**ZION’S REFORMED UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

**Rev. June Boutwell, Senior Pastor**

**Lori Seinar-Roknick, Director of Music Ministries**

August 9, 2020 10:30 a.m.

*Where the past and the future with Jesus Christ are celebrated so the present can be lived abundantly.*

**Welcome and Announcements**

Welcome to worship. The Altar Flowers are placed in memory of my parents, my brother Don Dart, my sister Genevra McGuffy and my wife Mary Ellen, by Paul Dart.

Our special music today is provided by Rachel and Joseph Varga. Rachel, 16, will be a Junior at J.F.K. High School, Warren, Ohio this year. Her interests include volleyball, musical theatre, stage and primarily singing! She will begin taking college courses at Y.S.U. this Fall and has begun Medical Preparation Work.

Joseph Varga, 15, will be a Sophomore at J.F.K. High School. His interests include golf, musical theatre, stage and he has also begun Medical Preparation Work. Proud parents are Mr. Michael and Dr. Sabrina Varga. Thank you for sharing your talents with us this morning!

A reminder that Service and Missions will meet at 6:00 tomorrow in the Anderson Lounge.

The Consistory met on Wednesday night and decided that in-person worship will resume on September 6 with Holy Communion and Rally Day on September 13. Watch for a letter with more details. We will continue to have lectors and musicians (but no choir as yet) as part of the service and continue to live stream each week. Many thanks to Allen Morrill, Leslie Graul, Lance Callahan and Julie Hills for helping with the livestream equipment and Lori and all the volunteers who are sharing their gifts of speech and song.

Please send Pastor June any prayer requests by email, text, phone, or messenger. And share any feedback or comment on worship in the sanctuary, the live stream, or video posting. This is meant to be meaningful for you so we appreciate knowing what works and what we could do differently.

As always, each of you is in our prayers. Physical distancing does not mean we are distant from one another in heart and spirit. And we know that our Creator, Redeemer, and Loving Spirit is present with us always and in every moment. For all this we give thanks.

**A Time of Gathering**

THE SOLEMN DECLARATION

Leader: And now may we prepare our hearts and minds for worship as we are gathered in the name of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Amen.

THE RINGING OF THE CHIMES AND THE ENTRANCE OF THE LIGHT

THE PRELUDE “Fair Havens” Stan Pethel

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP Isaiah 52:7

*How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, “Your God reigns!”*

GATHERING SONG “Blessed Be the Name of the Lord” (CCLI # 14318) (bulletin page 5)

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Give thanks to the LORD and proclaim God’s greatness!

**People: Let the whole world know what God has done.**

Leader: Sing praise to God!

**People: Tell everyone about the wonderful deeds of the LORD.**

Leader: Let all who seek the Lord rejoice.

**People: Praise God’s holy name!**

OPENING PRAYER

OPENING HYMN “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You” (CCLI # 25321) (bulletin page 6 )

**A Time of Prayer**

CALL TO CONFESSION

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Loving God, we confess that we do not always understand your ways. We are easily discouraged when life takes unexpected turns and our carefully laid plans and dreams come to nothing. We confess that we are quick to give up when things get difficult, and quick to question your presence and your power. Forgive us. Grant us patience to wait for your good timing. Open our eyes to recognize your leading in our lives, open our ears to listen for your gentle whisper when we least expect it. And then give us courage to step out in faith and obedience, trusting in your leading even when we cannot yet see the outcome. We praise you for your faithful love, and pray that you would make us worthy to bear your name as we offer our silent prayers….**

A MOMENT OF SILENT CONFESSION AND PRAYER

THE ASSURANCE OF GOD’S FORGIVENESS AND LOVE

A SONG OF ASSURANCE “God Will Take Care of You”

**Be not dismayed whate’er betide, God will take care of you;**

**Beneath God’s wings of love abide, God will take care of you.**

**God will take care of you, through every day, o’er all the way;**

**God will take care of you, God will take care of you.**

THE CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Friends in Christ, God invites us to hold the needs of our sisters and brothers, our friends and neighbors, as dear to us as our own needs. Loving our neighbor as ourselves, we offer our thanksgivings and petitions on behalf of the church and the world. Today we hold in prayer, Charlie and Millie Owen, Linda Allison, Sam and Elaine Gano, Linda Schehl, Fred Graham, Lynn Marlowe, Gabriel Sobina, and Frank Lawrence. I invite you to name other joys and concerns in the space provided in the prayer or in chat so we can all offer our prayers. Please feel free during the week to let me know if there are others you would like added to the prayer list.

THE 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 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.**

PRAYER RESPONSE

**Hear our prayer, O God. Hear our prayer, O God.**

**Incline your ear to us and grant us your peace.**

SPECIAL MUSIC “Blow Ye the Trumpet” Henry Purcell

Rachel Varga, Soprano and Joseph Varga, Baritone

**Dwelling in the Word**

SCRIPTURE LESSON Romans 10:5-15 IMMERSE (The Reading Bible)

Moses writes that the law’s way of making a person right with God requires obedience to all of its commands. But faith’s way of getting right with God says, “Don’t say in your heart, ‘who will go up to heaven?’ (to bring Christ down to earth). And don’t say, ‘Who will go down to the place of the dead?’ (to bring Christ back to life again).”

In fact, it says, “The message is very close at hand; it is on your lips and in your heart.” And that message is the very message about faith that we preach. If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead you will be saved. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved. As the Scripture tell us, “Anyone who trusts in him will never be disgraced.” Jew and Gentile are the same in this respect. They have the same Lord, who gives generously to all who call on him, for “Everyone who call on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

But how can they call on him to save them unless they believe in him: And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him: And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them? And how will anyone go and tell them without being sent?” That is why the Scriptures say, “How beautiful are the feet of messengers who bring good news.”

SERMON *Did You Get My Message?*

OUR OFFERING TO GOD

We give our offerings to God—our treasure, our gifts, our labor. And God receives them all with graciousness. You may mail or drop off your offering in the office, use a bank bill pay service or use the “give” button on the website. Thank you for your continued support of Zion’s ministries. Let us offer the doxology in response to the gifts we receive and return.

The Doxology

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow.**

**Praise God all creatures here below.**

**Praise God above you heavenly host.**

**Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

Prayer of Dedication

CLOSING HYMN “If You but Trust in God to Guide You” (CCLI # 2960418) (bulletin page 7)

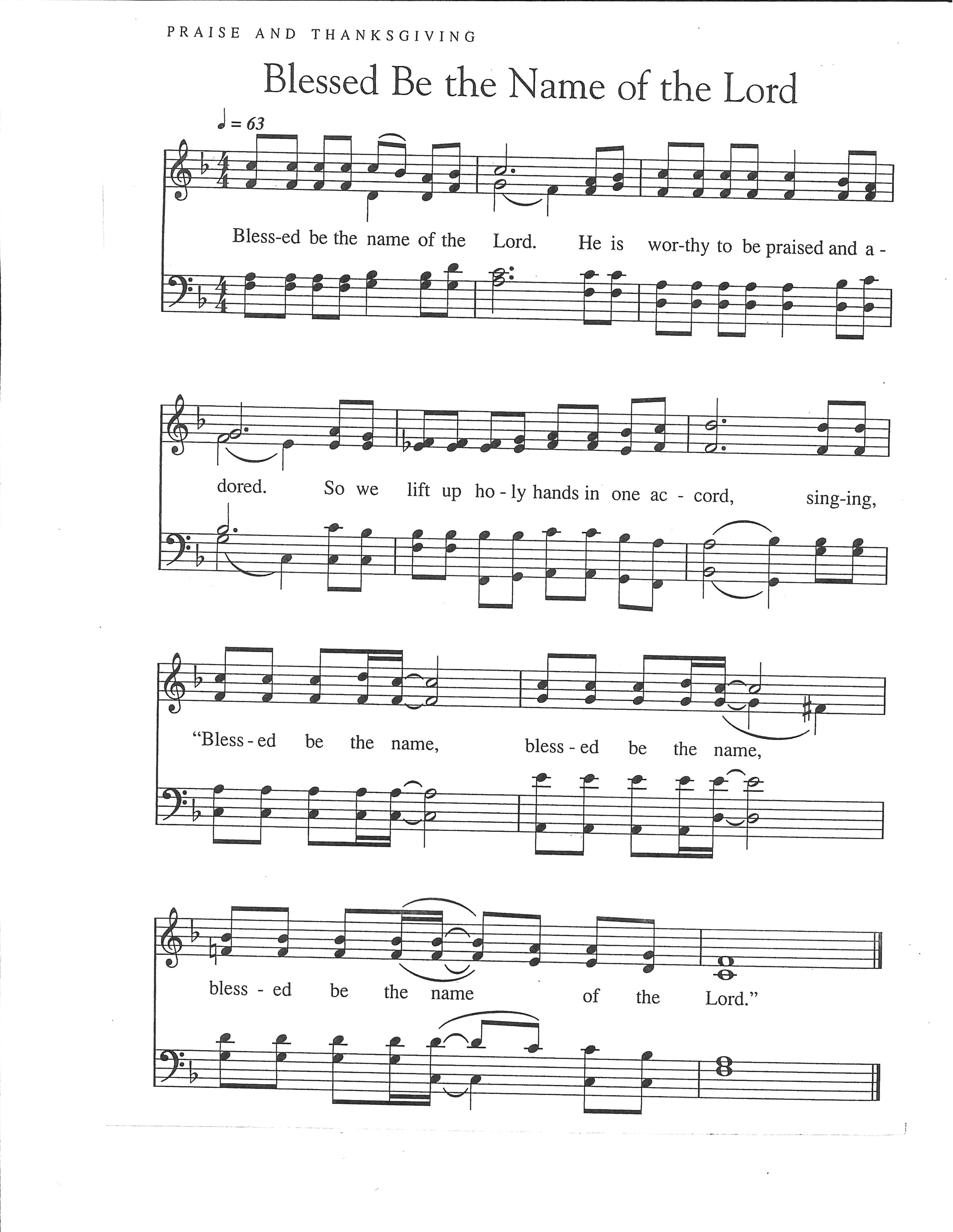
THE BENEDICTION

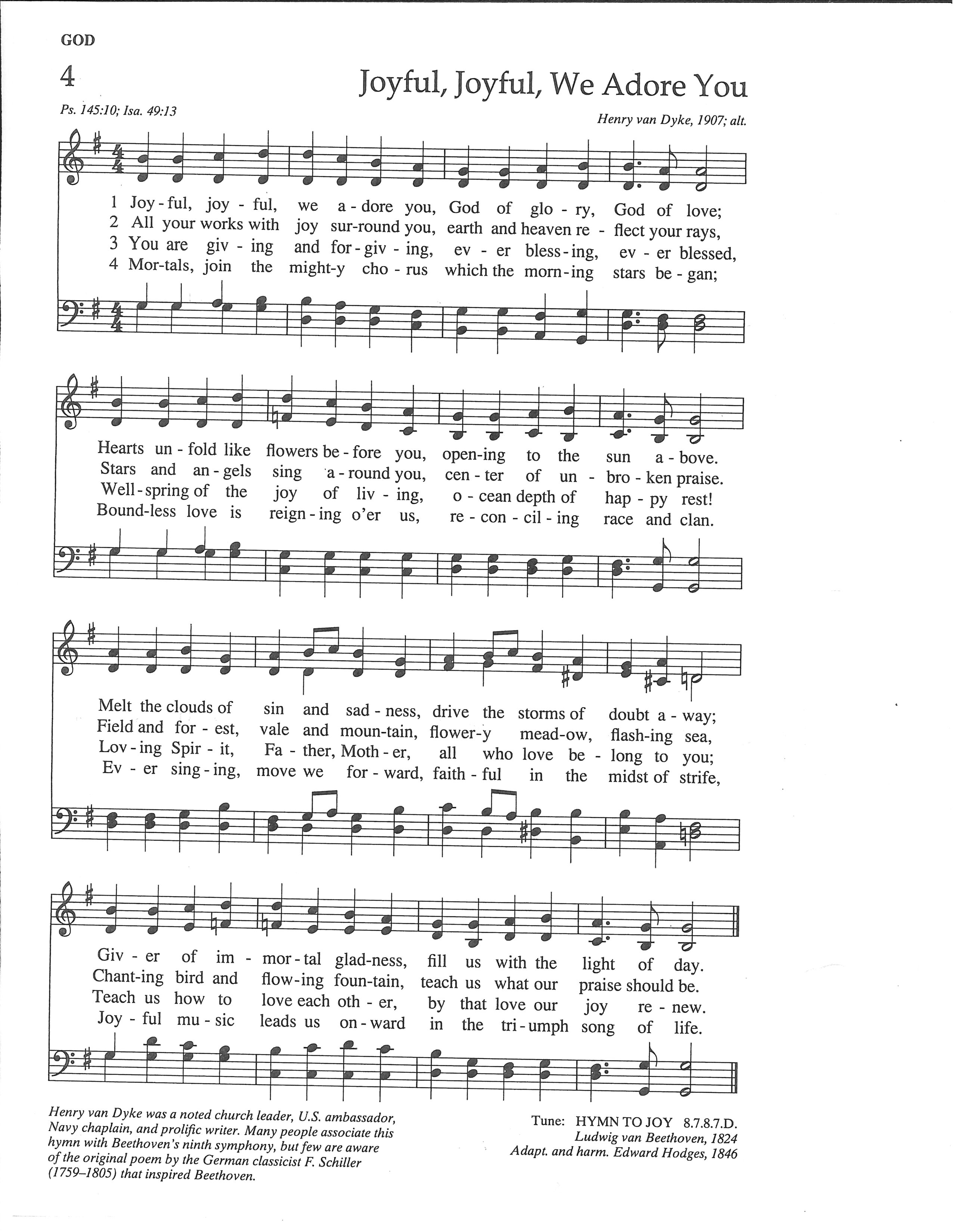
THE POSTLUDE “Come, Sound His Praise Abroad” Anthony Giamanco

**Our worship is ended and our service begins.**

MEDITATION: Aiden Wilson Tozer (20th century pastor and author)

*God did not write a book and send it by messenger to be read at a distance by unaided minds. He spoke a Book and lives in His spoken words, constantly speaking His words and causing the power of them to persist across the years.*

**

**

