CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, BROCKTON, MA

August 31, 2025 10:00 am

AN ASTERISK IN THE BULLETIN INDICATES THAT ALL FOR WHOM IT IS COMFORTABLE SHOULD RISE FOR THAT PART OF THE SERVICE

RINGING OF THE CHIMES

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Matt Howard

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN** 'Diverse In Culture, Race' No. 485

CALL TO GATHERING[1] *(Inspired By Psalm 81 and 112)*

Leader: Sing aloud to God our strength; shout for joy to God.
ALL: Happy are those who revere the Holy One. Generation to generation delight in God's blessings.
Leader: Sing aloud to God our righteousness; shout for peace to God.
ALL: We rise from the depths in mercy, grace, and justice.
Leader: Sing aloud to God our hope; shout for love to God.
ALL: Our hearts are steady and secure. Worship the Holy One!

GATHERING PRAYER[1]

A TIME FOR ALL AGES Dani Kardisco

LITURGY OF BAPTISM FOR JACE FARRELL PETIT-MAITRE

Today we celebrate with Jace Farrell Petit-Maitre, as we celebrate the sacrament of baptism. Baptism is an outward sign of something that we know to be true through our faith - that God loves us, always has loved us, and will never stop loving us. Through the sacrament of baptism we, as a congregation, promise to be a community of faith for Jace to always be able to return to; to be forever reminded of God's love.

***HYMN** ‘Sister, Let Me Be Your Servant’ No. 490

***PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE**[1]

ALL: Righteous God, forgive us for the positioning we do. We seek elevated places and too often fail to notice the absences at your table. Our tables are segregated by the ways we diminish the beautiful distinctiveness you celebrate among us. We live in complacency while the world around us weeps in pain, suffering, and despair. Break our hearts, O God, so that we will seek your kin-dom more than our own acquittal. As in the days of Jeremiah, we “have changed [our] glory for something that does not profit” and are appalled. Convict our spirits to propel us to reshape the world into your vision of beloved community—repaired, restored, and reconciled. Amen.

***WORDS OF GRACE**[1]

***SUNG RESPONSE** ‘Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service’ (vs. 4) No. 461

SCRIPTURE

Luke 14:1, 7-14

14 One Sabbath, when Jesus went to share a meal in the home of one of the leaders of the Pharisees, they were watching him closely.
[7] When Jesus noticed how the guests sought out the best seats at the table, he told them a parable. [8] “When someone invites you to a wedding celebration, don’t take your seat in the place of honor. Someone more highly regarded than you could have been invited by your host. [9] The host who invited both of you will come and say to you, ‘Give your seat to this other person.’ Embarrassed, you will take your seat in the least important place. [10] Instead, when you receive an invitation, go and sit in the least important place. When your host approaches you, he will say, ‘Friend, move up here to a better seat.’ Then you will be honored in the presence of all your fellow guests. [11] All who lift themselves up will be brought low, and those who make themselves low will be lifted up.”

[12] Then Jesus said to the person who had invited him, “When you host a lunch or dinner, don’t invite your friends, your brothers and sisters, your relatives, or rich neighbors. If you do, they will invite you in return and that will be your reward. [13] Instead, when you give a banquet, invite the poor, crippled, lame, and blind. [14] And you will be blessed because they can’t repay you. Instead, you will be repaid when the just are resurrected.”

SERMON Pastor Jeffrey Kardisco

MUSIC FOR REFLECTION Alex Green

During this time, we invite you to embrace the transition from hearing the word to gathering ourselves in prayer by taking a moment for quiet reflection either in your pew, or by coming forward to light a candle to give light to the prayer(s) on your heart that have no words to be expressed.

Come and Light a Candle…

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE PRAYER OF JESUS *(in unison)*

Our Creator (Father) who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy Kin-dom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the Kin-dom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY[1]

OFFERTORY	'We Weep For Gaza's Children'	(Hassler/Gillette)
***OFFERTORY RESPONSE**	'The Church Of Christ In Every Age'	No. 475

***PRAYER OF THANKSVIVING AND DEDICATION**[1]

***HYMN**	'Rejoice In God's Saints'	No. 476

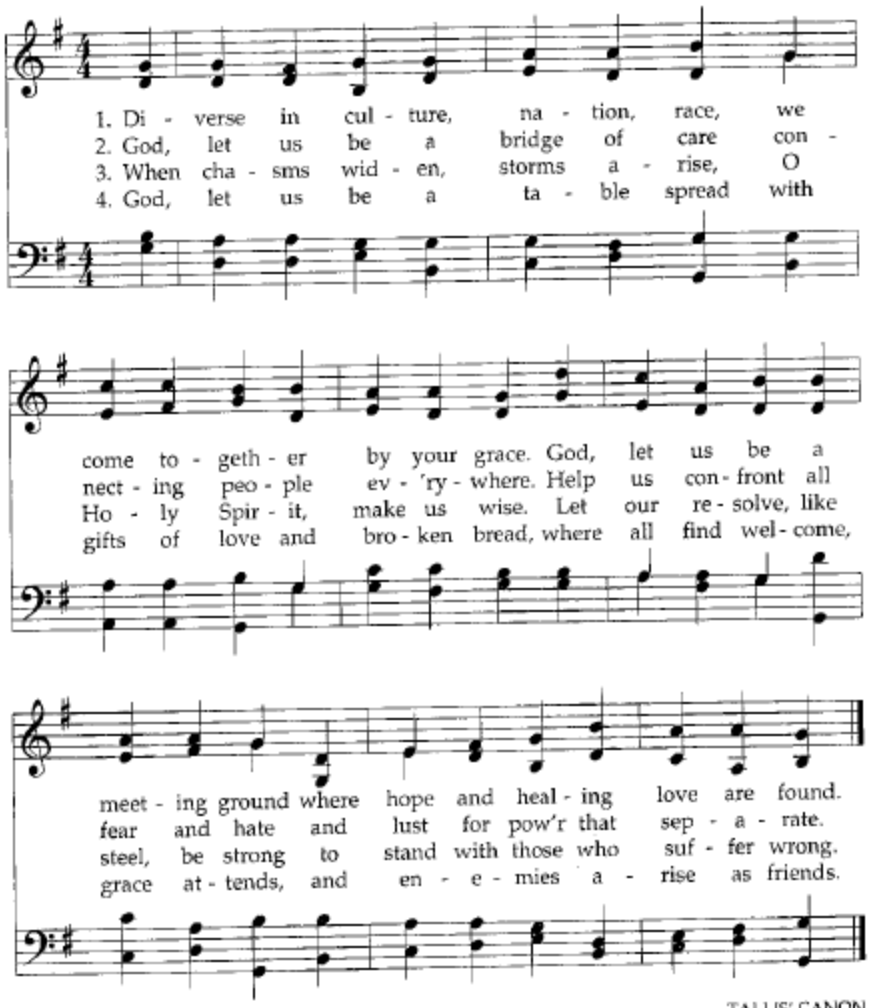
***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE	'With Hunger All Around Us'	(Welsh/Doug Anderson)

Participating In Todays Worship Service:
Rev. Jeffrey Kardisco, Senior Pastor
Alex Green, Music Director
David Wilcox, ASL Interpreter
Dani Kardisco, Christian Education Director

[1]Lindsay, Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. "After Pentecost 12C - August 31." *UCC Worship Ways*, United Church of Christ, 25 Aug. 2025, www.ucc.org/worship-way/after-pentecost-12c-august-31/.

Diverse in Culture, Nation, Race 485



WORDS: Ruth Duck, 1991
MUSIC: Thomas Tallis, 1561

TALLIS' CANON
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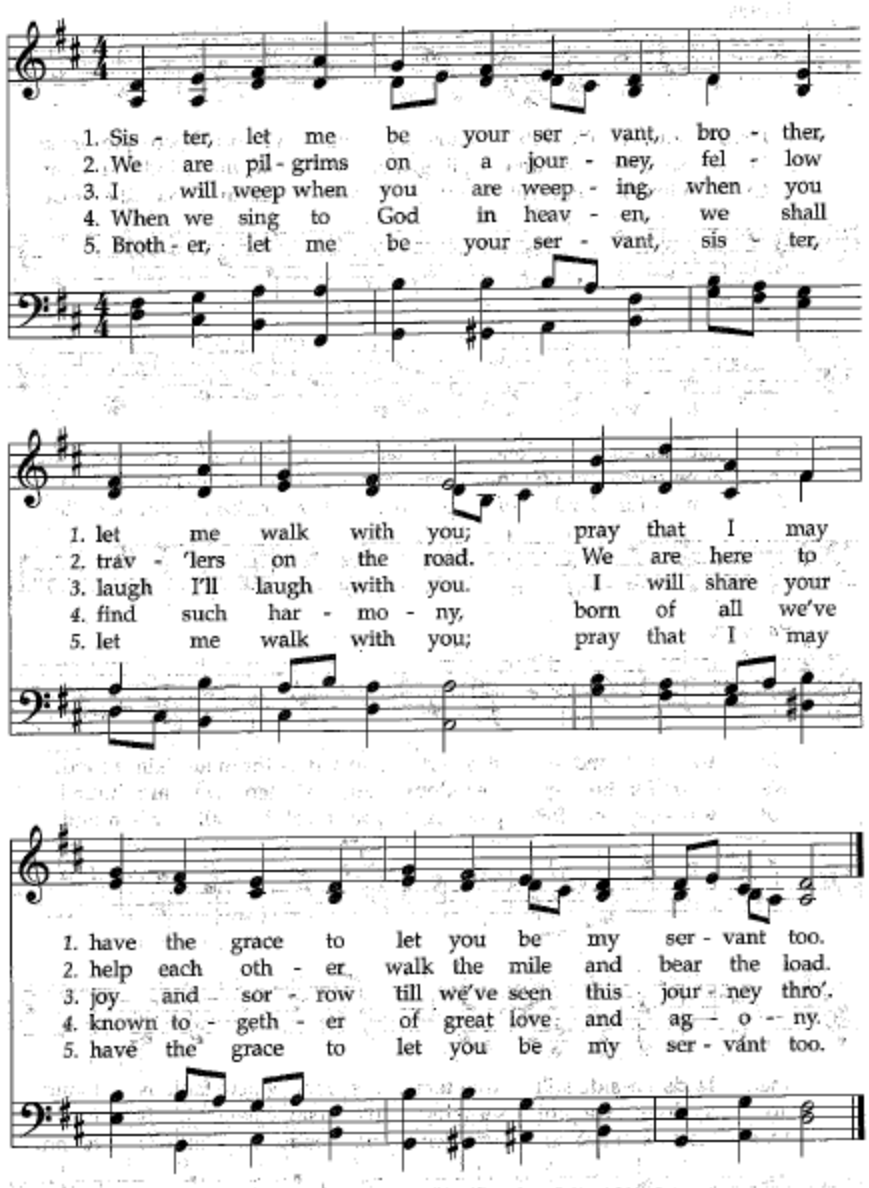
490 Sister, Let Me Be Your Servant



WORDS: Richard Gillard, 1977, alt.
MUSIC: Richard Gillard, 1977; arr. A. Eugene Ellsworth, 1994

THE SERVANT SONG
87.87

♩=100-104

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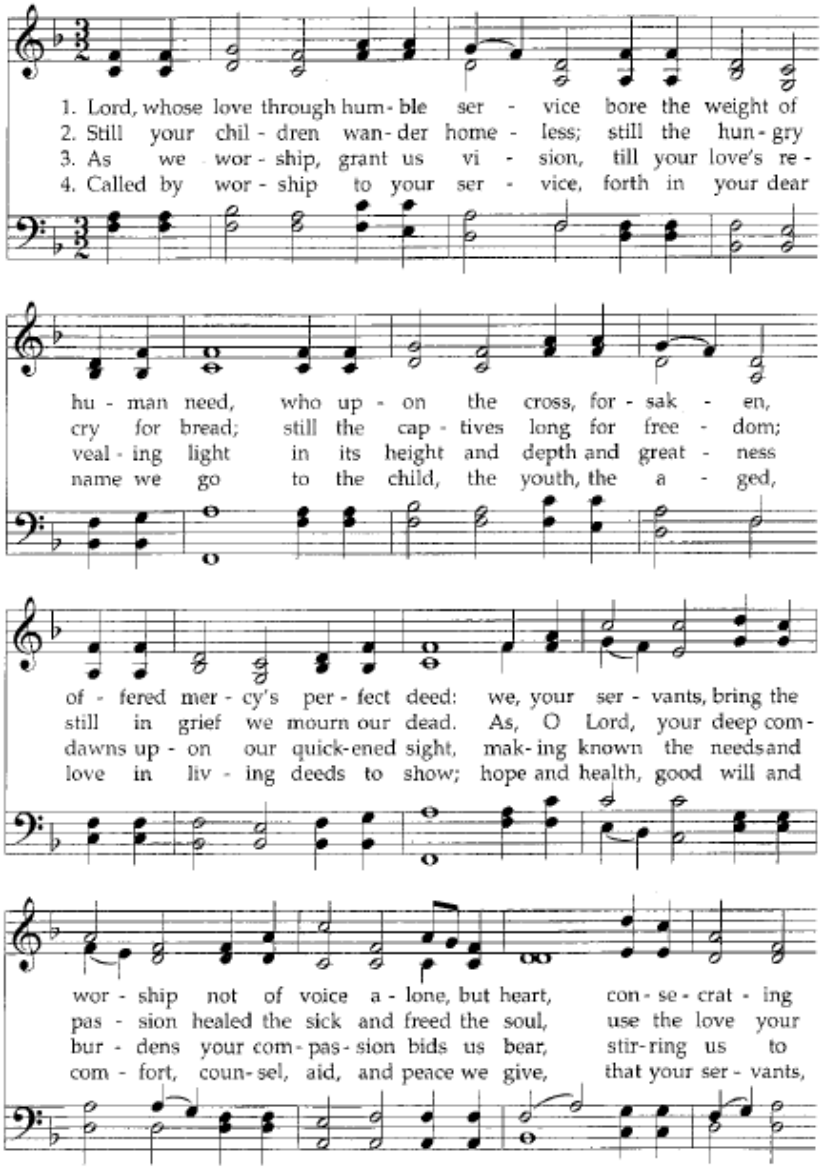
461 Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service



WORDS: Albert F. Bayly, 1961, alt.
MUSIC: Attr. B. F. White, 1844; harm. Ronald A. Nelson, 1978

BEACH SPRING
87.87D

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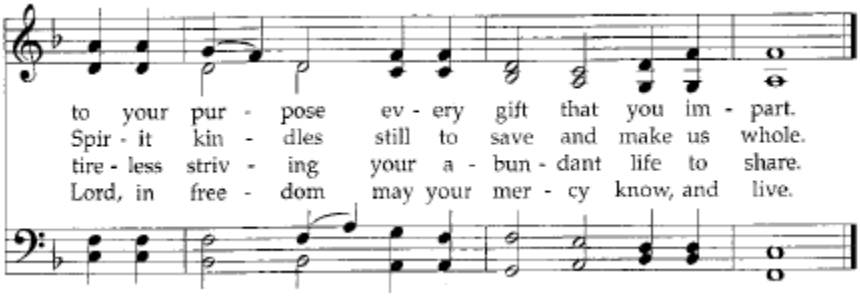
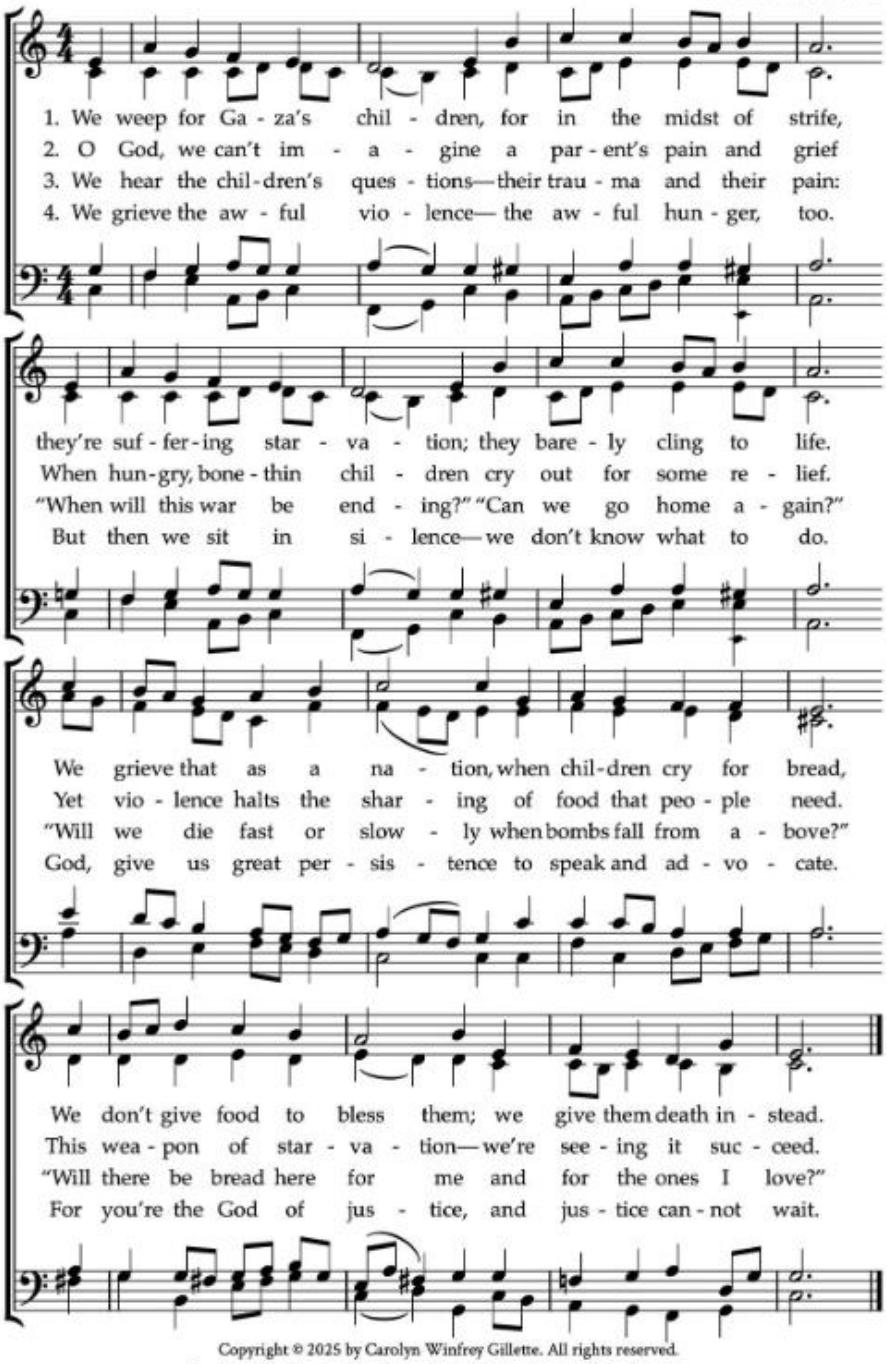


We Weep for Gaza's Children

Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, 2025

Passion Chorale
Hans Leo Hassler, 1601



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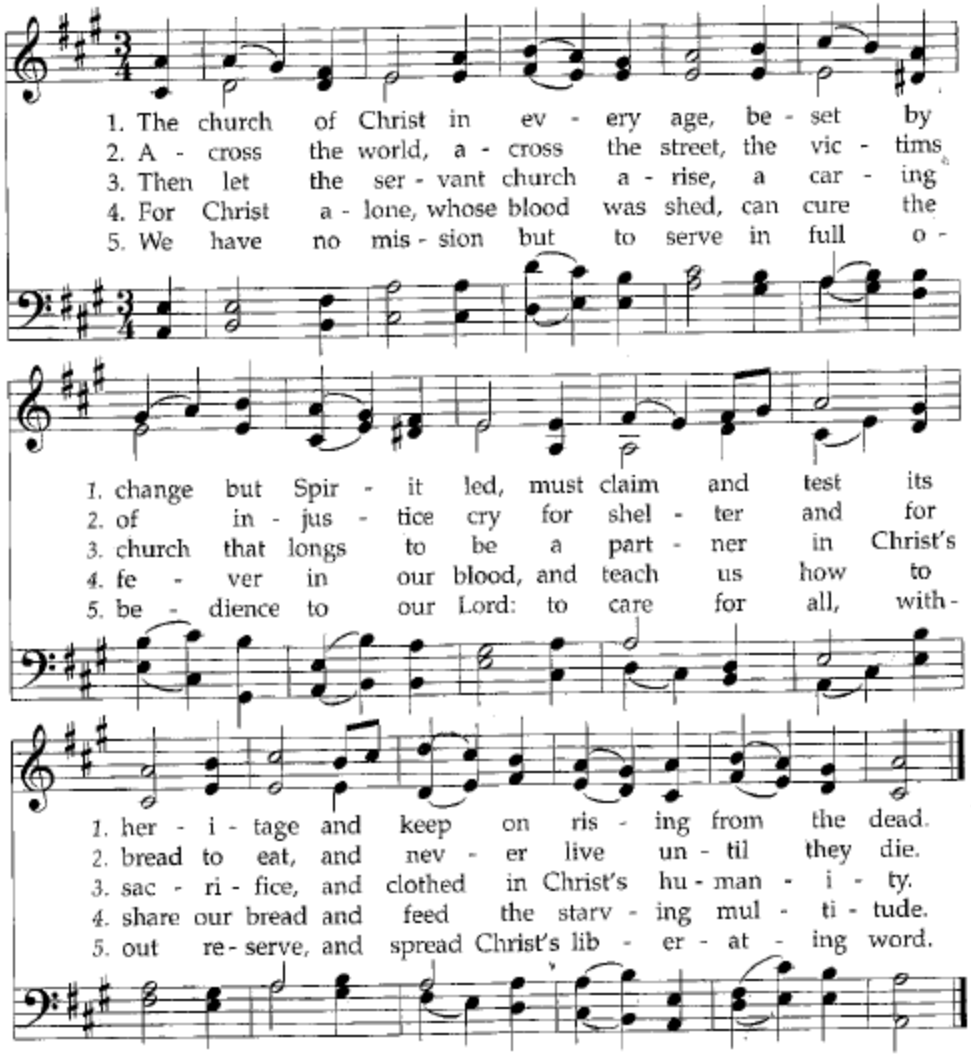
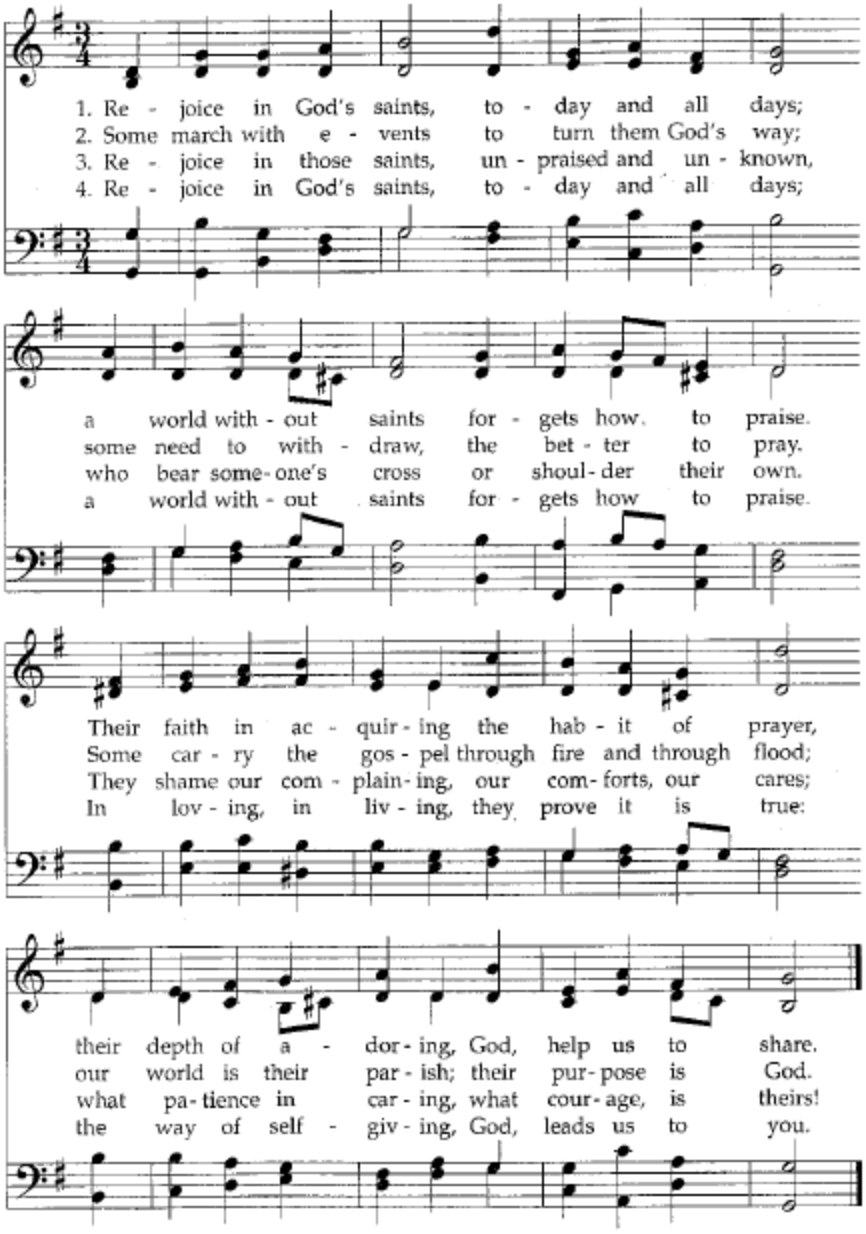
The Church of Christ in Every Age 475



WORDS: Fred Pratt Green, 1969

WAREHAM

476 Rejoice in God's Saints



WORDS: Fred Pratt Green, 1977
MUSIC: Attr. William Croft, 1708

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