

# *Sixth Sunday after Pentecost*

## *July 9, 2023*



*"Christ has no body but yours, no hands, no feet, on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes with which He looks." - Saint Teresa of Avila*

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

*Kurt Harris-Schwartzmann  
Guest Speaker*

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost  
July 2, 2023

## Our Gathering

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

Prelude Pre-Bach Chorale Preludes Catherine English, organ

Welcome Kurt Harris- Schwartzmann, guest speaker

\*Call to Worship Randy Oftedal, liturgist

One: O Spirit of the First Song, the Origins of a Lullaby, we come here today with our burdens in tow.

**All: *Would you grant us comfort, O Gentle Jesus? Our pain has no place to land, no cradle for our sorrows to rock in.***

One: And say to us: Yes, let it out. I've got you now. There, there, dear child, there, there.

**All: *There, there, to the rhythm of a heartbeat, like a grandmother consoling her kin. There, there.***

One: There, there, like the psalmist singing in satisfaction. It's alright now. We made it home. There, there.

**All: *There, there, shouts the activist out in the streets. That's enough now, never again. There, there.***

One: For you are here, right here, ever with us - burden-sharer, light maker, right here

**All: *And it is from this ancient hum that we worship you.***

One: It is from this rest that we know you.

**All: *It is from such a place that we praise you, right here, again. Amen.***

\*Hymn "I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say"

Opening Prayer Randy Oftedal, liturgist

***O God of Heaven and Earth, who is glorified in the wisdom of children—the experts of presence and oneness. May we evoke your humble heart within us. May we wonder what it might mean to feel our exhaustion and your love, at the exact same time. May we consider all you've tried to show, give, or say to us that we weren't yet ready for. Prepare our souls to yoke with yours, to share in the Good News that revives every living thing. We ask this in your name and energy, Amen.***

## 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** "What a Friend We Have in Jesus" #506, pew hymnal

**Scripture** Romans 8:26-39 Randy Oftedal, liturgist

In the same way, the Spirit comes to help our weakness. We don't know what we should pray, but the Spirit himself pleads our case with unexpressed groans. The one who searches hearts knows how the Spirit thinks, because he pleads for the saints, consistent with God's will. We know that God works all things together for good for the ones who love God, for those who are called according to his purpose. We know this because God knew them in advance, and he decided in advance that they would be conformed to the image of his Son. That way his Son would be the first of many brothers and sisters. Those who God decided in advance would be conformed to his Son, he also called. Those whom he called, he also made righteous. Those whom he made righteous, he also glorified.

So what are we going to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He didn't spare his own Son but gave him up for us all. Won't he also freely give us all things with him?

Who will bring a charge against God's elect people? It is God who acquits them. Who is going to convict them? It is Christ Jesus who died, even more, who was raised, and who also is at God's right side. It is Christ Jesus who also pleads our case for us.

Who will separate us from Christ's love? Will we be separated by trouble, or distress, or harassment, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? As it is written,

We are being put to death all day long for your sake.

We are treated like sheep for slaughter.

But in all these things we win a sweeping victory through the one who loved us. I'm convinced that nothing can separate us from God's love in Christ Jesus our Lord: not death or life, not angels or rulers, not present things or future things, not powers or height or depth, or any other thing that is created

**Message**

"Faith and Art"

Kurt Harris-Schwartzmann

**\*Hymn of Reflection**

"Here I Am, Lord"

**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**

Kurt Harris-Schwartzmann

One: Let us pray responsively in the Spirit of Christ saying...

**All: Our Creator who art in heaven:**

One: remind us this day that you are not only creation's Architect, but you are the Babe who cried for food, the teenager who knew loneliness, the adult who felt the rejection of loved ones.

**All: Hallowed be Thy name:**

One: yours is the name spun by the stars; yours is the name whispered by the dying; yours is the name written on our hearts.

**All: Thy Kingdom come:**

One: may it be a kingdom of peace, not prejudice; may it be a kingdom of sharing, not grasping; may it be a kingdom of hope, not hurting.

**All: Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven:**

One: may your Word be more than print on a page; may your justice be more than a wish in our hearts; may your will become our deepest desire.

**All: Give us this day our daily bread:**

One: Let us taste it in the kisses of loved ones; let it fill us in the empty moments of our lives; let it slip out of our hands to mend the brokenness of our world.

**All: And forgive us our debts as we forgive others:**

One: may those who have hurt us find a welcome in our hearts, even as we have found our home in yours.

**All: And lead us not into temptation:**

One: turn our hearts from the seductions of our world; and the simple pleasures that turn us from you.

Keep us from thinking we are so important that we ignore those around us.

Help us to always bring others to you in prayer, before we bring ourselves, as we do in these moments of joys and concerns:

**All: But deliver us from evil:**

One: not just great evils of war and hunger, but from ingratitude, self-love, pride, all those little evils that do such great harm.

**All: For thine is the kingdom:**

One: our heart's true longing;

**All: and the power:**

One: which you set aside to serve us in weakness;

**All: and the glory:**

One: which we would mirror in our lives, our bodies, our minds, our souls, this day and every day.

**All: Forever and ever.**

**Amen.**

## Invitation to Generosity

Randy Oftedal, liturgist



*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

“Herr Gott, Dich Loben Alle Wir”  
J. Pachelbel

Catherine English, organ

**\*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**

Kurt Harris-Schwartzmann

**\*Closing Hymn**

“Come, O Fount of Every Blessing”

#459, pew hymnal

**Announcements**

Jeannie Hobson, moderator

**Benediction**

Kurt Harris-Schwartzmann

**\*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**

“Nun Freud Euch, Lieben Christen G’Mein”  
H. F. Queh

Catherine English, organ

*It is our tradition to be seated for the Postlude.*

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*Please join us in the Fellowship Hall for Coffee Hour and to experience a sampling of Kurt Harris-Schwartzmann’s artwork.*

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**Camp Tam is getting close**

There is still time to register for all camps. **Deadlines:**  
**July 9<sup>th</sup> for Jr /Jr High Camp and July 22nd for Sr. High camp.**

In addition, if you want to volunteer as camp staff it is not too late.

Questions? Contact Jeannie Hobson at: [jeanniehob@comcast.net](mailto:jeanniehob@comcast.net) or 559-903-4542





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

Our next Summer Choir Sing-along will be on July 30<sup>th</sup>!

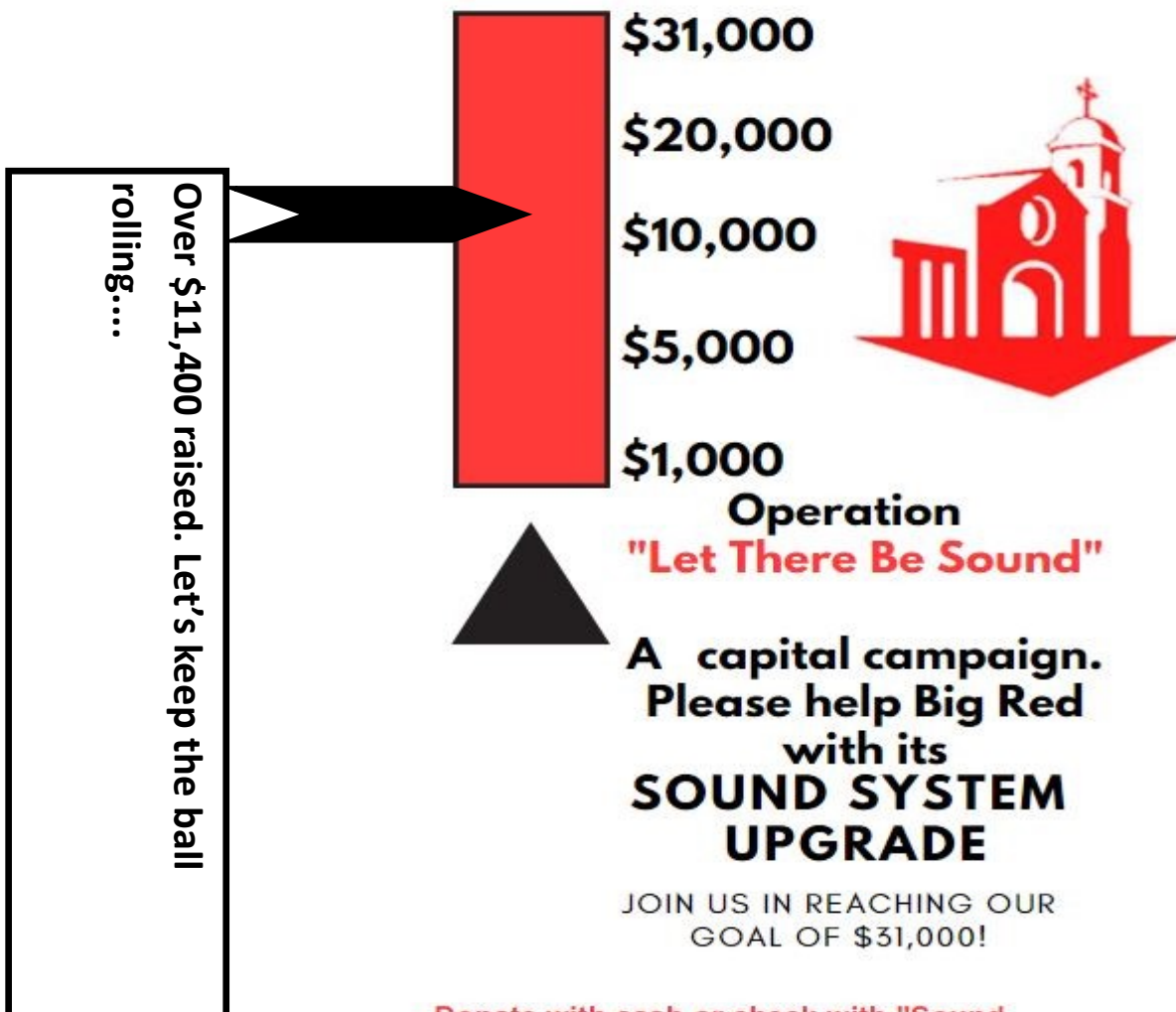
If you like to sing, we would love to have you!

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 13<sup>th</sup>!



Donate with cash or check with "Sound System" memo line or thru the Givelify app.



# This Week at Big Red

Today, July 9 - **Deadline for Junior/Junior high camp registration**

Monday, July 10 - Yoga will resume Weds. August 2nd

Tuesday, July 11 - **Meeting of the Ministries is on hiatus until September**

Wednesday, July 12

- ♦ 8:00am: Bible Study - Zoom

Thursday, July 13

Friday, July 14

Saturday, July 15 - **Junior/Junior High Camp starts**

**Reminder: Senior High camp registration deadline is July 22nd 2023**

Sunday, July 16

- ♦ 9:00am: Root and Branches - Fireside Room
- ♦ 10:00am: Worship Service - Parker Chamberlin, Guest Speaker  
Sanctuary
- ♦ 11:00am: Coffee Hour - Fellowship Hall



**Save the Date:**

**September 24, 2023 - JAZZ ON VAN NESS**

*Jazz on Van Ness concert tickets will go on sale August 6, following worship service. Tickets will be available in the Fellowship Hall during Coffee Hour.*



# **First Congregational Church of Fresno**

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

## **Guest in the Pulpit**

Kurt Schwartzmann

## **Music Director/Organist**

Scott Horton

## **Caretaker/ Event Coordinator**

Pat Morales

## **Accountant**

Penny Leas Peterson

## **Office Administrator**

Kymberly Lindsey

Office@bigredchurch.org

## **Technicians**

Karisa Garza

Brad Jenkins

## **Assisting in Today's Service & Fellowship**

Organist: Catherine English

Liturgist: Randy Oftedal

Ushers: Cliff Dodd

Technician: Brad Jenjins

Coffee Hour: Pete Espinoza

Chancel flowers: Harris Family arranged by Beth Pitcock and

Ann Harris-Meester

Cover art: Kurt Schwartzmann

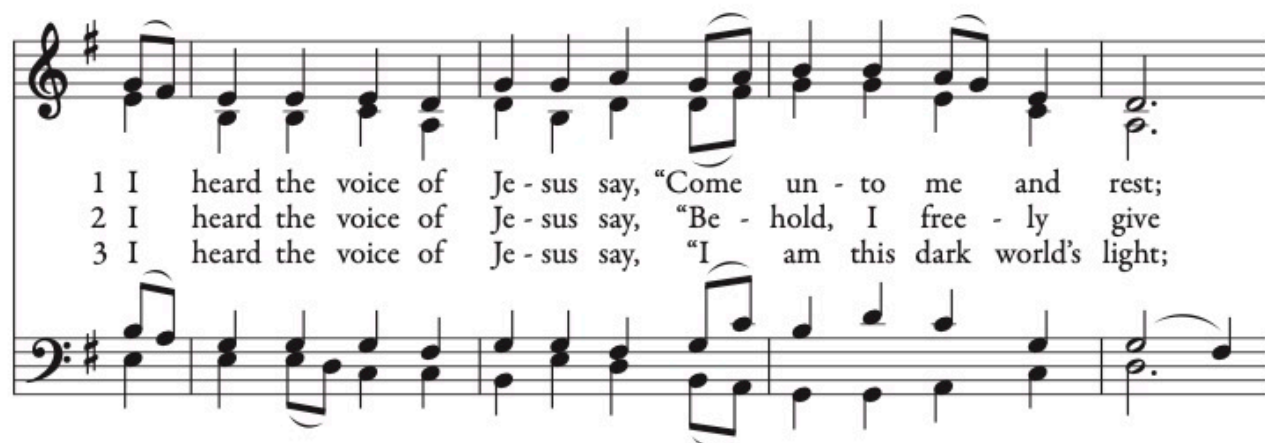
## **FCCF Open and Affirming Statement**

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.

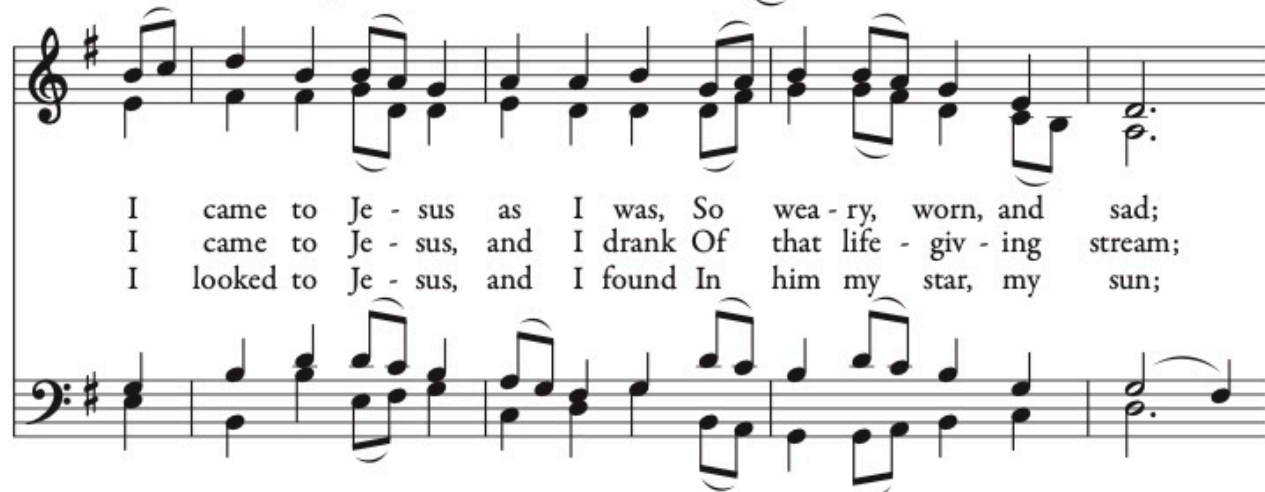
# I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say



1 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Come un - to me and rest;  
2 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Be - hold, I free - ly give  
3 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "I am this dark world's light;



Lay down, thou wea - ry one, lay down Thy head up - on my breast."  
The liv - ing wa - ter; thirst - y one, Stoop down, and drink, and live."  
Look un - to me, thy morn shall rise, And all thy day be bright."



I came to Je - sus as I was, So wea - ry, worn, and sad;  
I came to Je - sus, and I drank Of that life - giv - ing stream;  
I looked to Je - sus, and I found In him my star, my sun;




I found in him a rest - ing place, And he has made me glad.  
My thirst was quenched, my soul re - vived, And now I live in him.  
And in that light of life I'll walk Till trav - 'ling days are done.

# What a Friend We Have in Jesus

506

Joseph Scriven, 1855; alt.

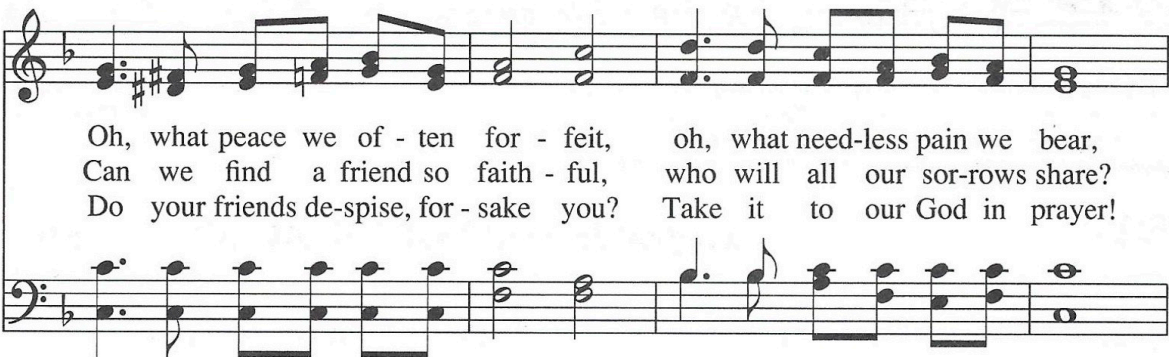
Phil. 4:6-7



1 What a friend we have in Je - sus, all our sins and griefs to bear!  
2 Have we tri - als and temp - ta - tions? Is there trou - ble an - y - where?  
3 Are we weak and heav - y lad - en, bur - dened with a load of care?



What a priv - i - lege to car - ry ev - ery-thing to God in prayer!  
We should nev - er be dis - cour - aged; take it to our God in prayer!  
Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our ref - uge, take it to our God in prayer!



Oh, what peace we of - ten for - feit, oh, what need-less pain we bear,  
Can we find a friend so faith - ful, who will all our sor - rows share?  
Do your friends de - spise, for - sake you? Take it to our God in prayer!



All be - cause we do not car - ry ev - ery-thing to God in prayer.  
Je - sus knows our ev - ery weak - ness; take it to our God in prayer!  
Je - sus' arms will take and shield you; you will find a sol - ace there.

*No stranger to sorrow himself, Joseph Scriven wrote this hymn to comfort his mother in Ireland. Scriven, who moved to Canada as a young man, attempted to follow literally the teachings of the Sermon on the Mount.*

Tune: ERIE 8.7.8.7.D.  
Charles C. Converse, 1868

# Here I Am, Lord

## Verses



1. I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my  
 2. I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my  
 3. I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the



peo - ple cry. All who dwell in dark and sin  
 peo - ple's pain. I have wept for love of them.  
 poor and lame. I will set a feast for them.



My hand will save. I who made the  
 They turn a - way. I will break their  
 My hand will save. Fin - est bread I



stars of night, I will make their dark - ness bright.  
 hearts of stone, Give them hearts for love a - lone.  
 will pro - vide Till their hearts be sat - is - fied.



Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?  
 I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?  
 I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?

## Refrain



Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you



call - ing in the night. I will go, Lord, if you



lead me. I will hold your peo - ple in my heart.

Text: Isaiah 6; Dan Schutte, b.1947

Tune: Dan Schutte, b.1947; arr. by Michael Pope, SJ, John Weissrock

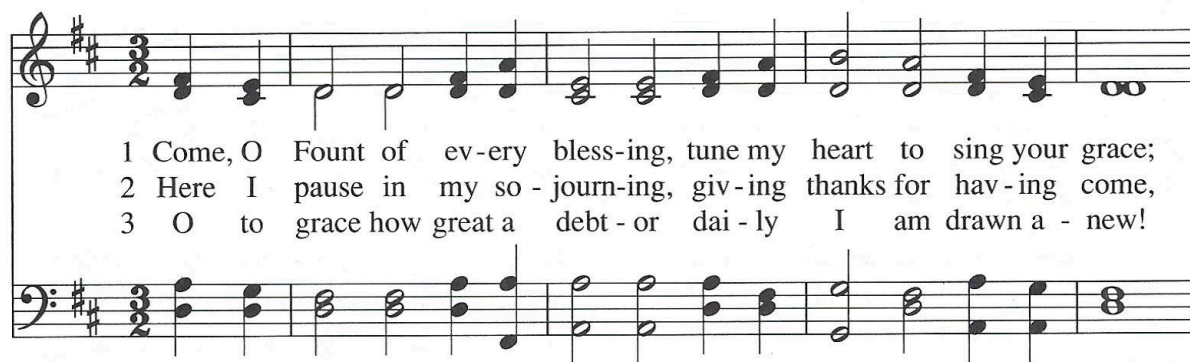
© 1981, Daniel L. Schutte and New Dawn Music. Published by OCP Publications.



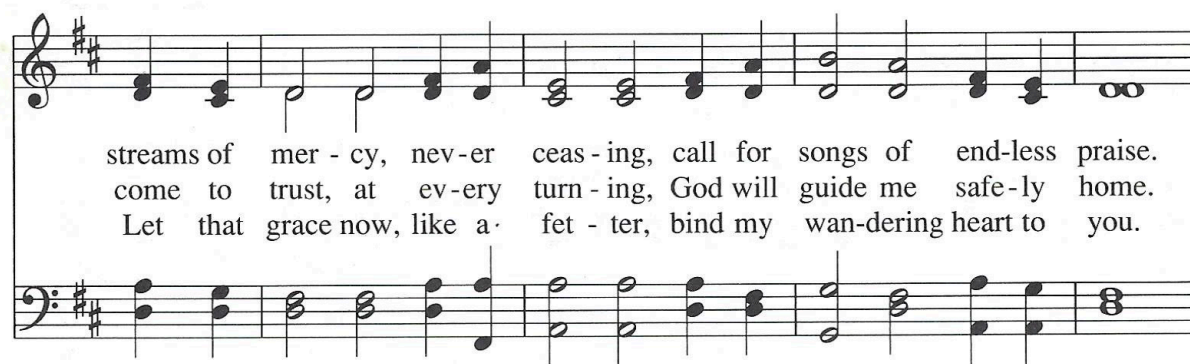
## Come, O Fount of Every Blessing

Ps. 36:7-9

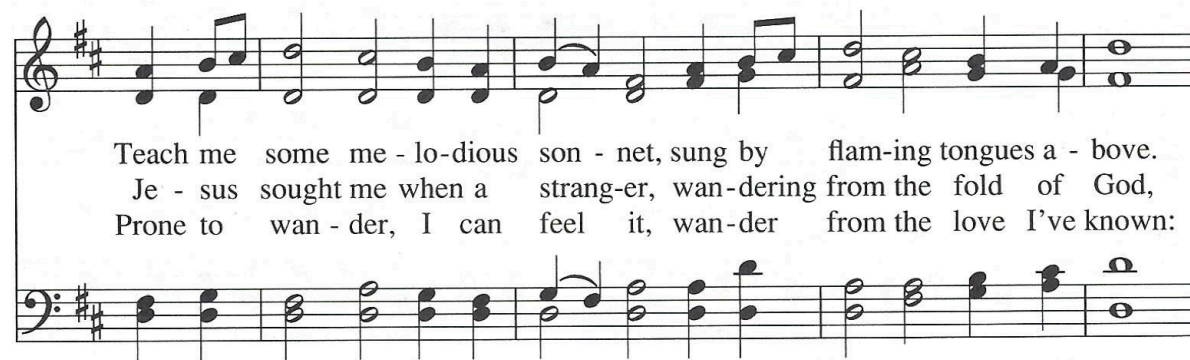
Robert Robinson, 1758; alt.



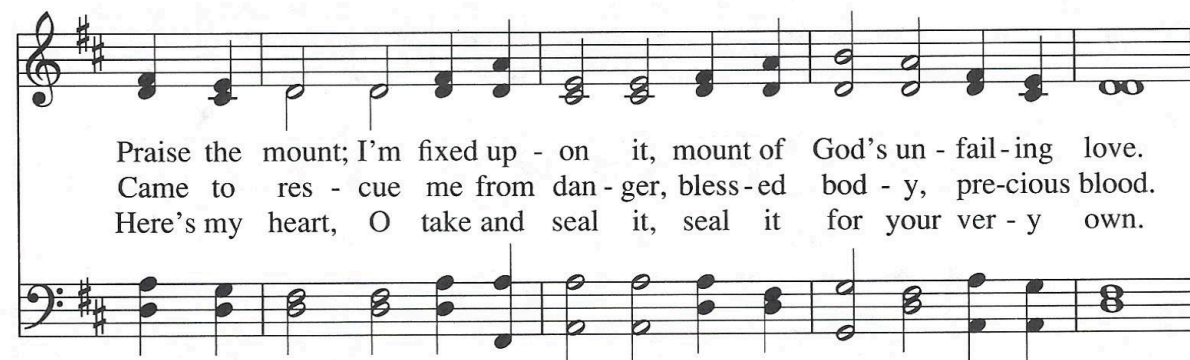
1 Come, O Fount of ev-ery bless-ing, tune my heart to sing your grace;  
2 Here I pause in my so - journ-ing, giv-ing thanks for hav-ing come,  
3 O to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I am drawn a - new!



streams of mer - cy, nev-er ceas-ing, call for songs of end-less praise.  
come to trust, at ev-ery turn-ing, God will guide me safe-ly home.  
Let that grace now, like a - fet - ter, bind my wan-dering heart to you.



Teach me some me - lo-dious son - net, sung by flam-ing tongues a - bove.  
Je - sus sought me when a strang-er, wan-dering from the fold of God,  
Prone to wan - der, I can feel it, wan-der from the love I've known:



Praise the mount; I'm fixed up - on it, mount of God's un - fail-ing love.  
Came to res - cue me from dan - ger, bless-ed bod - y, pre-cious blood.  
Here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for your ver - y own.

Converted to Methodism at age twenty, Robert Robinson soon became a Calvinistic Methodist preacher and later gained great popularity. The melody, associated with this text since 1813, is an American folk tune.

Tune: NETTLETON 8.7.8.7.D.  
John Wyeth's Repository of Sacred Music, 1813