

Charles Crozat Converse  
arranged by CaptaNova

# WHAT A FRIEND WE HAVE IN JESUS

*For String Quartet*



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Duration: 0'50"

Difficulty: 

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## INSTRUMENTATION

Violin 1  
Violin 2  
Viola  
Violoncello

## PROGRAM NOTES

The lyrics of the song *What a Friend we have in Jesus* were written by the Irishman Joseph Medlicott Scriven. Scriven was born in Dublin in 1819 and had a great career ahead of him.

A few hours before his wedding, his bride was caught by a gust of wind on a bridge and drowned in the river before his eyes. Scriven then emigrated to Canada where he fell in love again and married. Shortly after the wedding, his wife became seriously ill and died.

A friend of Scriven's discovered the manuscript shortly before the author's death and asked him if he had written this poem. "*The Lord and I wrote it together.*", Scriven replied. He had written it in 1857, shortly before the death of his second wife. With this he wanted to comfort his mother, who was suffering from the cruel strokes of fate of her son.

The poem, which speaks of the intimate relationship with Jesus, should never have been seen by anyone other than his mother. But it found its way to Ira D. Sankey, who included it as song No. 1 in the song collection *Gospel Hymns*.

## LYRICS

What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear;  
what a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer!  
O what peace we often forfeit, o what needless pain we bear,  
all because we do not carry everything to God in prayer.

Have we trials and temptation? Is there trouble anywhere?  
We should never be discouraged; take it to the Lord in prayer.  
Can we find a friend so faithful, who will all our sorrows share?  
Jesus knows our every weakness; take it to the Lord in prayer.

Are we weak and heavy laden, cumbered with a load of care?  
Precious Saviour, still our refuge; take it to the Lord in prayer.  
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer,  
in His arms He'll take and shield thee, thou wilt find a solace there

