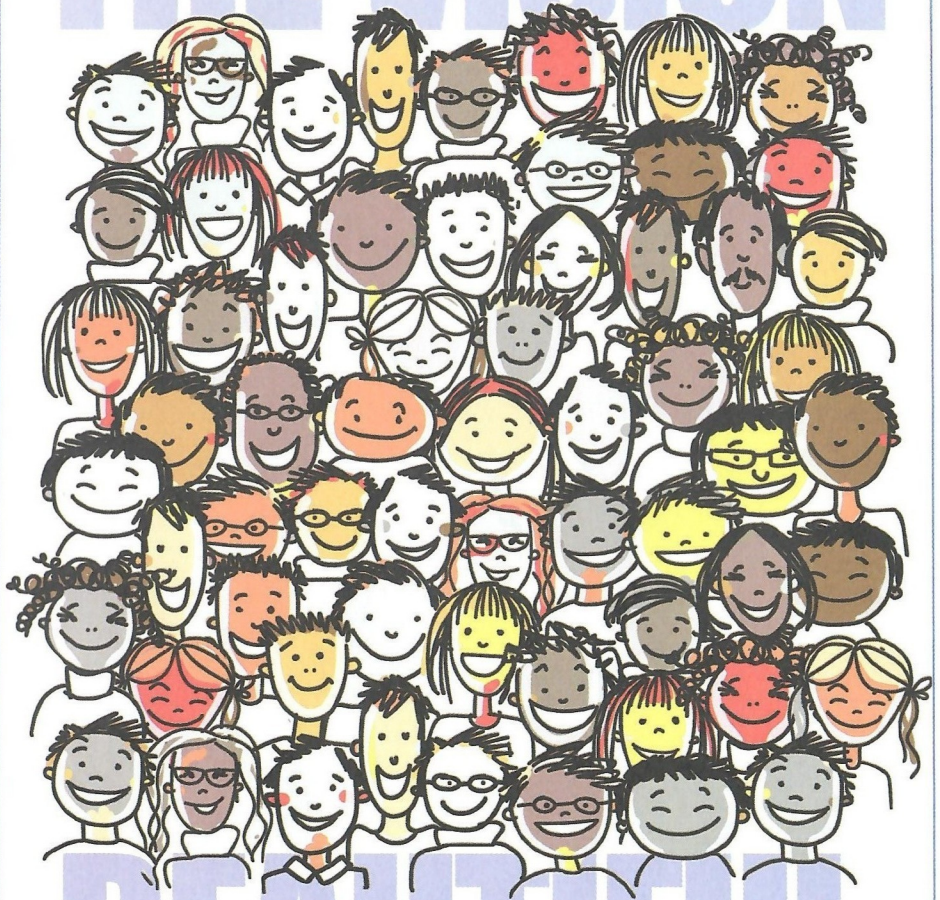


THE VISION



BEAUTIFUL

Trinity United Church of Christ

Deerfield, Illinois

4th Sunday after Epiphany

February 1, 2026

A wholeheartedly inclusive Christian community
called by a challenging and progressive faith
to live lives of love and justice

Virtual Worship

To Dial In by Phone Only 1 (312) 626-6799 - MTG ID 874 9506 6741

Zoom Link

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87495066741?pwd=NjdvYnNycy80SWpldVJQZmQ4UDd0QT09>

Participant ID (Not required. None provided) **“Otherwise just press #”**

Meeting Password: 760760

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

EPIPHANY WORSHIP SERIES

LIVING IN THE LIGHT

With Music

The Quiet Night

Thomas Keesecker

With Meditation

*“In Christian scripture, Jesus walks into a community where borders are
already breached: the leper, the outsider, the crowd hungry for healing.*

He does not restore order by strengthening empire.

He restores connection...”

Cameron Trimble

*Please stand in body or spirit

INVOKING THE SPIRIT

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Dale Susan Edmonds

Blessing for living without control

(adapted) Kate Bowler

God, I come to you as I am.
It is all I have, really.
I can feel the way I move,
moment to moment,
without the comfort of “solutions.”

**It seems wild to me now how I imagined
any once-and-for-all cure for this,
or a master plan to ensure things
will work out.**

**But, truth be told, that’s always been
my secret hope.**

So, Lord, let’s try again.
I’m begging for a new plan.
I want a plan that is an “unplan.”
I must keep moving and planning,
trying and changing,
knitting my days together even as
they unravel.
So can we do this together?

**Remind me to pray:
come Lord
and quiet the worry.
I step, and you steady me.**

**I give, and you keep my hands open.
I act, and you fortify me with courage
to try and try and try again.**

**This life is uncertain, Lord,
but your love is not.
You tell the story of my life
regardless of how little I know
about how it ends, except to say,
you were there since the beginning
and you appear on every page.**

***HYMN** *We Are Often Tossed and Driven #444* (see insert)

***SHARING GOD’S PEACE**
The Peace of the Lord be with you.
And also with you.

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS & PRAYER REQUESTS
We share “happenings” in the community, and lift up concerns for prayer.

CHILDREN’S MOMENT

PROCLAIMING THE WORD FOR OUR LIVES

Reading from the Prophets	Micah 6:1-8
Reading from the Gospel	1 Corinthians 1:18-31

Sermon *Shaped by the Light* Rev. Edmonds

CALL TO COMMUNION

Christ Be Our Light
vss. 1 & 3

(see insert)

COMMUNION PRAYER *A Prayer for The Protectors* Cameron Trimble

O Source of Compassion and Courage,
we bring to you the faces, names, and stories that overwhelm our hearts.
We carry the weight of grief that will not stay silent.
We carry the ache of violence we never wished to know.

**Meet us here —
not to erase our sorrow,
but to deepen our capacity to love through it.**

**We pray for those standing in the cold streets,
not as spectators,
not as followers,
but as protectors of one another.**

Grant them strength when bodies tire,
clarity when hearts ache,
and vision when despair whispers of retreat.

Let their presence be a sanctuary
not just of protest,
but of care that refuses abandonment.

**Teach us to protect —
our neighbors,
our communities,
our fellow travelers on this shared earth.**

**In each breath, let us remember:
We are not alone.
We are bound by shared vulnerability,
and thus by shared courage.**

CONSECRATION

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

(from *Total Praise*)

*Lord, I will lift
Mine eyes to the hills
Knowing my help
Is coming from You
Your peace you give me
In time of the storm

You are the source of my strength
You are the strength of my life
I lift my hands in total praise to You

Amen. Amen. Amen.*

MUSICAL REFLECTION AS WE PARTAKE

(an offering plate is available by the door in the Narthex or you may mail your gift)

Total Praise

Music by Richard Smallwood 1948-2025

Arr Mark Hayes

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Lord's Prayer (using “debts” and “debtors”)

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.

*HYMN

When Peace, Like a River #438

(see insert)

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

The Perfect Wisdom of Our God

Stuart Townend & Keith Getty
Arr Lloyd Larson

WELCOME!

We're glad you've chosen to worship with Trinity today! If you're new, please introduce yourself, we'd love to get acquainted. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to ask Pastor Dale!

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Pastor

Rev. Dale Susan Edmonds, M.Div.

847-722-6756

PastorDale@trinitydeerfield.org

Acting Minister of Music

Rev. Dr. Pamela J. Keckler

Acting Office Manager

Heather Hughes

Lay Officers

Council President

Treasurer

Church Email

Church Office Telephone

Church Office Hours

Church Website

Scott Peterson
Karen Kerschke
tuccdf@gmail.com
847-945-5050
Tue.–Wed. 9-12
trinitydeerfield.org

February 1, 2026

Matthew 5:1-12

The Vision Beautiful

When we hear someone say how blessed they are or how blessed a friend is, we automatically think of how their lives are filled with answered prayers, abundant grace, and equally abundant provision. But when Jesus preached his Sermon on the Mount to the masses, he turned the idea of what a blessing is upside down.

I wonder what the reaction really was when all those who needed to hear an inspirational message from Jesus heard his take on a blessed life instead.

Blessed are you who are poor in spirit. Blessed are you who mourn. Blessed are you who are meek. Blessed are you who hunger. Blessed are you who have been reviled and persecuted. Blessed are you in all the muck of life — my addition, not Jesus’.

I woke up the other the day desperately needing to remember once again that a blessed life is not a charmed life. I needed to know that no matter what this world throws at me or what others might say about me or do to me, that I am blessed because I am a child of God.

In my moments where I feel no one hears me, Jesus is listening. Those days I feel invisible, Jesus sees me. Those days when I really feel as if I hate the world (please tell me I am not alone here), I know that Jesus isn’t judging me. Rather, like any understanding friend, my Lord and my Savior, walks alongside me, softening the calluses forming on my heart by a world filled with chaos, anger and violence.

Days like these I need to stop everything and run into the arms of Jesus. I need to feel the safety and security of his redeeming love. I need to hear his beautiful voice reassure my blessedness. For the world will try its best to drag us down, but Jesus is there to always lift us up.

So blessed are you this day. You who hurts. You who has been betrayed. You who are tired. You who are doubting. You who has lost your way, your purpose, you’re your faith.

Blessed are you. Period. No questions asked. Why? Because you are a beautiful child of God — seen, heard and loved.

God of grace and great hope, we ask that You bless the brokenness in our lives, putting back together the shattered pieces of dreams or relationships in a new way. And, as You do, may we hear deep in our hearts the reassuring and restorative words that through all of life’s ups and downs that we are indeed blessed. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.

(Rev. Donna Frischknecht Jackson is a communications specialist for the United Church of Christ and author of today’s Sunday Bulletin.)



Prayer Concerns

Majesta Anderson who is recovering from major cancer surgery

Kim Jones, friend of Janet Raciti, on the passing of her youngest son, Christopher

Paula Blanchard, cousin of Jean Harris, who has had a recurrence of brain cancer

Walter Eduardo Jimenez and all those now living in fear...

Joyce Black, friend of Marge Magnani

Prayers of celebration for Peter & Barbie Reynolds, friends of Lucy Dorenfeld who were released by the Taliban in Afghanistan and are now living in England

Jim Litchfield in his extended recovery from back surgery

David Bunce and Steve Schoonmaker, two friends of Lucy Dorenfeld who are both struggling with cancer

Carol Wells in her season of grief

The Family of Adrianne Mazura, friend of Lucy, who succumbed to breast cancer

Bill and Roseann Stenzel

Sarah Hughes as she recovers

Levi Chisholm, continuing slow & steady recovery from drowning accident

Don Inman

Mary Ferrante

Skip Hahn

Nancy Rose, Barbara Struthers' sister

Irene Santos and Family on the sudden passing of her brother

Carmen Ruiz & Fernando Rodriguez, Barbara Struthers' daughter-in-law's parents in Puerto Rico

The People of Ukraine and Leaders of all nations

For youth who feel alienated or without hope

For all whose lives are torn by disasters of human making

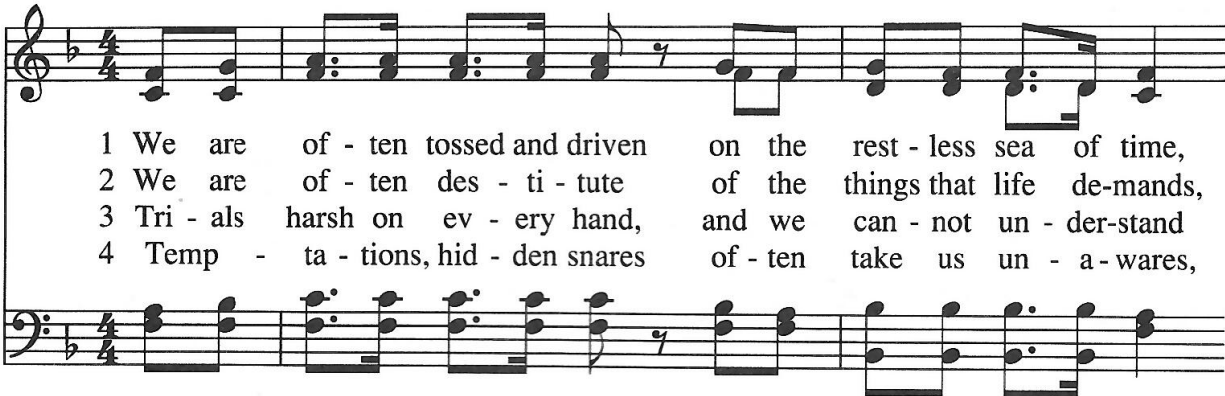
For those suffering devastation in the Middle East

***Please let Heather know when there should be changes to the prayer list. We don't want to remove anyone prematurely or omit anyone that should be held in all of our hearts.**

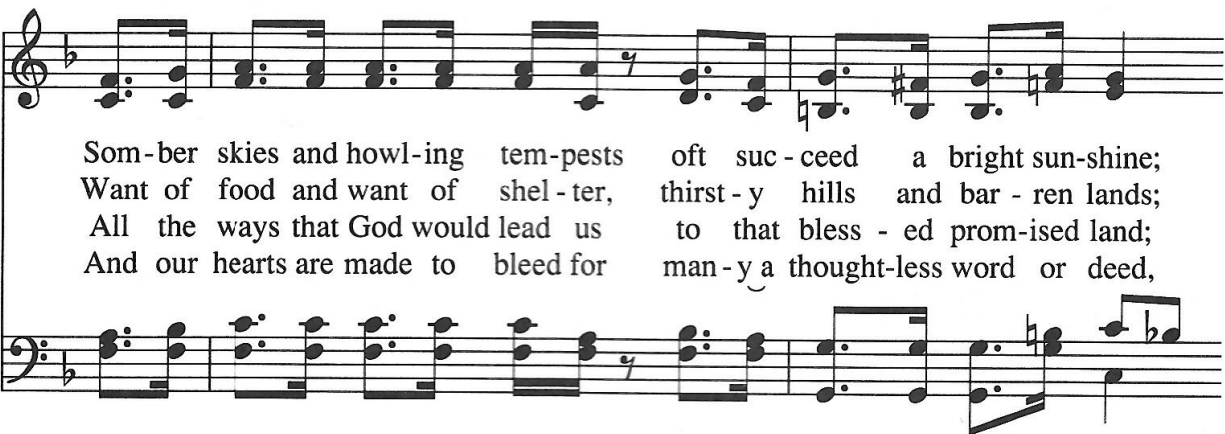
We Are Often Tossed and Driven

(We'll Understand It Better By and By)

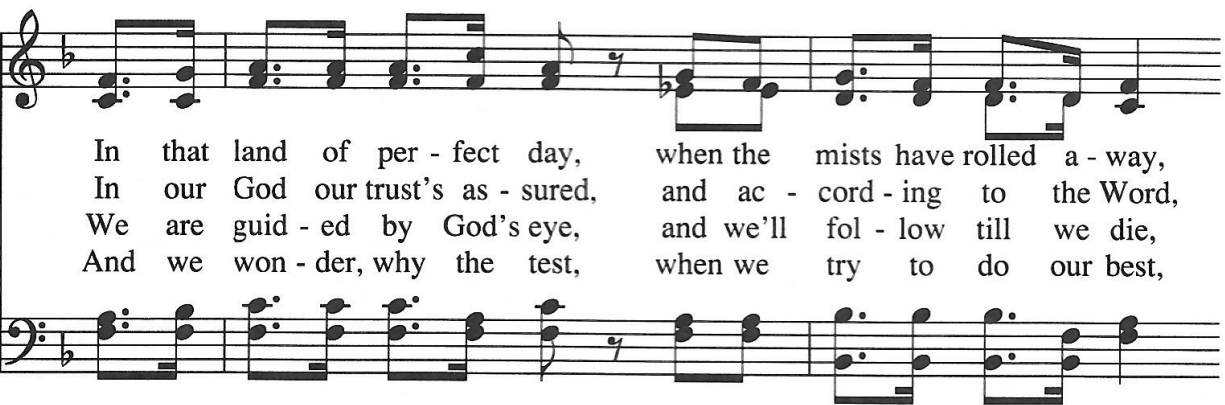
Charles Albert Tindley, c. 1906; alt.



1 We are of - ten tossed and driven on the rest - less sea of time,
 2 We are of - ten des - ti - tute of the things that life de - mands,
 3 Tri - als harsh on ev - ery hand, and we can - not un - der - stand
 4 Temp - ta - tions, hid - den snares of - ten take us un - a - wares,



Som - ber skies and howl - ing tem - pests oft suc - ceed a bright sun - shine;
 Want of food and want of shel - ter, thirst - y hills and bar - ren lands;
 All the ways that God would lead us to that bless - ed prom - ised land;
 And our hearts are made to bleed for man - y a thought - less word or deed,



In that land of per - fect day, when the mists have rolled a - way,
 In our God our trust's as - sured, and ac - cord - ing to the Word,
 We are guid - ed by God's eye, and we'll fol - low till we die,
 And we won - der, why the test, when we try to do our best,

to Refrain



We will un - der - stand it bet - ter by and by.
 We will un - der - stand it bet - ter by and by.
 For we'll un - der - stand it bet - ter by and by.
 But we'll un - der - stand it bet - ter by and by.

Refrain

By and by, when the morn-ing comes, when the saints of

God are gath - ered home, We'll tell the sto - ry

how we've o - ver-come: for we'll un - der-stand it bet-ter by and by. (by and by.)

This is probably Charles A. Tindley's most celebrated gospel hymn of the early twentieth century. Far from being a song that merely looks heavenward, Tindley's song identifies poverty as a social problem.

Tune: BY AND BY Irr. with refrain
Charles Albert Tindley, c. 1906
Transcribed by F. A. Clark, 1906

CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT

Bernadette Farrell

Verses



1. Long-ing for light, — we wait in dark-ness. Long-ing for
2. Long-ing for peace, — our world is trou-bled. Long-ing for
3. Long-ing for food, — man-y are hun-gry. Long-ing for
4. Long-ing for shel-ter, man-y are home-less. Long-ing for
5. Man-y the gifts, — man-y the peo-ple, man-y the



1. truth, — we turn to you. Make us your own, —
2. hope, — man-y de-spair. Your word a-lone —
3. wa-ter, man-y still thirst. Make us your bread, —
4. warmth, — man-y are cold. Make us your build-ing,
5. hearts that yearn to be-long. Let us be ser-vants



1. your ho-ly peo-ple, light for the world to see.
2. has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv-ing voice.
3. bro-ken for oth-ers, shared un-til all are fed.
4. shel-ter-ing oth-ers, walls made of liv-ing stone.
5. to one an-oth-er, mak-ing your king-dom come.

Refrain



Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the dark-ness.



Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gath-ered to-day.

Easter Vigil Verses

1. This is the night of new beginnings.
This is the night when heaven meets earth.
This is the night filled with God's glory,
promise of our new birth!
2. This is the night Christ our redeemer
rose from the grave triumphant and free,
leaving the tomb of evil and darkness,
empty for all to see.
3. Now will the fire kindled in darkness
burn to dispel the shadows of night.
Star of the morning, Jesus our Savior,
you are the world's true light!
4. Sing of the hope deeper than dying.
Sing of the pow'r stronger than death.
Sing of the love endless as heaven,
dawning throughout the earth.
5. Into this world morning is breaking.
All of God's people, lift up your voice.
Cry out with joy, tell out the story,
all of the earth rejoice.

When Peace, Like a River

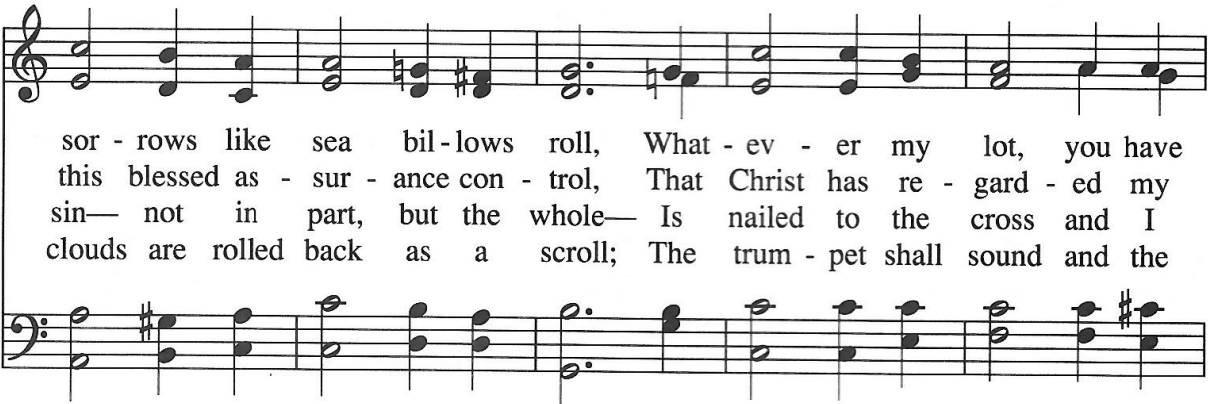
(It Is Well with My Soul)

Ps. 146; Col. 1:19–23; 2:13–14; 3 John 1:2

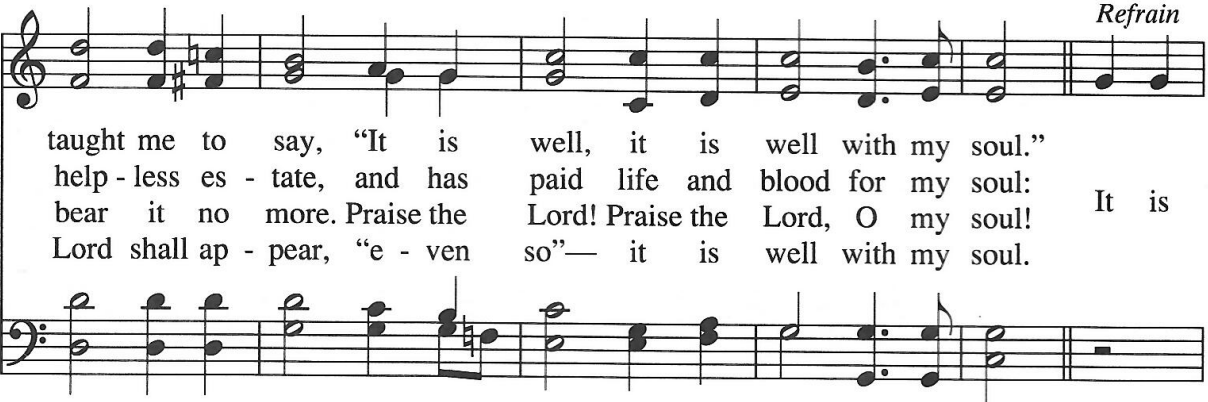
Horatio G. Spafford, 1873; alt.



1 When peace, like a riv - er, up - holds me each day, when
 2 Though e - vil should tempt me, though tri - als should come, let
 3 My sin— oh, the bliss of this glo - ri - ous thought— my
 4 O God, speed the day that is filled with your light, when

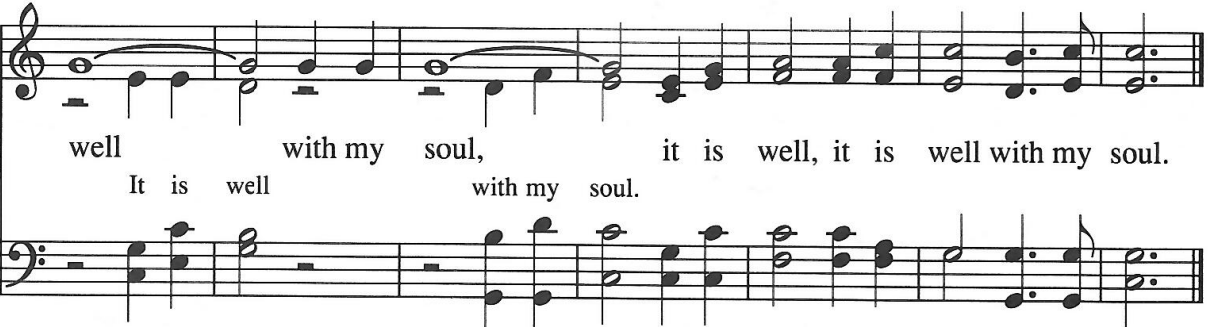


sor - rows like sea bil - lows roll, What - ev - er my lot, you have
 this blessed as - sur - ance con - trol, That Christ has re - gard - ed my
 sin— not in part, but the whole— Is nailed to the cross and I
 clouds are rolled back as a scroll; The trum - pet shall sound and the



Refrain

taught me to say, "It is well, it is well with my soul."
 help - less es - tate, and has paid life and blood for my soul: It is
 bear it no more. Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul!
 Lord shall ap - pear, "e - ven so"— it is well with my soul.



well with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.
 It is well with my soul.

This hymn was written out of grief over the loss of the author's four daughters in the sinking of the SS Ville du Havre. After leaving his Chicago law practice, Horatio G. Spafford and his wife settled in Jerusalem.

Tune: VILLE DU HAVRE 11.8.11.9, with refrain
 Philip P. Bliss, 1876