

And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. 1 Peter 5:10 NIV

** indicates an appropriate time to stand as you are able.

Gathering Music

Greeting and Announcements

Prayer and Transition to Worship

Prelude

****Call to Worship (adapted from Psalm 20)**

One: May the Lord answer you when you are in distress; may the name of the God of Jacob protect you. May he send you help from the sanctuary and grant you support from Zion.

Many: This we know: The Lord answers from his heavenly sanctuary; we trust in the name of the Lord our God!

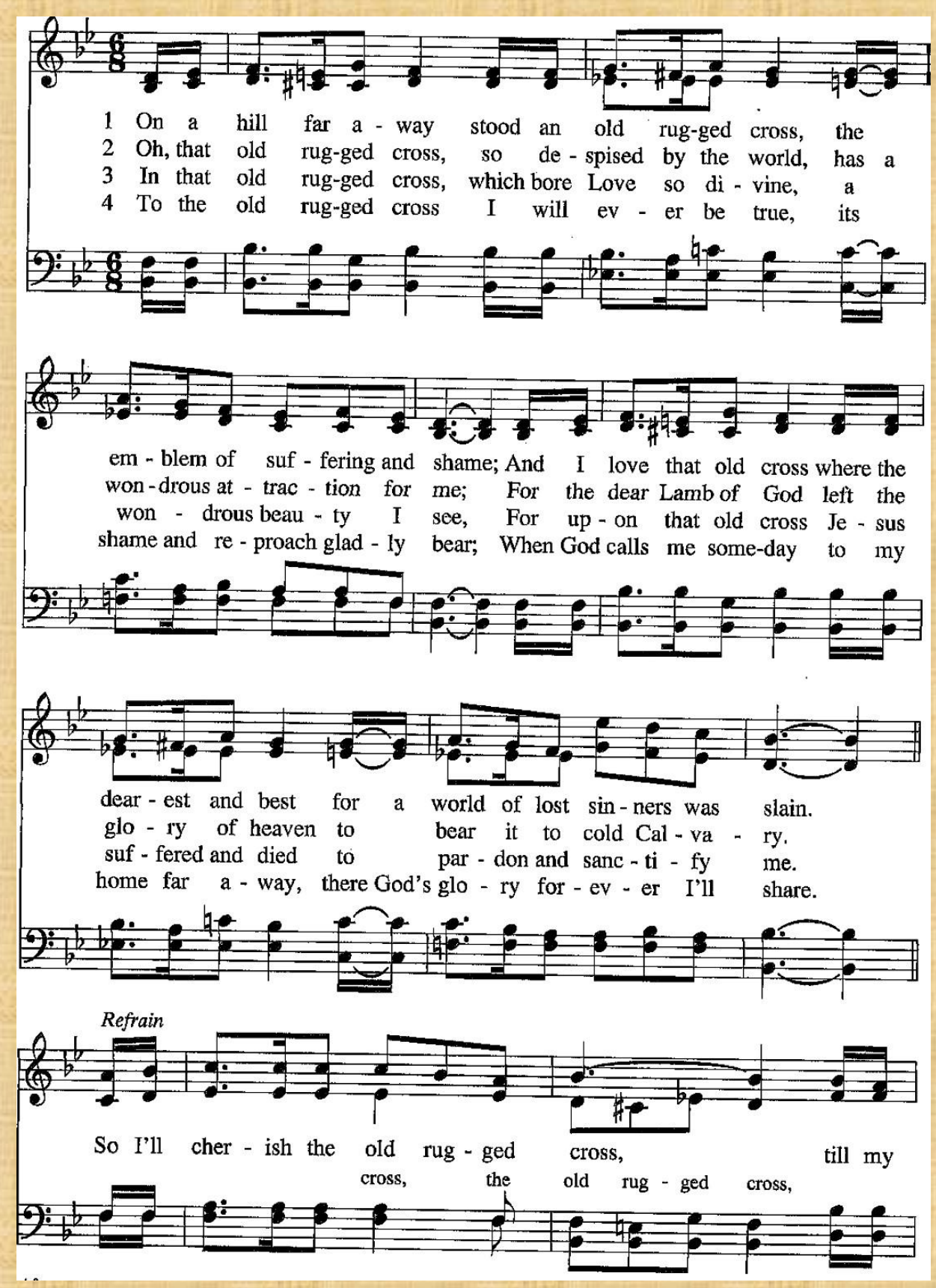
One: May he remember all your sacrifices and accept your burnt offerings. May he give you the desire of your heart and make all your plans succeed.

Many: This we know: The Lord answers from his heavenly sanctuary; we trust in the name of the LORD our God!

One: May we shout for joy over your victory and lift up our banners in the name of our God. May the LORD grant all your requests.

Many: This we know: The Lord answers from his heavenly sanctuary; we trust in the name of the LORD our God! Answer us when we call!

****Opening Song** "On a Hill Far Away (The Old Rugged Cross)" *NCH #195*


1 On a hill far a - way stood an old rug-ged cross, the
2 Oh, that old rug-ged cross, so de - spised by the world, has a
3 In that old rug-ged cross, which bore Love so di - vine, a
4 To the old rug-ged cross I will ev - er be true, its
em - blem of suf - fering and shame; And I love that old cross where the
won - drous at - trac - tion for me; For the dear Lamb of God left the
won - drous beau - ty I see, For up - on that old cross Je - sus
shame and re - proach glad - ly bear; When God calls me some-day to my
dear - est and best for a world of lost sin - ners was slain.
glo - ry of heaven to bear it to cold Cal - va - ry.
suf - fered and died to par - don and sanc - ti - fy me.
home far a - way, there God's glo - ry for - ev - er I'll share.
Refrain
So I'll cher - ish the old rug - ged cross, till my
cross, the old rug - ged cross,



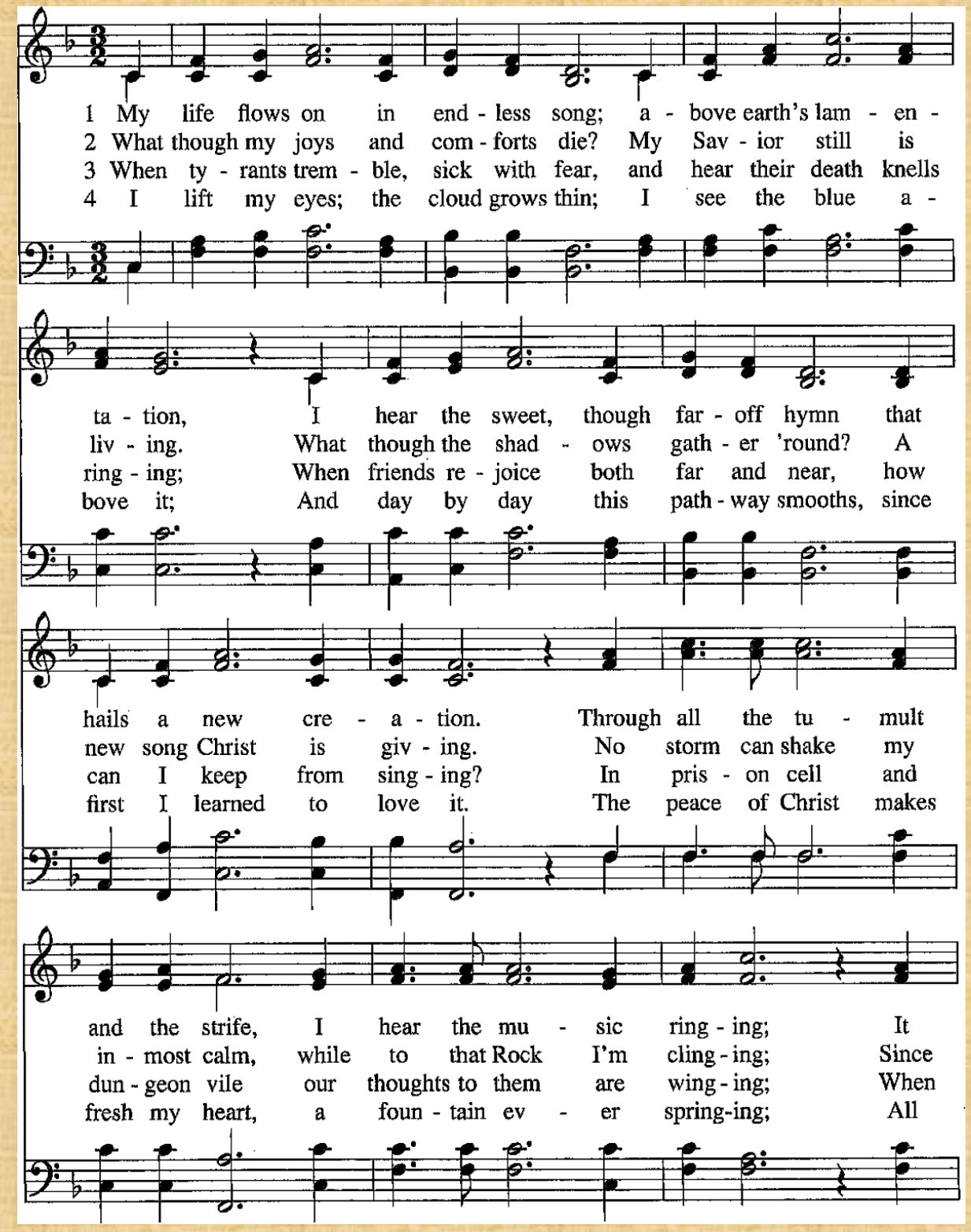
After serving as an officer in the Salvation Army, George Bennard was ordained by the Methodist Episcopal Church. In the midst of his travels through the Midwest conducting revival services, he was inspired to write this hymn.

Tune: THE OLD RUGGED CROSS Irr.
George Bennard, 1913

Prayers of the People

Lord God, Creator and Sustainer—we come to you humbly this morning, seeking your face and your heart. Your Holy Spirit gives us the ability to get through tough times, because your Spirit tells us who we are despite our circumstances; we are your beloved. Lord, we welcome you and want you here with us in our worship today and in every moment after we leave this place. May we know your presence always. Amen.

Hymn of Praise "My Life Flows on in Endless Song (How Can I Keep from Singing)"
NCH #476


1 My life flows on in end - less song; a - bove earth's lam - en -
2 What though my joys and com - forts die? My Sav - ior still is
3 When ty - rants trem - ble, sick with fear, and hear their death knells
4 I lift my eyes; the cloud grows thin; I see the blue a -
ta - tion, I hear the sweet, though far - off hymn that
liv - ing. What though the shad - ows gath - er 'round? A
ring - ing; When friends re - joice both far and near, how
bove it; And day by day this path - way smooths, since
hails a new cre - a - tion. Through all the tu - mult
new song Christ is giv - ing. No storm can shake my
can I keep from sing - ing? In pris - on cell and
first I learned to love it. The peace of Christ makes
and the strife, I hear the mu - sic ring - ing; It
in - most calm, while to that Rock I'm cling - ing; Since
dun - geon vile our thoughts to them are wing - ing; When
fresh my heart, a foun - tain ev - er spring-ing; All



In various nineteenth-century hymnals this hymn was attributed to different poets, including Anna Warner. The earliest published source credits Robert Lowry as the composer, although Silas Vail later claimed the music. The third stanza was written by Doris Plenn in the 1950s when her friends were imprisoned during the McCarthy era.

Tune: ENDLESS SONG 8.7.8.7.D.
Attrib. to Robert Lowry in Bright Jewels for the Sunday School, *New York, 1869*

Children's Message

Scripture Reading *Micah 6:1-5, 8 NIV*

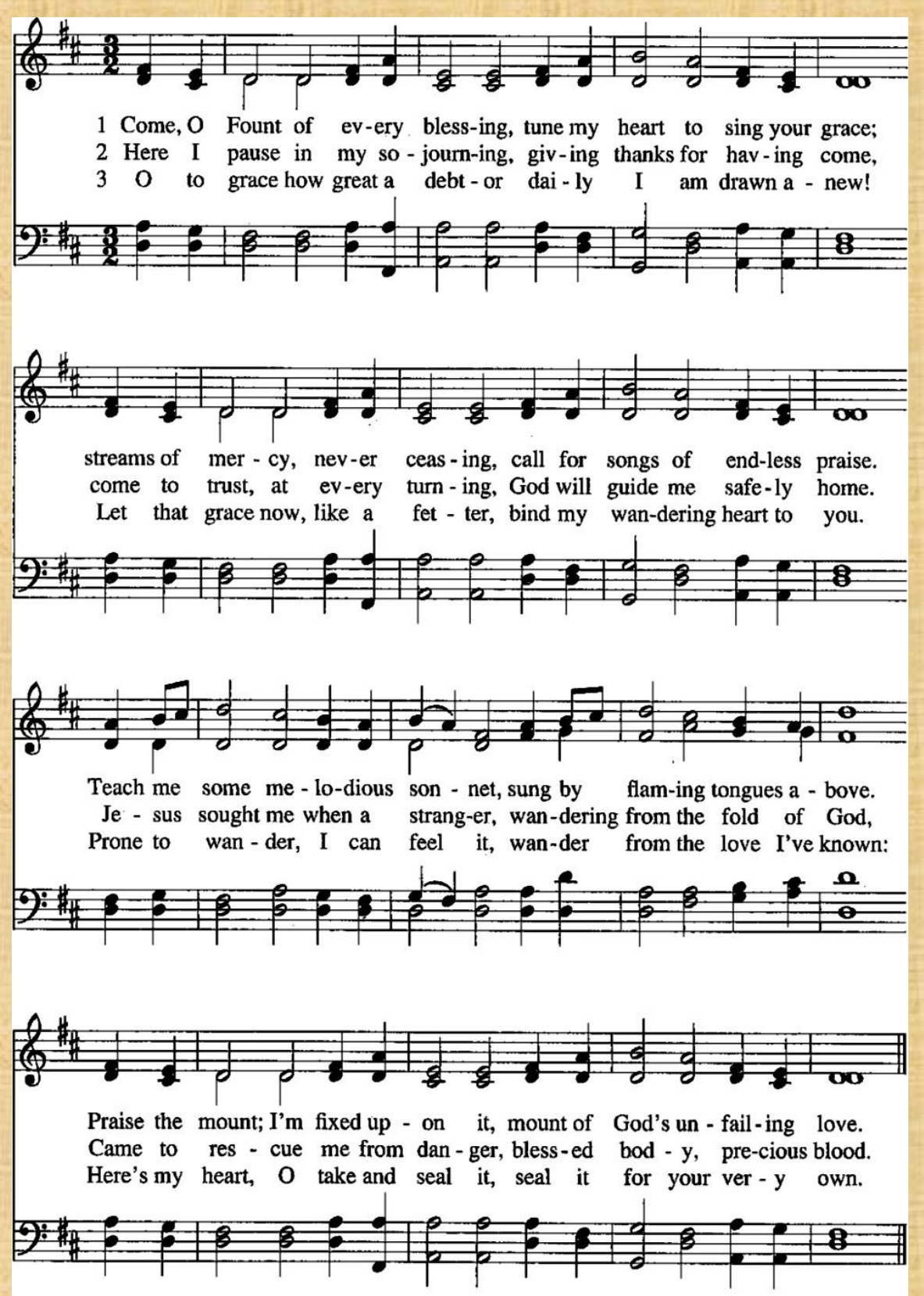
Listen to what the Lord says: "Stand up, plead my case before the mountains; let the hills hear what you have to say. "Hear, you mountains, the Lord's accusation; listen, you everlasting foundations of the earth. For the Lord has a case against his people; he is lodging a charge against Israel. "My people, what have I done to you? How have I burdened you? Answer me. I brought you up out of Egypt and redeemed you from the land of slavery. I sent Moses to lead you, also Aaron and Miriam. My people, remember what Balak king of Moab plotted and what Balaam son of Beor answered. Remember your journey from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the righteous acts of the Lord." He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

Matthew 5:1-9 NIV

Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, and he began to teach them. He said: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, or they will be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

Sermon *"Comfort and Joy—Not Just for Christmas Songs"*

Hymn of Response "Come, O Fount of Every Blessing" *NCH #459*



Converted to Methodism at age twenty, Robert Robinson soon became a Calvinistic Methodist preacher and later gained great popularity. The melody, associated with this text since 1813, is an American folk tune.

Tune: NETTLETON 8.7.8.7.D.
John Wyeth's Repository of Sacred Music, *1813*

Time of Prayer

Email or call the church office or pastor with prayer requests. There is also a basket on the table in the lobby where you can put your written requests. Please indicate whether you would like your request to be private to the pastor and/or prayer circle or to be public in the newsletter or worship service.

Lord's Prayer

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. &not into temptation. But deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Invitation to the Offering

The Holy One has shaped creation so that every need may be met, love may abound, and we might be strengthened in community with one another. Let us demonstrate our participation in the kin-dom of God through worshipping the Holy One through the giving of all our gifts.

Offertory

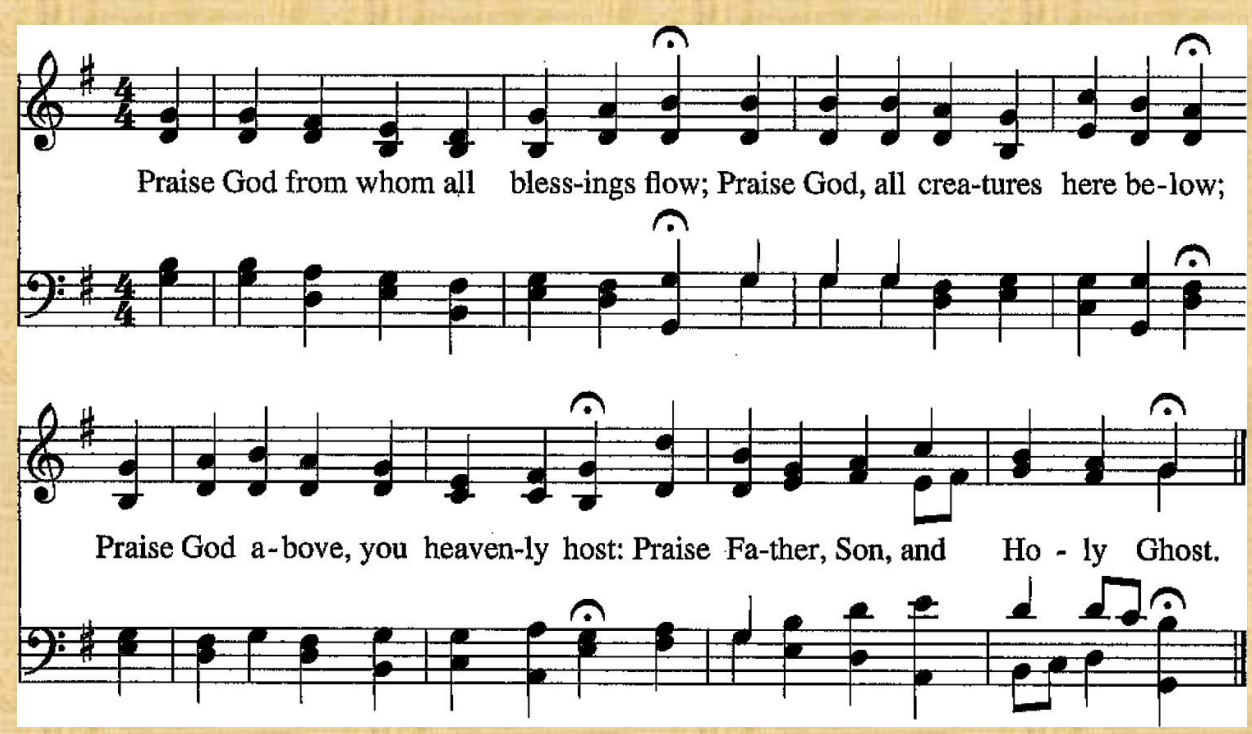
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First Congregational UCC Donations:

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****Doxology** "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow" *NCH #780*

Blessings abound where'er Christ reigns.
The prisoners leap to lose their chains.
The weary find eternal rest,
And all who suffer want are blest.



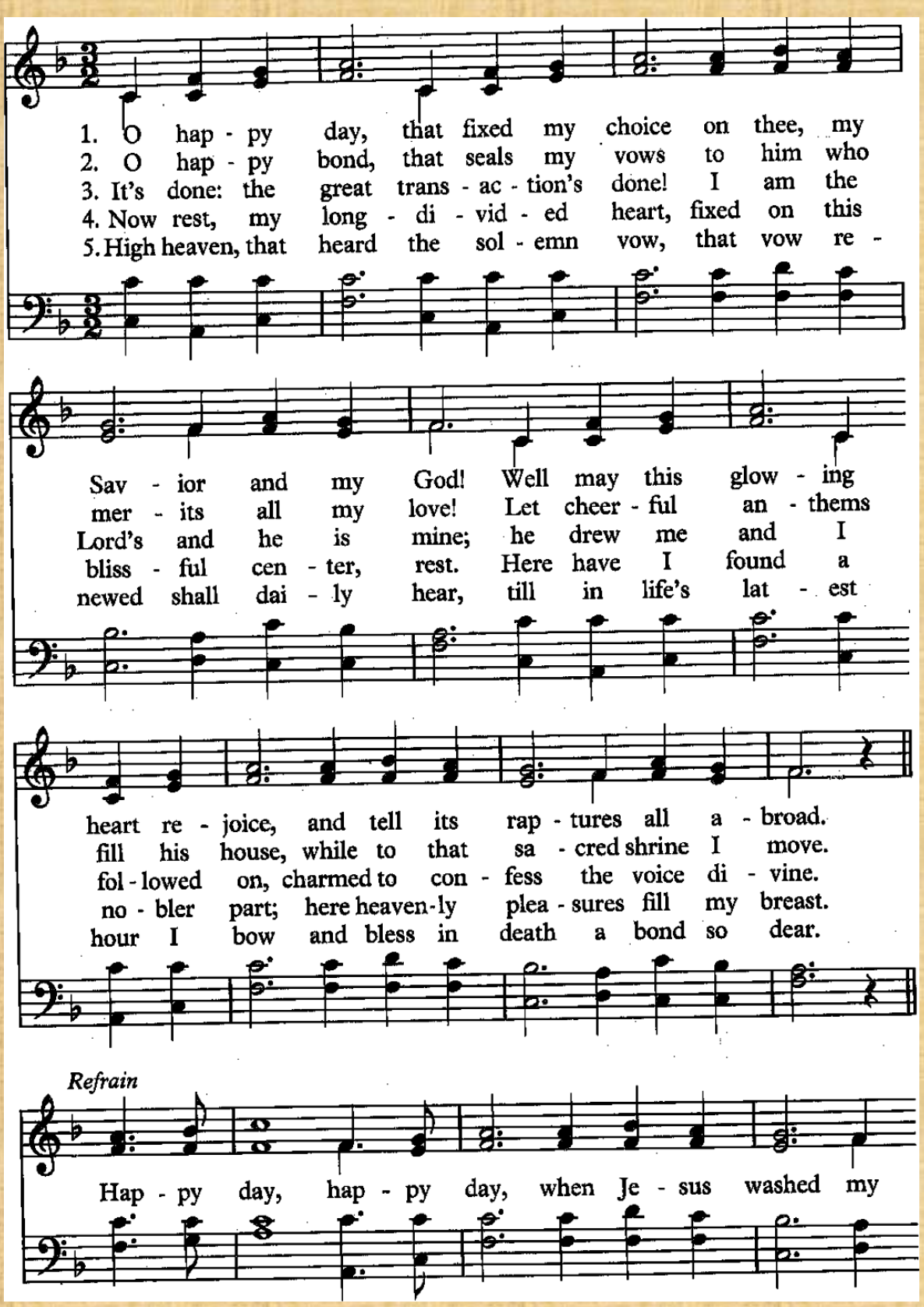
Prayer

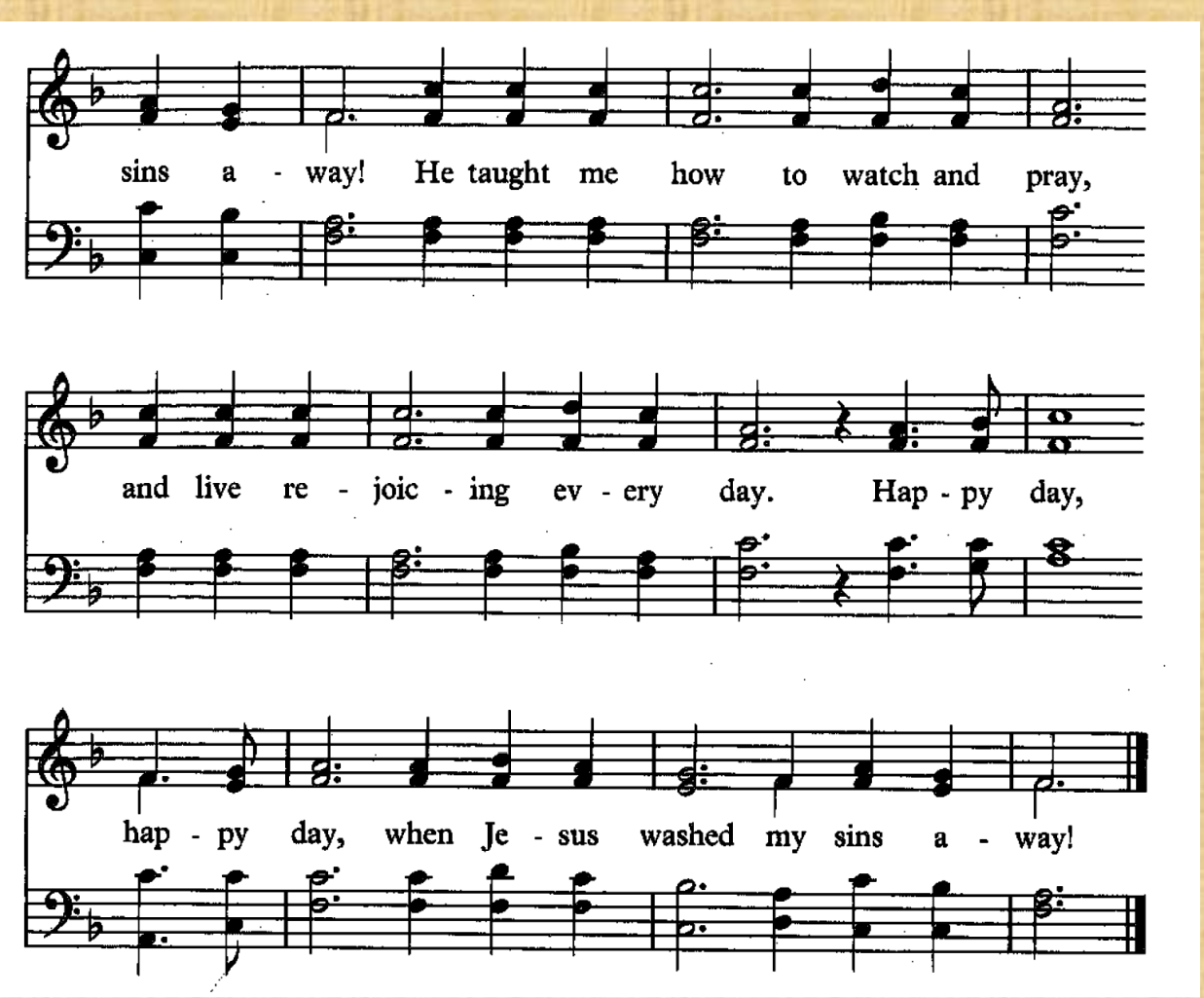
Lord of comfort and Lord of joy we are thankful for the gifts that you have given to us: material gifts as well as gifts of friendship, of family, and of hope. We ask that you would look upon us and the gifts that we bring today, and bless these gifts so that they may bring comfort and joy to those in our midst and those outside of our doors. Lord, we confess we do not know what our futures hold, but we trust in you whatever may come. May we love you and do your will always. Amen

****Closing Hymn** "Bind Us Together" *On Screen*
By Isaac Wardell

Benediction

****Sending Song** "O Happy Day, That Fixed My Choice" *UMH #391 vs.1 & 4*


1. O hap - py day, that fixed my choice on thee, my
2. O hap - py bond, that seals my vows to him who
3. It's done: the great trans - ac - tion's done! I am the
4. Now rest, my long - di - vid - ed heart, fixed on this
5. High heaven, that heard the sol - emn vow, that vow re -
Sav - ior and my God! Well may this glow - ing
mer - its all my love! Let cheer - ful an - thems
Lord's and he is mine; he drew me and I
bliss - ful cen - ter, rest. Here have I found a
newed shall dai - ly hear, till in life's lat - est
heart re - joice, and tell its rap - tures all a - broad.
fill his house, while to that sa - cred shrine I move.
fol - lowed on, charmed to con - fess the voice di - vine.
no - bler part; here heaven - ly plea - sures fill my breast.
hour I bow and bless in death a bond so dear.
Refrain
Hap - py day, hap - py day, when Je - sus washed my



WORDS: Philip Doddridge, 1755; refrain from *Wesleyan Sacred Harp*, 1854 (2 Chr. 15:15)
MUSIC: Anon.; refrain attr. to Edward F. Rimbault, 1854

HAPPY DAY
LM with Refrain

Postlude

Acknowledgments

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Participating in Today's Service:

Dr. Kelly Quick ..... Worship Leader
Liz Lee ..... Lay Reader
Linda Larson, Linda Redding ..... Ushers
Angel Cortez, Lily Borland ..... Acolytes
Melissa Gilbert ..... Accompanist/Music Director
May Harris ..... Nursery
Dean Jardee, Molly Beck ..... Sunday School
Hank Branom ..... A/V Tech
Doris Motley, Susan Thomas, Heather Weibel ..... Coffee Fellowship
Peggy Floen, Marilyn Sheffels ..... Treats
Dick Kloppel, Carol Shipley ..... UCC Tellers
Rosemary Neilsen, Jeanne Nobbs ..... Christ UMC Tellers

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To get in touch with Pastor Laura:
pastor@unitedspiritcc.org or (605) 661-4424.
Open office hours are Wednesdays from 1:00-2:00 P.M.
and Thursdays from 9:00-10:00 A.M.