

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
June 25, 2023



First Congregational Church of Fresno
United Church of Christ
2131 N. Van Ness Blvd.
Fresno, CA 93704

Rev. Dr. Bryan Martin
Guest Pastor

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
June 25, 2023

Our Gathering

(*Congregation may stand | Responses: Liturgist/**Congregation/all**)

Prelude "Magnificat Primi Toni" - D. Buxtehude Scott Horton, organ
"Oriental Bell Carol" - R. Frey Handbells

Welcome Rev. Dr. Bryan Martin, Guest Pastor

***Call to Worship** Faye Saxton, liturgist

One: Christ calls us this day and every day to a journey of discipleship that will radically transform our lives

All: *We hear your summons as you call us by name, and our desire is to say "ye."*

One: Christ calls us to a journey of "follow-ship" that will challenge us as it challenged Jesus to live the truth of his identity. It is not easy to let Christ's love be shown in the face of adversity or hostility and yet,

All: *We hear your summons as you call us by name, and our desire is to say "yes."*

One: Christ calls us to a journey of discipleship that may bring us into direct conflict with those we know and love, even the members of our own family but still,

All: *We hear your summons as you call us by name, and our desire is to say "yes."*

One: Christ calls us to a journey of "follow-ship" that offers life without fear, a life that transcends our earthly existence, eternally bound in the love and shelter of our Creator, and

All: *We hear your summons as you call us by name, and our desire is to say "yes."*

One: Christ calls us to a journey of discipleship that will call us OUT of the shadows and compel us to share the message of God's Kin-dom for all, proclaiming what we have learned at our teacher's feet and in the company of like-minded students and,

All: *We hear your summons as you call us by name, and our desire is to say "yes."*

One: Christ calls us this day and every day to a journey that will radically transform us and the world. Christ blesses us so that we do not have to travel alone, but with all others who hear their name and say "yes."

All: *Let us continue the journey as we worship the One who calls us in spirit and in truth!*

***Hymn** "How Firm a Foundation"

Holy and Beloved One, Author of Life, transcendent and yet closer than our breath – we gather first just to say “thank you.” We thank you for the privilege of being in relationship with you. We thank you that you know us and call us by name to follow in your way. We thank you for being our Master Teacher, leading us through the text of your life, death, and resurrection. We thank you for being the one who cares so much about us that not even a hair can fall from our heads without you taking notice. We thank you for challenging us to claim our identity as your disciples even when claiming so puts us at risk of adversity for your name’s sake and for the sake of compassion, justice, and extravagant welcome to all. We thank you for this community of First Congregational Church of Fresno, and we ask that you make your presence felt with and among us. Help us to see you in the faces of all who are gathered in this place, whether in-person or virtually. Help us to celebrate the beautiful array of all we are as we worship you in spirit and in truthfulness. These things we pray in the name of the One who calls us continually to life and that more abundantly. Amen!

Anthem

“Before Our Lord and King” - James Culver

Summer Choir

Time for Discovery [*children are invited to the chancel steps*]

**Draw the circle wide, draw it wider still;
let this be our song — no one stands alone,
standing side by side. Draw the circle wide.**

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The Lord’s Prayer

**Our Creator, 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,
the power, and the glory,
forever. Amen.**

*Hymn

“The Summons”

“Disciples aren’t greater than their teacher, and slaves aren’t greater than their master. It’s enough for disciples to be like their teacher and slaves like their master. If they have called the head of the house Beelzebul, it’s certain that they will call the members of his household by even worse names.

“Therefore, don’t be afraid of those people because nothing is hidden that won’t be revealed, and nothing secret that won’t be brought out into the open. What I say to you in the darkness, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered, announce from the rooftops. Don’t be afraid of those who kill the body but can’t kill the soul. Instead, be afraid of the one who can destroy both body and soul in hell. Aren’t two sparrows sold for a small coin? But not one of them will fall to the ground without your Father knowing about it already. Even the hairs of your head are all counted. Don’t be afraid. You are worth more than many sparrows.

“Therefore, everyone who acknowledges me before people, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven. But everyone who denies me before people, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven.

“Don’t think that I’ve come to bring peace to the earth. I haven’t come to bring peace but a sword. I’ve come to turn a man *against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. People’s enemies are members of their own households.*

“Those who love father or mother more than me aren’t worthy of me. Those who love son or daughter more than me aren’t worthy of me. Those who don’t pick up their crosses and follow me aren’t worthy of me. Those who find their lives will lose them, and those who lose their lives because of me will find them.”

Sermon

Rev. Dr. Bryan Martin

Sung Call to Prayer

Lord, listen to your children praying:

Lord send your Spirit in this place.

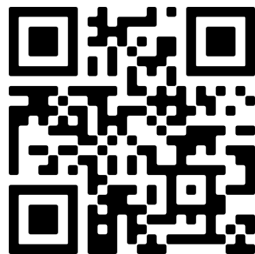
Lord, listen to your children praying:

Send us love, send us power, send us grace.

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Prayers of the Church - Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Dr. Bryan Martin



Here at the Big Red Church, everyone counts, and every gift counts!

- ⇒ *There are two donation boxes and giving envelopes for your gifts in the Narthex (the area where an usher handed you an Order of Worship).*
- ⇒ *You can also give through the Givelify App by scanning the QR code with your smartphone camera.*
- ⇒ *BigRedChurch.org/giving/ has more instructions, links, and information about giving to the church. Thank you for supporting and joining in the ministry of this church.*

Offertory

“Thy Word” - Smith/Grant

Summer Choir

***Doxology** (Tune: OLD HUNDREDTH)

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God, above, ye heavenly host.
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost! Amen.**

***Dedication**

Rev. Dr. Bryan Martin

***Closing Hymn**

“Awake, My Soul, Stretch Every Nerve”

#491, pew hymnal

Announcements

Peter Wall

Benediction

Rev. Dr. Bryan Martin

***Blessing Song**

“Go Now in Peace”

**Go now in peace, never be afraid;
God will go with you each hour of ev’ry day.
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true;
know God will guide you in all you do.
Go now in love and show you believe.
Reach out to others so all the world will see
God will be there, watching from above.
Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.
Amen. Amen. Amen.**

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Postlude

“Magnificat Primi Toni” (*final*)
D. Buxtehude

Scott Horton, organ

It is our tradition to be seated for the Postlude.

The Happenings ...

Pastoral Search Committee Listening Session

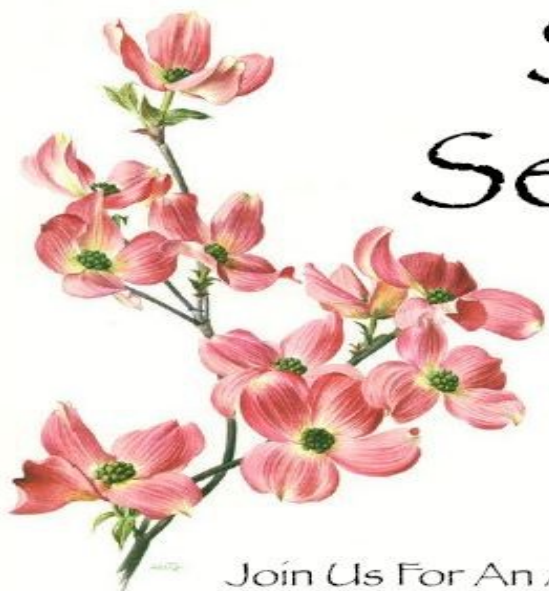
**Fireside room following worship service:
You are welcome to bring coffee. Please
no food.**

 **Today**

Tomorrow 

Pastoral Search Committee Listening Session - Monday June 26

**6:30pm in the Parlor: You are welcome
to bring coffee. Please no food.**



Summer Serenade

June 25, 2023

3:00 p.m.

Join Us For An Afternoon of Music

- featuring -

Catherine English, Terry Estabrook,
and Brian Lummis, vocalists

Gina Fazio, Matt Horton, & Alan Rea, piano; Scott Horton, pipe organ

- performing masterworks from -

Schumann, Moscheles, Mozart, Massenet,
Buxtehude, Tosti, & Verdi

First Congregational Church of Fresno

"The Big Red Church"

2131 N. Van Ness Boulevard - Fresno, CA 93704

559.227.8489

Free Concert - Free-will offering to benefit Casavant Pipe Organ



Exploration Hour Opportunity: We Want You(r) Voices!

Our next Summer Choir Sing-along will be on July 30th!

If you like to sing, we would love to have you!

All ages are welcome!

We will meet in the Sanctuary at 9:00am for practice and will prepare an anthem for service.

All music will be ready for you. No robes will be worn

Our next Summer Choir Sing-along will be on Aug 27th!

New from the pews: **Camp Tam is getting close**

- Jr/Jr. High Camp: July 16-22 - Grades 3 thru 6
- Senior High: July 30-Aug 5 - Grades 10 thru 12



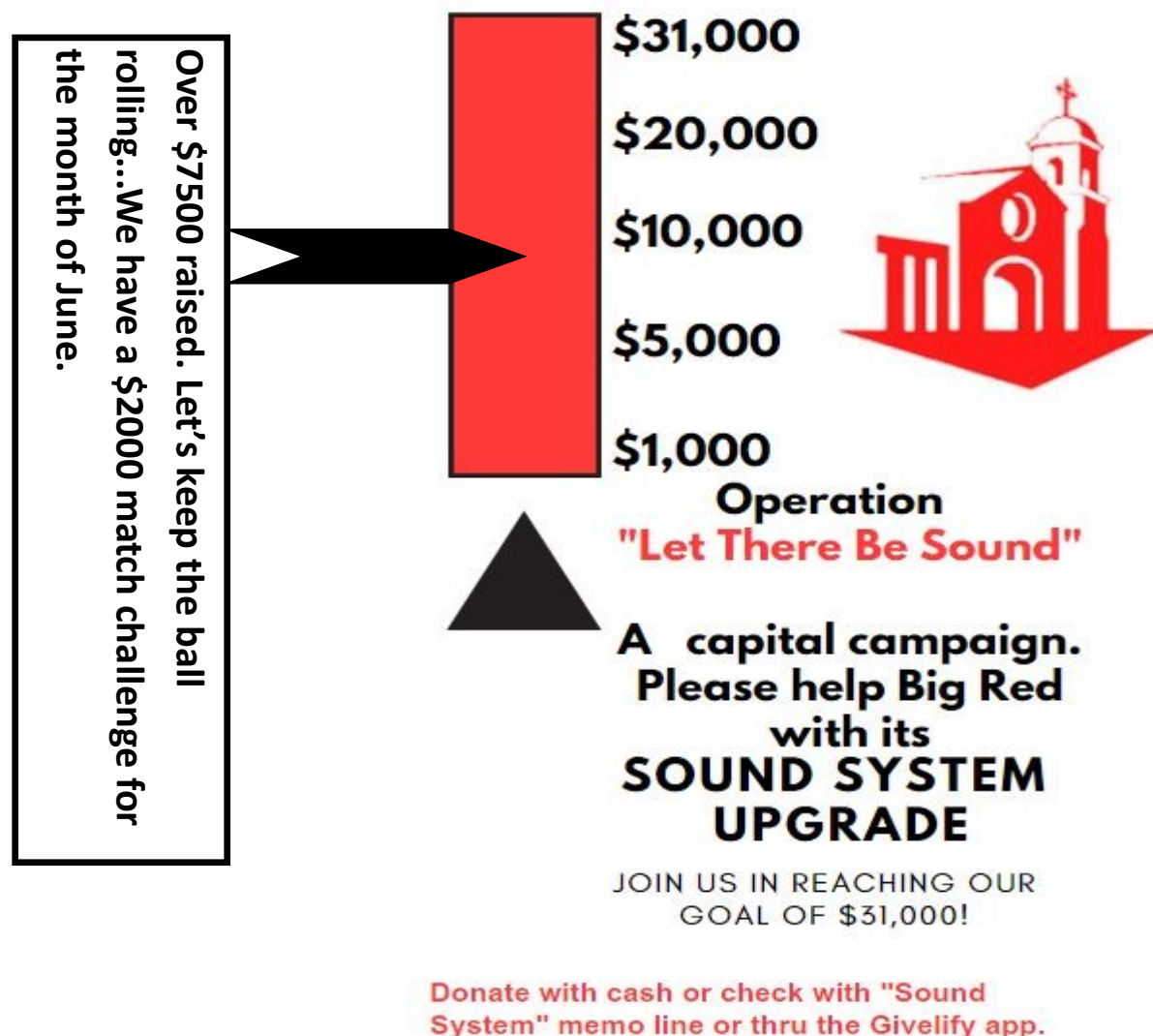
Camp Tamarack Update

After repeated pleas and many hours of calling, emailing etc. we could not fill needed staff for Jr. High camp. We don't want our youth to be unable to enjoy a safe and exciting time at camp, so we have moved the dates of Jr. High to coincide with Jr. camp – July 16-22. We'll have 2 cohorts that are age appropriate as needed.

There is still time to register for all camps. **Deadlines for registration** : July 8th for Jr /Jr High Camp and July 15th for Sr. High camp. In addition, if you want to volunteer as camp staff it is not too late.

Questions? Contact me at: jeanniehob@comcast.net or 559-903-4542

Jeannie Hobson



This Week at Big Red

Monday June 26

- ♦ 5:00pm: Yoga - Room 1
- ♦ 6:30pm: Search Committee Listening Session—Parlor

Tuesday, June 27

Wednesday June 28

- ♦ 8:00am: Bible Study - Zoom
- ♦ 4:00pm: Yoga - Room 1

Thursday June 29

Friday June 30

- ♦ 5:00pm: Yoga - Room 1

Saturday July 1

Sunday July 2

- ♦ 9:00am: Root and Branches - Fireside Room
- ♦ 10:00am: Worship Service - Chris Williams, Member-in discernment
Guest Speaking - Sanctuary
- ♦ 11:00am: Coffee Hour - Hosted by Kymberly Lindsey and Pat Morales
Fellowship Hall

Important:

Chris Williams will be our pastoral care contact during the national Synod, from June 29 through July 2. Please call the church office for his contact information. 559.227.8489



Save the Date:

September 24, 2023 - JAZZ ON VAN NESS

First Congregational Church of Fresno

2131 N. Van Ness Blvd., Fresno, CA 93704 | (559) 227-8489

Guest in the Pulpit

Rev. Dr. Bryan Martin

Office Administrator

Kymberly Lindsey

Office@bigredchurch.org

Music Director/Organist

Scott Horton

Technicians

Karisa Garza

Brad Jenkins

Caretaker/ Event Coordinator

Pat Morales

Accountant

Penny Leas Peterson

Assisting in Today's Service & Fellowship

Organist: Scott Horton

Liturgist: Faye Saxton

Ushers: Rebecca Kliever, Gene Kliever and Teresa Fuentes

Technician: Karisa Garza

Coffee Hour: Jacquie Shore and Jeannie Hobson

Acolytes: on Summer vacation

FCCF Open and Affirming Statement

We believe that all people are sacred creations of a loving God. We affirm the diversity that exists among us. We strive to answer the call of Christ by extending his love, compassion and acceptance to everyone. In this spirit, we open our family of faith to people of every religious background, sexual orientation, family composition, physical and mental ability, race, age and gender.

As Christians, we experience God's reconciling love. In response we stand with those who suffer discrimination, isolation and alienation.

We welcome all people to participate fully in our church's life and ministry. We celebrate the variety of talents and perspectives which flow into our spiritual community, continuing to enrich us in ways we could not have predicted or envisioned.

K.

Rippon's "A Selection of Hymns," 1787, alt.

ADESTE FIDELES 11.11.11.11.

John F. Wade's "Cantus Diversi," 1751

1 How firm a foun - da - tion, ye saints of the Lord,
 2 "Fear not, I am with thee, oh, be not dis - mayed,
 3 "When through the deep wa - ters I call thee to go,
 4 "When through fi - ery tri - als thy path - way shall lie,

Is laid for your faith in his ex - cel - lent word!
 For I am thy God, and will still give thee aid.
 The riv - ers of woe shall not thee o - ver - flow;
 My grace, all - suf - fi - cient, shall be thy sup - ply.

What more can he say than to you he hath said,
 I'll strength - en thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,
 For I will be near thee, thy trou - bles to bless,
 The flame shall not hurt thee; I on - ly de - sign

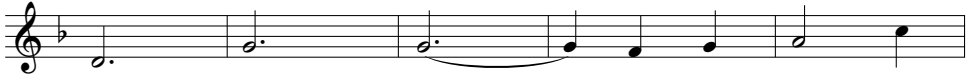
To you who for ref - uge to Je - sus have fled?
 Up - held by my right - eous, om - nip - o - tent hand,
 And sanc - ti - fy to thee thy deep - est dis - tress,
 Thy dross to con - sume, and thy gold to re - fine,

To you who for ref - uge to Je - sus have fled?
 Up - held by my right - eous, om - nip - o - tent hand.
 And sanc - ti - fy to thee thy deep - est dis - tress.
 Thy dross to con - sume, and thy gold to re - fine.

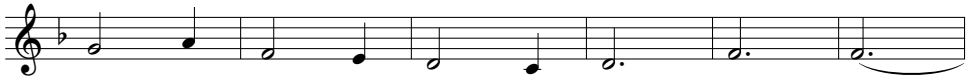
The Summons



1. Will you come and fol - low me If I but
 2. Will you leave your - self be - hind If I but
 3. Will you let the blind - ed see If I but
 4. Will you love the "you" you hide If I but
 5. Lord, your sum - mons ech - oes true When you but



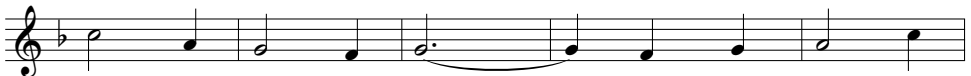
call your name? Will you go where
 call your name? Will you care for
 call your name? Will you set the
 call your name? Will you quell the
 call my name. Let me turn and



you don't know And nev - er be the same?
 cruel and kind And nev - er be the same?
 pris - 'ners free And nev - er be the same?
 fear in - side And nev - er be the same?
 fol - low you And nev - er be the same.



Will you let my love be shown, Will you
 Will you risk the hos - tile stare Should your
 Will you kiss the lep - er clean, And do
 Will you use the faith you've found To re -
 In your com - pa - ny I'll go Where your



let my name be known, Will you let my
 life at - tract or scare? Will you let me
 such as this un - seen, And ad - mit to
 shape the world a - round, Through my sight and
 love and foot - steps show. Thus I'll move and



life be grown In you and you in me?
 an - swer prayer In you and you in me?
 what I mean In you and you in me?
 touch and sound In you and you in me?
 live and grow In you and you in me.

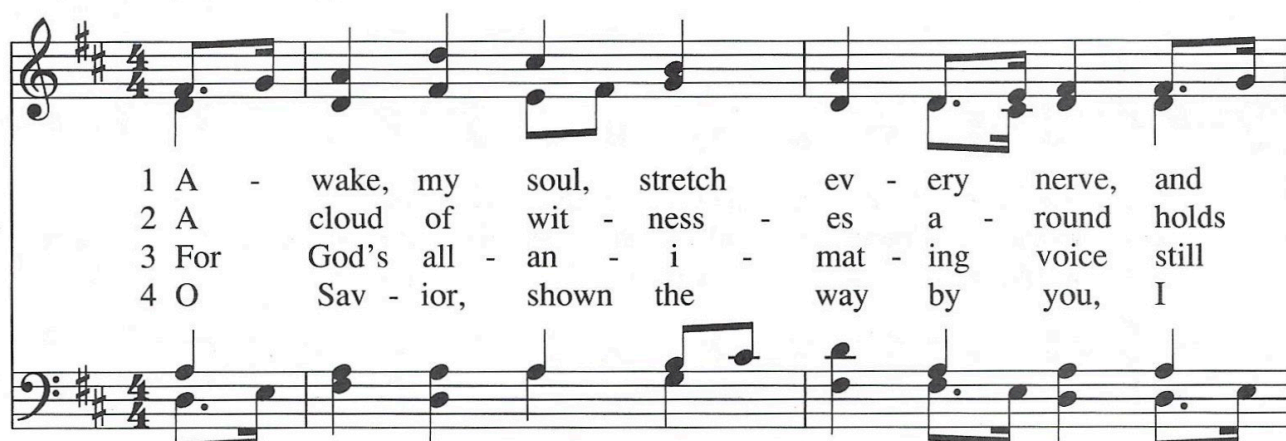
Text: John L. Bell, b.1949, © 1987, Iona Community, GIA Publications, Inc., agent
 Tune: KELVINGROVE, 7 6 7 6 777 6; Scottish melody; arr. by John L. Bell, b.1949, © 1987, Iona Community, GIA Publications, Inc., agent

Awake, My Soul, Stretch Every Nerve

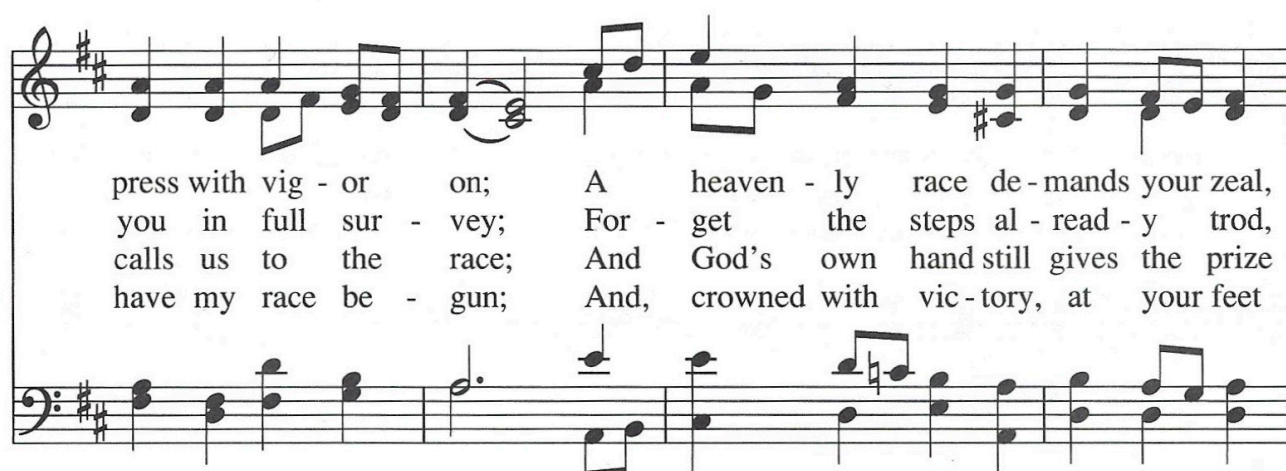
491

Philip Doddridge (1702–1751); alt.

2 Tim. 4:7–8; Phil. 3:12–14



1 A - wake, my soul, stretch ev - ery nerve, and
 2 A cloud of wit - ness - es a - round holds
 3 For God's all - an - i - mat - ing voice still
 4 O Sav - ior, shown the way by you, I



press with vig - or on; A heaven - ly race de - mands your zeal,
 you in full sur - vey; For - get the steps al - read - y trod,
 calls us to the race; And God's own hand still gives the prize
 have my race be - gun; And, crowned with vic - tory, at your feet



and an im - mor - tal crown, and an im - mor - tal crown.
 and on - ward urge your way, and on - ward urge your way.
 with nev - er - end - ing grace, with nev - er - end - ing grace.
 I'll lay my hon - ors down, I'll lay my hon - ors down.

This hymn is one of more than 400 written by a Congregational minister, Philip Doddridge, but none of them were published in his lifetime. Pressing on in the heavenly race is a theme found in several New Testament passages.

Tune: CHRISTMAS C.M.
 G. F. Handel, 1728