St. John’s United Church of Christ
Guidelines for Funerals & Memorial Services
Approved by Council: (Draft Approval: 3/14/2016)
(reception added 4/1/2016)

Purpose:

The resurrection is a central doctrine of the Christian faith and shapes
Christians’ attitudes and responses to the event of death. Death brings loss,
sorrow, and grief to all. In the face of death, Christians do not bear
bereavement in isolation but are sustained by the power of the Holy
Spirit and the community of faith. The Church offers a ministry of love
and hope to all who grieve. Its purpose is to affirm once more the powerful,
steadfast love of God from which people cannot be separated, even by death.
As this is the basis of a Christian funeral as defined by the Book of Worship
of the United Church of Christ (UCC), the Council of St. John’s UCC has
set forth the following policy on funeral/memorial services which occur at
the church.

Pastor:

It is expected that primary arrangements will be made with St. John’s pastor.
Requests for the participation of a “guest” pastor (including former St.
John’s pastors) to assist in the service must be made to the pastor; who, if it
is appropriate, will extend an invitation.

Service at Church:

Church members are encouraged to use the church for funeral/memorial
services. Just as we are baptized by God in church and have been nourished
by God through the church, so it is wholly appropriate that thanksgiving to
God for our lives should be offered in church.

A Time of Worship:
In the UCC tradition a funeral/memorial service is considered a service of worship, and will be approached with the dignity and joyful celebration accorded worship. A typical order of worship will include: prelude and postlude of sacred music; hymns and songs of praise and faith; scripture lessons from the Old and New Testaments; a message – which expresses thanksgiving to God for the life of the deceased, and reminds all of Christ’s resurrection and promise of eternal life; prayers of intercession and thanksgiving; a benediction. In consultation with the pastor, other elements, such as remarks from family members and friends, may be included in the service. The officiating pastor shall make the final determination on the elements of worship.

**Type of Service:**

St. John’s UCC enjoys both traditional and contemporary styles of worship. While it is anticipated that most funeral/memorial services will reflect a traditional approach to worship, a contemporary service format is also possible. While every effort will be made to accommodate a desire for the funeral/memorial service to be contemporary in style, this option ultimately depends on the availability of volunteer/paid musicians and sound board operators; and may require the use of recorded music.

**Casket/Cremains:**

The casket/cremains of the deceased may be present for the service, and shall arrive at the church at least 45 minutes prior to the announced start time. In order that worship may focus on God, and upon the gift of resurrection, rather than upon the earthly remains of the deceased, the casket will be closed during the service.

**Cremation:**

Cremation is an appropriate alternative for Christians. Orders of worship and committal remain the same in cases of cremation, with the exception that the committal may take place on a different date from the service in the church. If desired, and possible at the place where cremation takes place, a brief prayer/blessing can be offered as the cremation begins.
Pictures & Photography:

As the focus of Christian worship is God, it is not appropriate to display pictures of the deceased in the sanctuary during the service. Photo displays of the deceased are encouraged, and more appropriately placed in the reception area. Non-flash photography and video is permitted during the service from a stationary position behind the worshipping congregation.

Flowers:

The use of flowers and other forms of decoration are not required, and should be limited in order that they do not distract from the purpose of worship. One or two simple floral arrangements adequately symbolize God’s gift of new life.

Visitation:

There may be occasions when it is desirable for visitation with the family to take place at the church rather than the funeral home. In such cases Fellowship Hall is available.

Reception
Simple post-service receptions may be held in the Fellowship Hall of the church. If available, church members will serve as hostess/host for a reception; preparing coffee, iced tea, water, etc., as well as taking care of setting up the space, providing decor, and cleaning up afterwards.

Committal Service:

The pastor is available to lead a brief committal service at the site (locally) where the casket/cremains are to be interred. This service typically includes: scripture; prayers; words of committal; a benediction.

Military/Masonic Rituals:
Christians often hold membership in praiseworthy organizations other than the church. It is most appropriate for memorial rituals of those groups to be held separately from the funeral/memorial service. They are more properly carried out at the funeral home or cemetery.

Fees:

When the deceased was a member:
   a. Organist: $100.00
   b. Pastor: no fee, although an honorarium is acceptable

When the deceased was a non-member:
   a. Organist: $100.00
   b. Pastor: $150.00

Fees for other musicians should be in accordance with their normal pay scale.

Services taking place on a Saturday or Sunday will require a reasonable custodial fee based upon hours worked and custodian availability. If applicable, the pastor will discuss this fee with you.

Memorials:

Gifts given in memory of a loved one are appropriate and welcomed. St. John’s UCC, or a charitable organization of the donor’s choice are potential recipients of such gifts. Guidelines for directing such gifts to the church are outline in St. John’s Memorials & Special Gifts Policy.

Final Plans:

Members of St. John’s are strongly encouraged to pre-plan their funeral/memorial service. The pastor is willing to be part of this process if desired. Members may pick up a “Final Plan” folder in the church office (or download the form from the church web site: www.stjohnsuccchesterfield.org). Once completed and returned, the forms will be kept in the church’s confidential files; where they will be available
for revision. At the time of death, the information will be shared with family members, and the pastor with whom the service is being planned.

Service Order and Funeral Bulletin:

The typical funeral/memorial order of service is listed below. If desired, the church office will create a simple service bulletin based on this order.

A Service of Witness
To the Resurrection

Celebrating the Life of
(name of person)

Prelude

Sentences in Procession

Welcome

Call to Worship

Hymn

Old Testament Readings

New Testament Readings

(Family Memories – optional)

The Faith We Claim -- Homily

Silent Celebration

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord’s Prayer

Hymn
Benediction

Postlude

Possible Scriptural Texts & Hymns:

In those moments when words are difficult, scripture and hymns (sung or played) can speak powerfully for God’s people. A partial list of appropriate scripture texts and hymns follows:

Old Testament:

Psalm 23
1) The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.  2) he makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; 3) he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name’s sake.  4) Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff – they comfort me.  5) You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.  6) Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Psalm 46
1) God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.  2) Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea; 3) though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult.  4) There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High.  5) God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved; God will help it when the morning dawns.  6) The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter; he utters his voice, the earth melts.  7) The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.  8) Come, behold the works of the Lord; see what desolations he has brought on the earth.  9) He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear; he burns the shields with fire.  10) “Be still and know that I am God! I am exalted among
the nations, I am exalted in the earth.” 11) The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.

Psalm 90
Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations. 2) Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God. 3) You turn us back to dust, and say, “Turn back, you mortals.” 4) For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past, or like a watch in the night. 5) You sweep them away; they are like a dream, like grass that is renewed in the morning; 6) in the morning it flourishes and is renewed; in the evening it fades and withers. 7) For we are consumed by your anger; by your wrath we are overwhelmed. 8) You have set our iniquities before you, our secret sins in the light of your countenance. 9) For all our days pass away under your wrath; our years come to an end like a sign. 10) The days of our life are seventy years, or perhaps eighty, if we are strong; even then their span is only toil and trouble; they are soon gone, and we fly away. 11) Who considers the power of your anger? Your wrath is as great as the fear that is due you. 12) So teach us to count our days that we may gain a wise heart. 13) Turn, O Lord! How long? Have compassion on your servants! 14) Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, so that we may rejoice and be glad all our days. 15) Make us glad as many days as you have afflicted us, and as many years as we have seen evil. 16) Let your work be manifest to your servants, and your glorious power to their children. 17) Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, and prosper for us the work of our hands—O prosper the work of our hands!

Psalm 91
You who live in the shelter of the Most High, who abide in the shadow of the Almighty, 2) will say to the Lord, “My refuge and my fortress; my God, in whom I trust.” 3) For he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the deadly pestilence; 4) he will cover you with his pinions, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness is a shield and buckler. 5) You will not fear the terror of the night or the arrow that flies by day, 6) or the pestilence that stalks in the darkness, or the destruction that wastes at noonday. 7) A thousand may fall at your side, then thousand at your right hand, but it will not come near you. 8) You will only look with your eyes and see the punishment of the wicked. 9) Because you have made the Lord your refuge, the Most High your dwelling place, 10) no evil shall befall you, no scourge come near your tent. 11) For he will command his angels
concerning you to guard you in all your ways. 12) On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone. 13) You will tread on the lion and the adder, the young lion and the serpent you will trample under foot. 14) Those who love me, I will deliver; I will protect those who know my name. 15) When they call to me, I will answer them; I will be with them in trouble, I will rescue them and honor them. 16) With long life I will satisfy them, and show them my salvation.

Psalm 100
Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.  2) Worship the Lord with gladness; come into his presence with singing.  3) Know that the Lord is God. It is he that made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.  4) Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him, bless his name.  5) For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.

Psalm 121
I lift up my eyes to the hills—from where will my help come?  2) My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.  3) He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber.  4) He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.  5) The Lord is your keeper; the Lord is your shade at your right hand.  6) The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.  7) The Lord will keep you from all evil; he that keeps your life.  8) The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and for evermore.

Psalm 130
Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord.  2) Lord, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!  3) If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand?  4) But there is forgiveness with you, so that you may be revered.  5) I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in his word I hope;  6) my soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning.  7) O Israel, hope in the Lord! For with the Lord there is steadfast love, and with him is great power to redeem.  8) It is he who will redeem Israel from all its iniquities.

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8
For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:  2) a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;  3) a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down,
and a time to build up; 4) a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; 5) a time to throw away stones and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; 6) a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to throw away; 7) a time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; 8) a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace.

Isaiah 40:28-31
28) Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. 29) He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless. 30) Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted; 31) but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

Isaiah 55:1-13
Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. 2) Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor or that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. 3) Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. 4) See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. 5) See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the Lord your God the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you. 6) Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; 7) let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. 8) For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord. 9) For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. 10) For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, 11) so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I
purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it. 2) For you shall go out in joy, and be led back in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. 13) Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle; and it shall be the Lord for a memorial for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

New Testament:

Matthew 11:28-30
28) “Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens and I will give you rest. 29) 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. 30) For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

Mark 10:13-16
13) People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. 14) But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, “Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. 15) Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it” 16) and took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them.

John 14.1-6, 27
Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.” But Thomas, one of the twelve, said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the father, but by me.......Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give as the world gives to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.

2 Corinthians 4:16-18
16) So we do not lose heart. Even though our nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. 17) For this slight momentary
affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure, 18) because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal.

**2 Corinthians 5:1-10**
1) For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. 2) For in this tent we groan, longing to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling - 3) if indeed, when we have taken it off we will not be found naked. 4) For while we are still in this tent, we groan under our burden, because we wish not to be unclothed but to be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. 5) He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee. 6) So we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord - 7) for we walk by faith, not by sight. 8) Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. 9) So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. 10) For all of us must appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense for what has been done in the body, whether good or evil.

**1Thessalonians 4:13-18**
13) But we do not want you to be uninformed; brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may have no hope. 14) For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. 15) For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. 16) For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel’s call and with the sound of God’s trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. 17) Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. 18) Therefore encourage one another with these words.

**1 Peter 1:3-9**
3) Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4) and into an inheritance that is imperishable,
undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, 5) who are being protected
by the power of God through faith and salvation ready to be revealed in the
last time. 6) In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had
to suffer various trials, 7) so that the genuineness of your faith-being more
precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire-may be found to
result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. 8) Although
you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and
glorious joy, 9) for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation
of your souls.

Revelation 21:1-4; 22-25
1) Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first
earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. 2) And I saw the holy city,
the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a
bride adorned for her husband. 3) And I heard a loud voice from the throne
saying, “See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them
as their God, they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; 4)
he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning
and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away.”
22) I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty
and the Lamb. 23) And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it,
for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb. 24) The nations
will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it.
Its gates will never by shut by the day-and there will be no night there.

Revelation 22:3-5
3) Nothing accursed will be found there anymore. But the throne of God
and the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him; 4) they will
see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. 5) And there will be
no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be
their light and they will reign forever and ever.
**Hymns:** This list is not exhaustive. It is meant to provide a suggested group of hymns that are appropriate for a funeral/memorial service. Other hymns may be chose from the Hymnal.

546 - Amazing Grace  
595 - Be Thou My Vision  
637 - For All The Saints  
86 - Great is Thy Faithfulness  
33 - How Great Thou Art  
227 - In the Garden  
561 - It is Well With My Soul  
2 - Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee  
557 - Just a Closer Walk  
548 - Old Rugged Cross  
77 - On Eagle’s Wings  
628 - Precious Lord Take My Hand  
340 - Softly And Tenderly  
585 - What a Friend We Have in Jesus  
536 - When We Are Living
Amazing Grace!

1. Amazing grace! How sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me!
   I once was lost, but now am found; was blind, but now I see.

2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace appear the hour I first believed.
   grace hath brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.

3. Through many dangers, toils, and snares, I have already come; 'tis grace hath brought me shining as the sun, we've no less days to sing God's praise than when we'd first begun.

4. When we've been there ten thousand years, bright

WORDS: John Newton, 1779; st. 4 anonymous
MUSIC: Virginia Harmony, 1831; harm. Edwin O. Excell, 1900

NEW BRITAIN
CM
Be Thou My Vision

1. Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
   naught be all else to me, save that thou art
   thou my best thought by day or by night,
   waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

2. Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;
   I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
   thou my redeemer, my love thou hast won,
   thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.

3. Riches I heeded not, nor vain, empty praise,
   thou mine inheritance, now and always;
   thou and thou only, first in my heart,
   Great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.

4. Great God of heaven, my victory won,
   may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!
   Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
   still be my vision, O Ruler of all.
For All the Saints

1. For all the saints, who from their labors rest, who
   thee by faith before the world confessed, thy
   name, O Jesus, be forever blest.
2. Thou wast their rock, their fortress, and their might: their
   strength and solace in the well-fought fight;
   thou, in the darkness drear, the one true light.
3. O blest communion, company divine!
   We live and struggle, they in glory shine;
   yet all are one in thee, for all are thine.
4. And when the strife is fierce, the conflict long,
   steals on the ear the distant triumph song,
   and hearts are brave again, and arms are strong.
5. From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast, through
   gates of pearl streams in the countless host,
   singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,

Alleluia, alleluia!
Great Is Thy Faithfulness

1. Great is thy faith-ful ness, O God my Fa-ther, there is no shadow of
turning with thee; thou chang est not, thy com pas sions, they fail not;
courses a bove, join with all na ture in man i fold wit ness
cheer and to guide; strength for to day and bright hope for to mor row,

Refrain

as thou hast been thou fore ever wilt be. Great is thy faith ful ness!
to thy great faith ful ness, mer cy and love. bless ings all mine, with ten thou sand be side!

Great is thy faith ful ness! Morn ing by morn ing new mer cies I see; all I have

need ed thy hand hath pro vid ed—Great is thy faith ful ness, Lord, un to me!

WORDS: Thomas O. Chisholm, 1923
MUSIC: William M. Runyan, 1923

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How Great Thou Art

1. O Lord my God! when I in awesome wonder
   consider all the worlds thy hands have made,
   I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
   thy power throughout the universe displayed.

2. When through the woods and forest glades I wander,
   and hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;
   when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
   and hear the brook, and feel the gentle breeze;

3. And when I think that God, his Son not sparing,
   sent him to die, I scarce can take it in;
   that on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,
   he bled and died to take away my sin;

4. When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
   and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart.
   Then I shall bow in humble adoration,
   and there proclaim, my God, how great thou art!

WORDS and MUSIC: Stuart K. Hine, 1953, based on a Swedish folk melody
and a poem by Carl Gustav Boberg, 1885

O STORE GUD
11 10.11 10 w. refrain
Refrain

Then sings my soul, my Savior God to thee;

how great thou art, how great thou art! Then sings my

soul, my Savior God to thee; how great thou art, how great thou art!
In the Garden

1. I come to the garden alone, while the dew is still on the roses; and the voice I hear, falling on my ear, the Son of God discloses.

2. He speaks, and the sound of his voice is so sweet the birds hush their singing, and the melody that he gave to me with my heart is ringing. And he walks with me, and he talks with me, and he tells me I am his own.

3. I'd stay in the garden with him though the night approaches. His voice to me is calling.
joy we share, as we tarry there, none other has ever known.
It Is Well with My Soul

1. When peace, like a river, attendeth my way,
   when sorrows like sea-billows roll; whatsoever my lot,
   it is well, it is well with my soul.

2. Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,
   let this blest assurance control, that Christ has gardened my helpless estate, and hath shed his own cross, and I bear it no more, praise the Lord; praise the sound, and the Lord shall descend, even so, it is well with my soul.

3. My sin, oh, the bliss of this glorious thought!
   My sin, not in part but the whole, is nailed to the the clouds be rolled back as a scroll; the trumpet shall re- sound, and the Lord shall descend, even so, it is well with my soul.

4. May God haste the day when my faith shall be sight,
   that Christ has gardened my helpless estate, and hath shed his own cross, and I bear it no more, praise the Lord; praise the sound, and the Lord shall descend, even so, it is well with my soul.

REFRAIN

It is well with my soul.
It is well with my soul.
It is well with my soul.
It is well with my soul.
It is well, it is well with my soul.
Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

1. Joyful, joyful, we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love;
   love divine is reigning o'er us, binding those of tender heart. So
   hearts unfold like flowers before thee, opening to the sun above.
   stars and angels sing around thee, center of unbroken praise.
   well-spring of the joy of living, ocean depth of happy rest!

2. All thy works with joy surround thee, earth and heaven reflect thy rays,
   singing, move we onward, victors in the midst of strife;
   Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, drive our fear and doubt away;
   Field and forest, vale and mountain, flowery meadow, flashing sea,

3. Thou art giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest,
   love divine is reigning o'er us, binding those of tender heart.
   love divine is reigning o'er us, binding those of tender heart.
   Thou our Father, Christ our Brother, all who live in love are thine;
   Ev er sing ing, move we on ward, vic tors in the midst of strife,

4. Mortals, join the happy chorus; stars of morning, take your part;
   singing, move we onward, victors in the midst of strife;
   Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, drive our fear and doubt away;
   Field and forest, vale and mountain, flowery meadow, flashing sea,

Descant

WORDS: Henry van Dyke, 1907, alt.
MUSIC: Ludwig van Beethoven, 1824; arr. Edward Hodges, 1864;
desc. Susan Adams, 1995

HYMN TO JOY 57.57D

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Just a Closer Walk with Thee

1. I am weak, but thou art strong; Jesus, keep me from all wrong;
2. Through this world of toil and snares, if I falter, Lord, who cares?
3. When my feeble life is o'er, time for me will be no more;

Refrain: Just a closer walk with thee, grant it, Jesus, is my plea,

I'll be satisfied as long as I walk, let me walk close to thee.
Who with me my burden shares? None but thee, dear Lord, none but thee.

guide me gently, safely o'er to thy shore, dear Lord, to thy shore.
daily walking close to thee: let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

WORDS and MUSIC: Anonymous

CLOSER WALK
Irr. w. refrain
The Old Rugged Cross

1. On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross,
the emblem of suffering and shame;
and I love that old cross where the dearest and best
for a world of lost sinners was slain.

2. O that old rugged cross, so despised by the world,
has a wonderful attraction for me;
for 'twas on that old cross Jesus suffered and died,
to bear it to dark Calvary.

3. In that old rugged cross, stained with blood so divine,
a wondrous beauty I see,
then he'll call me some day to my home far away,
to pardon and sanctify me.

4. To the old rugged cross I will ever be true,
its shame and reproach gladly bear,
where his glory forever I'll share.

WORDS and MUSIC: George Bennard, 1913
Refrain

So I'll cherish the old rugged cross,
cross, the old rugged cross,

till my trophies at last I lay down;

I will cling to the old rugged cross,
cross, the old rugged cross,

and exchange it some day for a crown.
On Eagle’s Wings

1. You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord, who abide in God’s shadow for life, say to the Lord: “My refuge, my rock in whom I trust!”

Refrain

“And I will raise you up on eagle’s wings,

bear you on the breath of dawn, make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of my hand.”

WORDS and MUSIC: Michael Joncas, 1979
© 1979, 1991, New Dawn Music
ON EAGLE’S WINGS
Irr.
After last refrain

And hold you, hold you in the palm of my hand.

2. The snare of the fowler will never capture you, and famine will bring you no fear: under God’s wings your refuge, God’s faithfulness your shield.

3. You need not fear the terror of the night, nor the arrow that flies by day; though thousands fall about you, near you it shall not come.

4. For to God’s angels is given a command to guard you in all of your ways; upon their hands they will bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone.
Precious Lord, Take My Hand

1. Precious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand,
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;
through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light:
Refrain
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

2. When my way grows drear, precious Lord, linger near,
when my life is almost gone,
hear my cry, hear my call, hold my hand lest I fall:

3. When the darkness appears and the night draws near,
and the day is past and gone,
at the river I stand, guide my feet, hold my hand:

WORDS and MUSIC: Thomas A. Dorsey, 1932

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Softly and Tenderly

1. Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling,
   calling for you and for me;
   patient and loving, he's waiting and watching, watching for you and for me.
   Come home, come home, ye who are

2. Why should we linger when Jesus is pleading,
   pleading for you and for me?
   Why should we wait, then, and heed not his mercies, mercies for you and for me?
   Come home, come home, come home,

3. O for the wonderful love he has promised,
   promised for you and for me;
   though we have sinned he has mercy and pardon, pardon for you and for me.
   Ye who are

WORDS and MUSIC: Will L. Thompson, 1880
weary, come home; earnestly, tenderly,

Jesus is calling—calling, "O sinner, come home!"

546 - Amazing Grace
585  What a Friend We Have in Jesus

1. What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
2. Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?
3. Are we weak and heavy laden, burdened with a load of care?

What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer!
We should never be discouraged; take it to the Lord in prayer!
Precious Savior, still our refuge, take it to the Lord in prayer!

Oh, what peace we often forfeit, oh, what needless pain we bear,
Can we find a friend so loyal, who will all our sorrows share?
Do your friends despise, forsake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer!

All because we do not carry everything to God in prayer.
Jesus knows our every weakness; take it to the Lord in prayer!
In his arms he'll take and shield you; you will find a solace there.

WORDS: Joseph Scriven, 1855
MUSIC: Charles C. Converse, 1868

CONVERSE 87.87D

32
536

Pues Si Vivimos
(When We Are Living)

Unisono (Unison)

D    Em    A7    D

1. Pues si vi-vimos, para Él vi-vimos
2. En es-ta vi-da, fru-tos he-mos de dar.
1. When we are liv-ing, it is in Christ Je-sus,
2. Through all our liv-ing, we our fruits must give.

Bm    Em    A7    D

y si mo-ri-mos pa-ra Él mo-ri-mos.
Las o-bras bu-enas son pa-ra o-fren-dar.
and when we’re dy-ing, it is in the Lord.
Good works of ser-vice are for of-fer-ing.

G    Em    A    Fm

Sea que vi-va-mos o que mu-ra-mos,
Ya sea que de-mos o que re-ci-ba-mos,
Both in our liv-ing and in our dy-ing,
When we are giv-ing, or when re-ceiv-ing,

WORDS: St. 1 anonymous, tr. Elise S. Eslinger, 1983;
st. 2, 3, 4 Roberto Escamilla, 1983, tr. George Lockwood, 1987

SOMOS DEL SEÑOR

Irr.

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\( \text{\textcopyright 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House} \)
Estribillo (Refrain)

so-mos del Se-nor,
we be-long to God,

Coda (Solamente la última vez)

So-mos del Se-nor,
We be-long to God,

3. En la tristeza y en el dolor,
en la belleza y en el amor,
sea que suframos o que gocemos,
Estribillo

4. En este mundo, hemos de encontrar
gente que llora y sin consolar.
Sea que ayudemos o que alimentemos,
Estribillo

3. Mid times of sorrow and in times of pain,
when sensing beauty or in love’s embrace,
whether we suffer, or sing rejoicing.
Refrain

4. Across this wide world, we shall always find
those who are crying with no peace of mind,
but when we help them, or when we feed them,
Refrain