

23rd SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

10:00 AM

November 5, 2023

(WORSHIP IS AT THE VERY heart of the church's life. All that the church is and does is rooted in its worship. The community of faith, gathered in response to God's call, is formed in its worship. Worship is the principal influence that shapes our faith, and is the most visible way we express the faith.)

The Gathering of God's People

(Worship begins with God. God takes the initiative and calls us into being. In the name of Christ we answer God's call and assemble as the community of faith.

As the people gather, they may informally greet one another as members of the household of faith. They may pray silently or engage in quiet meditation, or music may be offered appropriate to the season or to the scripture readings of the day. The music should help people focus their attention on God and God's kingdom.)

"How Majestic Is Your Name"

GREETING AND PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Holy Spirit living within us, guide our hearts and minds as we welcome today all those who worship with us at Covenant Presbyterian Church. Give us discerning hearts so that everyone who crosses our threshold feels welcomed in the spirit of your love. Help us to recognize each person as an individual sent by you who will enrich our lives. And most of all, O God, let this be a place of love and acceptance of all your children; in the name of your child, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

CHORAL INTROIT

PRELUDE

"O God, We Do Exalt Your Name"

Scott Scioli

L. Larson

arr. Jerry Ray

CALL TO WORSHIP

(The people are called to worship God.)

Leader: We are witnesses to the love of God.

People: We see it in the father putting kids to bed; we tell of the teacher patiently teaching a student to read.

Leader: We are witnesses to the justice of Jesus.

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People: We hear it in the student who stands up to a bully; we sing of it at vigils of hope for shattered communities.

Leader: We are witnesses to the peace of the Spirit.

People: We receive it from the sister who listens to our loneliness; we whisper it to the little brother who falls off his bicycle.

Leader: With prayer and praise, in scripture and in song, let us worship the Living God!

"We are Called to Be God's People"

#710

*# you are able, please stand

(In words of scripture the people are called to confess the reality of sin in personal and common life. Claiming the promises of God sealed in our baptism, we humbly confess our sin. Confession is made by using a prayer, a penitential psalm, or appropriate music. Whatever the form, it will engage us in acknowledging our sinfulness and in confessing our sin to God. A period of silence may be observed before, within, or following the confession of sin.

Music of a penitential character may follow the prayer.)

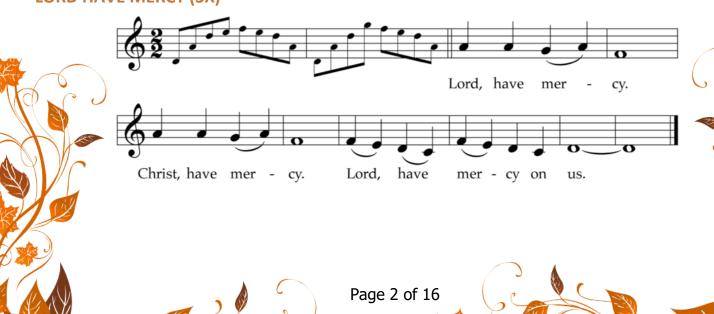
CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We could live humbly with others, Sheltering God, but then they would not know how awesome we really are. We could speak humbly to others, but we prefer to put them in their place. We could act humbly in dealing with others, but then they would take advantage of us. We could humbly serve the most vulnerable, but we would rather coddle the wealthy and the powerful. Have mercy on us, God of compassion. Instead of putting letters after our names, may we spell out hope for those recovering from disasters. Rather than jockeying for a seat at the head table, may we sit in the kitchen with the cooks and dishwashers. Tempted to overlook injustice, may we abhor it as deeply and intently as did your Child, Jesus Christ.

SILENT MEDITATION

LORD HAVE MERCY (3X)



WORDS OF ASSURANCE

(Having confessed our sin, we remember the promises of God's redemption, and the claims God has on all have n life. The assurance of God's forgiving grace is declared in the name of Jesus Christ. We accept God's forgiveness confident that in dying to sin, God raises us to new life)

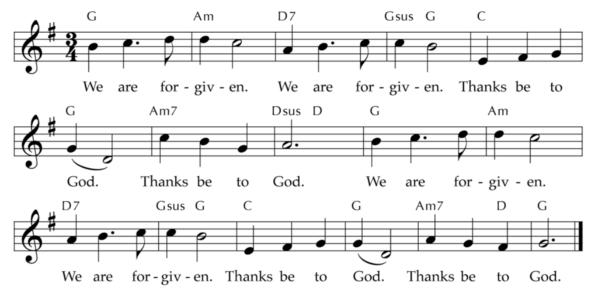
Hear the good news and be at peace with yourself:

God loves us. God forgives us. This is not fake news, but the reality offered to us by the who shelters us. So life changing, this good news always causes us to respond with praise.

Thanks be to God! We are heard, we are accepted, we are filled with mercy and hope. Amen. Amen!

WE ARE FORGIVEN (2X)

*If you are able, please stand



SHARING THE PEACE

*If you are able, please stand

(Having been reconciled to God in Jesus Christ, the people are invited to share signs of reconciliation and the peace of Christ. In sharing the peace, we express the reconciliation, unity, and love that come only from God, and we open ourselves to the power of God's love to heal our brokenness and make us agents of that love in the world.)

ട്ടിnce God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another. The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Scott Scioli

The Proclamation of God's Word

(Scriptures are read and their message is proclaimed. Psalms, hymns, spirituals, or anthems may be sung between the readings.)

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

(A prayer for illumination may be offered before the reading and proclaiming of the scripture. This prayer seeks the illumination of the Holy Spirit and calls upon God to make us receptive to the life-giving Word, which comes to us through the scripture.)

Guide us, O God, by your Word and Spirit, that in your light we may see light, in your truth find freedom, and in your will discover your peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(The PCUSA joins with many denominations, including the Roman Catholic, Lutheran, Episcopal, Methodist, Lutheran, and others in following what is called the Revised Common Lectionary. It consists of 4 readings each week: an Old Testament, Psalm, Gospel, and Epistle which repeats every three years. The idea of the Lectionary is to expose worshippers to the entirety of scripture so people will hear the whole Bible.)

EPISTLE

1 Thessalonians 2:9-13

Surely you remember, brothers and sisters, our toil and hardship; we worked night and day in order not to be a burden to anyone while we preached the gospel of God to you. You are witnesses, and so is God, of how holy, righteous and blameless we were among you who believed. For you know that we dealt with each of you as a father deals with his own children, encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into his kingdom and glory. And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as a human word, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is indeed at work in you who believe.

ANTHEM "Shut De Do" Randy Stonewall

Kevin Hill – percussion

PSALM Psalm 107: 1-7, 33-37

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever.

Let the redeemed of the LORD tell their story— those he redeemed from the hand of the foe,

those he gathered from the lands, from east and west, from north and south.

Some wandered in desert wastelands, finding no way to a city where they could settle.

They were hungry and thirsty, and their lives ebbed away.

Then they cried out to the LORD in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress.

He led them by a straight way to a city where they could settle.

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He turned rivers into a desert, flowing springs into thirsty ground,

and fruitful land into a salt waste, because of the wickedness of those who lived there.

He turned the desert into pools of water and the parched ground into flowing springs; there he brought the hungry to live, and they founded a city where they could settle.

They sowed fields and planted vineyards that yielded a fruitful harvest.

GOSPEL Matthew 23:1-12

Desus said to the crowds and to his disciples: "The teachers of the law and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat. So you must be careful to do everything they tell you. But do not do what they do, for they do not practice what they preach. They tie up heavy, cumbersome loads and put them on other people's shoulders, but they themselves are not willing to lift a finger to move them.

"Everything they do is done for people to see: They make their phylacteries wide and the tassels on their garments long; they love the place of honor at banquets and the most important seats in the synagogues; they love to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces and to be called 'Rabbi 'by others. "But you are not to be called 'Rabbi, 'for you have one Teacher, and you are all brothers.

And do not call anyone on earth 'father, 'for you have one Father, and he is in heaven. Nor are you to be called instructors, for you have one Instructor, the Messiah. The greatest among you will be your servant. For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.

(This scripture is the main focus of the sermon and immediately proceeds it.)

SERMON

"Rediscovering Ourselves -1. What We are Not" Rev. Dr. Robert Higgs

PRAYER AND REFLECTION

(Following the sermon, people are invited to reflect on the message and contemplate what God is saying to them.)

We pause to reflect on the message

If you wish, you may want to use the following breath prayer (or any of your choice). The words may be said aloud or in silence

Breathe in: "I want to know you"

Breathe out: "... and the power of your resurrection"

The Response of God's People

(Responses to the proclamation of God's Word include expressions of faith and commitment, and the offering of prayers for worldwide and local needs. As hearing becomes doing, the tithes and offerings of the people are gathered.)

HYMN

"Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus"

#663

*If you are able, please stand

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(A hymn or other song is sung. It may be related to the scripture readings of the day, or it may lead to the prayers of the people or to Baptism or a pastoral rite that might follow.)

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Nicene Creed

(The people respond to the proclamation of the Word by affirming the faith.

The faith of the church both shapes our lives and expresses the hope and expectancy that are a part of the Christian life. From early in the church's life, an affirmation of faith has been central in corporate worship. The Nicene Creed, the most historic creed of the Church is traditionally said whenever the Lord's Supper is celebrated.)

Let us confess our common faith, using the ancient words of the Nicene Creed. Together, we say:

We believe in one God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us, and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered and was buried, and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father; and he shall come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead: whose kingdom shall have no end.

And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets. and we believe one holy catholic and apostolic church; we acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and we look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

(In response to the Word, prayers are offered. In these prayers, we acknowledge God's presence in the world and in daily life. Across the ages the church in its worship has prayed for the church universal, the world, all in authority, and those in distress or need. At no other time in its worship is the community of faith more conscious of the needs of the life of the world. We pray for the world because God loves it. God created the world and cares for it. God sent Jesus, who died for it. God is working to lead the world toward the future God has for it. To abide in God's love is to share God's concern for the world. Our prayers should therefore be as wide as God's love and as specific as God's tender com- passion for the least ones among us.)

...let us pray to the Lord

Lord, have mercy.

CALL TO STEWARDSHIP



OFFERTORY

DOXOLOGY

"Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow"

#809

*If you are able, please stand

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

The Eucharist

(The Christian life is marked by the offering of one's self to God to be shaped, empowered, directed, and changed by God. In worship, God presents us with the costly self-offering of Jesus Christ. We are claimed by Christ and set free. In response to God's love in Jesus Christ we offer God our lives, our gifts, our abilities, and our material goods, for God's service.)

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

(From New Testament times the celebration of the Eucharist on each Lord's Day has been the norm of Christian worship. The Eucharist was given by Christ himself. Before church governments were devised, before creeds were formalized, even before the first word of the New Testament was written, the Lord's Supper was firmly fixed at the heart of Christian faith and life. From the church's inception, the Lord's Day and the Lord's Supper were joined. Along with the reading and proclamation of the scripture, the Eucharist has given witness to God's redemptive acts each Lord's Day, giving Christian worship its distinctive shape.)

SURSUM CORDA (Latin for "Lift up your hearts")

Leader: May the God of the Table be with you!

People: And also with you!

Leader: Let us offer our hearts to God.

People: God hears our hearts and answers with love and hope.

Leader: Lift your voices in song to the One who serves us.

People: We will praise God with our voices and lives.

PRAYER OF GREAT THANKSGIVING

God is praised for: creating all things, the providence of God, establishing the covenant, giving the law, the witness of the prophets, God's boundless love and mercy in spite of human failure, the ultimate gift of Christ, the immediate occasion or festival. There may be an acclamation of praise, in which we join in one voice, with choirs of angels and with the faithful of every time and place, in adoration of the triune God: "Holy, holy, holy Lord," the song of the heavenly hosts, eternally being sung before God's majesty (Isa. 6:1–5).)

When no answer was coming ...we join in offering praise to you:

HOLY HOLY HOLY

(See page: 12)

You alone are holy, ...which is often a mystery to us:

(Christ's work of redemption is recalled with thanks: his birth, life, and ministry, his death and resurrection, the promise of his coming again. the gift of the Sacrament There may be an acclamation of faith, in which we joyfully acclaim Christ who died, is risen, and will come again.)





Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come a - gain.

Year witness to weakness over power... God in Community, Holy in One. Amen.

LAD'S PRAYER

And now as children of God, let us be bold to say:

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF BREAD

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

COMMUNION MUSIC "Lamb of God"

T. Paris

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

The Sending of God's People

(The people are sent forth with God's blessing to serve. A formal dismissal concludes the service. A charge to the people to go into the world in the name of Christ may be included. The charge renews God's call to us to engage in obedient and grateful ministry as God's agents to heal life's brokenness. By the power of the Spirit, we are to be in life and ministry what Christ has redeemed us to be.

God calls the church to join the mission of Christ in service to the world. As the church engages in that mission, it bears witness to God's reign over all of life. God sends the church in the power of the Holy Spirit to proclaim the gospel, to engage in works of compassion and reconciliation, to strive for peace and justice in its own life and in the world, to be stewards of creation and of life, caring for creation until the day when God will make all things new. The church in both its worship and its ministry is a sign of the reign of God. God's reign is both a present reality and a promise of the future. In an age hostile to the reign of God, the church worships and serves, confident that God's rule has been established, and with hope firmly rooted in the ultimate triumph of God.

The dismissal shall include words of blessing, using a trinitarian benediction such as the apostolic benediction in 2 Cor. 13:14, or other words from scripture. Assured of God's peace and blessing, we are confident that God goes with us to our tasks. Signs of reconciliation and peace may be exchanged as the people depart.)

CLOSING HYMN

"Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine"

#514

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

My friends, go out into the world in peace ... Now together, may we all say: Lord, may You this week open up doors for us to share your Word.

HORAL BENEDICTION

If you are able, please stand

"Now May the God of Peace"

L. Larson

POSTLUDE

"Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us"

arr. P. Keveren

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Women's Bible Study – Mondays 11:00 AM
Choir Rehearsal – Sundays 11:00 AM
Bell Rehearsal – Mondays 7:00 PM
Christian Education (Bonnie Cain and Amanda Rosica) – as needed

Deacons – 2nd Tuesday, 7:00 PM

Fellowship (Amanda Rosica) – 3rd Wednesday, 7:00 PM

Finance and Stewardship (Mike Martin) – 2nd Monday, 7:00 PM

Men's Breakfast -Tuesdays, 7:00 AM

Membership (Nancy Perritt) – as needed Mission (Mary Lou Newborg) – as needed

Music and Worship (Leslie Todd) – November 19, after worship, lounge Property Care (Chuck Rosica and Bob Jeffries) – determined by chairperson Session – 4th Thursday, 7:30 PM



ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. DAYLIGHT SAVINGS!

in your home Saturday evening.

2.STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY NOVEMBER 12th

Stewardship is the word that describes how followers of Christ manage and use the gifts of continuous compassionate ways. Giving to the church is more than meeting a budget; it is about learning to be a good steward of God's gifts and using these to carry out God's will on earth. An Estimate of Giving card was mailed to each church family for use in providing an estimate of your anticipated envelope giving in 2024. If you haven't received one, additional cards may be found on the table in the narthex. Please complete the card and submit it to the church office or put in the collection plate on or before November 12, 2024 ("Stewardship Sunday").

3. THANKSGIVING COLLECTION

Covenant's Deacons will be collecting frozen turkeys again this year for Epworth Methodist's Bread of Life Food Pantry in Palmyra. You can bring frozen turkeys or turkey breasts from Sunday, October 29 till Thursday, November 16. As our church freezer can only hold 3 or 4 turkeys, we will be making frequent drop offs as they come in. In addition, the Deacons will purchase and deliver Thanksgiving side dishes for donation to the Pantry. Your contributions to the Deacons' Fund with the pink envelopes make this possible. Thank you very much for your continued generosity.

4. BRUNCH

Join us for soups, breads, and other goodies after worship on November 12th in Fellowship Hall. Please use the signup sheet in the narthex. Fellowship would like to have a headcount.

5. LADIES TEA

Ladies Christmas Tea is December 2nd at 12:30PM (Tea at 1PM) - an elegant afternoon with full tea service, Christmas decor, and fellowship. Ages 5 and up welcome. Tickets on sale Nov. 5th.

6. SUNDAY SCHOOL

Attention all children starting at age 4. Covenant will be hosting Sunday School during the 10am Church Service on the following dates: November 19th, December 17th.

- 7. YOUR PARTICIPATION IS NEEDED! Members are invited to participate in our services.
- Tease contact Bonnie Cain or Greg DiBona if you are interested in reading scripture or leading our worship services. We are also in need of more volunteers to operate the camera and soundboard. Please contact the church office if you are interested.
- **8. BIBLE STUDY** The Bible Study will be located in the lounge on Mondays at 11AM. All are welcome!
- 9. STEWARDSHIP: Total Income for 10/29: Total Income: \$1253.00, Envelope Giving: \$1199.00, Deacons: \$93.00, Capital Improvement Fund: \$25.00.



Sandi Pascone's concerns for her husband as he deals with health issues

Carol Grunigen - recovery from bronchitis

B.Ann and Dave DuBois - thankfulness to see them in church and continued concern for their health

Kathy Hood - good care and peace of mind

Bobbie Bechtel - total healing of her ribs

Etna Kessler - good care in memory facility

Emily Busby - good care in nursing facility

Terri Bell - able to rest in comfort and receive strength from Ken as he takes very good care of her

19-month-old Logan - hopefully good results from treatment that the cancer can be eliminated and good health comes

Betty's friend, Bill - hopeful doing well with treatment and strength for his wife, Elaine

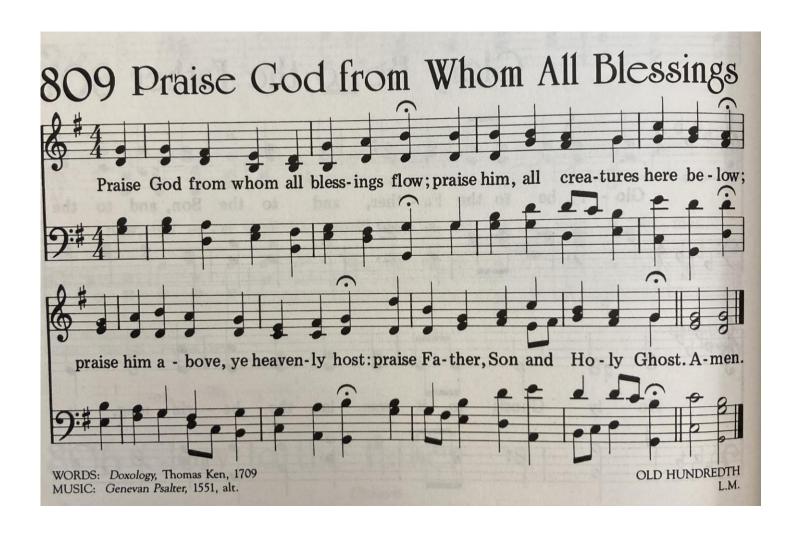
Denise - lift in spirits and feeling good

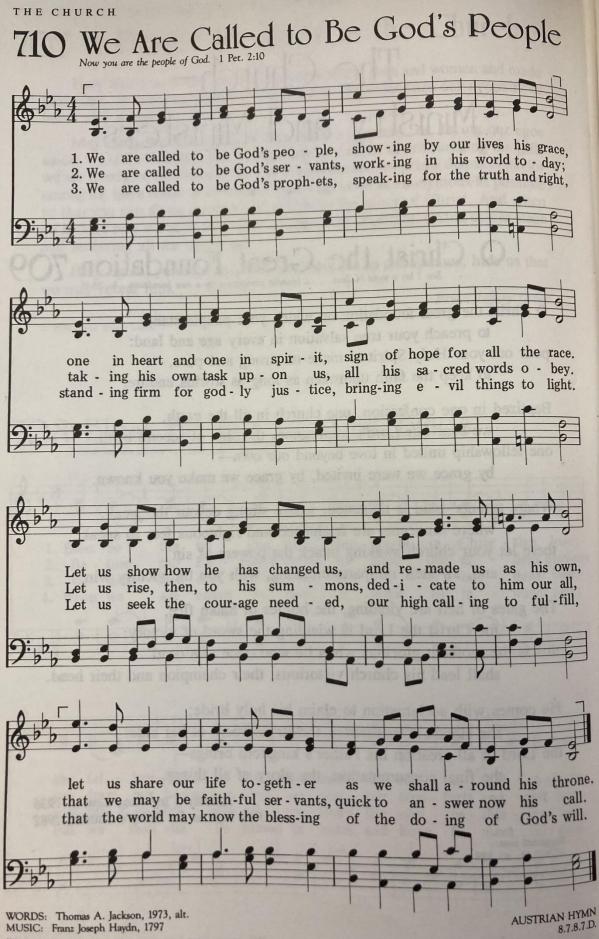
Bruce and his family - very good care for Bruce as he deals with health issues



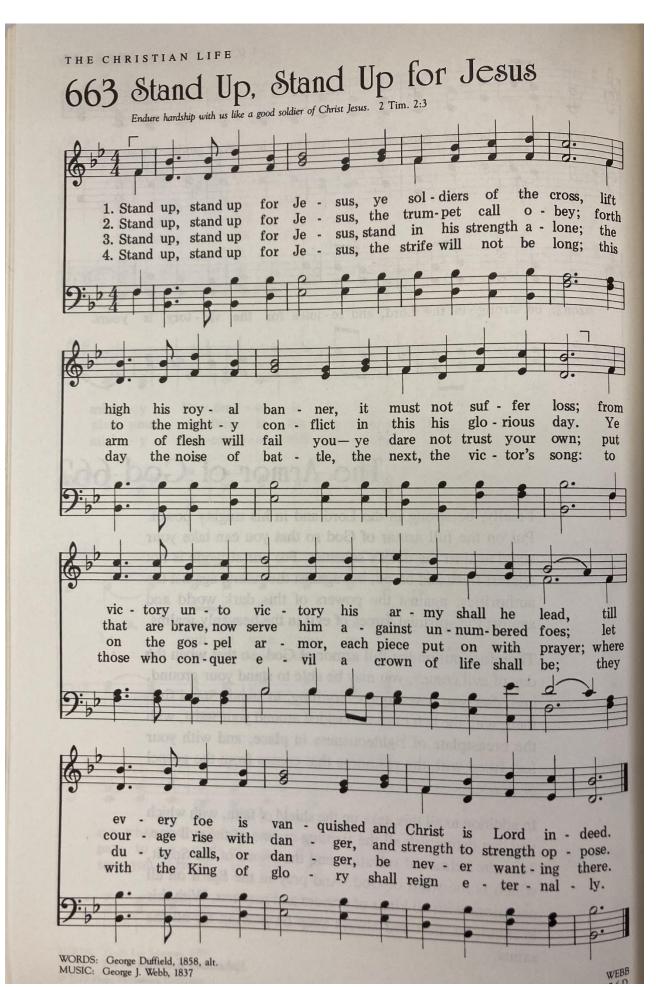


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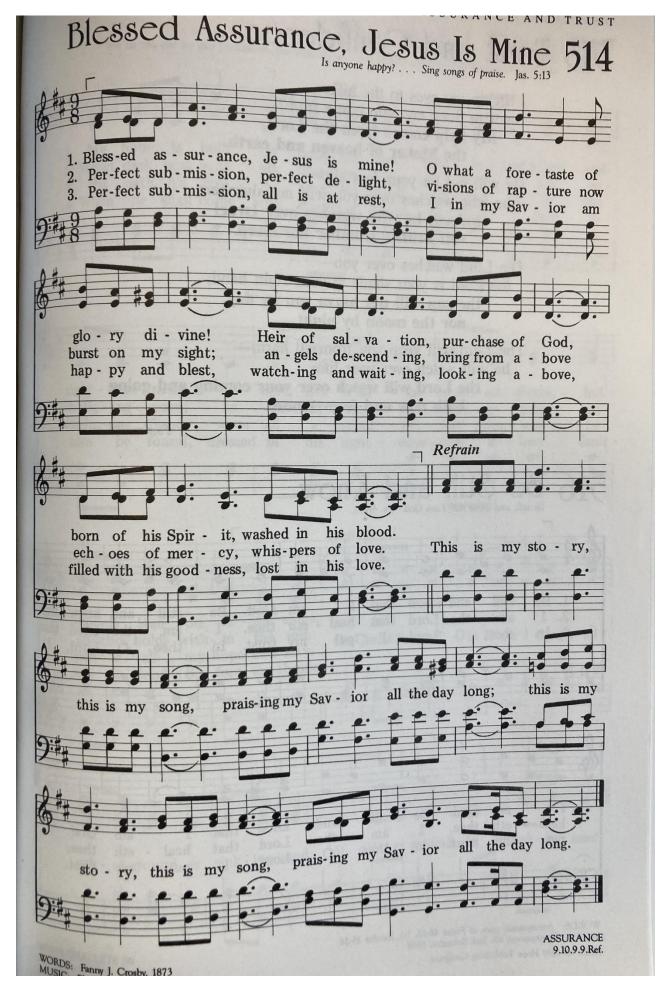




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