

*Tenth Sunday after Pentecost  
and Communion  
August 6, 2023*



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

*Rev. Sophia DeWitt  
Guest Pastor*

## Our Gathering

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

Prelude

Scott Horton, piano

Welcome

Rev. Sophia DeWitt, Guest Pastor

**\*Call to Worship** (adapted from Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21)

Nancy Mack , liturgist

One: The Holy One is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

**All: *The Holy One is good to all, with compassion for all God's creation.***

One: The Holy One upholds all who are falling and raises up all who are bowed down.

**All: *The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food in due season.***

One: You open your hand, satisfying the desire of every living thing.

**All: *The Holy One is just in all ways and always kind.***

One: The Holy One is near to all who call on God, to all who call in truth.

**All: *The Holy One fulfills the desire of all who are in fear and also hears their cry and saves them.***

One: The Holy One watches over all who love the Divine Presence and will make wickedness no more.

**All: *My mouth will speak the praise of the Holy One, and all flesh will bless God's holy name forever and ever.***

**\*Hymn**

"God Reigns O'er All the Earth"

#21, pew hymnal

Opening Prayer

Nancy Mack

***Loving God, call us together as your people; transform us with your love. Transform our hearts, that we may love generously. Transform our eyes, that we may see your grace. Transform our hands, that we may serve others. Transform our spirits, that we may be the Body of Christ, gathered to worship and sent out to serve.***

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.**

Gordon Light, ©1994 Common Cup  
Company OneLicense.net License  
#A-711732

## 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.*

<b>*Hymn</b>	"Your Ways Are Not Our Own"	#170, pew hymnal
<b>Scripture</b>	Romans 12:9-21	Nancy Mack
<b>Sermon</b>		Rev. Sophia DeWitt
<b>Invitation to Prayer</b>		Rev. Sophia DeWitt

### 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.

1973, Hope, Publishing CO., All rights reserved.  
OneLicense.net License #A-711732

## Prayers of the Church

### THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

<b>Hymn of Preparation</b>	"Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ"	#347, pew hymnal
<b>Invitation</b>		Rev. Sophia DeWitt
<b>Consecration of Bread and Wine</b>		

## The Sharing

*(When invited to come forward, approach the pastor down the center aisle to receive bread; you may eat as you receive it as a sign of the love and forgiveness offered you, personally, in Christ's name. Then proceed to the appropriate side aisle to receive a cup, and take it back to your pew and wait until invited to partake, a sign of our oneness in Christ. Children are invited to fully take part, and with the following hymn may exit through the front side door to their respective classrooms for the day's planned activity.)*

## The Thanksgiving (in unison)

Rev. Sophia DeWitt

***Holy One, we remember the sacrifice of Jesus, and all who follow to bring love and justice to the world. May this bread and drink nourish us as they are the symbol of Christ's essence in all of us. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.***

## Invitation to Generosity

Nancy Mack



*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

"Andantino" - E. Gigout

Scott Horton, 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

Rev. Sophia DeWitt

## \*Closing Hymn

"Bless Be the Tie That Binds"

#393, pew hymnal

**\*Benediction**

Rev. Sophia DeWitt

**\*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.**

1988, Harold Flammer Music. All rights reserved.  
OneLicense.net License # A-711732

**Postlude**

"Nimrod, from Enigma Variations, Op. 36" - E. Elgar

Scott Horton, organ

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



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

Our last Summer Choir Sing-along will be on August 13th!

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

# This Week at Big Red

## Monday August 7

- ♦ **Yoga will resume August 14th**

## Tuesday August 8

## Wednesday August 9

- ♦ **8:00am:** Bible Study - Zoom

## Thursday August 10

- ♦ **11:30am:** Memorial Service for Marcy Toon Ruona - Sanctuary  
Reception to follow in the Fellowship Hall

## Friday August 11

## Saturday August 12

- ♦ **9:30am:** Saturday Morning "Bookies" - Marie Calendar's on Shaw  
Reading "Moving the Church Through Conflict" by Speed B. Leas

## Sunday August 13

- ♦ **9:00am:** Root and Branches - Fireside Room
- ♦ **10:00am:** Worship Service - Rev. Ara Guekguezian, Guest Pastor

### **Important reminder:**

**Tickets for *Jazz on Van Ness* are now on sale during Coffee Hour and will be available in the church office during church office business hours.**

**First Congregational Church of Fresno** 2131 N. Van Ness Blvd.,  
Fresno, CA 93704 | (559) 227-8489

**Guest in the Pulpit**

Rev, Sophia DeWitt

**Music Director/Organist**

Scott Horton

**Caretaker/ Event Coordinator**

Pat Morales

**Accountant**

Penny Leas Peterson

Office@bigredchurch.org

**Office Administrator**

Kymberly Lindsey

**Technicians**

Karisa Garza

Brad Jenkins

**Assisting with Today's Service and Worship**

Organist: Scott Horton

Liturgist: Nancy Mack

Ushers: Harold Householder  
And Richard Van Wyhe

Technician Brad Jenkins

Coffee Hour: Dolores Torres  
and Pete Espinoza

**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.

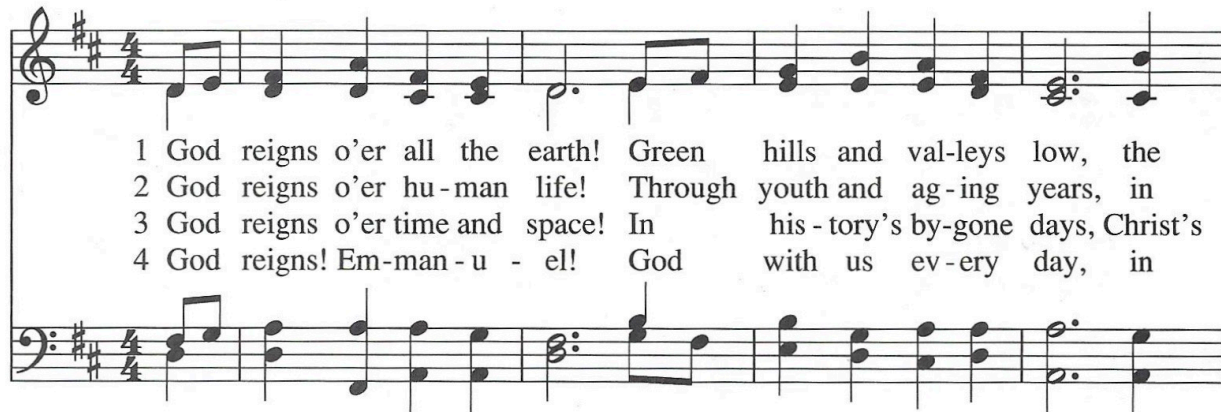


# God Reigns o'er All the Earth

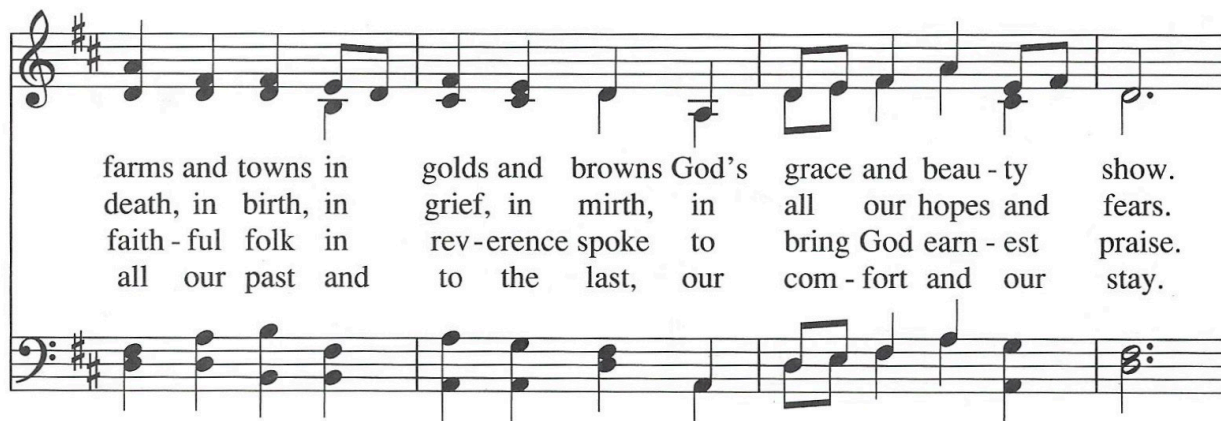
21

Jane Parker Huber, 1981

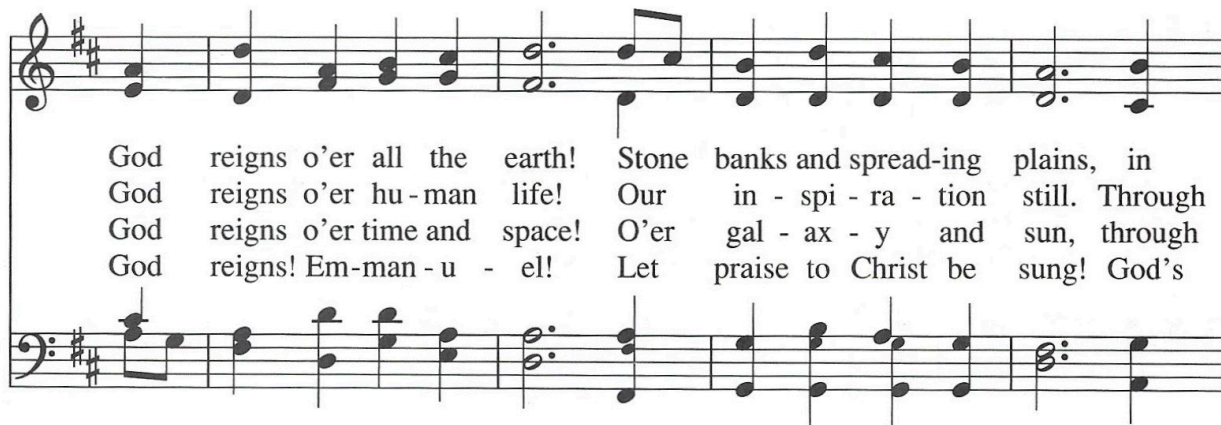
Isa. 52:7-10



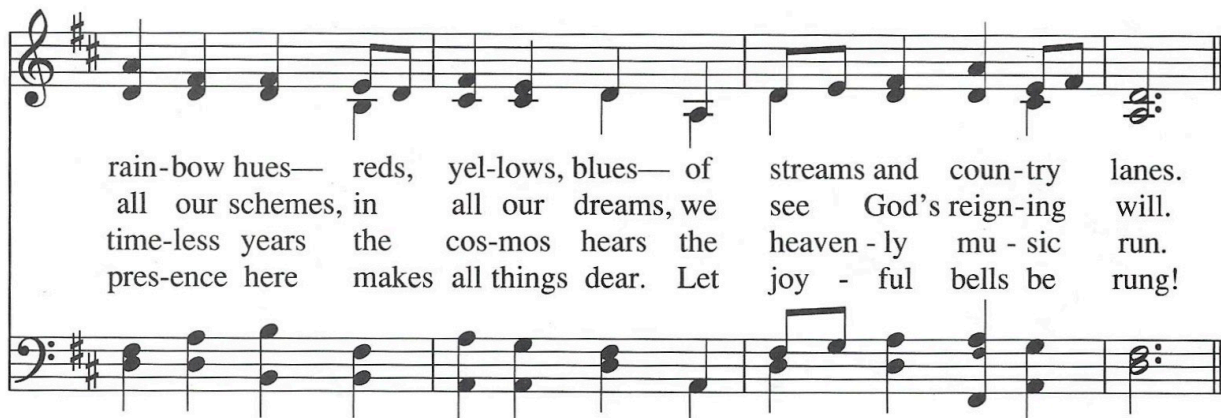
1 God reigns o'er all the earth! Green hills and val-leys low, the  
 2 God reigns o'er hu-man life! Through youth and ag-ing years, in  
 3 God reigns o'er time and space! In his - tory's by-gone days, Christ's  
 4 God reigns! Em-man - u - el! God with us ev-ery day, in



farms and towns in golds and browns God's grace and beau - ty show.  
 death, in birth, in grief, in mirth, in all our hopes and fears.  
 faith - ful folk in rev-erence spoke to bring God earn - est praise.  
 all our past and to the last, our com - fort and our stay.



God reigns o'er all the earth! Stone banks and spread-ing plains, in  
 God reigns o'er hu-man life! Our in - spi - ra - tion still. Through  
 God reigns o'er time and space! O'er gal - ax - y and sun, through  
 God reigns! Em-man - u - el! Let praise to Christ be sung! God's



rain-bow hues— reds, yel-lows, blues— of streams and coun-try lanes.  
 all our schemes, in all our dreams, we see God's reign-ing will.  
 time-less years the cos-mos hears the heaven - ly mu - sic run.  
 pres-ence here makes all things dear. Let joy - ful bells be rung!

*The author's notes on this text describe it as a progression of awareness of God's reign among us—in physical surroundings, in the various stages of life, in time and space, and supremely in Christ, God with us.*

Tune: TERRA BEATA S.M.D.  
 Traditional English melody  
 Adapt. Franklin L. Sheppard, 1915

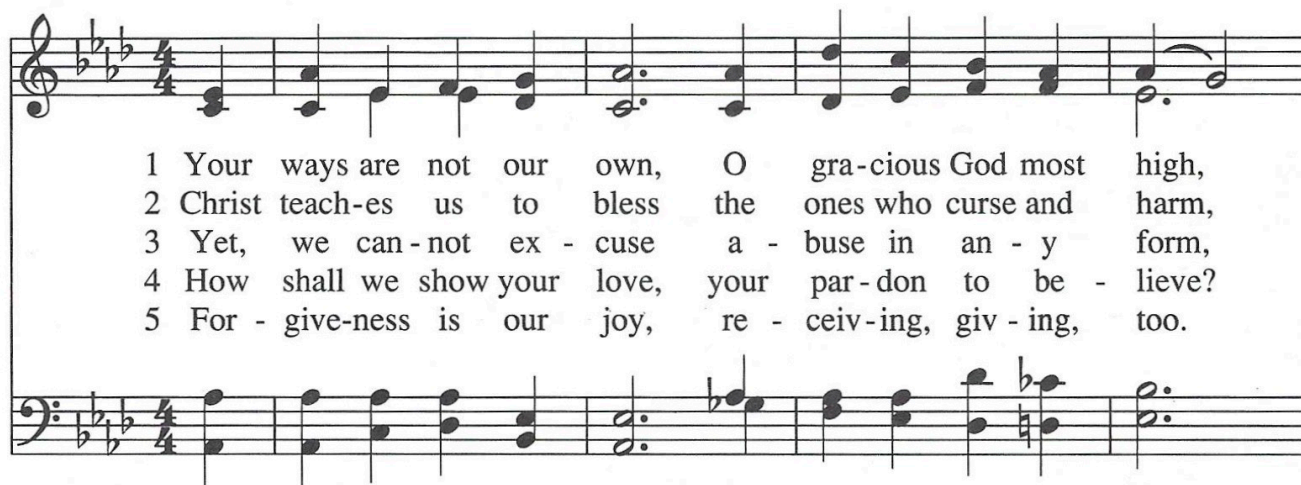


# Your Ways Are Not Our Own

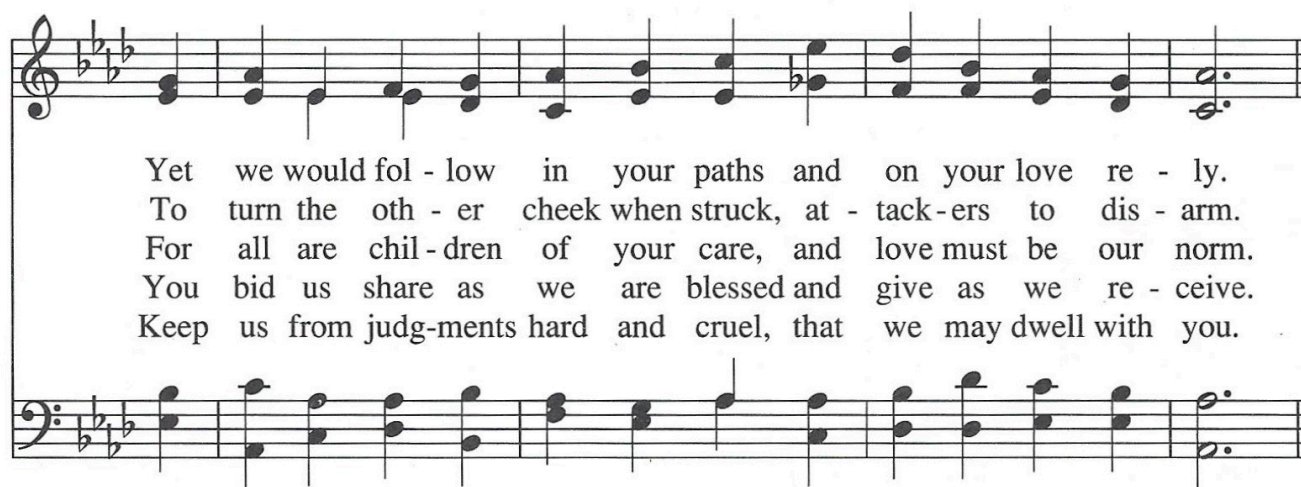
170

Lavon Bayler, 1988, rev. 1993

Luke 6:17-38; Rom. 12:9-21



1 Your ways are not our own, O gra-cious God most high,  
2 Christ teach-es us to bless the ones who curse and harm,  
3 Yet, we can-not ex-cuse a-buse in an-y form,  
4 How shall we show your love, your par-don to be-lieve?  
5 For-give-ness is our joy, re-ceive-ing, give-ing, too.



Yet we would fol-low in your paths and on your love re-ly.  
To turn the oth-er cheek when struck, at-tack-ers to dis-arm.  
For all are chil-dren of your care, and love must be our norm.  
You bid us share as we are blessed and give as we re-ceive.  
Keep us from judg-ments hard and cruel, that we may dwell with you.

*Lavon Bayler has served on the Illinois Conference staff of the United Church of Christ beginning in 1979. She maintains a faithful practice of writing worship materials as part of her daily spiritual discipline and has published several books of resources.*

Tune: SCHUMANN S.M.  
Cantica Laudis,  
Lowell Mason and G. J. Webb, 1850

347

# Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

Luke 10:1-9

Fred Kaan, 1975; alt.

C F G Dm G C G

1 Let us tal - ents and tongues em-ploy, reach-ing out with a shout of joy:  
 2 Christ is a - ble to make us one, at his ta - ble he set the tone,  
 3 Je - sus calls us in, sends us out bear-ing fruit in a world of doubt,

C F G Dm7 C G C

bread is bro - ken, the wine is poured, Christ is spo - ken and seen and heard.  
 teach-ing peo - ple to live to bless, love in word and in deed ex - press.  
 gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Im-man - u - el) ev - ery-where!

Refrain (first time *p*, second time *f*)

C C7 F Dm G C F C

Je-sus lives a - gain, earth can breathe a - gain, pass the Word a - round: loaves a - bound!

This hymn came into being when composer Doreen Potter asked poet Fred Kaan to write a text for her adaptation of a Jamaican folk melody. It was first used at the World Council of Churches Assembly in Nairobi (1975), and in Vancouver (1983).

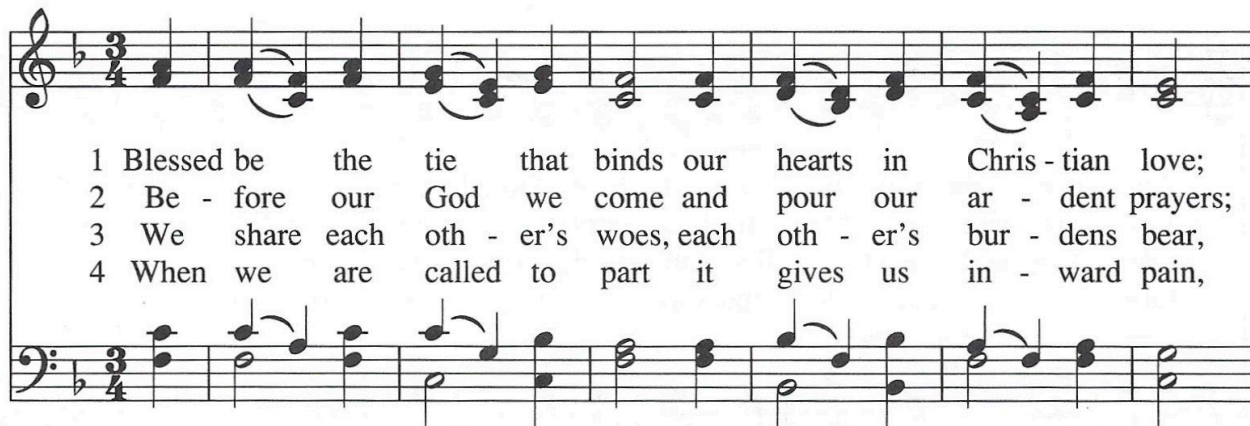
Tune: LINSTED L.M. with refrain  
 Jamaican folk song  
 Adapt. Doreen Potter, 1975

# Blessed Be the Tie That Binds

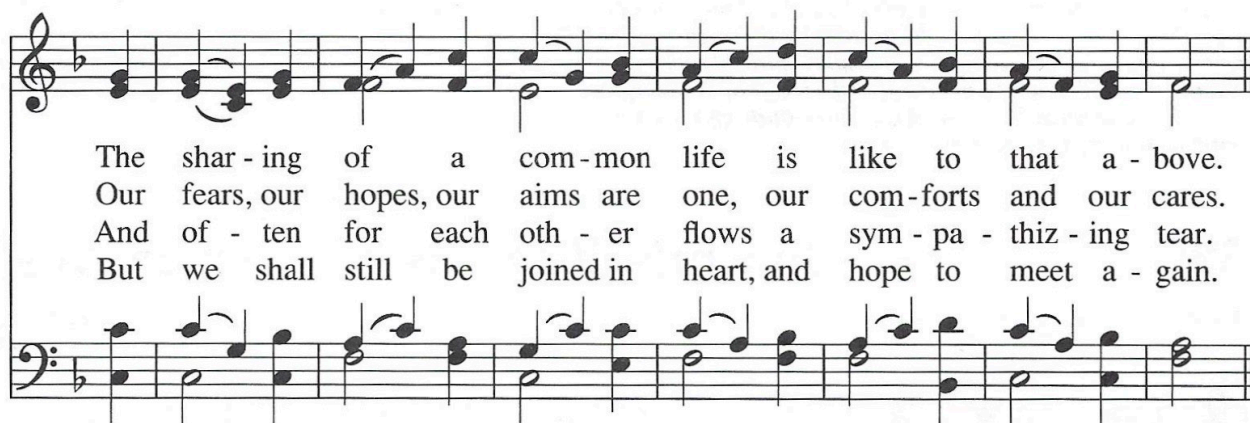
393

*John Fawcett, 1782; alt.*

*Gal. 3:28; 6:2; Col. 3:13-15*



1 Blessed be the tie that binds our hearts in Chris - tian love;  
2 Be - fore our God we come and pour our ar - dent prayers;  
3 We share each oth - er's woes, each oth - er's bur - dens bear,  
4 When we are called to part it gives us in - ward pain,



The shar - ing of a com - mon life is like to that a - bove.  
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our com - forts and our cares.  
And of - ten for each oth - er flows a sym - pa - thiz - ing tear.  
But we shall still be joined in heart, and hope to meet a - gain.

*An English Baptist minister, John Fawcett published a number of poetic works. His entire ministry was spent at a church near Hebden Bridge, Yorkshire, where he wrote most of his hymns to follow his sermons.*

Tune: DENNIS S.M.  
Melody by Johann G. Nägeli (c. 1768-1836)  
Adapt. Lowell Mason, 1845