

24th Sunday after Pentecost

November 7, 2021



All Souls' Sunday *Commemoration of the Faithful Departed*



Plymouth United Church of Christ Rev. David Huber, Pastor

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PlymouthUnitedChurchOfChrist

Plymouth United Church of Christ

November 7, 2021

10:30 A.M.

The Family of God Gathers

Prelude

“Jesus, Lord, We Look to Thee”

Please let the prelude be a signal to prepare for worship.

Arr. Cindy Berry

Greetings

Call to Worship †

L: We gather, with the company of the faithful:

P: those who know the way into God’s realm and those who are just beginning their pilgrimage.

L: We gather, remembering the ones we call saints:

P: those who made compassion their day job, and those who have no day named after them.

L: We gather, praising God for all who have shaped our faith:

P: those who showed us the dance steps of heaven, and those who taught us to play the instruments of joy.

Opening Music 449 Bulletin page 10

“Softly and Tenderly”

Prayer of Confession †

On this long journey we call life, Holy God, we fail to live as your people. Too often, we do not in glory shine, but dig through the garbage of life. We are too busy in our pursuits for more and more to rest in you. We prefer our own company rather than that blessed communion of your household of faith. Have mercy and forgive us, Creator of life, in the name of your son, the One who has come to transform us into saints, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon †

L: Do you see them, there out of the corner of your eye? The people to your right and left, in front of you as well as behind? They, like you, are God’s saints—ordinary, everyday, forgiven people of God. Called, gifted, filled with the Holy Spirit. In Jesus’ name, you are forgiven!

P: You are forgiven!

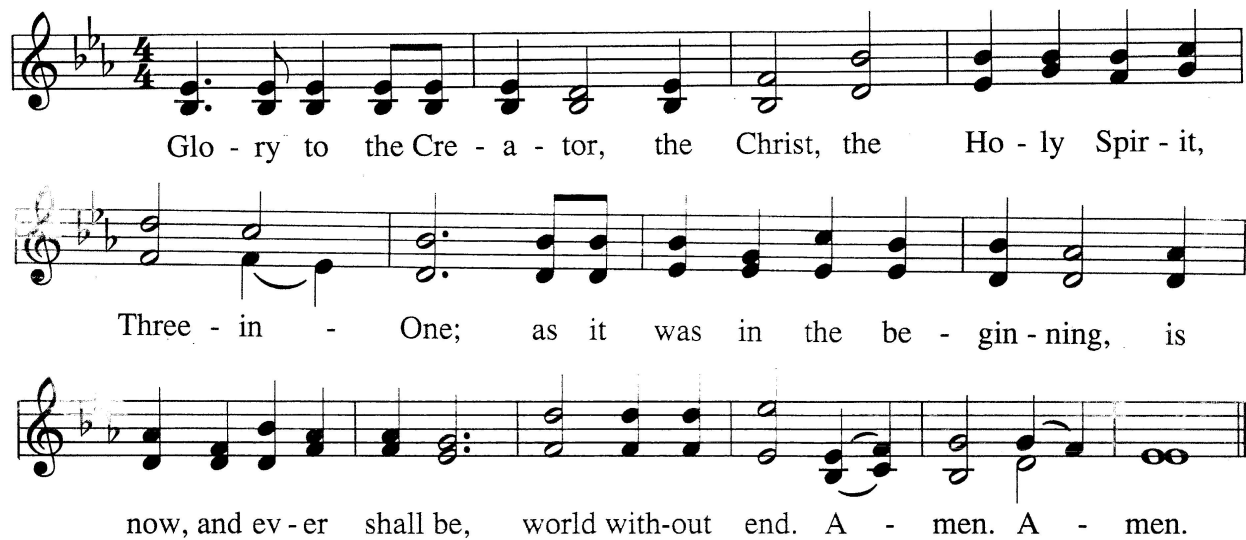
L: May the peace of Christ be with you!

P: And also with you!

Passing the Peace

Now please take a moment and share the peace with those in your household and/or offer a moment to send prayers of peace to those you love who are not with you.

*Gloria



Glo - ry to the Cre - a - tor, the Christ, the Ho - ly Spir - it,
Three - in - One; as it was in the be - gin - ning, is
now, and ev - er shall be, world with-out end. A - men. A - men.

Offering

Doxology

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise God all creatures here below
Praise God above ye heavenly host
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

Prayer of Dedication †

**We could lock away our inheritance of grace, hope, peace, and life so that no one else might ever touch them. Or we could simply share them with others through you, Gracious God. Take the gifts we offer in this moment and bless all who are looking for your gifts, your presence in their lives. In Jesus' name, we pray.
Amen.**

Centering Song 515 Verses 1 & 4 Bulletin page 11

“O God, My God”

The Service of the Word

New Testament Lesson

Revelation 21:1–6

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. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; 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.”

And the one who was seated on the throne said, “See, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.” Then he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life.

Psalm 24

L: The earth is the Lord’s and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it; for he has founded it on the seas, and established it on the rivers.

P: **Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord? And who shall stand in his holy place?**

L: Those who have clean hands and pure hearts, who do not lift up their souls to what is false, and do not swear deceitfully.

P: **They will receive blessing from the Lord, and vindication from the God of their salvation.**

L: Such is the company of those who seek him, who seek the face of the God of Jacob.

P: **Lift up your heads, O gates! and be lifted up, O ancient doors! that the King of glory may come in.**

L: Who is the King of glory?

P: **The Lord, strong and mighty, the Lord, mighty in battle.**

L: Lift up your heads, O gates! And be lifted up, O ancient doors! that the King of glory may come in.

P: **Who is this King of glory? The Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory.**

Gospel

John 11:32–44

When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.” When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed

in spirit and deeply moved. He said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to him, “Lord, come and see.” Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, “See how he loved him!” But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?”

Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, “Take away the stone.” Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, “Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days.” Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?” So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, “Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.” When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.”

Sermon

Sermon Hymn 298 Bulletin page 12

“O Savior, for the Saints”

Litany of the Saints

- L: If we would but listen, we could hear them: the bus driver who sang school songs with us, and the coach who whispered encouragement before sending us in to play, the teacher who never gave up on us, and the friend who talked to us when no one else would.
- P: If we would but look, we could see them: the grandfather with dimpled knees from playing marbles with the neighborhood kids, and the nana with nicked hands from hammering nails for affordable housing; the crossing guard who always stepped in front of traffic before we could, and the couple who have not stopped holding hands since they first said “I do.”**
- L: If we would but pay attention, we could learn from them: the single mother who opened up the world of reading to a new generation, and the nurse who sat up by our child’s bed after her shift ended; those who fought dragons in ancient tales, and those who face drug dealers on street corners.
- P: The saints are all around us, so make us mindful of them, God in Community, Holy in One, as we pray in remembrance of the saints who have gone before us:**

Paul Holmen joined the Church Triumphant 12/3/2020
Jim Welk joined the Church Triumphant 6/30/2021
Del Sloop (neighbor) joined the Church Triumphant 7/8/2021

Time of silent prayer. You are invited during this time to come forward and light a candle or candles in honor of any you wish to remember today. You may remain silent as you light the candles, or you may speak the names of those you are remembering. We also remember this day the following:

Loren Lee joined the Church Triumphant 4/15/1997
Esther Lee joined the Church Triumphant 1/2/2013
Carol Stygar joined the Church Triumphant 4/15/2021
Michael Shepler joined the Church Triumphant 2/28/2021
Marie Savage joined the Church Triumphant 8/2018
Carl Savage joined the Church Triumphant 8/2018
Jim Harrington joined the Church Triumphant 9/2021
Jim McFadyen joined the Church Triumphant 10/2020
Joan Bamberg joined the Church Triumphant 1/2021
Larry Revels joined the Church Triumphant 10/20/2021
Jeanne Strassman joined the Church Triumphant 2/17/2019
Donna Eakright joined the Church Triumphant 11/2/2020

When all are finished, we will continue with the following prayer:

L: Let everlasting light shine on them, O Lord, with your saints for ever:
P: **Eternal rest grant them, O Lord; and let perpetual light shine upon them.**
All: **Amen**

Hymn 299 Bulletin page 13

“For All the Saints”

Communion ††

Prayer

L: The Lord be with you.
P: **And also with you.**
L: Lift up your hearts.
P: **We lift them up to the Lord.**
L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
P: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

L: Creating and redeeming God, in Adam, Abraham, and Moses, in Deborah, Esther, and Mary, you have chosen not simply to direct the course of events but to be in relationship with us and to entrust your children with the embodiment and exercise of your will. In the dying and rising Christ you give us not just a savior but an example, and in every generation you call people to imitate the pattern of his life and death and so witness to your glory. We rejoice that those saints take their place in the company of heaven, with whom we join in singing the unending hymn of your joy and praise.

P: **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

L: Transforming God, in this gathering you take the fruit of the vine and human hands and make them a blessing for your people now and forever. As our earthly bodies decay and die, and resemble your Son's body taken down from the cross, send your Spirit and remake us in the image of your Son's resurrected body, that our scars may become signs of your glory and our hearts may be one with yours. Sanctify this bread and cup that they may be for us the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ;

Great is the mystery of faith.

P: **Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

L: Resurrecting God, bless those who mourn, that they may be comforted. Bless the poor in spirit, that they may inherit the kingdom of heaven. Bless the pure in heart, that they may see you. Visit those who face death amid persecution and violence, that they may know gladness and rejoicing in your kingdom. Be close to any who end their days in agony and isolation, that they may enter the joy of their reward. Where your children feel all is lost, meet them in their fear, touch them in their loneliness, and raise them by your mercy, so that on the last day, when you bring a new heaven and a new earth, they may discover you as an infinite circle whose center is everywhere and whose circumference is nowhere, and be changed from glory into glory, with and by you, one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

All: **Amen.**

The Story

Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

Distribution

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Prayer of St. Francis

Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console, to be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love; for it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; it is in dying to self that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

Closing Hymn 81 Verse 1 Bulletin page 14

“God Be with You”

Benediction †

**L: God has fed us on grace,
P: so let us go to share the Good News with everyone around us.
L: Jesus has filled us with compassion and grace,
P: so let us go to be with others in the days to come.
L: The Spirit has poured hope into our lives,
P: so let us go to be a blessing to those in our world. Amen!**

Postlude

† *Feasting on the Word* Worship Companion, Year A, Vol. 2 ©2013 Westminster John Knox Press. Used with permission.

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† <http://lectionarylitanies.blogspot.com>

§ Modified/written by Rev. David Huber

Worship Leaders

Pastor: Rev. David Huber • Ministers: All the people of Plymouth • Pianist: Lynn McFadyen • Liturgist: Sandy Moore

We of Plymouth extend to you our hand of fellowship and an invitation to become a member. If you are interested, or have any questions, please speak with or send a note to Pastor David or our Moderator, Barb Kleist. Our table always has room for more.

Cross illumination for November is sponsored by Mimi Pederson in loving memory of her sister Trudy Brewer.

This Week at Plymouth

Sunday, November 7

All Souls' Sunday

Community Table offering

10:00 A.M. Coffee

10:30 A.M. Communion Worship

Tuesday, November 9

10:00 A.M. Quilters

7:00 P.M. Leadership Team

Dartball

Plymouth at St Mark

Sunday, November 14

Prayers for the People

10:00 A.M. Coffee

10:30 A.M. Worship

Announcements

We pray for:

- The leadership and staff of Plymouth United Church of Christ

Softly and Tenderly

Will L. Thompson, 1880; alt.

1 Soft - ly and ten - der - ly Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing for
 2 Why should we tar - ry when Je - sus is plead - ing, plead - ing for
 3 Time is now fleet - ing, the mo - ments are pass - ing, pass - ing from
 4 O for the won - der - ful love Je - sus prom - ised, prom - ised for



you and for me; See at the por - tals Christ wait - ing and
 you and for me? Why should we lin - ger and heed not God's
 you and from me; Shad - ows are gath - er - ing, death - beds are
 you and for me; Though we have sinned Je - sus of - fers us



watch - ing, watch - ing for you and for me.
 mer - cies, mer - cies for you and for me? Come home, come
 com - ing, com - ing for you and for me.
 par - don, par - don for you and for me.



home, All who are wea - ry, come home;



Ear - nest - ly, ten - der - ly Je - sus is call - ing— call - ing, "O sin - ner, come home!"

Will Thompson established publishing firms in Chicago and East Liverpool, Ohio, the community to which he left a legacy of song. Dwight L. Moody once remarked that he would rather have written "Softly and Tenderly" than anything he had ever done.

Tune: SOFTLY AND TENDERLY
 11.7.11.7. with refrain
Will L. Thompson, 1880

Ps. 22:1-2

The Iona Community, 1988; alt.

Refrain
Not too fast

O God, my God, O gra - cious God, why do you seem so

Last time, and

far from me, O God, my God, O gra - cious God?

1 Night and morn - ing I make my prayer: Peace for
2 Pain and suf - fering un - bound and blind Plague the
3 Why, oh, why do the wick - ed thrive, Poor folk
4 Turn a - gain as you hear my plea; Tend the

this place and help for there; Wait - ing and won - dering,
prog - ress of hu - man - kind, Al - ways de - mand - ing,
per - ish, the rich sur - vive; Beg - ging the ques - tion,
tor - ment in all I see: Lov - ing and heal - ing,

to Refrain

wait - ing and won - dering, does God care? Does God care?
al - ways de - mand - ing, does God mind? Does God mind?
beg - ging the ques - tion, is God a - live? Is God a - live?
lov - ing and heal - ing, set me free. Set me free.

In the Iona Community collection Enemy of Apathy, this hymn is described as a "protest song or a complaint." It exhibits the kind of "stark honesty before God" characteristic of many of the psalms.

Tune: O GOD MY GOD 8.8.5.5.3.3, wit refrain
John Bell, 1988
The Iona Community

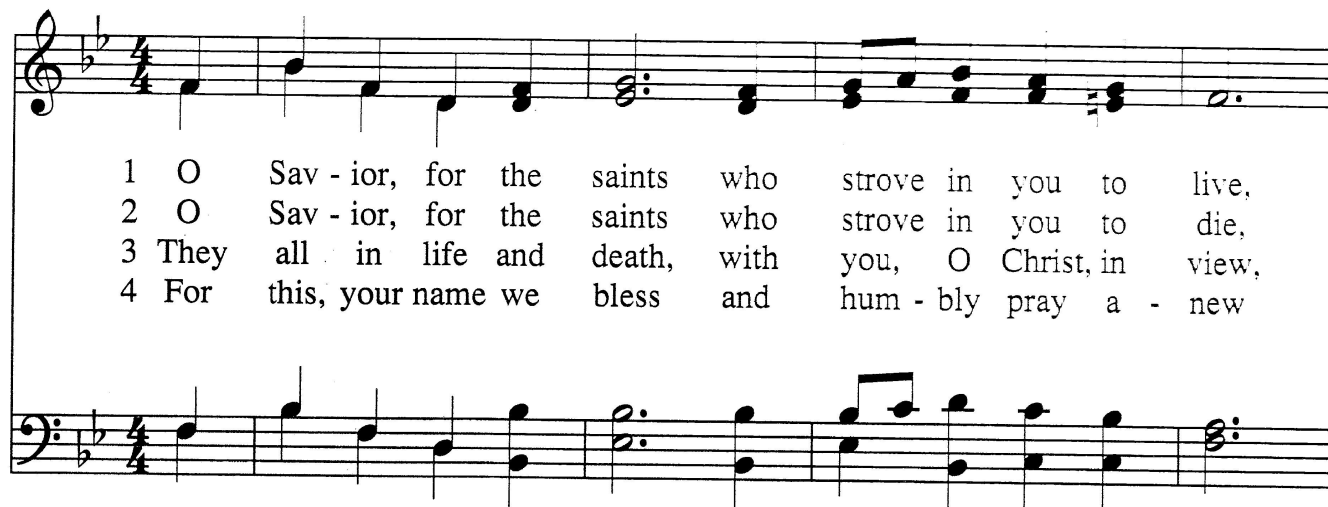
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O Savior, for the Saints

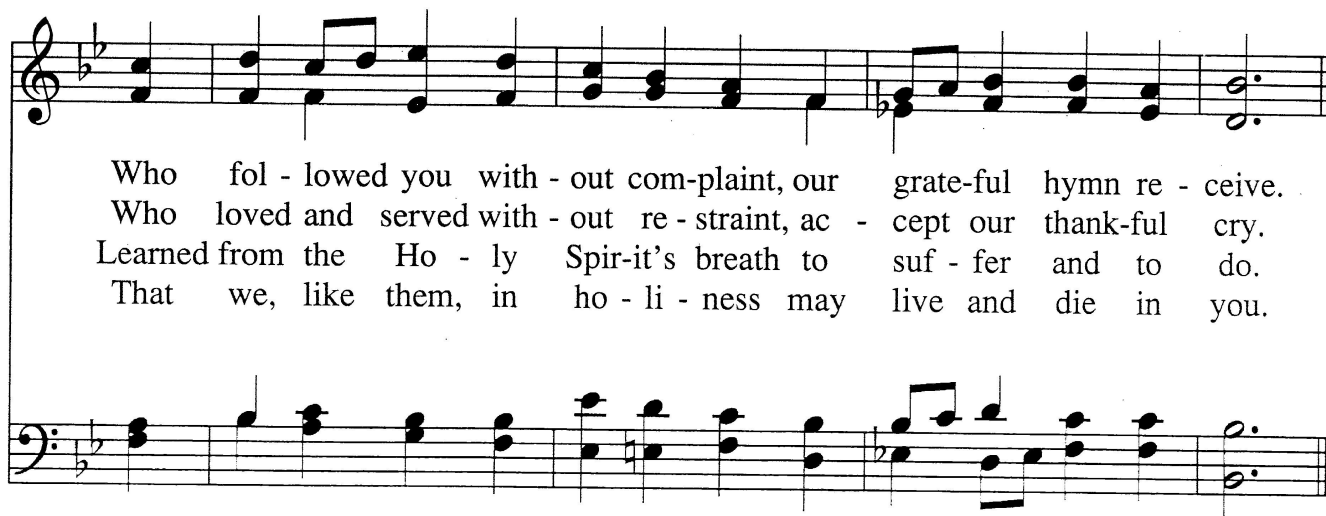
298

Richard Mant, 1837; alt.

Rom. 14:7-9



1 O Sav - ior, for the saints who strove in you to live,
2 O Sav - ior, for the saints who strove in you to die,
3 They all in life and death, with you, O Christ, in view,
4 For this, your name we bless and hum - bly pray a - new



Who fol - lowed you with - out com-plaint, our grate-ful hymn re - ceive.
Who loved and served with - out re - straint, ac - cept our thank-ful cry.
Learned from the Ho - ly Spir-it's breath to suf - fer and to do.
That we, like them, in ho - li - ness may live and die in you.

This was one of several original hymns appended to Richard Mant's book of translations of Latin hymns from the Roman Breviary. A priest of the Church of England, Mant was for many years a bishop in Ireland.

Tune: FESTAL SONG S.M.
William Walter, 1872

Heb. 12:1

William W. How, 1864; alt.

1 For all the saints who from their labors rest, who to the
 2 You were their rock, their refuge, and their might: you, Christ, the
 3 Still may your people, faithful, true, and bold, live as the
 4 Ringed by this cloud of witnesses divine, we feebly
 5 And when the strife is fierce, the warfare long, steals on the

world their steadfast faith confessed, your name, O Je - sus,
 hope that put their fears to flight; 'mid gloom and doubt, you
 saints who nobly fought of old, and share with them a
 struggle, they in glory shine; yet in your love our
 ear the distant triumph song, then hearts are brave a -

be for - ev - er blessed.
 were their one true light.
 glorious crown of gold. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
 faithful lives entwined.
 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 The English Hymnal (1906).

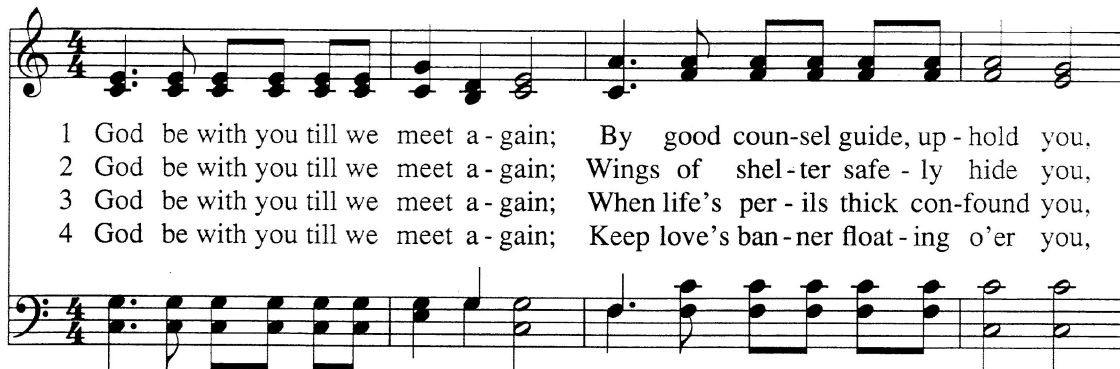
Tune: SINE NOMINE 10.10.10.4.
 Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

Music Copyright ©, Oxford University Press. From *The English Hymnal 1906*.

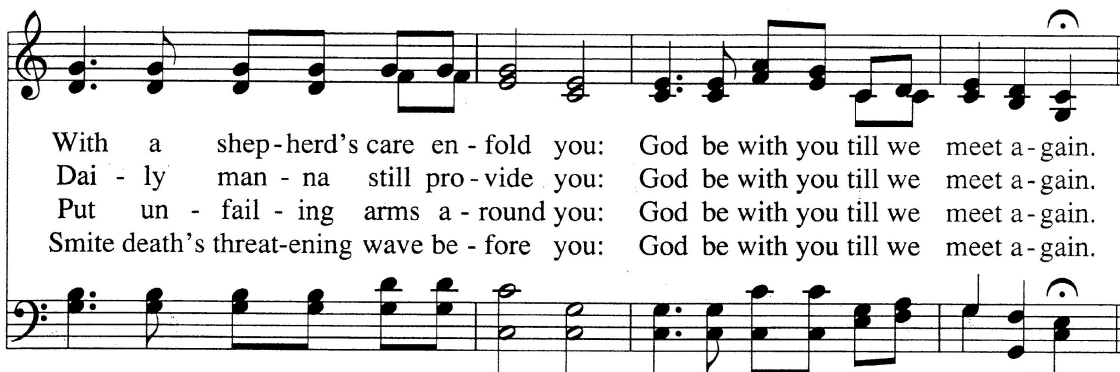
God Be with You

81

Jeremiah E. Rankin, 1880; alt.

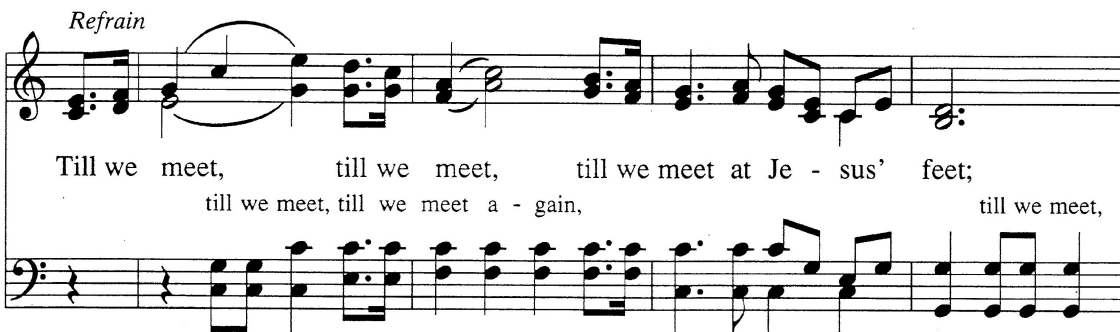


1 God be with you till we meet a - gain; By good coun-sel guide, up - hold you,
 2 God be with you till we meet a - gain; Wings of shel-ter safe - ly hide you,
 3 God be with you till we meet a - gain; When life's per - ils thick con-found you,
 4 God be with you till we meet a - gain; Keep love's ban - ner float - ing o'er you,



With a shep-herd's care en - fold you: God be with you till we meet a - gain.
 Dai - ly man - na still pro - vide you: God be with you till we meet a - gain.
 Put un - fail - ing arms a - round you: God be with you till we meet a - gain.
 Smite death's threat-ening wave be - fore you: God be with you till we meet a - gain.

Refrain



Till we meet, till we meet, till we meet at Je - sus' feet;
 till we meet, till we meet a - gain, till we meet,



till we meet, till we meet, God be with you till we meet a - gain.
 till we meet, till we meet a - gain,

Written during his last pastorate, at First Congregational Church in Washington, D.C., Jeremiah Rankin's hymn spread quickly throughout America and England by way of Moody and Sankey's revival meetings. Rankin later served as the seventh president of Howard University.

Tune: GOD BE WITH YOU 9.8.8.9. with refrain
 William G. Tomer, 1880

Who we are...

Plymouth UCC is an Open and Affirming congregation, embracing diversity and affirming the dignity and worth of every person, since we are all created in God's image. We welcome into full membership and participation in the Body of Christ persons of every race, ethnic background, age, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, physical or mental ability, socio-economic background, marital status and background. We welcome all to share in the life, leadership, ministry, fellowship, worship, sacraments, responsibilities, humor, and blessings of participation in our congregation.

Spiritual Care Package

Questions for Reflection

Tears flow through the readings for All Saints' Day in Year B of the Revised Common Lectionary: an Old Testament prophet envisions the day when "the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces" (Isa. 25:8); a New Testament visionary promises the faithful that God "will wipe every tear from their eyes" (Rev. 21:4); even Jesus weeps at the tomb of his friend Lazarus (John 11:35). What do saints have to do with tears? Does faithfulness demand suffering? Does it require a certain sort of compassion for the pain of the world?

Household Prayer: Morning

As I live this day, O Lord, let me be a sign of your salvation—food for those who hunger, a comfort to those who mourn. This I ask in the name of Jesus, the Alpha and Omega. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

As I rest this night, O Lord, let me be a temple of your peace—a home for your holy presence, a sanctuary of renewal. This I ask in the name of Jesus, the Alpha and Omega. Amen.

God is still speaking,