

# Sixth Sunday After Pentecost



Rebecca Begins her Journey to Canaan  
1140-1170  
Palatine Chapel, Palermo, Italy

July 5<sup>th</sup> 2026  
Portage Lake United Church

# Welcome and Announcements

*We gather in the name of the Holy Trinity, one God, source of all goodness and mercy.  
No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.*

- There is a Summer sign-up for Sunday morning volunteers in the lounge.
- The Angel Mission needs: Honey!
- ***Are there any other announcements?***



*Liturgical Color Green – Ordinary Time  
Lectionary Year A*

President: Rev. Peter Norland  
Musician: Susie Byykkonen  
Greeters: Nancy and Dianne  
Reader: Nancy Beyers Sprague  
Prayer Writer: Peter Norland  
Coffee: Sangja Lee and Biruta Lowther

# MEDITATION

WE should not expect instantly to be where Mary was in her witness. Neither should we think that there is something wrong with us because we struggle with internal or external opposition.

*from A Wesleyan Spiritual Reader, Rueben P. Job*

PRELUDE

# GATHERING

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God*

## ✚ CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)

In joy and gladness, enter the presence of the Holy One who rules and reigns over all creation.

**The voice of the Holy One is powerful and gracious, loving and challenging, compassionate and convicting.**

**Let us worship the Holy One!**

In joy and gladness, receive the fresh wind of the Spirit who ignites our hearts and connects us to one another.

**The voice of the Holy Spirit gives wisdom, discernment, comfort, and confirmation.**

**Let us worship the Holy Spirit!**

In joy and gladness, follow the way of the Embodied One, whose yoke is easy and gives us rest.

**The presence of God With Us models for us what to say and how to live.**

**Let us worship the Embodied One!**



*Waterlilies*

From The Yorck Project. 1880

Monet, Claude, 1840-1926

Private Collection St. Gallen, Switzerland

# ✚HYMN "I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say" INSERT

## Verse 1

I heard the voice of Jesus say, "Come unto me and rest;  
lay down, O weary one, lay down your head upon my  
breast."

I came to Jesus as I was, so weary, worn, and sad;  
I found in him a resting place, and he has made me glad.

## Verse 2

I heard the voice of Jesus say, "Behold, I freely give  
the living water, thirsty one; stoop down and drink and live."  
I came to Jesus, and I drank of that life-giving stream;  
my thirst was quenched, my soul revived, and now I live in  
him.

## Verse 3

I heard the voice of Jesus say, "I am this dark world's light;  
look unto me, your morn shall rise, and all your day be  
bright."

I looked to Jesus, and I found in him my star, my sun;  
and in that light of life I'll walk till traveling days are done.

TEXT: Horatius Bonar, 1846, alt.

MUSIC: *English County Songs*, 1893; harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906  
— KINGSFOLD, CMD Used with permission. One License # A-725614

The image displays a musical score for the hymn "I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say". It is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The score is arranged in four systems, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The lyrics are printed below the vocal line of each system. The first system contains the first verse, the second system contains the second verse, the third system contains the third verse, and the fourth system contains the concluding lines of the hymn. The piano accompaniment consists of simple chords and moving lines that support the vocal melody.

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, O wea - ry one, lay down your head up - on my breast."  
the liv - ing wa - ter, thirst - y one; stoop down and drink and live."  
look un - to me, your morn shall rise, and all your day be bright."

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

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

A dramatic sunset or sunrise over a lake. The sun is partially obscured by large, dark, billowing clouds, creating a silhouette effect. Sunbeams (crepuscular rays) fan out from behind the clouds. The sky transitions from a deep blue at the top to a bright orange and yellow near the horizon. In the foreground, the dark silhouettes of trees and a few houses are visible along the shoreline. A large, white cross icon is positioned in the upper left corner of the image.

# + PRAYER OF THE DAY

Savior and Friend,  
you call us to lay down our burdens  
and find rest in a relationship with you.  
Help us to learn from you  
how to be gentle and humble of heart,  
that our burdens may be light.  
**Amen.**

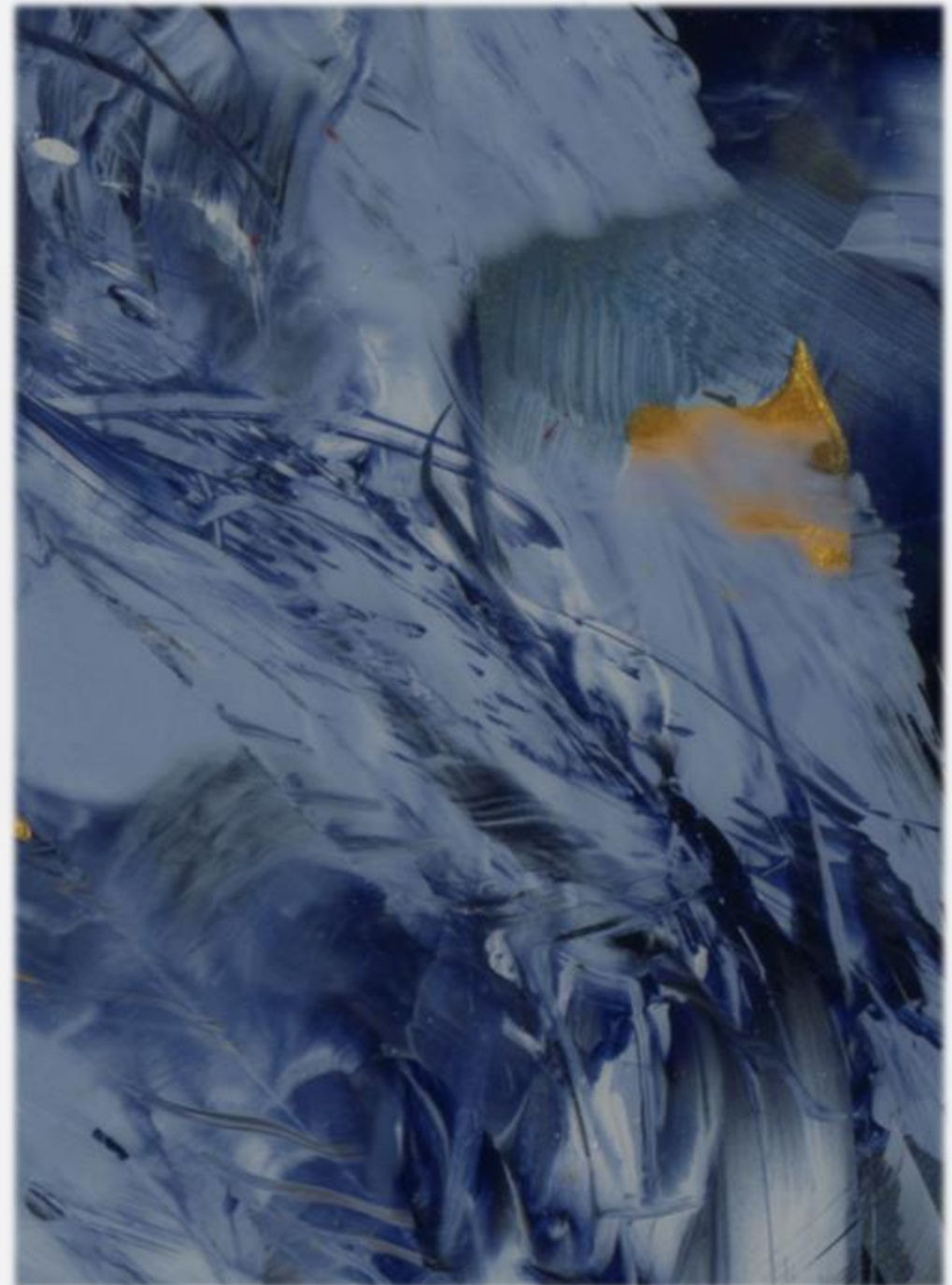
## ✚ PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

Faithful One,  
Despite our best efforts,  
we have not lived up to what we can do  
or who we can be.  
Even when our intentions are good,  
our actions cause harm.  
Even when we want to follow you more closely,  
we end up turning away.  
We are at war with ourselves,  
and only you can bring peace.  
Still our souls, order our steps,  
guide our feet back to your way.



# + DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

God upholds all who are falling,  
and raises up those who are bowed down.  
**Jesus Christ rescues us from sin and death;  
thanks be to God through Jesus Christ  
our Lord!**



## ✦ PASSING THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you all.

**And also with you.**

*Greet each other with a sign of God's peace.*

Children of God, we are the body of Christ.

**By one spirit**

**we were baptized into one body.**

Keep the unity of the Spirit

in the bond of peace.

**Amen! We are bound by the love of Christ.**

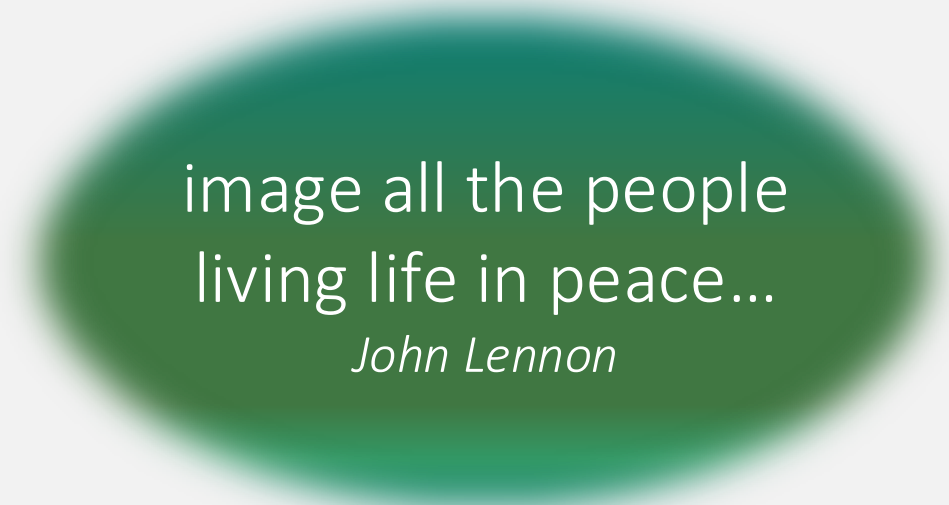


image all the people  
living life in peace...

*John Lennon*



# FIRST READING Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67

## *Marriage of Isaac and Rebekah*

34 So he said, "I am Abraham's servant. 35 The LORD has greatly blessed my master, and he has become wealthy; he has given him flocks and herds, silver and gold, male and female slaves, camels and donkeys. 36 And Sarah my master's wife bore a son to my master when she was old, and he has given him all that he has. 37 My master made me swear, saying, 'You shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites in whose land I live, 38 but you shall go to my father's house, to my kindred, and get a wife for my son.' 42 "I came today to the spring and said, 'O LORD, God of my master Abraham, if now you will only make successful the way I am going! 43 I am standing here by the spring of water; let the young woman who comes out to draw, to whom I shall say, "Please give me a little water from your jar to drink," 44 and who will say to me, "Drink, and I will draw for your camels also" --let her be the woman whom the LORD has appointed for my master's son.' 45 "Before I had finished speaking in my heart, there was Rebekah coming out with her water jar on her shoulder, and she went down to the spring and drew. I said to her, 'Please let me drink.' 46 She quickly let down her jar from her shoulder and said, 'Drink, and I will also water your camels.' So I drank, and she also watered the camels. 47 Then I asked her, 'Whose daughter are you?' She said, 'The daughter of Bethuel, Nahor's son, whom Milcah bore to him.' So I put the ring on her nose and the bracelets on her arms. 48 Then I bowed my head and worshiped the LORD and blessed the LORD, the God of my master Abraham, who had led me by the right way to obtain the daughter of my master's kinsman for his son. 49 Now then, if you will deal loyally and truly with my master, tell me; and if not, tell me, so that I may turn either to the right hand or to the left." 58 And they called Rebekah and said to her, "Will you go with this man?" She said, "I will." 59 So they sent away their sister Rebekah and her nurse along with Abraham's servant and his men. 60 And they blessed Rebekah and said to her, "May you, our sister, become thousands of myriads; may your offspring gain possession of the gates of their foes." 61 Then Rebekah and her maids rose up, mounted the camels, and followed the man, and the servant took Rebekah, and went his way. 62 Now Isaac had come from Beer-lahai-roi and was settled in the Negeb. 63 Isaac went out in the evening to walk in the field, and, looking up, he saw camels coming. 64 And Rebekah looked up, and when she saw Isaac, she slipped quickly from the camel 65 and said to the servant, "Who is the man over there, walking in the field to meet us?" The servant said, "It is my master." So she took her veil and covered herself. 66 And the servant told Isaac all the things that he had done. 67 Then Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah's tent. He took Rebekah, and she became his wife, and he loved her. So Isaac was comforted after his mother's death.

**Word of God. Word of Life. Thanks be to God**

Footnotes: The Holy Bible: New Revised Standard Version. (1989). Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers.

## Second Reading Romans 7:15-25a

<sup>15</sup> I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. <sup>16</sup> Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. <sup>17</sup> But in fact it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me. <sup>18</sup> For I know that the good does not dwell within me, that is, in my flesh. For the desire to do the good lies close at hand, but not the ability. <sup>19</sup> For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. <sup>20</sup> Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me.

<sup>21</sup> So I find it to be a law that, when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. <sup>22</sup> For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, <sup>23</sup> but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. <sup>24</sup> Wretched person that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? <sup>25</sup> Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

So then, with my mind I am enslaved to the law of God, but with my flesh I am enslaved to the law of sin.

Word of God. Word of Life. **Thanks be to God**

# **+**HYMN "Come to Me, O Weary Traveler" INSERT

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## **Verse 1**

"Come to me, O weary traveler; come to me with your distress;  
come to me, you heavy burdened; come to me and find your rest."

## **Verse 2**

"Do not fear, my yoke is easy; do not fear, my burden's light;  
do not fear the path before you; do not run from me in fright."

## **Verse 3**

"Take my yoke and leave your troubles; take my yoke and come with me.

Take my yoke, I am beside you; take and learn humility."

## **Verse 4**

"Rest in me, O weary traveler; rest in me and do not fear.  
Rest in me, my heart is gentle; rest and cast away your care."

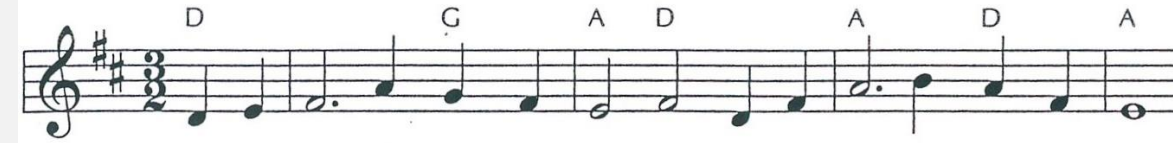
(Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1991; Tune: AUSTIN, William P. Rowan, 1992)

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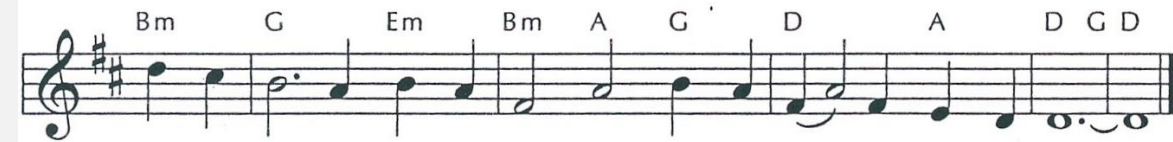
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JESUS CHRIST: LIFE

## Come to Me, O Weary Traveler 183



- 1 "Come to me, O wea - ry trav - eler; come to me with your dis - tress;
- 2 "Do not fear, my yoke is eas - y; do not fear, my bur - den's light;
- 3 "Take my yoke and leave your trou - bles; take my yoke and come with me.
- 4 "Rest in me, O wea - ry trav - eler; rest in me and do not fear.



come to me, you heav - y bur - dened; come to me and find your rest."  
do not fear the path be - fore you; do not run from me in fright."  
Take my yoke, I am be - side you; take and learn hu - mil - i - ty."  
Rest in me, my heart is gen - tle; rest and cast a - way your care."

This paraphrase and expansion of Matthew 11:28-30 by a Canadian minister is structured so that the first three syllables of each stanza provide the hymn's skeleton and summary. The immediacy of the text is enhanced by the folk-song-like setting later composed for it.

TEXT: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1991  
MUSIC: William P. Rowan, 1992

AUSTIN  
8.7.8.7

## ✚ GOSPEL READING Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

<sup>16</sup> “But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,

<sup>17</sup> ‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.’

<sup>18</sup> “For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; <sup>19</sup> the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.”

<sup>25</sup> At that time Jesus said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; <sup>26</sup> yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. <sup>27</sup> All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

<sup>28</sup> “Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup> Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. <sup>30</sup> For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

The Gospel of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

# Sermon



*Welcoming Heart*  
Jan Richardson ©  
[www.janrichardsonimages.com](http://www.janrichardsonimages.com)

## + OFFERING AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)

God of unending gifts,  
we praise you for your abundant  
goodness.  
Help us to become more generous.  
May the gifts we bring extend your  
generosity into the World,  
so that all people may be made whole  
by your goodness and grace. Amen.



*Sherry Middlemiss-Brown*

# HYMN “Freedom is Coming” INSERT

## Verse 1 (Freedom)

O freedom, O freedom, O freedom, know.  
 Freedom is coming. Freedom is coming.  
 Freedom is coming. Freedom is coming.  
 O yes, I know. O yes, I know. O yes, I know.  
 O yes, I know. O yes, I know. O yes, I know.  
 O freedom, O freedom, O yes, I know. O yes, I know.

## Verse 2 (Jesus)

O Jesus, O Jesus, O Jesus.  
 Jesus is coming. Jesus is coming.  
 Jesus is coming. Jesus is coming.  
 O yes, I know. O yes, I know. O yes, I know.  
 O yes, I know. O yes, I know. O yes, I know.  
 O Jesus, O Jesus, O yes, I know. O yes, I know.

(Text and Music: South African, © 1984 Utryck, admin. Walton Music Corp.) Used with permission. One License # A-725614

O free - dom, O free - dom, O Je - sus, O Je - sus,  
 Free-dom is com-ing, Free-dom is know.  
 Je - sus is com-ing, Je - sus is

free - dom. Je - sus.  
 com - ing. Free-dom is com-ing. O yes, I com - ing.  
 Je - sus is com-ing. O yes, I

yes, I know. O yes, I know. O yes, I know.  
 know. (O) O yes, I know. (O) O yes, I know. (O)

O yes, I know. O yes, I yes, I know.

# PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION



# MEAL

*GOD FEEDS US WITH THE PRESENCE OF JESUS CHRIST*

## Invitation to Communion

### Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.  
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.  
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
It is right to give our thanks and praise.



# MEAL

*GOD FEEDS US WITH THE PRESENCE OF JESUS CHRIST*

....

Therefore with grateful hearts we join the faithful who,  
in all times and places, praise your name, saying:

**Holy, holy, holy**

**God of power and majesty,**

**Heaven and earth are full of your glory,**

**O God most high!**



# PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR

## *ECUMENICAL*

Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those  
who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and forever.  
Amen.



# Communion Distribution



**Refrain**

This is the feast of victory for our God.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

**Verse 1**

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,  
whose blood set us free to be people of God.

**Verse 2**

Power, riches, wisdom and strength  
and honor, blessing and glory are His.

**Verse 3**

Sing with all the people of God,  
and join in the hymn of all creation.

**Verse 4**

Blessing, honor glory, and might  
be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.

**Verse 5**

For the Lamb who was slain  
has begun His reign. Alleluia!

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This Is the Feast of Victory

FESTIVAL CANTICLE Irregular

Adapt. John W. Arthur, 1978

Richard Hillert, 1978



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia! lu-ia!



- 1. — Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose
- 2. Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and
- 3. Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and
- 4. Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might be to
- 5. For the Lamb who was slain has be -



blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.  
hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are His.  
join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion.  
God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.  
gun His reign. Al - le - lu - ia!

# Prayer after Communion



# SENDING

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*



*Sherry Middlemis-Brown*

# SENDING

Sherry Middlemis-Brown



*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

# "This is My Song" INSERT

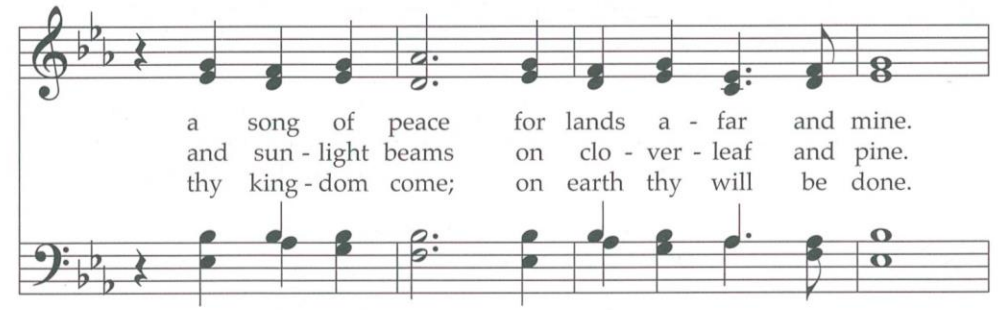
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## 340


### This Is My Song



1 This is my song, O God of all the na - tions,  
2 My coun - try's skies are blu - er than the o - cean,  
3 This is my prayer, O Lord of all earth's king - doms:

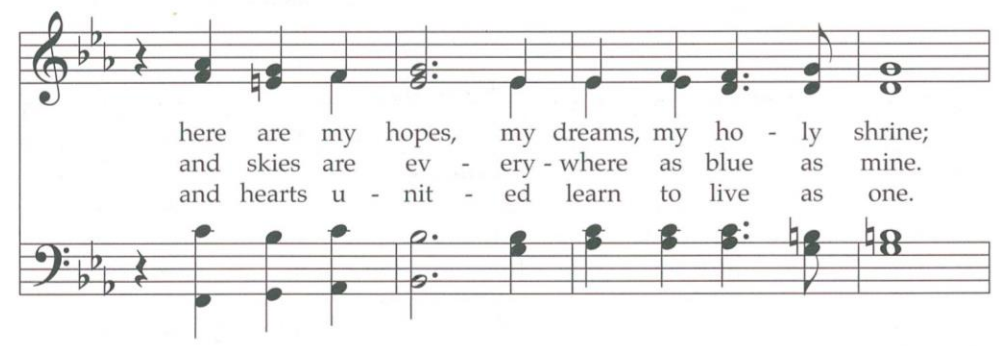


a song of peace for lands a - far and mine.  
and sun - light beams on clo - ver - leaf and pine.  
thy king - dom come; on earth thy will be done.

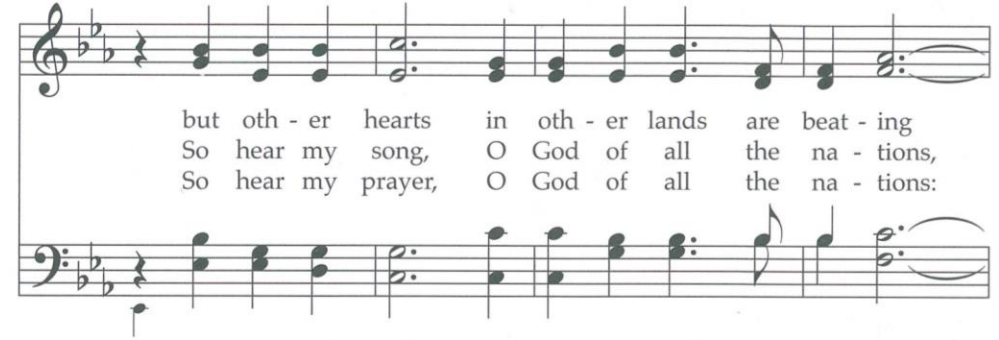


This is my home, the coun - try where my heart is;  
But oth - er lands have sun - light too, and clo - ver,  
Let Christ be lift - ed up till all shall serve him,


The first two stanzas of this hymn were written between the 20th century's two world wars and focus on the theme of international peace. The third stanza, by another author and added later, uses the language of the Lord's Prayer to voice a distinctly Christian perspective.



here are my hopes, my dreams, my ho - ly shrine;  
and skies are ev - ery - where as blue as mine.  
and hearts u - nit - ed learn to live as one.



but oth - er hearts in oth - er lands are beat - ing  
So hear my song, O God of all the na - tions,  
So hear my prayer, O God of all the na - tions:



with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.  
a song of peace for their land and for mine.  
my - self I give thee; let thy will be done.

TEXT: Stanzas 1-2, Lloyd Stone; stanza 3, Georgia Harkness, alt.  
MUSIC: Jean Sibelius, 1899; arr. *The Hymnal*, 1933, alt.  
Text Sts. 1-2 © 1934, ren. 1962 The Lorenz Corp.; St. 3 © 1964 The Lorenz Corp.  
Music Arr. © 1933, ren. 1961 The Presbyterian Board of Christian Education (admin. Westminster John Knox Press)

FINLANDIA  
11.10.11.10.11.10

# ✦ CHARGE AND BLESSING

Dear ones, sin distorts even the good gifts of God,  
the law, the church, our own desires—  
but this need not lead us to despair,  
for God's love has overcome,  
is overcoming,  
will overcome  
sin's power at work in the world.

May the God who brings good from broken desires,  
the Christ who shares his yoke with us,  
the Spirit which breathes her wisdom into our hearts  
sustain and guide us this day and forevermore.



# POSTLUDE

Gospel Medley, with Leaning on the Everlasting Arms; I Shall Not Be Moved & Victory in Jesus,  
Hoffman & Showalter;. Benson & Pate; Bartlett/arr. Bill Wolaver

## Questions for Reflection

What misplaced burdens are you carrying?

Where might God be offering you a more well-fitted yoke?

Where are your expectations of God and the church unmet?

Where do you sense God moving in hidden ways?



## *Thanks to:*

Presider: Rev. Peter Norland

Musician: Susie Byykkonen

Greeters: Nancy and Dianne

Reader: Nancy Beyers Sprague

Prayer Writer: Peter Norland

Coffee: Sangja Lee and Biruta Lowther

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## **Portage Lake United Church**

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA) & UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Rooted in the Trinity. Growing in God's Word.  
Branching out to those in need. Nourished by many waters.