

Transforming Love

There's a church school song sung throughout the generations teaching children about Zacchaeus, "a wee little man" who wanted to see Jesus amid the crowds towering over him that he climbed a tree to catch a glimpse.

As the song goes, while in the tree, Jesus spots the tax collector and shouts, "Zacchaeus, you come down. For I'm going to your house today."

And Jesus did just that. He dined with Zacchaeus. It was a transformative meal because Zacchaeus, honored to host such a great guest, opened his heart — and coin bag — and vowed to share his wealth with others.

While Jesus was pleased, others were not.

We have all been where Zacchaeus was. No, not precariously straddling tree limbs to see Jesus. We have been in the place where others might not think we deserve redemption, forgiveness, or even that holy second chance.

Why is it that we often begrudge others of God's grace?

While I can't think of who might not have been happy with my second chances in life, I can vividly remember the times I have been in the crowd wondering why the Lord noticed someone like Zacchaeus.

Did my eyes roll with the others? Did I join in the disparaging whispers? I should have been rejoicing that if Zacchaeus could change, so could I. For the Lord sees me — and you.

That day, Jesus saw into the heart of Zacchaeus when others couldn't. He knew this "wee little man" wanted to grow spiritually, as witnessed in the tree he scurried into — a sycamore.

In Israel, the sycamore tree symbolizes spiritual elevation. It represents the willingness to change. Zacchaeus was willing to change that day.

What about us? How badly do we want to see the Lord? Would we be willing to climb the branches of change, hoist ourselves up on the limbs of spiritual elevation, and feel the bark of renewal?

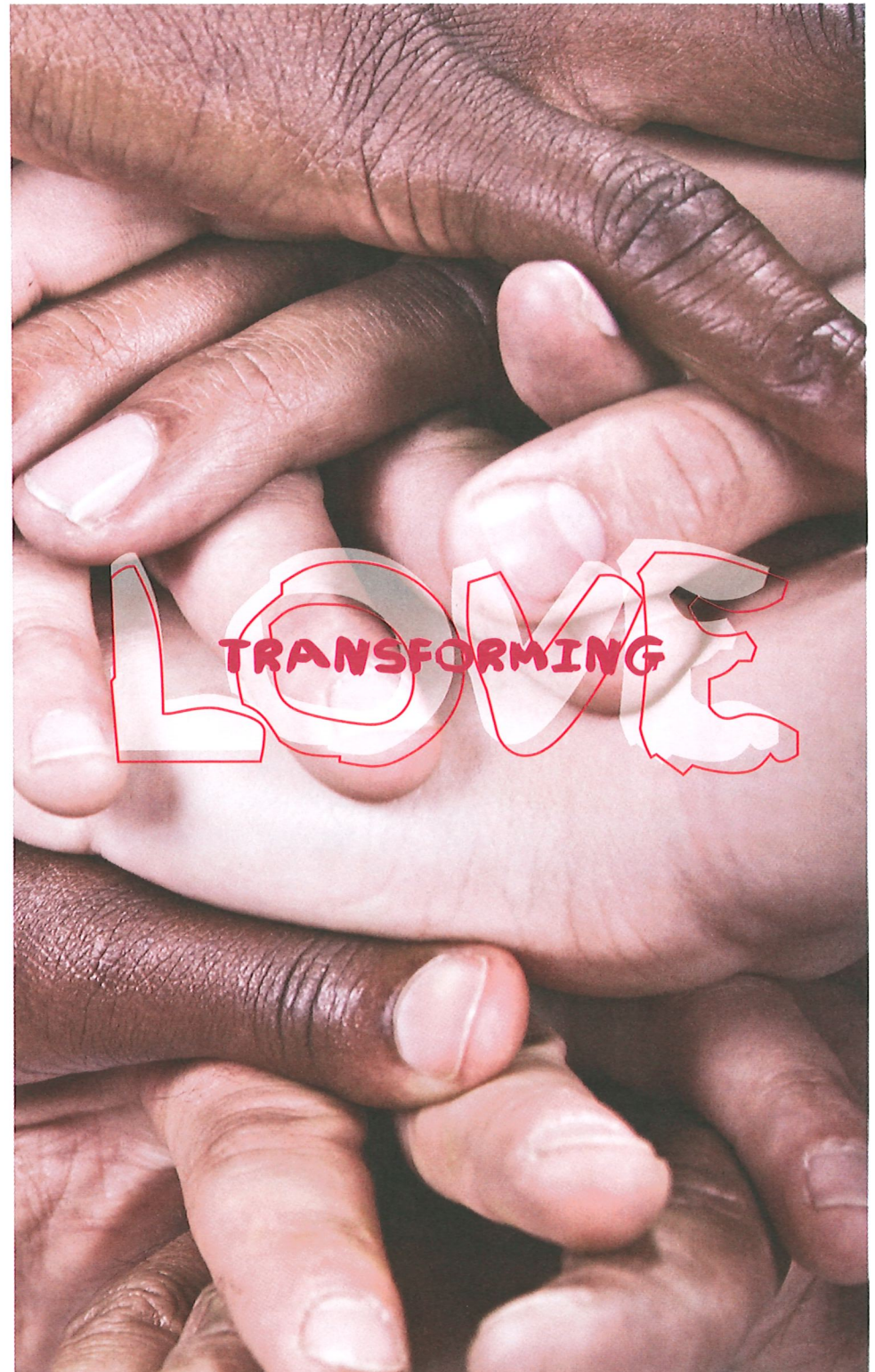
The good news is we don't have to find a tree to climb. Jesus has already spotted us, and he knows the goodness that is in our hearts.

God of grace and mercy, how reassuring it is to know that we are never lost in the crowd. You see our hearts and know our struggles. You never withhold your healing love. And for that, we thank you. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

(Rev. Donna Frischknecht Jackson is a communications specialist for the United Church of Christ and author of today's Sunday Bulletin.)



8 1/2" x 11" UCC SUNDAY BULLETIN SERVICE



Bismarck-Mandan Area
**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**



1200 E Highland Acres Rd, Bismarck, ND 58501

701-223-2915 www.uccbismarck.org

November 2, 2025 at 10 AM Worship

All Saint's/Soul's Day

Pastor: Rev. Gretchen Deeg

Liturgist: Shaylee Weil, Ireland Williams, Hannah Vanorny, & John Dynes

Music: Boram Chern & Amber Augustadt | Video: Jordan VanBerkum

*Rise in body or in spirit.

WELCOME TO WORSHIP!

*NO MATTER

Sing! 35

No matter who, no matter what
No matter where you are on the journey of life;
You're welcome, welcome in this place.
Accepted and welcomed by God's grace.

*CALL TO WORSHIP¹ & OPENING PRAYER

All: We are your people, O God.

*HYMN For All the Saints

NCH 299 v. 1-4

SCRIPTURE

Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4

TIME WITH CHILDREN

The first Sunday of each month is Family Worship. Children are invited to remain in worship. Sunday School resumes next week.

OFFERING

*DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, our heavenly host;
Creator, Savior, Holy Ghost. Amen.

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION²

God of love, we thank you for your patience. You have given us many guides and helpers to inspire us, and teach us the ways of Christ. Yet, we have been slow to hear, reluctant to learn, and sluggish in our efforts. We repent this lack of faith and love, and ask that the love of Christ, which uplifted the saints, may mercifully move us from the ways of sin to the ways of life, generosity, and abundance. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

*GLORIA

Glory be to the Creator, and to the Christ, and to the Holy Ghost:
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
World without end. Amen. Amen

SCRIPTURE

Luke 6:20-31

GO AND DO THE SAME

Camille Grothier

SCRIPTURE

Luke 19:1-10

SERMON

RITUAL OF REMEMBRANCE & CANDLE LIGHTING

One: In every season of the year, we remember them.

All: We light a candle for LOVE:

One: For the love we shared with those who are precious to us;
For the love that lifts up our spirits and our hearts.

All: We light a candle for JOY:

One: For the joy that gave birth to so many positive moments,
days and years; For the joy that gave encouragement to
those who would follow in their footsteps.

All: We light a candle for MEMORIES:

One: For the memories of times together that reminded us of
what it means to be human;
For the memories of the people who truly *were* gifts to us.

All: We light a candle for TEARS:

One: For the tears that flow from our eyes at a moment's notice;
For tears that signal an inner release, a new freedom, a relief
shared with those we mourn.

All: We light a candle for HOPE:

One: For the hope, dreams, and plans we shared with those previous to us; For the hope and desire to look forward to the next stage of loving anew those who are close to us.

All: We light a candle for PEACE:

One: For the peace we want for our loved ones and for ourselves; For the peace that helps to heal the distance that separates us one from another.

All: We light a candle for STRENGTH:

One: For the strength that allows forgiveness to heal the unfinished parts of our relationships;
For the strength that allows us to remember those who have left their imprint on our hearts.

HYMN Deep Peace Sing! 201 v. 1

COMMUNION Let Us Break Bread Together NCH 330

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Almighty God, we give thanks for the fruits of the vine and the grains of the earth which sustain us. May this meal we have shared nourish and strengthen us to grow in communion with you and one another. In the name of Christ, we pray. Amen.

*HYMN God, We Thank You for Our People NCH 376

*CARRY GOD'S LOVE

Permission to stream the music in this service obtained from [ONE LICENSE](#), License #732302-A.

¹ Adapted from "All Saints Day (Year A)." [Seasons Online](#).

² Adapted from Bruce Prewer. All Saint's Day.



Thank You for Worshiping with Us!

Your offerings are essential for the ongoing ministry of this congregation. Donations can be made using this QR code, online at www.uccbismarck.org/donate, mailed to the church, or placed in the offering box.

Sponsored in Memory of Our Loved Ones

All Saints Day is sponsored in memory of our loved ones by our congregation. This is an opportunity to Sponsor-a-Sunday at any dollar amount with others from Bismarck UCC. To sponsor put in check memo or note on envelope "All Saints Day Sponsorship".



Sponsored by the Congregation

Some of November and all of December is available. If you would like to sponsor a future Sunday, contact the church office at 223-2915 or visit uccbismarck.org/donate. Sponsorships are \$500.

Taize Worship - Nov. 5 at 6:15PM

Grounded in ecumenical relationships, join us at St. George's Episcopal (601 N 4th St, Bismarck) as we remember our loved ones with prayer, stillness, and song. There will be a soup supper starting at 5:30pm.



Welcoming New Members

Have you been enjoying this church family? Are you interested in membership? Contact Pastor Gretchen to find out more on how to become a Bismarck UCC member.

Poinsettias

It is time to sign up for Poinsettias. The sign-up sheet is below the bulletin board. Purchase in memory or honor of a loved one! **\$15 for 6.5" and \$25 for 8"**.

Orders due Today.



Game Night - Nov. 6 at 7pm

Invite family and friends to a night of board and card games at the church. Bring your favorites or play from our collection of games at the church. All ages are welcome.

Consecration Sunday & Eggbake - Nov. 16

Please bring your pledge card and prayers to worship for a dedication of our commitments. Everyone is invited to join us for an eggbake luncheon in the fellowship hall after Worship!



THIS WEEK'S OPPORTUNITIES: November 2 - 9

- Sunday:** All Saint's Day Worship
11 AM Fellowship & 12 Noon [Online](#) Fellowship
- Monday:** 5:30 PM Deacons (in-person & [online](#))
- Tuesday:** 1 PM Quilting/Knitting
5:45 PM Christian Education (in-person & [online](#))
- Wednesday:** 2 PM Hay Creek Lodge Ministries
5:30 PM Soup Supper at St George's
6:15 PM Taize Worship & Youth Group
(St. George's Episcopal 601 N 4th St, Bis)
7 PM Choir Practice
- Thursday:** 6 PM Bible Study (in-person & [online](#))
7 PM Game Night
- Friday:** 8:30 AM Bible Study (in-person & [online](#))
- Sunday:** 10 AM Worship
11 AM Fellowship & 12 Noon [Online](#) Fellowship
11:30 AM Council (in-person & [online](#))

Community Thanksgiving Worship & Pie Social

Held at Lutheran Church of the Cross on November 25 at 7pm. Sister Idelle Badt from Stepping Stone Ministries will speak about their mission. All offerings received will go directly to Stepping Stone Ministries. All are welcome!



OUR PRAYER LIST

Family of Carey (Dale Kent's daughter), Diana, Amanda Wilson, Laverne Schulz, Family of Gondonna Toepke (Andrea Crannell's grandfather), Gail (Helen Lindgren's daughter), James Fatimi & Family, Mike Rudolph, Dave Baber, Frank Picard, Carla Christenson (Monica Klein's mother), Pam Crawford, Fredrick Krause (Kerri Kraft's grandfather), Jennifer Held, Leona Staiger (Helen Lindgren's sister), Matthew Nitschke, Ashley Seykora (Betty Picard's daughter), Laurie Schreiner, Colby (Janice & Gary Sather's son), Wade Rosene (Joyce Rosene's son), Chad Gent (Joyce Rosene's nephew), Robyn Richter (Kyle Eisenbraun's aunt), Doretta Reule, Howard Etson, Camille Grothier, East Timor, Refugees

*Contact the church office to be added to our weekly prayer list.

CHANGE YOUR DIRECTION

LUKE 19:1-10

Today we meet one of the better-known characters in the Bible, Zacchaeus, who ties us into stewardship. Zacchaeus takes a lead in what he does with his money. Are you ready for this? He gives half his possessions to the poor. And, he has engaged in some fraud, so he says he will pay back four times as much as he owes. But in the act of doing these things with his money, he also changes his relationship with the community from that of active threat to positive contributor. And he enhances the material needs of the community.

Now your feet may not be stuck in the moral mud as deeply as those of Zacchaeus. And you may not be in a position to give half your possessions to the poor. But I'll bet an hour with this character will awaken you to fresh thinking about stewardship. Perhaps in manner similar to the way Zacchaeus climbed the tree to get a better look at Jesus, we can stretch ourselves in faith and generosity, and in the process, we too might see a bit more clearly. What might Jesus be inviting us to do? Are you ready and willing to respond?

*Ronald J. Allen
Theologian, Author, & Professor Emeritus*

Heb. 12:1

William W. How, 1864; alt.

1 For all the saints who from their la - bors rest, who to the
 2 You were their rock, their ref - uge, and their might: you, Christ, the
 3 Still may your peo - ple, faith - ful, true, and bold, live as the
 4 Ringed by this cloud of wit - ness - es di - vine, we fee - bly
 5 And when the strife is fierce, the war - fare long, steals on the

world their stead-fast faith con - fessed, your name, O Je - sus,
 hope that put their fears to flight; 'mid gloom and doubt, you
 saints who no - bly fought of old, and share with them a
 strug - gle, they in glo - ry shine; yet in your love our
 ear the dis - tant tri - umph song, then hearts are brave a -

be for - ev - er blessed.
 were their one true light.
 glo - rious crown of gold. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
 faith - ful lives en - twine.
 gain, and faith grows strong.

This traditional All Saints Day hymn originally consisted of eleven stanzas written for the Sarum Hymnal (1869) and set to a tune by that name, Sarum. It has grown in popularity since it was later paired with the enduring Sine Nomine in

Tune: SINE NOMINE 10.10.10.4.
 Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

Deep Peace

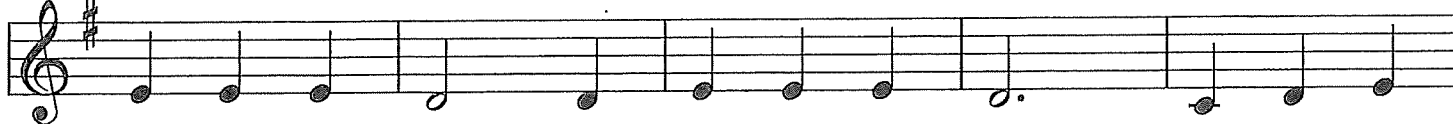
♩.=44

G D Em Bm C G/B Cmaj⁷ D

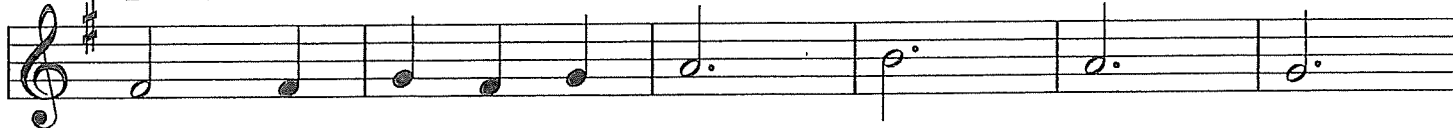
1. Peace, peace, deep peace, my peace I give to you. _____
 2. Love, love, strong love, my love I give to you. _____
 3. Joy, joy, great joy, my joy I give to you. _____

E Bm⁷ Cmaj⁷ Gmaj⁷ Cmaj⁷ D G

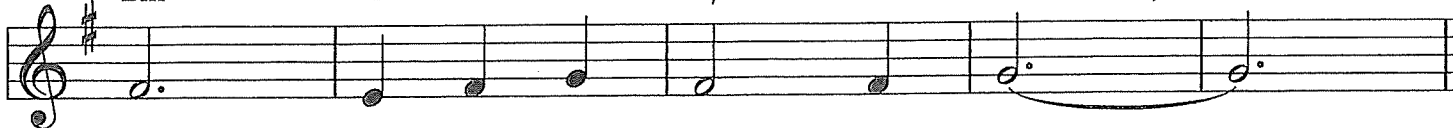
Peace, peace, deep peace, my peace I give to you. _____
 Love, love, strong love, my love I give to you. _____
 Joy, joy, great joy, my joy I give to you. _____

Em Bm⁷ Cmaj⁷ G Am⁷

Not as the world gives, I give to you, not as the
 Not as the world gives, I give to you, not as the
 Not as the world gives, I give to you, not as the

B¹¹ B B⁷ Em D G D Em

world gives, I give to you. Peace, peace, deep
 world gives, I give to you. Love, love, strong
 world gives, I give to you. Joy, joy, great

Bm C Am⁷ Bm/D D⁷ G Am/G G

peace, my peace I give to you. _____
 love, my love I give to you. _____
 joy, my joy I give to you. _____

1 Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees;
 * 2 Let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees;
 3 Let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees;

let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees.
 let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees.
 let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees.

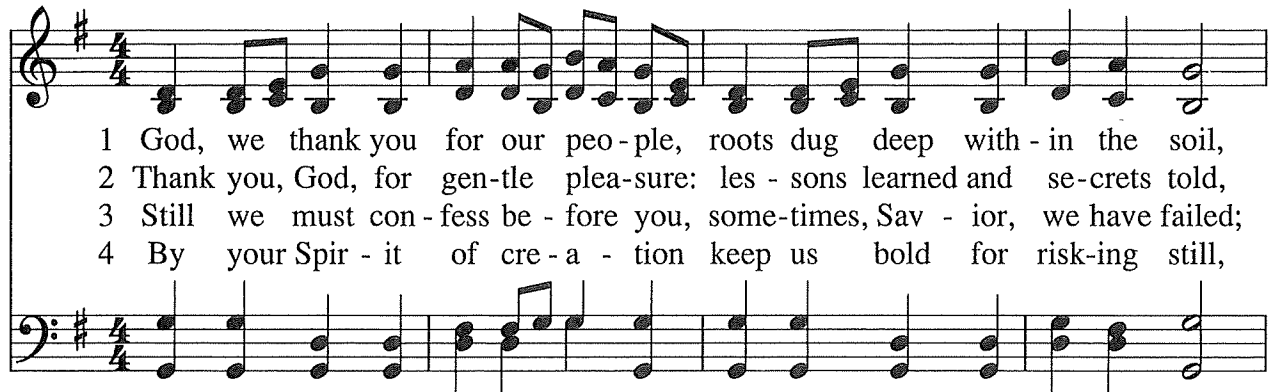
When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing sun,

My God, have mer - cy on me.

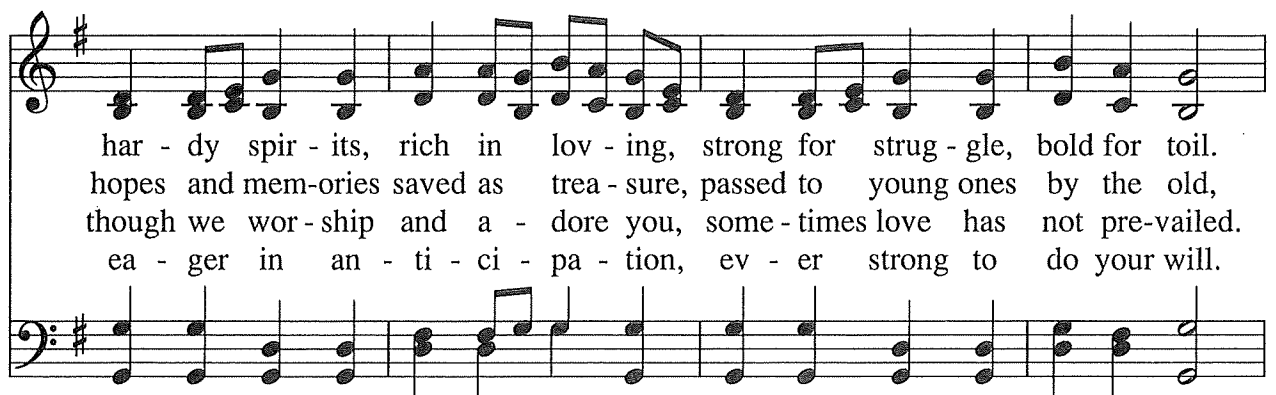
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God, We Thank You for Our People

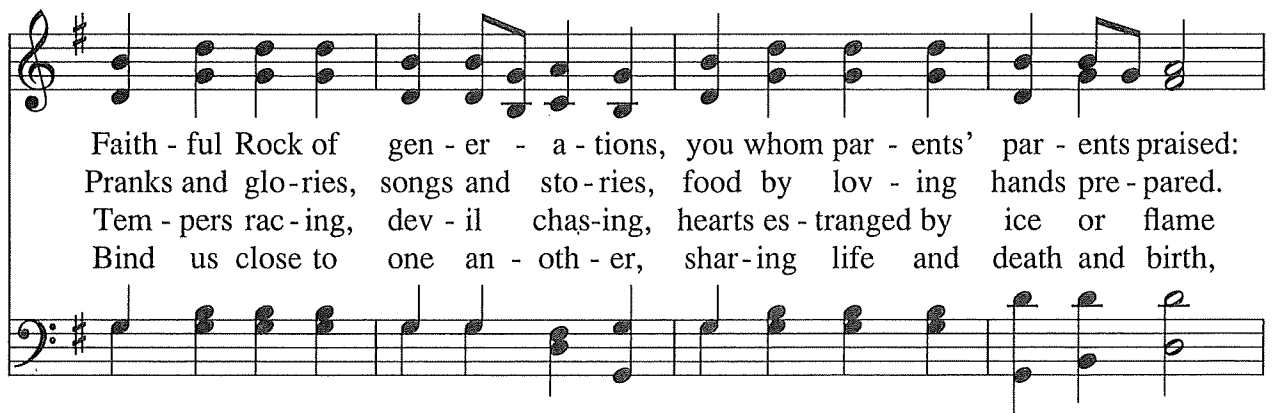
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Ruth Duck, 1986


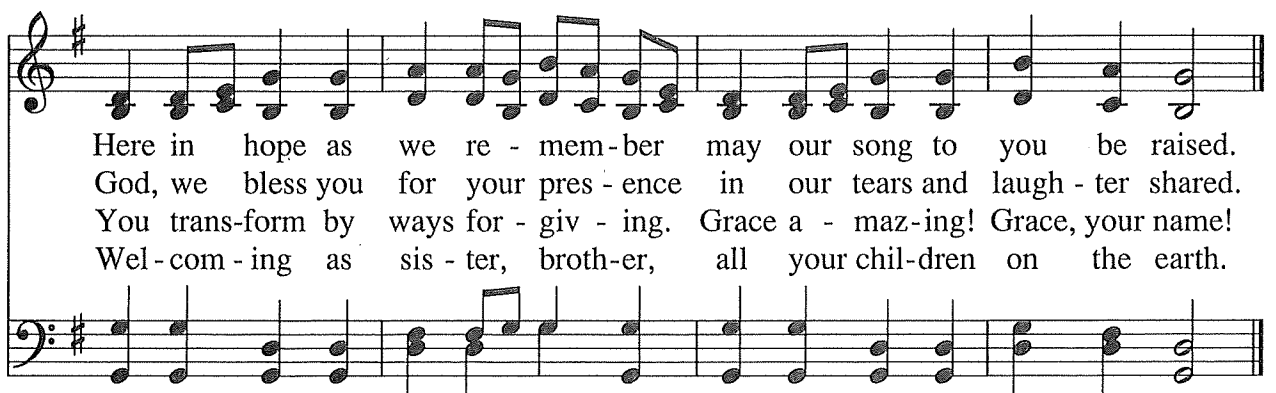
1 God, we thank you for our peo-ple, roots dug deep with - in the soil,
 2 Thank you, God, for gen-tle plea-sure: les - sons learned and se-crets told,
 3 Still we must con-fess be - fore you, some-times, Sav - ior, we have failed;
 4 By your Spir - it of cre - a - tion keep us bold for risk-ing still,



har - dy spir - its, rich in lov - ing, strong for strug - gle, bold for toil.
 hopes and mem-ories saved as trea - sure, passed to young ones by the old,
 though we wor-ship and a - dore you, some-times love has not pre-vailed.
 ea - ger in an - ti - ci - pa - tion, ev - er strong to do your will.



Faith - ful Rock of gen - er - a - tions, you whom par - ents' par - ents praised:
 Pranks and glo-ries, songs and sto-ries, food by lov - ing hands pre-pared.
 Tem - pers rac-ing, dev - il chas-ing, hearts es - tranged by ice or flame
 Bind us close to one an - oth - er, shar-ing life and death and birth,



Here in hope as we re - mem-ber may our song to you be raised.
 God, we bless you for your pres - ence in our tears and laugh - ter shared.
 You trans-form by ways for - giv - ing. Grace a - maz-ing! Grace, your name!
 Wel-com - ing as sis - ter, broth-er, all your chil-dren on the earth.

Ruth Duck created this text at the request of Harold (Hal) McSwain, Jr., for a family reunion. She found her inspiration in the stories of Harold, Sr., and in her own family heritage. The hymn speaks to any community that has shared life together

Tune: HOLY MANNA 8.7.8.7.D.
 William Moore, 1825