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

**Rev. June Boutwell, Senior Pastor**

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

August 23, 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.

We will return to in-person worship in the sanctuary on September 6 with Holy Communion. These services will be shorter in length as recommended by health professionals to avoid lengthy exposure which increases virus risk factors. We will continue to have lectors and musicians as part of the service and continue to live stream and post worship videos each week. You can find worship materials under the “Pastor’s Corner” tab on our website [www.zionsucc.org](http://www.zionsucc.org). Many thanks to Allen Morrill, Leslie Graul, and Lance Callahan for helping with the livestream equipment and Lori and all the volunteers who offer their gifts of speech and music.

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 “My Song Is Love Unknown” arr. by Tracey Craig McKibben

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP Romans 12:3

*For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned.*

CALL TO WORSHIP Betsy Fischer, Lector

Leader: Come and worship, all you who love and serve our God.

**People: Our God who answers us when we call;**

Leader: who cares for the humble and lowly,

**People: and never abandons those in need.**

Leader: This is our God, worthy of our worship and praise!

**People: We gather to give thanks to you, O Lord, with all our heart!**

OPENING PRAYER

OPENING HYMN “We Have Come to Join in Worship” (CCLI #2445610) (bulletin page 5)

**A Time of Prayer**

CALL TO CONFESSION

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Merciful God, we confess that we have conformed our lives to the ways of the world and not the ways of your kingdom. We think of ourselves too highly and regard others as lowly. We exalt possessions and power, when you alone are to be exalted. We let conflicts prevail over grace and divisions over harmony. Have mercy upon us, we pray. Forgive and transform us that we may be holy and acceptable to you, discerning and doing your will. Hear now 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, Linda Henry, Vikki Young, Lynn Marlowe, Gabriel Sobina, Frank Lawrence and Peg Russell. 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 “His Eye Is On The Sparrow” Charles H. Gabriel (CCLI 2922487)

Joan Wentling, soprano

**Dwelling in the Word**

SCRIPTURE LESSON Isaiah 51:1-6 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

**51** Listen to me, you that pursue righteousness, you that seek the Lord. Look to the rock from which you were hewn, and to the quarry from which you were dug. **2**Look to Abraham your father and to Sarah who bore you; for he was but one when I called him, but I blessed him and made him many. **3**For the Lord will comfort Zion; he will comfort all her waste places, and will make her wilderness like Eden, her desert like the garden of the Lord; joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the voice of song.

**4**Listen to me, my people, and give heed to me, my nation; for a teaching will go out from me, and my justice for a light to the peoples. **5**I will bring near my deliverance swiftly, my salvation has gone out and my arms will rule the peoples; the coastlands wait for me, and for my arm they hope. **6**Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look at the earth beneath; for the heavens will vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment, and those who live on it will die like gnats; but my salvation will be forever, and my deliverance will never be ended.

SERMON  *Blessings in Store*

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 “O Day of God, Draw Near” (bulletin page 6)

(Words ©Emmanuel College, Toronto Canada)

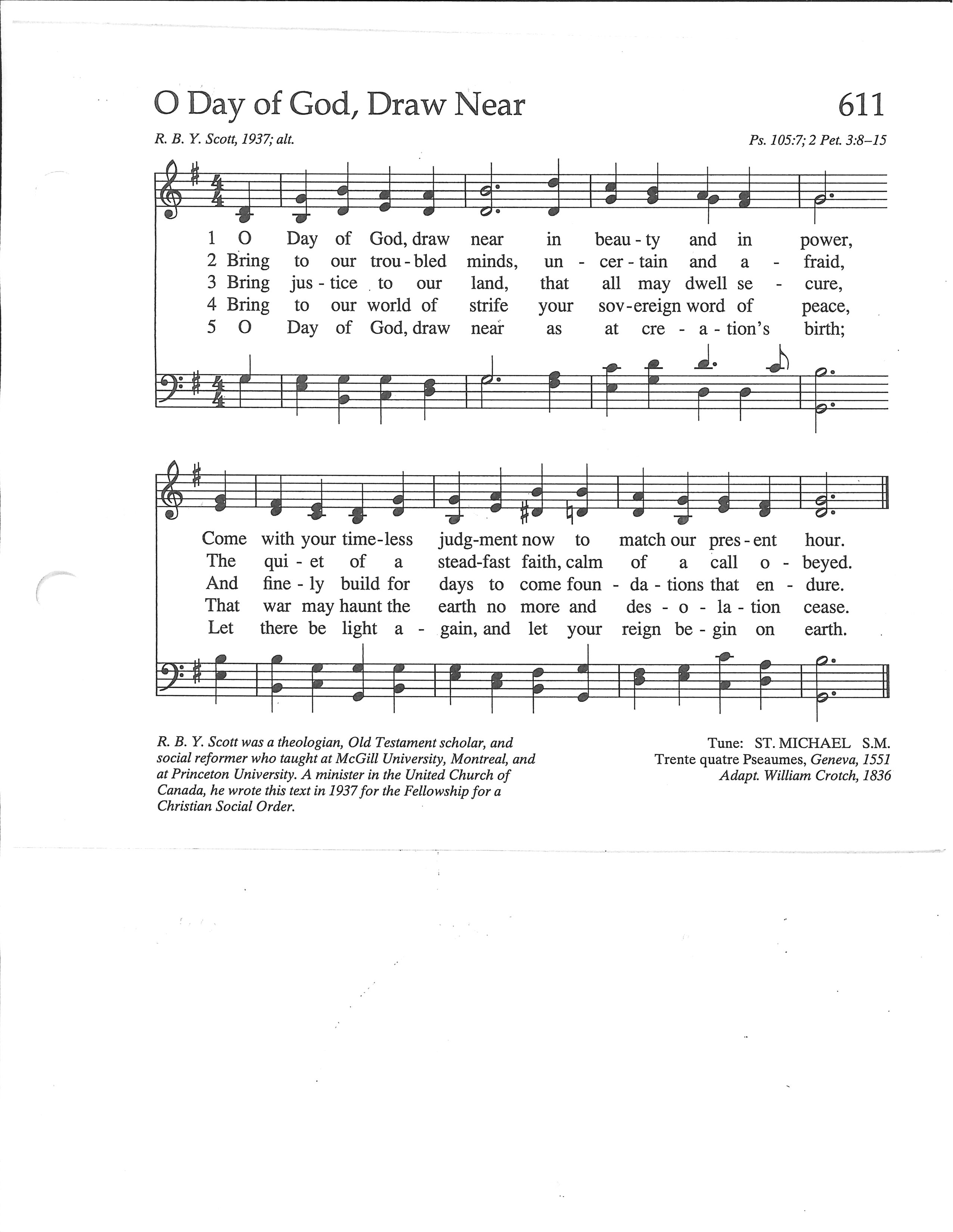
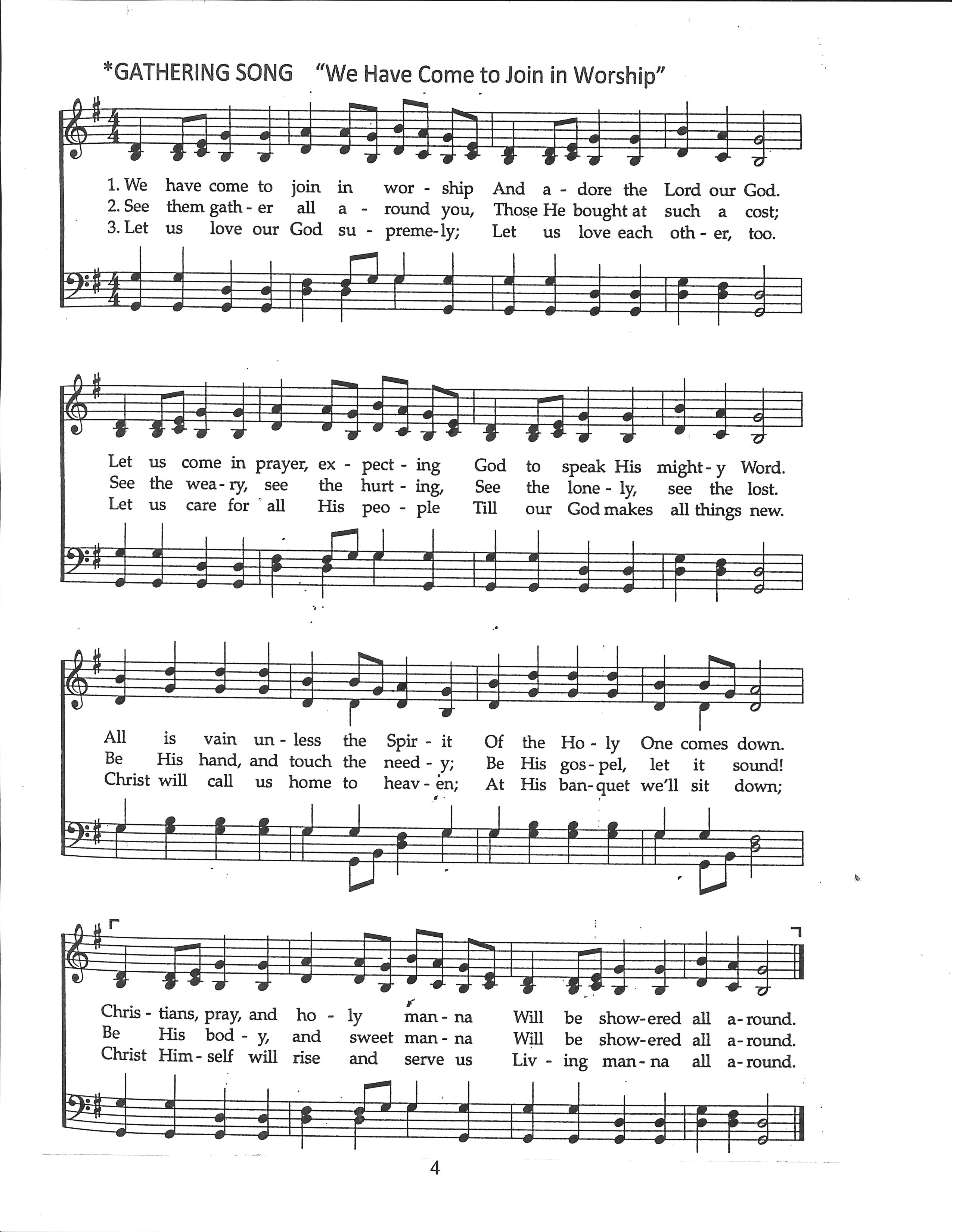
THE BENEDICTION

THE POSTLUDE “With Shouts of Praise” Jason W. Krug

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

MEDITATION - Thomas S. Morrison

*I have found that, rather than dwelling on the negative, if we will take a step back and consider the blessings in our lives, including seemingly small, sometimes overlooked blessings, we can find greater happiness.*

****