Anabaptist Hymnal

Anabaptists

* Baptismal covenant – total commitment to Jesus and His Word
* Have a disciplined body made of those who were converted
* Restore church to apostolic church of New Testament
* Repent, amend life, show living faith in Christ by life of love to God and fellow man
* Taught converts to read so they could read the Bible themselves
* Started schools for their children whenever they could; boys and girls learned to read and write
* Important to sing praises to God; important to learn that
* Some thought to use all of meeting time for preaching, but the hearts of the persecuted leaders were full of God and overflowed in song
* Felix Manz expressed faith in song – began and spread to Anabaptists and descendants
* Many songs in *Ausbund*, *Die Lieder der Hutterischen Bruder*, then perpetuated in *Unpartheyisches Gesangbuch –* zeal of the persecuted Anabaptists “gave rise to a large body of songs” collected in these books (Fretz, 1990)
* Anabaptist practice of congregational singing a cappella

Martyrs’ Hymns

* Think of their words and the meanings, relate to their lives of persecution, standing for God
* Think of the history – some of these songs we still sing
* Think of the faith of the men who could write these words
* Their joy and delight in singing
* Composers who were martyrs, year of death, means of death, hymn numbers (from this book)
1. Felix Manz, 1527, drowning, #1, 2, 3
2. George Wagner, 1527, burned at the stake, #4
3. Carius Binder, 1527, burned in a house, #5
4. Michael Sattler, 1527, tortured, burned, #8, 85
5. Balthasar Hubmaier, 1528, burned, #6
6. Leonhart Schiemer, 1528, burned, #7
7. George Blaurock, 1529, burned, #9
8. Hans Hut, 1527, died in prison, #10
9. George Grunwald, 1530, burned, #11
10. Daniel Kropf, 1530, burned, #12
11. Hans Betz, 1537, died in prison, #13, 90
12. Jorg Rock, 1560, beheaded, #14
13. Leonhart Sommer, 1573, died in prison, #15
* Other Anabaptist leaders who composed hymns, hymn numbers
1. Derk Philips, #17
2. Menno Simons, #16, 19
3. Peter Riedemann, #18, 50, 53, 68, 87, 103, 118
* Other hymns in the book fit with the Anabaptists; many from *Ausbund* and the other books listed
* #45 from the Old Order River Brethren; #56 from Zinzendorf (Moravian?) 1742; #75 by Christian Burkholder; #76 by Christopher Dock; #86 by Anna of Freyburg, tr. *Martyr’s Mirror;* #104 by Amos Herr

Fretz, C., 1990. *Anabaptist Hymnal,* Deutsche Buchhandlung, Hagerstown, MD.