us that God does live every day in us, and that he lives for us, not just so that we may sing his praise, but that we may be saved in Him. **The eight stanzas of this hymn say it all: He has conquered death. He will come back to bring us to be with Him. For this, we offer Him all the thanks and praise we have in us.**

**Come and worship the risen and living Lord this Sunday
Worship Service 10 AM**