

He Leadeth Me

Words by Joseph Gilmore & Music by William Bradbury

C *F*
He leadeth me, O blessed thought!

C *A^m* *G⁶* *G⁶*
O words with heav'nly comfort fraught!

C *F* *Cmb13b11sus4*
Whate'er I do, where'er I be;

C *A^m* *G⁶* *G⁶* *C*
Still 'tis God's hand that lea-deth me.

Sometimes mid scenes of deepest gloom,
Sometimes where Eden's bowers bloom,
By waters still, over troubled sea,
Still 'tis His hand that leadeth me.

CHORUS

C *G* *F* *C*
He leadeth me, He leadeth me,

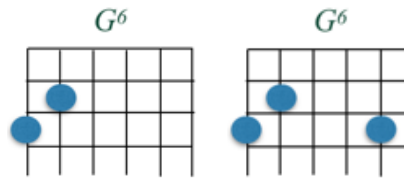
C *A^m* *G⁶* *G⁶*
By His own hand He leadeth me;

C *F* *Cmb13b11sus4*
His faithful follower I would be;

C *A^m* *G⁶* *G⁶* *C*
For by His hand He lea-deth me.

Lord, I would place my hand in Thine,
Nor ever murmur nor repine;
Content, whatever lot I see,
Since 'tis my God that leadeth me.

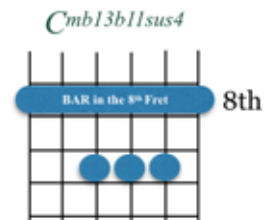
And when my task on earth is done,
When by Thy grace the vict'ry's won,
E'en death's cold wave I will not flee,
Since God through Jordan leadeth me.



Played on
"comfort" &
"Lea-"

Played on
"fraught" &
"deth"

Follow this same progression
wherever G⁶ and G⁶ are
found together.



Scripture and History

Psalm 23:1 A Psalm of David. The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters.

John 10:3-4 Jesus said, "But he who enters by the door [*of the sheepfold*] is the shepherd of the sheep. To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice."

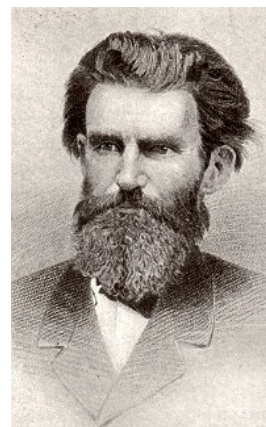


Joseph Henry Gilmore was a Newton Theological Seminary trained Baptist pastor. In 1862, as a 28-year-old student who was about to become a pastor, Henry was invited to preach at the historic First Baptist Church of Philadelphia. "I set out to give the people an exposition of the Twenty-third Psalm. I had given this exposition on three or four other occasions; but this time I did not get beyond the words '**He Leadeth Me.**' So greatly impressed was I with the blessedness of divine guidance that I made this my theme." He later felt that the dark days of the Civil War may have subconsciously led him to focus on God's leadership.

At the close of the meeting, Henry and some others went to the home of a deacon. "There," he wrote, "we continued our discussion of divine guidance.

While I was still talking and listening, I wrote on a piece of my exposition manuscript the words to this hymn. I handed the paper to my wife and more or less forgot the incident." Three years later while preaching at another church, he opened their hymn book and found his words set to music. To his surprise, his wife had sent the words to a Christian periodical and William Bradbury of Maine, set the words to music.

William Batchelder Bradbury was born on October 6, 1816 in York, Maine where his father was the leader of a church choir. He moved with his parents to Boston and met Lowell Mason, and by 1834 was known as an organist. In 1840, he began teaching in Brooklyn, New York. In 1847 he went to Germany, where he studied harmony, composition, and vocal and instrumental music with the best masters. In 1854, he started the Bradbury Piano Company, with his brother, Edward in New York City.



William Bradbury is best known as a composer and publisher of a series of musical collections for choirs and schools. He was the author and compiler of fifty-nine books starting in 1841.

In 1862, Bradbury found the poem *Jesus Loves Me*. Bradbury wrote the music and added the chorus: "Yes, Jesus loves me, Yes, Jesus Loves me ..."

He composed many tunes, including those for "**He Leadeth Me**", "Just As I Am", "Sweet Hour of Prayer", "Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us" and "The Solid Rock", all of which can still be found in hymnbooks and songbooks today.

from www.christianity.com/, -- John Julian, *Dictionary of Hymnology* (1907) at [hymnary.org](http://www.hymnary.org),
<http://www.hymntime.com/> and his [hymnstory.blogspot.com](http://www.hymnstory.blogspot.com)