

A low-angle, upward-looking photograph of the interior of the Lincoln Memorial. The massive, dark stone structural ribs of the vaulted ceiling converge towards the top, creating a powerful sense of height and scale. A vibrant rainbow light effect is superimposed over the center of the image, with colors transitioning from purple and blue at the top to red, orange, and yellow towards the bottom. At the base of the image, the rows of dark wooden pews are visible, leading the eye towards the altar area. The altar features a large, brightly lit window with a grid pattern, through which natural light streams. Below the window, there is a stone wall with a central green and white decorative panel, flanked by floral arrangements and other ceremonial items. An American flag is visible on the left side of the altar area.

**SATB**

**LORD, GUARD AND GUIDE  
THE MEN WHO FLY**

**The United States Air Force Hymn**



Lord, guard and guide the men who fly  
Through the great spaces of the sky;  
Be with them traversing the air  
In dark'ning storms or sunshine fair.

Thou who dost keep with tender might  
The balanced birds in all their flight,  
Thou of the tempered winds, be near,  
That, having thee, they know no fear.

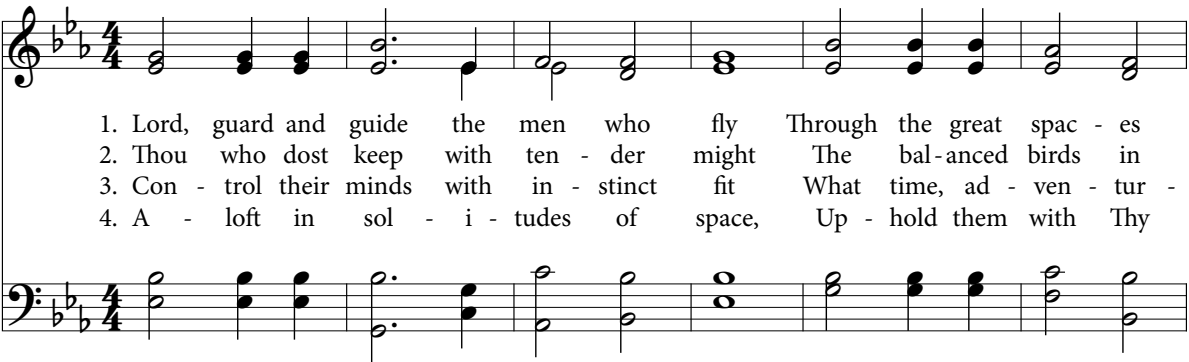
Control their minds with instinct fit  
What time, adventuring, they quit  
The firm security of land;  
Grant steadfast eye and skilful hand.

Aloft in solitudes of space,  
Uphold them with Thy saving grace.  
O God, protect the men who fly  
Through lonely ways beneath the sky. Amen.

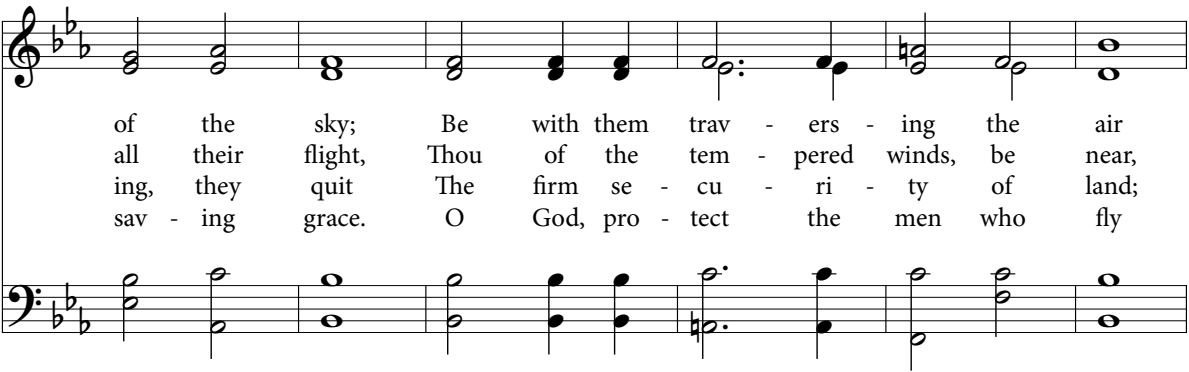
– Mary Christian Dundas Hamilton (1850–1943)

# Lord, Guard and Guide the Men Who Fly

(The United States Air Force Hymn)



1. Lord, guard and guide the men who fly Through the great spaces  
2. Thou who dost keep with tender might The balanced birds in  
3. Control their minds with instinct fit What time, adventure -  
4. Aloft in solitudes of space, Uphold them with Thy



of the sky; Be with them travelers - ing the air  
all their flight, Thou of the tempered winds, be near,  
ing, they quit The firm security of land;  
saving grace. O God, protect the men who fly



In dark - ning storms or sun - shine fair.  
That, hav - ing thee, they know no fear.  
Grant steadfast eye and skil - ful hand.  
Through lonely ways be - neath the sky. A - men.

## History of the United States Air Force and the Air Force Hymn

On September 18, 1947, the National Security Act of 1947 created the National Military Establishment and the United States Air Force. The National Military Establishment later became the Department of Defense. The Air Force was part of the Army Air Corps since August 1, 1907. It had the oversight of military aviation for land-based operations.

The organizational development of the Air Force is as follows: Aeronautical Division, Signal Corps (1 August 1907 – 18 July 1914), Aviation Section, Signal Corps (18 July 1914 – 20 May 1918), Division of Military Aeronautics (20 May 1918 – 24 May 1918), Air Service, U.S. Army (24 May 1918 – 2 July 1926), U.S. Army Air Corps (2 July 1926 – 20 June 1941), the U.S. Army Air Forces (20 June 1941 – 17 September 1947), and the United States Air Force, 18 September 1947 – present), and the separation of the United States Air Force Space Command as the United States Space Force (20 December 2019 – present).

The Air Force has been involved in World War I, World War II, the Cold War and the Korean conflict, the Vietnam conflict, combat operations such as Operation Eagle Claw, the invasion of Grenada (1983), the bombing of Libya (1986), the invasion of Panama (1989), Operation Desert Storm, the Gulf War, Bosnia and Kosovo, the Global War on Terror, Operation Enduring Freedom, and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Mary Christian Dundas Hamilton (24 May 1850 - 10 June 1943) was a Scottish writer and poet. She is known for writing “A Hymn for Aviators” (1915). It was known as “Lord, Guard and Guide the Men Who Fly,” and also as the United States Air Force Hymn. It was set to Mozart’s “Dona Nobis Pacem,” a waltz. Various phrases and verses were used in the United States Navy Hymn, “Eternal Father, Strong to Save,” and alluded to in the United States Space Force Hymn, “Creator of the Universe.”

Former Air Force Chaplain and Officer, theologian and hymnist, Major James F. Linzey, believed that military hymns should not be waltzes. So he converted the timing of Mozart’s piece to four-four timing, giving the Air Force Hymn traditional timing that is fit for a hymn.

