



Westminster Presbyterian Church  
Albany, New York  
July 9, 2023  
Service of Worship 10:00 a.m.



**Prelude**

Music from Stringwynde  
(3 hymn selections)

Arranged by: Deborah Govenor

**Call to Worship**

Kris Wilhelm

One: This is the day that the Lord has made!

**All: Let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

One: Let us worship God.

**Opening Hymn #81**

“Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken”

**Prayer of Confession**

One: Let us now confess our sins, trusting in God’s boundless mercy and grace.

**All: Merciful God,**

**We confess that we have sinned  
against you**

**In thought, word, and deed,**

**By what we have done,**

**And by what we have left undone.**

**We have not loved you**

**With our whole heart and mind and strength.**

**We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**

**In your mercy, forgive what we have been,**

**Help us to amend what we are,**

**And direct what we shall be,**

**That we may delight in your will**

**And walk in your ways,**

**To the glory of your holy name.**

(Time of silence)

**Assurance of Forgiveness**

**Response Hymn #583**

“Glory to God”

**Passing The Peace**

**Words of Welcome**

Rev. Paul Randall

## Prayer for Illumination

### Scripture

Psalm 145:1-10

I will extol you, my God and King,  
and bless your name for ever and ever.

**Every day I will bless you,  
and praise your name for ever and ever.**

Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised;  
his greatness is unsearchable.

**One generation shall laud your works to another,  
and shall declare your mighty acts.**

On the glorious splendour of your majesty,  
and on your wondrous works, I will meditate.

**The might of your awesome deeds shall be proclaimed,  
and I will declare your greatness.**

They shall celebrate the fame of your abundant goodness,  
and shall sing aloud of your righteousness.

**The LORD is gracious and merciful,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

The LORD is good to all,  
and his compassion is over all that he has made.

**All your works shall give thanks to you, O LORD,  
and all your faithful shall bless you.**

### Special Music

Music from Stringwynde  
(2 hymn selections)

Arranged by: Deborah Govonor

### Gospel Lesson

Matthew 20:1-16

‘For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire labourers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the labourers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the market-place; and he said to them, “You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.” So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same. And about five o’clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, “Why are you standing here idle all day?” They said to him, “Because no one has hired us.” He said to them, “You also go into the vineyard.” When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, “Call the labourers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.” When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage.

Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, “These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.” But he replied to one of them, “Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?” So the last will be first, and the first will be last.’

Sermon/Discussion

“Work and Worth”  
(Questions at the end of the bulletin)

Rev. Paul Randall

Hymn #316

“Where Charity and Love Prevail”

PRAY 

Gathering Celebrations and Concerns

Prayers of the People

Periods of silence followed by “.....Leader: God of mercy. People: **hear our prayer.**”

The Lord’s Prayer

**All: 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, forever. Amen.**

Offering

Offering Music

Music from Stringwynde  
“What a Friend We Have in Jesus”

Charles C. Converse (1832-1918)  
Arr. Deborah Govenor

GO FORTH 

Closing Hymn #724

“O Jesus, I Have Promised”

Charge and Benediction

Rev. Paul Randall

Postlude

Music from Stringwynde  
“Beautiful Savior”

Silesian Folk Tune  
Arr. Deborah Govenor

We welcome Stringwynde as our special guests. Several years ago, *Flutist Melanie Chirignan* emailed *Harpist Darhon Rees-Rohrbacher* to see if she wanted to read through some music together. Thus, Stringwynde was born. Both women hold graduate degrees in music and have performed varied repertoire in numerous settings, both formal and informal. You can find them on Facebook. Stringwynde is pleased to be providing special music for today's worship service.

*Thank you for joining us. We'd love to stay in touch!*

Heather Kirk-Davidoff, Minister

Christopher Price, Music Director ~ Belinda Quaye, Director of Religious Education  
Lorraine Charboneau, Church Administrator ~ Joy Talmadge, Assistant Sexton  
Forrest Holroyd, Treasurer ~ Kim Deal, Communications

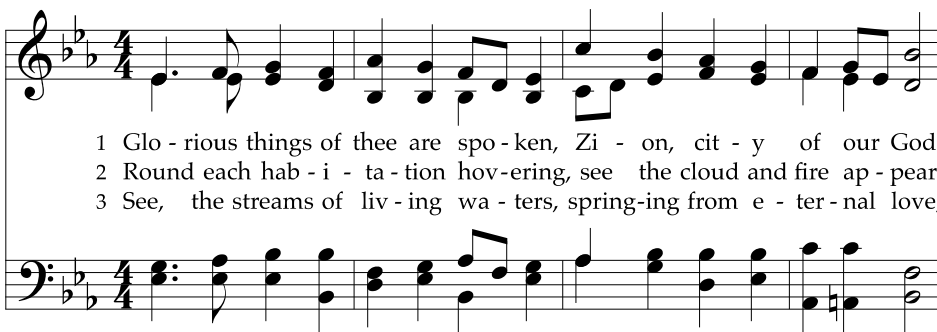
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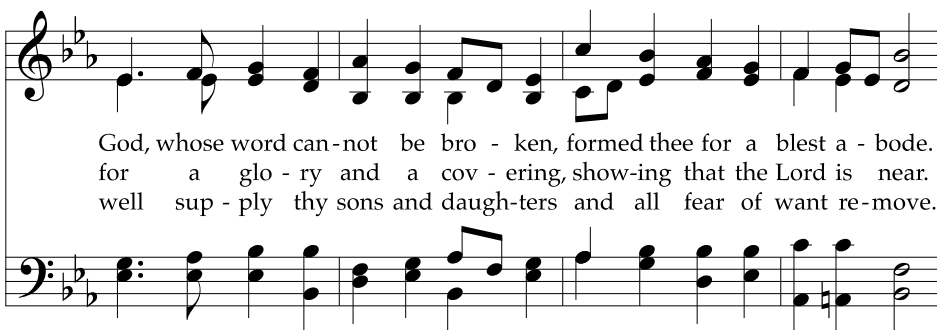
## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. The all-day workers thought they were given enough until they saw what the others got. Then they were angry. What do think is the source of their anger?
2. Why does the owner pay everyone the same wage?
3. What is “enough?”
4. Is there a difference between having and being enough?
5. Do you think most people prefer to work or not work?
6. Should welfare recipients be required to work?
7. If our work defines our worth and we cannot work, are we worthless?
8. Who’s the neediest in this story?
9. Healthy families usually find a way to make allowances for members who cannot do their fair share. Could that image be applied to our life in God’s Kingdom today?
10. Other questions?

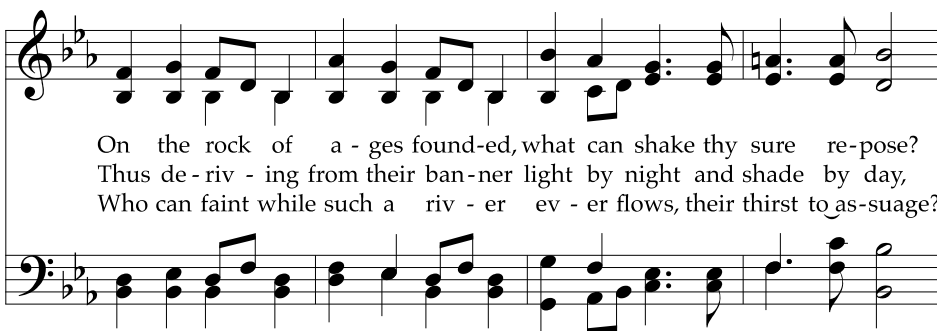
# 81 Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken



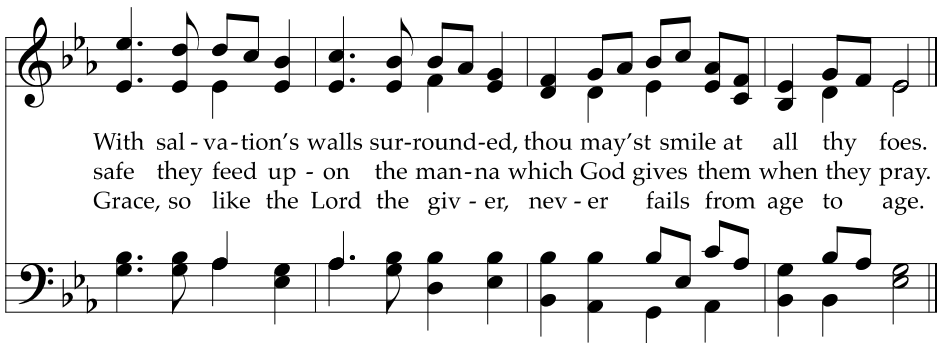
1 Glo - rious things of thee are spo - ken, Zi - on, cit - y of our God.  
2 Round each hab - i - ta - tion hov - ering, see the cloud and fire ap - pear  
3 See, the streams of liv - ing wa - ters, spring - ing from e - ter - nal love,



God, whose word can - not be bro - ken, formed thee for a blest a - bode.  
for a glo - ry and a cov - ering, show - ing that the Lord is near.  
well sup - ply thy sons and daugh - ters and all fear of want re - move.



On the rock of a - ges found - ed, what can shake thy sure re - pose?  
Thus de - riv - ing from their ban - ner light by night and shade by day,  
Who can faint while such a riv - er ev - er flows, their thirst to as - suage?



With sal - va - tion's walls sur - round - ed, thou may'st smile at all thy foes.  
safe they feed up - on the man - na which God gives them when they pray.  
Grace, so like the Lord the giv - er, nev - er fails from age to age.

The Nazi appropriation of this tune for propaganda purposes has clouded a noble piece of music first associated with this text in 1889. In a 1779 collection, the author indicated that this hymn is primarily based on Isaiah 33:20–21 with allusions to several other passages.

## Glory to God

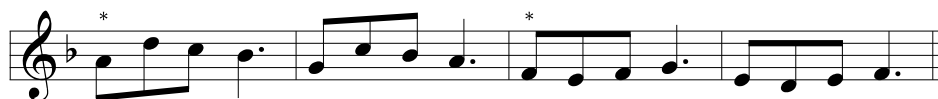
583

*Gloria, gloria*

Capo 3: ( Bm ) ( Em ) ( A ) ( D )  
 Dm Gm C F (chords continue)



Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry in the high - est!  
 Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, in ex - cel - sis De - o!



Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!  
 Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

*\*May be sung as a canon.*

TEXT: Trad. liturgical text  
 MUSIC: Jacques Berthier, 1979  
 Music © 1979, 1981 Les Presses de Taizé (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)

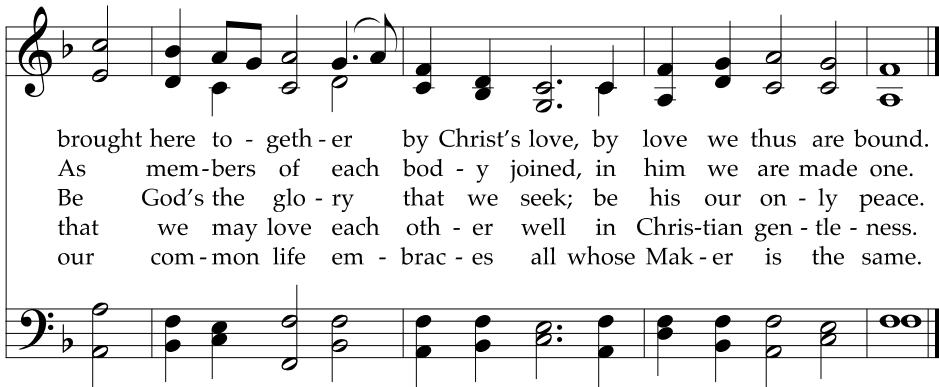
GLORIA (Taizé)



# Where Charity and Love Prevail 316



1 Where char-i - ty and love pre - vail, there God is ev - er found;  
2 Let us re - call that in our midst dwells Christ, God's ho - ly Son.  
3 Let strife a - mong us be un-known; let all con - ten - tions cease.  
4 Let us for-give each oth - er's faults as we our own con - fess,  
5 Love can ex-clude no race or creed if hon - ored be God's name;



brought here to - geth - er by Christ's love, by love we thus are bound.  
As mem-bers of each bod - y joined, in him we are made one.  
Be God's the glo - ry that we seek; be his our on - ly peace.  
that we may love each oth - er well in Chris-tian gen - tle - ness.  
our com-mon life em - brac - es all whose Mak - er is the same.

This English paraphrase is based on a longer Latin hymn traditionally associated with the footwashing ritual on Maundy Thursday, an enactment of Christ's "new commandment" that we should love one another (John 13:34). For a chant setting of the first line of the hymn see no. 205.

# 724 O Jesus, I Have Promised

1 O Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve thee to the end;  
 2 O let me feel thee near me! The world is ev - er near:  
 3 O let me hear thee speak - ing in ac - cents clear and still,  
 4 O Je - sus, thou hast prom - ised to all who fol - low thee

be thou for - ev - er near me, my Mas - ter and my friend;  
 I see the sights that daz - zle; the tempt - ing sounds I hear.  
 a - bove the storms of pas - sion, the mur - murs of self - will;  
 that where thou art in glo - ry there shall thy ser - vant be.

I shall not fear the bat - tle if thou art by my side,  
 My foes are ev - er near me, a - round me and with - in;  
 O speak to re - as - sure me, to has - ten or con - trol;  
 And, Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve thee to the end;

nor wan - der from the path - way if thou wilt be my guide.  
 but, Je - sus, draw thou near - er and shield my soul from sin.  
 O speak, and make me lis - ten, thou guard - ian of my soul.  
 O give me grace to fol - low, my Mas - ter and my friend.

Written to highlight the promises made by the author's daughter and two sons at their confirmation, this text equally well recalls the promises of discipleship made in Baptism and in the Reaffirmation of the Baptismal Covenant. The tune was written for a text now unused.