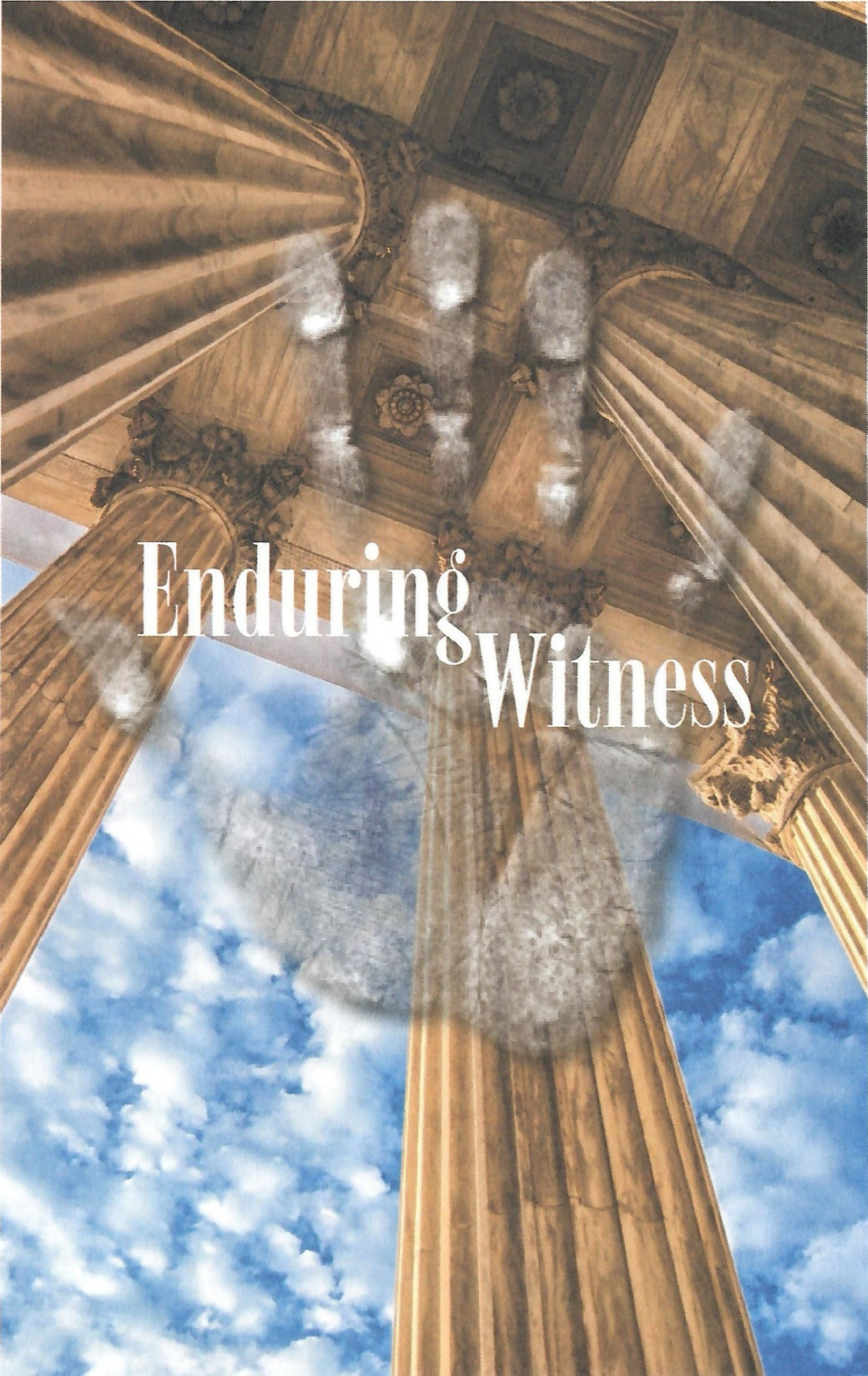




Enduring Witness

Trinity United Church of Christ

Deerfield, Illinois

5th Sunday of Easter

May 3, 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

SPRING WORSHIP SERIES

UNPACKING EASTER

With Music

Grace Alone

Words and Music by Scott Wesley Brown and Jeff Nelson

Arr Mark Hayes

With Meditation

*“Do not abandon yourselves to despair. We are the Easter people
and hallelujah is our song.”*

Pope John Paul II

*Please stand in body or spirit

INVOKING THE SPIRIT

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Dale Susan Edmonds

CENTERING PRAYER

(adapted) Kate Bowler

for the courage to do something difficult

God, I am struggling to face the difficult thing I know I should do.

The conversation I've been avoiding.

The help I should have asked for months ago.

The symptom I have long ignored.

Oh God, help me.

I am afraid to act

but afraid to admit my inaction

might be making things worse.

Blessed are we who recognize that
we are struggling under the weight
of the nothing that has happened
but needs to.

**Blessed we who say honestly, God,
this is so hard, and I don't know why.
The longer I leave it, the worse it gets.**

**God, help me begin—or even begin to begin—
though I can't know how this will go.**

**Fill into that inner space
where I am quietly overwhelmed
and stuck in mud. Or maybe it's quicksand.**

**I hear you say “I will strengthen you and help you” (Isaiah 41:10).
You go before me
and you are right here with me. Even now.
In my panicking, in my anxieties, in my master-avoidance.
Your love never fails.**

Okay, my dears. Now’s the time. Do the thing you’ve been putting off.
Take the first small step. Make the appointment. Schedule the meeting.
Check your bank account. Tell a friend you are struggling.

Then ask for what you need next.

Bless you.

*HYMN *God is Truly with Us #68* (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 Acts of the Apostles	Acts 7:55-60
Reading from the Gospel	John 14:1-14

Sermon	<i>The Gift of an Untroubled Heart</i>	Rev. Edmonds
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CALL TO COMMUNION

Be Still, My Soul #488

(see insert)

INVITATION

Lyrics – *His Eye is on the Sparrow*

Why should I feel discouraged?
Why should the shadows come?
Why should my heart be lonely
And long for heav'n and home,
When Jesus is my portion?
My constant Friend is He:
His eye is on the sparrow,
And I know He watches me;
His eye is on the sparrow,
And I know He watches me.

I sing because I'm happy—
I sing because I'm free—
For His eye is on the sparrow,
And I know He watches me.

“Let not your heart be troubled.”
His tender word I hear,
And resting on His goodness,
I lose my doubt and fear.
Though by the path He leadeth,
But one step I may see:
His eye is on the sparrow,
And I know He watches me;
His eye is on the sparrow,
And I know He watches me.

I sing because I'm happy—
I sing because I'm free—
For His eye is on the sparrow,
And I know He watches me.

**Whenever I am tempted,
Whenever clouds arise,
When songs give place to sighing,
When hope within me dies,
I draw the closer to Him;
From care He sets me free:
His eye is on the sparrow,
And I know He watches me;
His eye is on the sparrow,
And I know He watches me.**

CONSECRATION

MUSICAL REFLECTION AS WE PARTAKE

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

His Eye Is on the Sparrow

Words by Civilla D. Martin
Music by Charles H. Gabriel
Arr Mark Hayes and Marianne Kim

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER

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

God of Our Life # 366

(see insert)

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Be Still and Know with Be Still My Soul

FINLANDIA
Arr Mark Hayes

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!

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 3, 2026

John 14:1-14

Enduring Witness

Stories of the enduring witness of the Celtic saints have always captured my imagination. What adventures they had, and what trust in God that they displayed! We all heard of St. Patrick overcoming being kidnapped, enslaved and using all of life's travails to glorify God — and chase a snake or two out of the Emerald Isle!

Today I want to introduce you to Gobnait. Believed to have been born in the sixth century, Gobnait was told by an angel to leave her home and keep wandering until nine white deer appeared. When they did, that then would be her place of resurrection — the place where life would be full of meaning.

So Gobnait went off in search of her place of resurrection, wandering for miles until one day the white deer appeared in what is now County Cork, Ireland. There she settled and built a monastery, living her resurrected life of prayer and praise — and beekeeping. (Gobnait is the patron saint of beekeepers.)

When I heard Gobnait's story, she instantly became my kindred saint. I resonated with the call to find one's place of resurrection, where all our longings are met and life's purpose becomes a divine one.

I guess it's safe to say that I'm always on the lookout for my own nine white deer. The moment I know I'm where I'm meant to be. But for all my yearning and searching, I realize that sometimes I must ask, "Have I already arrived?"

Before ascending to heaven, Jesus told his followers, "Do not let your hearts be troubled." It is a message we need to hear for our hearts seem to be in a perpetual state of troubling. We feel lonely even though we are not alone. We worry about daily bread for our tables, while others wonder if they will have a roof over their heads as the world-wide housing crisis continues. And we worry about the direction of our lives: Is there more to do? New places to go? Unrealized dreams? Wasted time to redeem?

It would be so wonderful to have white deer appear, for then we would know we have found our divine bliss.

But we all must find our own place of resurrection and that means each journey will be different. What remains the same is that Jesus assures our troubled hearts that there is no need to worry. He goes before us, preparing the way forward. There will always be a place in God's loving home. Perhaps that message is our white deer this day, making us see that wherever we go, we have already arrived.

Loving God, as we seek our place of resurrection, ease our troubled hearts on this journey by making us alert that we are not alone. You are with us. 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.)



TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Pastor

Rev. Dale Susan Edmonds, M.Div.

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PastorDale@trinitydeerfield.org

Minister of Music

Rev. Dr. Pamela J. Keckler

Office Manager

Heather Hughes

Lay Officers

Council President

Steve Jahraus

Treasurer

Scott Peterson

Financial Secretary

Dixie Inman

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Church Office Hours

Tue.–Wed. 9-12

Church Website

trinitydeerfield.org

Prayer Concerns

Gene Chrisien, friend of Jean Harris

Judy Wojtas, friend of Jean Harris

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

Joyce Black, friend of Marge Magnani

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

The Family of Adrienne 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

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

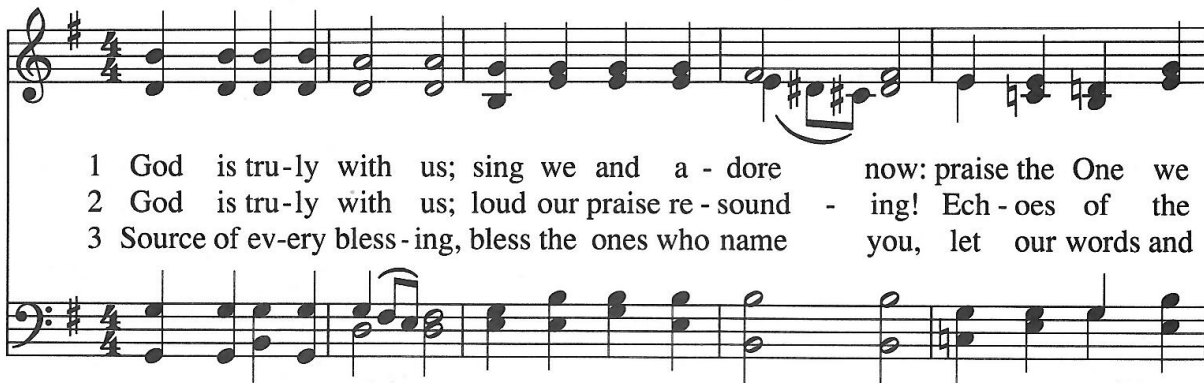
***Please let Heather know when there should be changes to the prayer list. We don't want to remove anyone prematurely or omit anyone that should be held in all of our hearts.**

God Is Truly with Us

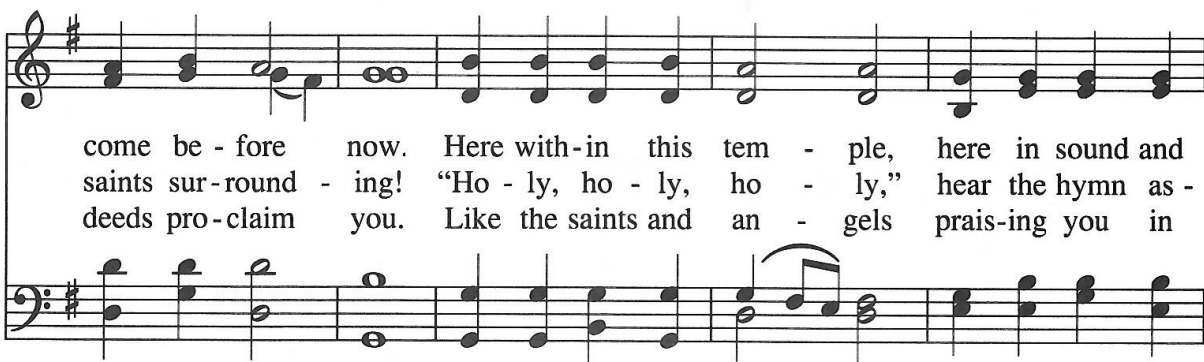
Matt. 1:23; 2 Cor. 9:8; Rev. 4:8-11

Gerhard Tersteegen, 1729

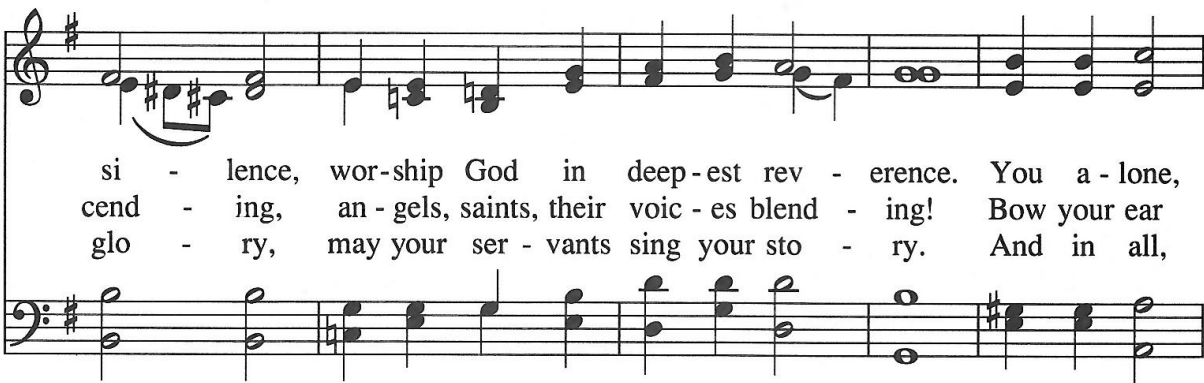
Transl. Frederick W. Foster and others; alt.



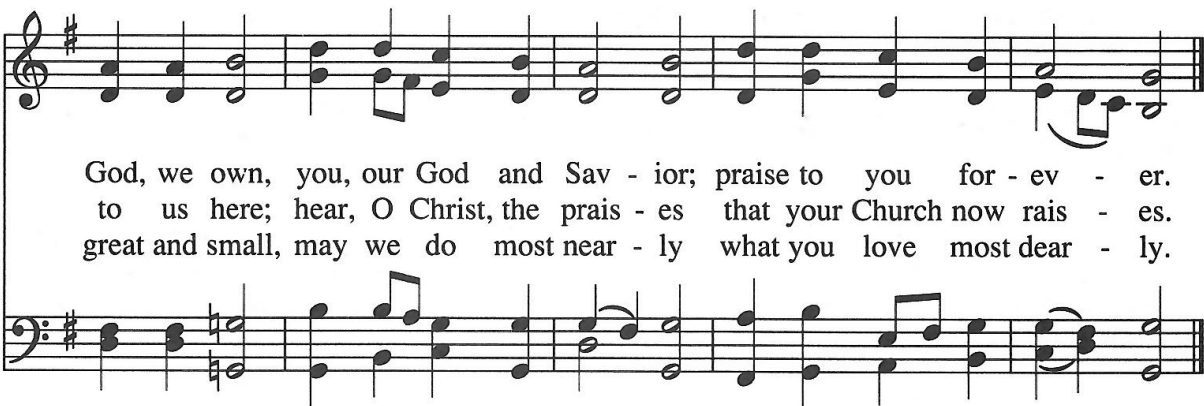
1 God is tru-ly with us; sing we and a - dore now: praise the One we
 2 God is tru-ly with us; loud our praise re - sound - ing! Ech - oes of the
 3 Source of ev-ery bless - ing, bless the ones who name you, let our words and



come be - fore now. Here with-in this tem - ple, here in sound and
 saints sur-round - ing! "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly," hear the hymn as -
 deeds pro-claim you. Like the saints and an - gels prais-ing you in



si - lence, wor-ship God in deep-est rev - erence. You a - lone,
 cend - ing, an - gels, saints, their voic - es blend - ing! Bow your ear
 glo - ry, may your ser - vants sing your sto - ry. And in all,



God, we own, you, our God and Sav - ior; praise to you for - ev - er.
 to us here; hear, O Christ, the prais - es that your Church now rais - es.
 great and small, may we do most near - ly what you love most dear - ly.

Gerhard Tersteegen, an important German hymnwriter of the Reformed Church, began preaching at prayer meetings and gained a considerable following. He devoted his life to praying, preaching, visiting the poor, and writing and translating devotional material.

Tune: WUNDERBARER KÖNIG 6.6.8.6.6.8.3.3.6.6.
 Joachim Neander, in A und Ω,
 Glaubund Liebesübung, Bremen, 1680

Be Still, My Soul

Ps. 37:7; Ps. 46:10; 1 Tim. 4:10

Katharina von Schlegel, 1752
Transl. Jane Laurie Borthwick, 1855; alt.

1 Be still, my soul: for God is on your side; bear pa-tient -
 2 Be still, my soul: for God will un - der - take to guide in
 3 Be still, my soul: the hour will soon be here when we shall

ly the cross of grief or pain; Leave to your God to
 fu - ture days as in the past. Your hope, your con - fi -
 be with God whom we a - dore, with dis - ap - point - ment

or - der and pro - vide; in ev - ery change God
 dence let noth - ing shake; all now mys - te - rious
 gone, no grief nor fear, sor - row re - placed with

faith-ful will re - main. Be still, my soul: your best e - ter - nal
 shall be clear at last. Be still, my soul: the waves and winds still
 joy for - ev - er - more. Be still, my soul: when change and tears are

Little is known about Katharina von Schlegel, the author of twenty-six hymns, except that she seems to have been a member of the duke's court at Cöthen, Germany. The tune is adapted from an orchestral work by Finland's great composer Jean Sibelius.

Tune: FINLANDIA 10.10.10.10.10.
 Jean Sibelius, 1899
 Arr. The Hymnal, 1933

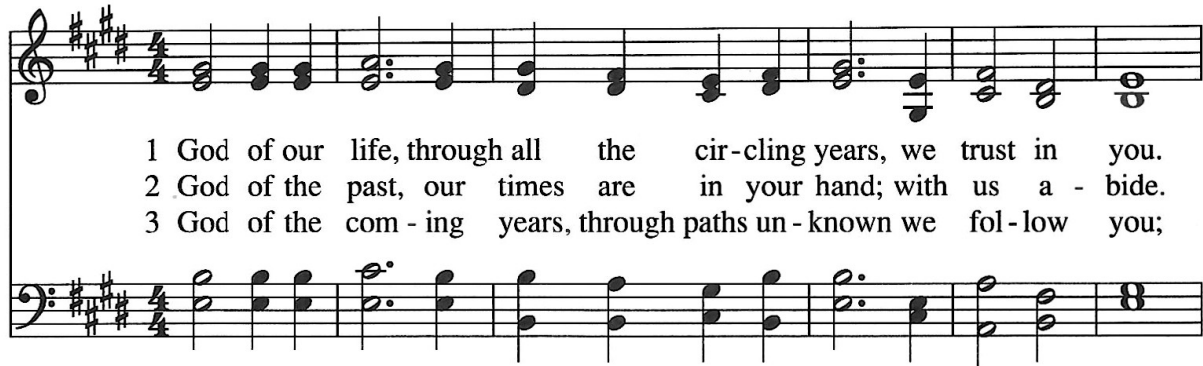
COMFORT AND ASSURANCE

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Comfort and Assurance'. It consists of two staves, a treble staff on top and a bass staff on the bottom. The treble staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The first measure of the treble staff contains a whole note chord of F4, A4, and C5, which is then tied to the second measure. The melody continues with a half note G4, a quarter note F#4, a half note E4, a quarter note D4, a half note C4, and a whole note B3. The bass staff begins with a bass clef and the same key signature. The first measure contains a whole note chord of F2, A2, and C3, which is tied to the second measure. The bass line continues with a half note G2, a quarter note F#2, a half note E2, a quarter note D2, a half note C2, and a whole note B1. The lyrics are written between the two staves, aligned with the notes.

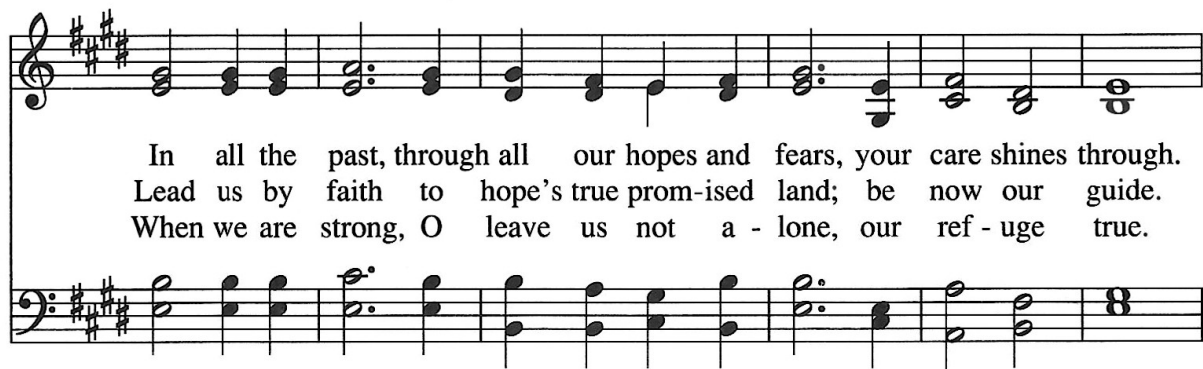
friend through thorn-y ways leads to a joy - ful end.
know how Je - sus' pow - er ruled them long a - go.
past, all safe and bless - ed we shall meet at last.

God of Our Life

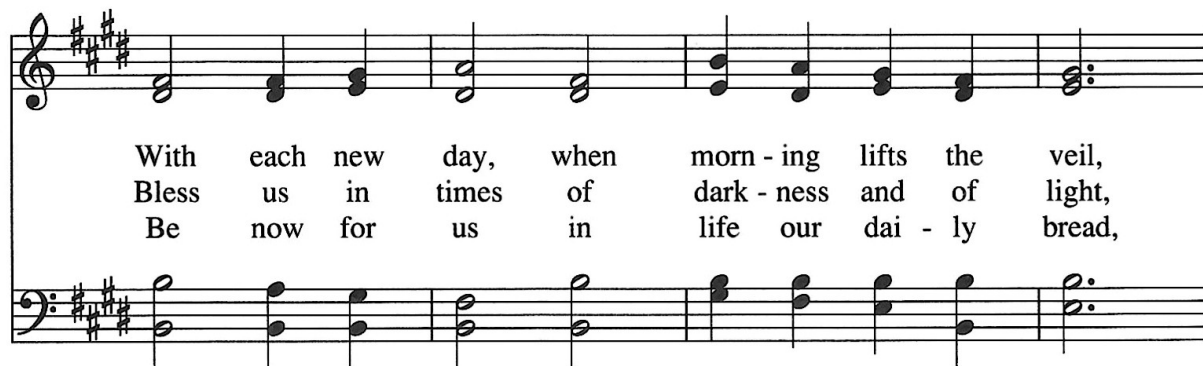
366

Hugh T. Kerr, 1916; alt.


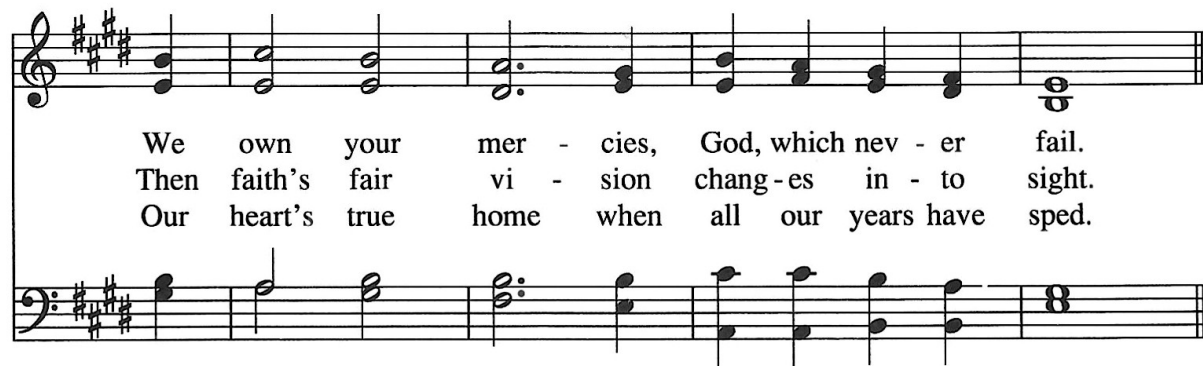
1 God of our life, through all the cir-cling years, we trust in you.
 2 God of the past, our times are in your hand; with us a - bide.
 3 God of the com - ing years, through paths un - known we fol - low you;



In all the past, through all our hopes and fears, your care shines through.
 Lead us by faith to hope's true prom-ised land; be now our guide.
 When we are strong, O leave us not a - lone, our ref - uge true.



With each new day, when morn - ing lifts the veil,
 Bless us in times of dark - ness and of light,
 Be now for us in life our dai - ly bread,



We own your mer - cies, God, which nev - er fail.
 Then faith's fair vi - sion chang-es in - to sight.
 Our heart's true home when all our years have sped.

Hugh Kerr was educated in Canada and the United States and was a pioneer in religious broadcasting. He wrote this hymn for the fiftieth anniversary of Shadyside Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh, where he had a long tenure as pastor.

Tune: SANDON 10.4.10.4.10.10.
 Charles Henry Purday, 1860
 For another harmonization, see 466