



Sunday, April 18, 2021
The Second Sunday of Easter
Peace Lutheran Church of Plymouth
Stephen's Witness

PRELUDE

Your River, O God

Hans Peterson & Larry Olson

Refrain

Your riv - er, O God, is full of wa - ter, wa - ter a -

live with jus - tice and grace. Your riv - er, O God, it

flows with mer - cy for ev' - ry child through ev' - ry

time and place.

Verse

Ev' - ry birth on this earth speaks the
Come and hear on all who fear, you are
As we grow may we know waves of

mys - ter - y. Ev' - ry heart,
not a - lone. Come and see,
hope sur - round. As we live

from the start, light for all to see.
be set free, rest here in your home.
may we give love that has no bounds.

to Refrain

CALL TO WORSHIP

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: God of abundance, the land we walk on is holy ground.

Send forth your grace to help us heal the wounds of this world.

Open up the soil of our hearts to your word of life.

May we be strengthened by this time together and grow into who you are creating us to be.

MANY: AMEN

OPENING SONG

Come and See

Hans Peterson & Larry Olson

verse 1 and 2

Refrain

Refrain

The musical notation for the Refrain is written on a single staff in treble clef, key of B-flat major (one flat), and 6/8 time signature. The melody consists of the following notes: G4 (quarter), A4-B4 (beamed eighth notes), G4 (quarter), F#4-G4 (beamed eighth notes), E4 (half). This sequence repeats twice. The final measure contains a whole note chord consisting of G4, Bb4, and D5.

Verse

Verse



The musical notation for the Verse of 'The Christmas Song' is written on a single staff in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody consists of the following notes: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4-G4 (beamed eighth notes), F#4 (quarter), E4 (half), D4 (half), C4 (half), B3 (half), A3 (half), G3 (half), F#3 (half), E3 (half), D3 (half), C3 (half), B2 (half), A2 (half), G2 (half), F#2 (half), E2 (half), D2 (half), C2 (half), B1 (half), A1 (half), G1 (half), F#1 (half), E1 (half), D1 (half), C1 (half), B0 (half), A0 (half), G0 (half), F#0 (half), E0 (half), D0 (half), C0 (half), B-1 (half), A-1 (half), G-1 (half), F#-1 (half), E-1 (half), D-1 (half), C-1 (half), B-2 (half), A-2 (half), G-2 (half), F#-2 (half), E-2 (half), D-2 (half), C-2 (half), B-3 (half), A-3 (half), G-3 (half), F#-3 (half), E-3 (half), D-3 (half), C-3 (half), B-4 (half), A-4 (half), G-4 (half), F#-4 (half), E-4 (half), D-4 (half), C-4 (half), B-5 (half), A-5 (half), G-5 (half), F#-5 (half), E-5 (half), D-5 (half), C-5 (half), B-6 (half), A-6 (half), G-6 (half), F#-6 (half), E-6 (half), D-6 (half), C-6 (half), B-7 (half), A-7 (half), G-7 (half), F#-7 (half), E-7 (half), D-7 (half), C-7 (half), B-8 (half), A-8 (half), G-8 (half), F#-8 (half), E-8 (half), D-8 (half), C-8 (half), B-9 (half), A-9 (half), G-9 (half), F#-9 (half), E-9 (half), D-9 (half), C-9 (half), B-10 (half), A-10 (half), G-10 (half), F#-10 (half), E-10 (half), D-10 (half), C-10 (half), B-11 (half), A-11 (half), G-11 (half), F#-11 (half), E-11 (half), D-11 (half), C-11 (half), B-12 (half), A-12 (half), G-12 (half), F#-12 (half), E-12 (half), D-12 (half), C-12 (half), B-13 (half), A-13 (half), G-13 (half), F#-13 (half), E-13 (half), D-13 (half), C-13 (half), B-14 (half), A-14 (half), G-14 (half), F#-14 (half), E-14 (half), D-14 (half), C-14 (half), B-15 (half), A-15 (half), G-15 (half), F#-15 (half), E-15 (half), D-15 (half), C-15 (half), B-16 (half), A-16 (half), G-16 (half), F#-16 (half), E-16 (half), D-16 (half), C-16 (half), B-17 (half), A-17 (half), G-17 (half), F#-17 (half), E-17 (half), D-17 (half), C-17 (half), B-18 (half), A-18 (half), G-18 (half), F#-18 (half), E-18 (half), D-18 (half), C-18 (half), B-19 (half), A-19 (half), G-19 (half), F#-19 (half), E-19 (half), D-19 (half), C-19 (half), B-20 (half), A-20 (half), G-20 (half), F#-20 (half), E-20 (half), D-20 (half), C-20 (half), B-21 (half), A-21 (half), G-21 (half), F#-21 (half), E-21 (half), D-21 (half), C-21 (half), B-22 (half), A-22 (half), G-22 (half), F#-22 (half), E-22 (half), D-22 (half), C-22 (half), B-23 (half), A-23 (half), G-23 (half), F#-23 (half), E-23 (half), D-23 (half), C-23 (half), B-24 (half), A-24 (half), G-24 (half), F#-24 (half), E-24 (half), D-24 (half), C-24 (half), B-25 (half), A-25 (half), G-25 (half), F#-25 (half), E-25 (half), D-25 (half), C-25 (half), B-26 (half), A-26 (half), G-26 (half), F#-26 (half), E-26 (half), D-26 (half), C-26 (half), B-27 (half), A-27 (half), G-27 (half), F#-27 (half), E-27 (half), D-27 (half), C-27 (half), B-28 (half), A-28 (half), G-28 (half), F#-28 (half), E-28 (half), D-28 (half), C-28 (half), B-29 (half), A-29 (half), G-29 (half), F#-29 (half), E-29 (half), D-29 (half), C-29 (half), B-30 (half), A-30 (half), G-30 (half), F#-30 (half), E-30 (half), D-30 (half), C-30 (half), B-31 (half), A-31 (half), G-31 (half), F#-31 (half), E-31 (half), D-31 (half), C-31 (half), B-32 (half), A-32 (half), G-32 (half), F#-32 (half), E-32 (half), D-32 (half), C-32 (half), B-33 (half), A-33 (half), G-33 (half), F#-33 (half), E-33 (half), D-33 (half), C-33 (half), B-34 (half), A-34 (half), G-34 (half), F#-34 (half), E-34 (half), D-34 (half), C-34 (half), B-35 (half), A-35 (half), G-35 (half), F#-35 (half), E-35 (half), D-35 (half), C-35 (half), B-36 (half), A-36 (half), G-36 (half), F#-36 (half), E-36 (half), D-36 (half), C-36 (half), B-37 (half), A-37 (half), G-37 (half), F#-37 (half), E-37 (half), D-37 (half), C-37 (half), B-38 (half), A-38 (half), G-38 (half), F#-38 (half), E-38 (half), D-38 (half), C-38 (half), B-39 (half), A-39 (half), G-39 (half), F#-39 (half), E-39 (half), D-39 (half), C-39 (half), B-40 (half), A-40 (half), G-40 (half), F#-40 (half), E-40 (half), D-40 (half), C-40 (half), B-41 (half), A-41 (half), G-41 (half), F#-41 (half), E-41 (half), D-41 (half), C-41 (half), B-42 (half), A-42 (half), G-42 (half), F#-42 (half), E-42 (half), D-42 (half), C-42 (half), B-43 (half), A-43 (half), G-43 (half), F#-43 (half), E-43 (half), D-43 (half), C-43 (half), B-44 (half), A-44 (half), G-44 (half), F#-44 (half), E-44 (half), D-44 (half), C-44 (half), B-45 (half), A-45 (half), G-45 (half), F#-45 (half), E-45 (half), D-45 (half), C-45 (half), B-46 (half), A-46 (half), G-46 (half), F#-46 (half), E-46 (half), D-46 (half), C-46 (half), B-47 (half), A-47 (half), G-47 (half), F#-47 (half), E-47 (half), D-47 (half), C-47 (half), B-48 (half), A-48 (half), G-48 (half), F#-48 (half), E-48 (half), D-48 (half), C-48 (half), B-49 (half), A-49 (half), G-49 (half), F#-49 (half), E-49 (half), D-49 (half), C-49 (half), B-50 (half), A-50 (half), G-50 (half), F#-50 (half), E-50 (half), D-50 (half), C-50 (half), B-51 (half), A-51 (half), G-51 (half), F#-51 (half), E-51 (half), D-51 (half), C-51 (half), B-52 (half), A-52 (half), G-52 (half), F#-52 (half), E-52 (half), D-52 (half), C-52 (half), B-53 (half), A-53 (half), G-53 (half), F#-53 (half), E-53 (half), D-53 (half), C-53 (half), B-54 (half), A-54 (half), G-54 (half), F#-54 (half), E-54 (half), D-54 (half), C-54 (half), B-55 (half), A-55 (half), G-55 (half), F#-55 (half), E-55 (half), D-55 (half), C-55 (half), B-56 (half), A-56 (half), G-56 (half), F#-56 (half), E-56 (half), D-56 (half), C-56 (half), B-57 (half), A-57 (half), G-57 (half), F#-57 (half), E-57 (half), D-57 (half), C-57 (half), B-58 (half), A-58 (half), G-58 (half), F#-58 (half), E-58 (half), D-58 (half), C-58 (half), B-59 (half), A-59 (half), G-59 (half), F#-59 (half), E-59 (half), D-59 (half), C-59 (half), B-60 (half), A-60 (half), G-60 (half), F#-60 (half), E-60 (half), D-60 (half), C-60 (half), B-61 (half), A-61 (half), G-61 (half), F#-61 (half), E-61 (half), D-61 (half), C-61 (half), B-62 (half), A-62 (half), G-62 (half), F#-62 (half), E-62 (half), D-62 (half), C-62 (half), B-63 (half), A-63 (half), G-63 (half), F#-63 (half), E-63 (half), D-63 (half), C-63 (half), B-64 (half), A-64 (half), G-64 (half), F#-64 (half), E-64 (half), D-64 (half), C-64 (half), B-65 (half), A-65 (half), G-65 (half), F#-65 (half), E-65 (half), D-65 (half), C-65 (half), B-66 (half), A-66 (half), G-66 (half), F#-66 (half), E-66 (half), D-66 (half), C-66 (half), B-67 (half), A-67 (half), G-67 (half), F#-67 (half), E-67 (half), D-67 (half), C-67 (half), B-68 (half), A-68 (half), G-68 (half), F#-68 (half), E-68 (half), D-68 (half), C-68 (half), B-69 (half), A-69 (half), G-69 (half), F#-69 (half), E-69 (half), D-69 (half), C-69 (half), B-70 (half), A-70 (half), G-70 (half), F#-70 (half), E-70 (half), D-70 (half), C-70 (half), B-71 (half), A-71 (half), G-71 (half), F#-71 (half), E-71 (half), D-71 (half), C-71 (half), B-72 (half), A-72 (half), G-72 (half), F#-72 (half), E-72 (half), D-72 (half), C-72 (half), B-73 (half), A-73 (half), G-73 (half), F#-73 (half), E-73 (half), D-73 (half), C-73 (half), B-74 (half), A-74 (half), G-74 (half), F#-74 (half), E-74 (half), D-74 (half), C-74 (half), B-75 (half), A-75 (half), G-75 (half), F#-75 (half), E-75 (half), D-75 (half), C-75 (half), B-76 (half), A-76 (half), G-76 (half), F#-76 (half), E-76 (half), D-76 (half), C-76 (half), B-77 (half), A-77 (half), G-77 (half), F#-77 (half), E-77 (half), D-77 (half), C-77 (half), B-78 (half), A-78 (half), G-7

The song of a wren, the flight of a hawk, a ba-by's first bond with her
Pon-der the vast-ness of the night sky. The dis-tance you see is a -

[illegible]

moth - er; first flow - ers of spring a - rise_____ and sing. The
maz - ing. The light trav - els o - ver thou-sands of years be -

to Refrain

world ____ is filled _____ with won - der!
fore ____ you see it star - gaz - ing.

CONFESSION

ONE: Sisters and brothers, we come to the God of mercy mindful that the creation upon which we all depend is suffering. The immense beauty surrounding us, the complex web of life supporting us has been broken by our hands. Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and one another.

silence for reflection

Loving God, you have placed us as stewards within your creation. But we have poisoned the waters, exhausted the soils and polluted the air. By our own hand we have spoiled the life giving resources upon which we all depend.

As Jesus' disciples, we are called to feed the hungry, clothe the naked and tend to the sick. Instead, we take the wealth of the world into our own houses and leave your children in need. God of all life,

MANY: we confess our part in a broken world.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

ONE: As surely as the rain comes forth to water the earth, God's mercy comes to us as a gift, abundant and freely given. The same God who created the cosmos and raised Jesus from death to life brings healing and forgiveness to the world today. You are loved, you are restored. In Christ, you are forgiven.

MANY: Thanks be to God.


SONG OF PRAISE

Praise to You


Hans Peterson & Larry Olson

verse 1

Refrain




Praise to you, O Great Cre - a - tor, Ma - ker of the land and sky.




Praise to you, O Liv - ing Wat - er, hope and breath of ev' - ry life.

Verse



We are lost and we are long-ing, wand'-ring in the wild - er - ness,
Hear the cries of all cre - a - tion, how the tears like ri - vers flow
May we live your way of jus-tice, may we walk your way of peace.

to Refrain



search - ing for your hol - y pres-ence and the rea - son we ex - ist.
for your touch of grace and heal - ing and the love that leads us home.
May we see your sac - red vi - sion, may we know your sweet re - lease.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

ONE: Let us pray. The eyes of all look to you, O God. Turn our hearts and minds to your open hand that provides for every living thing, so that we may know your generosity and participate in the healing and restoration of all that you have made, in Jesus' name we pray.

MANY: AMEN

SCRIPTURE

Acts 6:1-7:1, 51-60

Now during those days, when the disciples were increasing in number, the Hellenists complained against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution of food. ²And the twelve called together the whole community of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should neglect the word of God in order to wait on tables. ³Therefore, friends, select from among yourselves seven men of good standing, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may appoint to this task, ⁴while we, for our part, will

devote ourselves to prayer and to serving the word." ⁵What they said pleased the whole community, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, together with Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. ⁶They had these men stand before the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them. ⁷The word of God continued to spread; the number of the disciples increased greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.

⁸Stephen, full of grace and power, did great wonders and signs among the people. ⁹ Then some of those who belonged to the synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called), Cyrenians, Alexandrians, and others of those from Cilicia and Asia, stood up and argued with Stephen. ¹⁰ But they could not withstand the wisdom and the Spirit with which he spoke. ¹¹ Then they secretly instigated some men to say, "We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses and God." ¹² They stirred up the people as well as the elders and the scribes; then they suddenly confronted him, seized him, and brought him before the council. ¹³ They set up false witnesses who said, "This man never stops saying things against this holy place and the law; ¹⁴ for we have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place and will change the customs that Moses handed on to us." ¹⁵ And all who sat in the council looked intently at him, and they saw that his face was like the face of an angel.

(7) Then the high priest asked him, "Are these things so?" ² And Stephen replied:

⁵¹ "You stiff-necked people, in your thoughts and hearing you are forever opposing the Holy Spirit, just as your ancestors used to do. ⁵² Which of the prophets did your ancestors not persecute? They killed those who foretold the coming of the Righteous One, and now you have become his betrayers and murderers. ⁵³ You are the ones that received the law as ordained by angels, and yet you have not kept it."

⁵⁴ When they heard these things, they became enraged and ground their teeth at Stephen. ⁵⁵ But filled with the Holy Spirit, he gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶ "Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" ⁵⁷ But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. ⁵⁸ Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹ While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." ⁶⁰ Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he died.

ONE: Holy Wisdom, Holy Word.

MANY: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Rev. Kjell M. Ferris



Since time be - gan, through cent - ur - ies God's
 A moth - ers womb, a brand new life God's
 Signs of hope, a voice of peace God's



love is ev - er - last - ing. To dis - tant un - known
 love is ev - er - last - ing. An emp - ty tomb, the
 love is ev - er - last - ing. The pro - phet's cry for



gal - ax - ies God's love is ev - er - last - ing.
 ri - sen Christ God's love is ev - er - last - ing.
 war to cease God's love is ev - er - last - ing. For the



Splen - dor springs forth 'cross the land God's
 Weep - ing may last and for the night God's
 down and out and high and proud God's



love is ev - er - last - ing. A - bun - dance, shar - ing
 love is ev - er - last - ing. But joy breaks forth with
 love is ev - er - last - ing. Come all you peo - ple



hand in hand God's love is ev - er - last - ing. Your
 morn - ing light God's love is ev - er - last - ing.
 shout out loud God's love is ev - er - last - ing.



love (your love) is last - ing, your love is ev - er - last - ing. Your



love (your love) is last - ing, your love is ev - er - last - ing.

APOSTLES' CREED

ONE: With the whole church, let us confess our faith in the Triune God.

MANY: **I believe in God, the Father almighty,
 creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
 who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
 born of the virgin Mary,
 suffered under Pontius Pilate,
 was crucified, died, and was buried;
 he descended to the dead.
 On the third day Christ rose again;
 he ascended into heaven,
 he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
 and will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
 the holy catholic church,
 the communion of saints,
 the forgiveness of sins,
 the resurrection of the body,
 and the life everlasting. AMEN**

PRAYERS

ONE: With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation...

silence

ONE: Jesus, healer, continue to aid your people amidst pandemic. Speed the spread of vaccines and slow the spread of the virus. Heal those who are sick, protect frontline workers and aid those who are suffering economically. Lord in your mercy,

MANY: hear our prayer.

ONE: God of vocation, people all around the globe are giving of themselves on behalf of this world. Strengthen in them the sense of meaning and purpose that comes as we live out our faith in our daily lives. Lord in your mercy,

MANY: hear our prayer.

ONE: God of the Universe, your Creation sings songs of praise! Help us to notice miracles big and small, wonder in faith and science together, and understand our roles in this complex world. Inspire our joy to nurture God's creation: water, air, land and living things. Lord in your mercy,

MANY: hear our prayer.

ONE: Holy Spirit, you work among us in ways we do not understand. We name before you, aloud and in our hearts, those we know who are in need of your healing and comfort ...

ONE: Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

MANY: AMEN

SHARING OF CHRIST'S PEACE

ONE: The peace of Christ be with you always.

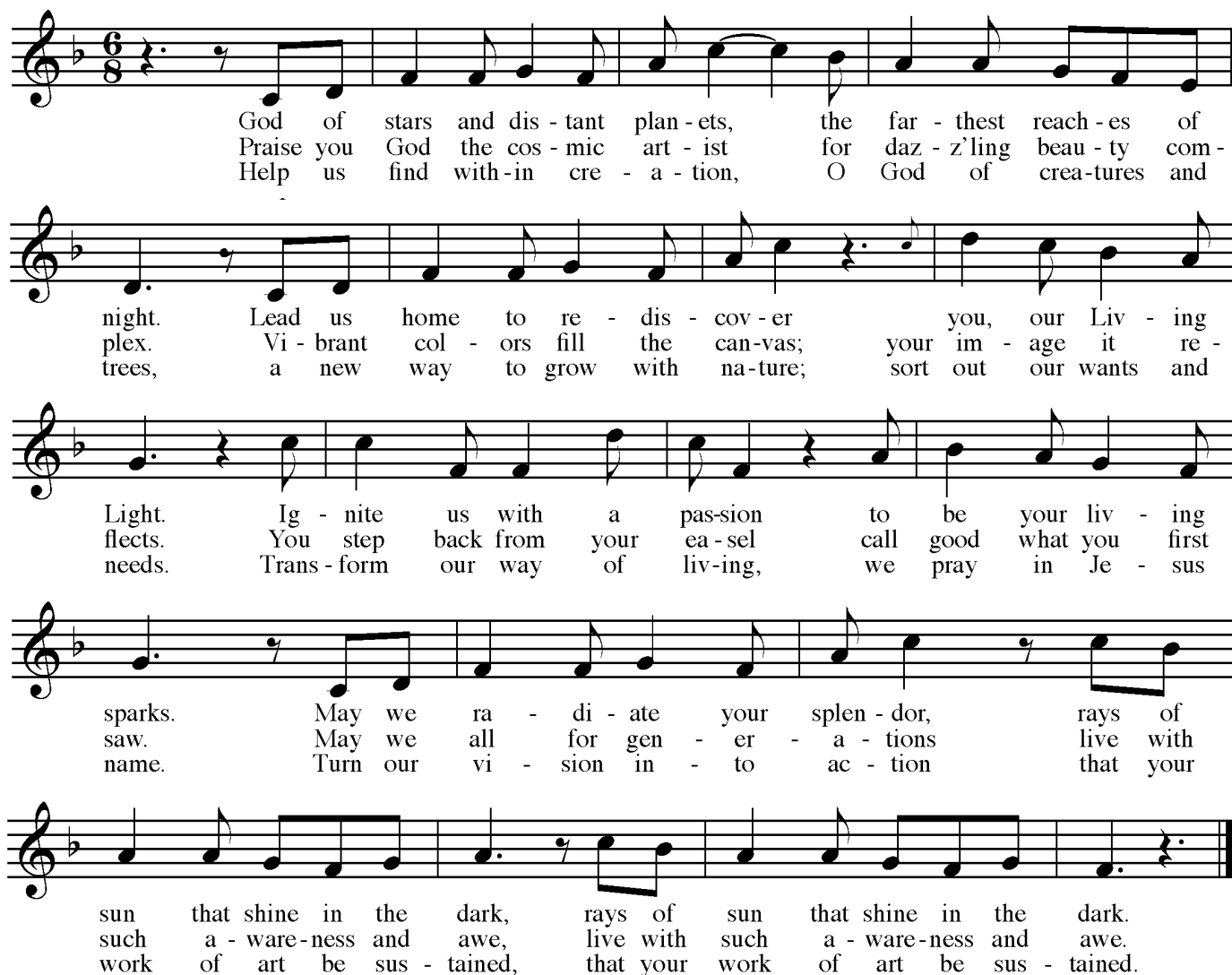
MANY: And also with you.

ONE: Let us share a sign of God's peace with one another.

OFFERING

God of Stars and Distant Planets

Hans Peterson and Larry Olson



God of stars and dis - tant plan - ets, the far - thest reach - es of
Praise you God the cos - mic art - ist for daz - z'ling beau - ty com -
Help us find with - in cre - a - tion, O God of crea - tures and
night. Lead us home to re - dis - cov - er you, our Liv - ing
plex. Vi - brant col - ors fill the can - vas; your im - age it re -
trees, a new way to grow with na - ture; sort out our wants and
Light. Ig - nite us with a pas - sion to be your liv - ing
fleets. You step back from your ea - sel call good what you first
needs. Trans - form our way of liv - ing, we pray in Je - sus
sparks. May we ra - di - ate your splen - dor, rays of
saw. May we all for gen - er - a - tions live with
name. Turn our vi - sion in - to ac - tion that your
sun that shine in the dark, rays of sun that shine in the dark.
such a - ware - ness and awe, live with such a - ware - ness and awe.
work of art be sus - tained, that your work of art be sus - tained.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PRAYER JESUS TAUGHT US

ONE: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us,

MANY: 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

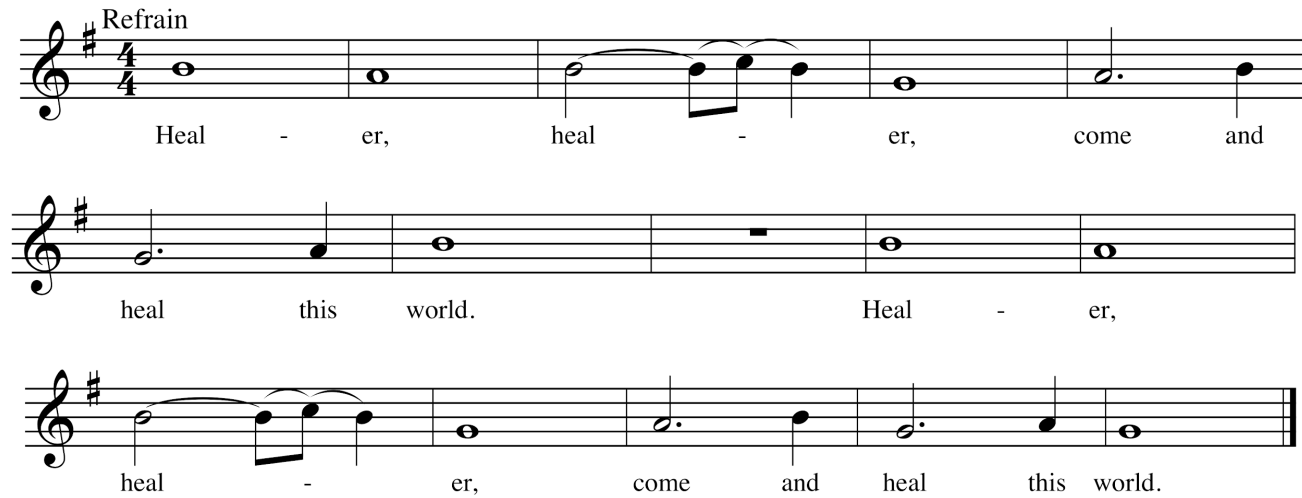
WELCOME TO THE TABLE

HOLY COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION MUSIC

Healer

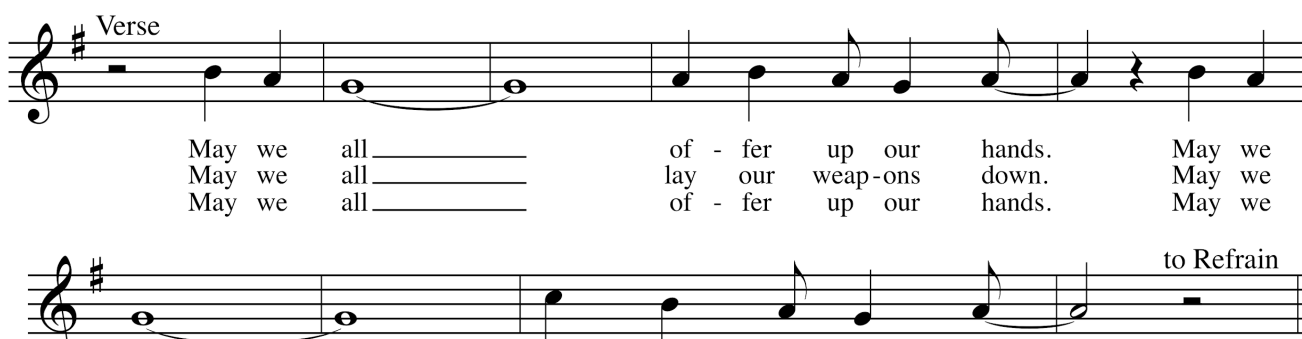
Larry Olson

Refrain



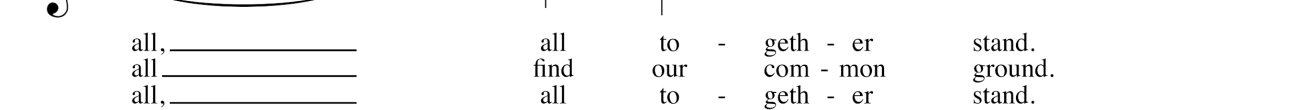
Heal - er, heal - er, come and
heal this world. Heal - er,
heal - er, come and heal this world.

Verse



May we all _____ of - fer up our hands. May we
May we all _____ lay our weap-ons down. May we
May we all _____ of - fer up our hands. May we

to Refrain



all, _____ all to - geth - er stand.
all, _____ all find our com - mon ground.
all, _____ all to - geth - er stand.

COMMUNION BLESSING

+BENEDICTION

ONE: Let us pray together the Prayer of Good Courage.

MANY: O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown.

Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

AMEN

SENDING SONG

Go Now with God
verses 1 and 4

Hans Peterson & Larry Olson



vs. 1 Filled — with the Ho - ly — Spir - it
 vs. 1 *Lleno del Es - pi - ri - tu — San - to*
 vs. 2 Of - fer - ing a hand — to a stran - ger
 vs. 3 Wa - ters of mer - cy have found us
 vs. 4 Cross-ing ev' - ry bound'-ry, ev' - ry na - tion

go now with God,
va - mos con Dios,



go now with God. In - to the world — as a serv - ant
va - mos con Dios. En-tran - do al mun - do pa - ra ser - vir
 Trust-ing in the ris - en — sav - ior
 Grace — on the jour - ney sur - rounds us
 Danc-ing in the gift of lib - er - a - tion



go now with God,
va - mos con Dios,

go now with God.
va - mos con Dios.

Go — now,
Va - mos,



go — now,
va - - - mos,

go — now with God.
va - mos con Dios.



Go — now,
Va - mos,

go — now,
va - mos,

go — now with God.
va - mos con Dios.

DISMISSAL

ONE: Go in Peace, serve the Lord.

MANY: Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

Go Now with God

Hans Peterson & Larry Olson

Acknowledgements:

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Angela & Roger Birnbaum

Eleanor Ferris, Heidi Ferris

Roger Birnbaum, Steve Johnson, Phil Mennicke,
Scott Rusten, Bob Samuelson, Jason Tofteland



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