

# SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2023

Then Moses stretched out his hand  
over the sea.

The LORD drove the sea back by a  
strong east wind,  
and turned the sea into dry land;  
and the waters were divided.

The Israelites went into the sea on  
dry ground,  
the waters forming a wall for them on  
their right and on their left.

The Egyptians pursued, and went into  
the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's  
horses, chariots, and chariot drivers.

Exodus 14:21-23



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**Sunday, September 17, 2023**  
*Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost*

Prelude

Tolling of the Bells

Call to Worship

\*Opening Hymn *Now Let Us All, in Hymns of Praise*

Welcome and Announcements

Responsive Prayer of Invocation

*One:* Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me,  
bless God's holy name.

**All: Bless the Holy One, O my soul, and do not forget—  
God forgives all sin, redeems my life from the Pit,  
and crowns me with steadfast love and mercy.**

*One:* God, and no one else, satisfies you with good as long as you live  
so that your strength is renewed like the eagle's.

**All: The Most High works reparation and justice for all who are oppressed.  
The Lord is merciful and gracious,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

*One:* As the heavens are high above the earth,  
so great is God's determined love toward you,  
for God knows how we were made  
and remembers that we are earth and breath.

**All: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me,  
bless God's holy name. Amen.**

*-Psalm 103*

\*The Peace of Christ

*One:* "The Peace of Christ be with you."

**All: And also with you!**

Choir Anthem

*One Faith, One Hope, One Lord*  
*(See last page for lyrics.)*

*Craig Courtney*

Exodus 14:5-16, 21-22

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Blessing

Message for All Ages

*Children leave for Faith Workshop*

Sermon

*"Would it have been better?"*

\*Hymn

*My Faith Is an Oaken Staff*

Prayers of the People

The 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.*

*Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.*

*And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.*

*For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.*

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

Doxology

*Each week, we sing and sign an inclusive Doxology (ASL).*

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow.*

*Praise God all creatures here below.*

*Praise God for all that Love has done.*

*Creator, Christ, & Spirit one. Amen.*

\*Closing Hymn

*What a Covenant*

Benediction

Choral Response

Postlude

*Following the Closing Hymn, we encourage the congregation to remain risen, in body or  
spirit, to receive the Benediction, which is both blessing and commission.*

*You may sit for the Choral Response and Postlude in quiet contemplation.*

*All are invited to the Parish Hall for coffee, tea, and snacks. We understand it can be  
difficult to step into a room of strangers. We hope, with every cup and cookie, we can  
deepen our connections and learn a little more about each other each week.*

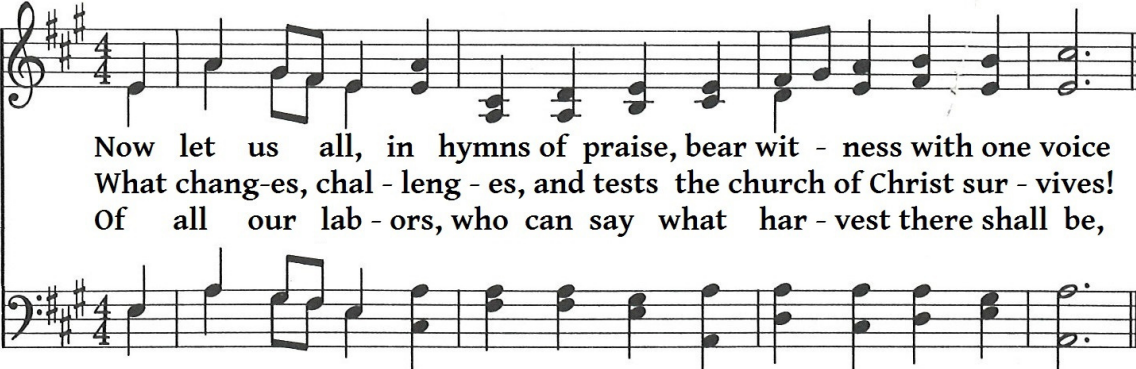
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\* As the Spirit guides you, we encourage you to rise in body or spirit.

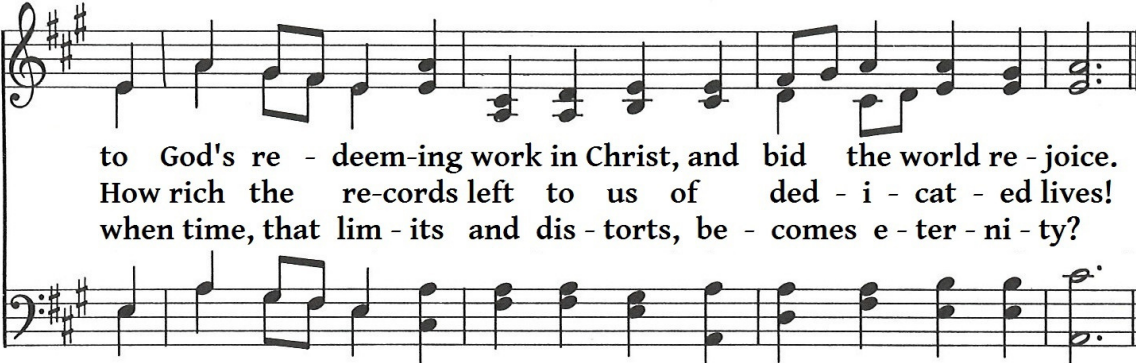
## Now Let Us All, in Hymns of Praise

Fred Pratt Green, 1982

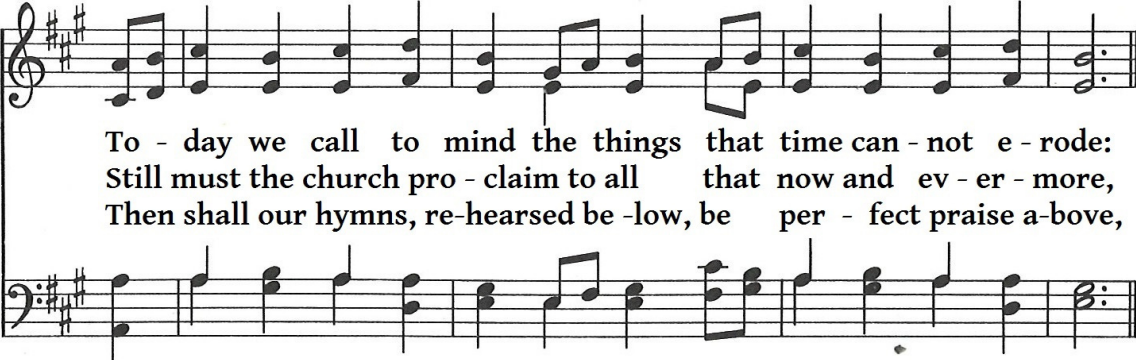
ELLACOMBE C.M.D.  
"Gesangbuch," Württemberg, 1784



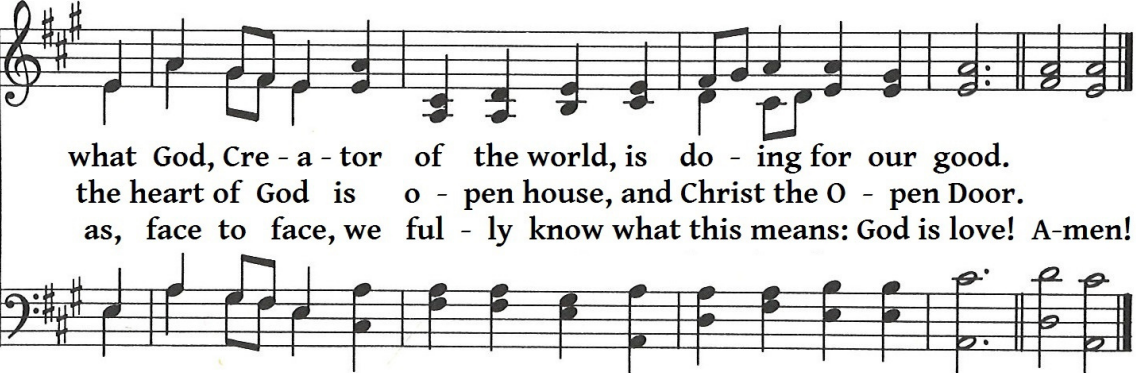
Now let us all, in hymns of praise, bear wit - ness with one voice  
What chang-es, chal - leng - es, and tests the church of Christ sur - vives!  
Of all our lab - ors, who can say what har - vest there shall be,



to God's re - deem-ing work in Christ, and bid the world re - joice.  
How rich the re - cords left to us of ded - i - cat - ed lives!  
when time, that lim - its and dis - torts, be - comes e - ter - ni - ty?



To - day we call to mind the things that time can - not e - rode:  
Still must the church pro - claim to all that now and ev - er - more,  
Then shall our hymns, re - hearsed be - low, be per - fect praise a - bove,



what God, Cre - a - tor of the world, is do - ing for our good.  
the heart of God is o - pen house, and Christ the O - pen Door.  
as, face to face, we ful - ly know what this means: God is love! A - men!

# My Faith, It Is an Oaken Staff

Thomas T. Lynch, 1855; alt.

1 My faith, it is an oak - en staff, the trav - eler's well-loved aid;  
 2 My guide is Je - sus Christ whose steps, when trav - el - ers have trod,  
 3 My faith, it is an oak - en staff, O let me on it lean.

My faith, it is a song of trust, sus - tains me un - dis - mayed.  
 Wheth - er be - neath was flint - y rock or yield - ing grass - y sod,  
 My faith pro - vides the ground of hope, sup - ports a pur - pose keen.

I'll trav - el on and still be stirred by si - lent thought or so - cial  
 They car - ried on, their joy un - spent; through pain and trial they on - ward  
 Your Spir - it, God, up - on me send, that I may be what you in -

word; By all my per - ils un - de - terred, a pil - grim un - a - fraid.  
 went, Un - stayed by plea - sure, still they bent their zeal - ous course to God.  
 tend. With pa - tient cour - age, we'll con - tend as ra - diant saints se - rene.

*A gifted Congregational minister in London, Thomas Toke Lynch was the subject of controversy within the churches upon the publication of his hymn collection, The Rivulet, which received poor reviews. This hymn was labeled Lynch's "best" when it appeared in Congregational Praise (1951).*

Tune: THE STAFF OF FAITH 8.6.8.6.8.8.6.  
 Swiss folk melody  
 Fellowship Hymn Book, 1910

Deut. 33:27

Elisha A. Hoffman, 1887; alt.

1 What a \*cov - e - nant, what a joy di - vine, lean - ing on the ev - er -  
 2 Oh, how sweet to walk in this pil - grim way, lean - ing on the ev - er -  
 3 What have I to dread, what have I to fear, lean - ing on the ev - er -

last - ing arms. What a bless - ed - ness, what a peace is mine, lean - ing  
 last - ing arms. Oh, how bright the path grows from day to day, lean - ing  
 last - ing arms? I have bless - ed peace with my Sav - ior near, lean - ing

## Refrain

on the ev - er - last - ing arms.  
 on the ev - er - last - ing arms. Lean - ing, lean - ing, safe and se - cure from  
 on the ev - er - last - ing arms.


all a - larms; lean - ing, lean - ing, lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.

\*Or, "fellowship"

In a letter to two grieving friends, A. J. Showalter quoted Deuteronomy 33:27, "... underneath are the everlasting arms." Showalter then wrote this music and the refrain and sent them to E. A. Hoffman to provide the stanzas.

Tune: LEANING 5.5.9.D. with refrain  
 Anthony J. Showalter, 1887





# Fall Fair



**The Plymouth Church in Framingham  
87 Edgell Road, Framingham, MA**

**September 30, 10 AM – 2 PM**




**HUGE WHITE ELEPHANT TAG SALE:**  
household goods, kitchen gadgets, home decor, linens,  
gently used kids toys, games, and sporting equipment

Baked goods, sandwiches, pie, chowder, soup, chili •


Hot Dog stand • Homemade crafts •

Costumes • Themed gift baskets • Christmas Shop •

Books • Jewelry • Kid's Games



*For more information, call the Church Office at 508-875-1364  
visit <https://plymouthchurchframingham.org> or follow us on Facebook*



# Bulletin Reminders

## One Faith, One Hope, One Lord

*Craig Courtney*

One faith, one hope, one Lord, one church for which He died.

One voice, one song we lift in praise  
to Him Who was and is and shall be evermore.

There is one body, one Spirit, as you were called to one hope.

One Lord, baptism and faith,  
one God and Father of all, above all, through all who is in you all.

Though we be many people, diverse with various gifts,  
we are given to each other for the unity of faith,  
that we grow in the knowledge of the Son of God,  
in the fullness of Christ.

One faith, one hope, one Lord, one God!



### FALL FAIR DONATION DROP-OFFS

**White Elephants:** Beginning Friday, **September 22**, White Elephant donations may be left in the Parish Hall (kitchen end). Plan ahead! The last day for dropping off White Elephant donations is Thursday, September 28. If bringing donations in during the week, Church doors are open Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**Books, Christmas, and Costume** donations are requested to be neatly piled in the small classroom opposite Greg's office.

**Jewelry:** We welcome all sorts of jewelry, heirloom and costume! Leave them in the Church Office. Seal them in envelopes and pass through the office door mail slot or leave just outside the office door on Sunday morning.

### PIE-MAKING NIGHT - PARISH HALL KITCHEN

**Tuesday, September 19, 6:30 p.m.**  
**(or just come when you can!)**

Enjoy an evening out in our awesome Parish Hall kitchen! Have a good chat and peel a peck of apples to make pies for the Fair Luncheon and Bake Shoppe. Please bring your favorite peeler and, perhaps, some apples, a few pie crusts, sugar and spice fillings, Or just come, even if you are not a baker! Many hands help to make lots of yummy pie. *See your Wednesday Email for easy and awesome pie filling and pie crust recipes from Beth!*

### CWS BACK-TO-SCHOOL KITS

We especially need notebooks, scissors (blunt ends), pencils, and pencil sharpeners. Items may be left in the baskets near the lower elevator. See Leona Dalton at Coffee Hour.