

# church homecoming poems

**Church homecoming poems** are cherished elements of many religious communities, serving as heartfelt expressions that celebrate tradition, unity, and faith. Whether recited during special services, included in programs, or shared as part of a congregation's anniversary, these poems help foster a sense of belonging and reverence. They encapsulate the history, spirit, and devotion of a church family, making them an invaluable part of homecoming celebrations. If you're looking to craft or find the perfect church homecoming poem, understanding the significance and various styles can enhance your experience and deepen the meaning of your event.

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## Understanding the Significance of Church Homecoming Poems

Church homecoming poems are more than just words; they are a reflection of community pride, spiritual journey, and collective memory. These poems serve multiple purposes within the context of a church homecoming:

### Celebrating Heritage and History

Many church poems highlight the history of the congregation, paying tribute to founders, past pastors, and long-standing members. They remind the community of their roots and inspire future generations.

### Fostering Unity and Fellowship

Poetry has the power to bring people together through shared sentiments and faith-based messages. A well-crafted poem can evoke feelings of belonging and mutual support.

### Expressing Faith and Inspiration

Church homecoming poems often include spiritual themes, emphasizing gratitude, divine guidance, and hope, reinforcing the church's mission.

### Marking a Special Occasion

Whether it's an anniversary, a milestone, or a reunion, poems add a meaningful touch to the celebration, making the event memorable.

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## **Types of Church Homecoming Poems**

Different styles of poetry can be used to suit the tone and message of the homecoming celebration. Here are some popular types:

### **Traditional Religious Poems**

These poems incorporate biblical references, spiritual imagery, and church symbolism. They often include verses that praise God's goodness and faithfulness.

### **Historical and Heritage Poems**

Focusing on the history of the church and its members, these poems honor the legacy and contributions of past generations.

### **Inspirational and Motivational Poems**

Designed to uplift the congregation, these poems emphasize faith, perseverance, and hope for the future.

### **Personal and Community Reflections**

These poems are often written by members or pastors, reflecting personal experiences or collective memories within the church community.

### **Humorous and Light-Hearted Poems**

To add a touch of levity, some poets craft humorous poems that celebrate the joyful spirit of the congregation.

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## **Elements of a Powerful Church Homecoming Poem**

Creating or choosing the right poem involves understanding certain key elements that make it impactful:

## Relevance and Personal Touch

A good poem resonates with the congregation's history, values, and current journey. Personal stories or local references can deepen its connection.

## Spiritual Depth

Incorporating biblical verses, spiritual metaphors, and themes of faith enhances the poem's meaningfulness.

## Rhythm and Flow

A rhythmic structure makes the poem easier to recite and more memorable, especially if read aloud during the service.

## Emotional Appeal

Effective poems evoke feelings of pride, gratitude, and hope, fostering a sense of community and spiritual upliftment.

## Conciseness and Clarity

While a poem should be heartfelt, it should also be concise enough to maintain the audience's attention and fit within the program's timeframe.

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## Examples of Church Homecoming Poems

Below are sample excerpts and themes that can inspire your own poem or help you find the perfect one for your celebration.

### Sample Verse 1: Celebrating Heritage

"From humble beginnings, we rose anew,

Bound by faith, steadfast and true.

Memories of yesteryears, shining bright,

Guiding us forward in His holy light."

## **Sample Verse 2: Expressing Faith and Unity**

“Together we gather, hand in hand,

A family united by His command.

With hearts full of praise and love divine,

Forever His children, forever His vine.”

## **Sample Verse 3: Looking to the Future**

“As we celebrate this sacred day,

With hope and courage, we find our way.

Blessed by His grace, we march on still,

Trusting in His everlasting will.”

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## **How to Write Your Own Church Homecoming Poem**

If you’re inspired to craft a personalized poem, consider these steps:

### **1. Reflect on the Church’s History and Values**

Gather stories, milestones, and key moments that define your congregation.

### **2. Define the Message or Theme**

Decide whether your poem will focus on gratitude, heritage, faith, unity, or a combination.

### **3. Incorporate Biblical or Spiritual Elements**

Use scripture references or spiritual imagery to deepen the poem’s meaning.

### **4. Use Rhythmic and Rhyme Schemes**

Choose a structure that’s easy to read aloud, such as couplets or quatrains.

## 5. Personalize with Member Names or Local Landmarks

Adding specific details can make the poem more heartfelt and memorable.

## 6. Edit and Share

Refine your poem for clarity, flow, and emotional impact. Practice reading it aloud before the event.

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## Where to Find or Purchase Church Homecoming Poems

If writing isn't your forte, there are numerous resources where you can find beautiful church homecoming poems:

- **Online Poetry Databases:** Websites dedicated to religious poetry such as [ChristianPoetry.org](http://ChristianPoetry.org) or [Hymnary.org](http://Hymnary.org).
- **Church Publications:** Many churches publish collections of poems and hymns for special occasions.
- **Custom Poem Services:** Professional poets or writers can craft personalized poems tailored to your church's story.
- **Bookstores and Religious Gift Shops:** Find anthologies of Christian poetry suitable for homecoming celebrations.

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## Incorporating Church Homecoming Poems into Your Celebration

To maximize the impact of your chosen or written poem, consider these ideas:

### Recitation During Service

Have a member or pastor recite the poem as part of the service to inspire and uplift the congregation.

## **Printed Program Inclusion**

Include the poem in the event program or bulletin for attendees to read and reflect upon.

## **Projection or Multimedia Presentation**

Display the poem on screens with background images of the church's history or congregation photos.

## **Group Reading or Singing**

Set the poem to music or read it as a community to foster collective participation.

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## **Conclusion**

Church homecoming poems hold a special place in celebrating faith, community, and heritage. Whether you choose a traditional, inspirational, or humorous style, the right poem can elevate your event and leave lasting memories. Creating a personalized poem adds a heartfelt touch that honors your church's unique journey, while selecting a meaningful existing poem can beautifully convey your congregation's spirit. By understanding the elements that make a powerful church homecoming poem and exploring available resources, you can enrich your celebration and strengthen the bonds that unite your church family. Embrace the opportunity to express gratitude, hope, and unity through poetry—making your next church homecoming a truly memorable occasion.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What are some popular themes for church homecoming poems?**

Common themes include gratitude, community, faith, remembrance of loved ones, spiritual renewal, and celebrating heritage and traditions within the church family.

### **How can I personalize a church homecoming poem?**

You can personalize a poem by including specific names of church members, memorable events, local traditions, and heartfelt messages that reflect the unique spirit of your church community.

## **Are there traditional styles or formats for church homecoming poems?**

Yes, many church homecoming poems are written in rhymed couplets, free verse, or spiritual-themed stanzas that echo the tone of reverence and celebration typical for such events.

## **Can I incorporate scripture or religious references in a church homecoming poem?**

Absolutely. Including scripture verses or religious references can enhance the spiritual significance of the poem and resonate deeply with the congregation.

## **Where can I find inspiration for writing a church homecoming poem?**

Inspiration can come from personal stories, church history, hymns, scripture passages, and memories shared by congregation members during past homecomings.

## **How long should a church homecoming poem typically be?**

A suitable length is usually between 4 to 8 stanzas, enough to convey heartfelt messages without overwhelming the audience, but it can vary based on the occasion.

## **Are there any online resources or examples for church homecoming poems?**

Yes, many websites and church publications offer sample poems and templates to help you craft meaningful and appropriate church homecoming poetry.

## **Should a church homecoming poem be humorous or serious?**

It depends on the tone of the event, but generally, a balance of heartfelt sincerity with light, joyful moments works well to celebrate the occasion.

## **Can I include names of church members in the homecoming poem?**

Yes, including names of prominent members or those being remembered can personalize the poem and honor individuals' contributions to the church community.

## What are some tips for delivering a church homecoming poem effectively?

Practice reading aloud, maintain good eye contact, speak clearly and slowly, and convey genuine emotion to connect with the congregation and enhance the poem's impact.

## Additional Resources

Church homecoming poems hold a cherished place in the hearts of many congregations. These poetic expressions serve as heartfelt tributes to tradition, community, faith, and nostalgia, often marking a special occasion where members gather to celebrate their spiritual family's history and unity. Whether recited during services, included in programs, or shared in personal reflections, church homecoming poems encapsulate the essence of reunion, gratitude, and spiritual renewal. Their enduring popularity underscores their power to evoke emotion, foster connection, and preserve the cultural fabric of church communities across generations.

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## Understanding the Significance of Church Homecoming Poems

Church homecoming is more than a mere event; it's a celebration of legacy, faith, and fellowship. Poems crafted specifically for this occasion serve multiple purposes:

- Expression of Gratitude: They thank God for the blessings of the past year and the opportunity to gather in His name.
- Remembrance: They honor ancestors, past leaders, and longtime members whose faith journey laid the foundation for the current congregation.
- Encouragement: Poems inspire continued dedication, spiritual growth, and unity among members.
- Celebration of Community: They highlight the collective identity of the church family and the importance of fellowship.

The poetic form allows for emotional storytelling, blending biblical references, personal anecdotes, and communal sentiments into a compelling narrative that resonates deeply with congregants.

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# Types of Church Homecoming Poems

Church homecoming poems can be categorized based on their tone, style, and purpose. Understanding these categories helps in selecting or composing the right poem for a specific occasion.

## Traditional and Formal Poems

These poems often follow classic poetic structures such as rhymed quatrains or sonnets, emphasizing reverence and solemnity. They may incorporate biblical references, hymns, and traditional language.

Features:

- Use of formal language and poetic devices
- Focus on biblical themes and scripture
- Suitable for solemn ceremonies or traditional services

Pros:

- Respectful and timeless
- Easy for congregations accustomed to formal worship

Cons:

- May seem outdated or less engaging to modern audiences
- Less flexibility for personalized expressions

## Contemporary and Inspirational Poems

Modern church homecoming poems tend to have a more informal tone, incorporating contemporary language, personal stories, and relatable themes.

Features:

- Use of free verse or modern poetic styles
- Personal reflections and testimonies
- Emphasis on community, growth, and hope

Pros:

- Engaging and relatable for diverse age groups
- Can incorporate personal or local stories

Cons:

- May lack the traditional gravitas some congregations prefer
- Risk of being too casual if not well-crafted

## Humorous and Light-hearted Poems

These poems aim to bring joy and laughter during the celebration, often highlighting humorous anecdotes or light-hearted reflections on church life.

Features:

- Use of humor, rhyme, and playful language
- Focus on shared experiences and inside jokes

Pros:

- Breaks the formality, creating a joyful atmosphere
- Encourages fellowship and camaraderie

Cons:

- Not suitable for all congregations or solemn moments
- Risk of offending if humor is misinterpreted

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## Key Elements of Effective Church Homecoming Poems

Creating or selecting a meaningful church homecoming poem involves attention to several core elements:

### Biblical References and Spiritual Themes

Incorporating scripture or spiritual themes grounds the poem in faith and connects the celebration to biblical teachings.

### Personal and Community Stories

Sharing personal testimonies or community milestones makes the poem relatable and heartfelt.

### Rhythm and Rhyme

A rhythmic flow, whether rhymed or free verse, helps the poem resonate and be memorable.

### Emotional Appeal

Using evocative language to stir feelings of nostalgia, gratitude, and hope enhances the poem's impact.

## **Appropriate Length and Tone**

Balancing brevity with depth ensures the poem maintains attention without losing its message.

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## **Popular Themes in Church Homecoming Poems**

Certain themes recur in many church homecoming poems, reflecting the core values and experiences of congregations:

- Reunion and Fellowship: Celebrating the gathering of believers
- Heritage and Legacy: Honoring ancestors and foundational members
- Faith and Gratitude: Thanking God for His blessings
- Growth and Renewal: Emphasizing spiritual progress and fresh starts
- Hope and Future: Looking forward with optimism and faith

These themes help craft poems that are both meaningful and inspiring.

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## **Examples and Sample Passages**

While many churches prefer original compositions, classic lines and sample passages can inspire or be adapted for homecoming poems.

- > "From generations past, your faith has shone bright,
- > Guiding our steps in God's holy light.
- > Today we gather, hearts full of cheer,
- > Rejoicing in His love, so faithful and near."

This sample emphasizes heritage, faith, and celebration—common elements in church homecoming poetry.

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## **Pros and Cons of Using Poems in Church Homecoming Celebrations**

Including poetry in church homecoming events offers distinct advantages and some considerations:

Pros:

- Enhances the spiritual atmosphere
- Creates memorable moments
- Facilitates emotional connection
- Serves as a form of worship and praise

Cons:

- May require time and preparation to select or compose meaningful poems
- Potential for misinterpretation if not carefully crafted
- Not all congregants may connect equally with poetic language

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## **Tips for Writing or Selecting the Perfect Church Homecoming Poem**

For those interested in creating their own poetry or choosing existing ones, consider these tips:

- Reflect on the specific occasion and audience
- Incorporate personal or local references for authenticity
- Maintain reverence for spiritual themes
- Keep the language accessible and heartfelt
- Consult with church leaders or choir members for input
- Practice recitation to ensure delivery is impactful

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## **Conclusion: The Enduring Value of Church Homecoming Poems**

Church homecoming poems are more than mere words; they are a vessel for expressing collective faith, history, and hope. They serve to uplift, inspire, and unite congregations as they celebrate their spiritual journey and community bonds. Whether traditional or contemporary, humorous or solemn, these poems enrich the church experience, fostering a sense of belonging and spiritual renewal. As churches continue to gather and celebrate their legacy, the art of poetic expression remains a vital tradition—one that captures the heart of faith and fellowship in beautifully crafted words.

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Feel free to explore further by commissioning custom poems, adapting classic hymns into poetic form, or encouraging members to share their own verses during homecoming celebrations. The beauty of church homecoming poems lies in their ability to be both timeless and personal, making every gathering a

memorable and spiritually meaningful event.

## **Church Homecoming Poems**

**church homecoming poems: New and Selected Poems** Marjory Wentworth, 2014-03-14 An inspiring assortment of new and best of works by South Carolina's poet laureate New and Selected Poems includes more than fifty poems from Marjory Wentworth's previous three collections, *Noticing Eden*, *Despite Gravity*, and *The Endless Repetition of an Ordinary Miracle*, plus twenty-eight new poems. This collection serves as a capstone to Wentworth's tenure as South Carolina poet laureate, a title she has held since 2003. Thematically Wentworth's poems invite us to view nature as a site of reflection and healing, to consider the power of familial bonds and friendships, and to broaden our awareness of human rights and social justice. Regional settings appear throughout, indicative of Wentworth's commitment to represent her adopted home state of South Carolina in her work. She skillfully employs a variety of forms, from prose poems to sonnets to elegies to list poems, making for a rich and interesting trek through this best of collection of her poems to date. This collection includes a foreword by the poet Carol Ann Davis, author of *Psalm* and *Atlas Hour* and assistant professor of English at Fairfield University.

**church homecoming poems: Making Tracks for Jesus** P. A. Cooks, 2008-02-19 Making Tracks for Jesus is a completely, integrated, inspirational-centered approach to releasing the God given potential trapped within you. If you have been frustrated by your dreams, ideas and visions, this book will activate your hidden treasures and ignite the wheels of your spiritual productivity. It will release a path to personal fulfillment, purpose and efficiency. This book imposes an array of thoughts that inspires one to be close to family and loved ones. It is a compilation of short stories and poems about life's tribulation. Furthermore, this book contains salutations, addresses for special occasions, annual days, spirited welcomes and responses with general presentations and introductions. A 'must have' for ministers, leaders, church workers, libraries, speakers, and followers of Christ. This author has written this book from his past experiences and involvements with a consortium of churches from Louisiana to California. These inspirational works can be useful to those who never tire in kingdom building to bring forward God's work.

**church homecoming poems: Why I Wrote This Poem** William Walsh, 2023-01-03 An anthology of a different sort, this volume presents a representative sample of contemporary American poems in 2023, with a road map of their origins. Bringing a diversity of styles and sensibilities, 62 poets from across the United States--some well known, some up-and-coming--illuminate their craft. Each poet contributes one poem, accompanied by an essay discussing their creative process and how the verse came to fruition.

**church homecoming poems: *Tell It Again*** Larry Caylor, 2012-06-25 A Collection of Poems, Musings and Children's Stories

**church homecoming poems: Collected Poems** Thomas Hardy, 1925

**church homecoming poems: Best Poems of 1995** Cynthia A. Stevens, Caroline Sullivan, 1995

**church homecoming poems: Collected Poems of Thomas Hardy** Thomas Hardy, 1925

**church homecoming poems: Jennings Co, in - Pictorial** , 1999-06-15

**church homecoming poems: America's Church** Thomas A. Tweed, 2011-06-28 The National Shrine in Washington, DC has been deeply loved, blithely ignored, and passionately criticized. It has been praised as a dazzling jewel and dismissed as a towering Byzantine beach ball. In this intriguing and inventive book, Thomas Tweed shows that the Shrine is also an illuminating site from which to tell the story of twentieth-century Catholicism. He organizes his narrative around six themes that characterize U.S. Catholicism, and he ties these themes to the Shrine's material culture--to images,

artifacts, or devotional spaces.

**church homecoming poems: Robert Morgan** Robert M. West, Jesse Graves, 2022-06-21 For more than fifty years Robert Morgan has brought to life the landscape, history and culture of the Southern Appalachia of his youth. In 30 acclaimed volumes, including poetry, short story collections, novels and nonfiction prose, he has celebrated an often marginalized region. His many honors include four NEA Fellowships, a Guggenheim Fellowship and an award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, as well as television appearances (The Best American Poetry: New Stories from the South, Prize Stories: The O. Henry Awards). This first book on Morgan collects appreciations and analyses by some of his most dedicated readers, including fellow poets, authors, critics and scholars. An unpublished interview with him is included, along with an essay by him on the importance of sense of place, and a bibliography of publications by and about him.

**church homecoming poems: The Last Tear Drop** Eleanor Hinton, 2022-11-03 This autobiography deals with a dysfunctional family, alcoholism, physical and verbal abuse, infidelity, and an incarcerated father. It also deals with the author's determination to be a productive member of society and the struggles and hardships she endured to make it happen. The author has been in education for a total of sixty-two years and is retired from two different school systems and still works a temporary teacher. In the past, she had worked as a teacher, school counselor, and administrator. She became a successful educator as well as a respected woman. In 2007, she was called in the ministry by God and has been licensed and ordained twice. Someone once said, aEURoeGod does not call the qualified, He qualifies the called.aEUR The author is a minister at a very large church, and she loves it. You will also read about the color line that existed between light- and dark-complexioned blacks in the family. It was real discrimination, and the author was not accepted by her my grandmother's family because her complexion was too dark. Her grandfather was a victim of the same kind of discrimination too, but it was an era when dark-complexioned men married women with the Anglo-Saxon look even if they were not accepted. The author remarried at the young age of eighty. It was a marriage from hell. She and her husband were married on Good Friday, and the marriage was over by July 4. Her divorce was final on June 19, 2019. That marriage was the darkest pit in the author's life.

**church homecoming poems: Teachers & Writers** , 1996

**church homecoming poems: Six Poets from the Mountain South** John Lang, 2010-04-20 In the most extensive work to date on major poets from the mountain South, John Lang takes as his point of departure an oft-quoted remark by Jim Wayne Miller: Appalachian literature is -- and has always been -- as decidedly worldly, secular, and profane in its outlook as the [region's] traditional religion appears to be spiritual and otherworldly. Although this statement may be accurate for Miller's own poetry and fiction, Lang maintains that it does not do justice to the pervasive religious and spiritual concerns of many of the mountain South's finest writers, including the five other leading poets whose work he analyzes along with Miller's. Fred Chappell, Robert Morgan, Jeff Daniel Marion, Kathryn Stripling Byer, and Charles Wright, Lang demonstrates, all write poetry that explores, sometimes with widely varying results, what they see as the undeniable presence of the divine within the temporal world. Like Blake and Emerson before them, these poets find the supernatural within nature rather than beyond it. They all exhibit a love of place in their poems, a strong sense of connection to nature and the land, especially the mountains. Yet while their affirmation of the world before them suggests a resistance to the otherworldliness that Miller points to, their poetry is nonetheless permeated with spiritual questing. Dante strongly influences both Chappell and Wright, though the latter eventually resigns himself to being simply a God-fearing agnostic, whereas Chappell follows Dante in celebrating the love that moves the sun and other stars. Byer, probably the least orthodox of these poets, chooses to lay up treasures on earth, rejecting the transcendent in favor of a Native American spirituality of immanence, while Morgan and Marion find in nature what Marion calls a vocabulary of wonders akin to Emerson's conviction that nature is the language of the spiritual. Employing close readings of the poets' work and relating it to British and American Romanticism as well as contemporary eco-theology and eco-criticism, Lang's book is the

most ambitious and searching foray yet into the worlds of these renowned post--World War II Appalachian poets.

**church homecoming poems:** Every Church in Town Jessamyn Luong, 2011-09 When I heard my name called, I found myself bent over at the waist, shaking and jerking. I walked to the front of the church bent over like that, and people gathered around me to pray. One of the church secretaries had a handheld tape recorder, held up in the air to capture the prayers. Every Church in Town chronicles the spiritual journey of an average Middle American teenage girl growing up in a community infused with religious fervor. Set in the early to mid-1990s, this young woman has a spiritual awakening in a charismatic church surrounded by glossolalia, holy laughter, youth groups, and Christian heavy metal. She plays in her high school marching band during the school year and attends Cornerstone, a Christian music festival, during the summer. While struggling to find her place in a rapidly changing world, she wrestles with many spiritual and intellectual questions, including how to hear God's voice, whether it is wrong to date a non-Christian, whether one should go to college when the end of the world is imminent, and whether every Christian is obligated to be a Republican. In a small town with a deep socioeconomic divide, where everyone who wears plaid with stripes is suspect, this young woman searches for friendship, meaning, and salvation in a world full of plastic lecterns and Kool-Aid mustaches.

**church homecoming poems:** The Complete Old English Poems , 2017-01-31 From the riddling song of a bawdy onion that moves between kitchen and bedroom to the thrilling account of Beowulf's battle with a treasure-hoarding dragon, from the heart-rending lament of a lone castaway to the embodied speech of the cross upon which Christ was crucified, from the anxiety of Eve, who carries a sumptuous secret in her hands / And a tempting truth hidden in her heart, to the trust of Noah who builds a sea-floater, a wave-walking / Ocean-home with rooms for all creatures, the world of the Anglo-Saxon poets is a place of harshness, beauty, and wonder. Now for the first time, the entire Old English poetic corpus—including poems and fragments discovered only within the past fifty years—is rendered into modern strong-stress, alliterative verse in a masterful translation by Craig Williamson. Accompanied by an introduction by noted medievalist Tom Shippey on the literary scope and vision of these timeless poems and Williamson's own introductions to the individual works and his essay on translating Old English poetry, the texts transport us back to the medieval scriptorium or ancient mead-hall, to share a herdsman's recounting of the story of the world's creation or a people's sorrow at the death of a beloved king, to be present at the clash of battle or to puzzle over the sacred and profane answers to riddles posed over a thousand years ago. This is poetry as stunning in its vitality as it is true to its sources. Were Williamson's idiom not so modern, we might think that the Anglo-Saxon poets had taken up the lyre again and begun to sing once more.

**church homecoming poems:** Scioto County's War with Spain John McHenry, 2021 Like much of the nation in 1898, Scioto County, Ohio, burned with war fever. In their zeal to liberate Cubans from Spanish oppression, the communities rallied around their small National Guard company, Company H. Local papers ran constant updates from the boys, who found themselves liberating Puerto Rico. The homefront buzzed with activity, as church groups, civic clubs and individuals shipped care packages to the soldiers. The community went wild upon their return seven months later. Parades, dedications and honorifics of every sort proclaimed that the sacrifices of community and soldiers would never be forgotten... but they were. Local history buff John McHenry brings to light the struggles and triumphs of the county during this oft-overlooked conflict.

**church homecoming poems:** International Index to Periodicals , 1929 An author and subject index to publications in fields of anthropology, archaeology and classical studies, economics, folklore, geography, history, language and literature, music, philosophy, political science, religion and theology, sociology and theatre arts.

**church homecoming poems:** Why Go to Church? Timothy Radcliffe, 2008-04-12 The Eucharist, writes Timothy Radcliffe, is a three part drama, forming us in faith, hope and love. In this book he examines what it means to celebrate the Eucharist. Other people experience it as boring and pointless. Listening to the readings, the homily and the creed all take us through the crises and

challenges of faith. From the offertory through to the end of the Eucharistic prayer we are caught up in the hope that was Christ's, faced with Good Friday. From the Our Father until we are sent on our way, especially in receiving communion, we are formed as people who are capable of love.

**church homecoming poems: Song of the Vikings** Nancy Marie Brown, 2012-10-30 "A wonderfully evocative biography of the . . . 13th century Icelandic writer and chieftain" who wrote the immortal stories of Thor, Odin, Valhalla, and Ragnarök (Guardian, UK). Much like Greek and Roman mythology, Norse myths are still with us. Famous storytellers from JRR Tolkien to Neil Gaiman have drawn their inspiration from the long-haired, mead-drinking, marauding and pillaging Vikings. But few of us know much about the creator of these immortal heroes: a thirteenth-century Icelandic chieftain by the name of Snorri Sturluson. Like Homer, Snorri was a bard, writing down and embellishing the folklore and pagan legends of medieval Scandinavia. Unlike Homer, Snorri was a man of the world—a wily political power player, one of the richest men in Iceland who came close to ruling it, and even closer to betraying it. In Song of the Vikings, award-winning author Nancy Marie Brown brings Snorri Sturluson's story to life in a richly textured narrative that draws on newly available sources.

**church homecoming poems: The Vintage Book of African American Poetry** Michael S. Harper, Anthony Walton, 2012-02-01 In The Vintage Book of African American Poetry, editors Michael S. Harper and Anthony Walton present the definitive collection of black verse in the United States--200 years of vision, struggle, power, beauty, and triumph from 52 outstanding poets. From the neoclassical stylings of slave-born Phillis Wheatley to the wistful lyricism of Paul Lawrence Dunbar . . . the rigorous wisdom of Gwendolyn Brooks...the chiseled modernism of Robert Hayden...the extraordinary prosody of Sterling A. Brown...the breathtaking, expansive narratives of Rita Dove...the plaintive rhapsodies of an imprisoned Elderidge Knight . . . The postmodern artistry of Yusef Komunyakaa. Here, too, is a landmark exploration of lesser-known artists whose efforts birthed the Harlem Renaissance and the Black Arts movements--and changed forever our national literature and the course of America itself. Meticulously researched, thoughtfully structured, The Vintage Book of African-American Poetry is a collection of inestimable value to students, educators, and all those interested in the ever-evolving tradition that is American poetry.

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