



Hanoi Street Vendor:
Photo by Fabian Irsara

Hope United Church of Christ Moline, IL
Worship Bulletin July 5, 2020
Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Thank you for joining us for worship today.

We are glad you are here!

*No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey,
you are welcome at Hope UCC!*

PRELUDE *Spirit of Jesus, if I Love My Neighbor* - Wren

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Come with joy and gladness to praise and honor God. Come to the refreshing waters that God provides.

Many: God is gracious and merciful and full of compassion. All creation joins us in giving thanks.

One: Give ear, all people, to the law of God. Give thanks for all the guidance God gives us.

Many: God upholds all who are falling. God raises us up when we are bowed down.

One: Come, all who are weary and carrying heavy burdens. Come, for Christ has promised rest.

Many: The gentle spirit of Christ invites us. We have come to find rest for our souls.

OPENING HYMN *Shall We Gather at the River* (Hanson Place)

INVITING GOD INTO OUR MIDST

We come together, gracious God, because we have heard your invitation. We sense that you alone know the burdens we carry. You understand our weariness. Sometimes our journey seems long and without respite. We long for the refreshment you provide as we come to worship you. The anticipation of this hour of rest and nourishment fills us with renewed joy and gladness. We thank you, God, that your revelation comes to us, not because we are worthy, but because we are open to your word. Open our hearts to receive all you offer. Amen

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God, we do not understand our own actions. We turn away from the good we are intent on doing. Yet, we find wisdom in your law. We delight in the idea of mutual caring and celebrating life together, but we get bogged down in our own concerns. We are too busy to seek community and too preoccupied to ponder your will for us. We go our own way, cutting ourselves off from you and one another. O God, help us to put away this sin. Amen

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS AND PASSING OF PEACE

We are created in the image of God and are blessed with the capacity to reflect God's will in our daily lives. God cares for us and invests us with responsibility. Thus God honors us with high expectations and confidence in our willingness to seek out life's best for all people. We are loved. We are forgiven. Our baptism is renewed.

Let us offer one another the gift of peace. May the Lord's peace be with you!

(If you are using this liturgy as a private devotion or participating in the live stream worship, please hold out your hands in blessing for all you are joined with in spirit. If you are participating in the live stream worship, please type in your peace greeting.)

PASTORAL PRAYER/LORD'S PRAYER (debts)

One: May the Lord be with you.

Many: And also with you.

One: Let us pray:

...

With the assurance Jesus offers, together we pray the words Jesus taught us:

Our Father, who is in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your 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 yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON

Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67

³⁴So he said, "I am Abraham's servant. ³⁵The LORD has greatly blessed my master, and he has become wealthy; he has given him flocks and herds, silver and gold, male and female slaves, camels and donkeys. ³⁶And Sarah my master's wife bore a son to my master when she was old; and he has given him all that he has. ³⁷My master made me swear, saying, 'You shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I live; ³⁸but you shall go to my father's house, to my kindred, and get a wife for my son.'

⁴²"I came today to the spring, and said, 'O LORD, the God of my master Abraham, if now you will only make successful the way I am going! ⁴³I am standing here by the spring of water; let the young woman who comes out to draw, to whom I shall say, "Please give me a little water from your jar to drink," ⁴⁴and who will say to me, "Drink, and I will draw for your camels also"—let her be the woman whom the LORD has appointed for my master's son.'

⁴⁵"Before I had finished speaking in my heart, there was Rebekah coming out with her water jar on her shoulder; and she went down to the spring, and drew. I said to her, 'Please let me drink.' ⁴⁶She quickly let down her jar from her shoulder, and said, 'Drink, and I will also water your camels.' So I drank, and she also watered the camels. ⁴⁷Then I asked her, 'Whose daughter are you?' She said, 'The daughter of Bethuel, Nahor's son, whom Milcah bore to him.' So I put the ring on her nose, and the bracelets on her arms. ⁴⁸Then I bowed my head and worshiped the LORD, and blessed the LORD, the God of my master Abraham, who had led me by the right way to obtain the daughter of my master's kinsman for his son. ⁴⁹Now then, if you will deal loyally and truly with my master, tell me; and if not, tell me, so that I may turn either to the right hand or to the left."

⁵⁸And they called Rebekah, and said to her, “Will you go with this man?” She said, “I will.” ⁵⁹So they sent away their sister Rebekah and her nurse along with Abraham’s servant and his men. ⁶⁰And they blessed Rebekah and said to her,

“May you, our sister, become
thousands of myriads;
may your offspring gain possession
of the gates of their foes.”

⁶¹Then Rebekah and her maids rose up, mounted the camels, and followed the man; thus the servant took Rebekah, and went his way.

⁶²Now Isaac had come from[£] Beer-lahai-roi, and was settled in the Negeb. ⁶³Isaac went out in the evening to walk[£] in the field; and looking up, he saw camels coming. ⁶⁴And Rebekah looked up, and when she saw Isaac, she slipped quickly from the camel, ⁶⁵and said to the servant, “Who is the man over there, walking in the field to meet us?” The servant said, “It is my master.” So she took her veil and covered herself. ⁶⁶And the servant told Isaac all the things that he had done. ⁶⁷Then Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah’s tent. He took Rebekah, and she became his wife; and he loved her. So Isaac was comforted after his mother’s death.

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Matthew 11:16-19. 25-30

¹⁶“But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,

¹⁷ ‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;
we wailed, and you did not mourn.’

¹⁸For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; ¹⁹the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.”[£]

²⁵At that time Jesus said, “I thank[£] you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; ²⁶yes, Father, for such was your gracious will.[£] ²⁷All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

²⁸“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

SERMON

INVITATION TO OFFERING

God has greatly blessed us with many kinds of wealth. Let our joy and gladness overflow as we express gratitude to God with our offerings. As we support the ministries of the church, let us consider those whose lives are grievously burdened, reaching out to them in practical acts of mercy.

We are profoundly grateful for your continued support of Hope UCC as we stay connected as a faith community in this time of social distancing and spiritual connection. We are continuing the ministry of our church throughout this stay at home order and we thank you for making this possible. We now have two ways to make your offering. Hope UCC is now able to offer e-giving through Breeze Management System to make it safer and easier for you to give anytime. You are able to safely donate electronically using your credit card or ACH transfer. You can find the link on our church

website (www.hopeuccqc.org). We also invite you to mail your offering to the church office – mail and messages are checked daily by Pastor Santina. Thank you for your generosity- your commitment is vital to continuing our congregation's ministries and commitments. Hope Grows! And there is nothing- not even a global pandemic - that can stop it! ☺

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

With all the gifts of creation, you have blessed us, gracious God. We give thanks for all your works. Gratitude is our first impulse for giving. Accept our grateful hearts, along with our gifts. We ask for wisdom as our church determines priorities for the use of resources. May we be as concerned about outreach and mission as we are about programs for ourselves. As you are faithful to us, O God, may we be faithful in all things, seeking always to live by your gracious will. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

(Please use whatever elements you have available for the bread and the cup)

Welcome

One: God be with you.

Many: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

Many: We lift them to God.

One: Let us give thanks to God Most High.

Many: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Holy God, we praise and bless you for creation and for your abiding love which brings us close to you, the source of all blessing. We thank you for creating us in your own image, for forgiving us when we act as though you have no claim on us, and for keeping us in your steadfast care. We rejoice in Jesus Christ, who shared the joys and sorrows of life as we know it. We remember Christ's death, we celebrate Christ's resurrection, and, as your church, we anticipate Christ's return. We take courage from your Holy Spirit and we offer you our praise for our sisters, brothers, and siblings of faith in every age who stand as witnesses to your love and justice. Together with all the company of heaven, we glorify you:

Holy, holy, holy God of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God Most High. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God! Hosanna in the highest!

Remember

We remember that on the night of betrayal and desertion, Jesus took bread, gave you thanks, broke the bread, and gave it to the disciples, saying: "This is my body which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, Jesus also took the cup, after supper, saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." By eating this bread and drinking this cup, we proclaim Christ's death, celebrate Christ's resurrection, and await Christ's coming again.

Consecration

Let us pray: Gracious God, by your Holy Spirit, bless these gifts of bread and cup – each unique in their composition and location, and yet common through the Spirit that anoints these gifts. Bless us as we receive the bread and cup, that we will offer you our faith and praise, and that we will be united with Christ and with one another. Through this table of fellowship, make us the Body of Christ and may your Spirit strengthen us when we feel weak, warm us when we are cold-hearted, bend us when we are stubborn, move us when we are uncaring, guide us in the way of love. May we continue to be faithful in all things. As we eat and drink, may the elements be symbols that remind us who we are and whose we are. We ask all this in the name of the one who extends the invitation to us, your Son, Christ Jesus. Amen

Through the broken bread we participate in the body of Christ.

Through the cup of blessing we participate in the new life Christ gives.

Invitation & Sharing Holy Communion

This is the table, not of the church, but of Jesus Christ. It is made ready for those who love him and for those who want to love him more. All are welcome. Come to the table because it is Jesus Christ who invites you. It is his will that those who want him should meet him here. Please join this feast in the spirit of joy and gratitude. These are the gifts of God for the people of God. Come, for all things are ready.

Take and eat, Christ's body given for you.
Take and drink, the cup of blessing.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our savior. Amen

CLOSING HYMN *In the Midst of New Dimensions* (New Dimensions)

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BENEDICTION

One: Carry with you innermost selves, delight in God's law. Meditate day by day on God's purpose for your lives.

Many: We rejoice that God dwells with us every day. We want to know and do God's will for us.

One: We encounter God in unexpected places. God surprises us in the life and witness of people.

Many: We learn from the youngest in our midst. Simple and humble persons have much to teach us.

One: Take Christ's yoke upon you, for that yoke is easy. It imparts confidence that lightens our burdens.

Many: We will find rest and renewal through Christ. We seek to express the same humility and gentleness.

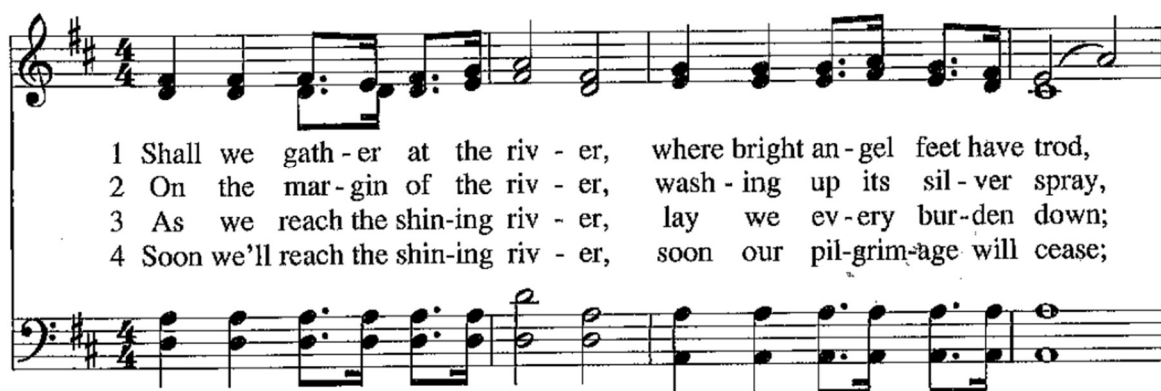
POSTLUDE *Gavotte* - Wesley

Shall We Gather at the River

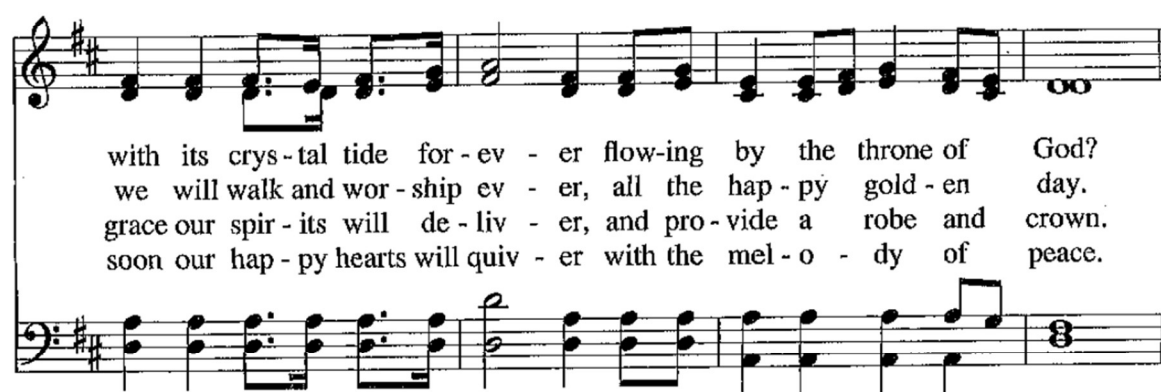
597

Robert Lowry, 1864; alt.

Rev. 22:1-5



1 Shall we gath-er at the riv-er, where bright an-gel feet have trod,
2 On the mar-gin of the riv-er, wash-ing up its sil-ver spray,
3 As we reach the shin-ing riv-er, lay we ev-ery bur-den down;
4 Soon we'll reach the shin-ing riv-er, soon our pil-grim-age will cease;

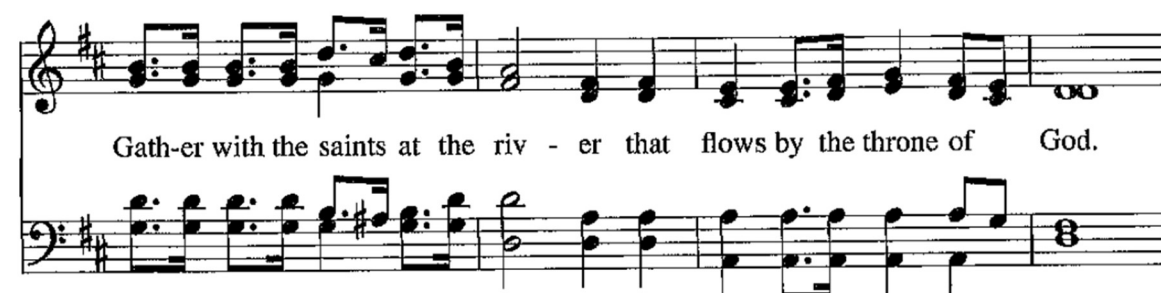


with its crys-tal tide for-ev-er flow-ing by the throne of God?
we will walk and wor-ship ev-er, all the hap-py gold-en day.
grace our spir-its will de-liv-er, and pro-vide a robe and crown.
soon our hap-py hearts will quiv-er with the mel-o-dy of peace.

Refrain



Yes, we'll gath-er at the riv-er, the beau-ti-ful, the beau-ti-ful riv-er,



Gath-er with the saints at the riv-er that flows by the throne of God.

Written during a time when an epidemic was claiming many lives in New York, Robert Lowry's hymn raised the question "Shall we meet again?" Lowry was pastor at Hanson Place Baptist Church in Brooklyn from 1861 to 1869, and collaborated on numerous hymn collections with William H. Doane.

Tune: HANSON PLACE 8.7.8.7, with refrain
Robert Lowry, 1864

In the Midst of New Dimensions

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Julian Rush, 1985; alt.

Gen. 9:12-16; Exod. 13:21-22; Num. 14:14

C C/B F C F Am7 Dm7 G7sus4 G7

1 In the midst of new di-men-sions, in the face of chang-ing ways,
 2 Through the flood of starv-ing peo-ple, war-ring fac-tions and de-spair,
 3 As we stand a world di-vid-ed by our own self-seek-ing schemes,
 4 We are man and we are wom-an, all per-sua-sions, old and young,
 5 Should the threats of dire pre-dic-tions cause us to with-draw in pain,

C C/B F C F Am7 Dm7 G C

Who will lead the pil-grim peo-ples wan-dering in their sep-arate ways?
 Who will lift the ol-ive branch-es? Who will light the flame of care?
 Grant that we, your glob-al vil-lage, might en-vi-sion wid-er dreams.
 Each a gift in your cre-a-tion, each a love song to be sung.
 May your blaz-ing phoe-nix spir-it res-ur-rect the church a-gain.

Refrain
 Am Em F C F C G7 C Dsus4 D7 G7sus4 G7 Am

God of rain-bow, fier-y pil-lar, lead-ing where the ea-gles soar, We your

Em F C F C/E F C/E F C/E Dm7 G7 C

peo-ple, ours the jour-ney now and ev-er, now and ev-er, now and ev-er - more.

Julian Rush, an ordained minister in the United Methodist Church, has spent more than a decade as director of the Colorado AIDS Project. He wrote this hymn on the theme of "diversity" for a meeting of the Rocky Mountain Conference (United Methodist).

Tune: NEW DIMENSIONS 8.7.8.7. with refrain
 Julian Rush, 1985
 Arr. The New Century Hymnal, 1994



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Many: And also with you.

One: Let us pray:

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With the assurance Jesus offers, together we pray the words Jesus taught us:

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Matthew 11:16-19. 25-30

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Holy, holy, holy God of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God Most High. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God! Hosanna in the highest!

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We remember that on the night of betrayal and desertion, Jesus took bread, gave you thanks, broke the bread, and gave it to the disciples, saying: "This is my body which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, Jesus also took the cup, after supper, saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." By eating this bread and drinking this cup, we proclaim Christ's death, celebrate Christ's resurrection, and await Christ's coming again.

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Take and eat, Christ's body given for you.
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Prayer of Thanksgiving

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our savior. Amen

CLOSING HYMN *In the Midst of New Dimensions* (New Dimensions)

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BENEDICTION

One: Carry with you innermost selves, delight in God's law. Meditate day by day on God's purpose for your lives.

Many: We rejoice that God dwells with us every day. We want to know and do God's will for us.

One: We encounter God in unexpected places. God surprises us in the life and witness of people.

Many: We learn from the youngest in our midst. Simple and humble persons have much to teach us.

One: Take Christ's yoke upon you, for that yoke is easy. It imparts confidence that lightens our burdens.

Many: We will find rest and renewal through Christ. We seek to express the same humility and gentleness.

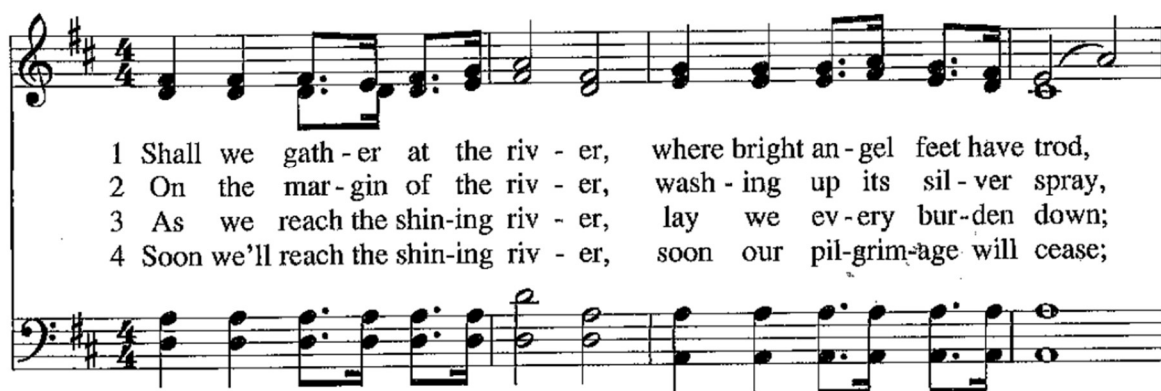
POSTLUDE *Gavotte* - Wesley

Shall We Gather at the River

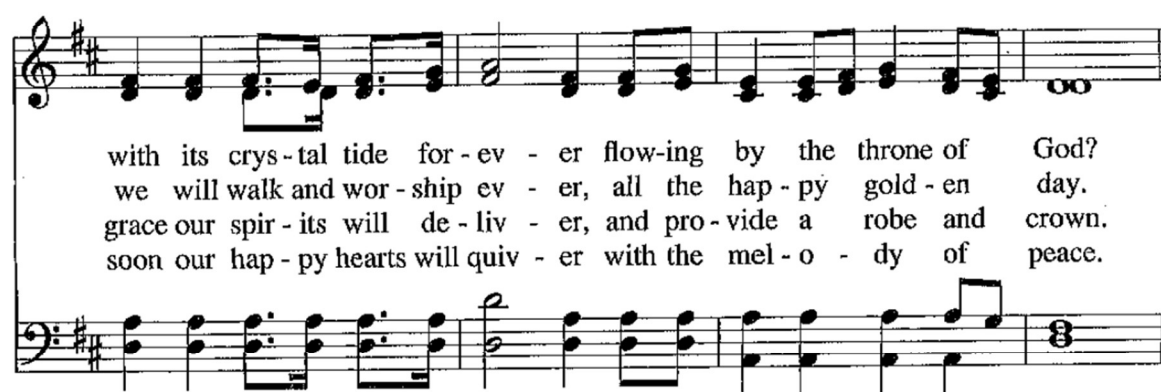
597

Robert Lowry, 1864; alt.

Rev. 22:1-5



1 Shall we gath-er at the riv-er, where bright an-gel feet have trod,
2 On the mar-gin of the riv-er, wash-ing up its sil-ver spray,
3 As we reach the shin-ing riv-er, lay we ev-ery bur-den down;
4 Soon we'll reach the shin-ing riv-er, soon our pil-grim-age will cease;

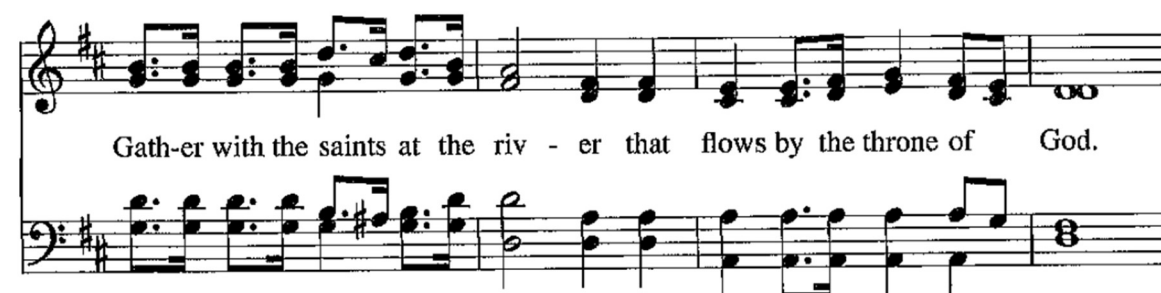


with its crys-tal tide for-ev-er flow-ing by the throne of God?
we will walk and wor-ship ev-er, all the hap-py gold-en day.
grace our spir-its will de-liv-er, and pro-vide a robe and crown.
soon our hap-py hearts will quiv-er with the mel-o-dy of peace.

Refrain



Yes, we'll gath-er at the riv-er, the beau-ti-ful, the beau-ti-ful riv-er,



Gath-er with the saints at the riv-er that flows by the throne of God.

Written during a time when an epidemic was claiming many lives in New York, Robert Lowry's hymn raised the question "Shall we meet again?" Lowry was pastor at Hanson Place Baptist Church in Brooklyn from 1861 to 1869, and collaborated on numerous hymn collections with William H. Doane.

Tune: HANSON PLACE 8.7.8.7, with refrain
Robert Lowry, 1864

In the Midst of New Dimensions

391

Julian Rush, 1985; alt.

Gen. 9:12-16; Exod. 13:21-22; Num. 14:14

C C/B F C F Am7 Dm7 G7sus4 G7

1 In the midst of new di-men-sions, in the face of chang-ing ways,
 2 Through the flood of starv-ing peo-ple, war-ring fac-tions and de-spair,
 3 As we stand a world di-vid-ed by our own self-seek-ing schemes,
 4 We are man and we are wom-an, all per-sua-sions, old and young,
 5 Should the threats of dire pre-dic-tions cause us to with-draw in pain,

C C/B F C F Am7 Dm7 G C

Who will lead the pil-grim peo-les wan-dering in their sep-a-rate ways?
 Who will lift the ol-ive branch-es? Who will light the flame of care?
 Grant that we, your glob-al vil-lage, might en-vi-sion wid-er dreams.
 Each a gift in your cre-a-tion, each a love song to be sung.
 May your blaz-ing phoe-nix spir-it res-ur-rect the church a-gain.

Refrain
 Am Em F C F C G7 C Dsus4 D7 G7sus4 G7 Am

God of rain-bow, fier-y pil-lar, lead-ing where the ea-gles soar, We your

Em F C F C/E F C/E F C/E Dm7 G7 C

peo-ple, ours the jour-ney now and ev-er, now and ev-er, now and ev-er - more.

Julian Rush, an ordained minister in the United Methodist Church, has spent more than a decade as director of the Colorado AIDS Project. He wrote this hymn on the theme of "diversity" for a meeting of the Rocky Mountain Conference (United Methodist).

Tune: NEW DIMENSIONS 8.7.8.7. with refrain
 Julian Rush, 1985
 Arr. The New Century Hymnal, 1994



Hanoi Street Vendor:
Photo by Fabian Irsara

Hope United Church of Christ Moline, IL
Worship Bulletin July 5, 2020
Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

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We are glad you are here!

*No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey,
you are welcome at Hope UCC!*

PRELUDE *Spirit of Jesus, if I Love My Neighbor* - Wren

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Come with joy and gladness to praise and honor God. Come to the refreshing waters that God provides.

Many: God is gracious and merciful and full of compassion. All creation joins us in giving thanks.

One: Give ear, all people, to the law of God. Give thanks for all the guidance God gives us.

Many: God upholds all who are falling. God raises us up when we are bowed down.

One: Come, all who are weary and carrying heavy burdens. Come, for Christ has promised rest.

Many: The gentle spirit of Christ invites us. We have come to find rest for our souls.

OPENING HYMN *Shall We Gather at the River* (Hanson Place)

INVITING GOD INTO OUR MIDST

We come together, gracious God, because we have heard your invitation. We sense that you alone know the burdens we carry. You understand our weariness. Sometimes our journey seems long and without respite. We long for the refreshment you provide as we come to worship you. The anticipation of this hour of rest and nourishment fills us with renewed joy and gladness. We thank you, God, that your revelation comes to us, not because we are worthy, but because we are open to your word. Open our hearts to receive all you offer. Amen

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God, we do not understand our own actions. We turn away from the good we are intent on doing. Yet, we find wisdom in your law. We delight in the idea of mutual caring and celebrating life together, but we get bogged down in our own concerns. We are too busy to seek community and too preoccupied to ponder your will for us. We go our own way, cutting ourselves off from you and one another. O God, help us to put away this sin. Amen

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS AND PASSING OF PEACE

We are created in the image of God and are blessed with the capacity to reflect God's will in our daily lives. God cares for us and invests us with responsibility. Thus God honors us with high expectations and confidence in our willingness to seek out life's best for all people. We are loved. We are forgiven. Our baptism is renewed.

Let us offer one another the gift of peace. May the Lord's peace be with you!

(If you are using this liturgy as a private devotion or participating in the live stream worship, please hold out your hands in blessing for all you are joined with in spirit. If you are participating in the live stream worship, please type in your peace greeting.)

PASTORAL PRAYER/LORD'S PRAYER (debts)

One: May the Lord be with you.

Many: And also with you.

One: Let us pray:

...

With the assurance Jesus offers, together we pray the words Jesus taught us:

Our Father, who is in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your 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 yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON

Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67

³⁴So he said, "I am Abraham's servant. ³⁵The LORD has greatly blessed my master, and he has become wealthy; he has given him flocks and herds, silver and gold, male and female slaves, camels and donkeys. ³⁶And Sarah my master's wife bore a son to my master when she was old; and he has given him all that he has. ³⁷My master made me swear, saying, 'You shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I live; ³⁸but you shall go to my father's house, to my kindred, and get a wife for my son.'

⁴²"I came today to the spring, and said, 'O LORD, the God of my master Abraham, if now you will only make successful the way I am going! ⁴³I am standing here by the spring of water; let the young woman who comes out to draw, to whom I shall say, "Please give me a little water from your jar to drink," ⁴⁴and who will say to me, "Drink, and I will draw for your camels also"—let her be the woman whom the LORD has appointed for my master's son.'

⁴⁵"Before I had finished speaking in my heart, there was Rebekah coming out with her water jar on her shoulder; and she went down to the spring, and drew. I said to her, 'Please let me drink.' ⁴⁶She quickly let down her jar from her shoulder, and said, 'Drink, and I will also water your camels.' So I drank, and she also watered the camels. ⁴⁷Then I asked her, 'Whose daughter are you?' She said, 'The daughter of Bethuel, Nahor's son, whom Milcah bore to him.' So I put the ring on her nose, and the bracelets on her arms. ⁴⁸Then I bowed my head and worshiped the LORD, and blessed the LORD, the God of my master Abraham, who had led me by the right way to obtain the daughter of my master's kinsman for his son. ⁴⁹Now then, if you will deal loyally and truly with my master, tell me; and if not, tell me, so that I may turn either to the right hand or to the left."

⁵⁸And they called Rebekah, and said to her, “Will you go with this man?” She said, “I will.” ⁵⁹So they sent away their sister Rebekah and her nurse along with Abraham’s servant and his men. ⁶⁰And they blessed Rebekah and said to her,

“May you, our sister, become
thousands of myriads;
may your offspring gain possession
of the gates of their foes.”

⁶¹Then Rebekah and her maids rose up, mounted the camels, and followed the man; thus the servant took Rebekah, and went his way.

⁶²Now Isaac had come from[£] Beer-lahai-roi, and was settled in the Negeb. ⁶³Isaac went out in the evening to walk[£] in the field; and looking up, he saw camels coming. ⁶⁴And Rebekah looked up, and when she saw Isaac, she slipped quickly from the camel, ⁶⁵and said to the servant, “Who is the man over there, walking in the field to meet us?” The servant said, “It is my master.” So she took her veil and covered herself. ⁶⁶And the servant told Isaac all the things that he had done. ⁶⁷Then Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah’s tent. He took Rebekah, and she became his wife; and he loved her. So Isaac was comforted after his mother’s death.

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Matthew 11:16-19. 25-30

¹⁶“But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,

¹⁷ ‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;
we wailed, and you did not mourn.’

¹⁸For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; ¹⁹the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.”[£]

²⁵At that time Jesus said, “I thank[£] you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; ²⁶yes, Father, for such was your gracious will.[£] ²⁷All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

²⁸“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

SERMON

INVITATION TO OFFERING

God has greatly blessed us with many kinds of wealth. Let our joy and gladness overflow as we express gratitude to God with our offerings. As we support the ministries of the church, let us consider those whose lives are grievously burdened, reaching out to them in practical acts of mercy.

We are profoundly grateful for your continued support of Hope UCC as we stay connected as a faith community in this time of social distancing and spiritual connection. We are continuing the ministry of our church throughout this stay at home order and we thank you for making this possible. We now have two ways to make your offering. Hope UCC is now able to offer e-giving through Breeze Management System to make it safer and easier for you to give anytime. You are able to safely donate electronically using your credit card or ACH transfer. You can find the link on our church

website (www.hopeuccqc.org). We also invite you to mail your offering to the church office – mail and messages are checked daily by Pastor Santina. Thank you for your generosity- your commitment is vital to continuing our congregation's ministries and commitments. Hope Grows! And there is nothing- not even a global pandemic - that can stop it! ☺

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

With all the gifts of creation, you have blessed us, gracious God. We give thanks for all your works. Gratitude is our first impulse for giving. Accept our grateful hearts, along with our gifts. We ask for wisdom as our church determines priorities for the use of resources. May we be as concerned about outreach and mission as we are about programs for ourselves. As you are faithful to us, O God, may we be faithful in all things, seeking always to live by your gracious will. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

(Please use whatever elements you have available for the bread and the cup)

Welcome

One: God be with you.

Many: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

Many: We lift them to God.

One: Let us give thanks to God Most High.

Many: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Holy God, we praise and bless you for creation and for your abiding love which brings us close to you, the source of all blessing. We thank you for creating us in your own image, for forgiving us when we act as though you have no claim on us, and for keeping us in your steadfast care. We rejoice in Jesus Christ, who shared the joys and sorrows of life as we know it. We remember Christ's death, we celebrate Christ's resurrection, and, as your church, we anticipate Christ's return. We take courage from your Holy Spirit and we offer you our praise for our sisters, brothers, and siblings of faith in every age who stand as witnesses to your love and justice. Together with all the company of heaven, we glorify you:

Holy, holy, holy God of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God Most High. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God! Hosanna in the highest!

Remember

We remember that on the night of betrayal and desertion, Jesus took bread, gave you thanks, broke the bread, and gave it to the disciples, saying: "This is my body which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, Jesus also took the cup, after supper, saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." By eating this bread and drinking this cup, we proclaim Christ's death, celebrate Christ's resurrection, and await Christ's coming again.

Consecration

Let us pray: Gracious God, by your Holy Spirit, bless these gifts of bread and cup – each unique in their composition and location, and yet common through the Spirit that anoints these gifts. Bless us as we receive the bread and cup, that we will offer you our faith and praise, and that we will be united with Christ and with one another. Through this table of fellowship, make us the Body of Christ and may your Spirit strengthen us when we feel weak, warm us when we are cold-hearted, bend us when we are stubborn, move us when we are uncaring, guide us in the way of love. May we continue to be faithful in all things. As we eat and drink, may the elements be symbols that remind us who we are and whose we are. We ask all this in the name of the one who extends the invitation to us, your Son, Christ Jesus. Amen

Through the broken bread we participate in the body of Christ.

Through the cup of blessing we participate in the new life Christ gives.

Invitation & Sharing Holy Communion

This is the table, not of the church, but of Jesus Christ. It is made ready for those who love him and for those who want to love him more. All are welcome. Come to the table because it is Jesus Christ who invites you. It is his will that those who want him should meet him here. Please join this feast in the spirit of joy and gratitude. These are the gifts of God for the people of God. Come, for all things are ready.

Take and eat, Christ's body given for you.
Take and drink, the cup of blessing.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our savior. Amen

CLOSING HYMN *In the Midst of New Dimensions* (New Dimensions)

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BENEDICTION

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Many: We rejoice that God dwells with us every day. We want to know and do God's will for us.

One: We encounter God in unexpected places. God surprises us in the life and witness of people.

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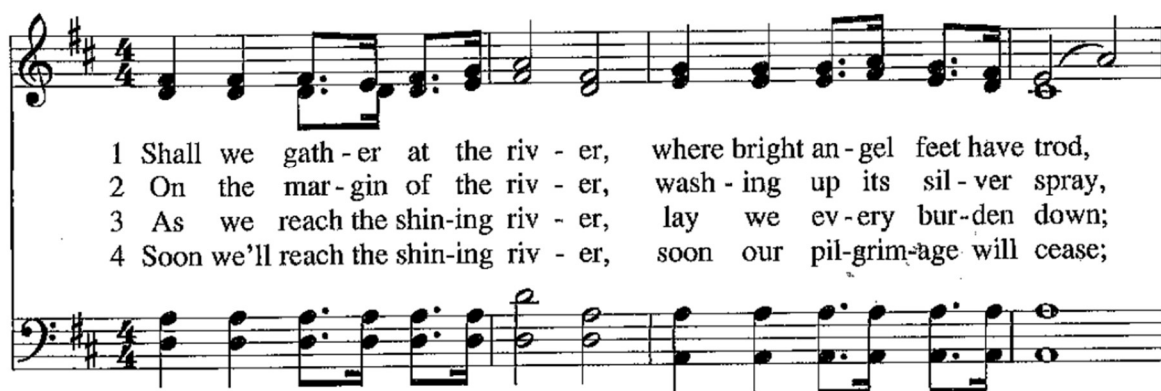
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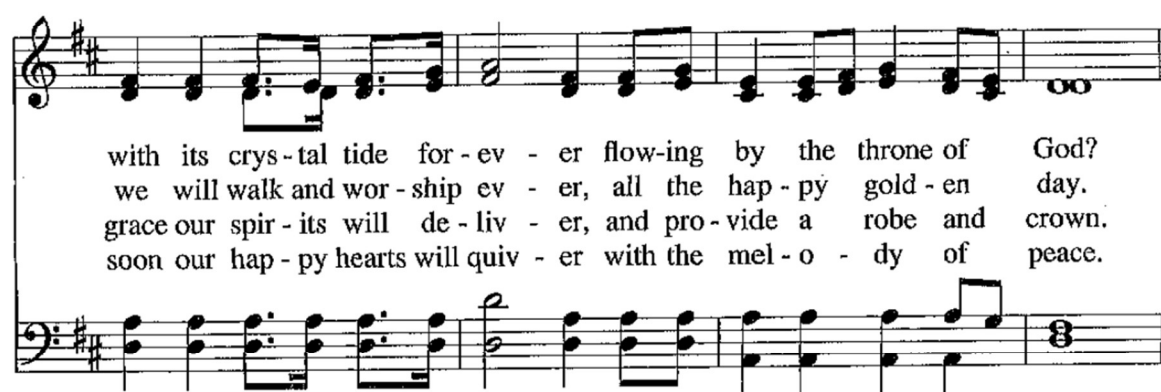
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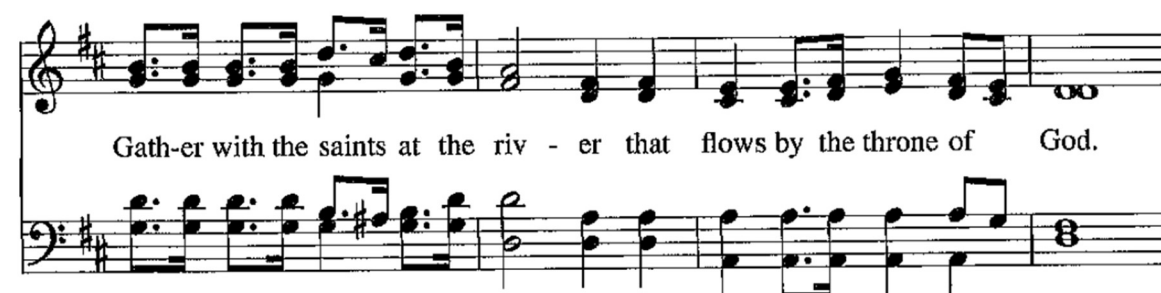


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Refrain



Yes, we'll gath-er at the riv-er, the beau-ti-ful, the beau-ti-ful riv-er,



Gath-er with the saints at the riv-er that flows by the throne of God.

Written during a time when an epidemic was claiming many lives in New York, Robert Lowry's hymn raised the question "Shall we meet again?" Lowry was pastor at Hanson Place Baptist Church in Brooklyn from 1861 to 1869, and collaborated on numerous hymn collections with William H. Doane.

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HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON

Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67

³⁴So he said, "I am Abraham's servant. ³⁵The LORD has greatly blessed my master, and he has become wealthy; he has given him flocks and herds, silver and gold, male and female slaves, camels and donkeys. ³⁶And Sarah my master's wife bore a son to my master when she was old; and he has given him all that he has. ³⁷My master made me swear, saying, 'You shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I live; ³⁸but you shall go to my father's house, to my kindred, and get a wife for my son.'

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“May you, our sister, become
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NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Matthew 11:16-19. 25-30

¹⁶“But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,

¹⁷ ‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;
we wailed, and you did not mourn.’

¹⁸For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; ¹⁹the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.”[£]

²⁵At that time Jesus said, “I thank[£] you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; ²⁶yes, Father, for such was your gracious will.[£] ²⁷All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

²⁸“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

SERMON

INVITATION TO OFFERING

God has greatly blessed us with many kinds of wealth. Let our joy and gladness overflow as we express gratitude to God with our offerings. As we support the ministries of the church, let us consider those whose lives are grievously burdened, reaching out to them in practical acts of mercy.

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website (www.hopeuccqc.org). We also invite you to mail your offering to the church office – mail and messages are checked daily by Pastor Santina. Thank you for your generosity- your commitment is vital to continuing our congregation's ministries and commitments. Hope Grows! And there is nothing- not even a global pandemic - that can stop it! ☺

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

With all the gifts of creation, you have blessed us, gracious God. We give thanks for all your works. Gratitude is our first impulse for giving. Accept our grateful hearts, along with our gifts. We ask for wisdom as our church determines priorities for the use of resources. May we be as concerned about outreach and mission as we are about programs for ourselves. As you are faithful to us, O God, may we be faithful in all things, seeking always to live by your gracious will. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

(Please use whatever elements you have available for the bread and the cup)

Welcome

One: God be with you.

Many: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

Many: We lift them to God.

One: Let us give thanks to God Most High.

Many: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Holy God, we praise and bless you for creation and for your abiding love which brings us close to you, the source of all blessing. We thank you for creating us in your own image, for forgiving us when we act as though you have no claim on us, and for keeping us in your steadfast care. We rejoice in Jesus Christ, who shared the joys and sorrows of life as we know it. We remember Christ's death, we celebrate Christ's resurrection, and, as your church, we anticipate Christ's return. We take courage from your Holy Spirit and we offer you our praise for our sisters, brothers, and siblings of faith in every age who stand as witnesses to your love and justice. Together with all the company of heaven, we glorify you:

Holy, holy, holy God of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God Most High. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God! Hosanna in the highest!

Remember

We remember that on the night of betrayal and desertion, Jesus took bread, gave you thanks, broke the bread, and gave it to the disciples, saying: "This is my body which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, Jesus also took the cup, after supper, saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." By eating this bread and drinking this cup, we proclaim Christ's death, celebrate Christ's resurrection, and await Christ's coming again.

Consecration

Let us pray: Gracious God, by your Holy Spirit, bless these gifts of bread and cup – each unique in their composition and location, and yet common through the Spirit that anoints these gifts. Bless us as we receive the bread and cup, that we will offer you our faith and praise, and that we will be united with Christ and with one another. Through this table of fellowship, make us the Body of Christ and may your Spirit strengthen us when we feel weak, warm us when we are cold-hearted, bend us when we are stubborn, move us when we are uncaring, guide us in the way of love. May we continue to be faithful in all things. As we eat and drink, may the elements be symbols that remind us who we are and whose we are. We ask all this in the name of the one who extends the invitation to us, your Son, Christ Jesus. Amen

Through the broken bread we participate in the body of Christ.

Through the cup of blessing we participate in the new life Christ gives.

Invitation & Sharing Holy Communion

This is the table, not of the church, but of Jesus Christ. It is made ready for those who love him and for those who want to love him more. All are welcome. Come to the table because it is Jesus Christ who invites you. It is his will that those who want him should meet him here. Please join this feast in the spirit of joy and gratitude. These are the gifts of God for the people of God. Come, for all things are ready.

Take and eat, Christ's body given for you.
Take and drink, the cup of blessing.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our savior. Amen

CLOSING HYMN *In the Midst of New Dimensions* (New Dimensions)

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BENEDICTION

One: Carry with you innermost selves, delight in God's law. Meditate day by day on God's purpose for your lives.

Many: We rejoice that God dwells with us every day. We want to know and do God's will for us.

One: We encounter God in unexpected places. God surprises us in the life and witness of people.

Many: We learn from the youngest in our midst. Simple and humble persons have much to teach us.

One: Take Christ's yoke upon you, for that yoke is easy. It imparts confidence that lightens our burdens.

Many: We will find rest and renewal through Christ. We seek to express the same humility and gentleness.

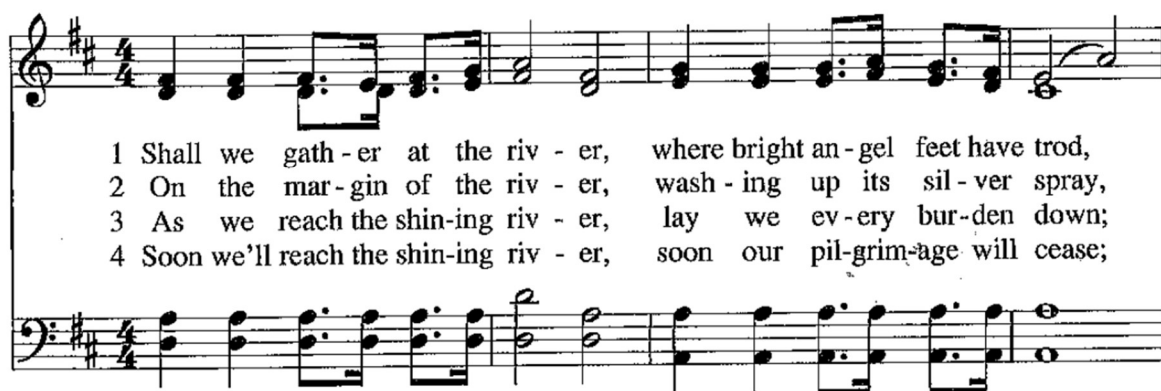
POSTLUDE *Gavotte* - Wesley

Shall We Gather at the River

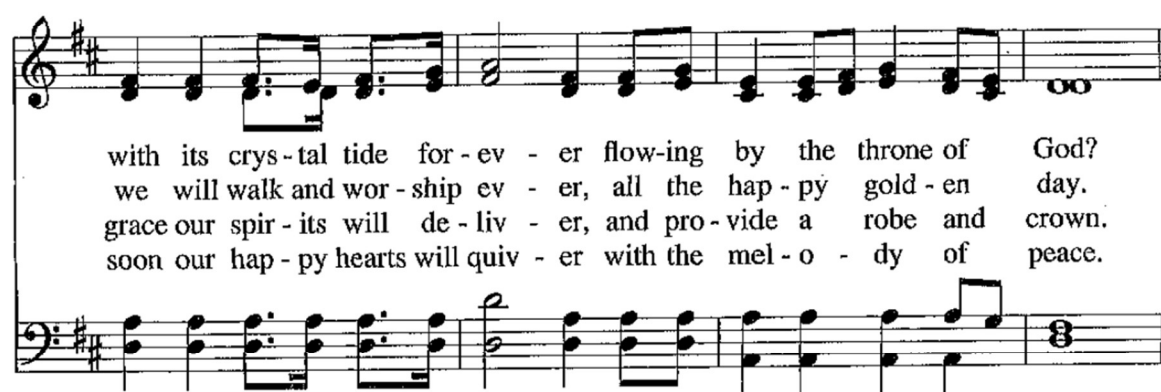
597

Robert Lowry, 1864; alt.

Rev. 22:1-5



1 Shall we gath-er at the riv-er, where bright an-gel feet have trod,
2 On the mar-gin of the riv-er, wash-ing up its sil-ver spray,
3 As we reach the shin-ing riv-er, lay we ev-ery bur-den down;
4 Soon we'll reach the shin-ing riv-er, soon our pil-grim-age will cease;

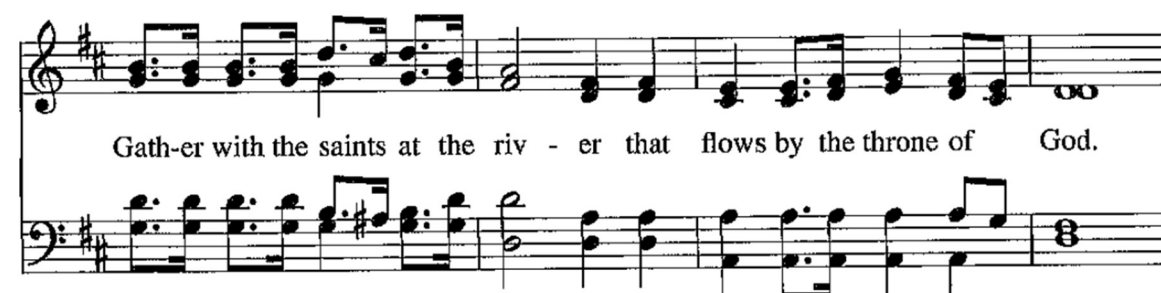


with its crys-tal tide for-ev-er flow-ing by the throne of God?
we will walk and wor-ship ev-er, all the hap-py gold-en day.
grace our spir-its will de-liv-er, and pro-vide a robe and crown.
soon our hap-py hearts will quiv-er with the mel-o-dy of peace.

Refrain



Yes, we'll gath-er at the riv-er, the beau-ti-ful, the beau-ti-ful riv-er,



Gath-er with the saints at the riv-er that flows by the throne of God.

Written during a time when an epidemic was claiming many lives in New York, Robert Lowry's hymn raised the question "Shall we meet again?" Lowry was pastor at Hanson Place Baptist Church in Brooklyn from 1861 to 1869, and collaborated on numerous hymn collections with William H. Doane.

Tune: HANSON PLACE 8.7.8.7, with refrain
Robert Lowry, 1864

In the Midst of New Dimensions

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Julian Rush, 1985; alt.

Gen. 9:12-16; Exod. 13:21-22; Num. 14:14

C C/B F C F Am7 Dm7 G7sus4 G7

1 In the midst of new di-men-sions, in the face of chang-ing ways,
 2 Through the flood of starv-ing peo-ple, war-ring fac-tions and de-spair,
 3 As we stand a world di-vid-ed by our own self-seek-ing schemes,
 4 We are man and we are wom-an, all per-sua-sions, old and young,
 5 Should the threats of dire pre-dic-tions cause us to with-draw in pain,

C C/B F C F Am7 Dm7 G C

Who will lead the pil-grim peo-ple wan-dering in their sep-a-rate ways?
 Who will lift the ol-ive branch-es? Who will light the flame of care?
 Grant that we, your glob-al vil-lage, might en-vi-sion wid-er dreams.
 Each a gift in your cre-a-tion, each a love song to be sung.
 May your blaz-ing phoe-nix spir-it res-ur-rect the church a-gain.

Refrain
 Am Em F C F C G7 C Dsus4 D7 G7sus4 G7 Am

God of rain-bow, fier-y pil-lar, lead-ing where the ea-gles soar, We your

Em F C F C/E F C/E F C/E Dm7 G7 C

peo-ple, ours the jour-ney now and ev-er, now and ev-er, now and ev-er - more.

Julian Rush, an ordained minister in the United Methodist Church, has spent more than a decade as director of the Colorado AIDS Project. He wrote this hymn on the theme of "diversity" for a meeting of the Rocky Mountain Conference (United Methodist).

Tune: NEW DIMENSIONS 8.7.8.7. with refrain
 Julian Rush, 1985
 Arr. The New Century Hymnal, 1994



Hanoi Street Vendor:
Photo by Fabian Irsara

Hope United Church of Christ Moline, IL
Worship Bulletin July 5, 2020
Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Thank you for joining us for worship today.

We are glad you are here!

*No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey,
you are welcome at Hope UCC!*

PRELUDE *Spirit of Jesus, if I Love My Neighbor* - Wren

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Come with joy and gladness to praise and honor God. Come to the refreshing waters that God provides.

Many: God is gracious and merciful and full of compassion. All creation joins us in giving thanks.

One: Give ear, all people, to the law of God. Give thanks for all the guidance God gives us.

Many: God upholds all who are falling. God raises us up when we are bowed down.

One: Come, all who are weary and carrying heavy burdens. Come, for Christ has promised rest.

Many: The gentle spirit of Christ invites us. We have come to find rest for our souls.

OPENING HYMN *Shall We Gather at the River* (Hanson Place)

INVITING GOD INTO OUR MIDST

We come together, gracious God, because we have heard your invitation. We sense that you alone know the burdens we carry. You understand our weariness. Sometimes our journey seems long and without respite. We long for the refreshment you provide as we come to worship you. The anticipation of this hour of rest and nourishment fills us with renewed joy and gladness. We thank you, God, that your revelation comes to us, not because we are worthy, but because we are open to your word. Open our hearts to receive all you offer. Amen

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God, we do not understand our own actions. We turn away from the good we are intent on doing. Yet, we find wisdom in your law. We delight in the idea of mutual caring and celebrating life together, but we get bogged down in our own concerns. We are too busy to seek community and too preoccupied to ponder your will for us. We go our own way, cutting ourselves off from you and one another. O God, help us to put away this sin. Amen

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS AND PASSING OF PEACE

We are created in the image of God and are blessed with the capacity to reflect God's will in our daily lives. God cares for us and invests us with responsibility. Thus God honors us with high expectations and confidence in our willingness to seek out life's best for all people. We are loved. We are forgiven. Our baptism is renewed.

Let us offer one another the gift of peace. May the Lord's peace be with you!

(If you are using this liturgy as a private devotion or participating in the live stream worship, please hold out your hands in blessing for all you are joined with in spirit. If you are participating in the live stream worship, please type in your peace greeting.)

PASTORAL PRAYER/LORD'S PRAYER (debts)

One: May the Lord be with you.

Many: And also with you.

One: Let us pray:

...

With the assurance Jesus offers, together we pray the words Jesus taught us:

Our Father, who is in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your 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 yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON

Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67

³⁴So he said, "I am Abraham's servant. ³⁵The LORD has greatly blessed my master, and he has become wealthy; he has given him flocks and herds, silver and gold, male and female slaves, camels and donkeys. ³⁶And Sarah my master's wife bore a son to my master when she was old; and he has given him all that he has. ³⁷My master made me swear, saying, 'You shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I live; ³⁸but you shall go to my father's house, to my kindred, and get a wife for my son.'

⁴²"I came today to the spring, and said, 'O LORD, the God of my master Abraham, if now you will only make successful the way I am going! ⁴³I am standing here by the spring of water; let the young woman who comes out to draw, to whom I shall say, "Please give me a little water from your jar to drink," ⁴⁴and who will say to me, "Drink, and I will draw for your camels also"—let her be the woman whom the LORD has appointed for my master's son.'

⁴⁵"Before I had finished speaking in my heart, there was Rebekah coming out with her water jar on her shoulder; and she went down to the spring, and drew. I said to her, 'Please let me drink.' ⁴⁶She quickly let down her jar from her shoulder, and said, 'Drink, and I will also water your camels.' So I drank, and she also watered the camels. ⁴⁷Then I asked her, 'Whose daughter are you?' She said, 'The daughter of Bethuel, Nahor's son, whom Milcah bore to him.' So I put the ring on her nose, and the bracelets on her arms. ⁴⁸Then I bowed my head and worshiped the LORD, and blessed the LORD, the God of my master Abraham, who had led me by the right way to obtain the daughter of my master's kinsman for his son. ⁴⁹Now then, if you will deal loyally and truly with my master, tell me; and if not, tell me, so that I may turn either to the right hand or to the left."

⁵⁸And they called Rebekah, and said to her, “Will you go with this man?” She said, “I will.” ⁵⁹So they sent away their sister Rebekah and her nurse along with Abraham’s servant and his men. ⁶⁰And they blessed Rebekah and said to her,

“May you, our sister, become
thousands of myriads;
may your offspring gain possession
of the gates of their foes.”

⁶¹Then Rebekah and her maids rose up, mounted the camels, and followed the man; thus the servant took Rebekah, and went his way.

⁶²Now Isaac had come from[£] Beer-lahai-roi, and was settled in the Negeb. ⁶³Isaac went out in the evening to walk[£] in the field; and looking up, he saw camels coming. ⁶⁴And Rebekah looked up, and when she saw Isaac, she slipped quickly from the camel, ⁶⁵and said to the servant, “Who is the man over there, walking in the field to meet us?” The servant said, “It is my master.” So she took her veil and covered herself. ⁶⁶And the servant told Isaac all the things that he had done. ⁶⁷Then Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah’s tent. He took Rebekah, and she became his wife; and he loved her. So Isaac was comforted after his mother’s death.

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Matthew 11:16-19. 25-30

¹⁶“But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,

¹⁷ ‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;
we wailed, and you did not mourn.’

¹⁸For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; ¹⁹the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.”[£]

²⁵At that time Jesus said, “I thank[£] you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; ²⁶yes, Father, for such was your gracious will.[£] ²⁷All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

²⁸“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

SERMON

INVITATION TO OFFERING

God has greatly blessed us with many kinds of wealth. Let our joy and gladness overflow as we express gratitude to God with our offerings. As we support the ministries of the church, let us consider those whose lives are grievously burdened, reaching out to them in practical acts of mercy.

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(Please use whatever elements you have available for the bread and the cup)

Welcome

One: God be with you.

Many: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

Many: We lift them to God.

One: Let us give thanks to God Most High.

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Holy, holy, holy God of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God Most High. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God! Hosanna in the highest!

Remember

We remember that on the night of betrayal and desertion, Jesus took bread, gave you thanks, broke the bread, and gave it to the disciples, saying: "This is my body which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, Jesus also took the cup, after supper, saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." By eating this bread and drinking this cup, we proclaim Christ's death, celebrate Christ's resurrection, and await Christ's coming again.

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Prayer of Thanksgiving

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our savior. Amen

CLOSING HYMN *In the Midst of New Dimensions* (New Dimensions)

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BENEDICTION

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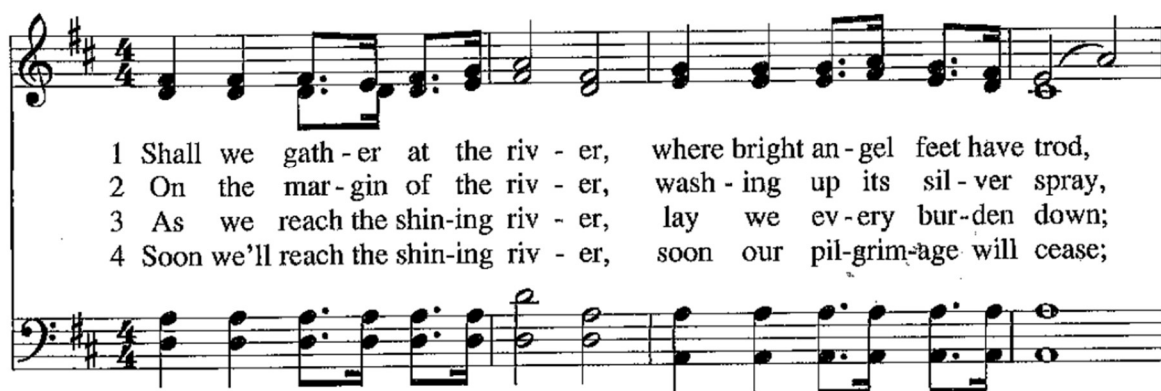
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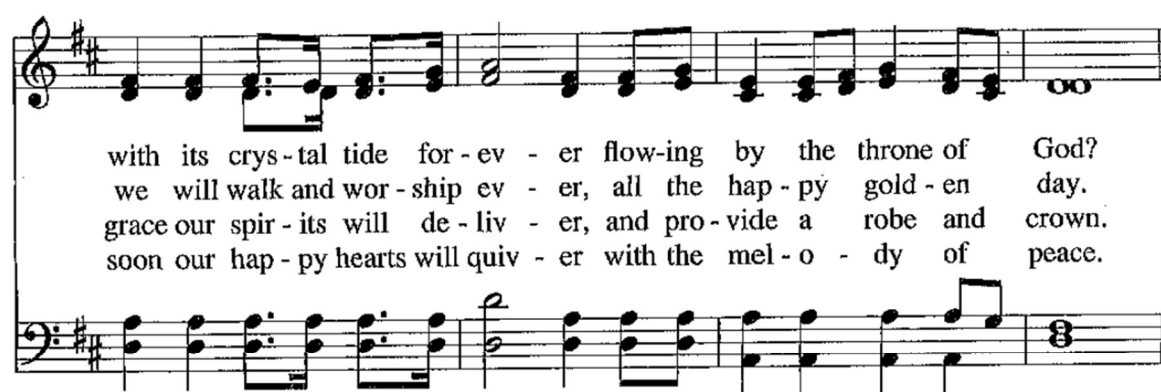
597

Robert Lowry, 1864; alt.

Rev. 22:1-5



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2 On the mar-gin of the riv-er, wash-ing up its sil-ver spray,
3 As we reach the shin-ing riv-er, lay we ev-ery bur-den down;
4 Soon we'll reach the shin-ing riv-er, soon our pil-grim-age will cease;

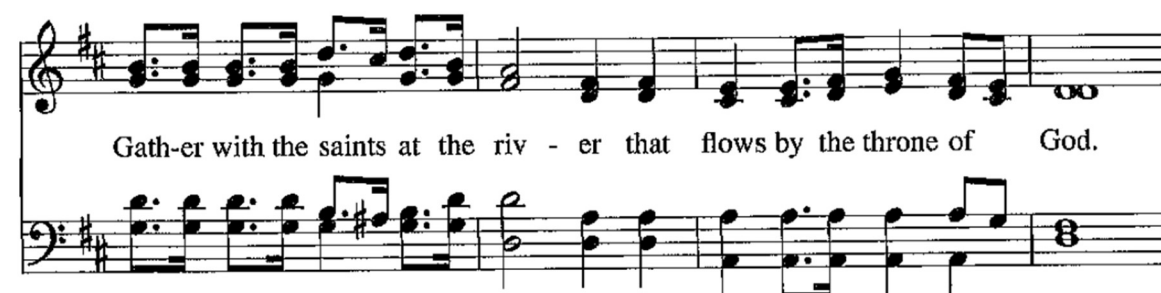


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we will walk and wor-ship ev-er, all the hap-py gold-en day.
grace our spir-its will de-liv-er, and pro-vide a robe and crown.
soon our hap-py hearts will quiv-er with the mel-o-dy of peace.

Refrain



Yes, we'll gath-er at the riv-er, the beau-ti-ful, the beau-ti-ful riv-er,



Gath-er with the saints at the riv-er that flows by the throne of God.

Written during a time when an epidemic was claiming many lives in New York, Robert Lowry's hymn raised the question "Shall we meet again?" Lowry was pastor at Hanson Place Baptist Church in Brooklyn from 1861 to 1869, and collaborated on numerous hymn collections with William H. Doane.

Tune: HANSON PLACE 8.7.8.7, with refrain
Robert Lowry, 1864

In the Midst of New Dimensions

391

Julian Rush, 1985; alt.

Gen. 9:12-16; Exod. 13:21-22; Num. 14:14

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1 In the midst of new di-men-sions, in the face of chang-ing ways,
 2 Through the flood of starv-ing peo-ple, war-ring fac-tions and de-spair,
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 Each a gift in your cre-a-tion, each a love song to be sung.
 May your blaz-ing phoe-nix spir-it res-ur-rect the church a-gain.

Refrain
 Am Em F C F C G7 C Dsus4 D7 G7sus4 G7 Am

God of rain-bow, fier-y pil-lar, lead-ing where the ea-gles soar, We your

Em F C F C/E F C/E F C/E Dm7 G7 C

peo-ple, ours the jour-ney now and ev-er, now and ev-er, now and ev-er - more.

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Hanoi Street Vendor:
Photo by Fabian Irsara

Hope United Church of Christ Moline, IL
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OPENING HYMN *Shall We Gather at the River* (Hanson Place)

INVITING GOD INTO OUR MIDST

We come together, gracious God, because we have heard your invitation. We sense that you alone know the burdens we carry. You understand our weariness. Sometimes our journey seems long and without respite. We long for the refreshment you provide as we come to worship you. The anticipation of this hour of rest and nourishment fills us with renewed joy and gladness. We thank you, God, that your revelation comes to us, not because we are worthy, but because we are open to your word. Open our hearts to receive all you offer. Amen

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God, we do not understand our own actions. We turn away from the good we are intent on doing. Yet, we find wisdom in your law. We delight in the idea of mutual caring and celebrating life together, but we get bogged down in our own concerns. We are too busy to seek community and too preoccupied to ponder your will for us. We go our own way, cutting ourselves off from you and one another. O God, help us to put away this sin. Amen

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS AND PASSING OF PEACE

We are created in the image of God and are blessed with the capacity to reflect God's will in our daily lives. God cares for us and invests us with responsibility. Thus God honors us with high expectations and confidence in our willingness to seek out life's best for all people. We are loved. We are forgiven. Our baptism is renewed.

Let us offer one another the gift of peace. May the Lord's peace be with you!

(If you are using this liturgy as a private devotion or participating in the live stream worship, please hold out your hands in blessing for all you are joined with in spirit. If you are participating in the live stream worship, please type in your peace greeting.)

PASTORAL PRAYER/LORD'S PRAYER (debts)

One: May the Lord be with you.

Many: And also with you.

One: Let us pray:

...

With the assurance Jesus offers, together we pray the words Jesus taught us:

Our Father, who is in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your 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 yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON

Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67

³⁴So he said, "I am Abraham's servant. ³⁵The LORD has greatly blessed my master, and he has become wealthy; he has given him flocks and herds, silver and gold, male and female slaves, camels and donkeys. ³⁶And Sarah my master's wife bore a son to my master when she was old; and he has given him all that he has. ³⁷My master made me swear, saying, 'You shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I live; ³⁸but you shall go to my father's house, to my kindred, and get a wife for my son.'

⁴²"I came today to the spring, and said, 'O LORD, the God of my master Abraham, if now you will only make successful the way I am going! ⁴³I am standing here by the spring of water; let the young woman who comes out to draw, to whom I shall say, "Please give me a little water from your jar to drink," ⁴⁴and who will say to me, "Drink, and I will draw for your camels also"—let her be the woman whom the LORD has appointed for my master's son.'

⁴⁵"Before I had finished speaking in my heart, there was Rebekah coming out with her water jar on her shoulder; and she went down to the spring, and drew. I said to her, 'Please let me drink.' ⁴⁶She quickly let down her jar from her shoulder, and said, 'Drink, and I will also water your camels.' So I drank, and she also watered the camels. ⁴⁷Then I asked her, 'Whose daughter are you?' She said, 'The daughter of Bethuel, Nahor's son, whom Milcah bore to him.' So I put the ring on her nose, and the bracelets on her arms. ⁴⁸Then I bowed my head and worshiped the LORD, and blessed the LORD, the God of my master Abraham, who had led me by the right way to obtain the daughter of my master's kinsman for his son. ⁴⁹Now then, if you will deal loyally and truly with my master, tell me; and if not, tell me, so that I may turn either to the right hand or to the left."

⁵⁸And they called Rebekah, and said to her, “Will you go with this man?” She said, “I will.” ⁵⁹So they sent away their sister Rebekah and her nurse along with Abraham’s servant and his men. ⁶⁰And they blessed Rebekah and said to her,

“May you, our sister, become
thousands of myriads;
may your offspring gain possession
of the gates of their foes.”

⁶¹Then Rebekah and her maids rose up, mounted the camels, and followed the man; thus the servant took Rebekah, and went his way.

⁶²Now Isaac had come from[£] Beer-lahai-roi, and was settled in the Negeb. ⁶³Isaac went out in the evening to walk[£] in the field; and looking up, he saw camels coming. ⁶⁴And Rebekah looked up, and when she saw Isaac, she slipped quickly from the camel, ⁶⁵and said to the servant, “Who is the man over there, walking in the field to meet us?” The servant said, “It is my master.” So she took her veil and covered herself. ⁶⁶And the servant told Isaac all the things that he had done. ⁶⁷Then Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah’s tent. He took Rebekah, and she became his wife; and he loved her. So Isaac was comforted after his mother’s death.

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Matthew 11:16-19. 25-30

¹⁶“But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,

¹⁷ ‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;
we wailed, and you did not mourn.’

¹⁸For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; ¹⁹the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.”[£]

²⁵At that time Jesus said, “I thank[£] you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; ²⁶yes, Father, for such was your gracious will.[£] ²⁷All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

²⁸“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

SERMON

INVITATION TO OFFERING

God has greatly blessed us with many kinds of wealth. Let our joy and gladness overflow as we express gratitude to God with our offerings. As we support the ministries of the church, let us consider those whose lives are grievously burdened, reaching out to them in practical acts of mercy.

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website (www.hopeuccqc.org). We also invite you to mail your offering to the church office – mail and messages are checked daily by Pastor Santina. Thank you for your generosity- your commitment is vital to continuing our congregation's ministries and commitments. Hope Grows! And there is nothing- not even a global pandemic - that can stop it! ☺

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

With all the gifts of creation, you have blessed us, gracious God. We give thanks for all your works. Gratitude is our first impulse for giving. Accept our grateful hearts, along with our gifts. We ask for wisdom as our church determines priorities for the use of resources. May we be as concerned about outreach and mission as we are about programs for ourselves. As you are faithful to us, O God, may we be faithful in all things, seeking always to live by your gracious will. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

(Please use whatever elements you have available for the bread and the cup)

Welcome

One: God be with you.

Many: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

Many: We lift them to God.

One: Let us give thanks to God Most High.

Many: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Holy God, we praise and bless you for creation and for your abiding love which brings us close to you, the source of all blessing. We thank you for creating us in your own image, for forgiving us when we act as though you have no claim on us, and for keeping us in your steadfast care. We rejoice in Jesus Christ, who shared the joys and sorrows of life as we know it. We remember Christ's death, we celebrate Christ's resurrection, and, as your church, we anticipate Christ's return. We take courage from your Holy Spirit and we offer you our praise for our sisters, brothers, and siblings of faith in every age who stand as witnesses to your love and justice. Together with all the company of heaven, we glorify you:

Holy, holy, holy God of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God Most High. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God! Hosanna in the highest!

Remember

We remember that on the night of betrayal and desertion, Jesus took bread, gave you thanks, broke the bread, and gave it to the disciples, saying: "This is my body which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, Jesus also took the cup, after supper, saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." By eating this bread and drinking this cup, we proclaim Christ's death, celebrate Christ's resurrection, and await Christ's coming again.

Consecration

Let us pray: Gracious God, by your Holy Spirit, bless these gifts of bread and cup – each unique in their composition and location, and yet common through the Spirit that anoints these gifts. Bless us as we receive the bread and cup, that we will offer you our faith and praise, and that we will be united with Christ and with one another. Through this table of fellowship, make us the Body of Christ and may your Spirit strengthen us when we feel weak, warm us when we are cold-hearted, bend us when we are stubborn, move us when we are uncaring, guide us in the way of love. May we continue to be faithful in all things. As we eat and drink, may the elements be symbols that remind us who we are and whose we are. We ask all this in the name of the one who extends the invitation to us, your Son, Christ Jesus. Amen

Through the broken bread we participate in the body of Christ.

Through the cup of blessing we participate in the new life Christ gives.

Invitation & Sharing Holy Communion

This is the table, not of the church, but of Jesus Christ. It is made ready for those who love him and for those who want to love him more. All are welcome. Come to the table because it is Jesus Christ who invites you. It is his will that those who want him should meet him here. Please join this feast in the spirit of joy and gratitude. These are the gifts of God for the people of God. Come, for all things are ready.

Take and eat, Christ's body given for you.
Take and drink, the cup of blessing.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our savior. Amen

CLOSING HYMN *In the Midst of New Dimensions* (New Dimensions)

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BENEDICTION

One: Carry with you innermost selves, delight in God's law. Meditate day by day on God's purpose for your lives.

Many: We rejoice that God dwells with us every day. We want to know and do God's will for us.

One: We encounter God in unexpected places. God surprises us in the life and witness of people.

Many: We learn from the youngest in our midst. Simple and humble persons have much to teach us.

One: Take Christ's yoke upon you, for that yoke is easy. It imparts confidence that lightens our burdens.

Many: We will find rest and renewal through Christ. We seek to express the same humility and gentleness.

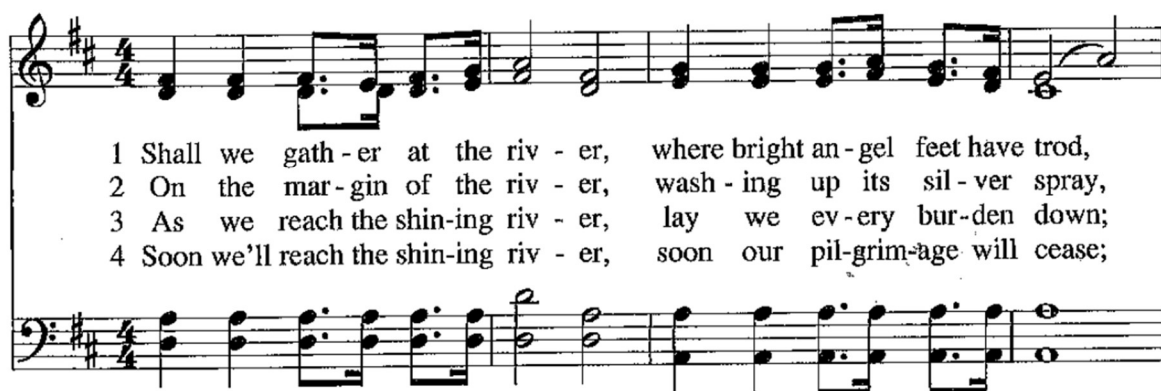
POSTLUDE *Gavotte* - Wesley

Shall We Gather at the River

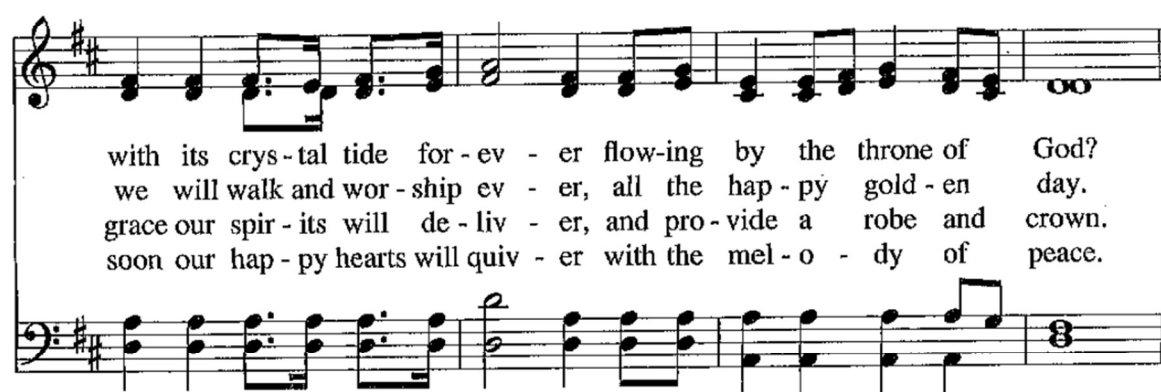
597

Robert Lowry, 1864; alt.

Rev. 22:1-5



1 Shall we gath-er at the riv-er, where bright an-gel feet have trod,
2 On the mar-gin of the riv-er, wash-ing up its sil-ver spray,
3 As we reach the shin-ing riv-er, lay we ev-ery bur-den down;
4 Soon we'll reach the shin-ing riv-er, soon our pil-grim-age will cease;

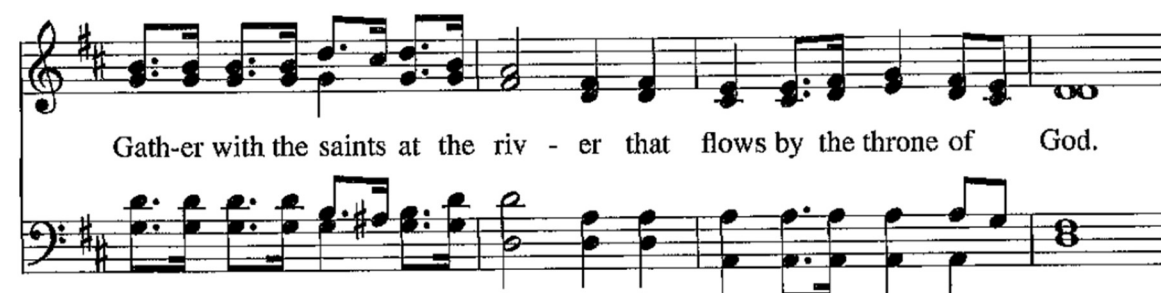


with its crys-tal tide for-ev-er flow-ing by the throne of God?
we will walk and wor-ship ev-er, all the hap-py gold-en day.
grace our spir-its will de-liv-er, and pro-vide a robe and crown.
soon our hap-py hearts will quiv-er with the mel-o-dy of peace.

Refrain



Yes, we'll gath-er at the riv-er, the beau-ti-ful, the beau-ti-ful riv-er,



Gath-er with the saints at the riv-er that flows by the throne of God.

Written during a time when an epidemic was claiming many lives in New York, Robert Lowry's hymn raised the question "Shall we meet again?" Lowry was pastor at Hanson Place Baptist Church in Brooklyn from 1861 to 1869, and collaborated on numerous hymn collections with William H. Doane.

Tune: HANSON PLACE 8.7.8.7, with refrain
Robert Lowry, 1864

In the Midst of New Dimensions

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Julian Rush, 1985; alt.

Gen. 9:12-16; Exod. 13:21-22; Num. 14:14

C C/B F C F Am7 Dm7 G7sus4 G7

1 In the midst of new di-men-sions, in the face of chang-ing ways,
 2 Through the flood of starv-ing peo-ple, war-ring fac-tions and de-spair,
 3 As we stand a world di-vid-ed by our own self-seek-ing schemes,
 4 We are man and we are wom-an, all per-sua-sions, old and young,
 5 Should the threats of dire pre-dic-tions cause us to with-draw in pain,

C C/B F C F Am7 Dm7 G C

Who will lead the pil-grim peo-ples wan-dering in their sep-arate ways?
 Who will lift the ol-ive branch-es? Who will light the flame of care?
 Grant that we, your glob-al vil-lage, might en-vi-sion wid-er dreams.
 Each a gift in your cre-a-tion, each a love song to be sung.
 May your blaz-ing phoe-nix spir-it res-ur-rect the church a-gain.

Refrain
 Am Em F C F C G7 C Dsus4 D7 G7sus4 G7 Am

God of rain-bow, fier-y pil-lar, lead-ing where the ea-gles soar, We your

Em F C F C/E F C/E F C/E Dm7 G7 C

peo-ple, ours the jour-ney now and ev-er, now and ev-er, now and ev-er - more.

Julian Rush, an ordained minister in the United Methodist Church, has spent more than a decade as director of the Colorado AIDS Project. He wrote this hymn on the theme of "diversity" for a meeting of the Rocky Mountain Conference (United Methodist).

Tune: NEW DIMENSIONS 8.7.8.7. with refrain
 Julian Rush, 1985
 Arr. The New Century Hymnal, 1994



Hanoi Street Vendor:
Photo by Fabian Irsara

Hope United Church of Christ Moline, IL
Worship Bulletin July 5, 2020
Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Thank you for joining us for worship today.

We are glad you are here!

*No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey,
you are welcome at Hope UCC!*

PRELUDE *Spirit of Jesus, if I Love My Neighbor* - Wren

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Come with joy and gladness to praise and honor God. Come to the refreshing waters that God provides.

Many: God is gracious and merciful and full of compassion. All creation joins us in giving thanks.

One: Give ear, all people, to the law of God. Give thanks for all the guidance God gives us.

Many: God upholds all who are falling. God raises us up when we are bowed down.

One: Come, all who are weary and carrying heavy burdens. Come, for Christ has promised rest.

Many: The gentle spirit of Christ invites us. We have come to find rest for our souls.

OPENING HYMN *Shall We Gather at the River* (Hanson Place)

INVITING GOD INTO OUR MIDST

We come together, gracious God, because we have heard your invitation. We sense that you alone know the burdens we carry. You understand our weariness. Sometimes our journey seems long and without respite. We long for the refreshment you provide as we come to worship you. The anticipation of this hour of rest and nourishment fills us with renewed joy and gladness. We thank you, God, that your revelation comes to us, not because we are worthy, but because we are open to your word. Open our hearts to receive all you offer. Amen

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God, we do not understand our own actions. We turn away from the good we are intent on doing. Yet, we find wisdom in your law. We delight in the idea of mutual caring and celebrating life together, but we get bogged down in our own concerns. We are too busy to seek community and too preoccupied to ponder your will for us. We go our own way, cutting ourselves off from you and one another. O God, help us to put away this sin. Amen

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS AND PASSING OF PEACE

We are created in the image of God and are blessed with the capacity to reflect God's will in our daily lives. God cares for us and invests us with responsibility. Thus God honors us with high expectations and confidence in our willingness to seek out life's best for all people. We are loved. We are forgiven. Our baptism is renewed.

Let us offer one another the gift of peace. May the Lord's peace be with you!

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PASTORAL PRAYER/LORD'S PRAYER (debts)

One: May the Lord be with you.

Many: And also with you.

One: Let us pray:

...

With the assurance Jesus offers, together we pray the words Jesus taught us:

Our Father, who is in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your 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 yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON

Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67

³⁴So he said, "I am Abraham's servant. ³⁵The LORD has greatly blessed my master, and he has become wealthy; he has given him flocks and herds, silver and gold, male and female slaves, camels and donkeys. ³⁶And Sarah my master's wife bore a son to my master when she was old; and he has given him all that he has. ³⁷My master made me swear, saying, 'You shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I live; ³⁸but you shall go to my father's house, to my kindred, and get a wife for my son.'

⁴²"I came today to the spring, and said, 'O LORD, the God of my master Abraham, if now you will only make successful the way I am going! ⁴³I am standing here by the spring of water; let the young woman who comes out to draw, to whom I shall say, "Please give me a little water from your jar to drink," ⁴⁴and who will say to me, "Drink, and I will draw for your camels also"—let her be the woman whom the LORD has appointed for my master's son.'

⁴⁵"Before I had finished speaking in my heart, there was Rebekah coming out with her water jar on her shoulder; and she went down to the spring, and drew. I said to her, 'Please let me drink.' ⁴⁶She quickly let down her jar from her shoulder, and said, 'Drink, and I will also water your camels.' So I drank, and she also watered the camels. ⁴⁷Then I asked her, 'Whose daughter are you?' She said, 'The daughter of Bethuel, Nahor's son, whom Milcah bore to him.' So I put the ring on her nose, and the bracelets on her arms. ⁴⁸Then I bowed my head and worshiped the LORD, and blessed the LORD, the God of my master Abraham, who had led me by the right way to obtain the daughter of my master's kinsman for his son. ⁴⁹Now then, if you will deal loyally and truly with my master, tell me; and if not, tell me, so that I may turn either to the right hand or to the left."

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“May you, our sister, become
thousands of myriads;
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⁶¹Then Rebekah and her maids rose up, mounted the camels, and followed the man; thus the servant took Rebekah, and went his way.

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NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Matthew 11:16-19. 25-30

¹⁶“But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,

¹⁷ ‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;
we wailed, and you did not mourn.’

¹⁸For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; ¹⁹the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.”[£]

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²⁸“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

SERMON

INVITATION TO OFFERING

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(Please use whatever elements you have available for the bread and the cup)

Welcome

One: God be with you.

Many: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

Many: We lift them to God.

One: Let us give thanks to God Most High.

Many: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Holy God, we praise and bless you for creation and for your abiding love which brings us close to you, the source of all blessing. We thank you for creating us in your own image, for forgiving us when we act as though you have no claim on us, and for keeping us in your steadfast care. We rejoice in Jesus Christ, who shared the joys and sorrows of life as we know it. We remember Christ's death, we celebrate Christ's resurrection, and, as your church, we anticipate Christ's return. We take courage from your Holy Spirit and we offer you our praise for our sisters, brothers, and siblings of faith in every age who stand as witnesses to your love and justice. Together with all the company of heaven, we glorify you:

Holy, holy, holy God of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God Most High. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God! Hosanna in the highest!

Remember

We remember that on the night of betrayal and desertion, Jesus took bread, gave you thanks, broke the bread, and gave it to the disciples, saying: "This is my body which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, Jesus also took the cup, after supper, saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." By eating this bread and drinking this cup, we proclaim Christ's death, celebrate Christ's resurrection, and await Christ's coming again.

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Take and eat, Christ's body given for you.
Take and drink, the cup of blessing.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our savior. Amen

CLOSING HYMN *In the Midst of New Dimensions* (New Dimensions)

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BENEDICTION

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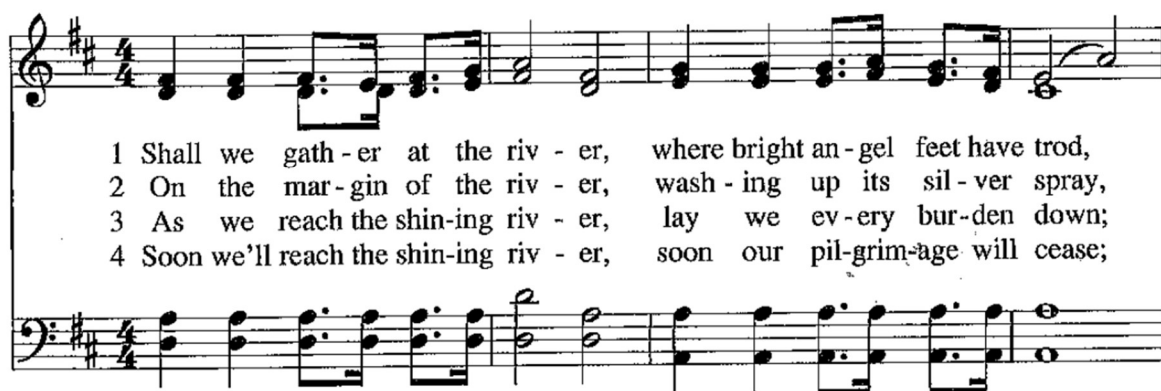
POSTLUDE *Gavotte* - Wesley

Shall We Gather at the River

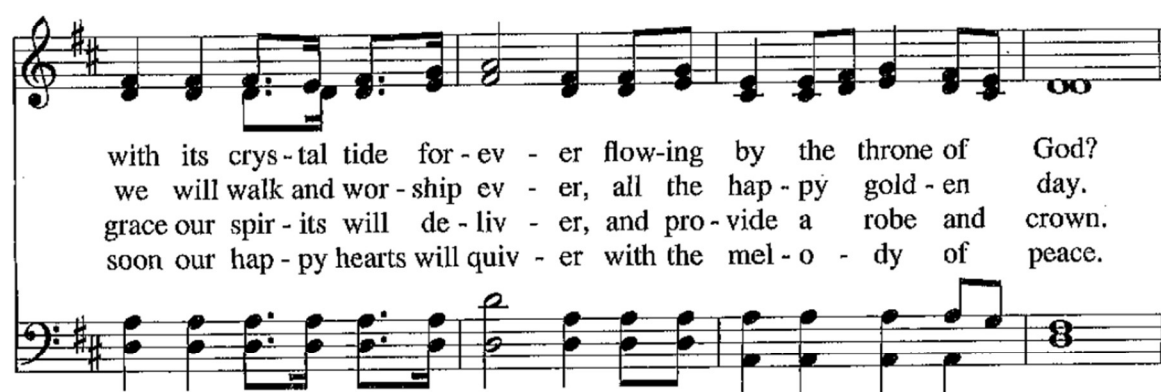
597

Robert Lowry, 1864; alt.

Rev. 22:1-5



1 Shall we gath-er at the riv-er, where bright an-gel feet have trod,
2 On the mar-gin of the riv-er, wash-ing up its sil-ver spray,
3 As we reach the shin-ing riv-er, lay we ev-ery bur-den down;
4 Soon we'll reach the shin-ing riv-er, soon our pil-grim-age will cease;

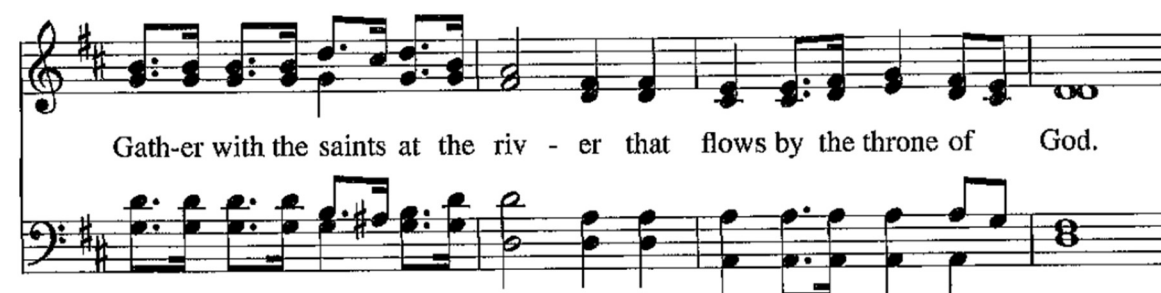


with its crys-tal tide for-ev-er flow-ing by the throne of God?
we will walk and wor-ship ev-er, all the hap-py gold-en day.
grace our spir-its will de-liv-er, and pro-vide a robe and crown.
soon our hap-py hearts will quiv-er with the mel-o-dy of peace.

Refrain



Yes, we'll gath-er at the riv-er, the beau-ti-ful, the beau-ti-ful riv-er,



Gath-er with the saints at the riv-er that flows by the throne of God.

Written during a time when an epidemic was claiming many lives in New York, Robert Lowry's hymn raised the question "Shall we meet again?" Lowry was pastor at Hanson Place Baptist Church in Brooklyn from 1861 to 1869, and collaborated on numerous hymn collections with William H. Doane.

Tune: HANSON PLACE 8.7.8.7, with refrain
Robert Lowry, 1864

In the Midst of New Dimensions

391

Julian Rush, 1985; alt.

Gen. 9:12-16; Exod. 13:21-22; Num. 14:14

C C/B F C F Am7 Dm7 G7sus4 G7

1 In the midst of new di-men-sions, in the face of chang-ing ways,
 2 Through the flood of starv-ing peo-ple, war-ring fac-tions and de-spair,
 3 As we stand a world di-vid-ed by our own self-seek-ing schemes,
 4 We are man and we are wom-an, all per-sua-sions, old and young,
 5 Should the threats of dire pre-dic-tions cause us to with-draw in pain,

C C/B F C F Am7 Dm7 G C

Who will lead the pil-grim peo-ples wan-dering in their sep-arate ways?
 Who will lift the ol-ive branch-es? Who will light the flame of care?
 Grant that we, your glob-al vil-lage, might en-vi-sion wid-er dreams.
 Each a gift in your cre-a-tion, each a love song to be sung.
 May your blaz-ing phoe-nix spir-it res-ur-rect the church a-gain.

Refrain
 Am Em F C F C G7 C Dsus4 D7 G7sus4 G7 Am

God of rain-bow, fier-y pil-lar, lead-ing where the ea-gles soar, We your

Em F C F C/E F C/E F C/E Dm7 G7 C

peo-ple, ours the jour-ney now and ev-er, now and ev-er, now and ev-er - more.

Julian Rush, an ordained minister in the United Methodist Church, has spent more than a decade as director of the Colorado AIDS Project. He wrote this hymn on the theme of "diversity" for a meeting of the Rocky Mountain Conference (United Methodist).

Tune: NEW DIMENSIONS 8.7.8.7. with refrain
 Julian Rush, 1985
 Arr. The New Century Hymnal, 1994



Hanoi Street Vendor:
Photo by Fabian Irsara

Hope United Church of Christ Moline, IL
Worship Bulletin July 5, 2020
Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Thank you for joining us for worship today.

We are glad you are here!

*No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey,
you are welcome at Hope UCC!*

PRELUDE *Spirit of Jesus, if I Love My Neighbor* - Wren

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Come with joy and gladness to praise and honor God. Come to the refreshing waters that God provides.

Many: God is gracious and merciful and full of compassion. All creation joins us in giving thanks.

One: Give ear, all people, to the law of God. Give thanks for all the guidance God gives us.

Many: God upholds all who are falling. God raises us up when we are bowed down.

One: Come, all who are weary and carrying heavy burdens. Come, for Christ has promised rest.

Many: The gentle spirit of Christ invites us. We have come to find rest for our souls.

OPENING HYMN *Shall We Gather at the River* (Hanson Place)

INVITING GOD INTO OUR MIDST

We come together, gracious God, because we have heard your invitation. We sense that you alone know the burdens we carry. You understand our weariness. Sometimes our journey seems long and without respite. We long for the refreshment you provide as we come to worship you. The anticipation of this hour of rest and nourishment fills us with renewed joy and gladness. We thank you, God, that your revelation comes to us, not because we are worthy, but because we are open to your word. Open our hearts to receive all you offer. Amen

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God, we do not understand our own actions. We turn away from the good we are intent on doing. Yet, we find wisdom in your law. We delight in the idea of mutual caring and celebrating life together, but we get bogged down in our own concerns. We are too busy to seek community and too preoccupied to ponder your will for us. We go our own way, cutting ourselves off from you and one another. O God, help us to put away this sin. Amen

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS AND PASSING OF PEACE

We are created in the image of God and are blessed with the capacity to reflect God's will in our daily lives. God cares for us and invests us with responsibility. Thus God honors us with high expectations and confidence in our willingness to seek out life's best for all people. We are loved. We are forgiven. Our baptism is renewed.

Let us offer one another the gift of peace. May the Lord's peace be with you!

(If you are using this liturgy as a private devotion or participating in the live stream worship, please hold out your hands in blessing for all you are joined with in spirit. If you are participating in the live stream worship, please type in your peace greeting.)

PASTORAL PRAYER/LORD'S PRAYER (debts)

One: May the Lord be with you.

Many: And also with you.

One: Let us pray:

...

With the assurance Jesus offers, together we pray the words Jesus taught us:

Our Father, who is in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your 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 yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON

Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67

³⁴So he said, "I am Abraham's servant. ³⁵The LORD has greatly blessed my master, and he has become wealthy; he has given him flocks and herds, silver and gold, male and female slaves, camels and donkeys. ³⁶And Sarah my master's wife bore a son to my master when she was old; and he has given him all that he has. ³⁷My master made me swear, saying, 'You shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I live; ³⁸but you shall go to my father's house, to my kindred, and get a wife for my son.'

⁴²"I came today to the spring, and said, 'O LORD, the God of my master Abraham, if now you will only make successful the way I am going! ⁴³I am standing here by the spring of water; let the young woman who comes out to draw, to whom I shall say, "Please give me a little water from your jar to drink," ⁴⁴and who will say to me, "Drink, and I will draw for your camels also"—let her be the woman whom the LORD has appointed for my master's son.'

⁴⁵"Before I had finished speaking in my heart, there was Rebekah coming out with her water jar on her shoulder; and she went down to the spring, and drew. I said to her, 'Please let me drink.' ⁴⁶She quickly let down her jar from her shoulder, and said, 'Drink, and I will also water your camels.' So I drank, and she also watered the camels. ⁴⁷Then I asked her, 'Whose daughter are you?' She said, 'The daughter of Bethuel, Nahor's son, whom Milcah bore to him.' So I put the ring on her nose, and the bracelets on her arms. ⁴⁸Then I bowed my head and worshiped the LORD, and blessed the LORD, the God of my master Abraham, who had led me by the right way to obtain the daughter of my master's kinsman for his son. ⁴⁹Now then, if you will deal loyally and truly with my master, tell me; and if not, tell me, so that I may turn either to the right hand or to the left."

⁵⁸And they called Rebekah, and said to her, “Will you go with this man?” She said, “I will.” ⁵⁹So they sent away their sister Rebekah and her nurse along with Abraham’s servant and his men. ⁶⁰And they blessed Rebekah and said to her,

“May you, our sister, become
thousands of myriads;
may your offspring gain possession
of the gates of their foes.”

⁶¹Then Rebekah and her maids rose up, mounted the camels, and followed the man; thus the servant took Rebekah, and went his way.

⁶²Now Isaac had come from[£] Beer-lahai-roi, and was settled in the Negeb. ⁶³Isaac went out in the evening to walk[£] in the field; and looking up, he saw camels coming. ⁶⁴And Rebekah looked up, and when she saw Isaac, she slipped quickly from the camel, ⁶⁵and said to the servant, “Who is the man over there, walking in the field to meet us?” The servant said, “It is my master.” So she took her veil and covered herself. ⁶⁶And the servant told Isaac all the things that he had done. ⁶⁷Then Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah’s tent. He took Rebekah, and she became his wife; and he loved her. So Isaac was comforted after his mother’s death.

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Matthew 11:16-19. 25-30

¹⁶“But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,

¹⁷ ‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;
we wailed, and you did not mourn.’

¹⁸For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; ¹⁹the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.”[£]

²⁵At that time Jesus said, “I thank[£] you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; ²⁶yes, Father, for such was your gracious will.[£] ²⁷All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

²⁸“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

SERMON

INVITATION TO OFFERING

God has greatly blessed us with many kinds of wealth. Let our joy and gladness overflow as we express gratitude to God with our offerings. As we support the ministries of the church, let us consider those whose lives are grievously burdened, reaching out to them in practical acts of mercy.

We are profoundly grateful for your continued support of Hope UCC as we stay connected as a faith community in this time of social distancing and spiritual connection. We are continuing the ministry of our church throughout this stay at home order and we thank you for making this possible. We now have two ways to make your offering. Hope UCC is now able to offer e-giving through Breeze Management System to make it safer and easier for you to give anytime. You are able to safely donate electronically using your credit card or ACH transfer. You can find the link on our church

website (www.hopeuccqc.org). We also invite you to mail your offering to the church office – mail and messages are checked daily by Pastor Santina. Thank you for your generosity- your commitment is vital to continuing our congregation's ministries and commitments. Hope Grows! And there is nothing- not even a global pandemic - that can stop it! ☺

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

With all the gifts of creation, you have blessed us, gracious God. We give thanks for all your works. Gratitude is our first impulse for giving. Accept our grateful hearts, along with our gifts. We ask for wisdom as our church determines priorities for the use of resources. May we be as concerned about outreach and mission as we are about programs for ourselves. As you are faithful to us, O God, may we be faithful in all things, seeking always to live by your gracious will. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

(Please use whatever elements you have available for the bread and the cup)

Welcome

One: God be with you.

Many: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

Many: We lift them to God.

One: Let us give thanks to God Most High.

Many: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Holy God, we praise and bless you for creation and for your abiding love which brings us close to you, the source of all blessing. We thank you for creating us in your own image, for forgiving us when we act as though you have no claim on us, and for keeping us in your steadfast care. We rejoice in Jesus Christ, who shared the joys and sorrows of life as we know it. We remember Christ's death, we celebrate Christ's resurrection, and, as your church, we anticipate Christ's return. We take courage from your Holy Spirit and we offer you our praise for our sisters, brothers, and siblings of faith in every age who stand as witnesses to your love and justice. Together with all the company of heaven, we glorify you:

Holy, holy, holy God of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God Most High. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God! Hosanna in the highest!

Remember

We remember that on the night of betrayal and desertion, Jesus took bread, gave you thanks, broke the bread, and gave it to the disciples, saying: "This is my body which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, Jesus also took the cup, after supper, saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." By eating this bread and drinking this cup, we proclaim Christ's death, celebrate Christ's resurrection, and await Christ's coming again.

Consecration

Let us pray: Gracious God, by your Holy Spirit, bless these gifts of bread and cup – each unique in their composition and location, and yet common through the Spirit that anoints these gifts. Bless us as we receive the bread and cup, that we will offer you our faith and praise, and that we will be united with Christ and with one another. Through this table of fellowship, make us the Body of Christ and may your Spirit strengthen us when we feel weak, warm us when we are cold-hearted, bend us when we are stubborn, move us when we are uncaring, guide us in the way of love. May we continue to be faithful in all things. As we eat and drink, may the elements be symbols that remind us who we are and whose we are. We ask all this in the name of the one who extends the invitation to us, your Son, Christ Jesus. Amen

Through the broken bread we participate in the body of Christ.

Through the cup of blessing we participate in the new life Christ gives.

Invitation & Sharing Holy Communion

This is the table, not of the church, but of Jesus Christ. It is made ready for those who love him and for those who want to love him more. All are welcome. Come to the table because it is Jesus Christ who invites you. It is his will that those who want him should meet him here. Please join this feast in the spirit of joy and gratitude. These are the gifts of God for the people of God. Come, for all things are ready.

Take and eat, Christ's body given for you.
Take and drink, the cup of blessing.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our savior. Amen

CLOSING HYMN *In the Midst of New Dimensions* (New Dimensions)

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BENEDICTION

One: Carry with you innermost selves, delight in God's law. Meditate day by day on God's purpose for your lives.

Many: We rejoice that God dwells with us every day. We want to know and do God's will for us.

One: We encounter God in unexpected places. God surprises us in the life and witness of people.

Many: We learn from the youngest in our midst. Simple and humble persons have much to teach us.

One: Take Christ's yoke upon you, for that yoke is easy. It imparts confidence that lightens our burdens.

Many: We will find rest and renewal through Christ. We seek to express the same humility and gentleness.

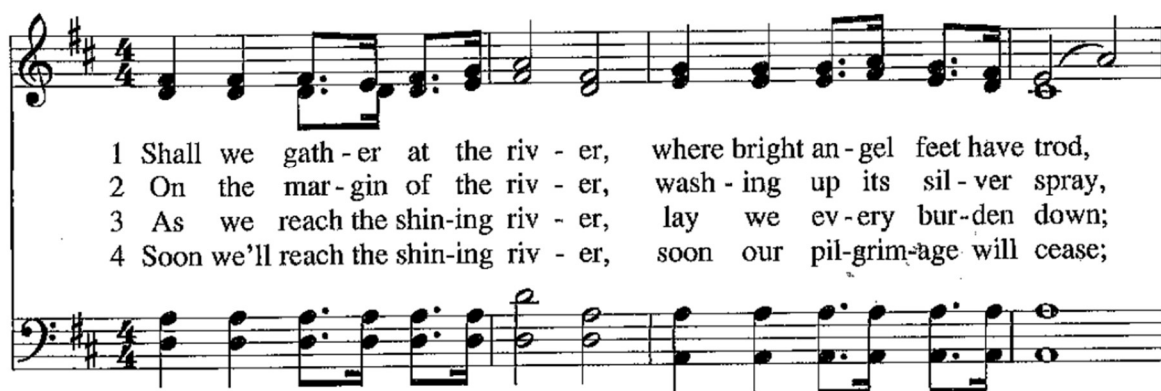
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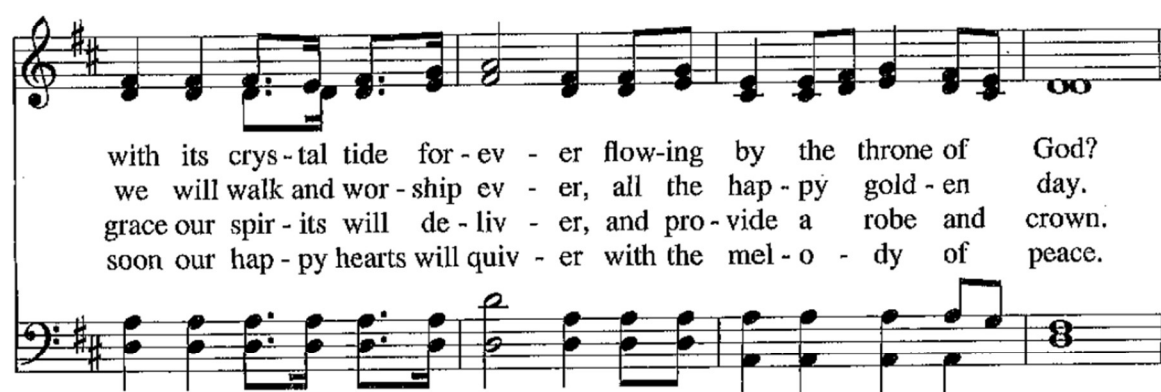
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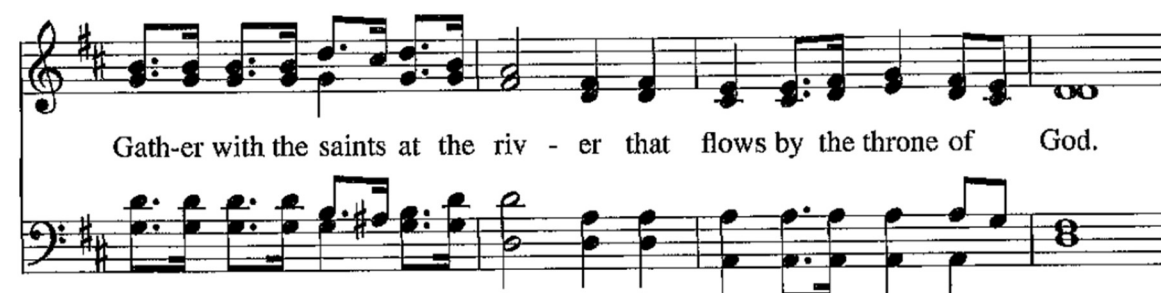


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Refrain



Yes, we'll gath-er at the riv-er, the beau-ti-ful, the beau-ti-ful riv-er,



Gath-er with the saints at the riv-er that flows by the throne of God.

Written during a time when an epidemic was claiming many lives in New York, Robert Lowry's hymn raised the question "Shall we meet again?" Lowry was pastor at Hanson Place Baptist Church in Brooklyn from 1861 to 1869, and collaborated on numerous hymn collections with William H. Doane.

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HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON

Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67

³⁴So he said, "I am Abraham's servant. ³⁵The LORD has greatly blessed my master, and he has become wealthy; he has given him flocks and herds, silver and gold, male and female slaves, camels and donkeys. ³⁶And Sarah my master's wife bore a son to my master when she was old; and he has given him all that he has. ³⁷My master made me swear, saying, 'You shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I live; ³⁸but you shall go to my father's house, to my kindred, and get a wife for my son.'

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NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Matthew 11:16-19. 25-30

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we wailed, and you did not mourn.’

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website (www.hopeuccqc.org). We also invite you to mail your offering to the church office – mail and messages are checked daily by Pastor Santina. Thank you for your generosity- your commitment is vital to continuing our congregation's ministries and commitments. Hope Grows! And there is nothing- not even a global pandemic - that can stop it! ☺

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With all the gifts of creation, you have blessed us, gracious God. We give thanks for all your works. Gratitude is our first impulse for giving. Accept our grateful hearts, along with our gifts. We ask for wisdom as our church determines priorities for the use of resources. May we be as concerned about outreach and mission as we are about programs for ourselves. As you are faithful to us, O God, may we be faithful in all things, seeking always to live by your gracious will. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

(Please use whatever elements you have available for the bread and the cup)

Welcome

One: God be with you.

Many: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

Many: We lift them to God.

One: Let us give thanks to God Most High.

Many: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Holy God, we praise and bless you for creation and for your abiding love which brings us close to you, the source of all blessing. We thank you for creating us in your own image, for forgiving us when we act as though you have no claim on us, and for keeping us in your steadfast care. We rejoice in Jesus Christ, who shared the joys and sorrows of life as we know it. We remember Christ's death, we celebrate Christ's resurrection, and, as your church, we anticipate Christ's return. We take courage from your Holy Spirit and we offer you our praise for our sisters, brothers, and siblings of faith in every age who stand as witnesses to your love and justice. Together with all the company of heaven, we glorify you:

Holy, holy, holy God of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God Most High. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God! Hosanna in the highest!

Remember

We remember that on the night of betrayal and desertion, Jesus took bread, gave you thanks, broke the bread, and gave it to the disciples, saying: "This is my body which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, Jesus also took the cup, after supper, saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." By eating this bread and drinking this cup, we proclaim Christ's death, celebrate Christ's resurrection, and await Christ's coming again.

Consecration

Let us pray: Gracious God, by your Holy Spirit, bless these gifts of bread and cup – each unique in their composition and location, and yet common through the Spirit that anoints these gifts. Bless us as we receive the bread and cup, that we will offer you our faith and praise, and that we will be united with Christ and with one another. Through this table of fellowship, make us the Body of Christ and may your Spirit strengthen us when we feel weak, warm us when we are cold-hearted, bend us when we are stubborn, move us when we are uncaring, guide us in the way of love. May we continue to be faithful in all things. As we eat and drink, may the elements be symbols that remind us who we are and whose we are. We ask all this in the name of the one who extends the invitation to us, your Son, Christ Jesus. Amen

Through the broken bread we participate in the body of Christ.

Through the cup of blessing we participate in the new life Christ gives.

Invitation & Sharing Holy Communion

This is the table, not of the church, but of Jesus Christ. It is made ready for those who love him and for those who want to love him more. All are welcome. Come to the table because it is Jesus Christ who invites you. It is his will that those who want him should meet him here. Please join this feast in the spirit of joy and gratitude. These are the gifts of God for the people of God. Come, for all things are ready.

Take and eat, Christ's body given for you.
Take and drink, the cup of blessing.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our savior. Amen

CLOSING HYMN *In the Midst of New Dimensions* (New Dimensions)

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BENEDICTION

One: Carry with you innermost selves, delight in God's law. Meditate day by day on God's purpose for your lives.

Many: We rejoice that God dwells with us every day. We want to know and do God's will for us.

One: We encounter God in unexpected places. God surprises us in the life and witness of people.

Many: We learn from the youngest in our midst. Simple and humble persons have much to teach us.

One: Take Christ's yoke upon you, for that yoke is easy. It imparts confidence that lightens our burdens.

Many: We will find rest and renewal through Christ. We seek to express the same humility and gentleness.

POSTLUDE *Gavotte* - Wesley

Shall We Gather at the River

597

Robert Lowry, 1864; alt.

Rev. 22:1-5

1 Shall we gath - er at the riv - er, where bright an - gel feet have trod,
 2 On the mar - gin of the riv - er, wash - ing up its sil - ver spray,
 3 As we reach the shin - ing riv - er, lay we ev - ery bur - den down;
 4 Soon we'll reach the shin - ing riv - er, soon our pil - grim - age will cease;

with its crys - tal tide for - ev - er flow - ing by the throne of God?
 we will walk and wor - ship ev - er, all the hap - py gold - en day.
 grace our spir - its will de - liv - er, and pro - vide a robe and crown.
 soon our hap - py hearts will quiv - er with the mel - o - dy of peace.

Refrain

Yes, we'll gath - er at the riv - er, the beau - ti - ful, the beau - ti - ful riv - er,

Gath - er with the saints at the riv - er that flows by the throne of God.

Written during a time when an epidemic was claiming many lives in New York, Robert Lowry's hymn raised the question "Shall we meet again?" Lowry was pastor at Hanson Place Baptist Church in Brooklyn from 1861 to 1869, and collaborated on numerous hymn collections with William H. Doane.

Tune: HANSON PLACE 8.7.8.7, with refrain
 Robert Lowry, 1864

In the Midst of New Dimensions

391

Julian Rush, 1985; alt.

Gen. 9:12-16; Exod. 13:21-22; Num. 14:14

C C/B F C F Am7 Dm7 G7sus4 G7

1 In the midst of new di-men-sions, in the face of chang-ing ways,
 2 Through the flood of starv-ing peo-ple, war-ring fac-tions and de-spair,
 3 As we stand a world di-vid-ed by our own self-seek-ing schemes,
 4 We are man and we are wom-an, all per-sua-sions, old and young,
 5 Should the threats of dire pre-dic-tions cause us to with-draw in pain,

C C/B F C F Am7 Dm7 G C

Who will lead the pil-grim peo-ple wan-dering in their sep-a-rate ways?
 Who will lift the ol-ive branch-es? Who will light the flame of care?
 Grant that we, your glob-al vil-lage, might en-vi-sion wid-er dreams.
 Each a gift in your cre-a-tion, each a love song to be sung.
 May your blaz-ing phoe-nix spir-it res-ur-rect the church a-gain.

Refrain
 Am Em F C F C G7 C Dsus4 D7 G7sus4 G7 Am

God of rain-bow, fier-y pil-lar, lead-ing where the ea-gles soar, We your

Em F C F C/E F C/E F C/E Dm7 G7 C

peo-ple, ours the jour-ney now and ev-er, now and ev-er, now and ev-er - more.

Julian Rush, an ordained minister in the United Methodist Church, has spent more than a decade as director of the Colorado AIDS Project. He wrote this hymn on the theme of "diversity" for a meeting of the Rocky Mountain Conference (United Methodist).

Tune: NEW DIMENSIONS 8.7.8.7. with refrain
 Julian Rush, 1985
 Arr. The New Century Hymnal, 1994



Hanoi Street Vendor:
Photo by Fabian Irsara

Hope United Church of Christ Moline, IL
Worship Bulletin July 5, 2020
Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

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We are glad you are here!

*No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey,
you are welcome at Hope UCC!*

PRELUDE *Spirit of Jesus, if I Love My Neighbor* - Wren

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Come with joy and gladness to praise and honor God. Come to the refreshing waters that God provides.

Many: God is gracious and merciful and full of compassion. All creation joins us in giving thanks.

One: Give ear, all people, to the law of God. Give thanks for all the guidance God gives us.

Many: God upholds all who are falling. God raises us up when we are bowed down.

One: Come, all who are weary and carrying heavy burdens. Come, for Christ has promised rest.

Many: The gentle spirit of Christ invites us. We have come to find rest for our souls.

OPENING HYMN *Shall We Gather at the River* (Hanson Place)

INVITING GOD INTO OUR MIDST

We come together, gracious God, because we have heard your invitation. We sense that you alone know the burdens we carry. You understand our weariness. Sometimes our journey seems long and without respite. We long for the refreshment you provide as we come to worship you. The anticipation of this hour of rest and nourishment fills us with renewed joy and gladness. We thank you, God, that your revelation comes to us, not because we are worthy, but because we are open to your word. Open our hearts to receive all you offer. Amen

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God, we do not understand our own actions. We turn away from the good we are intent on doing. Yet, we find wisdom in your law. We delight in the idea of mutual caring and celebrating life together, but we get bogged down in our own concerns. We are too busy to seek community and too preoccupied to ponder your will for us. We go our own way, cutting ourselves off from you and one another. O God, help us to put away this sin. Amen

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS AND PASSING OF PEACE

We are created in the image of God and are blessed with the capacity to reflect God's will in our daily lives. God cares for us and invests us with responsibility. Thus God honors us with high expectations and confidence in our willingness to seek out life's best for all people. We are loved. We are forgiven. Our baptism is renewed.

Let us offer one another the gift of peace. May the Lord's peace be with you!

(If you are using this liturgy as a private devotion or participating in the live stream worship, please hold out your hands in blessing for all you are joined with in spirit. If you are participating in the live stream worship, please type in your peace greeting.)

PASTORAL PRAYER/LORD'S PRAYER (debts)

One: May the Lord be with you.

Many: And also with you.

One: Let us pray:

...

With the assurance Jesus offers, together we pray the words Jesus taught us:

Our Father, who is in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your 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 yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON

Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67

³⁴So he said, "I am Abraham's servant. ³⁵The LORD has greatly blessed my master, and he has become wealthy; he has given him flocks and herds, silver and gold, male and female slaves, camels and donkeys. ³⁶And Sarah my master's wife bore a son to my master when she was old; and he has given him all that he has. ³⁷My master made me swear, saying, 'You shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I live; ³⁸but you shall go to my father's house, to my kindred, and get a wife for my son.'

⁴²"I came today to the spring, and said, 'O LORD, the God of my master Abraham, if now you will only make successful the way I am going! ⁴³I am standing here by the spring of water; let the young woman who comes out to draw, to whom I shall say, "Please give me a little water from your jar to drink," ⁴⁴and who will say to me, "Drink, and I will draw for your camels also"—let her be the woman whom the LORD has appointed for my master's son.'

⁴⁵"Before I had finished speaking in my heart, there was Rebekah coming out with her water jar on her shoulder; and she went down to the spring, and drew. I said to her, 'Please let me drink.' ⁴⁶She quickly let down her jar from her shoulder, and said, 'Drink, and I will also water your camels.' So I drank, and she also watered the camels. ⁴⁷Then I asked her, 'Whose daughter are you?' She said, 'The daughter of Bethuel, Nahor's son, whom Milcah bore to him.' So I put the ring on her nose, and the bracelets on her arms. ⁴⁸Then I bowed my head and worshiped the LORD, and blessed the LORD, the God of my master Abraham, who had led me by the right way to obtain the daughter of my master's kinsman for his son. ⁴⁹Now then, if you will deal loyally and truly with my master, tell me; and if not, tell me, so that I may turn either to the right hand or to the left."

⁵⁸And they called Rebekah, and said to her, “Will you go with this man?” She said, “I will.” ⁵⁹So they sent away their sister Rebekah and her nurse along with Abraham’s servant and his men. ⁶⁰And they blessed Rebekah and said to her,

“May you, our sister, become
thousands of myriads;
may your offspring gain possession
of the gates of their foes.”

⁶¹Then Rebekah and her maids rose up, mounted the camels, and followed the man; thus the servant took Rebekah, and went his way.

⁶²Now Isaac had come from[£] Beer-lahai-roi, and was settled in the Negeb. ⁶³Isaac went out in the evening to walk[£] in the field; and looking up, he saw camels coming. ⁶⁴And Rebekah looked up, and when she saw Isaac, she slipped quickly from the camel, ⁶⁵and said to the servant, “Who is the man over there, walking in the field to meet us?” The servant said, “It is my master.” So she took her veil and covered herself. ⁶⁶And the servant told Isaac all the things that he had done. ⁶⁷Then Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah’s tent. He took Rebekah, and she became his wife; and he loved her. So Isaac was comforted after his mother’s death.

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Matthew 11:16-19. 25-30

¹⁶“But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,

¹⁷ ‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;
we wailed, and you did not mourn.’

¹⁸For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; ¹⁹the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.”[£]

²⁵At that time Jesus said, “I thank[£] you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; ²⁶yes, Father, for such was your gracious will.[£] ²⁷All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

²⁸“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

SERMON

INVITATION TO OFFERING

God has greatly blessed us with many kinds of wealth. Let our joy and gladness overflow as we express gratitude to God with our offerings. As we support the ministries of the church, let us consider those whose lives are grievously burdened, reaching out to them in practical acts of mercy.

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(Please use whatever elements you have available for the bread and the cup)

Welcome

One: God be with you.

Many: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

Many: We lift them to God.

One: Let us give thanks to God Most High.

Many: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

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We remember that on the night of betrayal and desertion, Jesus took bread, gave you thanks, broke the bread, and gave it to the disciples, saying: "This is my body which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, Jesus also took the cup, after supper, saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." By eating this bread and drinking this cup, we proclaim Christ's death, celebrate Christ's resurrection, and await Christ's coming again.

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Take and drink, the cup of blessing.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

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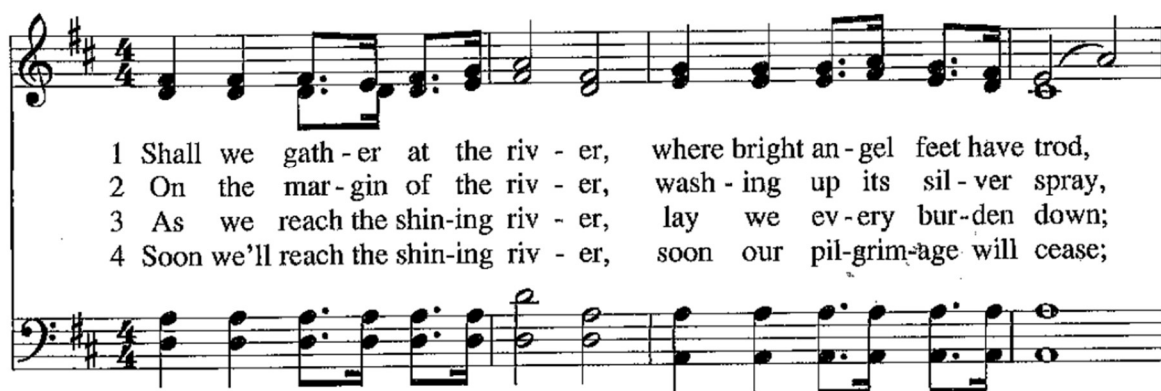
POSTLUDE *Gavotte* - Wesley

Shall We Gather at the River

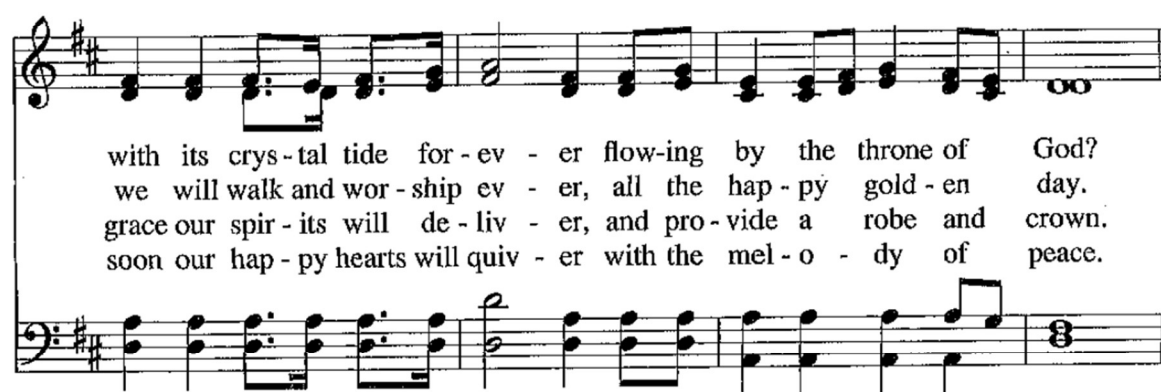
597

Robert Lowry, 1864; alt.

Rev. 22:1-5



1 Shall we gath-er at the riv-er, where bright an-gel feet have trod,
2 On the mar-gin of the riv-er, wash-ing up its sil-ver spray,
3 As we reach the shin-ing riv-er, lay we ev-ery bur-den down;
4 Soon we'll reach the shin-ing riv-er, soon our pil-grim-age will cease;

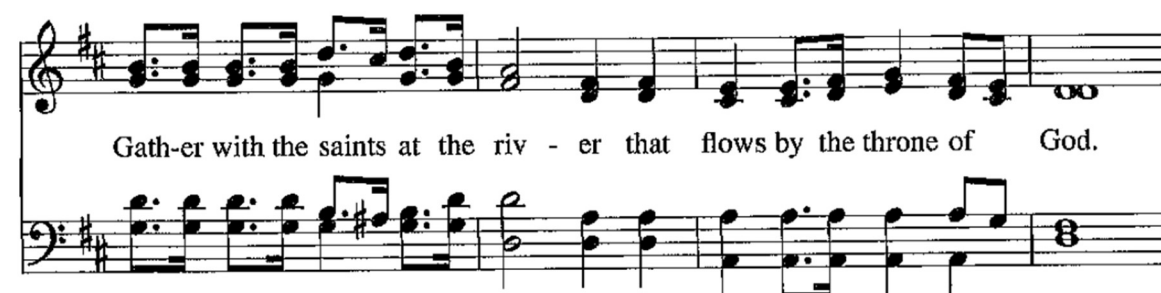


with its crys-tal tide for-ev-er flow-ing by the throne of God?
we will walk and wor-ship ev-er, all the hap-py gold-en day.
grace our spir-its will de-liv-er, and pro-vide a robe and crown.
soon our hap-py hearts will quiv-er with the mel-o-dy of peace.

Refrain



Yes, we'll gath-er at the riv-er, the beau-ti-ful, the beau-ti-ful riv-er,



Gath-er with the saints at the riv-er that flows by the throne of God.

Written during a time when an epidemic was claiming many lives in New York, Robert Lowry's hymn raised the question "Shall we meet again?" Lowry was pastor at Hanson Place Baptist Church in Brooklyn from 1861 to 1869, and collaborated on numerous hymn collections with William H. Doane.

Tune: HANSON PLACE 8.7.8.7, with refrain
Robert Lowry, 1864

In the Midst of New Dimensions

391

Julian Rush, 1985; alt.

Gen. 9:12-16; Exod. 13:21-22; Num. 14:14

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Hanoi Street Vendor:
Photo by Fabian Irsara

Hope United Church of Christ Moline, IL
Worship Bulletin July 5, 2020
Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

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OPENING HYMN *Shall We Gather at the River* (Hanson Place)

INVITING GOD INTO OUR MIDST

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PASTORAL PRAYER/LORD'S PRAYER (debts)

One: May the Lord be with you.

Many: And also with you.

One: Let us pray:

...

With the assurance Jesus offers, together we pray the words Jesus taught us:

Our Father, who is in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your 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 yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON

Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67

³⁴So he said, "I am Abraham's servant. ³⁵The LORD has greatly blessed my master, and he has become wealthy; he has given him flocks and herds, silver and gold, male and female slaves, camels and donkeys. ³⁶And Sarah my master's wife bore a son to my master when she was old; and he has given him all that he has. ³⁷My master made me swear, saying, 'You shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I live; ³⁸but you shall go to my father's house, to my kindred, and get a wife for my son.'

⁴²"I came today to the spring, and said, 'O LORD, the God of my master Abraham, if now you will only make successful the way I am going! ⁴³I am standing here by the spring of water; let the young woman who comes out to draw, to whom I shall say, "Please give me a little water from your jar to drink," ⁴⁴and who will say to me, "Drink, and I will draw for your camels also"—let her be the woman whom the LORD has appointed for my master's son.'

⁴⁵"Before I had finished speaking in my heart, there was Rebekah coming out with her water jar on her shoulder; and she went down to the spring, and drew. I said to her, 'Please let me drink.' ⁴⁶She quickly let down her jar from her shoulder, and said, 'Drink, and I will also water your camels.' So I drank, and she also watered the camels. ⁴⁷Then I asked her, 'Whose daughter are you?' She said, 'The daughter of Bethuel, Nahor's son, whom Milcah bore to him.' So I put the ring on her nose, and the bracelets on her arms. ⁴⁸Then I bowed my head and worshiped the LORD, and blessed the LORD, the God of my master Abraham, who had led me by the right way to obtain the daughter of my master's kinsman for his son. ⁴⁹Now then, if you will deal loyally and truly with my master, tell me; and if not, tell me, so that I may turn either to the right hand or to the left."

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“May you, our sister, become
thousands of myriads;
may your offspring gain possession
of the gates of their foes.”

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NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Matthew 11:16-19. 25-30

¹⁶“But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,

¹⁷ ‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;
we wailed, and you did not mourn.’

¹⁸For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; ¹⁹the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.”[£]

²⁵At that time Jesus said, “I thank[£] you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; ²⁶yes, Father, for such was your gracious will.[£] ²⁷All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

²⁸“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

SERMON

INVITATION TO OFFERING

God has greatly blessed us with many kinds of wealth. Let our joy and gladness overflow as we express gratitude to God with our offerings. As we support the ministries of the church, let us consider those whose lives are grievously burdened, reaching out to them in practical acts of mercy.

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website (www.hopeuccqc.org). We also invite you to mail your offering to the church office – mail and messages are checked daily by Pastor Santina. Thank you for your generosity- your commitment is vital to continuing our congregation's ministries and commitments. Hope Grows! And there is nothing- not even a global pandemic - that can stop it! ☺

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

With all the gifts of creation, you have blessed us, gracious God. We give thanks for all your works. Gratitude is our first impulse for giving. Accept our grateful hearts, along with our gifts. We ask for wisdom as our church determines priorities for the use of resources. May we be as concerned about outreach and mission as we are about programs for ourselves. As you are faithful to us, O God, may we be faithful in all things, seeking always to live by your gracious will. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

(Please use whatever elements you have available for the bread and the cup)

Welcome

One: God be with you.

Many: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

Many: We lift them to God.

One: Let us give thanks to God Most High.

Many: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Holy God, we praise and bless you for creation and for your abiding love which brings us close to you, the source of all blessing. We thank you for creating us in your own image, for forgiving us when we act as though you have no claim on us, and for keeping us in your steadfast care. We rejoice in Jesus Christ, who shared the joys and sorrows of life as we know it. We remember Christ's death, we celebrate Christ's resurrection, and, as your church, we anticipate Christ's return. We take courage from your Holy Spirit and we offer you our praise for our sisters, brothers, and siblings of faith in every age who stand as witnesses to your love and justice. Together with all the company of heaven, we glorify you:

Holy, holy, holy God of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God Most High. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God! Hosanna in the highest!

Remember

We remember that on the night of betrayal and desertion, Jesus took bread, gave you thanks, broke the bread, and gave it to the disciples, saying: "This is my body which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, Jesus also took the cup, after supper, saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." By eating this bread and drinking this cup, we proclaim Christ's death, celebrate Christ's resurrection, and await Christ's coming again.

Consecration

Let us pray: Gracious God, by your Holy Spirit, bless these gifts of bread and cup – each unique in their composition and location, and yet common through the Spirit that anoints these gifts. Bless us as we receive the bread and cup, that we will offer you our faith and praise, and that we will be united with Christ and with one another. Through this table of fellowship, make us the Body of Christ and may your Spirit strengthen us when we feel weak, warm us when we are cold-hearted, bend us when we are stubborn, move us when we are uncaring, guide us in the way of love. May we continue to be faithful in all things. As we eat and drink, may the elements be symbols that remind us who we are and whose we are. We ask all this in the name of the one who extends the invitation to us, your Son, Christ Jesus. Amen

Through the broken bread we participate in the body of Christ.

Through the cup of blessing we participate in the new life Christ gives.

Invitation & Sharing Holy Communion

This is the table, not of the church, but of Jesus Christ. It is made ready for those who love him and for those who want to love him more. All are welcome. Come to the table because it is Jesus Christ who invites you. It is his will that those who want him should meet him here. Please join this feast in the spirit of joy and gratitude. These are the gifts of God for the people of God. Come, for all things are ready.

Take and eat, Christ's body given for you.
Take and drink, the cup of blessing.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our savior. Amen

CLOSING HYMN *In the Midst of New Dimensions* (New Dimensions)

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BENEDICTION

One: Carry with you innermost selves, delight in God's law. Meditate day by day on God's purpose for your lives.

Many: We rejoice that God dwells with us every day. We want to know and do God's will for us.

One: We encounter God in unexpected places. God surprises us in the life and witness of people.

Many: We learn from the youngest in our midst. Simple and humble persons have much to teach us.

One: Take Christ's yoke upon you, for that yoke is easy. It imparts confidence that lightens our burdens.

Many: We will find rest and renewal through Christ. We seek to express the same humility and gentleness.

POSTLUDE *Gavotte* - Wesley

Shall We Gather at the River

597

Robert Lowry, 1864; alt.

Rev. 22:1-5

1 Shall we gath - er at the riv - er, where bright an - gel feet have trod,
 2 On the mar - gin of the riv - er, wash - ing up its sil - ver spray,
 3 As we reach the shin - ing riv - er, lay we ev - ery bur - den down;
 4 Soon we'll reach the shin - ing riv - er, soon our pil - grim - age will cease;

with its crys - tal tide for - ev - er flow - ing by the throne of God?
 we will walk and wor - ship ev - er, all the hap - py gold - en day.
 grace our spir - its will de - liv - er, and pro - vide a robe and crown.
 soon our hap - py hearts will quiv - er with the mel - o - dy of peace.

Refrain

Yes, we'll gath - er at the riv - er, the beau - ti - ful, the beau - ti - ful riv - er,

Gath - er with the saints at the riv - er that flows by the throne of God.

Written during a time when an epidemic was claiming many lives in New York, Robert Lowry's hymn raised the question "Shall we meet again?" Lowry was pastor at Hanson Place Baptist Church in Brooklyn from 1861 to 1869, and collaborated on numerous hymn collections with William H. Doane.

Tune: HANSON PLACE 8.7.8.7, with refrain
 Robert Lowry, 1864

In the Midst of New Dimensions

391

Julian Rush, 1985; alt.

Gen. 9:12-16; Exod. 13:21-22; Num. 14:14

C C/B F C F Am7 Dm7 G7sus4 G7

1 In the midst of new di-men-sions, in the face of chang-ing ways,
 2 Through the flood of starv-ing peo-ple, war-ring fac-tions and de-spair,
 3 As we stand a world di-vid-ed by our own self-seek-ing schemes,
 4 We are man and we are wom-an, all per-sua-sions, old and young,
 5 Should the threats of dire pre-dic-tions cause us to with-draw in pain,

C C/B F C F Am7 Dm7 G C

Who will lead the pil-grim peo-ples wan-dering in their sep-arate ways?
 Who will lift the ol-ive branch-es? Who will light the flame of care?
 Grant that we, your glob-al vil-lage, might en-vi-sion wid-er dreams.
 Each a gift in your cre-a-tion, each a love song to be sung.
 May your blaz-ing phoe-nix spir-it res-ur-rect the church a-gain.

Refrain
 Am Em F C F C G7 C Dsus4 D7 G7sus4 G7 Am

God of rain-bow, fier-y pil-lar, lead-ing where the ea-gles soar, We your

Em F C F C/E F C/E F C/E Dm7 G7 C

peo-ple, ours the jour-ney now and ev-er, now and ev-er, now and ev-er - more.

Julian Rush, an ordained minister in the United Methodist Church, has spent more than a decade as director of the Colorado AIDS Project. He wrote this hymn on the theme of "diversity" for a meeting of the Rocky Mountain Conference (United Methodist).

Tune: NEW DIMENSIONS 8.7.8.7. with refrain
 Julian Rush, 1985
 Arr. The New Century Hymnal, 1994



Hanoi Street Vendor:
Photo by Fabian Irsara

Hope United Church of Christ Moline, IL
Worship Bulletin July 5, 2020
Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Thank you for joining us for worship today.

We are glad you are here!

*No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey,
you are welcome at Hope UCC!*

PRELUDE *Spirit of Jesus, if I Love My Neighbor* - Wren

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Come with joy and gladness to praise and honor God. Come to the refreshing waters that God provides.

Many: God is gracious and merciful and full of compassion. All creation joins us in giving thanks.

One: Give ear, all people, to the law of God. Give thanks for all the guidance God gives us.

Many: God upholds all who are falling. God raises us up when we are bowed down.

One: Come, all who are weary and carrying heavy burdens. Come, for Christ has promised rest.

Many: The gentle spirit of Christ invites us. We have come to find rest for our souls.

OPENING HYMN *Shall We Gather at the River* (Hanson Place)

INVITING GOD INTO OUR MIDST

We come together, gracious God, because we have heard your invitation. We sense that you alone know the burdens we carry. You understand our weariness. Sometimes our journey seems long and without respite. We long for the refreshment you provide as we come to worship you. The anticipation of this hour of rest and nourishment fills us with renewed joy and gladness. We thank you, God, that your revelation comes to us, not because we are worthy, but because we are open to your word. Open our hearts to receive all you offer. Amen

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God, we do not understand our own actions. We turn away from the good we are intent on doing. Yet, we find wisdom in your law. We delight in the idea of mutual caring and celebrating life together, but we get bogged down in our own concerns. We are too busy to seek community and too preoccupied to ponder your will for us. We go our own way, cutting ourselves off from you and one another. O God, help us to put away this sin. Amen

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS AND PASSING OF PEACE

We are created in the image of God and are blessed with the capacity to reflect God's will in our daily lives. God cares for us and invests us with responsibility. Thus God honors us with high expectations and confidence in our willingness to seek out life's best for all people. We are loved. We are forgiven. Our baptism is renewed.

Let us offer one another the gift of peace. May the Lord's peace be with you!

(If you are using this liturgy as a private devotion or participating in the live stream worship, please hold out your hands in blessing for all you are joined with in spirit. If you are participating in the live stream worship, please type in your peace greeting.)

PASTORAL PRAYER/LORD'S PRAYER (debts)

One: May the Lord be with you.

Many: And also with you.

One: Let us pray:

...

With the assurance Jesus offers, together we pray the words Jesus taught us:

Our Father, who is in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your 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 yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON

Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67

³⁴So he said, "I am Abraham's servant. ³⁵The LORD has greatly blessed my master, and he has become wealthy; he has given him flocks and herds, silver and gold, male and female slaves, camels and donkeys. ³⁶And Sarah my master's wife bore a son to my master when she was old; and he has given him all that he has. ³⁷My master made me swear, saying, 'You shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I live; ³⁸but you shall go to my father's house, to my kindred, and get a wife for my son.'

⁴²"I came today to the spring, and said, 'O LORD, the God of my master Abraham, if now you will only make successful the way I am going! ⁴³I am standing here by the spring of water; let the young woman who comes out to draw, to whom I shall say, "Please give me a little water from your jar to drink," ⁴⁴and who will say to me, "Drink, and I will draw for your camels also"—let her be the woman whom the LORD has appointed for my master's son.'

⁴⁵"Before I had finished speaking in my heart, there was Rebekah coming out with her water jar on her shoulder; and she went down to the spring, and drew. I said to her, 'Please let me drink.' ⁴⁶She quickly let down her jar from her shoulder, and said, 'Drink, and I will also water your camels.' So I drank, and she also watered the camels. ⁴⁷Then I asked her, 'Whose daughter are you?' She said, 'The daughter of Bethuel, Nahor's son, whom Milcah bore to him.' So I put the ring on her nose, and the bracelets on her arms. ⁴⁸Then I bowed my head and worshiped the LORD, and blessed the LORD, the God of my master Abraham, who had led me by the right way to obtain the daughter of my master's kinsman for his son. ⁴⁹Now then, if you will deal loyally and truly with my master, tell me; and if not, tell me, so that I may turn either to the right hand or to the left."

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“May you, our sister, become
thousands of myriads;
may your offspring gain possession
of the gates of their foes.”

⁶¹Then Rebekah and her maids rose up, mounted the camels, and followed the man; thus the servant took Rebekah, and went his way.

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NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Matthew 11:16-19. 25-30

¹⁶“But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,

¹⁷ ‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;
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²⁸“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

SERMON

INVITATION TO OFFERING

God has greatly blessed us with many kinds of wealth. Let our joy and gladness overflow as we express gratitude to God with our offerings. As we support the ministries of the church, let us consider those whose lives are grievously burdened, reaching out to them in practical acts of mercy.

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(Please use whatever elements you have available for the bread and the cup)

Welcome

One: God be with you.

Many: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

Many: We lift them to God.

One: Let us give thanks to God Most High.

Many: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

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Remember

We remember that on the night of betrayal and desertion, Jesus took bread, gave you thanks, broke the bread, and gave it to the disciples, saying: "This is my body which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, Jesus also took the cup, after supper, saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." By eating this bread and drinking this cup, we proclaim Christ's death, celebrate Christ's resurrection, and await Christ's coming again.

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Take and eat, Christ's body given for you.
Take and drink, the cup of blessing.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our savior. Amen

CLOSING HYMN *In the Midst of New Dimensions* (New Dimensions)

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BENEDICTION

One: Carry with you innermost selves, delight in God's law. Meditate day by day on God's purpose for your lives.

Many: We rejoice that God dwells with us every day. We want to know and do God's will for us.

One: We encounter God in unexpected places. God surprises us in the life and witness of people.

Many: We learn from the youngest in our midst. Simple and humble persons have much to teach us.

One: Take Christ's yoke upon you, for that yoke is easy. It imparts confidence that lightens our burdens.

Many: We will find rest and renewal through Christ. We seek to express the same humility and gentleness.

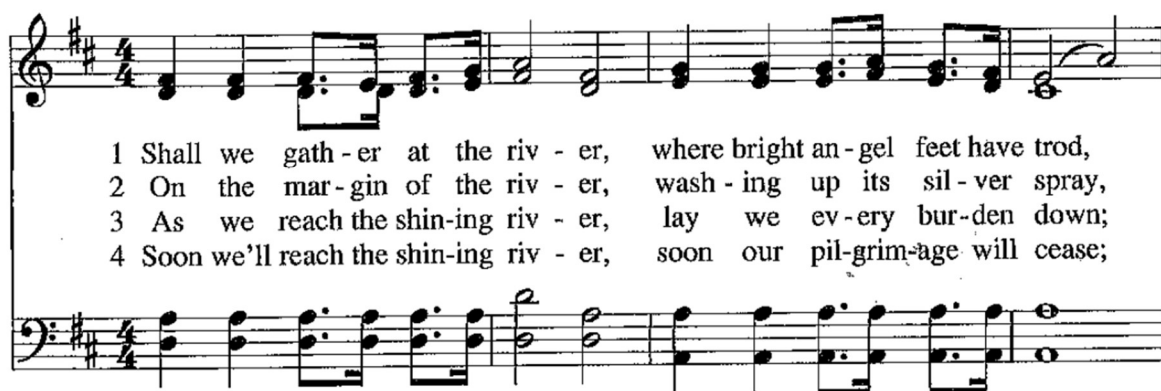
POSTLUDE *Gavotte* - Wesley

Shall We Gather at the River

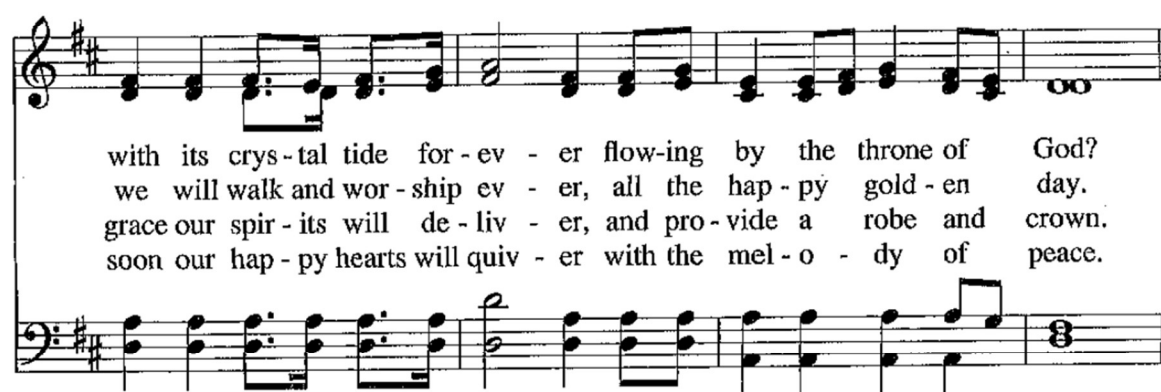
597

Robert Lowry, 1864; alt.

Rev. 22:1-5



1 Shall we gath-er at the riv-er, where bright an-gel feet have trod,
2 On the mar-gin of the riv-er, wash-ing up its sil-ver spray,
3 As we reach the shin-ing riv-er, lay we ev-ery bur-den down;
4 Soon we'll reach the shin-ing riv-er, soon our pil-grim-age will cease;

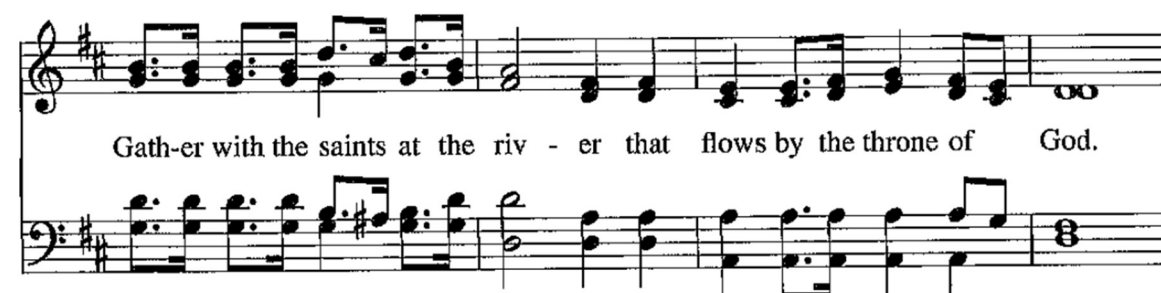


with its crys-tal tide for-ev-er flow-ing by the throne of God?
we will walk and wor-ship ev-er, all the hap-py gold-en day.
grace our spir-its will de-liv-er, and pro-vide a robe and crown.
soon our hap-py hearts will quiv-er with the mel-o-dy of peace.

Refrain



Yes, we'll gath-er at the riv-er, the beau-ti-ful, the beau-ti-ful riv-er,



Gath-er with the saints at the riv-er that flows by the throne of God.

Written during a time when an epidemic was claiming many lives in New York, Robert Lowry's hymn raised the question "Shall we meet again?" Lowry was pastor at Hanson Place Baptist Church in Brooklyn from 1861 to 1869, and collaborated on numerous hymn collections with William H. Doane.

Tune: HANSON PLACE 8.7.8.7, with refrain
Robert Lowry, 1864

In the Midst of New Dimensions

391

Julian Rush, 1985; alt.

Gen. 9:12-16; Exod. 13:21-22; Num. 14:14

C C/B F C F Am7 Dm7 G7sus4 G7

1 In the midst of new di-men-sions, in the face of chang-ing ways,
 2 Through the flood of starv-ing peo-ple, war-ring fac-tions and de-spair,
 3 As we stand a world di-vid-ed by our own self-seek-ing schemes,
 4 We are man and we are wom-an, all per-sua-sions, old and young,
 5 Should the threats of dire pre-dic-tions cause us to with-draw in pain,

C C/B F C F Am7 Dm7 G C

Who will lead the pil-grim peo-les wan-dering in their sep-arate ways?
 Who will lift the ol-ive branch-es? Who will light the flame of care?
 Grant that we, your glob-al vil-lage, might en-vi-sion wid-er dreams.
 Each a gift in your cre-a-tion, each a love song to be sung.
 May your blaz-ing phoe-nix spir-it res-ur-rect the church a-gain.

Refrain
 Am Em F C F C G7 C Dsus4 D7 G7sus4 G7 Am

God of rain-bow, fier-y pil-lar, lead-ing where the ea-gles soar, We your

Em F C F C/E F C/E F C/E Dm7 G7 C

peo-ple, ours the jour-ney now and ev-er, now and ev-er, now and ev-er - more.

Julian Rush, an ordained minister in the United Methodist Church, has spent more than a decade as director of the Colorado AIDS Project. He wrote this hymn on the theme of "diversity" for a meeting of the Rocky Mountain Conference (United Methodist).

Tune: NEW DIMENSIONS 8.7.8.7. with refrain
 Julian Rush, 1985
 Arr. The New Century Hymnal, 1994



Hanoi Street Vendor:
Photo by Fabian Irsara

Hope United Church of Christ Moline, IL
Worship Bulletin July 5, 2020
Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

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*No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey,
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PRELUDE *Spirit of Jesus, if I Love My Neighbor* - Wren

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Come with joy and gladness to praise and honor God. Come to the refreshing waters that God provides.

Many: God is gracious and merciful and full of compassion. All creation joins us in giving thanks.

One: Give ear, all people, to the law of God. Give thanks for all the guidance God gives us.

Many: God upholds all who are falling. God raises us up when we are bowed down.

One: Come, all who are weary and carrying heavy burdens. Come, for Christ has promised rest.

Many: The gentle spirit of Christ invites us. We have come to find rest for our souls.

OPENING HYMN *Shall We Gather at the River* (Hanson Place)

INVITING GOD INTO OUR MIDST

We come together, gracious God, because we have heard your invitation. We sense that you alone know the burdens we carry. You understand our weariness. Sometimes our journey seems long and without respite. We long for the refreshment you provide as we come to worship you. The anticipation of this hour of rest and nourishment fills us with renewed joy and gladness. We thank you, God, that your revelation comes to us, not because we are worthy, but because we are open to your word. Open our hearts to receive all you offer. Amen

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God, we do not understand our own actions. We turn away from the good we are intent on doing. Yet, we find wisdom in your law. We delight in the idea of mutual caring and celebrating life together, but we get bogged down in our own concerns. We are too busy to seek community and too preoccupied to ponder your will for us. We go our own way, cutting ourselves off from you and one another. O God, help us to put away this sin. Amen

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS AND PASSING OF PEACE

We are created in the image of God and are blessed with the capacity to reflect God's will in our daily lives. God cares for us and invests us with responsibility. Thus God honors us with high expectations and confidence in our willingness to seek out life's best for all people. We are loved. We are forgiven. Our baptism is renewed.

Let us offer one another the gift of peace. May the Lord's peace be with you!

(If you are using this liturgy as a private devotion or participating in the live stream worship, please hold out your hands in blessing for all you are joined with in spirit. If you are participating in the live stream worship, please type in your peace greeting.)

PASTORAL PRAYER/LORD'S PRAYER (debts)

One: May the Lord be with you.

Many: And also with you.

One: Let us pray:

...

With the assurance Jesus offers, together we pray the words Jesus taught us:

Our Father, who is in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your 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 yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON

Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67

³⁴So he said, "I am Abraham's servant. ³⁵The LORD has greatly blessed my master, and he has become wealthy; he has given him flocks and herds, silver and gold, male and female slaves, camels and donkeys. ³⁶And Sarah my master's wife bore a son to my master when she was old; and he has given him all that he has. ³⁷My master made me swear, saying, 'You shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I live; ³⁸but you shall go to my father's house, to my kindred, and get a wife for my son.'

⁴²"I came today to the spring, and said, 'O LORD, the God of my master Abraham, if now you will only make successful the way I am going! ⁴³I am standing here by the spring of water; let the young woman who comes out to draw, to whom I shall say, "Please give me a little water from your jar to drink," ⁴⁴and who will say to me, "Drink, and I will draw for your camels also"—let her be the woman whom the LORD has appointed for my master's son.'

⁴⁵"Before I had finished speaking in my heart, there was Rebekah coming out with her water jar on her shoulder; and she went down to the spring, and drew. I said to her, 'Please let me drink.' ⁴⁶She quickly let down her jar from her shoulder, and said, 'Drink, and I will also water your camels.' So I drank, and she also watered the camels. ⁴⁷Then I asked her, 'Whose daughter are you?' She said, 'The daughter of Bethuel, Nahor's son, whom Milcah bore to him.' So I put the ring on her nose, and the bracelets on her arms. ⁴⁸Then I bowed my head and worshiped the LORD, and blessed the LORD, the God of my master Abraham, who had led me by the right way to obtain the daughter of my master's kinsman for his son. ⁴⁹Now then, if you will deal loyally and truly with my master, tell me; and if not, tell me, so that I may turn either to the right hand or to the left."

⁵⁸And they called Rebekah, and said to her, “Will you go with this man?” She said, “I will.” ⁵⁹So they sent away their sister Rebekah and her nurse along with Abraham’s servant and his men. ⁶⁰And they blessed Rebekah and said to her,

“May you, our sister, become
thousands of myriads;
may your offspring gain possession
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⁶¹Then Rebekah and her maids rose up, mounted the camels, and followed the man; thus the servant took Rebekah, and went his way.

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NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Matthew 11:16-19. 25-30

¹⁶“But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,

¹⁷ ‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;
we wailed, and you did not mourn.’

¹⁸For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; ¹⁹the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.”[£]

²⁵At that time Jesus said, “I thank[£] you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; ²⁶yes, Father, for such was your gracious will.[£] ²⁷All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

²⁸“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

SERMON

INVITATION TO OFFERING

God has greatly blessed us with many kinds of wealth. Let our joy and gladness overflow as we express gratitude to God with our offerings. As we support the ministries of the church, let us consider those whose lives are grievously burdened, reaching out to them in practical acts of mercy.

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website (www.hopeuccqc.org). We also invite you to mail your offering to the church office – mail and messages are checked daily by Pastor Santina. Thank you for your generosity- your commitment is vital to continuing our congregation's ministries and commitments. Hope Grows! And there is nothing- not even a global pandemic - that can stop it! ☺

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

With all the gifts of creation, you have blessed us, gracious God. We give thanks for all your works. Gratitude is our first impulse for giving. Accept our grateful hearts, along with our gifts. We ask for wisdom as our church determines priorities for the use of resources. May we be as concerned about outreach and mission as we are about programs for ourselves. As you are faithful to us, O God, may we be faithful in all things, seeking always to live by your gracious will. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

(Please use whatever elements you have available for the bread and the cup)

Welcome

One: God be with you.

Many: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

Many: We lift them to God.

One: Let us give thanks to God Most High.

Many: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Holy God, we praise and bless you for creation and for your abiding love which brings us close to you, the source of all blessing. We thank you for creating us in your own image, for forgiving us when we act as though you have no claim on us, and for keeping us in your steadfast care. We rejoice in Jesus Christ, who shared the joys and sorrows of life as we know it. We remember Christ's death, we celebrate Christ's resurrection, and, as your church, we anticipate Christ's return. We take courage from your Holy Spirit and we offer you our praise for our sisters, brothers, and siblings of faith in every age who stand as witnesses to your love and justice. Together with all the company of heaven, we glorify you:

Holy, holy, holy God of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God Most High. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God! Hosanna in the highest!

Remember

We remember that on the night of betrayal and desertion, Jesus took bread, gave you thanks, broke the bread, and gave it to the disciples, saying: "This is my body which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, Jesus also took the cup, after supper, saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." By eating this bread and drinking this cup, we proclaim Christ's death, celebrate Christ's resurrection, and await Christ's coming again.

Consecration

Let us pray: Gracious God, by your Holy Spirit, bless these gifts of bread and cup – each unique in their composition and location, and yet common through the Spirit that anoints these gifts. Bless us as we receive the bread and cup, that we will offer you our faith and praise, and that we will be united with Christ and with one another. Through this table of fellowship, make us the Body of Christ and may your Spirit strengthen us when we feel weak, warm us when we are cold-hearted, bend us when we are stubborn, move us when we are uncaring, guide us in the way of love. May we continue to be faithful in all things. As we eat and drink, may the elements be symbols that remind us who we are and whose we are. We ask all this in the name of the one who extends the invitation to us, your Son, Christ Jesus. Amen

Through the broken bread we participate in the body of Christ.

Through the cup of blessing we participate in the new life Christ gives.

Invitation & Sharing Holy Communion

This is the table, not of the church, but of Jesus Christ. It is made ready for those who love him and for those who want to love him more. All are welcome. Come to the table because it is Jesus Christ who invites you. It is his will that those who want him should meet him here. Please join this feast in the spirit of joy and gratitude. These are the gifts of God for the people of God. Come, for all things are ready.

Take and eat, Christ's body given for you.
Take and drink, the cup of blessing.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our savior. Amen

CLOSING HYMN *In the Midst of New Dimensions* (New Dimensions)

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BENEDICTION

One: Carry with you innermost selves, delight in God's law. Meditate day by day on God's purpose for your lives.

Many: We rejoice that God dwells with us every day. We want to know and do God's will for us.

One: We encounter God in unexpected places. God surprises us in the life and witness of people.

Many: We learn from the youngest in our midst. Simple and humble persons have much to teach us.

One: Take Christ's yoke upon you, for that yoke is easy. It imparts confidence that lightens our burdens.

Many: We will find rest and renewal through Christ. We seek to express the same humility and gentleness.

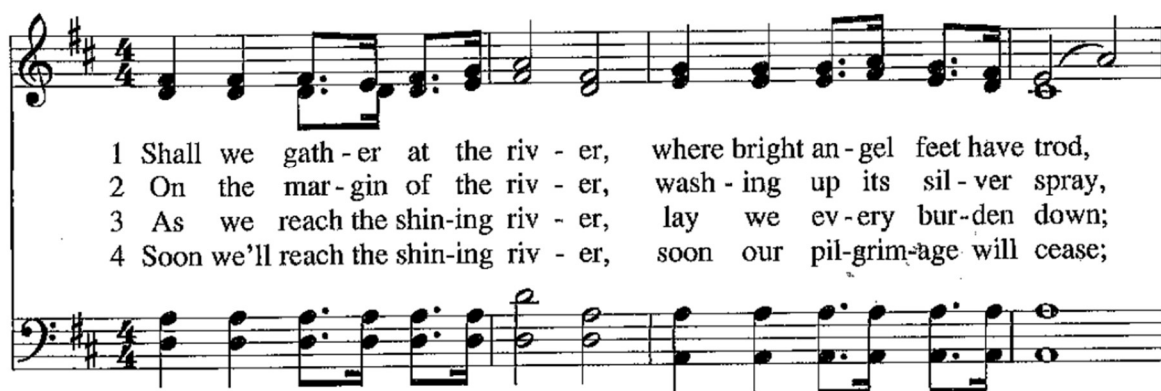
POSTLUDE *Gavotte* - Wesley

Shall We Gather at the River

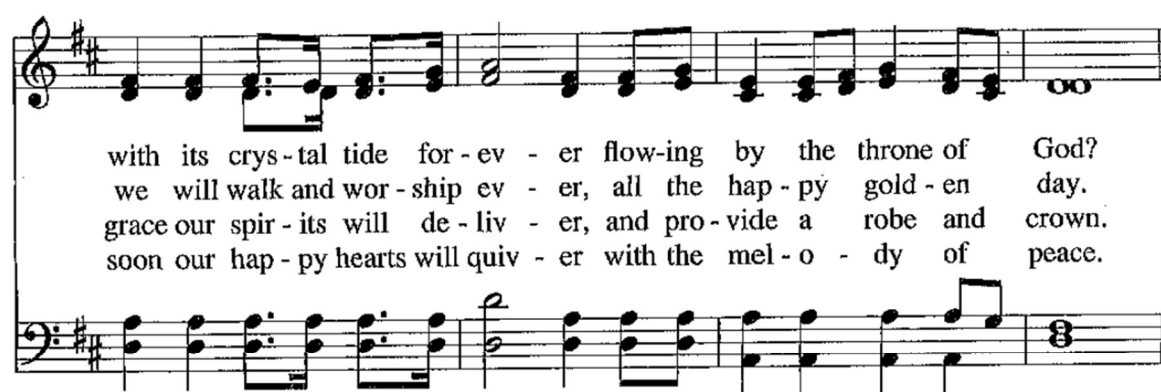
597

Robert Lowry, 1864; alt.

Rev. 22:1-5



1 Shall we gath-er at the riv-er, where bright an-gel feet have trod,
2 On the mar-gin of the riv-er, wash-ing up its sil-ver spray,
3 As we reach the shin-ing riv-er, lay we ev-ery bur-den down;
4 Soon we'll reach the shin-ing riv-er, soon our pil-grim-age will cease;

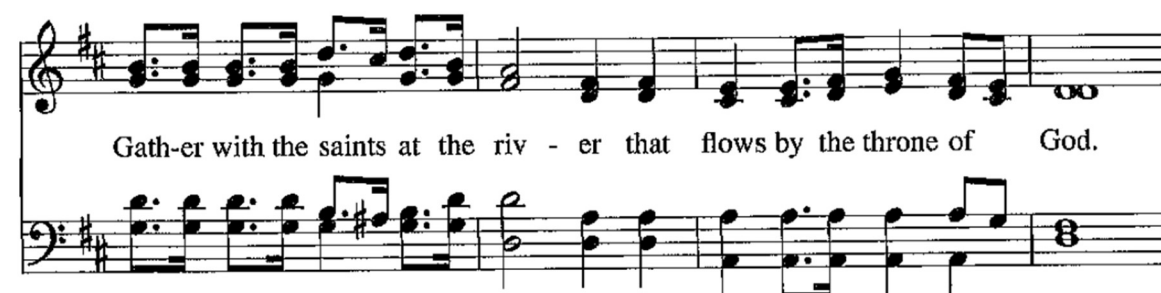


with its crys-tal tide for-ev-er flow-ing by the throne of God?
we will walk and wor-ship ev-er, all the hap-py gold-en day.
grace our spir-its will de-liv-er, and pro-vide a robe and crown.
soon our hap-py hearts will quiv-er with the mel-o-dy of peace.

Refrain



Yes, we'll gath-er at the riv-er, the beau-ti-ful, the beau-ti-ful riv-er,



Gath-er with the saints at the riv-er that flows by the throne of God.

Written during a time when an epidemic was claiming many lives in New York, Robert Lowry's hymn raised the question "Shall we meet again?" Lowry was pastor at Hanson Place Baptist Church in Brooklyn from 1861 to 1869, and collaborated on numerous hymn collections with William H. Doane.

Tune: HANSON PLACE 8.7.8.7, with refrain
Robert Lowry, 1864

In the Midst of New Dimensions

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Julian Rush, 1985; alt.

Gen. 9:12-16; Exod. 13:21-22; Num. 14:14

C C/B F C F Am7 Dm7 G7sus4 G7

1 In the midst of new di-men-sions, in the face of chang-ing ways,
 2 Through the flood of starv-ing peo-ple, war-ring fac-tions and de-spair,
 3 As we stand a world di-vid-ed by our own self-seek-ing schemes,
 4 We are man and we are wom-an, all per-sua-sions, old and young,
 5 Should the threats of dire pre-dic-tions cause us to with-draw in pain,

C C/B F C F Am7 Dm7 G C

Who will lead the pil-grim peo-ple wan-dering in their sep-a-rate ways?
 Who will lift the ol-ive branch-es? Who will light the flame of care?
 Grant that we, your glob-al vil-lage, might en-vi-sion wid-er dreams.
 Each a gift in your cre-a-tion, each a love song to be sung.
 May your blaz-ing phoe-nix spir-it res-ur-rect the church a-gain.

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HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON

Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67

³⁴So he said, "I am Abraham's servant. ³⁵The LORD has greatly blessed my master, and he has become wealthy; he has given him flocks and herds, silver and gold, male and female slaves, camels and donkeys. ³⁶And Sarah my master's wife bore a son to my master when she was old; and he has given him all that he has. ³⁷My master made me swear, saying, 'You shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I live; ³⁸but you shall go to my father's house, to my kindred, and get a wife for my son.'

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Matthew 11:16-19. 25-30

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Through the cup of blessing we participate in the new life Christ gives.

Invitation & Sharing Holy Communion

This is the table, not of the church, but of Jesus Christ. It is made ready for those who love him and for those who want to love him more. All are welcome. Come to the table because it is Jesus Christ who invites you. It is his will that those who want him should meet him here. Please join this feast in the spirit of joy and gratitude. These are the gifts of God for the people of God. Come, for all things are ready.

Take and eat, Christ's body given for you.

Take and drink, the cup of blessing.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our savior. Amen

CLOSING HYMN *In the Midst of New Dimensions* (New Dimensions)

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BENEDICTION

One: Carry with you innermost selves, delight in God's law. Meditate day by day on God's purpose for your lives.

Many: We rejoice that God dwells with us every day. We want to know and do God's will for us.

One: We encounter God in unexpected places. God surprises us in the life and witness of people.

Many: We learn from the youngest in our midst. Simple and humble persons have much to teach us.

One: Take Christ's yoke upon you, for that yoke is easy. It imparts confidence that lightens our burdens.

Many: We will find rest and renewal through Christ. We seek to express the same humility and gentleness.

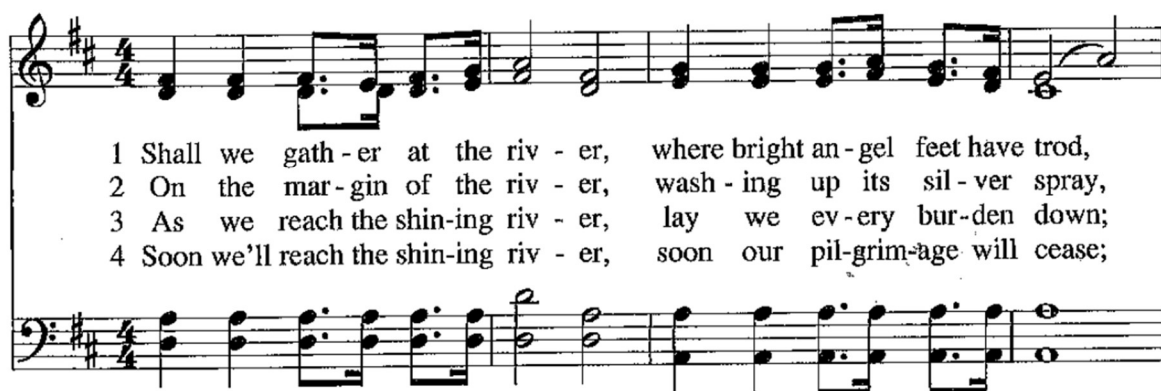
POSTLUDE *Gavotte* - Wesley

Shall We Gather at the River

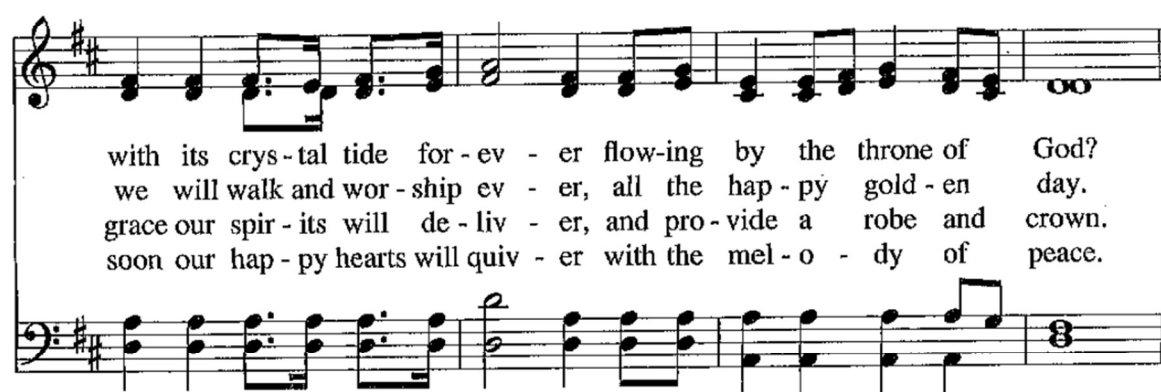
597

Robert Lowry, 1864; alt.

Rev. 22:1-5



1 Shall we gath-er at the riv-er, where bright an-gel feet have trod,
2 On the mar-gin of the riv-er, wash-ing up its sil-ver spray,
3 As we reach the shin-ing riv-er, lay we ev-ery bur-den down;
4 Soon we'll reach the shin-ing riv-er, soon our pil-grim-age will cease;

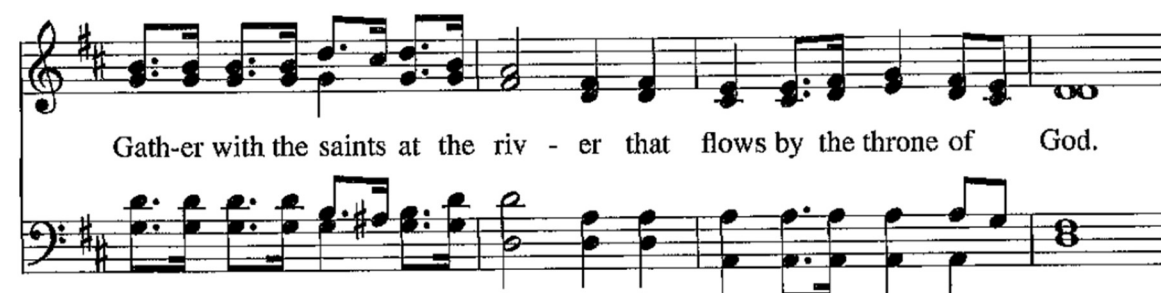


with its crys-tal tide for-ev-er flow-ing by the throne of God?
we will walk and wor-ship ev-er, all the hap-py gold-en day.
grace our spir-its will de-liv-er, and pro-vide a robe and crown.
soon our hap-py hearts will quiv-er with the mel-o-dy of peace.

Refrain



Yes, we'll gath-er at the riv-er, the beau-ti-ful, the beau-ti-ful riv-er,



Gath-er with the saints at the riv-er that flows by the throne of God.

Written during a time when an epidemic was claiming many lives in New York, Robert Lowry's hymn raised the question "Shall we meet again?" Lowry was pastor at Hanson Place Baptist Church in Brooklyn from 1861 to 1869, and collaborated on numerous hymn collections with William H. Doane.

Tune: HANSON PLACE 8.7.8.7, with refrain
Robert Lowry, 1864

In the Midst of New Dimensions

391

Julian Rush, 1985; alt.

Gen. 9:12-16; Exod. 13:21-22; Num. 14:14

C C/B F C F Am7 Dm7 G7sus4 G7

1 In the midst of new di-men-sions, in the face of chang-ing ways,
 2 Through the flood of starv-ing peo-ple, war-ring fac-tions and de-spair,
 3 As we stand a world di-vid-ed by our own self-seek-ing schemes,
 4 We are man and we are wom-an, all per-sua-sions, old and young,
 5 Should the threats of dire pre-dic-tions cause us to with-draw in pain,

C C/B F C F Am7 Dm7 G C

Who will lead the pil-grim peo-les wan-dering in their sep-arate ways?
 Who will lift the ol-ive branch-es? Who will light the flame of care?
 Grant that we, your glob-al vil-lage, might en-vi-sion wid-er dreams.
 Each a gift in your cre-a-tion, each a love song to be sung.
 May your blaz-ing phoe-nix spir-it res-ur-rect the church a-gain.

Refrain
 Am Em F C F C G7 C Dsus4 D7 G7sus4 G7 Am

God of rain-bow, fier-y pil-lar, lead-ing where the ea-gles soar, We your

Em F C F C/E F C/E F C/E Dm7 G7 C

peo-ple, ours the jour-ney now and ev-er, now and ev-er, now and ev-er - more.

Julian Rush, an ordained minister in the United Methodist Church, has spent more than a decade as director of the Colorado AIDS Project. He wrote this hymn on the theme of "diversity" for a meeting of the Rocky Mountain Conference (United Methodist).

Tune: NEW DIMENSIONS 8.7.8.7. with refrain
 Julian Rush, 1985
 Arr. The New Century Hymnal, 1994



Hanoi Street Vendor:
Photo by Fabian Irsara

Hope United Church of Christ Moline, IL
Worship Bulletin July 5, 2020
Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Thank you for joining us for worship today.

We are glad you are here!

*No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey,
you are welcome at Hope UCC!*

PRELUDE *Spirit of Jesus, if I Love My Neighbor* - Wren

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Come with joy and gladness to praise and honor God. Come to the refreshing waters that God provides.

Many: God is gracious and merciful and full of compassion. All creation joins us in giving thanks.

One: Give ear, all people, to the law of God. Give thanks for all the guidance God gives us.

Many: God upholds all who are falling. God raises us up when we are bowed down.

One: Come, all who are weary and carrying heavy burdens. Come, for Christ has promised rest.

Many: The gentle spirit of Christ invites us. We have come to find rest for our souls.

OPENING HYMN *Shall We Gather at the River* (Hanson Place)

INVITING GOD INTO OUR MIDST

We come together, gracious God, because we have heard your invitation. We sense that you alone know the burdens we carry. You understand our weariness. Sometimes our journey seems long and without respite. We long for the refreshment you provide as we come to worship you. The anticipation of this hour of rest and nourishment fills us with renewed joy and gladness. We thank you, God, that your revelation comes to us, not because we are worthy, but because we are open to your word. Open our hearts to receive all you offer. Amen

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God, we do not understand our own actions. We turn away from the good we are intent on doing. Yet, we find wisdom in your law. We delight in the idea of mutual caring and celebrating life together, but we get bogged down in our own concerns. We are too busy to seek community and too preoccupied to ponder your will for us. We go our own way, cutting ourselves off from you and one another. O God, help us to put away this sin. Amen

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS AND PASSING OF PEACE

We are created in the image of God and are blessed with the capacity to reflect God's will in our daily lives. God cares for us and invests us with responsibility. Thus God honors us with high expectations and confidence in our willingness to seek out life's best for all people. We are loved. We are forgiven. Our baptism is renewed.

Let us offer one another the gift of peace. May the Lord's peace be with you!

(If you are using this liturgy as a private devotion or participating in the live stream worship, please hold out your hands in blessing for all you are joined with in spirit. If you are participating in the live stream worship, please type in your peace greeting.)

PASTORAL PRAYER/LORD'S PRAYER (debts)

One: May the Lord be with you.

Many: And also with you.

One: Let us pray:

...

With the assurance Jesus offers, together we pray the words Jesus taught us:

Our Father, who is in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your 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 yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON

Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67

³⁴So he said, "I am Abraham's servant. ³⁵The LORD has greatly blessed my master, and he has become wealthy; he has given him flocks and herds, silver and gold, male and female slaves, camels and donkeys. ³⁶And Sarah my master's wife bore a son to my master when she was old; and he has given him all that he has. ³⁷My master made me swear, saying, 'You shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I live; ³⁸but you shall go to my father's house, to my kindred, and get a wife for my son.'

⁴²"I came today to the spring, and said, 'O LORD, the God of my master Abraham, if now you will only make successful the way I am going! ⁴³I am standing here by the spring of water; let the young woman who comes out to draw, to whom I shall say, "Please give me a little water from your jar to drink," ⁴⁴and who will say to me, "Drink, and I will draw for your camels also"—let her be the woman whom the LORD has appointed for my master's son.'

⁴⁵"Before I had finished speaking in my heart, there was Rebekah coming out with her water jar on her shoulder; and she went down to the spring, and drew. I said to her, 'Please let me drink.' ⁴⁶She quickly let down her jar from her shoulder, and said, 'Drink, and I will also water your camels.' So I drank, and she also watered the camels. ⁴⁷Then I asked her, 'Whose daughter are you?' She said, 'The daughter of Bethuel, Nahor's son, whom Milcah bore to him.' So I put the ring on her nose, and the bracelets on her arms. ⁴⁸Then I bowed my head and worshiped the LORD, and blessed the LORD, the God of my master Abraham, who had led me by the right way to obtain the daughter of my master's kinsman for his son. ⁴⁹Now then, if you will deal loyally and truly with my master, tell me; and if not, tell me, so that I may turn either to the right hand or to the left."

⁵⁸And they called Rebekah, and said to her, “Will you go with this man?” She said, “I will.” ⁵⁹So they sent away their sister Rebekah and her nurse along with Abraham’s servant and his men. ⁶⁰And they blessed Rebekah and said to her,

“May you, our sister, become
thousands of myriads;
may your offspring gain possession
of the gates of their foes.”

⁶¹Then Rebekah and her maids rose up, mounted the camels, and followed the man; thus the servant took Rebekah, and went his way.

⁶²Now Isaac had come from[£] Beer-lahai-roi, and was settled in the Negeb. ⁶³Isaac went out in the evening to walk[£] in the field; and looking up, he saw camels coming. ⁶⁴And Rebekah looked up, and when she saw Isaac, she slipped quickly from the camel, ⁶⁵and said to the servant, “Who is the man over there, walking in the field to meet us?” The servant said, “It is my master.” So she took her veil and covered herself. ⁶⁶And the servant told Isaac all the things that he had done. ⁶⁷Then Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah’s tent. He took Rebekah, and she became his wife; and he loved her. So Isaac was comforted after his mother’s death.

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Matthew 11:16-19. 25-30

¹⁶“But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,

¹⁷ ‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;
we wailed, and you did not mourn.’

¹⁸For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; ¹⁹the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.”[£]

²⁵At that time Jesus said, “I thank[£] you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; ²⁶yes, Father, for such was your gracious will.[£] ²⁷All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

²⁸“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

SERMON

INVITATION TO OFFERING

God has greatly blessed us with many kinds of wealth. Let our joy and gladness overflow as we express gratitude to God with our offerings. As we support the ministries of the church, let us consider those whose lives are grievously burdened, reaching out to them in practical acts of mercy.

We are profoundly grateful for your continued support of Hope UCC as we stay connected as a faith community in this time of social distancing and spiritual connection. We are continuing the ministry of our church throughout this stay at home order and we thank you for making this possible. We now have two ways to make your offering. Hope UCC is now able to offer e-giving through Breeze Management System to make it safer and easier for you to give anytime. You are able to safely donate electronically using your credit card or ACH transfer. You can find the link on our church

website (www.hopeuccqc.org). We also invite you to mail your offering to the church office – mail and messages are checked daily by Pastor Santina. Thank you for your generosity- your commitment is vital to continuing our congregation's ministries and commitments. Hope Grows! And there is nothing- not even a global pandemic - that can stop it! ☺

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

With all the gifts of creation, you have blessed us, gracious God. We give thanks for all your works. Gratitude is our first impulse for giving. Accept our grateful hearts, along with our gifts. We ask for wisdom as our church determines priorities for the use of resources. May we be as concerned about outreach and mission as we are about programs for ourselves. As you are faithful to us, O God, may we be faithful in all things, seeking always to live by your gracious will. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

(Please use whatever elements you have available for the bread and the cup)

Welcome

One: God be with you.

Many: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

Many: We lift them to God.

One: Let us give thanks to God Most High.

Many: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Holy God, we praise and bless you for creation and for your abiding love which brings us close to you, the source of all blessing. We thank you for creating us in your own image, for forgiving us when we act as though you have no claim on us, and for keeping us in your steadfast care. We rejoice in Jesus Christ, who shared the joys and sorrows of life as we know it. We remember Christ's death, we celebrate Christ's resurrection, and, as your church, we anticipate Christ's return. We take courage from your Holy Spirit and we offer you our praise for our sisters, brothers, and siblings of faith in every age who stand as witnesses to your love and justice. Together with all the company of heaven, we glorify you:

Holy, holy, holy God of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God Most High. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God! Hosanna in the highest!

Remember

We remember that on the night of betrayal and desertion, Jesus took bread, gave you thanks, broke the bread, and gave it to the disciples, saying: "This is my body which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, Jesus also took the cup, after supper, saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." By eating this bread and drinking this cup, we proclaim Christ's death, celebrate Christ's resurrection, and await Christ's coming again.

Consecration

Let us pray: Gracious God, by your Holy Spirit, bless these gifts of bread and cup – each unique in their composition and location, and yet common through the Spirit that anoints these gifts. Bless us as we receive the bread and cup, that we will offer you our faith and praise, and that we will be united with Christ and with one another. Through this table of fellowship, make us the Body of Christ and may your Spirit strengthen us when we feel weak, warm us when we are cold-hearted, bend us when we are stubborn, move us when we are uncaring, guide us in the way of love. May we continue to be faithful in all things. As we eat and drink, may the elements be symbols that remind us who we are and whose we are. We ask all this in the name of the one who extends the invitation to us, your Son, Christ Jesus. Amen

Through the broken bread we participate in the body of Christ.

Through the cup of blessing we participate in the new life Christ gives.

Invitation & Sharing Holy Communion

This is the table, not of the church, but of Jesus Christ. It is made ready for those who love him and for those who want to love him more. All are welcome. Come to the table because it is Jesus Christ who invites you. It is his will that those who want him should meet him here. Please join this feast in the spirit of joy and gratitude. These are the gifts of God for the people of God. Come, for all things are ready.

Take and eat, Christ's body given for you.
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Prayer of Thanksgiving

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our savior. Amen

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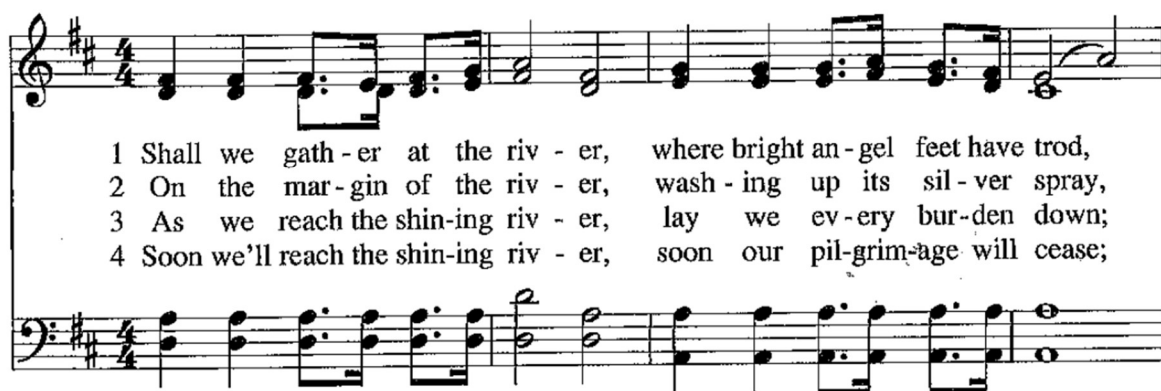
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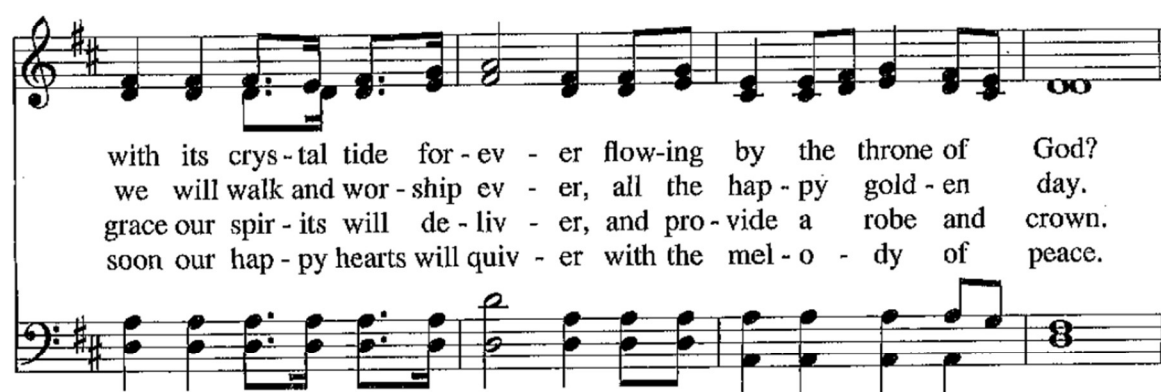
597

Robert Lowry, 1864; alt.

Rev. 22:1-5



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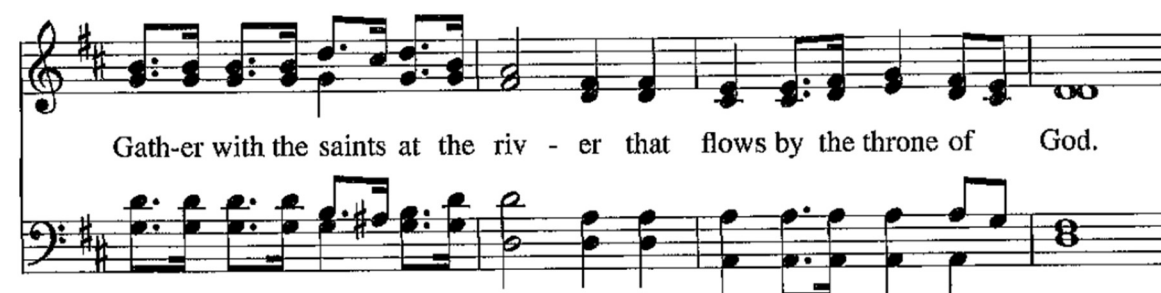


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soon our hap-py hearts will quiv-er with the mel-o-dy of peace.

Refrain



Yes, we'll gath-er at the riv-er, the beau-ti-ful, the beau-ti-ful riv-er,



Gath-er with the saints at the riv-er that flows by the throne of God.

Written during a time when an epidemic was claiming many lives in New York, Robert Lowry's hymn raised the question "Shall we meet again?" Lowry was pastor at Hanson Place Baptist Church in Brooklyn from 1861 to 1869, and collaborated on numerous hymn collections with William H. Doane.

Tune: HANSON PLACE 8.7.8.7, with refrain
Robert Lowry, 1864

In the Midst of New Dimensions

391

Julian Rush, 1985; alt.

Gen. 9:12-16; Exod. 13:21-22; Num. 14:14

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PASTORAL PRAYER/LORD'S PRAYER (debts)

One: May the Lord be with you.

Many: And also with you.

One: Let us pray:

...

With the assurance Jesus offers, together we pray the words Jesus taught us:

Our Father, who is in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your 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 yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON

Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67

³⁴So he said, "I am Abraham's servant. ³⁵The LORD has greatly blessed my master, and he has become wealthy; he has given him flocks and herds, silver and gold, male and female slaves, camels and donkeys. ³⁶And Sarah my master's wife bore a son to my master when she was old; and he has given him all that he has. ³⁷My master made me swear, saying, 'You shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I live; ³⁸but you shall go to my father's house, to my kindred, and get a wife for my son.'

⁴²"I came today to the spring, and said, 'O LORD, the God of my master Abraham, if now you will only make successful the way I am going! ⁴³I am standing here by the spring of water; let the young woman who comes out to draw, to whom I shall say, "Please give me a little water from your jar to drink," ⁴⁴and who will say to me, "Drink, and I will draw for your camels also"—let her be the woman whom the LORD has appointed for my master's son.'

⁴⁵"Before I had finished speaking in my heart, there was Rebekah coming out with her water jar on her shoulder; and she went down to the spring, and drew. I said to her, 'Please let me drink.' ⁴⁶She quickly let down her jar from her shoulder, and said, 'Drink, and I will also water your camels.' So I drank, and she also watered the camels. ⁴⁷Then I asked her, 'Whose daughter are you?' She said, 'The daughter of Bethuel, Nahor's son, whom Milcah bore to him.' So I put the ring on her nose, and the bracelets on her arms. ⁴⁸Then I bowed my head and worshiped the LORD, and blessed the LORD, the God of my master Abraham, who had led me by the right way to obtain the daughter of my master's kinsman for his son. ⁴⁹Now then, if you will deal loyally and truly with my master, tell me; and if not, tell me, so that I may turn either to the right hand or to the left."

⁵⁸And they called Rebekah, and said to her, “Will you go with this man?” She said, “I will.” ⁵⁹So they sent away their sister Rebekah and her nurse along with Abraham’s servant and his men. ⁶⁰And they blessed Rebekah and said to her,

“May you, our sister, become
thousands of myriads;
may your offspring gain possession
of the gates of their foes.”

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NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Matthew 11:16-19. 25-30

¹⁶“But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,

¹⁷ ‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;
we wailed, and you did not mourn.’

¹⁸For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; ¹⁹the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.”[£]

²⁵At that time Jesus said, “I thank[£] you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; ²⁶yes, Father, for such was your gracious will.[£] ²⁷All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

²⁸“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

SERMON

INVITATION TO OFFERING

God has greatly blessed us with many kinds of wealth. Let our joy and gladness overflow as we express gratitude to God with our offerings. As we support the ministries of the church, let us consider those whose lives are grievously burdened, reaching out to them in practical acts of mercy.

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website (www.hopeuccqc.org). We also invite you to mail your offering to the church office – mail and messages are checked daily by Pastor Santina. Thank you for your generosity- your commitment is vital to continuing our congregation's ministries and commitments. Hope Grows! And there is nothing- not even a global pandemic - that can stop it! ☺

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

With all the gifts of creation, you have blessed us, gracious God. We give thanks for all your works. Gratitude is our first impulse for giving. Accept our grateful hearts, along with our gifts. We ask for wisdom as our church determines priorities for the use of resources. May we be as concerned about outreach and mission as we are about programs for ourselves. As you are faithful to us, O God, may we be faithful in all things, seeking always to live by your gracious will. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

(Please use whatever elements you have available for the bread and the cup)

Welcome

One: God be with you.

Many: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

Many: We lift them to God.

One: Let us give thanks to God Most High.

Many: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Holy God, we praise and bless you for creation and for your abiding love which brings us close to you, the source of all blessing. We thank you for creating us in your own image, for forgiving us when we act as though you have no claim on us, and for keeping us in your steadfast care. We rejoice in Jesus Christ, who shared the joys and sorrows of life as we know it. We remember Christ's death, we celebrate Christ's resurrection, and, as your church, we anticipate Christ's return. We take courage from your Holy Spirit and we offer you our praise for our sisters, brothers, and siblings of faith in every age who stand as witnesses to your love and justice. Together with all the company of heaven, we glorify you:

Holy, holy, holy God of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God Most High. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God! Hosanna in the highest!

Remember

We remember that on the night of betrayal and desertion, Jesus took bread, gave you thanks, broke the bread, and gave it to the disciples, saying: "This is my body which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, Jesus also took the cup, after supper, saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." By eating this bread and drinking this cup, we proclaim Christ's death, celebrate Christ's resurrection, and await Christ's coming again.

Consecration

Let us pray: Gracious God, by your Holy Spirit, bless these gifts of bread and cup – each unique in their composition and location, and yet common through the Spirit that anoints these gifts. Bless us as we receive the bread and cup, that we will offer you our faith and praise, and that we will be united with Christ and with one another. Through this table of fellowship, make us the Body of Christ and may your Spirit strengthen us when we feel weak, warm us when we are cold-hearted, bend us when we are stubborn, move us when we are uncaring, guide us in the way of love. May we continue to be faithful in all things. As we eat and drink, may the elements be symbols that remind us who we are and whose we are. We ask all this in the name of the one who extends the invitation to us, your Son, Christ Jesus. Amen

Through the broken bread we participate in the body of Christ.

Through the cup of blessing we participate in the new life Christ gives.

Invitation & Sharing Holy Communion

This is the table, not of the church, but of Jesus Christ. It is made ready for those who love him and for those who want to love him more. All are welcome. Come to the table because it is Jesus Christ who invites you. It is his will that those who want him should meet him here. Please join this feast in the spirit of joy and gratitude. These are the gifts of God for the people of God. Come, for all things are ready.

Take and eat, Christ's body given for you.
Take and drink, the cup of blessing.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our savior. Amen

CLOSING HYMN *In the Midst of New Dimensions* (New Dimensions)

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BENEDICTION

One: Carry with you innermost selves, delight in God's law. Meditate day by day on God's purpose for your lives.

Many: We rejoice that God dwells with us every day. We want to know and do God's will for us.

One: We encounter God in unexpected places. God surprises us in the life and witness of people.

Many: We learn from the youngest in our midst. Simple and humble persons have much to teach us.

One: Take Christ's yoke upon you, for that yoke is easy. It imparts confidence that lightens our burdens.

Many: We will find rest and renewal through Christ. We seek to express the same humility and gentleness.

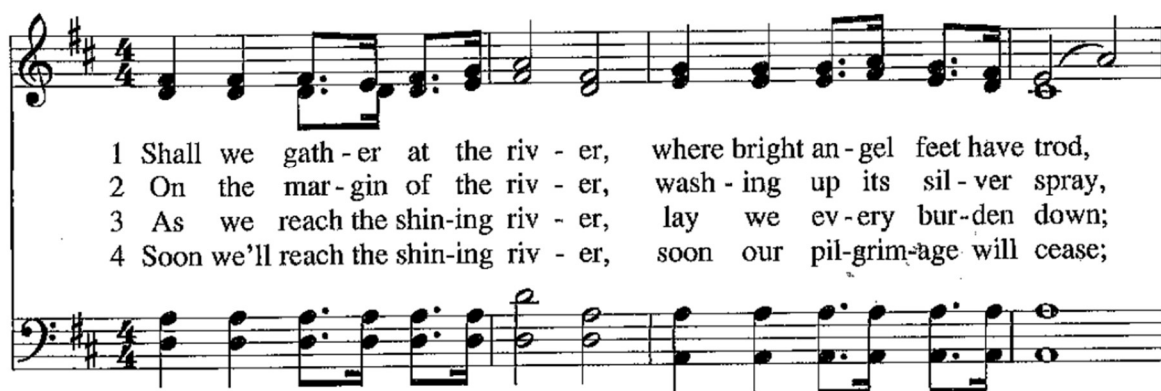
POSTLUDE *Gavotte* - Wesley

Shall We Gather at the River

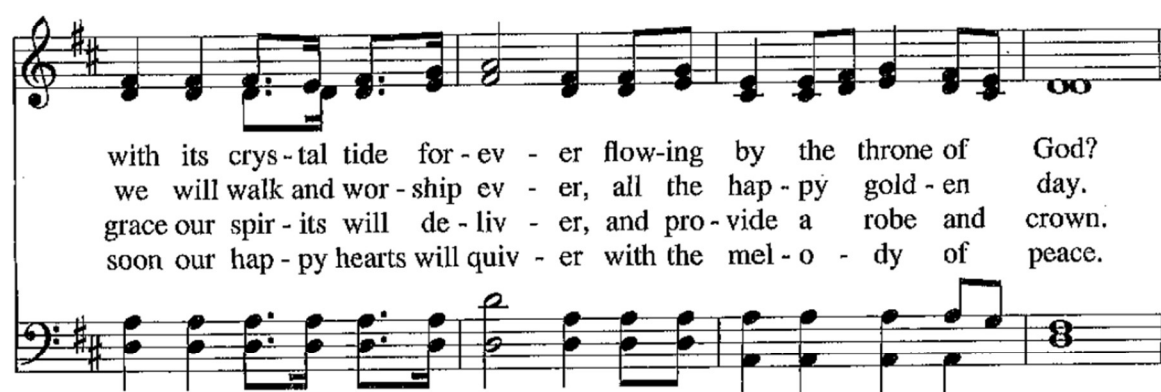
597

Robert Lowry, 1864; alt.

Rev. 22:1-5



1 Shall we gath-er at the riv-er, where bright an-gel feet have trod,
2 On the mar-gin of the riv-er, wash-ing up its sil-ver spray,
3 As we reach the shin-ing riv-er, lay we ev-ery bur-den down;
4 Soon we'll reach the shin-ing riv-er, soon our pil-grim-age will cease;

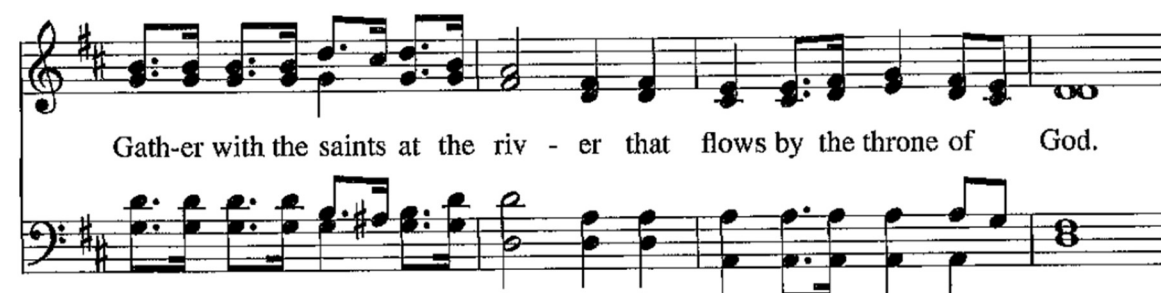


with its crys-tal tide for-ev-er flow-ing by the throne of God?
we will walk and wor-ship ev-er, all the hap-py gold-en day.
grace our spir-its will de-liv-er, and pro-vide a robe and crown.
soon our hap-py hearts will quiv-er with the mel-o-dy of peace.

Refrain



Yes, we'll gath-er at the riv-er, the beau-ti-ful, the beau-ti-ful riv-er,



Gath-er with the saints at the riv-er that flows by the throne of God.

Written during a time when an epidemic was claiming many lives in New York, Robert Lowry's hymn raised the question "Shall we meet again?" Lowry was pastor at Hanson Place Baptist Church in Brooklyn from 1861 to 1869, and collaborated on numerous hymn collections with William H. Doane.

Tune: HANSON PLACE 8.7.8.7, with refrain
Robert Lowry, 1864

In the Midst of New Dimensions

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Julian Rush, 1985; alt.

Gen. 9:12-16; Exod. 13:21-22; Num. 14:14

C C/B F C F Am7 Dm7 G7sus4 G7

1 In the midst of new di-men-sions, in the face of chang-ing ways,
 2 Through the flood of starv-ing peo-ple, war-ring fac-tions and de-spair,
 3 As we stand a world di-vid-ed by our own self-seek-ing schemes,
 4 We are man and we are wom-an, all per-sua-sions, old and young,
 5 Should the threats of dire pre-dic-tions cause us to with-draw in pain,

C C/B F C F Am7 Dm7 G C

Who will lead the pil-grim peo-les wan-dering in their sep-a-rate ways?
 Who will lift the ol-ive branch-es? Who will light the flame of care?
 Grant that we, your glob-al vil-lage, might en-vi-sion wid-er dreams.
 Each a gift in your cre-a-tion, each a love song to be sung.
 May your blaz-ing phoe-nix spir-it res-ur-rect the church a-gain.

Refrain
 Am Em F C F C G7 C Dsus4 D7 G7sus4 G7 Am

God of rain-bow, fier-y pil-lar, lead-ing where the ea-gles soar, We your

Em F C F C/E F C/E F C/E Dm7 G7 C

peo-ple, ours the jour-ney now and ev-er, now and ev-er, now and ev-er - more.

Julian Rush, an ordained minister in the United Methodist Church, has spent more than a decade as director of the Colorado AIDS Project. He wrote this hymn on the theme of "diversity" for a meeting of the Rocky Mountain Conference (United Methodist).

Tune: NEW DIMENSIONS 8.7.8.7. with refrain
 Julian Rush, 1985
 Arr. The New Century Hymnal, 1994



Hanoi Street Vendor:
Photo by Fabian Irsara

Hope United Church of Christ Moline, IL
Worship Bulletin July 5, 2020
Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Thank you for joining us for worship today.

We are glad you are here!

*No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey,
you are welcome at Hope UCC!*

PRELUDE *Spirit of Jesus, if I Love My Neighbor* - Wren

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Come with joy and gladness to praise and honor God. Come to the refreshing waters that God provides.

Many: God is gracious and merciful and full of compassion. All creation joins us in giving thanks.

One: Give ear, all people, to the law of God. Give thanks for all the guidance God gives us.

Many: God upholds all who are falling. God raises us up when we are bowed down.

One: Come, all who are weary and carrying heavy burdens. Come, for Christ has promised rest.

Many: The gentle spirit of Christ invites us. We have come to find rest for our souls.

OPENING HYMN *Shall We Gather at the River* (Hanson Place)

INVITING GOD INTO OUR MIDST

We come together, gracious God, because we have heard your invitation. We sense that you alone know the burdens we carry. You understand our weariness. Sometimes our journey seems long and without respite. We long for the refreshment you provide as we come to worship you. The anticipation of this hour of rest and nourishment fills us with renewed joy and gladness. We thank you, God, that your revelation comes to us, not because we are worthy, but because we are open to your word. Open our hearts to receive all you offer. Amen

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God, we do not understand our own actions. We turn away from the good we are intent on doing. Yet, we find wisdom in your law. We delight in the idea of mutual caring and celebrating life together, but we get bogged down in our own concerns. We are too busy to seek community and too preoccupied to ponder your will for us. We go our own way, cutting ourselves off from you and one another. O God, help us to put away this sin. Amen

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS AND PASSING OF PEACE

We are created in the image of God and are blessed with the capacity to reflect God's will in our daily lives. God cares for us and invests us with responsibility. Thus God honors us with high expectations and confidence in our willingness to seek out life's best for all people. We are loved. We are forgiven. Our baptism is renewed.

Let us offer one another the gift of peace. May the Lord's peace be with you!

(If you are using this liturgy as a private devotion or participating in the live stream worship, please hold out your hands in blessing for all you are joined with in spirit. If you are participating in the live stream worship, please type in your peace greeting.)

PASTORAL PRAYER/LORD'S PRAYER (debts)

One: May the Lord be with you.

Many: And also with you.

One: Let us pray:

...

With the assurance Jesus offers, together we pray the words Jesus taught us:

Our Father, who is in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your 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 yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON

Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67

³⁴So he said, "I am Abraham's servant. ³⁵The LORD has greatly blessed my master, and he has become wealthy; he has given him flocks and herds, silver and gold, male and female slaves, camels and donkeys. ³⁶And Sarah my master's wife bore a son to my master when she was old; and he has given him all that he has. ³⁷My master made me swear, saying, 'You shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I live; ³⁸but you shall go to my father's house, to my kindred, and get a wife for my son.'

⁴²"I came today to the spring, and said, 'O LORD, the God of my master Abraham, if now you will only make successful the way I am going! ⁴³I am standing here by the spring of water; let the young woman who comes out to draw, to whom I shall say, "Please give me a little water from your jar to drink," ⁴⁴and who will say to me, "Drink, and I will draw for your camels also"—let her be the woman whom the LORD has appointed for my master's son.'

⁴⁵"Before I had finished speaking in my heart, there was Rebekah coming out with her water jar on her shoulder; and she went down to the spring, and drew. I said to her, 'Please let me drink.' ⁴⁶She quickly let down her jar from her shoulder, and said, 'Drink, and I will also water your camels.' So I drank, and she also watered the camels. ⁴⁷Then I asked her, 'Whose daughter are you?' She said, 'The daughter of Bethuel, Nahor's son, whom Milcah bore to him.' So I put the ring on her nose, and the bracelets on her arms. ⁴⁸Then I bowed my head and worshiped the LORD, and blessed the LORD, the God of my master Abraham, who had led me by the right way to obtain the daughter of my master's kinsman for his son. ⁴⁹Now then, if you will deal loyally and truly with my master, tell me; and if not, tell me, so that I may turn either to the right hand or to the left."

⁵⁸And they called Rebekah, and said to her, “Will you go with this man?” She said, “I will.” ⁵⁹So they sent away their sister Rebekah and her nurse along with Abraham’s servant and his men. ⁶⁰And they blessed Rebekah and said to her,

“May you, our sister, become
thousands of myriads;
may your offspring gain possession
of the gates of their foes.”

⁶¹Then Rebekah and her maids rose up, mounted the camels, and followed the man; thus the servant took Rebekah, and went his way.

⁶²Now Isaac had come from[£] Beer-lahai-roi, and was settled in the Negeb. ⁶³Isaac went out in the evening to walk[£] in the field; and looking up, he saw camels coming. ⁶⁴And Rebekah looked up, and when she saw Isaac, she slipped quickly from the camel, ⁶⁵and said to the servant, “Who is the man over there, walking in the field to meet us?” The servant said, “It is my master.” So she took her veil and covered herself. ⁶⁶And the servant told Isaac all the things that he had done. ⁶⁷Then Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah’s tent. He took Rebekah, and she became his wife; and he loved her. So Isaac was comforted after his mother’s death.

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Matthew 11:16-19. 25-30

¹⁶“But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,

¹⁷ ‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;
we wailed, and you did not mourn.’

¹⁸For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; ¹⁹the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.”[£]

²⁵At that time Jesus said, “I thank[£] you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; ²⁶yes, Father, for such was your gracious will.[£] ²⁷All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

²⁸“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

SERMON

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God has greatly blessed us with many kinds of wealth. Let our joy and gladness overflow as we express gratitude to God with our offerings. As we support the ministries of the church, let us consider those whose lives are grievously burdened, reaching out to them in practical acts of mercy.

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(Please use whatever elements you have available for the bread and the cup)

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One: God be with you.

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One: Let us give thanks to God Most High.

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Holy, holy, holy God of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God Most High. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God! Hosanna in the highest!

Remember

We remember that on the night of betrayal and desertion, Jesus took bread, gave you thanks, broke the bread, and gave it to the disciples, saying: "This is my body which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, Jesus also took the cup, after supper, saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." By eating this bread and drinking this cup, we proclaim Christ's death, celebrate Christ's resurrection, and await Christ's coming again.

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Prayer of Thanksgiving

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CLOSING HYMN *In the Midst of New Dimensions* (New Dimensions)

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BENEDICTION

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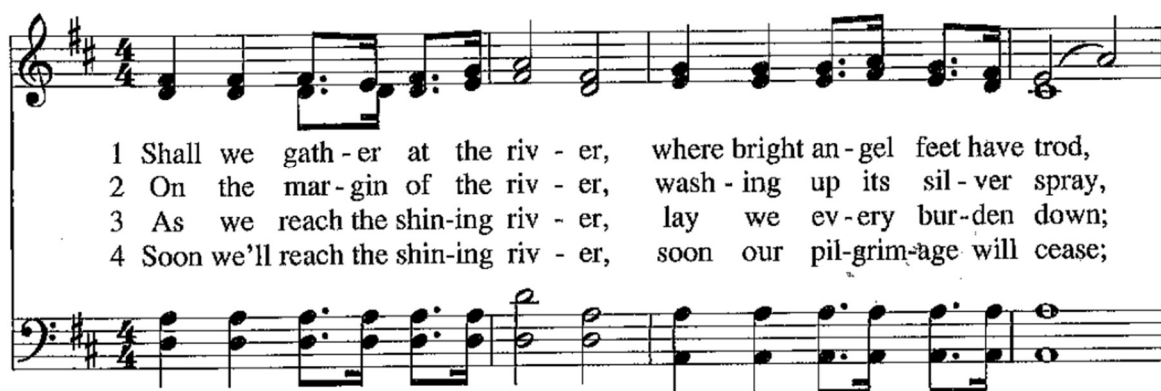
POSTLUDE *Gavotte* - Wesley

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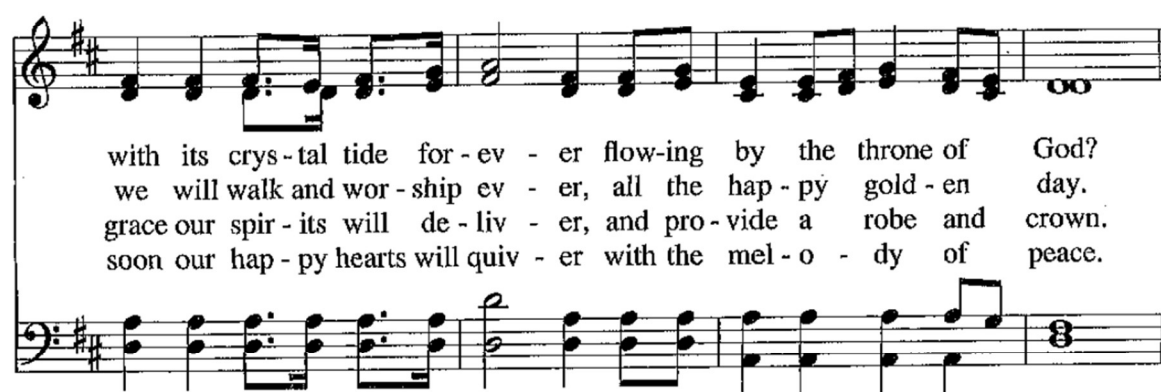
597

Robert Lowry, 1864; alt.

Rev. 22:1-5



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3 As we reach the shin-ing riv-er, lay we ev-ery bur-den down;
4 Soon we'll reach the shin-ing riv-er, soon our pil-grim-age will cease;

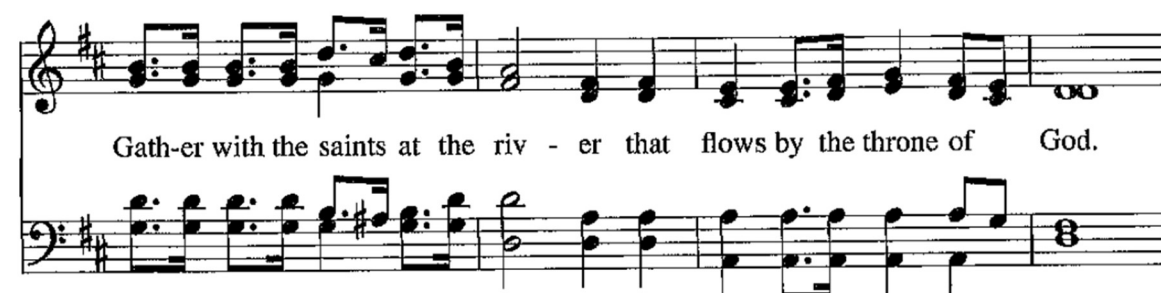


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we will walk and wor-ship ev-er, all the hap-py gold-en day.
grace our spir-its will de-liv-er, and pro-vide a robe and crown.
soon our hap-py hearts will quiv-er with the mel-o-dy of peace.

Refrain



Yes, we'll gath-er at the riv-er, the beau-ti-ful, the beau-ti-ful riv-er,



Gath-er with the saints at the riv-er that flows by the throne of God.

Written during a time when an epidemic was claiming many lives in New York, Robert Lowry's hymn raised the question "Shall we meet again?" Lowry was pastor at Hanson Place Baptist Church in Brooklyn from 1861 to 1869, and collaborated on numerous hymn collections with William H. Doane.

Tune: HANSON PLACE 8.7.8.7, with refrain
Robert Lowry, 1864

In the Midst of New Dimensions

391

Julian Rush, 1985; alt.

Gen. 9:12-16; Exod. 13:21-22; Num. 14:14

C C/B F C F Am7 Dm7 G7sus4 G7

1 In the midst of new di-men-sions, in the face of chang-ing ways,
 2 Through the flood of starv-ing peo-ple, war-ring fac-tions and de-spair,
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 Grant that we, your glob-al vil-lage, might en-vi-sion wid-er dreams.
 Each a gift in your cre-a-tion, each a love song to be sung.
 May your blaz-ing phoe-nix spir-it res-ur-rect the church a-gain.

Refrain
 Am Em F C F C G7 C Dsus4 D7 G7sus4 G7 Am

God of rain-bow, fier-y pil-lar, lead-ing where the ea-gles soar, We your

Em F C F C/E F C/E F C/E Dm7 G7 C

peo-ple, ours the jour-ney now and ev-er, now and ev-er, now and ev-er - more.

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Hanoi Street Vendor:
Photo by Fabian Irsara

Hope United Church of Christ Moline, IL
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Many: The gentle spirit of Christ invites us. We have come to find rest for our souls.

OPENING HYMN *Shall We Gather at the River* (Hanson Place)

INVITING GOD INTO OUR MIDST

We come together, gracious God, because we have heard your invitation. We sense that you alone know the burdens we carry. You understand our weariness. Sometimes our journey seems long and without respite. We long for the refreshment you provide as we come to worship you. The anticipation of this hour of rest and nourishment fills us with renewed joy and gladness. We thank you, God, that your revelation comes to us, not because we are worthy, but because we are open to your word. Open our hearts to receive all you offer. Amen

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God, we do not understand our own actions. We turn away from the good we are intent on doing. Yet, we find wisdom in your law. We delight in the idea of mutual caring and celebrating life together, but we get bogged down in our own concerns. We are too busy to seek community and too preoccupied to ponder your will for us. We go our own way, cutting ourselves off from you and one another. O God, help us to put away this sin. Amen

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS AND PASSING OF PEACE

We are created in the image of God and are blessed with the capacity to reflect God's will in our daily lives. God cares for us and invests us with responsibility. Thus God honors us with high expectations and confidence in our willingness to seek out life's best for all people. We are loved. We are forgiven. Our baptism is renewed.

Let us offer one another the gift of peace. May the Lord's peace be with you!

(If you are using this liturgy as a private devotion or participating in the live stream worship, please hold out your hands in blessing for all you are joined with in spirit. If you are participating in the live stream worship, please type in your peace greeting.)

PASTORAL PRAYER/LORD'S PRAYER (debts)

One: May the Lord be with you.

Many: And also with you.

One: Let us pray:

...

With the assurance Jesus offers, together we pray the words Jesus taught us:

Our Father, who is in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your 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 yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON

Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67

³⁴So he said, "I am Abraham's servant. ³⁵The LORD has greatly blessed my master, and he has become wealthy; he has given him flocks and herds, silver and gold, male and female slaves, camels and donkeys. ³⁶And Sarah my master's wife bore a son to my master when she was old; and he has given him all that he has. ³⁷My master made me swear, saying, 'You shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I live; ³⁸but you shall go to my father's house, to my kindred, and get a wife for my son.'

⁴²"I came today to the spring, and said, 'O LORD, the God of my master Abraham, if now you will only make successful the way I am going! ⁴³I am standing here by the spring of water; let the young woman who comes out to draw, to whom I shall say, "Please give me a little water from your jar to drink," ⁴⁴and who will say to me, "Drink, and I will draw for your camels also"—let her be the woman whom the LORD has appointed for my master's son.'

⁴⁵"Before I had finished speaking in my heart, there was Rebekah coming out with her water jar on her shoulder; and she went down to the spring, and drew. I said to her, 'Please let me drink.' ⁴⁶She quickly let down her jar from her shoulder, and said, 'Drink, and I will also water your camels.' So I drank, and she also watered the camels. ⁴⁷Then I asked her, 'Whose daughter are you?' She said, 'The daughter of Bethuel, Nahor's son, whom Milcah bore to him.' So I put the ring on her nose, and the bracelets on her arms. ⁴⁸Then I bowed my head and worshiped the LORD, and blessed the LORD, the God of my master Abraham, who had led me by the right way to obtain the daughter of my master's kinsman for his son. ⁴⁹Now then, if you will deal loyally and truly with my master, tell me; and if not, tell me, so that I may turn either to the right hand or to the left."

⁵⁸And they called Rebekah, and said to her, “Will you go with this man?” She said, “I will.” ⁵⁹So they sent away their sister Rebekah and her nurse along with Abraham’s servant and his men. ⁶⁰And they blessed Rebekah and said to her,

“May you, our sister, become
thousands of myriads;
may your offspring gain possession
of the gates of their foes.”

⁶¹Then Rebekah and her maids rose up, mounted the camels, and followed the man; thus the servant took Rebekah, and went his way.

⁶²Now Isaac had come from[£] Beer-lahai-roi, and was settled in the Negeb. ⁶³Isaac went out in the evening to walk[£] in the field; and looking up, he saw camels coming. ⁶⁴And Rebekah looked up, and when she saw Isaac, she slipped quickly from the camel, ⁶⁵and said to the servant, “Who is the man over there, walking in the field to meet us?” The servant said, “It is my master.” So she took her veil and covered herself. ⁶⁶And the servant told Isaac all the things that he had done. ⁶⁷Then Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah’s tent. He took Rebekah, and she became his wife; and he loved her. So Isaac was comforted after his mother’s death.

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Matthew 11:16-19. 25-30

¹⁶“But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,

¹⁷ ‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;
we wailed, and you did not mourn.’

¹⁸For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; ¹⁹the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.”[£]

²⁵At that time Jesus said, “I thank[£] you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; ²⁶yes, Father, for such was your gracious will.[£] ²⁷All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

²⁸“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

SERMON

INVITATION TO OFFERING

God has greatly blessed us with many kinds of wealth. Let our joy and gladness overflow as we express gratitude to God with our offerings. As we support the ministries of the church, let us consider those whose lives are grievously burdened, reaching out to them in practical acts of mercy.

We are profoundly grateful for your continued support of Hope UCC as we stay connected as a faith community in this time of social distancing and spiritual connection. We are continuing the ministry of our church throughout this stay at home order and we thank you for making this possible. We now have two ways to make your offering. Hope UCC is now able to offer e-giving through Breeze Management System to make it safer and easier for you to give anytime. You are able to safely donate electronically using your credit card or ACH transfer. You can find the link on our church

website (www.hopeuccqc.org). We also invite you to mail your offering to the church office – mail and messages are checked daily by Pastor Santina. Thank you for your generosity- your commitment is vital to continuing our congregation's ministries and commitments. Hope Grows! And there is nothing- not even a global pandemic - that can stop it! ☺

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

With all the gifts of creation, you have blessed us, gracious God. We give thanks for all your works. Gratitude is our first impulse for giving. Accept our grateful hearts, along with our gifts. We ask for wisdom as our church determines priorities for the use of resources. May we be as concerned about outreach and mission as we are about programs for ourselves. As you are faithful to us, O God, may we be faithful in all things, seeking always to live by your gracious will. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

(Please use whatever elements you have available for the bread and the cup)

Welcome

One: God be with you.

Many: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

Many: We lift them to God.

One: Let us give thanks to God Most High.

Many: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Holy God, we praise and bless you for creation and for your abiding love which brings us close to you, the source of all blessing. We thank you for creating us in your own image, for forgiving us when we act as though you have no claim on us, and for keeping us in your steadfast care. We rejoice in Jesus Christ, who shared the joys and sorrows of life as we know it. We remember Christ's death, we celebrate Christ's resurrection, and, as your church, we anticipate Christ's return. We take courage from your Holy Spirit and we offer you our praise for our sisters, brothers, and siblings of faith in every age who stand as witnesses to your love and justice. Together with all the company of heaven, we glorify you:

Holy, holy, holy God of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God Most High. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God! Hosanna in the highest!

Remember

We remember that on the night of betrayal and desertion, Jesus took bread, gave you thanks, broke the bread, and gave it to the disciples, saying: "This is my body which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, Jesus also took the cup, after supper, saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." By eating this bread and drinking this cup, we proclaim Christ's death, celebrate Christ's resurrection, and await Christ's coming again.

Consecration

Let us pray: Gracious God, by your Holy Spirit, bless these gifts of bread and cup – each unique in their composition and location, and yet common through the Spirit that anoints these gifts. Bless us as we receive the bread and cup, that we will offer you our faith and praise, and that we will be united with Christ and with one another. Through this table of fellowship, make us the Body of Christ and may your Spirit strengthen us when we feel weak, warm us when we are cold-hearted, bend us when we are stubborn, move us when we are uncaring, guide us in the way of love. May we continue to be faithful in all things. As we eat and drink, may the elements be symbols that remind us who we are and whose we are. We ask all this in the name of the one who extends the invitation to us, your Son, Christ Jesus. Amen

Through the broken bread we participate in the body of Christ.

Through the cup of blessing we participate in the new life Christ gives.

Invitation & Sharing Holy Communion

This is the table, not of the church, but of Jesus Christ. It is made ready for those who love him and for those who want to love him more. All are welcome. Come to the table because it is Jesus Christ who invites you. It is his will that those who want him should meet him here. Please join this feast in the spirit of joy and gratitude. These are the gifts of God for the people of God. Come, for all things are ready.

Take and eat, Christ's body given for you.
Take and drink, the cup of blessing.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our savior. Amen

CLOSING HYMN *In the Midst of New Dimensions* (New Dimensions)

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BENEDICTION

One: Carry with you innermost selves, delight in God's law. Meditate day by day on God's purpose for your lives.

Many: We rejoice that God dwells with us every day. We want to know and do God's will for us.

One: We encounter God in unexpected places. God surprises us in the life and witness of people.

Many: We learn from the youngest in our midst. Simple and humble persons have much to teach us.

One: Take Christ's yoke upon you, for that yoke is easy. It imparts confidence that lightens our burdens.

Many: We will find rest and renewal through Christ. We seek to express the same humility and gentleness.

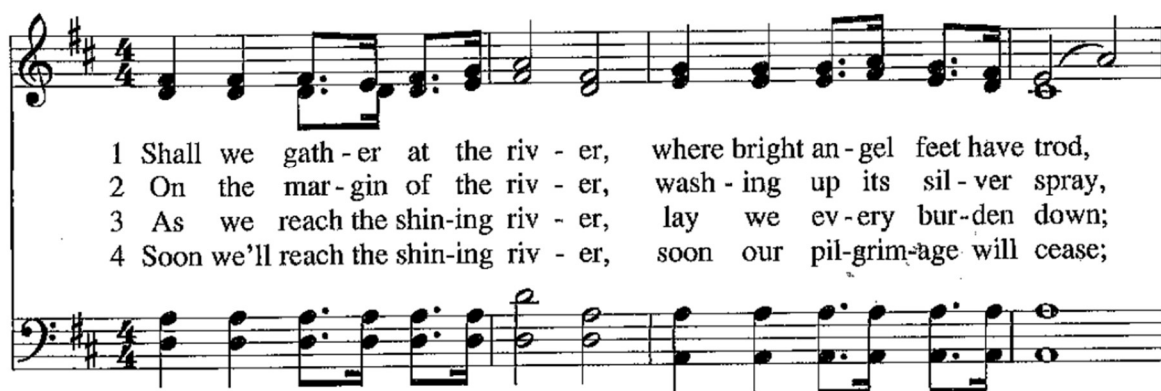
POSTLUDE *Gavotte* - Wesley

Shall We Gather at the River

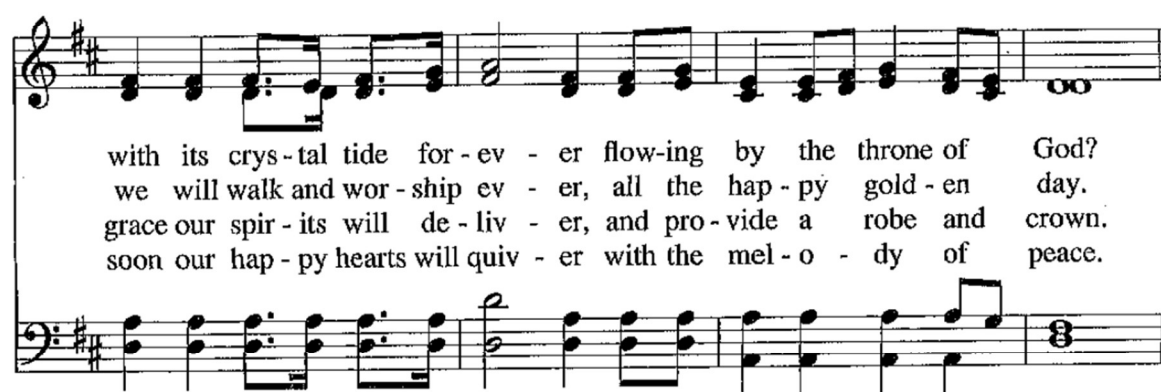
597

Robert Lowry, 1864; alt.

Rev. 22:1-5



1 Shall we gath-er at the riv-er, where bright an-gel feet have trod,
2 On the mar-gin of the riv-er, wash-ing up its sil-ver spray,
3 As we reach the shin-ing riv-er, lay we ev-ery bur-den down;
4 Soon we'll reach the shin-ing riv-er, soon our pil-grim-age will cease;

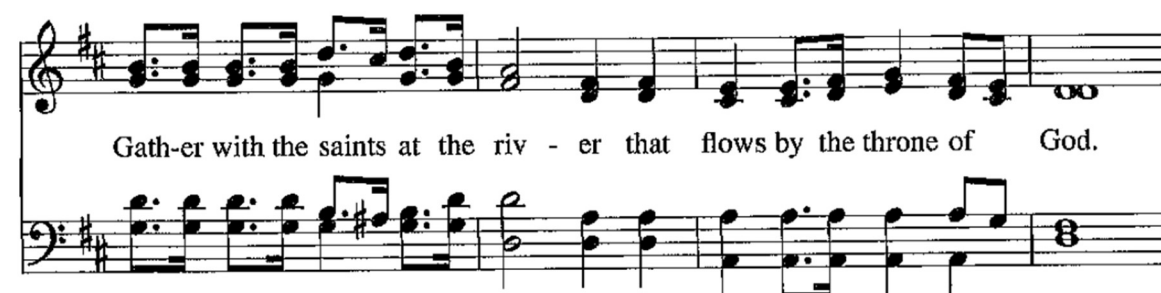


with its crys-tal tide for-ev-er flow-ing by the throne of God?
we will walk and wor-ship ev-er, all the hap-py gold-en day.
grace our spir-its will de-liv-er, and pro-vide a robe and crown.
soon our hap-py hearts will quiv-er with the mel-o-dy of peace.

Refrain



Yes, we'll gath-er at the riv-er, the beau-ti-ful, the beau-ti-ful riv-er,



Gath-er with the saints at the riv-er that flows by the throne of God.

Written during a time when an epidemic was claiming many lives in New York, Robert Lowry's hymn raised the question "Shall we meet again?" Lowry was pastor at Hanson Place Baptist Church in Brooklyn from 1861 to 1869, and collaborated on numerous hymn collections with William H. Doane.

Tune: HANSON PLACE 8.7.8.7, with refrain
Robert Lowry, 1864

In the Midst of New Dimensions

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Julian Rush, 1985; alt.

Gen. 9:12-16; Exod. 13:21-22; Num. 14:14

C C/B F C F Am7 Dm7 G7sus4 G7

1 In the midst of new di-men-sions, in the face of chang-ing ways,
 2 Through the flood of starv-ing peo-ple, war-ring fac-tions and de-spair,
 3 As we stand a world di-vid-ed by our own self-seek-ing schemes,
 4 We are man and we are wom-an, all per-sua-sions, old and young,
 5 Should the threats of dire pre-dic-tions cause us to with-draw in pain,

C C/B F C F Am7 Dm7 G C

Who will lead the pil-grim peo-les wan-dering in their sep-arate ways?
 Who will lift the ol-ive branch-es? Who will light the flame of care?
 Grant that we, your glob-al vil-lage, might en-vi-sion wid-er dreams.
 Each a gift in your cre-a-tion, each a love song to be sung.
 May your blaz-ing phoe-nix spir-it res-ur-rect the church a-gain.

Refrain
 Am Em F C F C G7 C Dsus4 D7 G7sus4 G7 Am

God of rain-bow, fier-y pil-lar, lead-ing where the ea-gles soar, We your

Em F C F C/E F C/E F C/E Dm7 G7 C

peo-ple, ours the jour-ney now and ev-er, now and ev-er, now and ev-er - more.

Julian Rush, an ordained minister in the United Methodist Church, has spent more than a decade as director of the Colorado AIDS Project. He wrote this hymn on the theme of "diversity" for a meeting of the Rocky Mountain Conference (United Methodist).

Tune: NEW DIMENSIONS 8.7.8.7. with refrain
 Julian Rush, 1985
 Arr. The New Century Hymnal, 1994



Hanoi Street Vendor:
Photo by Fabian Irsara

Hope United Church of Christ Moline, IL
Worship Bulletin July 5, 2020
Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Thank you for joining us for worship today.

We are glad you are here!

*No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey,
you are welcome at Hope UCC!*

PRELUDE *Spirit of Jesus, if I Love My Neighbor* - Wren

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Come with joy and gladness to praise and honor God. Come to the refreshing waters that God provides.

Many: God is gracious and merciful and full of compassion. All creation joins us in giving thanks.

One: Give ear, all people, to the law of God. Give thanks for all the guidance God gives us.

Many: God upholds all who are falling. God raises us up when we are bowed down.

One: Come, all who are weary and carrying heavy burdens. Come, for Christ has promised rest.

Many: The gentle spirit of Christ invites us. We have come to find rest for our souls.

OPENING HYMN *Shall We Gather at the River* (Hanson Place)

INVITING GOD INTO OUR MIDST

We come together, gracious God, because we have heard your invitation. We sense that you alone know the burdens we carry. You understand our weariness. Sometimes our journey seems long and without respite. We long for the refreshment you provide as we come to worship you. The anticipation of this hour of rest and nourishment fills us with renewed joy and gladness. We thank you, God, that your revelation comes to us, not because we are worthy, but because we are open to your word. Open our hearts to receive all you offer. Amen

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God, we do not understand our own actions. We turn away from the good we are intent on doing. Yet, we find wisdom in your law. We delight in the idea of mutual caring and celebrating life together, but we get bogged down in our own concerns. We are too busy to seek community and too preoccupied to ponder your will for us. We go our own way, cutting ourselves off from you and one another. O God, help us to put away this sin. Amen

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS AND PASSING OF PEACE

We are created in the image of God and are blessed with the capacity to reflect God's will in our daily lives. God cares for us and invests us with responsibility. Thus God honors us with high expectations and confidence in our willingness to seek out life's best for all people. We are loved. We are forgiven. Our baptism is renewed.

Let us offer one another the gift of peace. May the Lord's peace be with you!

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PASTORAL PRAYER/LORD'S PRAYER (debts)

One: May the Lord be with you.

Many: And also with you.

One: Let us pray:

...

With the assurance Jesus offers, together we pray the words Jesus taught us:

Our Father, who is in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your 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 yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON

Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67

³⁴So he said, "I am Abraham's servant. ³⁵The LORD has greatly blessed my master, and he has become wealthy; he has given him flocks and herds, silver and gold, male and female slaves, camels and donkeys. ³⁶And Sarah my master's wife bore a son to my master when she was old; and he has given him all that he has. ³⁷My master made me swear, saying, 'You shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I live; ³⁸but you shall go to my father's house, to my kindred, and get a wife for my son.'

⁴²"I came today to the spring, and said, 'O LORD, the God of my master Abraham, if now you will only make successful the way I am going! ⁴³I am standing here by the spring of water; let the young woman who comes out to draw, to whom I shall say, "Please give me a little water from your jar to drink," ⁴⁴and who will say to me, "Drink, and I will draw for your camels also"—let her be the woman whom the LORD has appointed for my master's son.'

⁴⁵"Before I had finished speaking in my heart, there was Rebekah coming out with her water jar on her shoulder; and she went down to the spring, and drew. I said to her, 'Please let me drink.' ⁴⁶She quickly let down her jar from her shoulder, and said, 'Drink, and I will also water your camels.' So I drank, and she also watered the camels. ⁴⁷Then I asked her, 'Whose daughter are you?' She said, 'The daughter of Bethuel, Nahor's son, whom Milcah bore to him.' So I put the ring on her nose, and the bracelets on her arms. ⁴⁸Then I bowed my head and worshiped the LORD, and blessed the LORD, the God of my master Abraham, who had led me by the right way to obtain the daughter of my master's kinsman for his son. ⁴⁹Now then, if you will deal loyally and truly with my master, tell me; and if not, tell me, so that I may turn either to the right hand or to the left."

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“May you, our sister, become
thousands of myriads;
may your offspring gain possession
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⁶¹Then Rebekah and her maids rose up, mounted the camels, and followed the man; thus the servant took Rebekah, and went his way.

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NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Matthew 11:16-19. 25-30

¹⁶“But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,

¹⁷ ‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;
we wailed, and you did not mourn.’

¹⁸For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; ¹⁹the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.”[£]

²⁵At that time Jesus said, “I thank[£] you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; ²⁶yes, Father, for such was your gracious will.[£] ²⁷All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

²⁸“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

SERMON

INVITATION TO OFFERING

God has greatly blessed us with many kinds of wealth. Let our joy and gladness overflow as we express gratitude to God with our offerings. As we support the ministries of the church, let us consider those whose lives are grievously burdened, reaching out to them in practical acts of mercy.

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SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

(Please use whatever elements you have available for the bread and the cup)

Welcome

One: God be with you.

Many: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

Many: We lift them to God.

One: Let us give thanks to God Most High.

Many: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Holy God, we praise and bless you for creation and for your abiding love which brings us close to you, the source of all blessing. We thank you for creating us in your own image, for forgiving us when we act as though you have no claim on us, and for keeping us in your steadfast care. We rejoice in Jesus Christ, who shared the joys and sorrows of life as we know it. We remember Christ's death, we celebrate Christ's resurrection, and, as your church, we anticipate Christ's return. We take courage from your Holy Spirit and we offer you our praise for our sisters, brothers, and siblings of faith in every age who stand as witnesses to your love and justice. Together with all the company of heaven, we glorify you:

Holy, holy, holy God of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God Most High. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God! Hosanna in the highest!

Remember

We remember that on the night of betrayal and desertion, Jesus took bread, gave you thanks, broke the bread, and gave it to the disciples, saying: "This is my body which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, Jesus also took the cup, after supper, saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." By eating this bread and drinking this cup, we proclaim Christ's death, celebrate Christ's resurrection, and await Christ's coming again.

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Let us pray: Gracious God, by your Holy Spirit, bless these gifts of bread and cup – each unique in their composition and location, and yet common through the Spirit that anoints these gifts. Bless us as we receive the bread and cup, that we will offer you our faith and praise, and that we will be united with Christ and with one another. Through this table of fellowship, make us the Body of Christ and may your Spirit strengthen us when we feel weak, warm us when we are cold-hearted, bend us when we are stubborn, move us when we are uncaring, guide us in the way of love. May we continue to be faithful in all things. As we eat and drink, may the elements be symbols that remind us who we are and whose we are. We ask all this in the name of the one who extends the invitation to us, your Son, Christ Jesus. Amen

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Take and eat, Christ's body given for you.
Take and drink, the cup of blessing.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our savior. Amen

CLOSING HYMN *In the Midst of New Dimensions* (New Dimensions)

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BENEDICTION

One: Carry with you innermost selves, delight in God's law. Meditate day by day on God's purpose for your lives.

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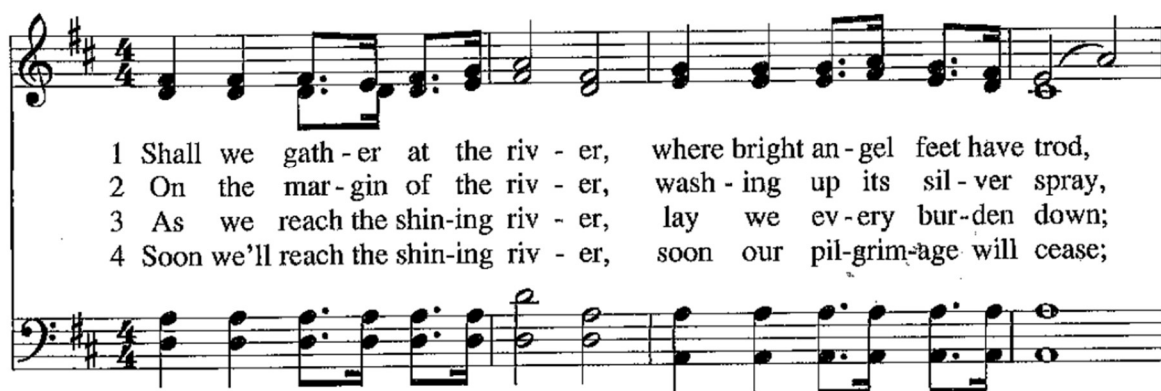
POSTLUDE *Gavotte* - Wesley

Shall We Gather at the River

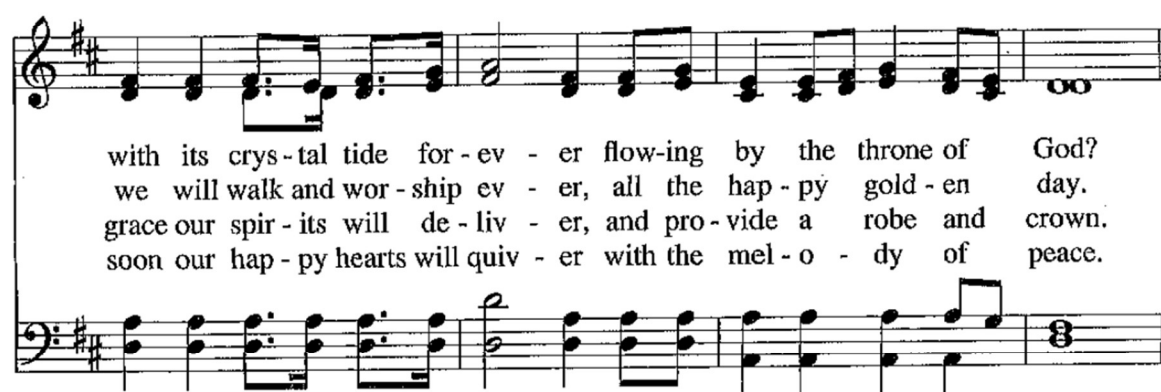
597

Robert Lowry, 1864; alt.

Rev. 22:1-5



1 Shall we gath-er at the riv-er, where bright an-gel feet have trod,
2 On the mar-gin of the riv-er, wash-ing up its sil-ver spray,
3 As we reach the shin-ing riv-er, lay we ev-ery bur-den down;
4 Soon we'll reach the shin-ing riv-er, soon our pil-grim-age will cease;

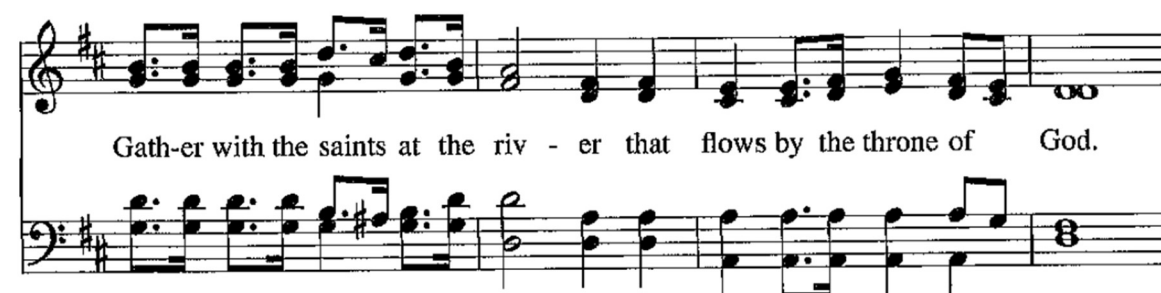


with its crys-tal tide for-ev-er flow-ing by the throne of God?
we will walk and wor-ship ev-er, all the hap-py gold-en day.
grace our spir-its will de-liv-er, and pro-vide a robe and crown.
soon our hap-py hearts will quiv-er with the mel-o-dy of peace.

Refrain



Yes, we'll gath-er at the riv-er, the beau-ti-ful, the beau-ti-ful riv-er,



Gath-er with the saints at the riv-er that flows by the throne of God.

Written during a time when an epidemic was claiming many lives in New York, Robert Lowry's hymn raised the question "Shall we meet again?" Lowry was pastor at Hanson Place Baptist Church in Brooklyn from 1861 to 1869, and collaborated on numerous hymn collections with William H. Doane.

Tune: HANSON PLACE 8.7.8.7, with refrain
Robert Lowry, 1864

In the Midst of New Dimensions

391

Julian Rush, 1985; alt.

Gen. 9:12-16; Exod. 13:21-22; Num. 14:14

C C/B F C F Am7 Dm7 G7sus4 G7

1 In the midst of new di-men-sions, in the face of chang-ing ways,
 2 Through the flood of starv-ing peo-ple, war-ring fac-tions and de-spair,
 3 As we stand a world di-vid-ed by our own self-seek-ing schemes,
 4 We are man and we are wom-an, all per-sua-sions, old and young,
 5 Should the threats of dire pre-dic-tions cause us to with-draw in pain,

C C/B F C F Am7 Dm7 G C

Who will lead the pil-grim peo-ples wan-dering in their sep-arate ways?
 Who will lift the ol-ive branch-es? Who will light the flame of care?
 Grant that we, your glob-al vil-lage, might en-vi-sion wid-er dreams.
 Each a gift in your cre-a-tion, each a love song to be sung.
 May your blaz-ing phoe-nix spir-it res-ur-rect the church a-gain.

Refrain
 Am Em F C F C G7 C Dsus4 D7 G7sus4 G7 Am

God of rain-bow, fier-y pil-lar, lead-ing where the ea-gles soar, We your

Em F C F C/E F C/E F C/E Dm7 G7 C

peo-ple, ours the jour-ney now and ev-er, now and ev-er, now and ev-er - more.

Julian Rush, an ordained minister in the United Methodist Church, has spent more than a decade as director of the Colorado AIDS Project. He wrote this hymn on the theme of "diversity" for a meeting of the Rocky Mountain Conference (United Methodist).

Tune: NEW DIMENSIONS 8.7.8.7. with refrain
 Julian Rush, 1985
 Arr. The New Century Hymnal, 1994



Hanoi Street Vendor:
Photo by Fabian Irsara

Hope United Church of Christ Moline, IL
Worship Bulletin July 5, 2020
Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

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We are glad you are here!

*No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey,
you are welcome at Hope UCC!*

PRELUDE *Spirit of Jesus, if I Love My Neighbor* - Wren

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Come with joy and gladness to praise and honor God. Come to the refreshing waters that God provides.

Many: God is gracious and merciful and full of compassion. All creation joins us in giving thanks.

One: Give ear, all people, to the law of God. Give thanks for all the guidance God gives us.

Many: God upholds all who are falling. God raises us up when we are bowed down.

One: Come, all who are weary and carrying heavy burdens. Come, for Christ has promised rest.

Many: The gentle spirit of Christ invites us. We have come to find rest for our souls.

OPENING HYMN *Shall We Gather at the River* (Hanson Place)

INVITING GOD INTO OUR MIDST

We come together, gracious God, because we have heard your invitation. We sense that you alone know the burdens we carry. You understand our weariness. Sometimes our journey seems long and without respite. We long for the refreshment you provide as we come to worship you. The anticipation of this hour of rest and nourishment fills us with renewed joy and gladness. We thank you, God, that your revelation comes to us, not because we are worthy, but because we are open to your word. Open our hearts to receive all you offer. Amen

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God, we do not understand our own actions. We turn away from the good we are intent on doing. Yet, we find wisdom in your law. We delight in the idea of mutual caring and celebrating life together, but we get bogged down in our own concerns. We are too busy to seek community and too preoccupied to ponder your will for us. We go our own way, cutting ourselves off from you and one another. O God, help us to put away this sin. Amen

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS AND PASSING OF PEACE

We are created in the image of God and are blessed with the capacity to reflect God's will in our daily lives. God cares for us and invests us with responsibility. Thus God honors us with high expectations and confidence in our willingness to seek out life's best for all people. We are loved. We are forgiven. Our baptism is renewed.

Let us offer one another the gift of peace. May the Lord's peace be with you!

(If you are using this liturgy as a private devotion or participating in the live stream worship, please hold out your hands in blessing for all you are joined with in spirit. If you are participating in the live stream worship, please type in your peace greeting.)

PASTORAL PRAYER/LORD'S PRAYER (debts)

One: May the Lord be with you.

Many: And also with you.

One: Let us pray:

...

With the assurance Jesus offers, together we pray the words Jesus taught us:

Our Father, who is in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your 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 yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON

Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67

³⁴So he said, "I am Abraham's servant. ³⁵The LORD has greatly blessed my master, and he has become wealthy; he has given him flocks and herds, silver and gold, male and female slaves, camels and donkeys. ³⁶And Sarah my master's wife bore a son to my master when she was old; and he has given him all that he has. ³⁷My master made me swear, saying, 'You shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I live; ³⁸but you shall go to my father's house, to my kindred, and get a wife for my son.'

⁴²"I came today to the spring, and said, 'O LORD, the God of my master Abraham, if now you will only make successful the way I am going! ⁴³I am standing here by the spring of water; let the young woman who comes out to draw, to whom I shall say, "Please give me a little water from your jar to drink," ⁴⁴and who will say to me, "Drink, and I will draw for your camels also"—let her be the woman whom the LORD has appointed for my master's son.'

⁴⁵"Before I had finished speaking in my heart, there was Rebekah coming out with her water jar on her shoulder; and she went down to the spring, and drew. I said to her, 'Please let me drink.' ⁴⁶She quickly let down her jar from her shoulder, and said, 'Drink, and I will also water your camels.' So I drank, and she also watered the camels. ⁴⁷Then I asked her, 'Whose daughter are you?' She said, 'The daughter of Bethuel, Nahor's son, whom Milcah bore to him.' So I put the ring on her nose, and the bracelets on her arms. ⁴⁸Then I bowed my head and worshiped the LORD, and blessed the LORD, the God of my master Abraham, who had led me by the right way to obtain the daughter of my master's kinsman for his son. ⁴⁹Now then, if you will deal loyally and truly with my master, tell me; and if not, tell me, so that I may turn either to the right hand or to the left."

⁵⁸And they called Rebekah, and said to her, “Will you go with this man?” She said, “I will.” ⁵⁹So they sent away their sister Rebekah and her nurse along with Abraham’s servant and his men. ⁶⁰And they blessed Rebekah and said to her,

“May you, our sister, become
thousands of myriads;
may your offspring gain possession
of the gates of their foes.”

⁶¹Then Rebekah and her maids rose up, mounted the camels, and followed the man; thus the servant took Rebekah, and went his way.

⁶²Now Isaac had come from[£] Beer-lahai-roi, and was settled in the Negeb. ⁶³Isaac went out in the evening to walk[£] in the field; and looking up, he saw camels coming. ⁶⁴And Rebekah looked up, and when she saw Isaac, she slipped quickly from the camel, ⁶⁵and said to the servant, “Who is the man over there, walking in the field to meet us?” The servant said, “It is my master.” So she took her veil and covered herself. ⁶⁶And the servant told Isaac all the things that he had done. ⁶⁷Then Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah’s tent. He took Rebekah, and she became his wife; and he loved her. So Isaac was comforted after his mother’s death.

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Matthew 11:16-19. 25-30

¹⁶“But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,

¹⁷ ‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;
we wailed, and you did not mourn.’

¹⁸For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; ¹⁹the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.”[£]

²⁵At that time Jesus said, “I thank[£] you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; ²⁶yes, Father, for such was your gracious will.[£] ²⁷All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

²⁸“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

SERMON

INVITATION TO OFFERING

God has greatly blessed us with many kinds of wealth. Let our joy and gladness overflow as we express gratitude to God with our offerings. As we support the ministries of the church, let us consider those whose lives are grievously burdened, reaching out to them in practical acts of mercy.

We are profoundly grateful for your continued support of Hope UCC as we stay connected as a faith community in this time of social distancing and spiritual connection. We are continuing the ministry of our church throughout this stay at home order and we thank you for making this possible. We now have two ways to make your offering. Hope UCC is now able to offer e-giving through Breeze Management System to make it safer and easier for you to give anytime. You are able to safely donate electronically using your credit card or ACH transfer. You can find the link on our church

website (www.hopeuccqc.org). We also invite you to mail your offering to the church office – mail and messages are checked daily by Pastor Santina. Thank you for your generosity- your commitment is vital to continuing our congregation's ministries and commitments. Hope Grows! And there is nothing- not even a global pandemic - that can stop it! ☺

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

With all the gifts of creation, you have blessed us, gracious God. We give thanks for all your works. Gratitude is our first impulse for giving. Accept our grateful hearts, along with our gifts. We ask for wisdom as our church determines priorities for the use of resources. May we be as concerned about outreach and mission as we are about programs for ourselves. As you are faithful to us, O God, may we be faithful in all things, seeking always to live by your gracious will. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

(Please use whatever elements you have available for the bread and the cup)

Welcome

One: God be with you.

Many: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

Many: We lift them to God.

One: Let us give thanks to God Most High.

Many: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Holy God, we praise and bless you for creation and for your abiding love which brings us close to you, the source of all blessing. We thank you for creating us in your own image, for forgiving us when we act as though you have no claim on us, and for keeping us in your steadfast care. We rejoice in Jesus Christ, who shared the joys and sorrows of life as we know it. We remember Christ's death, we celebrate Christ's resurrection, and, as your church, we anticipate Christ's return. We take courage from your Holy Spirit and we offer you our praise for our sisters, brothers, and siblings of faith in every age who stand as witnesses to your love and justice. Together with all the company of heaven, we glorify you:

Holy, holy, holy God of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God Most High. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God! Hosanna in the highest!

Remember

We remember that on the night of betrayal and desertion, Jesus took bread, gave you thanks, broke the bread, and gave it to the disciples, saying: "This is my body which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, Jesus also took the cup, after supper, saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." By eating this bread and drinking this cup, we proclaim Christ's death, celebrate Christ's resurrection, and await Christ's coming again.

Consecration

Let us pray: Gracious God, by your Holy Spirit, bless these gifts of bread and cup – each unique in their composition and location, and yet common through the Spirit that anoints these gifts. Bless us as we receive the bread and cup, that we will offer you our faith and praise, and that we will be united with Christ and with one another. Through this table of fellowship, make us the Body of Christ and may your Spirit strengthen us when we feel weak, warm us when we are cold-hearted, bend us when we are stubborn, move us when we are uncaring, guide us in the way of love. May we continue to be faithful in all things. As we eat and drink, may the elements be symbols that remind us who we are and whose we are. We ask all this in the name of the one who extends the invitation to us, your Son, Christ Jesus. Amen

Through the broken bread we participate in the body of Christ.

Through the cup of blessing we participate in the new life Christ gives.

Invitation & Sharing Holy Communion

This is the table, not of the church, but of Jesus Christ. It is made ready for those who love him and for those who want to love him more. All are welcome. Come to the table because it is Jesus Christ who invites you. It is his will that those who want him should meet him here. Please join this feast in the spirit of joy and gratitude. These are the gifts of God for the people of God. Come, for all things are ready.

Take and eat, Christ's body given for you.
Take and drink, the cup of blessing.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our savior. Amen

CLOSING HYMN *In the Midst of New Dimensions* (New Dimensions)

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BENEDICTION

One: Carry with you innermost selves, delight in God's law. Meditate day by day on God's purpose for your lives.

Many: We rejoice that God dwells with us every day. We want to know and do God's will for us.

One: We encounter God in unexpected places. God surprises us in the life and witness of people.

Many: We learn from the youngest in our midst. Simple and humble persons have much to teach us.

One: Take Christ's yoke upon you, for that yoke is easy. It imparts confidence that lightens our burdens.

Many: We will find rest and renewal through Christ. We seek to express the same humility and gentleness.

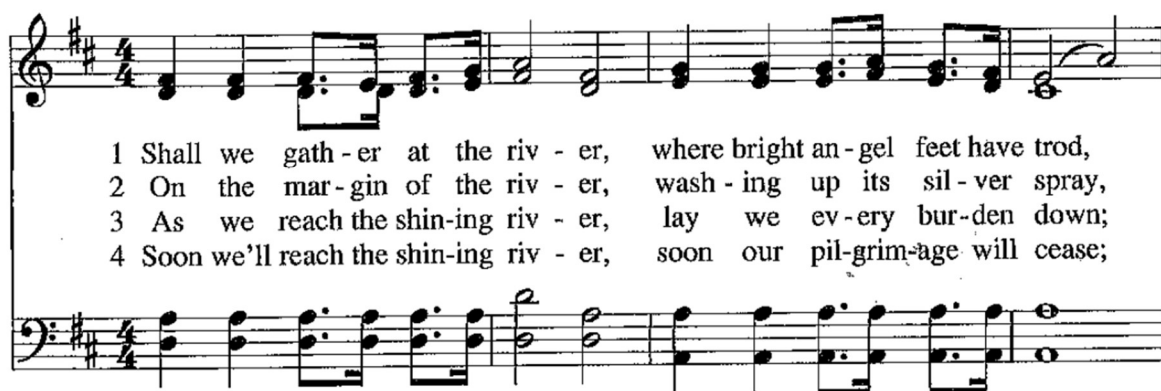
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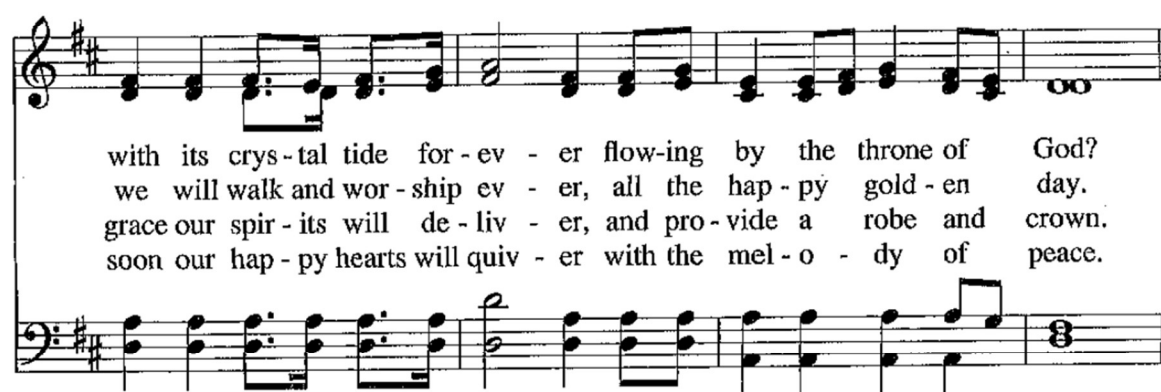
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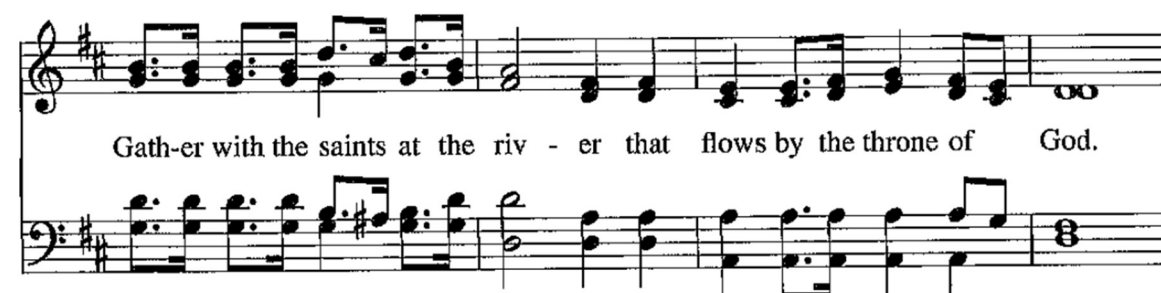


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Refrain



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Gath-er with the saints at the riv-er that flows by the throne of God.

Written during a time when an epidemic was claiming many lives in New York, Robert Lowry's hymn raised the question "Shall we meet again?" Lowry was pastor at Hanson Place Baptist Church in Brooklyn from 1861 to 1869, and collaborated on numerous hymn collections with William H. Doane.

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HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON

Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67

³⁴So he said, "I am Abraham's servant. ³⁵The LORD has greatly blessed my master, and he has become wealthy; he has given him flocks and herds, silver and gold, male and female slaves, camels and donkeys. ³⁶And Sarah my master's wife bore a son to my master when she was old; and he has given him all that he has. ³⁷My master made me swear, saying, 'You shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I live; ³⁸but you shall go to my father's house, to my kindred, and get a wife for my son.'

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NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Matthew 11:16-19. 25-30

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PRAYER OF DEDICATION

With all the gifts of creation, you have blessed us, gracious God. We give thanks for all your works. Gratitude is our first impulse for giving. Accept our grateful hearts, along with our gifts. We ask for wisdom as our church determines priorities for the use of resources. May we be as concerned about outreach and mission as we are about programs for ourselves. As you are faithful to us, O God, may we be faithful in all things, seeking always to live by your gracious will. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

(Please use whatever elements you have available for the bread and the cup)

Welcome

One: God be with you.

Many: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

Many: We lift them to God.

One: Let us give thanks to God Most High.

Many: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Holy God, we praise and bless you for creation and for your abiding love which brings us close to you, the source of all blessing. We thank you for creating us in your own image, for forgiving us when we act as though you have no claim on us, and for keeping us in your steadfast care. We rejoice in Jesus Christ, who shared the joys and sorrows of life as we know it. We remember Christ's death, we celebrate Christ's resurrection, and, as your church, we anticipate Christ's return. We take courage from your Holy Spirit and we offer you our praise for our sisters, brothers, and siblings of faith in every age who stand as witnesses to your love and justice. Together with all the company of heaven, we glorify you:

Holy, holy, holy God of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God Most High. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God! Hosanna in the highest!

Remember

We remember that on the night of betrayal and desertion, Jesus took bread, gave you thanks, broke the bread, and gave it to the disciples, saying: "This is my body which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, Jesus also took the cup, after supper, saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." By eating this bread and drinking this cup, we proclaim Christ's death, celebrate Christ's resurrection, and await Christ's coming again.

Consecration

Let us pray: Gracious God, by your Holy Spirit, bless these gifts of bread and cup – each unique in their composition and location, and yet common through the Spirit that anoints these gifts. Bless us as we receive the bread and cup, that we will offer you our faith and praise, and that we will be united with Christ and with one another. Through this table of fellowship, make us the Body of Christ and may your Spirit strengthen us when we feel weak, warm us when we are cold-hearted, bend us when we are stubborn, move us when we are uncaring, guide us in the way of love. May we continue to be faithful in all things. As we eat and drink, may the elements be symbols that remind us who we are and whose we are. We ask all this in the name of the one who extends the invitation to us, your Son, Christ Jesus. Amen

Through the broken bread we participate in the body of Christ.

Through the cup of blessing we participate in the new life Christ gives.

Invitation & Sharing Holy Communion

This is the table, not of the church, but of Jesus Christ. It is made ready for those who love him and for those who want to love him more. All are welcome. Come to the table because it is Jesus Christ who invites you. It is his will that those who want him should meet him here. Please join this feast in the spirit of joy and gratitude. These are the gifts of God for the people of God. Come, for all things are ready.

Take and eat, Christ's body given for you.
Take and drink, the cup of blessing.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our savior. Amen

CLOSING HYMN *In the Midst of New Dimensions* (New Dimensions)

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BENEDICTION

One: Carry with you innermost selves, delight in God's law. Meditate day by day on God's purpose for your lives.

Many: We rejoice that God dwells with us every day. We want to know and do God's will for us.

One: We encounter God in unexpected places. God surprises us in the life and witness of people.

Many: We learn from the youngest in our midst. Simple and humble persons have much to teach us.

One: Take Christ's yoke upon you, for that yoke is easy. It imparts confidence that lightens our burdens.

Many: We will find rest and renewal through Christ. We seek to express the same humility and gentleness.

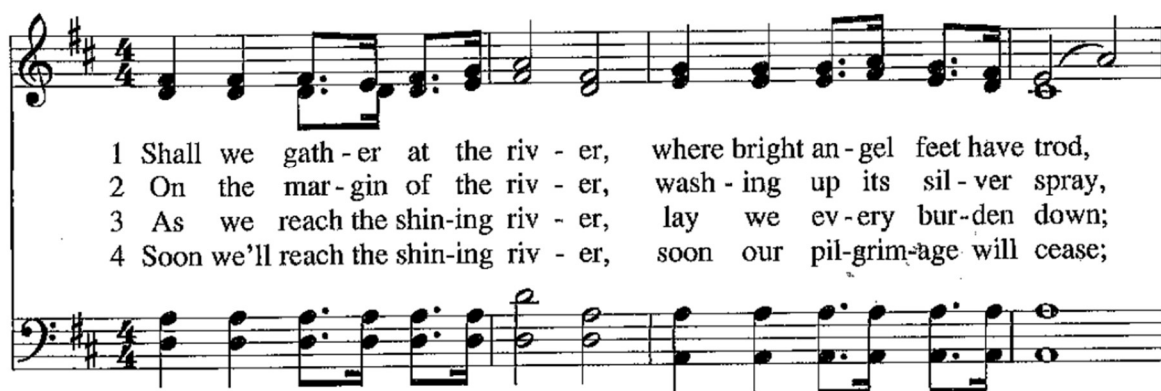
POSTLUDE *Gavotte* - Wesley

Shall We Gather at the River

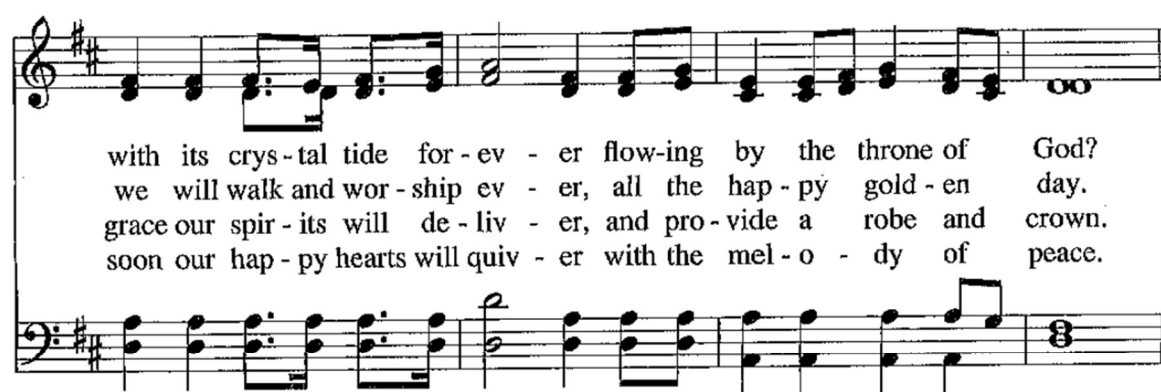
597

Robert Lowry, 1864; alt.

Rev. 22:1-5



1 Shall we gath-er at the riv-er, where bright an-gel feet have trod,
2 On the mar-gin of the riv-er, wash-ing up its sil-ver spray,
3 As we reach the shin-ing riv-er, lay we ev-ery bur-den down;
4 Soon we'll reach the shin-ing riv-er, soon our pil-grim-age will cease;

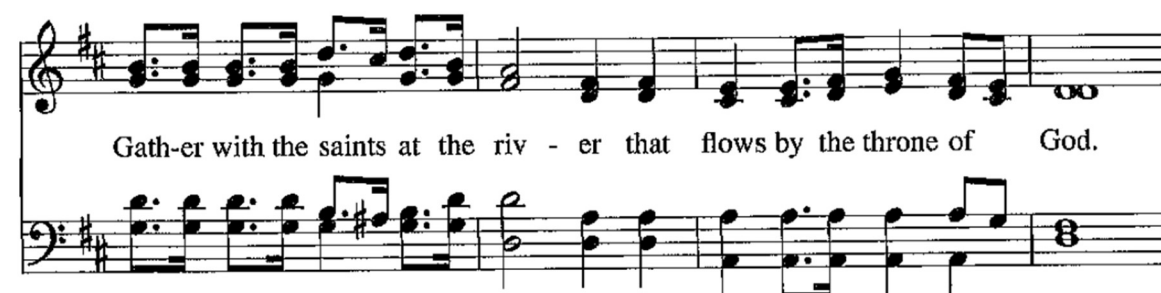


with its crys-tal tide for-ev-er flow-ing by the throne of God?
we will walk and wor-ship ev-er, all the hap-py gold-en day.
grace our spir-its will de-liv-er, and pro-vide a robe and crown.
soon our hap-py hearts will quiv-er with the mel-o-dy of peace.

Refrain



Yes, we'll gath-er at the riv-er, the beau-ti-ful, the beau-ti-ful riv-er,



Gath-er with the saints at the riv-er that flows by the throne of God.

Written during a time when an epidemic was claiming many lives in New York, Robert Lowry's hymn raised the question "Shall we meet again?" Lowry was pastor at Hanson Place Baptist Church in Brooklyn from 1861 to 1869, and collaborated on numerous hymn collections with William H. Doane.

Tune: HANSON PLACE 8.7.8.7, with refrain
Robert Lowry, 1864

In the Midst of New Dimensions

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Julian Rush, 1985; alt.

Gen. 9:12-16; Exod. 13:21-22; Num. 14:14

C C/B F C F Am7 Dm7 G7sus4 G7

1 In the midst of new di-men-sions, in the face of chang-ing ways,
 2 Through the flood of starv-ing peo-ple, war-ring fac-tions and de-spair,
 3 As we stand a world di-vid-ed by our own self-seek-ing schemes,
 4 We are man and we are wom-an, all per-sua-sions, old and young,
 5 Should the threats of dire pre-dic-tions cause us to with-draw in pain,

C C/B F C F Am7 Dm7 G C

Who will lead the pil-grim peo-les wan-dering in their sep-arate ways?
 Who will lift the ol-ive branch-es? Who will light the flame of care?
 Grant that we, your glob-al vil-lage, might en-vi-sion wid-er dreams.
 Each a gift in your cre-a-tion, each a love song to be sung.
 May your blaz-ing phoe-nix spir-it res-ur-rect the church a-gain.

Refrain
 Am Em F C F C G7 C Dsus4 D7 G7sus4 G7 Am

God of rain-bow, fier-y pil-lar, lead-ing where the ea-gles soar, We your

Em F C F C/E F C/E F C/E Dm7 G7 C

peo-ple, ours the jour-ney now and ev-er, now and ev-er, now and ev-er - more.

Julian Rush, an ordained minister in the United Methodist Church, has spent more than a decade as director of the Colorado AIDS Project. He wrote this hymn on the theme of "diversity" for a meeting of the Rocky Mountain Conference (United Methodist).

Tune: NEW DIMENSIONS 8.7.8.7. with refrain
 Julian Rush, 1985
 Arr. The New Century Hymnal, 1994



Hanoi Street Vendor:
Photo by Fabian Irsara

Hope United Church of Christ Moline, IL
Worship Bulletin July 5, 2020
Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

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We are glad you are here!

*No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey,
you are welcome at Hope UCC!*

PRELUDE *Spirit of Jesus, if I Love My Neighbor* - Wren

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Come with joy and gladness to praise and honor God. Come to the refreshing waters that God provides.

Many: God is gracious and merciful and full of compassion. All creation joins us in giving thanks.

One: Give ear, all people, to the law of God. Give thanks for all the guidance God gives us.

Many: God upholds all who are falling. God raises us up when we are bowed down.

One: Come, all who are weary and carrying heavy burdens. Come, for Christ has promised rest.

Many: The gentle spirit of Christ invites us. We have come to find rest for our souls.

OPENING HYMN *Shall We Gather at the River* (Hanson Place)

INVITING GOD INTO OUR MIDST

We come together, gracious God, because we have heard your invitation. We sense that you alone know the burdens we carry. You understand our weariness. Sometimes our journey seems long and without respite. We long for the refreshment you provide as we come to worship you. The anticipation of this hour of rest and nourishment fills us with renewed joy and gladness. We thank you, God, that your revelation comes to us, not because we are worthy, but because we are open to your word. Open our hearts to receive all you offer. Amen

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God, we do not understand our own actions. We turn away from the good we are intent on doing. Yet, we find wisdom in your law. We delight in the idea of mutual caring and celebrating life together, but we get bogged down in our own concerns. We are too busy to seek community and too preoccupied to ponder your will for us. We go our own way, cutting ourselves off from you and one another. O God, help us to put away this sin. Amen

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS AND PASSING OF PEACE

We are created in the image of God and are blessed with the capacity to reflect God's will in our daily lives. God cares for us and invests us with responsibility. Thus God honors us with high expectations and confidence in our willingness to seek out life's best for all people. We are loved. We are forgiven. Our baptism is renewed.

Let us offer one another the gift of peace. May the Lord's peace be with you!

(If you are using this liturgy as a private devotion or participating in the live stream worship, please hold out your hands in blessing for all you are joined with in spirit. If you are participating in the live stream worship, please type in your peace greeting.)

PASTORAL PRAYER/LORD'S PRAYER (debts)

One: May the Lord be with you.

Many: And also with you.

One: Let us pray:

...

With the assurance Jesus offers, together we pray the words Jesus taught us:

Our Father, who is in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your 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 yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON

Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67

³⁴So he said, "I am Abraham's servant. ³⁵The LORD has greatly blessed my master, and he has become wealthy; he has given him flocks and herds, silver and gold, male and female slaves, camels and donkeys. ³⁶And Sarah my master's wife bore a son to my master when she was old; and he has given him all that he has. ³⁷My master made me swear, saying, 'You shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I live; ³⁸but you shall go to my father's house, to my kindred, and get a wife for my son.'

⁴²"I came today to the spring, and said, 'O LORD, the God of my master Abraham, if now you will only make successful the way I am going! ⁴³I am standing here by the spring of water; let the young woman who comes out to draw, to whom I shall say, "Please give me a little water from your jar to drink," ⁴⁴and who will say to me, "Drink, and I will draw for your camels also"—let her be the woman whom the LORD has appointed for my master's son.'

⁴⁵"Before I had finished speaking in my heart, there was Rebekah coming out with her water jar on her shoulder; and she went down to the spring, and drew. I said to her, 'Please let me drink.' ⁴⁶She quickly let down her jar from her shoulder, and said, 'Drink, and I will also water your camels.' So I drank, and she also watered the camels. ⁴⁷Then I asked her, 'Whose daughter are you?' She said, 'The daughter of Bethuel, Nahor's son, whom Milcah bore to him.' So I put the ring on her nose, and the bracelets on her arms. ⁴⁸Then I bowed my head and worshiped the LORD, and blessed the LORD, the God of my master Abraham, who had led me by the right way to obtain the daughter of my master's kinsman for his son. ⁴⁹Now then, if you will deal loyally and truly with my master, tell me; and if not, tell me, so that I may turn either to the right hand or to the left."

⁵⁸And they called Rebekah, and said to her, “Will you go with this man?” She said, “I will.” ⁵⁹So they sent away their sister Rebekah and her nurse along with Abraham’s servant and his men. ⁶⁰And they blessed Rebekah and said to her,

“May you, our sister, become
thousands of myriads;
may your offspring gain possession
of the gates of their foes.”

⁶¹Then Rebekah and her maids rose up, mounted the camels, and followed the man; thus the servant took Rebekah, and went his way.

⁶²Now Isaac had come from[£] Beer-lahai-roi, and was settled in the Negeb. ⁶³Isaac went out in the evening to walk[£] in the field; and looking up, he saw camels coming. ⁶⁴And Rebekah looked up, and when she saw Isaac, she slipped quickly from the camel, ⁶⁵and said to the servant, “Who is the man over there, walking in the field to meet us?” The servant said, “It is my master.” So she took her veil and covered herself. ⁶⁶And the servant told Isaac all the things that he had done. ⁶⁷Then Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah’s tent. He took Rebekah, and she became his wife; and he loved her. So Isaac was comforted after his mother’s death.

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Matthew 11:16-19. 25-30

¹⁶“But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,

¹⁷ ‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;
we wailed, and you did not mourn.’

¹⁸For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; ¹⁹the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.”[£]

²⁵At that time Jesus said, “I thank[£] you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; ²⁶yes, Father, for such was your gracious will.[£] ²⁷All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

²⁸“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

SERMON

INVITATION TO OFFERING

God has greatly blessed us with many kinds of wealth. Let our joy and gladness overflow as we express gratitude to God with our offerings. As we support the ministries of the church, let us consider those whose lives are grievously burdened, reaching out to them in practical acts of mercy.

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(Please use whatever elements you have available for the bread and the cup)

Welcome

One: God be with you.

Many: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

Many: We lift them to God.

One: Let us give thanks to God Most High.

Many: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

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Holy, holy, holy God of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God Most High. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God! Hosanna in the highest!

Remember

We remember that on the night of betrayal and desertion, Jesus took bread, gave you thanks, broke the bread, and gave it to the disciples, saying: "This is my body which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, Jesus also took the cup, after supper, saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." By eating this bread and drinking this cup, we proclaim Christ's death, celebrate Christ's resurrection, and await Christ's coming again.

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Let us pray: Gracious God, by your Holy Spirit, bless these gifts of bread and cup – each unique in their composition and location, and yet common through the Spirit that anoints these gifts. Bless us as we receive the bread and cup, that we will offer you our faith and praise, and that we will be united with Christ and with one another. Through this table of fellowship, make us the Body of Christ and may your Spirit strengthen us when we feel weak, warm us when we are cold-hearted, bend us when we are stubborn, move us when we are uncaring, guide us in the way of love. May we continue to be faithful in all things. As we eat and drink, may the elements be symbols that remind us who we are and whose we are. We ask all this in the name of the one who extends the invitation to us, your Son, Christ Jesus. Amen

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Prayer of Thanksgiving

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our savior. Amen

CLOSING HYMN *In the Midst of New Dimensions* (New Dimensions)

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BENEDICTION

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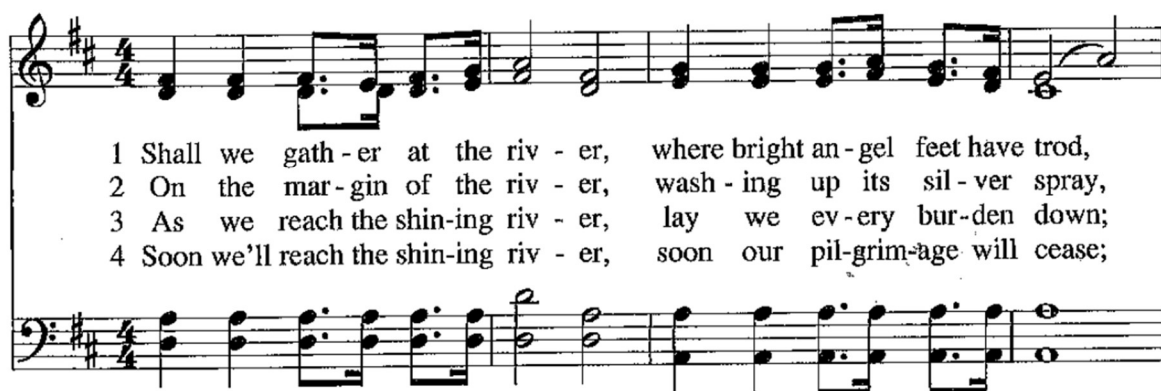
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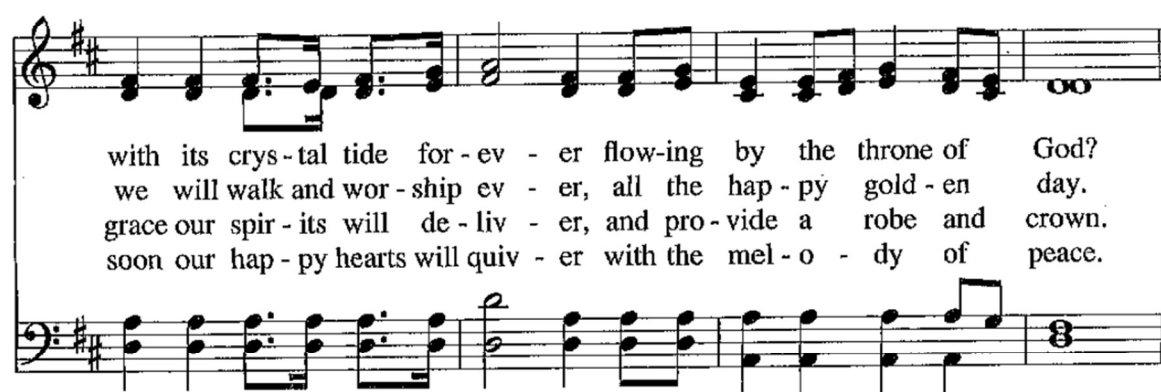
597

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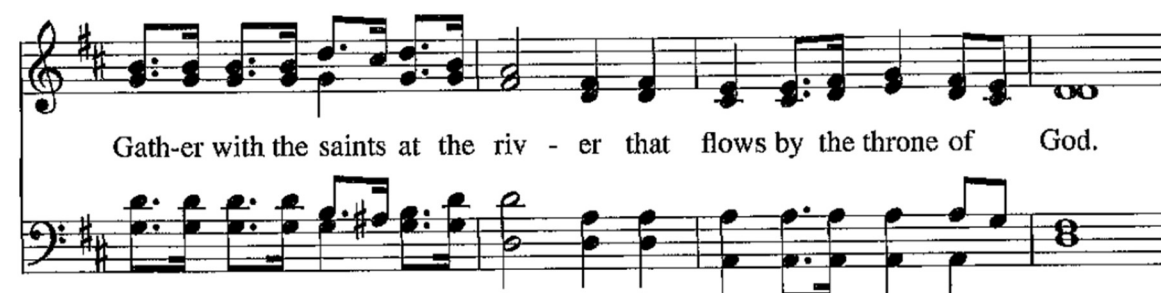


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soon our hap-py hearts will quiv-er with the mel-o-dy of peace.

Refrain



Yes, we'll gath-er at the riv-er, the beau-ti-ful, the beau-ti-ful riv-er,



Gath-er with the saints at the riv-er that flows by the throne of God.

Written during a time when an epidemic was claiming many lives in New York, Robert Lowry's hymn raised the question "Shall we meet again?" Lowry was pastor at Hanson Place Baptist Church in Brooklyn from 1861 to 1869, and collaborated on numerous hymn collections with William H. Doane.

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In the Midst of New Dimensions

391

Julian Rush, 1985; alt.

Gen. 9:12-16; Exod. 13:21-22; Num. 14:14

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Hope United Church of Christ Moline, IL
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One: May the Lord be with you.

Many: And also with you.

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...

With the assurance Jesus offers, together we pray the words Jesus taught us:

Our Father, who is in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your 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 yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON

Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67

³⁴So he said, "I am Abraham's servant. ³⁵The LORD has greatly blessed my master, and he has become wealthy; he has given him flocks and herds, silver and gold, male and female slaves, camels and donkeys. ³⁶And Sarah my master's wife bore a son to my master when she was old; and he has given him all that he has. ³⁷My master made me swear, saying, 'You shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I live; ³⁸but you shall go to my father's house, to my kindred, and get a wife for my son.'

⁴²"I came today to the spring, and said, 'O LORD, the God of my master Abraham, if now you will only make successful the way I am going! ⁴³I am standing here by the spring of water; let the young woman who comes out to draw, to whom I shall say, "Please give me a little water from your jar to drink," ⁴⁴and who will say to me, "Drink, and I will draw for your camels also"—let her be the woman whom the LORD has appointed for my master's son.'

⁴⁵"Before I had finished speaking in my heart, there was Rebekah coming out with her water jar on her shoulder; and she went down to the spring, and drew. I said to her, 'Please let me drink.' ⁴⁶She quickly let down her jar from her shoulder, and said, 'Drink, and I will also water your camels.' So I drank, and she also watered the camels. ⁴⁷Then I asked her, 'Whose daughter are you?' She said, 'The daughter of Bethuel, Nahor's son, whom Milcah bore to him.' So I put the ring on her nose, and the bracelets on her arms. ⁴⁸Then I bowed my head and worshiped the LORD, and blessed the LORD, the God of my master Abraham, who had led me by the right way to obtain the daughter of my master's kinsman for his son. ⁴⁹Now then, if you will deal loyally and truly with my master, tell me; and if not, tell me, so that I may turn either to the right hand or to the left."

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“May you, our sister, become
thousands of myriads;
may your offspring gain possession
of the gates of their foes.”

⁶¹Then Rebekah and her maids rose up, mounted the camels, and followed the man; thus the servant took Rebekah, and went his way.

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NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Matthew 11:16-19. 25-30

¹⁶“But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,

¹⁷ ‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;
we wailed, and you did not mourn.’

¹⁸For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; ¹⁹the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.”[£]

²⁵At that time Jesus said, “I thank[£] you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; ²⁶yes, Father, for such was your gracious will.[£] ²⁷All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

²⁸“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

SERMON

INVITATION TO OFFERING

God has greatly blessed us with many kinds of wealth. Let our joy and gladness overflow as we express gratitude to God with our offerings. As we support the ministries of the church, let us consider those whose lives are grievously burdened, reaching out to them in practical acts of mercy.

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website (www.hopeuccqc.org). We also invite you to mail your offering to the church office – mail and messages are checked daily by Pastor Santina. Thank you for your generosity- your commitment is vital to continuing our congregation's ministries and commitments. Hope Grows! And there is nothing- not even a global pandemic - that can stop it! ☺

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With all the gifts of creation, you have blessed us, gracious God. We give thanks for all your works. Gratitude is our first impulse for giving. Accept our grateful hearts, along with our gifts. We ask for wisdom as our church determines priorities for the use of resources. May we be as concerned about outreach and mission as we are about programs for ourselves. As you are faithful to us, O God, may we be faithful in all things, seeking always to live by your gracious will. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

(Please use whatever elements you have available for the bread and the cup)

Welcome

One: God be with you.

Many: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

Many: We lift them to God.

One: Let us give thanks to God Most High.

Many: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Holy God, we praise and bless you for creation and for your abiding love which brings us close to you, the source of all blessing. We thank you for creating us in your own image, for forgiving us when we act as though you have no claim on us, and for keeping us in your steadfast care. We rejoice in Jesus Christ, who shared the joys and sorrows of life as we know it. We remember Christ's death, we celebrate Christ's resurrection, and, as your church, we anticipate Christ's return. We take courage from your Holy Spirit and we offer you our praise for our sisters, brothers, and siblings of faith in every age who stand as witnesses to your love and justice. Together with all the company of heaven, we glorify you:

Holy, holy, holy God of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God Most High. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God! Hosanna in the highest!

Remember

We remember that on the night of betrayal and desertion, Jesus took bread, gave you thanks, broke the bread, and gave it to the disciples, saying: "This is my body which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, Jesus also took the cup, after supper, saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." By eating this bread and drinking this cup, we proclaim Christ's death, celebrate Christ's resurrection, and await Christ's coming again.

Consecration

Let us pray: Gracious God, by your Holy Spirit, bless these gifts of bread and cup – each unique in their composition and location, and yet common through the Spirit that anoints these gifts. Bless us as we receive the bread and cup, that we will offer you our faith and praise, and that we will be united with Christ and with one another. Through this table of fellowship, make us the Body of Christ and may your Spirit strengthen us when we feel weak, warm us when we are cold-hearted, bend us when we are stubborn, move us when we are uncaring, guide us in the way of love. May we continue to be faithful in all things. As we eat and drink, may the elements be symbols that remind us who we are and whose we are. We ask all this in the name of the one who extends the invitation to us, your Son, Christ Jesus. Amen

Through the broken bread we participate in the body of Christ.

Through the cup of blessing we participate in the new life Christ gives.

Invitation & Sharing Holy Communion

This is the table, not of the church, but of Jesus Christ. It is made ready for those who love him and for those who want to love him more. All are welcome. Come to the table because it is Jesus Christ who invites you. It is his will that those who want him should meet him here. Please join this feast in the spirit of joy and gratitude. These are the gifts of God for the people of God. Come, for all things are ready.

Take and eat, Christ's body given for you.

Take and drink, the cup of blessing.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our savior. Amen

CLOSING HYMN *In the Midst of New Dimensions* (New Dimensions)

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BENEDICTION

One: Carry with you innermost selves, delight in God's law. Meditate day by day on God's purpose for your lives.

Many: We rejoice that God dwells with us every day. We want to know and do God's will for us.

One: We encounter God in unexpected places. God surprises us in the life and witness of people.

Many: We learn from the youngest in our midst. Simple and humble persons have much to teach us.

One: Take Christ's yoke upon you, for that yoke is easy. It imparts confidence that lightens our burdens.

Many: We will find rest and renewal through Christ. We seek to express the same humility and gentleness.

POSTLUDE *Gavotte* - Wesley

Shall We Gather at the River

597

Robert Lowry, 1864; alt.

Rev. 22:1-5

1 Shall we gath - er at the riv - er, where bright an - gel feet have trod,
 2 On the mar - gin of the riv - er, wash - ing up its sil - ver spray,
 3 As we reach the shin - ing riv - er, lay we ev - ery bur - den down;
 4 Soon we'll reach the shin - ing riv - er, soon our pil - grim - age will cease;

with its crys - tal tide for - ev - er flow - ing by the throne of God?
 we will walk and wor - ship ev - er, all the hap - py gold - en day.
 grace our spir - its will de - liv - er, and pro - vide a robe and crown.
 soon our hap - py hearts will quiv - er with the mel - o - dy of peace.

Refrain

Yes, we'll gath - er at the riv - er, the beau - ti - ful, the beau - ti - ful riv - er,

Gath - er with the saints at the riv - er that flows by the throne of God.

Written during a time when an epidemic was claiming many lives in New York, Robert Lowry's hymn raised the question "Shall we meet again?" Lowry was pastor at Hanson Place Baptist Church in Brooklyn from 1861 to 1869, and collaborated on numerous hymn collections with William H. Doane.

Tune: HANSON PLACE 8.7.8.7, with refrain
 Robert Lowry, 1864

In the Midst of New Dimensions

391

Julian Rush, 1985; alt.

Gen. 9:12-16; Exod. 13:21-22; Num. 14:14

C C/B F C F Am7 Dm7 G7sus4 G7

1 In the midst of new di-men-sions, in the face of chang-ing ways,
 2 Through the flood of starv-ing peo-ple, war-ring fac-tions and de-spair,
 3 As we stand a world di-vid-ed by our own self-seek-ing schemes,
 4 We are man and we are wom-an, all per-sua-sions, old and young,
 5 Should the threats of dire pre-dic-tions cause us to with-draw in pain,

C C/B F C F Am7 Dm7 G C

Who will lead the pil-grim peo-ple wan-dering in their sep-a-rate ways?
 Who will lift the ol-ive branch-es? Who will light the flame of care?
 Grant that we, your glob-al vil-lage, might en-vi-sion wid-er dreams.
 Each a gift in your cre-a-tion, each a love song to be sung.
 May your blaz-ing phoe-nix spir-it res-ur-rect the church a-gain.

Refrain
 Am Em F C F C G7 C Dsus4 D7 G7sus4 G7 Am

God of rain-bow, fier-y pil-lar, lead-ing where the ea-gles soar, We your

Em F C F C/E F C/E F C/E Dm7 G7 C

peo-ple, ours the jour-ney now and ev-er, now and ev-er, now and ev-er - more.

Julian Rush, an ordained minister in the United Methodist Church, has spent more than a decade as director of the Colorado AIDS Project. He wrote this hymn on the theme of "diversity" for a meeting of the Rocky Mountain Conference (United Methodist).

Tune: NEW DIMENSIONS 8.7.8.7. with refrain
 Julian Rush, 1985
 Arr. The New Century Hymnal, 1994



Hanoi Street Vendor:
Photo by Fabian Irsara

Hope United Church of Christ Moline, IL
Worship Bulletin July 5, 2020
Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Thank you for joining us for worship today.

We are glad you are here!

*No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey,
you are welcome at Hope UCC!*

PRELUDE *Spirit of Jesus, if I Love My Neighbor* - Wren

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Come with joy and gladness to praise and honor God. Come to the refreshing waters that God provides.

Many: God is gracious and merciful and full of compassion. All creation joins us in giving thanks.

One: Give ear, all people, to the law of God. Give thanks for all the guidance God gives us.

Many: God upholds all who are falling. God raises us up when we are bowed down.

One: Come, all who are weary and carrying heavy burdens. Come, for Christ has promised rest.

Many: The gentle spirit of Christ invites us. We have come to find rest for our souls.

OPENING HYMN *Shall We Gather at the River* (Hanson Place)

INVITING GOD INTO OUR MIDST

We come together, gracious God, because we have heard your invitation. We sense that you alone know the burdens we carry. You understand our weariness. Sometimes our journey seems long and without respite. We long for the refreshment you provide as we come to worship you. The anticipation of this hour of rest and nourishment fills us with renewed joy and gladness. We thank you, God, that your revelation comes to us, not because we are worthy, but because we are open to your word. Open our hearts to receive all you offer. Amen

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God, we do not understand our own actions. We turn away from the good we are intent on doing. Yet, we find wisdom in your law. We delight in the idea of mutual caring and celebrating life together, but we get bogged down in our own concerns. We are too busy to seek community and too preoccupied to ponder your will for us. We go our own way, cutting ourselves off from you and one another. O God, help us to put away this sin. Amen

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS AND PASSING OF PEACE

We are created in the image of God and are blessed with the capacity to reflect God's will in our daily lives. God cares for us and invests us with responsibility. Thus God honors us with high expectations and confidence in our willingness to seek out life's best for all people. We are loved. We are forgiven. Our baptism is renewed.

Let us offer one another the gift of peace. May the Lord's peace be with you!

(If you are using this liturgy as a private devotion or participating in the live stream worship, please hold out your hands in blessing for all you are joined with in spirit. If you are participating in the live stream worship, please type in your peace greeting.)

PASTORAL PRAYER/LORD'S PRAYER (debts)

One: May the Lord be with you.

Many: And also with you.

One: Let us pray:

...

With the assurance Jesus offers, together we pray the words Jesus taught us:

Our Father, who is in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your 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 yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON

Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67

³⁴So he said, "I am Abraham's servant. ³⁵The LORD has greatly blessed my master, and he has become wealthy; he has given him flocks and herds, silver and gold, male and female slaves, camels and donkeys. ³⁶And Sarah my master's wife bore a son to my master when she was old; and he has given him all that he has. ³⁷My master made me swear, saying, 'You shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I live; ³⁸but you shall go to my father's house, to my kindred, and get a wife for my son.'

⁴²"I came today to the spring, and said, 'O LORD, the God of my master Abraham, if now you will only make successful the way I am going! ⁴³I am standing here by the spring of water; let the young woman who comes out to draw, to whom I shall say, "Please give me a little water from your jar to drink," ⁴⁴and who will say to me, "Drink, and I will draw for your camels also"—let her be the woman whom the LORD has appointed for my master's son.'

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“May you, our sister, become
thousands of myriads;
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NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Matthew 11:16-19. 25-30

¹⁶“But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,

¹⁷ ‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;
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²⁸“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

SERMON

INVITATION TO OFFERING

God has greatly blessed us with many kinds of wealth. Let our joy and gladness overflow as we express gratitude to God with our offerings. As we support the ministries of the church, let us consider those whose lives are grievously burdened, reaching out to them in practical acts of mercy.

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(Please use whatever elements you have available for the bread and the cup)

Welcome

One: God be with you.

Many: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

Many: We lift them to God.

One: Let us give thanks to God Most High.

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Take and drink, the cup of blessing.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our savior. Amen

CLOSING HYMN *In the Midst of New Dimensions* (New Dimensions)

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BENEDICTION

One: Carry with you innermost selves, delight in God's law. Meditate day by day on God's purpose for your lives.

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POSTLUDE *Gavotte* - Wesley

Shall We Gather at the River

597

Robert Lowry, 1864; alt.

Rev. 22:1-5

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 3 As we reach the shin - ing riv - er, lay we ev - ery bur - den down;
 4 Soon we'll reach the shin - ing riv - er, soon our pil - grim - age will cease;

with its crys - tal tide for - ev - er flow - ing by the throne of God?
 we will walk and wor - ship ev - er, all the hap - py gold - en day.
 grace our spir - its will de - liv - er, and pro - vide a robe and crown.
 soon our hap - py hearts will quiv - er with the mel - o - dy of peace.

Refrain

Yes, we'll gath - er at the riv - er, the beau - ti - ful, the beau - ti - ful riv - er,

Gath - er with the saints at the riv - er that flows by the throne of God.

Written during a time when an epidemic was claiming many lives in New York, Robert Lowry's hymn raised the question "Shall we meet again?" Lowry was pastor at Hanson Place Baptist Church in Brooklyn from 1861 to 1869, and collaborated on numerous hymn collections with William H. Doane.

Tune: HANSON PLACE 8.7.8.7, with refrain
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Julian Rush, 1985; alt.

Gen. 9:12-16; Exod. 13:21-22; Num. 14:14

C C/B F C F Am7 Dm7 G7sus4 G7

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 Who will lift the ol-ive branch-es? Who will light the flame of care?
 Grant that we, your glob-al vil-lage, might en-vi-sion wid-er dreams.
 Each a gift in your cre-a-tion, each a love song to be sung.
 May your blaz-ing phoe-nix spir-it res-ur-rect the church a-gain.

Refrain
 Am Em F C F C G7 C Dsus4 D7 G7sus4 G7 Am

God of rain-bow, fier-y pil-lar, lead-ing where the ea-gles soar, We your

Em F C F C/E F C/E F C/E Dm7 G7 C

peo-ple, ours the jour-ney now and ev-er, now and ev-er, now and ev-er - more.

Julian Rush, an ordained minister in the United Methodist Church, has spent more than a decade as director of the Colorado AIDS Project. He wrote this hymn on the theme of "diversity" for a meeting of the Rocky Mountain Conference (United Methodist).

Tune: NEW DIMENSIONS 8.7.8.7. with refrain
 Julian Rush, 1985
 Arr. The New Century Hymnal, 1994



Hanoi Street Vendor:
Photo by Fabian Irsara

Hope United Church of Christ Moline, IL
Worship Bulletin July 5, 2020
Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

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*No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey,
you are welcome at Hope UCC!*

PRELUDE *Spirit of Jesus, if I Love My Neighbor* - Wren

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Come with joy and gladness to praise and honor God. Come to the refreshing waters that God provides.

Many: God is gracious and merciful and full of compassion. All creation joins us in giving thanks.

One: Give ear, all people, to the law of God. Give thanks for all the guidance God gives us.

Many: God upholds all who are falling. God raises us up when we are bowed down.

One: Come, all who are weary and carrying heavy burdens. Come, for Christ has promised rest.

Many: The gentle spirit of Christ invites us. We have come to find rest for our souls.

OPENING HYMN *Shall We Gather at the River* (Hanson Place)

INVITING GOD INTO OUR MIDST

We come together, gracious God, because we have heard your invitation. We sense that you alone know the burdens we carry. You understand our weariness. Sometimes our journey seems long and without respite. We long for the refreshment you provide as we come to worship you. The anticipation of this hour of rest and nourishment fills us with renewed joy and gladness. We thank you, God, that your revelation comes to us, not because we are worthy, but because we are open to your word. Open our hearts to receive all you offer. Amen

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God, we do not understand our own actions. We turn away from the good we are intent on doing. Yet, we find wisdom in your law. We delight in the idea of mutual caring and celebrating life together, but we get bogged down in our own concerns. We are too busy to seek community and too preoccupied to ponder your will for us. We go our own way, cutting ourselves off from you and one another. O God, help us to put away this sin. Amen

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS AND PASSING OF PEACE

We are created in the image of God and are blessed with the capacity to reflect God's will in our daily lives. God cares for us and invests us with responsibility. Thus God honors us with high expectations and confidence in our willingness to seek out life's best for all people. We are loved. We are forgiven. Our baptism is renewed.

Let us offer one another the gift of peace. May the Lord's peace be with you!

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PASTORAL PRAYER/LORD'S PRAYER (debts)

One: May the Lord be with you.

Many: And also with you.

One: Let us pray:

...

With the assurance Jesus offers, together we pray the words Jesus taught us:

Our Father, who is in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your 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 yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON

Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67

³⁴So he said, "I am Abraham's servant. ³⁵The LORD has greatly blessed my master, and he has become wealthy; he has given him flocks and herds, silver and gold, male and female slaves, camels and donkeys. ³⁶And Sarah my master's wife bore a son to my master when she was old; and he has given him all that he has. ³⁷My master made me swear, saying, 'You shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I live; ³⁸but you shall go to my father's house, to my kindred, and get a wife for my son.'

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“May you, our sister, become
thousands of myriads;
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NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Matthew 11:16-19. 25-30

¹⁶“But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,

¹⁷ ‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;
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¹⁸For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; ¹⁹the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.”[£]

²⁵At that time Jesus said, “I thank[£] you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; ²⁶yes, Father, for such was your gracious will.[£] ²⁷All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

²⁸“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

SERMON

INVITATION TO OFFERING

God has greatly blessed us with many kinds of wealth. Let our joy and gladness overflow as we express gratitude to God with our offerings. As we support the ministries of the church, let us consider those whose lives are grievously burdened, reaching out to them in practical acts of mercy.

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website (www.hopeuccqc.org). We also invite you to mail your offering to the church office – mail and messages are checked daily by Pastor Santina. Thank you for your generosity- your commitment is vital to continuing our congregation's ministries and commitments. Hope Grows! And there is nothing- not even a global pandemic - that can stop it! ☺

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

With all the gifts of creation, you have blessed us, gracious God. We give thanks for all your works. Gratitude is our first impulse for giving. Accept our grateful hearts, along with our gifts. We ask for wisdom as our church determines priorities for the use of resources. May we be as concerned about outreach and mission as we are about programs for ourselves. As you are faithful to us, O God, may we be faithful in all things, seeking always to live by your gracious will. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

(Please use whatever elements you have available for the bread and the cup)

Welcome

One: God be with you.

Many: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

Many: We lift them to God.

One: Let us give thanks to God Most High.

Many: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Holy God, we praise and bless you for creation and for your abiding love which brings us close to you, the source of all blessing. We thank you for creating us in your own image, for forgiving us when we act as though you have no claim on us, and for keeping us in your steadfast care. We rejoice in Jesus Christ, who shared the joys and sorrows of life as we know it. We remember Christ's death, we celebrate Christ's resurrection, and, as your church, we anticipate Christ's return. We take courage from your Holy Spirit and we offer you our praise for our sisters, brothers, and siblings of faith in every age who stand as witnesses to your love and justice. Together with all the company of heaven, we glorify you:

Holy, holy, holy God of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God Most High. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God! Hosanna in the highest!

Remember

We remember that on the night of betrayal and desertion, Jesus took bread, gave you thanks, broke the bread, and gave it to the disciples, saying: "This is my body which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, Jesus also took the cup, after supper, saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." By eating this bread and drinking this cup, we proclaim Christ's death, celebrate Christ's resurrection, and await Christ's coming again.

Consecration

Let us pray: Gracious God, by your Holy Spirit, bless these gifts of bread and cup – each unique in their composition and location, and yet common through the Spirit that anoints these gifts. Bless us as we receive the bread and cup, that we will offer you our faith and praise, and that we will be united with Christ and with one another. Through this table of fellowship, make us the Body of Christ and may your Spirit strengthen us when we feel weak, warm us when we are cold-hearted, bend us when we are stubborn, move us when we are uncaring, guide us in the way of love. May we continue to be faithful in all things. As we eat and drink, may the elements be symbols that remind us who we are and whose we are. We ask all this in the name of the one who extends the invitation to us, your Son, Christ Jesus. Amen

Through the broken bread we participate in the body of Christ.

Through the cup of blessing we participate in the new life Christ gives.

Invitation & Sharing Holy Communion

This is the table, not of the church, but of Jesus Christ. It is made ready for those who love him and for those who want to love him more. All are welcome. Come to the table because it is Jesus Christ who invites you. It is his will that those who want him should meet him here. Please join this feast in the spirit of joy and gratitude. These are the gifts of God for the people of God. Come, for all things are ready.

Take and eat, Christ's body given for you.
Take and drink, the cup of blessing.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our savior. Amen

CLOSING HYMN *In the Midst of New Dimensions* (New Dimensions)

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BENEDICTION

One: Carry with you innermost selves, delight in God's law. Meditate day by day on God's purpose for your lives.

Many: We rejoice that God dwells with us every day. We want to know and do God's will for us.

One: We encounter God in unexpected places. God surprises us in the life and witness of people.

Many: We learn from the youngest in our midst. Simple and humble persons have much to teach us.

One: Take Christ's yoke upon you, for that yoke is easy. It imparts confidence that lightens our burdens.

Many: We will find rest and renewal through Christ. We seek to express the same humility and gentleness.

POSTLUDE *Gavotte* - Wesley

Shall We Gather at the River

597

Robert Lowry, 1864; alt.

Rev. 22:1-5

1 Shall we gath - er at the riv - er, where bright an - gel feet have trod,
 2 On the mar - gin of the riv - er, wash - ing up its sil - ver spray,
 3 As we reach the shin - ing riv - er, lay we ev - ery bur - den down;
 4 Soon we'll reach the shin - ing riv - er, soon our pil - grim - age will cease;

with its crys - tal tide for - ev - er flow - ing by the throne of God?
 we will walk and wor - ship ev - er, all the hap - py gold - en day.
 grace our spir - its will de - liv - er, and pro - vide a robe and crown.
 soon our hap - py hearts will quiv - er with the mel - o - dy of peace.

Refrain

Yes, we'll gath - er at the riv - er, the beau - ti - ful, the beau - ti - ful riv - er,

Gath - er with the saints at the riv - er that flows by the throne of God.

Written during a time when an epidemic was claiming many lives in New York, Robert Lowry's hymn raised the question "Shall we meet again?" Lowry was pastor at Hanson Place Baptist Church in Brooklyn from 1861 to 1869, and collaborated on numerous hymn collections with William H. Doane.

Tune: HANSON PLACE 8.7.8.7, with refrain
 Robert Lowry, 1864

In the Midst of New Dimensions

391

Julian Rush, 1985; alt.

Gen. 9:12-16; Exod. 13:21-22; Num. 14:14

C C/B F C F Am7 Dm7 G7sus4 G7

1 In the midst of new di-men-sions, in the face of chang-ing ways,
 2 Through the flood of starv-ing peo-ple, war-ring fac-tions and de-spair,
 3 As we stand a world di-vid-ed by our own self-seek-ing schemes,
 4 We are man and we are wom-an, all per-sua-sions, old and young,
 5 Should the threats of dire pre-dic-tions cause us to with-draw in pain,

C C/B F C F Am7 Dm7 G C

Who will lead the pil-grim peo-ples wan-dering in their sep-arate ways?
 Who will lift the ol-ive branch-es? Who will light the flame of care?
 Grant that we, your glob-al vil-lage, might en-vi-sion wid-er dreams.
 Each a gift in your cre-a-tion, each a love song to be sung.
 May your blaz-ing phoe-nix spir-it res-ur-rect the church a-gain.

Refrain
 Am Em F C F C G7 C Dsus4 D7 G7sus4 G7 Am

God of rain-bow, fier-y pil-lar, lead-ing where the ea-gles soar, We your

Em F C F C/E F C/E F C/E Dm7 G7 C

peo-ple, ours the jour-ney now and ev-er, now and ev-er, now and ev-er - more.

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³⁴So he said, "I am Abraham's servant. ³⁵The LORD has greatly blessed my master, and he has become wealthy; he has given him flocks and herds, silver and gold, male and female slaves, camels and donkeys. ³⁶And Sarah my master's wife bore a son to my master when she was old; and he has given him all that he has. ³⁷My master made me swear, saying, 'You shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I live; ³⁸but you shall go to my father's house, to my kindred, and get a wife for my son.'

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Matthew 11:16-19. 25-30

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BENEDICTION

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One: Take Christ's yoke upon you, for that yoke is easy. It imparts confidence that lightens our burdens.

Many: We will find rest and renewal through Christ. We seek to express the same humility and gentleness.

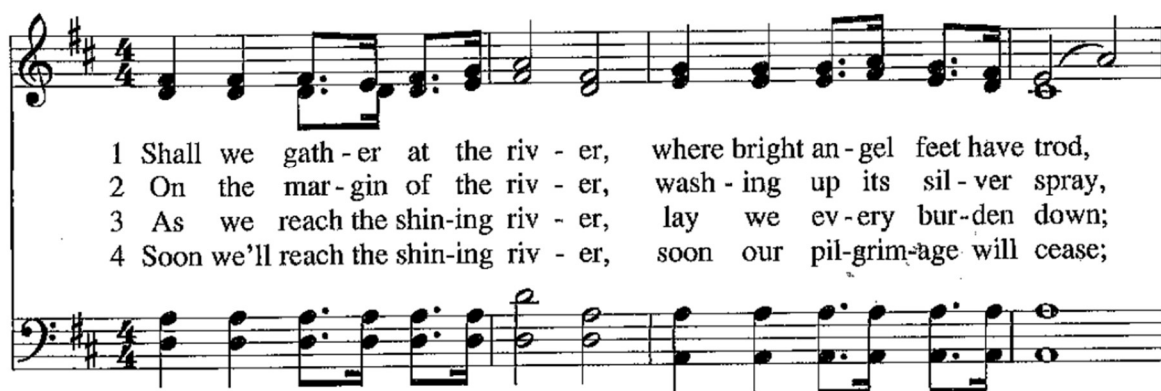
POSTLUDE *Gavotte* - Wesley

Shall We Gather at the River

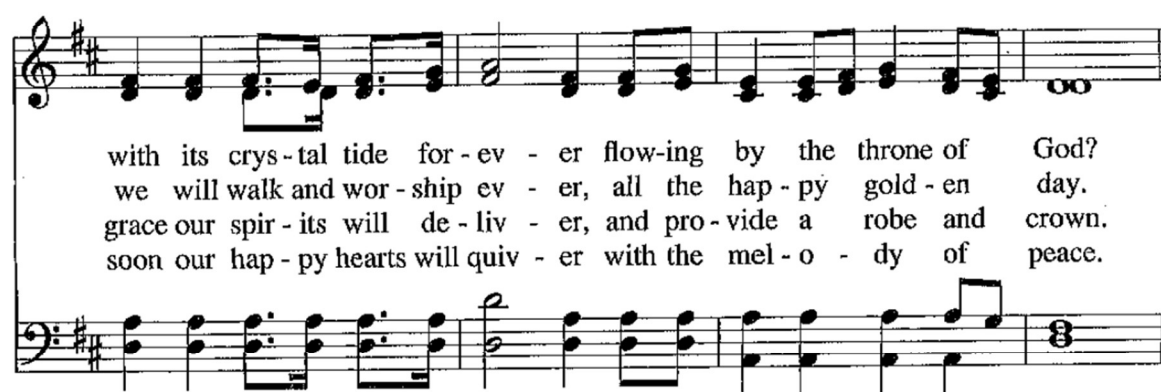
597

Robert Lowry, 1864; alt.

Rev. 22:1-5



1 Shall we gath-er at the riv-er, where bright an-gel feet have trod,
2 On the mar-gin of the riv-er, wash-ing up its sil-ver spray,
3 As we reach the shin-ing riv-er, lay we ev-ery bur-den down;
4 Soon we'll reach the shin-ing riv-er, soon our pil-grim-age will cease;

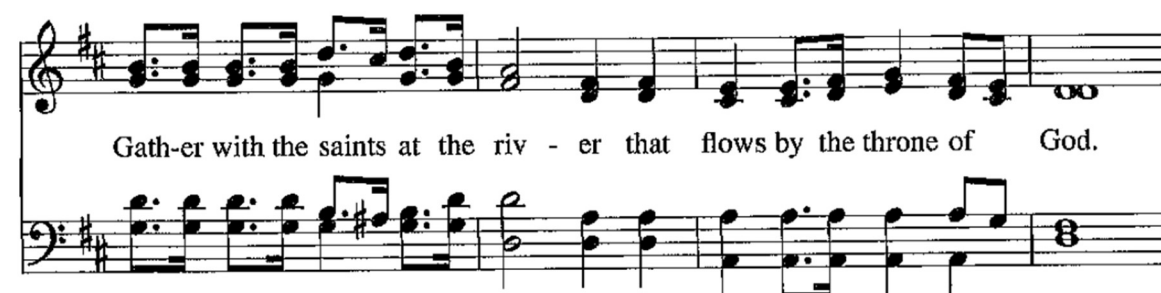


with its crys-tal tide for-ev-er flow-ing by the throne of God?
we will walk and wor-ship ev-er, all the hap-py gold-en day.
grace our spir-its will de-liv-er, and pro-vide a robe and crown.
soon our hap-py hearts will quiv-er with the mel-o-dy of peace.

Refrain



Yes, we'll gath-er at the riv-er, the beau-ti-ful, the beau-ti-ful riv-er,



Gath-er with the saints at the riv-er that flows by the throne of God.

Written during a time when an epidemic was claiming many lives in New York, Robert Lowry's hymn raised the question "Shall we meet again?" Lowry was pastor at Hanson Place Baptist Church in Brooklyn from 1861 to 1869, and collaborated on numerous hymn collections with William H. Doane.

Tune: HANSON PLACE 8.7.8.7, with refrain
Robert Lowry, 1864

In the Midst of New Dimensions

391

Julian Rush, 1985; alt.

Gen. 9:12-16; Exod. 13:21-22; Num. 14:14

C C/B F C F Am7 Dm7 G7sus4 G7

1 In the midst of new di-men-sions, in the face of chang-ing ways,
 2 Through the flood of starv-ing peo-ple, war-ring fac-tions and de-spair,
 3 As we stand a world di-vid-ed by our own self-seek-ing schemes,
 4 We are man and we are wom-an, all per-sua-sions, old and young,
 5 Should the threats of dire pre-dic-tions cause us to with-draw in pain,

C C/B F C F Am7 Dm7 G C

Who will lead the pil-grim peo-les wan-dering in their sep-a-rate ways?
 Who will lift the ol-ive branch-es? Who will light the flame of care?
 Grant that we, your glob-al vil-lage, might en-vi-sion wid-er dreams.
 Each a gift in your cre-a-tion, each a love song to be sung.
 May your blaz-ing phoe-nix spir-it res-ur-rect the church a-gain.

Refrain
 Am Em F C F C G7 C Dsus4 D7 G7sus4 G7 Am

God of rain-bow, fier-y pil-lar, lead-ing where the ea-gles soar, We your

Em F C F C/E F C/E F C/E Dm7 G7 C

peo-ple, ours the jour-ney now and ev-er, now and ev-er, now and ev-er - more.

Julian Rush, an ordained minister in the United Methodist Church, has spent more than a decade as director of the Colorado AIDS Project. He wrote this hymn on the theme of "diversity" for a meeting of the Rocky Mountain Conference (United Methodist).

Tune: NEW DIMENSIONS 8.7.8.7. with refrain
 Julian Rush, 1985
 Arr. The New Century Hymnal, 1994



Hanoi Street Vendor:
Photo by Fabian Irsara

Hope United Church of Christ Moline, IL
Worship Bulletin July 5, 2020
Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Thank you for joining us for worship today.

We are glad you are here!

*No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey,
you are welcome at Hope UCC!*

PRELUDE *Spirit of Jesus, if I Love My Neighbor* - Wren

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Come with joy and gladness to praise and honor God. Come to the refreshing waters that God provides.

Many: God is gracious and merciful and full of compassion. All creation joins us in giving thanks.

One: Give ear, all people, to the law of God. Give thanks for all the guidance God gives us.

Many: God upholds all who are falling. God raises us up when we are bowed down.

One: Come, all who are weary and carrying heavy burdens. Come, for Christ has promised rest.

Many: The gentle spirit of Christ invites us. We have come to find rest for our souls.

OPENING HYMN *Shall We Gather at the River* (Hanson Place)

INVITING GOD INTO OUR MIDST

We come together, gracious God, because we have heard your invitation. We sense that you alone know the burdens we carry. You understand our weariness. Sometimes our journey seems long and without respite. We long for the refreshment you provide as we come to worship you. The anticipation of this hour of rest and nourishment fills us with renewed joy and gladness. We thank you, God, that your revelation comes to us, not because we are worthy, but because we are open to your word. Open our hearts to receive all you offer. Amen

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God, we do not understand our own actions. We turn away from the good we are intent on doing. Yet, we find wisdom in your law. We delight in the idea of mutual caring and celebrating life together, but we get bogged down in our own concerns. We are too busy to seek community and too preoccupied to ponder your will for us. We go our own way, cutting ourselves off from you and one another. O God, help us to put away this sin. Amen

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS AND PASSING OF PEACE

We are created in the image of God and are blessed with the capacity to reflect God's will in our daily lives. God cares for us and invests us with responsibility. Thus God honors us with high expectations and confidence in our willingness to seek out life's best for all people. We are loved. We are forgiven. Our baptism is renewed.

Let us offer one another the gift of peace. May the Lord's peace be with you!

(If you are using this liturgy as a private devotion or participating in the live stream worship, please hold out your hands in blessing for all you are joined with in spirit. If you are participating in the live stream worship, please type in your peace greeting.)

PASTORAL PRAYER/LORD'S PRAYER (debts)

One: May the Lord be with you.

Many: And also with you.

One: Let us pray:

...

With the assurance Jesus offers, together we pray the words Jesus taught us:

Our Father, who is in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your 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 yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON

Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67

³⁴So he said, "I am Abraham's servant. ³⁵The LORD has greatly blessed my master, and he has become wealthy; he has given him flocks and herds, silver and gold, male and female slaves, camels and donkeys. ³⁶And Sarah my master's wife bore a son to my master when she was old; and he has given him all that he has. ³⁷My master made me swear, saying, 'You shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I live; ³⁸but you shall go to my father's house, to my kindred, and get a wife for my son.'

⁴²"I came today to the spring, and said, 'O LORD, the God of my master Abraham, if now you will only make successful the way I am going! ⁴³I am standing here by the spring of water; let the young woman who comes out to draw, to whom I shall say, "Please give me a little water from your jar to drink," ⁴⁴and who will say to me, "Drink, and I will draw for your camels also"—let her be the woman whom the LORD has appointed for my master's son.'

⁴⁵"Before I had finished speaking in my heart, there was Rebekah coming out with her water jar on her shoulder; and she went down to the spring, and drew. I said to her, 'Please let me drink.' ⁴⁶She quickly let down her jar from her shoulder, and said, 'Drink, and I will also water your camels.' So I drank, and she also watered the camels. ⁴⁷Then I asked her, 'Whose daughter are you?' She said, 'The daughter of Bethuel, Nahor's son, whom Milcah bore to him.' So I put the ring on her nose, and the bracelets on her arms. ⁴⁸Then I bowed my head and worshiped the LORD, and blessed the LORD, the God of my master Abraham, who had led me by the right way to obtain the daughter of my master's kinsman for his son. ⁴⁹Now then, if you will deal loyally and truly with my master, tell me; and if not, tell me, so that I may turn either to the right hand or to the left."

⁵⁸And they called Rebekah, and said to her, “Will you go with this man?” She said, “I will.” ⁵⁹So they sent away their sister Rebekah and her nurse along with Abraham’s servant and his men. ⁶⁰And they blessed Rebekah and said to her,

“May you, our sister, become
thousands of myriads;
may your offspring gain possession
of the gates of their foes.”

⁶¹Then Rebekah and her maids rose up, mounted the camels, and followed the man; thus the servant took Rebekah, and went his way.

⁶²Now Isaac had come from[£] Beer-lahai-roi, and was settled in the Negeb. ⁶³Isaac went out in the evening to walk[£] in the field; and looking up, he saw camels coming. ⁶⁴And Rebekah looked up, and when she saw Isaac, she slipped quickly from the camel, ⁶⁵and said to the servant, “Who is the man over there, walking in the field to meet us?” The servant said, “It is my master.” So she took her veil and covered herself. ⁶⁶And the servant told Isaac all the things that he had done. ⁶⁷Then Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah’s tent. He took Rebekah, and she became his wife; and he loved her. So Isaac was comforted after his mother’s death.

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Matthew 11:16-19. 25-30

¹⁶“But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,

¹⁷ ‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;
we wailed, and you did not mourn.’

¹⁸For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; ¹⁹the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.”[£]

²⁵At that time Jesus said, “I thank[£] you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; ²⁶yes, Father, for such was your gracious will.[£] ²⁷All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

²⁸“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

SERMON

INVITATION TO OFFERING

God has greatly blessed us with many kinds of wealth. Let our joy and gladness overflow as we express gratitude to God with our offerings. As we support the ministries of the church, let us consider those whose lives are grievously burdened, reaching out to them in practical acts of mercy.

We are profoundly grateful for your continued support of Hope UCC as we stay connected as a faith community in this time of social distancing and spiritual connection. We are continuing the ministry of our church throughout this stay at home order and we thank you for making this possible. We now have two ways to make your offering. Hope UCC is now able to offer e-giving through Breeze Management System to make it safer and easier for you to give anytime. You are able to safely donate electronically using your credit card or ACH transfer. You can find the link on our church

website (www.hopeuccqc.org). We also invite you to mail your offering to the church office – mail and messages are checked daily by Pastor Santina. Thank you for your generosity- your commitment is vital to continuing our congregation's ministries and commitments. Hope Grows! And there is nothing- not even a global pandemic - that can stop it! ☺

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

With all the gifts of creation, you have blessed us, gracious God. We give thanks for all your works. Gratitude is our first impulse for giving. Accept our grateful hearts, along with our gifts. We ask for wisdom as our church determines priorities for the use of resources. May we be as concerned about outreach and mission as we are about programs for ourselves. As you are faithful to us, O God, may we be faithful in all things, seeking always to live by your gracious will. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

(Please use whatever elements you have available for the bread and the cup)

Welcome

One: God be with you.

Many: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

Many: We lift them to God.

One: Let us give thanks to God Most High.

Many: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Holy God, we praise and bless you for creation and for your abiding love which brings us close to you, the source of all blessing. We thank you for creating us in your own image, for forgiving us when we act as though you have no claim on us, and for keeping us in your steadfast care. We rejoice in Jesus Christ, who shared the joys and sorrows of life as we know it. We remember Christ's death, we celebrate Christ's resurrection, and, as your church, we anticipate Christ's return. We take courage from your Holy Spirit and we offer you our praise for our sisters, brothers, and siblings of faith in every age who stand as witnesses to your love and justice. Together with all the company of heaven, we glorify you:

Holy, holy, holy God of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God Most High. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God! Hosanna in the highest!

Remember

We remember that on the night of betrayal and desertion, Jesus took bread, gave you thanks, broke the bread, and gave it to the disciples, saying: "This is my body which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, Jesus also took the cup, after supper, saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." By eating this bread and drinking this cup, we proclaim Christ's death, celebrate Christ's resurrection, and await Christ's coming again.

Consecration

Let us pray: Gracious God, by your Holy Spirit, bless these gifts of bread and cup – each unique in their composition and location, and yet common through the Spirit that anoints these gifts. Bless us as we receive the bread and cup, that we will offer you our faith and praise, and that we will be united with Christ and with one another. Through this table of fellowship, make us the Body of Christ and may your Spirit strengthen us when we feel weak, warm us when we are cold-hearted, bend us when we are stubborn, move us when we are uncaring, guide us in the way of love. May we continue to be faithful in all things. As we eat and drink, may the elements be symbols that remind us who we are and whose we are. We ask all this in the name of the one who extends the invitation to us, your Son, Christ Jesus. Amen

Through the broken bread we participate in the body of Christ.

Through the cup of blessing we participate in the new life Christ gives.

Invitation & Sharing Holy Communion

This is the table, not of the church, but of Jesus Christ. It is made ready for those who love him and for those who want to love him more. All are welcome. Come to the table because it is Jesus Christ who invites you. It is his will that those who want him should meet him here. Please join this feast in the spirit of joy and gratitude. These are the gifts of God for the people of God. Come, for all things are ready.

Take and eat, Christ's body given for you.
Take and drink, the cup of blessing.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our savior. Amen

CLOSING HYMN *In the Midst of New Dimensions* (New Dimensions)

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BENEDICTION

One: Carry with you innermost selves, delight in God's law. Meditate day by day on God's purpose for your lives.

Many: We rejoice that God dwells with us every day. We want to know and do God's will for us.

One: We encounter God in unexpected places. God surprises us in the life and witness of people.

Many: We learn from the youngest in our midst. Simple and humble persons have much to teach us.

One: Take Christ's yoke upon you, for that yoke is easy. It imparts confidence that lightens our burdens.

Many: We will find rest and renewal through Christ. We seek to express the same humility and gentleness.

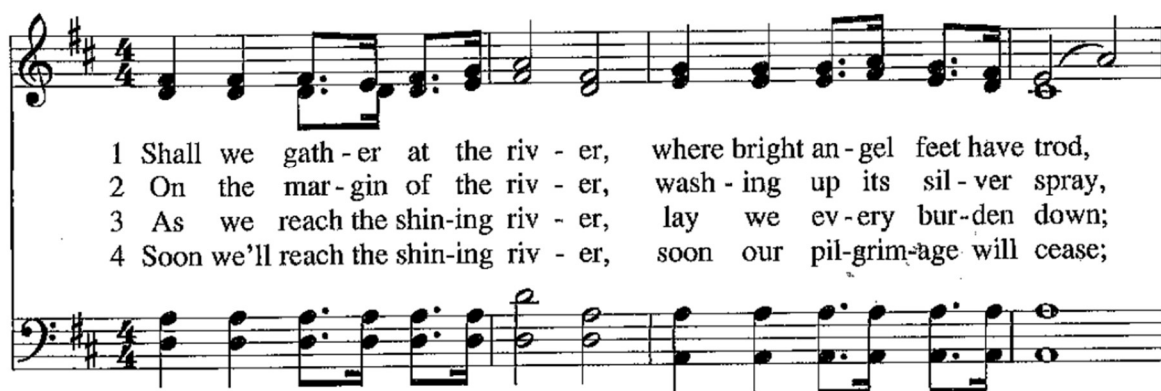
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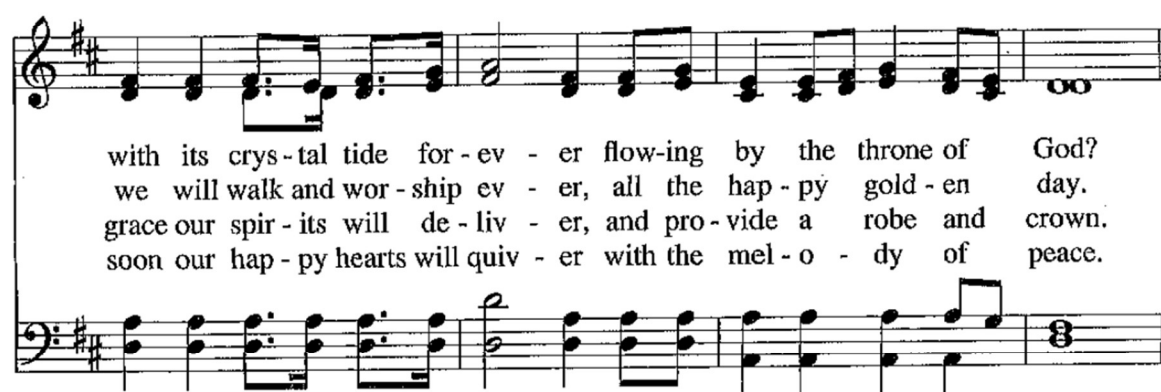
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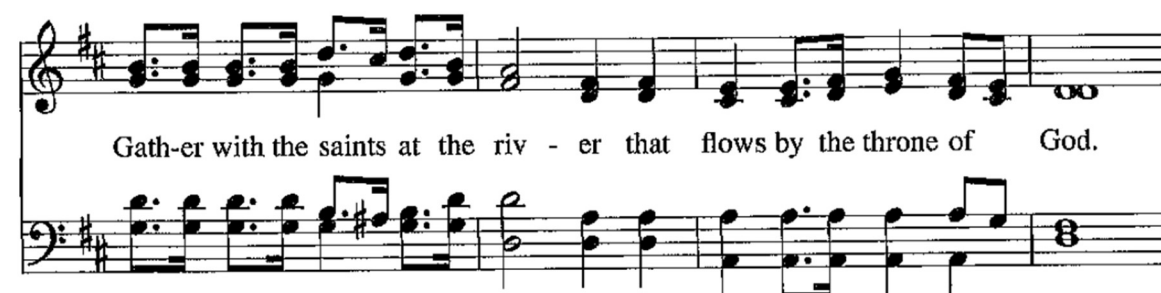


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grace our spir-its will de-liv-er, and pro-vide a robe and crown.
soon our hap-py hearts will quiv-er with the mel-o-dy of peace.

Refrain



Yes, we'll gath-er at the riv-er, the beau-ti-ful, the beau-ti-ful riv-er,



Gath-er with the saints at the riv-er that flows by the throne of God.

Written during a time when an epidemic was claiming many lives in New York, Robert Lowry's hymn raised the question "Shall we meet again?" Lowry was pastor at Hanson Place Baptist Church in Brooklyn from 1861 to 1869, and collaborated on numerous hymn collections with William H. Doane.

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Many: And also with you.

One: Let us pray:

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HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON

Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67

³⁴So he said, "I am Abraham's servant. ³⁵The LORD has greatly blessed my master, and he has become wealthy; he has given him flocks and herds, silver and gold, male and female slaves, camels and donkeys. ³⁶And Sarah my master's wife bore a son to my master when she was old; and he has given him all that he has. ³⁷My master made me swear, saying, 'You shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I live; ³⁸but you shall go to my father's house, to my kindred, and get a wife for my son.'

⁴²"I came today to the spring, and said, 'O LORD, the God of my master Abraham, if now you will only make successful the way I am going! ⁴³I am standing here by the spring of water; let the young woman who comes out to draw, to whom I shall say, "Please give me a little water from your jar to drink," ⁴⁴and who will say to me, "Drink, and I will draw for your camels also"—let her be the woman whom the LORD has appointed for my master's son.'

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thousands of myriads;
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NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Matthew 11:16-19. 25-30

¹⁶“But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,

¹⁷ ‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;
we wailed, and you did not mourn.’

¹⁸For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; ¹⁹the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.”[£]

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website (www.hopeuccqc.org). We also invite you to mail your offering to the church office – mail and messages are checked daily by Pastor Santina. Thank you for your generosity- your commitment is vital to continuing our congregation's ministries and commitments. Hope Grows! And there is nothing- not even a global pandemic - that can stop it! ☺

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

With all the gifts of creation, you have blessed us, gracious God. We give thanks for all your works. Gratitude is our first impulse for giving. Accept our grateful hearts, along with our gifts. We ask for wisdom as our church determines priorities for the use of resources. May we be as concerned about outreach and mission as we are about programs for ourselves. As you are faithful to us, O God, may we be faithful in all things, seeking always to live by your gracious will. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

(Please use whatever elements you have available for the bread and the cup)

Welcome

One: God be with you.

Many: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

Many: We lift them to God.

One: Let us give thanks to God Most High.

Many: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Holy God, we praise and bless you for creation and for your abiding love which brings us close to you, the source of all blessing. We thank you for creating us in your own image, for forgiving us when we act as though you have no claim on us, and for keeping us in your steadfast care. We rejoice in Jesus Christ, who shared the joys and sorrows of life as we know it. We remember Christ's death, we celebrate Christ's resurrection, and, as your church, we anticipate Christ's return. We take courage from your Holy Spirit and we offer you our praise for our sisters, brothers, and siblings of faith in every age who stand as witnesses to your love and justice. Together with all the company of heaven, we glorify you:

Holy, holy, holy God of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God Most High. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God! Hosanna in the highest!

Remember

We remember that on the night of betrayal and desertion, Jesus took bread, gave you thanks, broke the bread, and gave it to the disciples, saying: "This is my body which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, Jesus also took the cup, after supper, saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." By eating this bread and drinking this cup, we proclaim Christ's death, celebrate Christ's resurrection, and await Christ's coming again.

Consecration

Let us pray: Gracious God, by your Holy Spirit, bless these gifts of bread and cup – each unique in their composition and location, and yet common through the Spirit that anoints these gifts. Bless us as we receive the bread and cup, that we will offer you our faith and praise, and that we will be united with Christ and with one another. Through this table of fellowship, make us the Body of Christ and may your Spirit strengthen us when we feel weak, warm us when we are cold-hearted, bend us when we are stubborn, move us when we are uncaring, guide us in the way of love. May we continue to be faithful in all things. As we eat and drink, may the elements be symbols that remind us who we are and whose we are. We ask all this in the name of the one who extends the invitation to us, your Son, Christ Jesus. Amen

Through the broken bread we participate in the body of Christ.

Through the cup of blessing we participate in the new life Christ gives.

Invitation & Sharing Holy Communion

This is the table, not of the church, but of Jesus Christ. It is made ready for those who love him and for those who want to love him more. All are welcome. Come to the table because it is Jesus Christ who invites you. It is his will that those who want him should meet him here. Please join this feast in the spirit of joy and gratitude. These are the gifts of God for the people of God. Come, for all things are ready.

Take and eat, Christ's body given for you.
Take and drink, the cup of blessing.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our savior. Amen

CLOSING HYMN *In the Midst of New Dimensions* (New Dimensions)

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BENEDICTION

One: Carry with you innermost selves, delight in God's law. Meditate day by day on God's purpose for your lives.

Many: We rejoice that God dwells with us every day. We want to know and do God's will for us.

One: We encounter God in unexpected places. God surprises us in the life and witness of people.

Many: We learn from the youngest in our midst. Simple and humble persons have much to teach us.

One: Take Christ's yoke upon you, for that yoke is easy. It imparts confidence that lightens our burdens.

Many: We will find rest and renewal through Christ. We seek to express the same humility and gentleness.

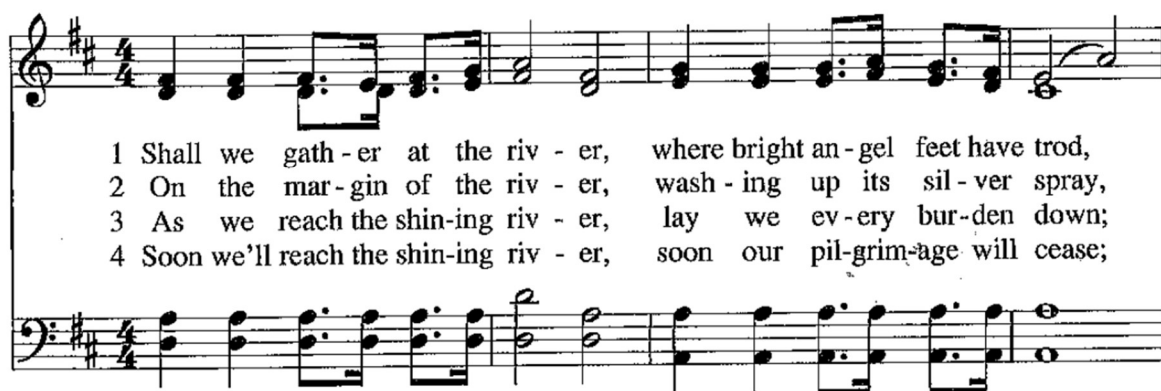
POSTLUDE *Gavotte* - Wesley

Shall We Gather at the River

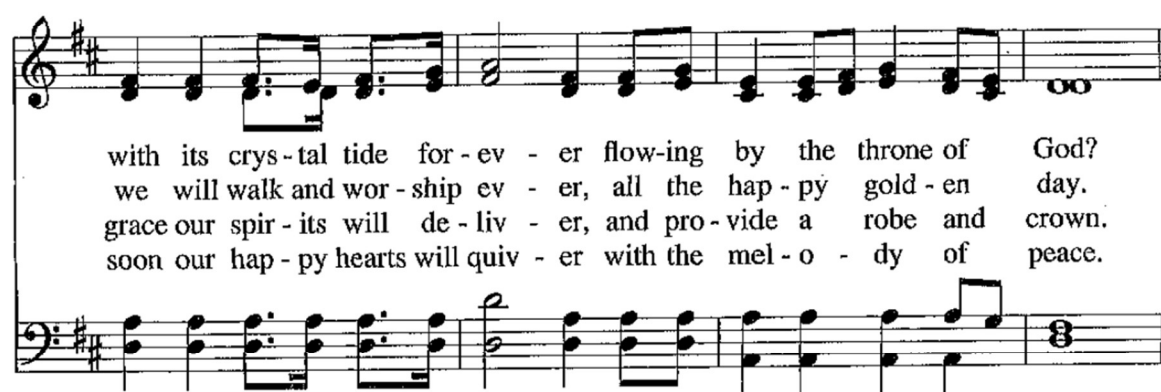
597

Robert Lowry, 1864; alt.

Rev. 22:1-5



1 Shall we gath-er at the riv-er, where bright an-gel feet have trod,
2 On the mar-gin of the riv-er, wash-ing up its sil-ver spray,
3 As we reach the shin-ing riv-er, lay we ev-ery bur-den down;
4 Soon we'll reach the shin-ing riv-er, soon our pil-grim-age will cease;

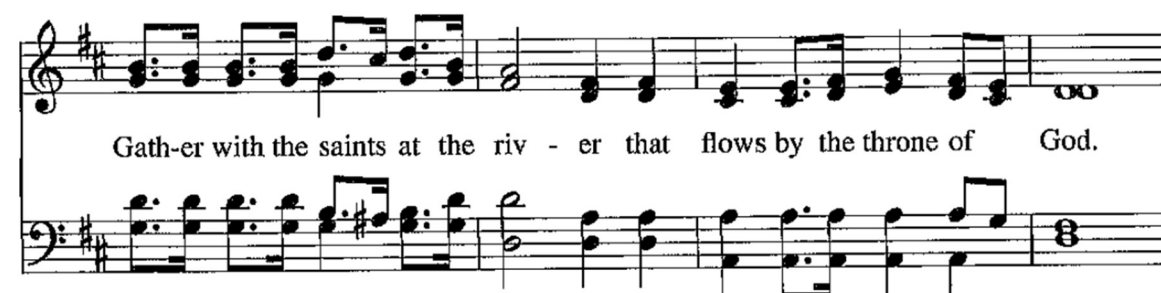


with its crys-tal tide for-ev-er flow-ing by the throne of God?
we will walk and wor-ship ev-er, all the hap-py gold-en day.
grace our spir-its will de-liv-er, and pro-vide a robe and crown.
soon our hap-py hearts will quiv-er with the mel-o-dy of peace.

Refrain



Yes, we'll gath-er at the riv-er, the beau-ti-ful, the beau-ti-ful riv-er,



Gath-er with the saints at the riv-er that flows by the throne of God.

Written during a time when an epidemic was claiming many lives in New York, Robert Lowry's hymn raised the question "Shall we meet again?" Lowry was pastor at Hanson Place Baptist Church in Brooklyn from 1861 to 1869, and collaborated on numerous hymn collections with William H. Doane.

Tune: HANSON PLACE 8.7.8.7, with refrain
Robert Lowry, 1864

In the Midst of New Dimensions

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Julian Rush, 1985; alt.

Gen. 9:12-16; Exod. 13:21-22; Num. 14:14

C C/B F C F Am7 Dm7 G7sus4 G7

1 In the midst of new di-men-sions, in the face of chang-ing ways,
 2 Through the flood of starv-ing peo-ple, war-ring fac-tions and de-spair,
 3 As we stand a world di-vid-ed by our own self-seek-ing schemes,
 4 We are man and we are wom-an, all per-sua-sions, old and young,
 5 Should the threats of dire pre-dic-tions cause us to with-draw in pain,

C C/B F C F Am7 Dm7 G C

Who will lead the pil-grim peo-les wan-dering in their sep-a-rate ways?
 Who will lift the ol-ive branch-es? Who will light the flame of care?
 Grant that we, your glob-al vil-lage, might en-vi-sion wid-er dreams.
 Each a gift in your cre-a-tion, each a love song to be sung.
 May your blaz-ing phoe-nix spir-it res-ur-rect the church a-gain.

Refrain
 Am Em F C F C G7 C Dsus4 D7 G7sus4 G7 Am

God of rain-bow, fier-y pil-lar, lead-ing where the ea-gles soar, We your

Em F C F C/E F C/E F C/E Dm7 G7 C

peo-ple, ours the jour-ney now and ev-er, now and ev-er, now and ev-er - more.

Julian Rush, an ordained minister in the United Methodist Church, has spent more than a decade as director of the Colorado AIDS Project. He wrote this hymn on the theme of "diversity" for a meeting of the Rocky Mountain Conference (United Methodist).

Tune: NEW DIMENSIONS 8.7.8.7. with refrain
 Julian Rush, 1985
 Arr. The New Century Hymnal, 1994



Hanoi Street Vendor:
Photo by Fabian Irsara

Hope United Church of Christ Moline, IL
Worship Bulletin July 5, 2020
Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

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We are glad you are here!

*No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey,
you are welcome at Hope UCC!*

PRELUDE *Spirit of Jesus, if I Love My Neighbor* - Wren

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Come with joy and gladness to praise and honor God. Come to the refreshing waters that God provides.

Many: God is gracious and merciful and full of compassion. All creation joins us in giving thanks.

One: Give ear, all people, to the law of God. Give thanks for all the guidance God gives us.

Many: God upholds all who are falling. God raises us up when we are bowed down.

One: Come, all who are weary and carrying heavy burdens. Come, for Christ has promised rest.

Many: The gentle spirit of Christ invites us. We have come to find rest for our souls.

OPENING HYMN *Shall We Gather at the River* (Hanson Place)

INVITING GOD INTO OUR MIDST

We come together, gracious God, because we have heard your invitation. We sense that you alone know the burdens we carry. You understand our weariness. Sometimes our journey seems long and without respite. We long for the refreshment you provide as we come to worship you. The anticipation of this hour of rest and nourishment fills us with renewed joy and gladness. We thank you, God, that your revelation comes to us, not because we are worthy, but because we are open to your word. Open our hearts to receive all you offer. Amen

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God, we do not understand our own actions. We turn away from the good we are intent on doing. Yet, we find wisdom in your law. We delight in the idea of mutual caring and celebrating life together, but we get bogged down in our own concerns. We are too busy to seek community and too preoccupied to ponder your will for us. We go our own way, cutting ourselves off from you and one another. O God, help us to put away this sin. Amen

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS AND PASSING OF PEACE

We are created in the image of God and are blessed with the capacity to reflect God's will in our daily lives. God cares for us and invests us with responsibility. Thus God honors us with high expectations and confidence in our willingness to seek out life's best for all people. We are loved. We are forgiven. Our baptism is renewed.

Let us offer one another the gift of peace. May the Lord's peace be with you!

(If you are using this liturgy as a private devotion or participating in the live stream worship, please hold out your hands in blessing for all you are joined with in spirit. If you are participating in the live stream worship, please type in your peace greeting.)

PASTORAL PRAYER/LORD'S PRAYER (debts)

One: May the Lord be with you.

Many: And also with you.

One: Let us pray:

...

With the assurance Jesus offers, together we pray the words Jesus taught us:

Our Father, who is in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your 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 yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON

Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67

³⁴So he said, "I am Abraham's servant. ³⁵The LORD has greatly blessed my master, and he has become wealthy; he has given him flocks and herds, silver and gold, male and female slaves, camels and donkeys. ³⁶And Sarah my master's wife bore a son to my master when she was old; and he has given him all that he has. ³⁷My master made me swear, saying, 'You shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I live; ³⁸but you shall go to my father's house, to my kindred, and get a wife for my son.'

⁴²"I came today to the spring, and said, 'O LORD, the God of my master Abraham, if now you will only make successful the way I am going! ⁴³I am standing here by the spring of water; let the young woman who comes out to draw, to whom I shall say, "Please give me a little water from your jar to drink," ⁴⁴and who will say to me, "Drink, and I will draw for your camels also"—let her be the woman whom the LORD has appointed for my master's son.'

⁴⁵"Before I had finished speaking in my heart, there was Rebekah coming out with her water jar on her shoulder; and she went down to the spring, and drew. I said to her, 'Please let me drink.' ⁴⁶She quickly let down her jar from her shoulder, and said, 'Drink, and I will also water your camels.' So I drank, and she also watered the camels. ⁴⁷Then I asked her, 'Whose daughter are you?' She said, 'The daughter of Bethuel, Nahor's son, whom Milcah bore to him.' So I put the ring on her nose, and the bracelets on her arms. ⁴⁸Then I bowed my head and worshiped the LORD, and blessed the LORD, the God of my master Abraham, who had led me by the right way to obtain the daughter of my master's kinsman for his son. ⁴⁹Now then, if you will deal loyally and truly with my master, tell me; and if not, tell me, so that I may turn either to the right hand or to the left."

⁵⁸And they called Rebekah, and said to her, “Will you go with this man?” She said, “I will.” ⁵⁹So they sent away their sister Rebekah and her nurse along with Abraham’s servant and his men. ⁶⁰And they blessed Rebekah and said to her,

“May you, our sister, become
thousands of myriads;
may your offspring gain possession
of the gates of their foes.”

⁶¹Then Rebekah and her maids rose up, mounted the camels, and followed the man; thus the servant took Rebekah, and went his way.

⁶²Now Isaac had come from[£] Beer-lahai-roi, and was settled in the Negeb. ⁶³Isaac went out in the evening to walk[£] in the field; and looking up, he saw camels coming. ⁶⁴And Rebekah looked up, and when she saw Isaac, she slipped quickly from the camel, ⁶⁵and said to the servant, “Who is the man over there, walking in the field to meet us?” The servant said, “It is my master.” So she took her veil and covered herself. ⁶⁶And the servant told Isaac all the things that he had done. ⁶⁷Then Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah’s tent. He took Rebekah, and she became his wife; and he loved her. So Isaac was comforted after his mother’s death.

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Matthew 11:16-19. 25-30

¹⁶“But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,

¹⁷ ‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;
we wailed, and you did not mourn.’

¹⁸For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; ¹⁹the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.”[£]

²⁵At that time Jesus said, “I thank[£] you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; ²⁶yes, Father, for such was your gracious will.[£] ²⁷All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

²⁸“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

SERMON

INVITATION TO OFFERING

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(Please use whatever elements you have available for the bread and the cup)

Welcome

One: God be with you.

Many: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

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One: Let us give thanks to God Most High.

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Remember

We remember that on the night of betrayal and desertion, Jesus took bread, gave you thanks, broke the bread, and gave it to the disciples, saying: "This is my body which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, Jesus also took the cup, after supper, saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." By eating this bread and drinking this cup, we proclaim Christ's death, celebrate Christ's resurrection, and await Christ's coming again.

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CLOSING HYMN *In the Midst of New Dimensions* (New Dimensions)

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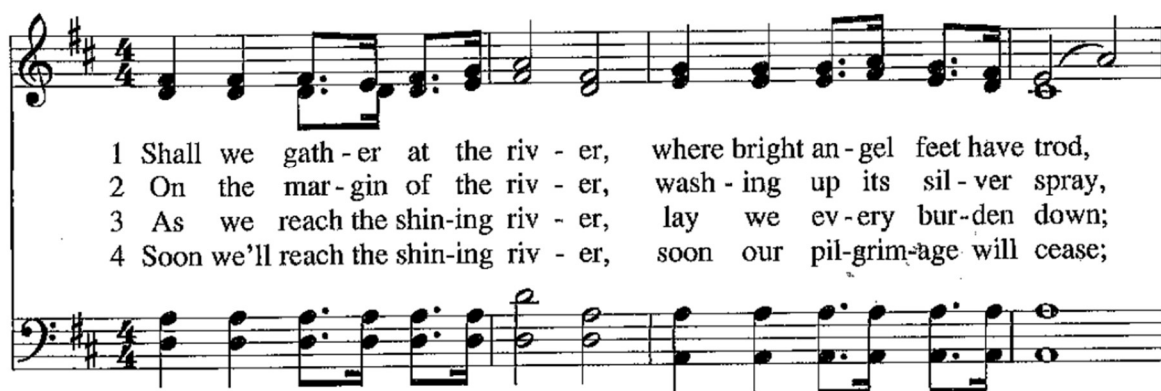
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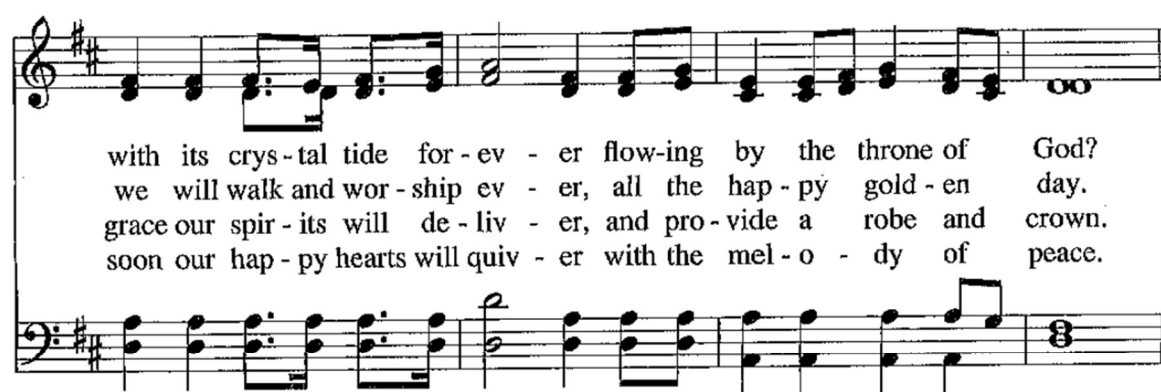
597

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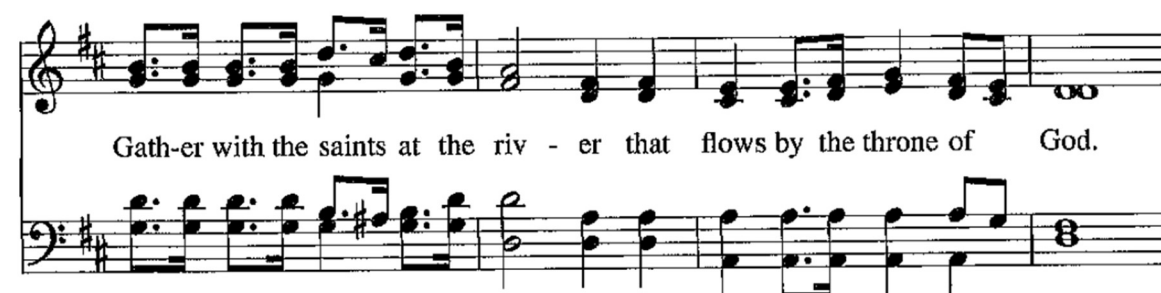


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Gath-er with the saints at the riv-er that flows by the throne of God.

Written during a time when an epidemic was claiming many lives in New York, Robert Lowry's hymn raised the question "Shall we meet again?" Lowry was pastor at Hanson Place Baptist Church in Brooklyn from 1861 to 1869, and collaborated on numerous hymn collections with William H. Doane.

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391

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Gen. 9:12-16; Exod. 13:21-22; Num. 14:14

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One: May the Lord be with you.

Many: And also with you.

One: Let us pray:

...

With the assurance Jesus offers, together we pray the words Jesus taught us:

Our Father, who is in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your 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 yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON

Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67

³⁴So he said, "I am Abraham's servant. ³⁵The LORD has greatly blessed my master, and he has become wealthy; he has given him flocks and herds, silver and gold, male and female slaves, camels and donkeys. ³⁶And Sarah my master's wife bore a son to my master when she was old; and he has given him all that he has. ³⁷My master made me swear, saying, 'You shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I live; ³⁸but you shall go to my father's house, to my kindred, and get a wife for my son.'

⁴²"I came today to the spring, and said, 'O LORD, the God of my master Abraham, if now you will only make successful the way I am going! ⁴³I am standing here by the spring of water; let the young woman who comes out to draw, to whom I shall say, "Please give me a little water from your jar to drink," ⁴⁴and who will say to me, "Drink, and I will draw for your camels also"—let her be the woman whom the LORD has appointed for my master's son.'

⁴⁵"Before I had finished speaking in my heart, there was Rebekah coming out with her water jar on her shoulder; and she went down to the spring, and drew. I said to her, 'Please let me drink.' ⁴⁶She quickly let down her jar from her shoulder, and said, 'Drink, and I will also water your camels.' So I drank, and she also watered the camels. ⁴⁷Then I asked her, 'Whose daughter are you?' She said, 'The daughter of Bethuel, Nahor's son, whom Milcah bore to him.' So I put the ring on her nose, and the bracelets on her arms. ⁴⁸Then I bowed my head and worshiped the LORD, and blessed the LORD, the God of my master Abraham, who had led me by the right way to obtain the daughter of my master's kinsman for his son. ⁴⁹Now then, if you will deal loyally and truly with my master, tell me; and if not, tell me, so that I may turn either to the right hand or to the left."

⁵⁸And they called Rebekah, and said to her, “Will you go with this man?” She said, “I will.” ⁵⁹So they sent away their sister Rebekah and her nurse along with Abraham’s servant and his men. ⁶⁰And they blessed Rebekah and said to her,

“May you, our sister, become
thousands of myriads;
may your offspring gain possession
of the gates of their foes.”

⁶¹Then Rebekah and her maids rose up, mounted the camels, and followed the man; thus the servant took Rebekah, and went his way.

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NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Matthew 11:16-19. 25-30

¹⁶“But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,

¹⁷ ‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;
we wailed, and you did not mourn.’

¹⁸For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; ¹⁹the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.”[£]

²⁵At that time Jesus said, “I thank[£] you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; ²⁶yes, Father, for such was your gracious will.[£] ²⁷All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

²⁸“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

SERMON

INVITATION TO OFFERING

God has greatly blessed us with many kinds of wealth. Let our joy and gladness overflow as we express gratitude to God with our offerings. As we support the ministries of the church, let us consider those whose lives are grievously burdened, reaching out to them in practical acts of mercy.

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website (www.hopeuccqc.org). We also invite you to mail your offering to the church office – mail and messages are checked daily by Pastor Santina. Thank you for your generosity- your commitment is vital to continuing our congregation's ministries and commitments. Hope Grows! And there is nothing- not even a global pandemic - that can stop it! ☺

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

With all the gifts of creation, you have blessed us, gracious God. We give thanks for all your works. Gratitude is our first impulse for giving. Accept our grateful hearts, along with our gifts. We ask for wisdom as our church determines priorities for the use of resources. May we be as concerned about outreach and mission as we are about programs for ourselves. As you are faithful to us, O God, may we be faithful in all things, seeking always to live by your gracious will. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

(Please use whatever elements you have available for the bread and the cup)

Welcome

One: God be with you.

Many: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

Many: We lift them to God.

One: Let us give thanks to God Most High.

Many: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Holy God, we praise and bless you for creation and for your abiding love which brings us close to you, the source of all blessing. We thank you for creating us in your own image, for forgiving us when we act as though you have no claim on us, and for keeping us in your steadfast care. We rejoice in Jesus Christ, who shared the joys and sorrows of life as we know it. We remember Christ's death, we celebrate Christ's resurrection, and, as your church, we anticipate Christ's return. We take courage from your Holy Spirit and we offer you our praise for our sisters, brothers, and siblings of faith in every age who stand as witnesses to your love and justice. Together with all the company of heaven, we glorify you:

Holy, holy, holy God of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God Most High. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God! Hosanna in the highest!

Remember

We remember that on the night of betrayal and desertion, Jesus took bread, gave you thanks, broke the bread, and gave it to the disciples, saying: "This is my body which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, Jesus also took the cup, after supper, saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." By eating this bread and drinking this cup, we proclaim Christ's death, celebrate Christ's resurrection, and await Christ's coming again.

Consecration

Let us pray: Gracious God, by your Holy Spirit, bless these gifts of bread and cup – each unique in their composition and location, and yet common through the Spirit that anoints these gifts. Bless us as we receive the bread and cup, that we will offer you our faith and praise, and that we will be united with Christ and with one another. Through this table of fellowship, make us the Body of Christ and may your Spirit strengthen us when we feel weak, warm us when we are cold-hearted, bend us when we are stubborn, move us when we are uncaring, guide us in the way of love. May we continue to be faithful in all things. As we eat and drink, may the elements be symbols that remind us who we are and whose we are. We ask all this in the name of the one who extends the invitation to us, your Son, Christ Jesus. Amen

Through the broken bread we participate in the body of Christ.

Through the cup of blessing we participate in the new life Christ gives.

Invitation & Sharing Holy Communion

This is the table, not of the church, but of Jesus Christ. It is made ready for those who love him and for those who want to love him more. All are welcome. Come to the table because it is Jesus Christ who invites you. It is his will that those who want him should meet him here. Please join this feast in the spirit of joy and gratitude. These are the gifts of God for the people of God. Come, for all things are ready.

Take and eat, Christ's body given for you.
Take and drink, the cup of blessing.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our savior. Amen

CLOSING HYMN *In the Midst of New Dimensions* (New Dimensions)

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BENEDICTION

One: Carry with you innermost selves, delight in God's law. Meditate day by day on God's purpose for your lives.

Many: We rejoice that God dwells with us every day. We want to know and do God's will for us.

One: We encounter God in unexpected places. God surprises us in the life and witness of people.

Many: We learn from the youngest in our midst. Simple and humble persons have much to teach us.

One: Take Christ's yoke upon you, for that yoke is easy. It imparts confidence that lightens our burdens.

Many: We will find rest and renewal through Christ. We seek to express the same humility and gentleness.

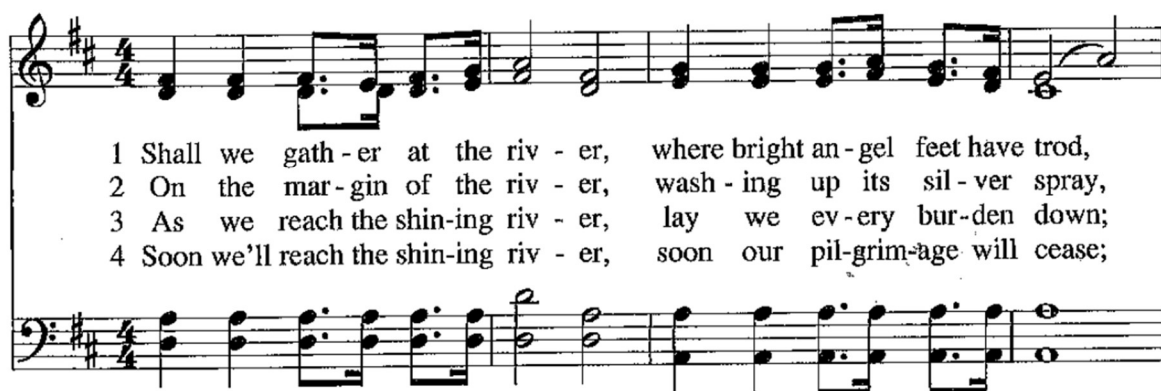
POSTLUDE *Gavotte* - Wesley

Shall We Gather at the River

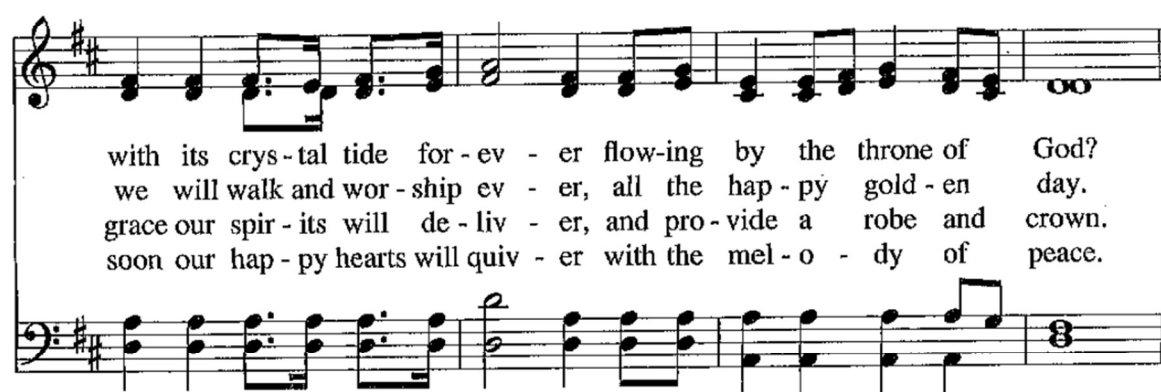
597

Robert Lowry, 1864; alt.

Rev. 22:1-5



1 Shall we gath-er at the riv-er, where bright an-gel feet have trod,
2 On the mar-gin of the riv-er, wash-ing up its sil-ver spray,
3 As we reach the shin-ing riv-er, lay we ev-ery bur-den down;
4 Soon we'll reach the shin-ing riv-er, soon our pil-grim-age will cease;

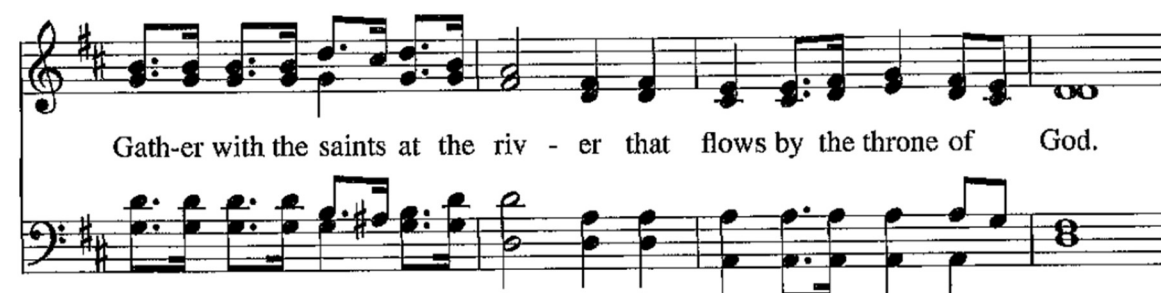


with its crys-tal tide for-ev-er flow-ing by the throne of God?
we will walk and wor-ship ev-er, all the hap-py gold-en day.
grace our spir-its will de-liv-er, and pro-vide a robe and crown.
soon our hap-py hearts will quiv-er with the mel-o-dy of peace.

Refrain



Yes, we'll gath-er at the riv-er, the beau-ti-ful, the beau-ti-ful riv-er,



Gath-er with the saints at the riv-er that flows by the throne of God.

Written during a time when an epidemic was claiming many lives in New York, Robert Lowry's hymn raised the question "Shall we meet again?" Lowry was pastor at Hanson Place Baptist Church in Brooklyn from 1861 to 1869, and collaborated on numerous hymn collections with William H. Doane.

Tune: HANSON PLACE 8.7.8.7, with refrain
Robert Lowry, 1864

In the Midst of New Dimensions

391

Julian Rush, 1985; alt.

Gen. 9:12-16; Exod. 13:21-22; Num. 14:14

C C/B F C F Am7 Dm7 G7sus4 G7

1 In the midst of new di-men-sions, in the face of chang-ing ways,
 2 Through the flood of starv-ing peo-ple, war-ring fac-tions and de-spair,
 3 As we stand a world di-vid-ed by our own self-seek-ing schemes,
 4 We are man and we are wom-an, all per-sua-sions, old and young,
 5 Should the threats of dire pre-dic-tions cause us to with-draw in pain,

C C/B F C F Am7 Dm7 G C

Who will lead the pil-grim peo-les wan-dering in their sep-a-rate ways?
 Who will lift the ol-ive branch-es? Who will light the flame of care?
 Grant that we, your glob-al vil-lage, might en-vi-sion wid-er dreams.
 Each a gift in your cre-a-tion, each a love song to be sung.
 May your blaz-ing phoe-nix spir-it res-ur-rect the church a-gain.

Refrain
 Am Em F C F C G7 C Dsus4 D7 G7sus4 G7 Am

God of rain-bow, fier-y pil-lar, lead-ing where the ea-gles soar, We your

Em F C F C/E F C/E F C/E Dm7 G7 C

peo-ple, ours the jour-ney now and ev-er, now and ev-er, now and ev-er - more.

Julian Rush, an ordained minister in the United Methodist Church, has spent more than a decade as director of the Colorado AIDS Project. He wrote this hymn on the theme of "diversity" for a meeting of the Rocky Mountain Conference (United Methodist).

Tune: NEW DIMENSIONS 8.7.8.7. with refrain
 Julian Rush, 1985
 Arr. The New Century Hymnal, 1994



Hanoi Street Vendor:
Photo by Fabian Irsara

Hope United Church of Christ Moline, IL
Worship Bulletin July 5, 2020
Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Thank you for joining us for worship today.

We are glad you are here!

*No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey,
you are welcome at Hope UCC!*

PRELUDE *Spirit of Jesus, if I Love My Neighbor* - Wren

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Come with joy and gladness to praise and honor God. Come to the refreshing waters that God provides.

Many: God is gracious and merciful and full of compassion. All creation joins us in giving thanks.

One: Give ear, all people, to the law of God. Give thanks for all the guidance God gives us.

Many: God upholds all who are falling. God raises us up when we are bowed down.

One: Come, all who are weary and carrying heavy burdens. Come, for Christ has promised rest.

Many: The gentle spirit of Christ invites us. We have come to find rest for our souls.

OPENING HYMN *Shall We Gather at the River* (Hanson Place)

INVITING GOD INTO OUR MIDST

We come together, gracious God, because we have heard your invitation. We sense that you alone know the burdens we carry. You understand our weariness. Sometimes our journey seems long and without respite. We long for the refreshment you provide as we come to worship you. The anticipation of this hour of rest and nourishment fills us with renewed joy and gladness. We thank you, God, that your revelation comes to us, not because we are worthy, but because we are open to your word. Open our hearts to receive all you offer. Amen

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God, we do not understand our own actions. We turn away from the good we are intent on doing. Yet, we find wisdom in your law. We delight in the idea of mutual caring and celebrating life together, but we get bogged down in our own concerns. We are too busy to seek community and too preoccupied to ponder your will for us. We go our own way, cutting ourselves off from you and one another. O God, help us to put away this sin. Amen

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS AND PASSING OF PEACE

We are created in the image of God and are blessed with the capacity to reflect God's will in our daily lives. God cares for us and invests us with responsibility. Thus God honors us with high expectations and confidence in our willingness to seek out life's best for all people. We are loved. We are forgiven. Our baptism is renewed.

Let us offer one another the gift of peace. May the Lord's peace be with you!

(If you are using this liturgy as a private devotion or participating in the live stream worship, please hold out your hands in blessing for all you are joined with in spirit. If you are participating in the live stream worship, please type in your peace greeting.)

PASTORAL PRAYER/LORD'S PRAYER (debts)

One: May the Lord be with you.

Many: And also with you.

One: Let us pray:

...

With the assurance Jesus offers, together we pray the words Jesus taught us:

Our Father, who is in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your 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 yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON

Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67

³⁴So he said, "I am Abraham's servant. ³⁵The LORD has greatly blessed my master, and he has become wealthy; he has given him flocks and herds, silver and gold, male and female slaves, camels and donkeys. ³⁶And Sarah my master's wife bore a son to my master when she was old; and he has given him all that he has. ³⁷My master made me swear, saying, 'You shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I live; ³⁸but you shall go to my father's house, to my kindred, and get a wife for my son.'

⁴²"I came today to the spring, and said, 'O LORD, the God of my master Abraham, if now you will only make successful the way I am going! ⁴³I am standing here by the spring of water; let the young woman who comes out to draw, to whom I shall say, "Please give me a little water from your jar to drink," ⁴⁴and who will say to me, "Drink, and I will draw for your camels also"—let her be the woman whom the LORD has appointed for my master's son.'

⁴⁵"Before I had finished speaking in my heart, there was Rebekah coming out with her water jar on her shoulder; and she went down to the spring, and drew. I said to her, 'Please let me drink.' ⁴⁶She quickly let down her jar from her shoulder, and said, 'Drink, and I will also water your camels.' So I drank, and she also watered the camels. ⁴⁷Then I asked her, 'Whose daughter are you?' She said, 'The daughter of Bethuel, Nahor's son, whom Milcah bore to him.' So I put the ring on her nose, and the bracelets on her arms. ⁴⁸Then I bowed my head and worshiped the LORD, and blessed the LORD, the God of my master Abraham, who had led me by the right way to obtain the daughter of my master's kinsman for his son. ⁴⁹Now then, if you will deal loyally and truly with my master, tell me; and if not, tell me, so that I may turn either to the right hand or to the left."

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“May you, our sister, become
thousands of myriads;
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NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Matthew 11:16-19. 25-30

¹⁶“But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,

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we wailed, and you did not mourn.’

¹⁸For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; ¹⁹the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.”[£]

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SERMON

INVITATION TO OFFERING

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(Please use whatever elements you have available for the bread and the cup)

Welcome

One: God be with you.

Many: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

Many: We lift them to God.

One: Let us give thanks to God Most High.

Many: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

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Remember

We remember that on the night of betrayal and desertion, Jesus took bread, gave you thanks, broke the bread, and gave it to the disciples, saying: "This is my body which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, Jesus also took the cup, after supper, saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." By eating this bread and drinking this cup, we proclaim Christ's death, celebrate Christ's resurrection, and await Christ's coming again.

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Take and drink, the cup of blessing.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our savior. Amen

CLOSING HYMN *In the Midst of New Dimensions* (New Dimensions)

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BENEDICTION

One: Carry with you innermost selves, delight in God's law. Meditate day by day on God's purpose for your lives.

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POSTLUDE *Gavotte* - Wesley

Shall We Gather at the River

597

Robert Lowry, 1864; alt.

Rev. 22:1-5

1 Shall we gath - er at the riv - er, where bright an - gel feet have trod,
 2 On the mar - gin of the riv - er, wash - ing up its sil - ver spray,
 3 As we reach the shin - ing riv - er, lay we ev - ery bur - den down;
 4 Soon we'll reach the shin - ing riv - er, soon our pil - grim - age will cease;

with its crys - tal tide for - ev - er flow - ing by the throne of God?
 we will walk and wor - ship ev - er, all the hap - py gold - en day.
 grace our spir - its will de - liv - er, and pro - vide a robe and crown.
 soon our hap - py hearts will quiv - er with the mel - o - dy of peace.

Refrain

Yes, we'll gath - er at the riv - er, the beau - ti - ful, the beau - ti - ful riv - er,

Gath - er with the saints at the riv - er that flows by the throne of God.

Written during a time when an epidemic was claiming many lives in New York, Robert Lowry's hymn raised the question "Shall we meet again?" Lowry was pastor at Hanson Place Baptist Church in Brooklyn from 1861 to 1869, and collaborated on numerous hymn collections with William H. Doane.

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In the Midst of New Dimensions

391

Julian Rush, 1985; alt.

Gen. 9:12-16; Exod. 13:21-22; Num. 14:14

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 4 We are man and we are wom-an, all per-sua-sions, old and young,
 5 Should the threats of dire pre-dic-tions cause us to with-draw in pain,

C C/B F C F Am7 Dm7 G C

Who will lead the pil-grim peo-les wan-dering in their sep-arate ways?
 Who will lift the ol-ive branch-es? Who will light the flame of care?
 Grant that we, your glob-al vil-lage, might en-vi-sion wid-er dreams.
 Each a gift in your cre-a-tion, each a love song to be sung.
 May your blaz-ing phoe-nix spir-it res-ur-rect the church a-gain.

Refrain
 Am Em F C F C G7 C Dsus4 D7 G7sus4 G7 Am

God of rain-bow, fier-y pil-lar, lead-ing where the ea-gles soar, We your

Em F C F C/E F C/E F C/E Dm7 G7 C

peo-ple, ours the jour-ney now and ev-er, now and ev-er, now and ev-er - more.

Julian Rush, an ordained minister in the United Methodist Church, has spent more than a decade as director of the Colorado AIDS Project. He wrote this hymn on the theme of "diversity" for a meeting of the Rocky Mountain Conference (United Methodist).

Tune: NEW DIMENSIONS 8.7.8.7. with refrain
 Julian Rush, 1985
 Arr. The New Century Hymnal, 1994



Hanoi Street Vendor:
Photo by Fabian Irsara

Hope United Church of Christ Moline, IL
Worship Bulletin July 5, 2020
Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

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*No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey,
you are welcome at Hope UCC!*

PRELUDE *Spirit of Jesus, if I Love My Neighbor* - Wren

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CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Come with joy and gladness to praise and honor God. Come to the refreshing waters that God provides.

Many: God is gracious and merciful and full of compassion. All creation joins us in giving thanks.

One: Give ear, all people, to the law of God. Give thanks for all the guidance God gives us.

Many: God upholds all who are falling. God raises us up when we are bowed down.

One: Come, all who are weary and carrying heavy burdens. Come, for Christ has promised rest.

Many: The gentle spirit of Christ invites us. We have come to find rest for our souls.

OPENING HYMN *Shall We Gather at the River* (Hanson Place)

INVITING GOD INTO OUR MIDST

We come together, gracious God, because we have heard your invitation. We sense that you alone know the burdens we carry. You understand our weariness. Sometimes our journey seems long and without respite. We long for the refreshment you provide as we come to worship you. The anticipation of this hour of rest and nourishment fills us with renewed joy and gladness. We thank you, God, that your revelation comes to us, not because we are worthy, but because we are open to your word. Open our hearts to receive all you offer. Amen

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God, we do not understand our own actions. We turn away from the good we are intent on doing. Yet, we find wisdom in your law. We delight in the idea of mutual caring and celebrating life together, but we get bogged down in our own concerns. We are too busy to seek community and too preoccupied to ponder your will for us. We go our own way, cutting ourselves off from you and one another. O God, help us to put away this sin. Amen

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS AND PASSING OF PEACE

We are created in the image of God and are blessed with the capacity to reflect God's will in our daily lives. God cares for us and invests us with responsibility. Thus God honors us with high expectations and confidence in our willingness to seek out life's best for all people. We are loved. We are forgiven. Our baptism is renewed.

Let us offer one another the gift of peace. May the Lord's peace be with you!

(If you are using this liturgy as a private devotion or participating in the live stream worship, please hold out your hands in blessing for all you are joined with in spirit. If you are participating in the live stream worship, please type in your peace greeting.)

PASTORAL PRAYER/LORD'S PRAYER (debts)

One: May the Lord be with you.

Many: And also with you.

One: Let us pray:

...

With the assurance Jesus offers, together we pray the words Jesus taught us:

Our Father, who is in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your 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 yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON

Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67

³⁴So he said, "I am Abraham's servant. ³⁵The LORD has greatly blessed my master, and he has become wealthy; he has given him flocks and herds, silver and gold, male and female slaves, camels and donkeys. ³⁶And Sarah my master's wife bore a son to my master when she was old; and he has given him all that he has. ³⁷My master made me swear, saying, 'You shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I live; ³⁸but you shall go to my father's house, to my kindred, and get a wife for my son.'

⁴²"I came today to the spring, and said, 'O LORD, the God of my master Abraham, if now you will only make successful the way I am going! ⁴³I am standing here by the spring of water; let the young woman who comes out to draw, to whom I shall say, "Please give me a little water from your jar to drink," ⁴⁴and who will say to me, "Drink, and I will draw for your camels also"—let her be the woman whom the LORD has appointed for my master's son.'

⁴⁵"Before I had finished speaking in my heart, there was Rebekah coming out with her water jar on her shoulder; and she went down to the spring, and drew. I said to her, 'Please let me drink.' ⁴⁶She quickly let down her jar from her shoulder, and said, 'Drink, and I will also water your camels.' So I drank, and she also watered the camels. ⁴⁷Then I asked her, 'Whose daughter are you?' She said, 'The daughter of Bethuel, Nahor's son, whom Milcah bore to him.' So I put the ring on her nose, and the bracelets on her arms. ⁴⁸Then I bowed my head and worshiped the LORD, and blessed the LORD, the God of my master Abraham, who had led me by the right way to obtain the daughter of my master's kinsman for his son. ⁴⁹Now then, if you will deal loyally and truly with my master, tell me; and if not, tell me, so that I may turn either to the right hand or to the left."

⁵⁸And they called Rebekah, and said to her, “Will you go with this man?” She said, “I will.” ⁵⁹So they sent away their sister Rebekah and her nurse along with Abraham’s servant and his men. ⁶⁰And they blessed Rebekah and said to her,

“May you, our sister, become
thousands of myriads;
may your offspring gain possession
of the gates of their foes.”

⁶¹Then Rebekah and her maids rose up, mounted the camels, and followed the man; thus the servant took Rebekah, and went his way.

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NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Matthew 11:16-19. 25-30

¹⁶“But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,

¹⁷ ‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;
we wailed, and you did not mourn.’

¹⁸For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; ¹⁹the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.”[£]

²⁵At that time Jesus said, “I thank[£] you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; ²⁶yes, Father, for such was your gracious will.[£] ²⁷All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

²⁸“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

SERMON

INVITATION TO OFFERING

God has greatly blessed us with many kinds of wealth. Let our joy and gladness overflow as we express gratitude to God with our offerings. As we support the ministries of the church, let us consider those whose lives are grievously burdened, reaching out to them in practical acts of mercy.

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website (www.hopeuccqc.org). We also invite you to mail your offering to the church office – mail and messages are checked daily by Pastor Santina. Thank you for your generosity- your commitment is vital to continuing our congregation's ministries and commitments. Hope Grows! And there is nothing- not even a global pandemic - that can stop it! ☺

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

With all the gifts of creation, you have blessed us, gracious God. We give thanks for all your works. Gratitude is our first impulse for giving. Accept our grateful hearts, along with our gifts. We ask for wisdom as our church determines priorities for the use of resources. May we be as concerned about outreach and mission as we are about programs for ourselves. As you are faithful to us, O God, may we be faithful in all things, seeking always to live by your gracious will. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

(Please use whatever elements you have available for the bread and the cup)

Welcome

One: God be with you.

Many: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

Many: We lift them to God.

One: Let us give thanks to God Most High.

Many: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Holy God, we praise and bless you for creation and for your abiding love which brings us close to you, the source of all blessing. We thank you for creating us in your own image, for forgiving us when we act as though you have no claim on us, and for keeping us in your steadfast care. We rejoice in Jesus Christ, who shared the joys and sorrows of life as we know it. We remember Christ's death, we celebrate Christ's resurrection, and, as your church, we anticipate Christ's return. We take courage from your Holy Spirit and we offer you our praise for our sisters, brothers, and siblings of faith in every age who stand as witnesses to your love and justice. Together with all the company of heaven, we glorify you:

Holy, holy, holy God of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God Most High. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God! Hosanna in the highest!

Remember

We remember that on the night of betrayal and desertion, Jesus took bread, gave you thanks, broke the bread, and gave it to the disciples, saying: "This is my body which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, Jesus also took the cup, after supper, saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." By eating this bread and drinking this cup, we proclaim Christ's death, celebrate Christ's resurrection, and await Christ's coming again.

Consecration

Let us pray: Gracious God, by your Holy Spirit, bless these gifts of bread and cup – each unique in their composition and location, and yet common through the Spirit that anoints these gifts. Bless us as we receive the bread and cup, that we will offer you our faith and praise, and that we will be united with Christ and with one another. Through this table of fellowship, make us the Body of Christ and may your Spirit strengthen us when we feel weak, warm us when we are cold-hearted, bend us when we are stubborn, move us when we are uncaring, guide us in the way of love. May we continue to be faithful in all things. As we eat and drink, may the elements be symbols that remind us who we are and whose we are. We ask all this in the name of the one who extends the invitation to us, your Son, Christ Jesus. Amen

Through the broken bread we participate in the body of Christ.

Through the cup of blessing we participate in the new life Christ gives.

Invitation & Sharing Holy Communion

This is the table, not of the church, but of Jesus Christ. It is made ready for those who love him and for those who want to love him more. All are welcome. Come to the table because it is Jesus Christ who invites you. It is his will that those who want him should meet him here. Please join this feast in the spirit of joy and gratitude. These are the gifts of God for the people of God. Come, for all things are ready.

Take and eat, Christ's body given for you.
Take and drink, the cup of blessing.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our savior. Amen

CLOSING HYMN *In the Midst of New Dimensions* (New Dimensions)

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BENEDICTION

One: Carry with you innermost selves, delight in God's law. Meditate day by day on God's purpose for your lives.

Many: We rejoice that God dwells with us every day. We want to know and do God's will for us.

One: We encounter God in unexpected places. God surprises us in the life and witness of people.

Many: We learn from the youngest in our midst. Simple and humble persons have much to teach us.

One: Take Christ's yoke upon you, for that yoke is easy. It imparts confidence that lightens our burdens.

Many: We will find rest and renewal through Christ. We seek to express the same humility and gentleness.

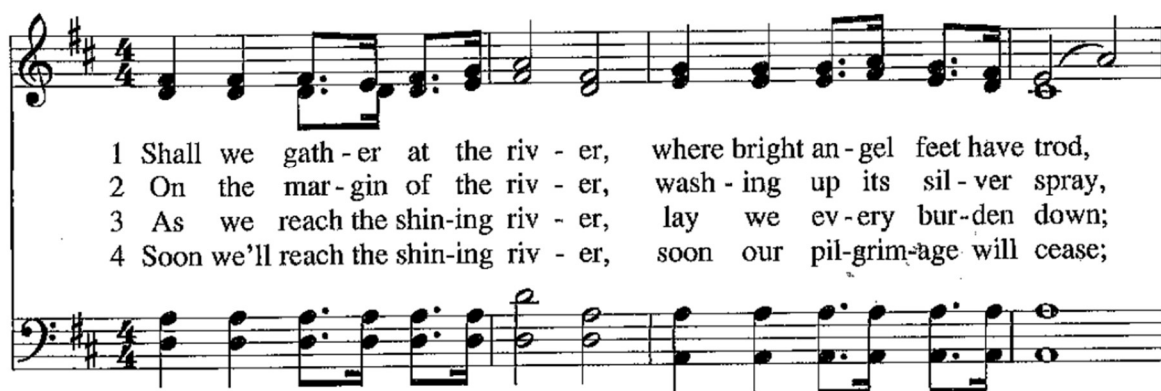
POSTLUDE *Gavotte* - Wesley

Shall We Gather at the River

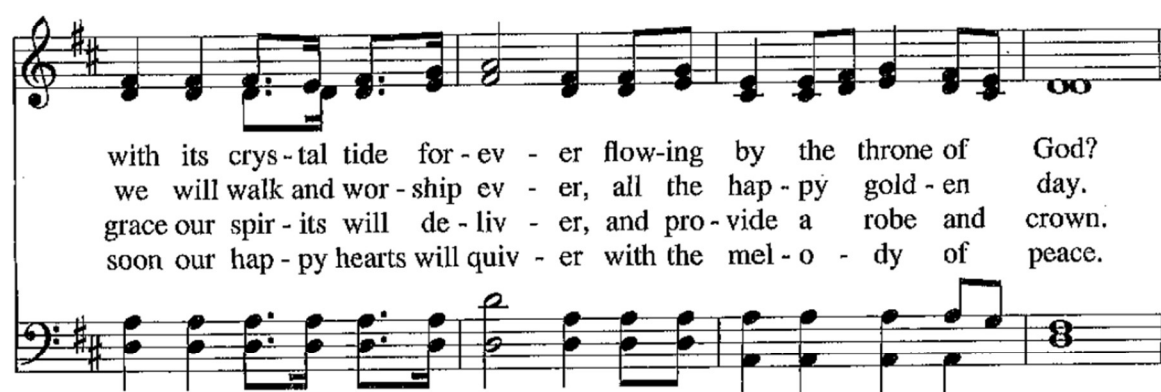
597

Robert Lowry, 1864; alt.

Rev. 22:1-5



1 Shall we gath-er at the riv-er, where bright an-gel feet have trod,
2 On the mar-gin of the riv-er, wash-ing up its sil-ver spray,
3 As we reach the shin-ing riv-er, lay we ev-ery bur-den down;
4 Soon we'll reach the shin-ing riv-er, soon our pil-grim-age will cease;

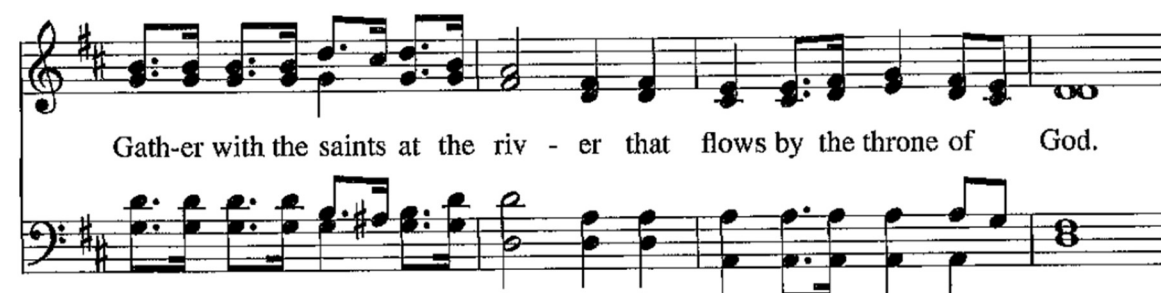


with its crys-tal tide for-ev-er flow-ing by the throne of God?
we will walk and wor-ship ev-er, all the hap-py gold-en day.
grace our spir-its will de-liv-er, and pro-vide a robe and crown.
soon our hap-py hearts will quiv-er with the mel-o-dy of peace.

Refrain



Yes, we'll gath-er at the riv-er, the beau-ti-ful, the beau-ti-ful riv-er,



Gath-er with the saints at the riv-er that flows by the throne of God.

Written during a time when an epidemic was claiming many lives in New York, Robert Lowry's hymn raised the question "Shall we meet again?" Lowry was pastor at Hanson Place Baptist Church in Brooklyn from 1861 to 1869, and collaborated on numerous hymn collections with William H. Doane.

Tune: HANSON PLACE 8.7.8.7, with refrain
Robert Lowry, 1864

In the Midst of New Dimensions

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Julian Rush, 1985; alt.

Gen. 9:12-16; Exod. 13:21-22; Num. 14:14

C C/B F C F Am7 Dm7 G7sus4 G7

1 In the midst of new di-men-sions, in the face of chang-ing ways,
 2 Through the flood of starv-ing peo-ple, war-ring fac-tions and de-spair,
 3 As we stand a world di-vid-ed by our own self-seek-ing schemes,
 4 We are man and we are wom-an, all per-sua-sions, old and young,
 5 Should the threats of dire pre-dic-tions cause us to with-draw in pain,

C C/B F C F Am7 Dm7 G C

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HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON

Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67

³⁴So he said, "I am Abraham's servant. ³⁵The LORD has greatly blessed my master, and he has become wealthy; he has given him flocks and herds, silver and gold, male and female slaves, camels and donkeys. ³⁶And Sarah my master's wife bore a son to my master when she was old; and he has given him all that he has. ³⁷My master made me swear, saying, 'You shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I live; ³⁸but you shall go to my father's house, to my kindred, and get a wife for my son.'

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Matthew 11:16-19. 25-30

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We remember that on the night of betrayal and desertion, Jesus took bread, gave you thanks, broke the bread, and gave it to the disciples, saying: "This is my body which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, Jesus also took the cup, after supper, saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." By eating this bread and drinking this cup, we proclaim Christ's death, celebrate Christ's resurrection, and await Christ's coming again.

Consecration

Let us pray: Gracious God, by your Holy Spirit, bless these gifts of bread and cup – each unique in their composition and location, and yet common through the Spirit that anoints these gifts. Bless us as we receive the bread and cup, that we will offer you our faith and praise, and that we will be united with Christ and with one another. Through this table of fellowship, make us the Body of Christ and may your Spirit strengthen us when we feel weak, warm us when we are cold-hearted, bend us when we are stubborn, move us when we are uncaring, guide us in the way of love. May we continue to be faithful in all things. As we eat and drink, may the elements be symbols that remind us who we are and whose we are. We ask all this in the name of the one who extends the invitation to us, your Son, Christ Jesus. Amen

Through the broken bread we participate in the body of Christ.

Through the cup of blessing we participate in the new life Christ gives.

Invitation & Sharing Holy Communion

This is the table, not of the church, but of Jesus Christ. It is made ready for those who love him and for those who want to love him more. All are welcome. Come to the table because it is Jesus Christ who invites you. It is his will that those who want him should meet him here. Please join this feast in the spirit of joy and gratitude. These are the gifts of God for the people of God. Come, for all things are ready.

Take and eat, Christ's body given for you.
Take and drink, the cup of blessing.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our savior. Amen

CLOSING HYMN *In the Midst of New Dimensions* (New Dimensions)

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BENEDICTION

One: Carry with you innermost selves, delight in God's law. Meditate day by day on God's purpose for your lives.

Many: We rejoice that God dwells with us every day. We want to know and do God's will for us.

One: We encounter God in unexpected places. God surprises us in the life and witness of people.

Many: We learn from the youngest in our midst. Simple and humble persons have much to teach us.

One: Take Christ's yoke upon you, for that yoke is easy. It imparts confidence that lightens our burdens.

Many: We will find rest and renewal through Christ. We seek to express the same humility and gentleness.

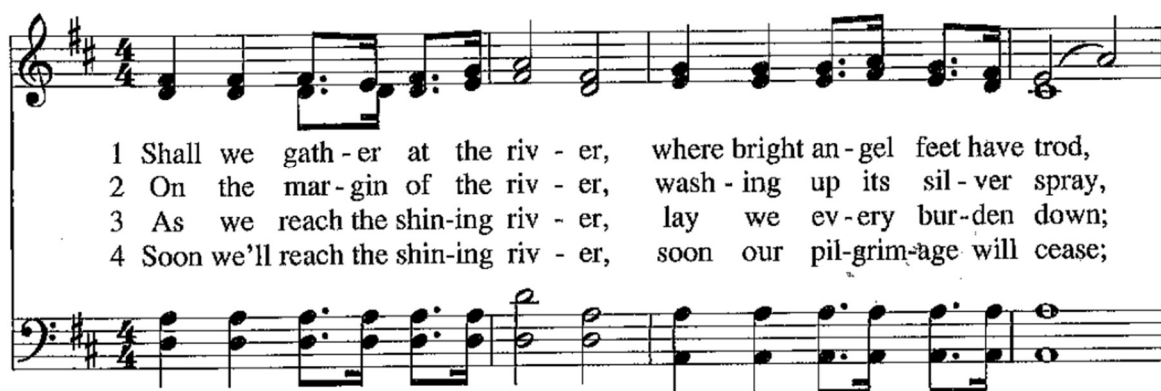
POSTLUDE *Gavotte* - Wesley

Shall We Gather at the River

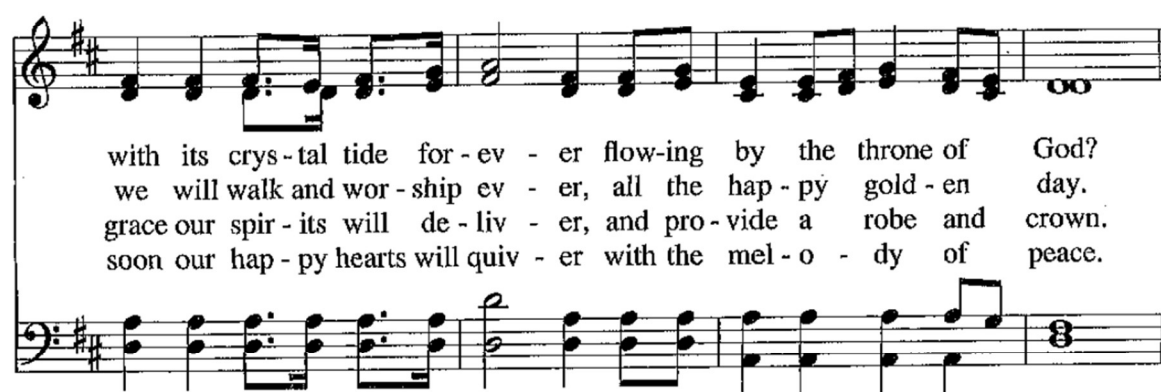
597

Robert Lowry, 1864; alt.

Rev. 22:1-5



1 Shall we gath-er at the riv-er, where bright an-gel feet have trod,
2 On the mar-gin of the riv-er, wash-ing up its sil-ver spray,
3 As we reach the shin-ing riv-er, lay we ev-ery bur-den down;
4 Soon we'll reach the shin-ing riv-er, soon our pil-grim-age will cease;

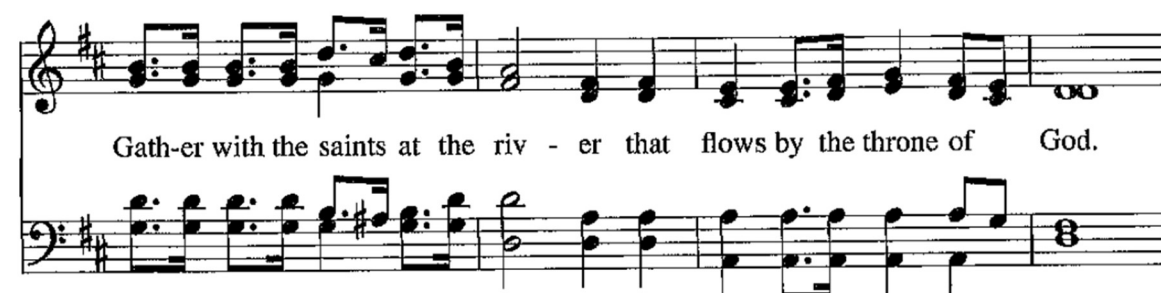


with its crys-tal tide for-ev-er flow-ing by the throne of God?
we will walk and wor-ship ev-er, all the hap-py gold-en day.
grace our spir-its will de-liv-er, and pro-vide a robe and crown.
soon our hap-py hearts will quiv-er with the mel-o-dy of peace.

Refrain



Yes, we'll gath-er at the riv-er, the beau-ti-ful, the beau-ti-ful riv-er,



Gath-er with the saints at the riv-er that flows by the throne of God.

Written during a time when an epidemic was claiming many lives in New York, Robert Lowry's hymn raised the question "Shall we meet again?" Lowry was pastor at Hanson Place Baptist Church in Brooklyn from 1861 to 1869, and collaborated on numerous hymn collections with William H. Doane.

Tune: HANSON PLACE 8.7.8.7, with refrain
Robert Lowry, 1864

In the Midst of New Dimensions

391

Julian Rush, 1985; alt.

Gen. 9:12-16; Exod. 13:21-22; Num. 14:14

C C/B F C F Am7 Dm7 G7sus4 G7

1 In the midst of new di-men-sions, in the face of chang-ing ways,
 2 Through the flood of starv-ing peo-ple, war-ring fac-tions and de-spair,
 3 As we stand a world di-vid-ed by our own self-seek-ing schemes,
 4 We are man and we are wom-an, all per-sua-sions, old and young,
 5 Should the threats of dire pre-dic-tions cause us to with-draw in pain,

C C/B F C F Am7 Dm7 G C

Who will lead the pil-grim peo-ple wan-dering in their sep-a-rate ways?
 Who will lift the ol-ive branch-es? Who will light the flame of care?
 Grant that we, your glob-al vil-lage, might en-vi-sion wid-er dreams.
 Each a gift in your cre-a-tion, each a love song to be sung.
 May your blaz-ing phoe-nix spir-it res-ur-rect the church a-gain.

Refrain
 Am Em F C F C G7 C Dsus4 D7 G7sus4 G7 Am

God of rain-bow, fier-y pil-lar, lead-ing where the ea-gles soar, We your

Em F C F C/E F C/E F C/E Dm7 G7 C

peo-ple, ours the jour-ney now and ev-er, now and ev-er, now and ev-er - more.

Julian Rush, an ordained minister in the United Methodist Church, has spent more than a decade as director of the Colorado AIDS Project. He wrote this hymn on the theme of "diversity" for a meeting of the Rocky Mountain Conference (United Methodist).

Tune: NEW DIMENSIONS 8.7.8.7. with refrain
 Julian Rush, 1985
 Arr. The New Century Hymnal, 1994



Hanoi Street Vendor:
Photo by Fabian Irsara

Hope United Church of Christ Moline, IL
Worship Bulletin July 5, 2020
Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Thank you for joining us for worship today.

We are glad you are here!

*No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey,
you are welcome at Hope UCC!*

PRELUDE *Spirit of Jesus, if I Love My Neighbor* - Wren

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Come with joy and gladness to praise and honor God. Come to the refreshing waters that God provides.

Many: God is gracious and merciful and full of compassion. All creation joins us in giving thanks.

One: Give ear, all people, to the law of God. Give thanks for all the guidance God gives us.

Many: God upholds all who are falling. God raises us up when we are bowed down.

One: Come, all who are weary and carrying heavy burdens. Come, for Christ has promised rest.

Many: The gentle spirit of Christ invites us. We have come to find rest for our souls.

OPENING HYMN *Shall We Gather at the River* (Hanson Place)

INVITING GOD INTO OUR MIDST

We come together, gracious God, because we have heard your invitation. We sense that you alone know the burdens we carry. You understand our weariness. Sometimes our journey seems long and without respite. We long for the refreshment you provide as we come to worship you. The anticipation of this hour of rest and nourishment fills us with renewed joy and gladness. We thank you, God, that your revelation comes to us, not because we are worthy, but because we are open to your word. Open our hearts to receive all you offer. Amen

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God, we do not understand our own actions. We turn away from the good we are intent on doing. Yet, we find wisdom in your law. We delight in the idea of mutual caring and celebrating life together, but we get bogged down in our own concerns. We are too busy to seek community and too preoccupied to ponder your will for us. We go our own way, cutting ourselves off from you and one another. O God, help us to put away this sin. Amen

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS AND PASSING OF PEACE

We are created in the image of God and are blessed with the capacity to reflect God's will in our daily lives. God cares for us and invests us with responsibility. Thus God honors us with high expectations and confidence in our willingness to seek out life's best for all people. We are loved. We are forgiven. Our baptism is renewed.

Let us offer one another the gift of peace. May the Lord's peace be with you!

(If you are using this liturgy as a private devotion or participating in the live stream worship, please hold out your hands in blessing for all you are joined with in spirit. If you are participating in the live stream worship, please type in your peace greeting.)

PASTORAL PRAYER/LORD'S PRAYER (debts)

One: May the Lord be with you.

Many: And also with you.

One: Let us pray:

...

With the assurance Jesus offers, together we pray the words Jesus taught us:

Our Father, who is in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your 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 yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON

Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67

³⁴So he said, "I am Abraham's servant. ³⁵The LORD has greatly blessed my master, and he has become wealthy; he has given him flocks and herds, silver and gold, male and female slaves, camels and donkeys. ³⁶And Sarah my master's wife bore a son to my master when she was old; and he has given him all that he has. ³⁷My master made me swear, saying, 'You shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I live; ³⁸but you shall go to my father's house, to my kindred, and get a wife for my son.'

⁴²"I came today to the spring, and said, 'O LORD, the God of my master Abraham, if now you will only make successful the way I am going! ⁴³I am standing here by the spring of water; let the young woman who comes out to draw, to whom I shall say, "Please give me a little water from your jar to drink," ⁴⁴and who will say to me, "Drink, and I will draw for your camels also"—let her be the woman whom the LORD has appointed for my master's son.'

⁴⁵"Before I had finished speaking in my heart, there was Rebekah coming out with her water jar on her shoulder; and she went down to the spring, and drew. I said to her, 'Please let me drink.' ⁴⁶She quickly let down her jar from her shoulder, and said, 'Drink, and I will also water your camels.' So I drank, and she also watered the camels. ⁴⁷Then I asked her, 'Whose daughter are you?' She said, 'The daughter of Bethuel, Nahor's son, whom Milcah bore to him.' So I put the ring on her nose, and the bracelets on her arms. ⁴⁸Then I bowed my head and worshiped the LORD, and blessed the LORD, the God of my master Abraham, who had led me by the right way to obtain the daughter of my master's kinsman for his son. ⁴⁹Now then, if you will deal loyally and truly with my master, tell me; and if not, tell me, so that I may turn either to the right hand or to the left."

⁵⁸And they called Rebekah, and said to her, “Will you go with this man?” She said, “I will.” ⁵⁹So they sent away their sister Rebekah and her nurse along with Abraham’s servant and his men. ⁶⁰And they blessed Rebekah and said to her,

“May you, our sister, become
thousands of myriads;
may your offspring gain possession
of the gates of their foes.”

⁶¹Then Rebekah and her maids rose up, mounted the camels, and followed the man; thus the servant took Rebekah, and went his way.

⁶²Now Isaac had come from[£] Beer-lahai-roi, and was settled in the Negeb. ⁶³Isaac went out in the evening to walk[£] in the field; and looking up, he saw camels coming. ⁶⁴And Rebekah looked up, and when she saw Isaac, she slipped quickly from the camel, ⁶⁵and said to the servant, “Who is the man over there, walking in the field to meet us?” The servant said, “It is my master.” So she took her veil and covered herself. ⁶⁶And the servant told Isaac all the things that he had done. ⁶⁷Then Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah’s tent. He took Rebekah, and she became his wife; and he loved her. So Isaac was comforted after his mother’s death.

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Matthew 11:16-19. 25-30

¹⁶“But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,

¹⁷ ‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;
we wailed, and you did not mourn.’

¹⁸For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; ¹⁹the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.”[£]

²⁵At that time Jesus said, “I thank[£] you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; ²⁶yes, Father, for such was your gracious will.[£] ²⁷All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

²⁸“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

SERMON

INVITATION TO OFFERING

God has greatly blessed us with many kinds of wealth. Let our joy and gladness overflow as we express gratitude to God with our offerings. As we support the ministries of the church, let us consider those whose lives are grievously burdened, reaching out to them in practical acts of mercy.

We are profoundly grateful for your continued support of Hope UCC as we stay connected as a faith community in this time of social distancing and spiritual connection. We are continuing the ministry of our church throughout this stay at home order and we thank you for making this possible. We now have two ways to make your offering. Hope UCC is now able to offer e-giving through Breeze Management System to make it safer and easier for you to give anytime. You are able to safely donate electronically using your credit card or ACH transfer. You can find the link on our church

website (www.hopeuccqc.org). We also invite you to mail your offering to the church office – mail and messages are checked daily by Pastor Santina. Thank you for your generosity- your commitment is vital to continuing our congregation's ministries and commitments. Hope Grows! And there is nothing- not even a global pandemic - that can stop it! ☺

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

With all the gifts of creation, you have blessed us, gracious God. We give thanks for all your works. Gratitude is our first impulse for giving. Accept our grateful hearts, along with our gifts. We ask for wisdom as our church determines priorities for the use of resources. May we be as concerned about outreach and mission as we are about programs for ourselves. As you are faithful to us, O God, may we be faithful in all things, seeking always to live by your gracious will. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

(Please use whatever elements you have available for the bread and the cup)

Welcome

One: God be with you.

Many: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

Many: We lift them to God.

One: Let us give thanks to God Most High.

Many: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Holy God, we praise and bless you for creation and for your abiding love which brings us close to you, the source of all blessing. We thank you for creating us in your own image, for forgiving us when we act as though you have no claim on us, and for keeping us in your steadfast care. We rejoice in Jesus Christ, who shared the joys and sorrows of life as we know it. We remember Christ's death, we celebrate Christ's resurrection, and, as your church, we anticipate Christ's return. We take courage from your Holy Spirit and we offer you our praise for our sisters, brothers, and siblings of faith in every age who stand as witnesses to your love and justice. Together with all the company of heaven, we glorify you:

Holy, holy, holy God of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God Most High. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God! Hosanna in the highest!

Remember

We remember that on the night of betrayal and desertion, Jesus took bread, gave you thanks, broke the bread, and gave it to the disciples, saying: "This is my body which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, Jesus also took the cup, after supper, saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." By eating this bread and drinking this cup, we proclaim Christ's death, celebrate Christ's resurrection, and await Christ's coming again.

Consecration

Let us pray: Gracious God, by your Holy Spirit, bless these gifts of bread and cup – each unique in their composition and location, and yet common through the Spirit that anoints these gifts. Bless us as we receive the bread and cup, that we will offer you our faith and praise, and that we will be united with Christ and with one another. Through this table of fellowship, make us the Body of Christ and may your Spirit strengthen us when we feel weak, warm us when we are cold-hearted, bend us when we are stubborn, move us when we are uncaring, guide us in the way of love. May we continue to be faithful in all things. As we eat and drink, may the elements be symbols that remind us who we are and whose we are. We ask all this in the name of the one who extends the invitation to us, your Son, Christ Jesus. Amen

Through the broken bread we participate in the body of Christ.

Through the cup of blessing we participate in the new life Christ gives.

Invitation & Sharing Holy Communion

This is the table, not of the church, but of Jesus Christ. It is made ready for those who love him and for those who want to love him more. All are welcome. Come to the table because it is Jesus Christ who invites you. It is his will that those who want him should meet him here. Please join this feast in the spirit of joy and gratitude. These are the gifts of God for the people of God. Come, for all things are ready.

Take and eat, Christ's body given for you.
Take and drink, the cup of blessing.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our savior. Amen

CLOSING HYMN *In the Midst of New Dimensions* (New Dimensions)

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BENEDICTION

One: Carry with you innermost selves, delight in God's law. Meditate day by day on God's purpose for your lives.

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One: We encounter God in unexpected places. God surprises us in the life and witness of people.

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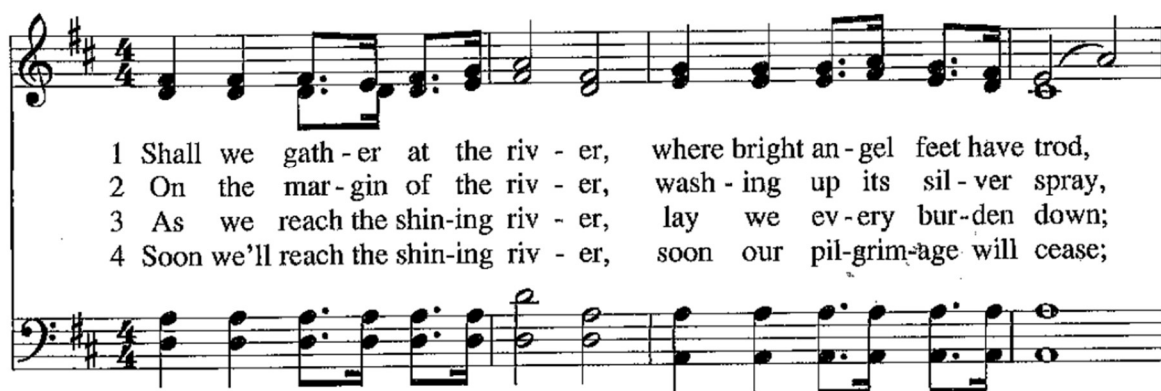
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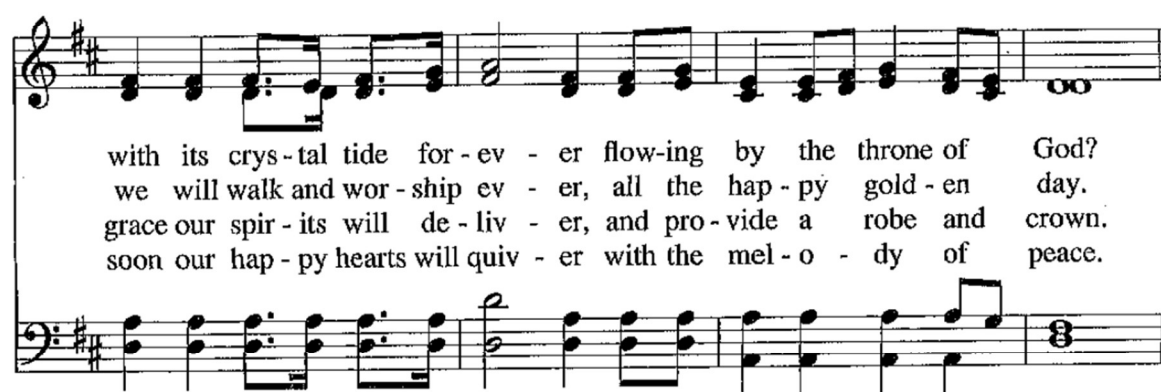
597

Robert Lowry, 1864; alt.

Rev. 22:1-5



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3 As we reach the shin-ing riv-er, lay we ev-ery bur-den down;
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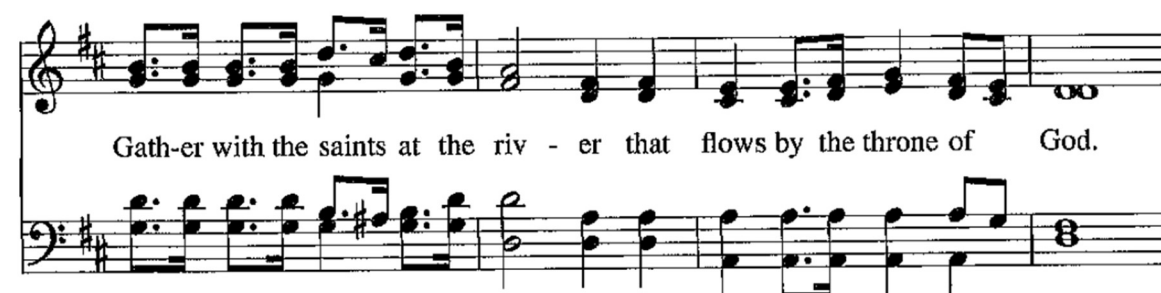


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grace our spir-its will de-liv-er, and pro-vide a robe and crown.
soon our hap-py hearts will quiv-er with the mel-o-dy of peace.

Refrain



Yes, we'll gath-er at the riv-er, the beau-ti-ful, the beau-ti-ful riv-er,



Gath-er with the saints at the riv-er that flows by the throne of God.

Written during a time when an epidemic was claiming many lives in New York, Robert Lowry's hymn raised the question "Shall we meet again?" Lowry was pastor at Hanson Place Baptist Church in Brooklyn from 1861 to 1869, and collaborated on numerous hymn collections with William H. Doane.

Tune: HANSON PLACE 8.7.8.7, with refrain
Robert Lowry, 1864

In the Midst of New Dimensions

391

Julian Rush, 1985; alt.

Gen. 9:12-16; Exod. 13:21-22; Num. 14:14

C C/B F C F Am7 Dm7 G7sus4 G7

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God of rain-bow, fier-y pil-lar, lead-ing where the ea-gles soar, We your

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Hope United Church of Christ Moline, IL
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OPENING HYMN *Shall We Gather at the River* (Hanson Place)

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PASTORAL PRAYER/LORD'S PRAYER (debts)

One: May the Lord be with you.

Many: And also with you.

One: Let us pray:

...

With the assurance Jesus offers, together we pray the words Jesus taught us:

Our Father, who is in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your 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 yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON

Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67

³⁴So he said, "I am Abraham's servant. ³⁵The LORD has greatly blessed my master, and he has become wealthy; he has given him flocks and herds, silver and gold, male and female slaves, camels and donkeys. ³⁶And Sarah my master's wife bore a son to my master when she was old; and he has given him all that he has. ³⁷My master made me swear, saying, 'You shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I live; ³⁸but you shall go to my father's house, to my kindred, and get a wife for my son.'

⁴²"I came today to the spring, and said, 'O LORD, the God of my master Abraham, if now you will only make successful the way I am going! ⁴³I am standing here by the spring of water; let the young woman who comes out to draw, to whom I shall say, "Please give me a little water from your jar to drink," ⁴⁴and who will say to me, "Drink, and I will draw for your camels also"—let her be the woman whom the LORD has appointed for my master's son.'

⁴⁵"Before I had finished speaking in my heart, there was Rebekah coming out with her water jar on her shoulder; and she went down to the spring, and drew. I said to her, 'Please let me drink.' ⁴⁶She quickly let down her jar from her shoulder, and said, 'Drink, and I will also water your camels.' So I drank, and she also watered the camels. ⁴⁷Then I asked her, 'Whose daughter are you?' She said, 'The daughter of Bethuel, Nahor's son, whom Milcah bore to him.' So I put the ring on her nose, and the bracelets on her arms. ⁴⁸Then I bowed my head and worshiped the LORD, and blessed the LORD, the God of my master Abraham, who had led me by the right way to obtain the daughter of my master's kinsman for his son. ⁴⁹Now then, if you will deal loyally and truly with my master, tell me; and if not, tell me, so that I may turn either to the right hand or to the left."

⁵⁸And they called Rebekah, and said to her, “Will you go with this man?” She said, “I will.” ⁵⁹So they sent away their sister Rebekah and her nurse along with Abraham’s servant and his men. ⁶⁰And they blessed Rebekah and said to her,

“May you, our sister, become
thousands of myriads;
may your offspring gain possession
of the gates of their foes.”

⁶¹Then Rebekah and her maids rose up, mounted the camels, and followed the man; thus the servant took Rebekah, and went his way.

⁶²Now Isaac had come from[£] Beer-lahai-roi, and was settled in the Negeb. ⁶³Isaac went out in the evening to walk[£] in the field; and looking up, he saw camels coming. ⁶⁴And Rebekah looked up, and when she saw Isaac, she slipped quickly from the camel, ⁶⁵and said to the servant, “Who is the man over there, walking in the field to meet us?” The servant said, “It is my master.” So she took her veil and covered herself. ⁶⁶And the servant told Isaac all the things that he had done. ⁶⁷Then Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah’s tent. He took Rebekah, and she became his wife; and he loved her. So Isaac was comforted after his mother’s death.

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Matthew 11:16-19. 25-30

¹⁶“But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,

¹⁷ ‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;
we wailed, and you did not mourn.’

¹⁸For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; ¹⁹the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.”[£]

²⁵At that time Jesus said, “I thank[£] you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; ²⁶yes, Father, for such was your gracious will.[£] ²⁷All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

²⁸“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

SERMON

INVITATION TO OFFERING

God has greatly blessed us with many kinds of wealth. Let our joy and gladness overflow as we express gratitude to God with our offerings. As we support the ministries of the church, let us consider those whose lives are grievously burdened, reaching out to them in practical acts of mercy.

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website (www.hopeuccqc.org). We also invite you to mail your offering to the church office – mail and messages are checked daily by Pastor Santina. Thank you for your generosity- your commitment is vital to continuing our congregation's ministries and commitments. Hope Grows! And there is nothing- not even a global pandemic - that can stop it! ☺

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

With all the gifts of creation, you have blessed us, gracious God. We give thanks for all your works. Gratitude is our first impulse for giving. Accept our grateful hearts, along with our gifts. We ask for wisdom as our church determines priorities for the use of resources. May we be as concerned about outreach and mission as we are about programs for ourselves. As you are faithful to us, O God, may we be faithful in all things, seeking always to live by your gracious will. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

(Please use whatever elements you have available for the bread and the cup)

Welcome

One: God be with you.

Many: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

Many: We lift them to God.

One: Let us give thanks to God Most High.

Many: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Holy God, we praise and bless you for creation and for your abiding love which brings us close to you, the source of all blessing. We thank you for creating us in your own image, for forgiving us when we act as though you have no claim on us, and for keeping us in your steadfast care. We rejoice in Jesus Christ, who shared the joys and sorrows of life as we know it. We remember Christ's death, we celebrate Christ's resurrection, and, as your church, we anticipate Christ's return. We take courage from your Holy Spirit and we offer you our praise for our sisters, brothers, and siblings of faith in every age who stand as witnesses to your love and justice. Together with all the company of heaven, we glorify you:

Holy, holy, holy God of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God Most High. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God! Hosanna in the highest!

Remember

We remember that on the night of betrayal and desertion, Jesus took bread, gave you thanks, broke the bread, and gave it to the disciples, saying: "This is my body which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, Jesus also took the cup, after supper, saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." By eating this bread and drinking this cup, we proclaim Christ's death, celebrate Christ's resurrection, and await Christ's coming again.

Consecration

Let us pray: Gracious God, by your Holy Spirit, bless these gifts of bread and cup – each unique in their composition and location, and yet common through the Spirit that anoints these gifts. Bless us as we receive the bread and cup, that we will offer you our faith and praise, and that we will be united with Christ and with one another. Through this table of fellowship, make us the Body of Christ and may your Spirit strengthen us when we feel weak, warm us when we are cold-hearted, bend us when we are stubborn, move us when we are uncaring, guide us in the way of love. May we continue to be faithful in all things. As we eat and drink, may the elements be symbols that remind us who we are and whose we are. We ask all this in the name of the one who extends the invitation to us, your Son, Christ Jesus. Amen

Through the broken bread we participate in the body of Christ.

Through the cup of blessing we participate in the new life Christ gives.

Invitation & Sharing Holy Communion

This is the table, not of the church, but of Jesus Christ. It is made ready for those who love him and for those who want to love him more. All are welcome. Come to the table because it is Jesus Christ who invites you. It is his will that those who want him should meet him here. Please join this feast in the spirit of joy and gratitude. These are the gifts of God for the people of God. Come, for all things are ready.

Take and eat, Christ's body given for you.
Take and drink, the cup of blessing.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our savior. Amen

CLOSING HYMN *In the Midst of New Dimensions* (New Dimensions)

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BENEDICTION

One: Carry with you innermost selves, delight in God's law. Meditate day by day on God's purpose for your lives.

Many: We rejoice that God dwells with us every day. We want to know and do God's will for us.

One: We encounter God in unexpected places. God surprises us in the life and witness of people.

Many: We learn from the youngest in our midst. Simple and humble persons have much to teach us.

One: Take Christ's yoke upon you, for that yoke is easy. It imparts confidence that lightens our burdens.

Many: We will find rest and renewal through Christ. We seek to express the same humility and gentleness.

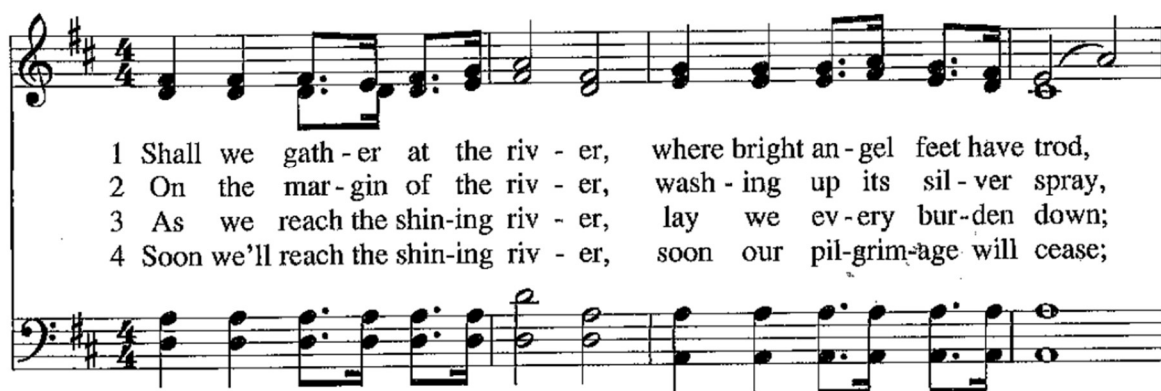
POSTLUDE *Gavotte* - Wesley

Shall We Gather at the River

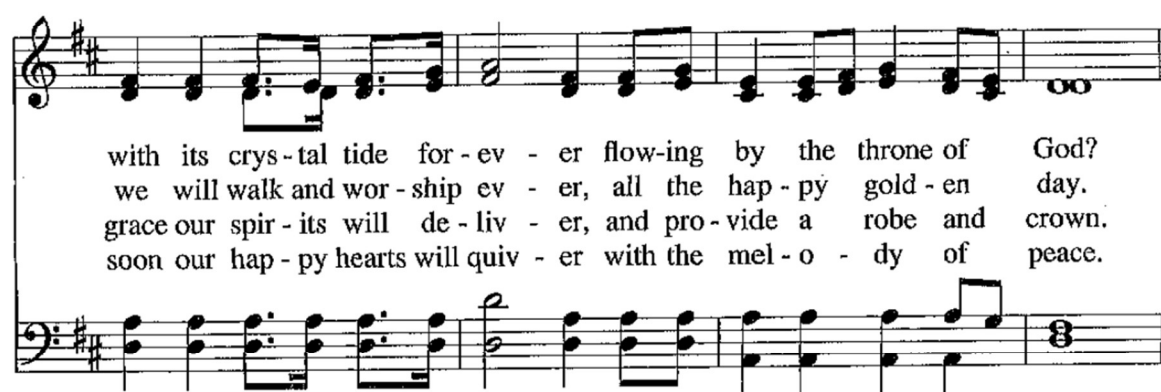
597

Robert Lowry, 1864; alt.

Rev. 22:1-5



1 Shall we gath-er at the riv-er, where bright an-gel feet have trod,
2 On the mar-gin of the riv-er, wash-ing up its sil-ver spray,
3 As we reach the shin-ing riv-er, lay we ev-ery bur-den down;
4 Soon we'll reach the shin-ing riv-er, soon our pil-grim-age will cease;

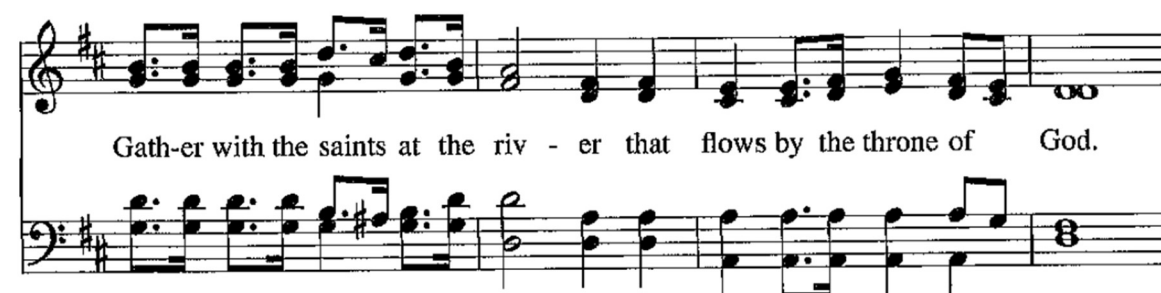


with its crys-tal tide for-ev-er flow-ing by the throne of God?
we will walk and wor-ship ev-er, all the hap-py gold-en day.
grace our spir-its will de-liv-er, and pro-vide a robe and crown.
soon our hap-py hearts will quiv-er with the mel-o-dy of peace.

Refrain



Yes, we'll gath-er at the riv-er, the beau-ti-ful, the beau-ti-ful riv-er,



Gath-er with the saints at the riv-er that flows by the throne of God.

Written during a time when an epidemic was claiming many lives in New York, Robert Lowry's hymn raised the question "Shall we meet again?" Lowry was pastor at Hanson Place Baptist Church in Brooklyn from 1861 to 1869, and collaborated on numerous hymn collections with William H. Doane.

Tune: HANSON PLACE 8.7.8.7, with refrain
Robert Lowry, 1864

In the Midst of New Dimensions

391

Julian Rush, 1985; alt.

Gen. 9:12-16; Exod. 13:21-22; Num. 14:14

C C/B F C F Am7 Dm7 G7sus4 G7

1 In the midst of new di-men-sions, in the face of chang-ing ways,
 2 Through the flood of starv-ing peo-ple, war-ring fac-tions and de-spair,
 3 As we stand a world di-vid-ed by our own self-seek-ing schemes,
 4 We are man and we are wom-an, all per-sua-sions, old and young,
 5 Should the threats of dire pre-dic-tions cause us to with-draw in pain,

C C/B F C F Am7 Dm7 G C

Who will lead the pil-grim peo-les wan-dering in their sep-a-rate ways?
 Who will lift the ol-ive branch-es? Who will light the flame of care?
 Grant that we, your glob-al vil-lage, might en-vi-sion wid-er dreams.
 Each a gift in your cre-a-tion, each a love song to be sung.
 May your blaz-ing phoe-nix spir-it res-ur-rect the church a-gain.

Refrain
 Am Em F C F C G7 C Dsus4 D7 G7sus4 G7 Am

God of rain-bow, fier-y pil-lar, lead-ing where the ea-gles soar, We your

Em F C F C/E F C/E F C/E Dm7 G7 C

peo-ple, ours the jour-ney now and ev-er, now and ev-er, now and ev-er - more.

Julian Rush, an ordained minister in the United Methodist Church, has spent more than a decade as director of the Colorado AIDS Project. He wrote this hymn on the theme of "diversity" for a meeting of the Rocky Mountain Conference (United Methodist).

Tune: NEW DIMENSIONS 8.7.8.7. with refrain
 Julian Rush, 1985
 Arr. The New Century Hymnal, 1994



Hanoi Street Vendor:
Photo by Fabian Irsara

Hope United Church of Christ Moline, IL
Worship Bulletin July 5, 2020
Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Thank you for joining us for worship today.

We are glad you are here!

*No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey,
you are welcome at Hope UCC!*

PRELUDE *Spirit of Jesus, if I Love My Neighbor* - Wren

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Come with joy and gladness to praise and honor God. Come to the refreshing waters that God provides.

Many: God is gracious and merciful and full of compassion. All creation joins us in giving thanks.

One: Give ear, all people, to the law of God. Give thanks for all the guidance God gives us.

Many: God upholds all who are falling. God raises us up when we are bowed down.

One: Come, all who are weary and carrying heavy burdens. Come, for Christ has promised rest.

Many: The gentle spirit of Christ invites us. We have come to find rest for our souls.

OPENING HYMN *Shall We Gather at the River* (Hanson Place)

INVITING GOD INTO OUR MIDST

We come together, gracious God, because we have heard your invitation. We sense that you alone know the burdens we carry. You understand our weariness. Sometimes our journey seems long and without respite. We long for the refreshment you provide as we come to worship you. The anticipation of this hour of rest and nourishment fills us with renewed joy and gladness. We thank you, God, that your revelation comes to us, not because we are worthy, but because we are open to your word. Open our hearts to receive all you offer. Amen

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God, we do not understand our own actions. We turn away from the good we are intent on doing. Yet, we find wisdom in your law. We delight in the idea of mutual caring and celebrating life together, but we get bogged down in our own concerns. We are too busy to seek community and too preoccupied to ponder your will for us. We go our own way, cutting ourselves off from you and one another. O God, help us to put away this sin. Amen

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS AND PASSING OF PEACE

We are created in the image of God and are blessed with the capacity to reflect God's will in our daily lives. God cares for us and invests us with responsibility. Thus God honors us with high expectations and confidence in our willingness to seek out life's best for all people. We are loved. We are forgiven. Our baptism is renewed.

Let us offer one another the gift of peace. May the Lord's peace be with you!

(If you are using this liturgy as a private devotion or participating in the live stream worship, please hold out your hands in blessing for all you are joined with in spirit. If you are participating in the live stream worship, please type in your peace greeting.)

PASTORAL PRAYER/LORD'S PRAYER (debts)

One: May the Lord be with you.

Many: And also with you.

One: Let us pray:

...

With the assurance Jesus offers, together we pray the words Jesus taught us:

Our Father, who is in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your 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 yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON

Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67

³⁴So he said, "I am Abraham's servant. ³⁵The LORD has greatly blessed my master, and he has become wealthy; he has given him flocks and herds, silver and gold, male and female slaves, camels and donkeys. ³⁶And Sarah my master's wife bore a son to my master when she was old; and he has given him all that he has. ³⁷My master made me swear, saying, 'You shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I live; ³⁸but you shall go to my father's house, to my kindred, and get a wife for my son.'

⁴²"I came today to the spring, and said, 'O LORD, the God of my master Abraham, if now you will only make successful the way I am going! ⁴³I am standing here by the spring of water; let the young woman who comes out to draw, to whom I shall say, "Please give me a little water from your jar to drink," ⁴⁴and who will say to me, "Drink, and I will draw for your camels also"—let her be the woman whom the LORD has appointed for my master's son.'

⁴⁵"Before I had finished speaking in my heart, there was Rebekah coming out with her water jar on her shoulder; and she went down to the spring, and drew. I said to her, 'Please let me drink.' ⁴⁶She quickly let down her jar from her shoulder, and said, 'Drink, and I will also water your camels.' So I drank, and she also watered the camels. ⁴⁷Then I asked her, 'Whose daughter are you?' She said, 'The daughter of Bethuel, Nahor's son, whom Milcah bore to him.' So I put the ring on her nose, and the bracelets on her arms. ⁴⁸Then I bowed my head and worshiped the LORD, and blessed the LORD, the God of my master Abraham, who had led me by the right way to obtain the daughter of my master's kinsman for his son. ⁴⁹Now then, if you will deal loyally and truly with my master, tell me; and if not, tell me, so that I may turn either to the right hand or to the left."

⁵⁸And they called Rebekah, and said to her, “Will you go with this man?” She said, “I will.” ⁵⁹So they sent away their sister Rebekah and her nurse along with Abraham’s servant and his men. ⁶⁰And they blessed Rebekah and said to her,

“May you, our sister, become
thousands of myriads;
may your offspring gain possession
of the gates of their foes.”

⁶¹Then Rebekah and her maids rose up, mounted the camels, and followed the man; thus the servant took Rebekah, and went his way.

⁶²Now Isaac had come from[£] Beer-lahai-roi, and was settled in the Negeb. ⁶³Isaac went out in the evening to walk[£] in the field; and looking up, he saw camels coming. ⁶⁴And Rebekah looked up, and when she saw Isaac, she slipped quickly from the camel, ⁶⁵and said to the servant, “Who is the man over there, walking in the field to meet us?” The servant said, “It is my master.” So she took her veil and covered herself. ⁶⁶And the servant told Isaac all the things that he had done. ⁶⁷Then Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah’s tent. He took Rebekah, and she became his wife; and he loved her. So Isaac was comforted after his mother’s death.

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Matthew 11:16-19. 25-30

¹⁶“But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,

¹⁷ ‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;
we wailed, and you did not mourn.’

¹⁸For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; ¹⁹the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.”[£]

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²⁸“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

SERMON

INVITATION TO OFFERING

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(Please use whatever elements you have available for the bread and the cup)

Welcome

One: God be with you.

Many: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

Many: We lift them to God.

One: Let us give thanks to God Most High.

Many: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

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Holy, holy, holy God of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God Most High. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God! Hosanna in the highest!

Remember

We remember that on the night of betrayal and desertion, Jesus took bread, gave you thanks, broke the bread, and gave it to the disciples, saying: "This is my body which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, Jesus also took the cup, after supper, saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." By eating this bread and drinking this cup, we proclaim Christ's death, celebrate Christ's resurrection, and await Christ's coming again.

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Take and eat, Christ's body given for you.

Take and drink, the cup of blessing.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our savior. Amen

CLOSING HYMN *In the Midst of New Dimensions* (New Dimensions)

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BENEDICTION

One: Carry with you innermost selves, delight in God's law. Meditate day by day on God's purpose for your lives.

Many: We rejoice that God dwells with us every day. We want to know and do God's will for us.

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Many: We will find rest and renewal through Christ. We seek to express the same humility and gentleness.

POSTLUDE *Gavotte* - Wesley

Shall We Gather at the River

597

Robert Lowry, 1864; alt.

Rev. 22:1-5

1 Shall we gath - er at the riv - er, where bright an - gel feet have trod,
 2 On the mar - gin of the riv - er, wash - ing up its sil - ver spray,
 3 As we reach the shin - ing riv - er, lay we ev - ery bur - den down;
 4 Soon we'll reach the shin - ing riv - er, soon our pil - grim - age will cease;

with its crys - tal tide for - ev - er flow - ing by the throne of God?
 we will walk and wor - ship ev - er, all the hap - py gold - en day.
 grace our spir - its will de - liv - er, and pro - vide a robe and crown.
 soon our hap - py hearts will quiv - er with the mel - o - dy of peace.

Refrain

Yes, we'll gath - er at the riv - er, the beau - ti - ful, the beau - ti - ful riv - er,

Gath - er with the saints at the riv - er that flows by the throne of God.

Written during a time when an epidemic was claiming many lives in New York, Robert Lowry's hymn raised the question "Shall we meet again?" Lowry was pastor at Hanson Place Baptist Church in Brooklyn from 1861 to 1869, and collaborated on numerous hymn collections with William H. Doane.

Tune: HANSON PLACE 8.7.8.7, with refrain
 Robert Lowry, 1864

In the Midst of New Dimensions

391

Julian Rush, 1985; alt.

Gen. 9:12-16; Exod. 13:21-22; Num. 14:14

C C/B F C F Am7 Dm7 G7sus4 G7

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 2 Through the flood of starv-ing peo-ple, war-ring fac-tions and de-spair,
 3 As we stand a world di-vid-ed by our own self-seek-ing schemes,
 4 We are man and we are wom-an, all per-sua-sions, old and young,
 5 Should the threats of dire pre-dic-tions cause us to with-draw in pain,

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Who will lead the pil-grim peo-ples wan-dering in their sep-arate ways?
 Who will lift the ol-ive branch-es? Who will light the flame of care?
 Grant that we, your glob-al vil-lage, might en-vi-sion wid-er dreams.
 Each a gift in your cre-a-tion, each a love song to be sung.
 May your blaz-ing phoe-nix spir-it res-ur-rect the church a-gain.

Refrain
 Am Em F C F C G7 C Dsus4 D7 G7sus4 G7 Am

God of rain-bow, fier-y pil-lar, lead-ing where the ea-gles soar, We your

Em F C F C/E F C/E F C/E Dm7 G7 C

peo-ple, ours the jour-ney now and ev-er, now and ev-er, now and ev-er - more.

Julian Rush, an ordained minister in the United Methodist Church, has spent more than a decade as director of the Colorado AIDS Project. He wrote this hymn on the theme of "diversity" for a meeting of the Rocky Mountain Conference (United Methodist).

Tune: NEW DIMENSIONS 8.7.8.7. with refrain
 Julian Rush, 1985
 Arr. The New Century Hymnal, 1994



Hanoi Street Vendor:
Photo by Fabian Irsara

Hope United Church of Christ Moline, IL
Worship Bulletin July 5, 2020
Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Thank you for joining us for worship today.

We are glad you are here!

*No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey,
you are welcome at Hope UCC!*

PRELUDE *Spirit of Jesus, if I Love My Neighbor* - Wren

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Come with joy and gladness to praise and honor God. Come to the refreshing waters that God provides.

Many: God is gracious and merciful and full of compassion. All creation joins us in giving thanks.

One: Give ear, all people, to the law of God. Give thanks for all the guidance God gives us.

Many: God upholds all who are falling. God raises us up when we are bowed down.

One: Come, all who are weary and carrying heavy burdens. Come, for Christ has promised rest.

Many: The gentle spirit of Christ invites us. We have come to find rest for our souls.

OPENING HYMN *Shall We Gather at the River* (Hanson Place)

INVITING GOD INTO OUR MIDST

We come together, gracious God, because we have heard your invitation. We sense that you alone know the burdens we carry. You understand our weariness. Sometimes our journey seems long and without respite. We long for the refreshment you provide as we come to worship you. The anticipation of this hour of rest and nourishment fills us with renewed joy and gladness. We thank you, God, that your revelation comes to us, not because we are worthy, but because we are open to your word. Open our hearts to receive all you offer. Amen

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God, we do not understand our own actions. We turn away from the good we are intent on doing. Yet, we find wisdom in your law. We delight in the idea of mutual caring and celebrating life together, but we get bogged down in our own concerns. We are too busy to seek community and too preoccupied to ponder your will for us. We go our own way, cutting ourselves off from you and one another. O God, help us to put away this sin. Amen

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS AND PASSING OF PEACE

We are created in the image of God and are blessed with the capacity to reflect God's will in our daily lives. God cares for us and invests us with responsibility. Thus God honors us with high expectations and confidence in our willingness to seek out life's best for all people. We are loved. We are forgiven. Our baptism is renewed.

Let us offer one another the gift of peace. May the Lord's peace be with you!

(If you are using this liturgy as a private devotion or participating in the live stream worship, please hold out your hands in blessing for all you are joined with in spirit. If you are participating in the live stream worship, please type in your peace greeting.)

PASTORAL PRAYER/LORD'S PRAYER (debts)

One: May the Lord be with you.

Many: And also with you.

One: Let us pray:

...

With the assurance Jesus offers, together we pray the words Jesus taught us:

Our Father, who is in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your 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 yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON

Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67

³⁴So he said, "I am Abraham's servant. ³⁵The LORD has greatly blessed my master, and he has become wealthy; he has given him flocks and herds, silver and gold, male and female slaves, camels and donkeys. ³⁶And Sarah my master's wife bore a son to my master when she was old; and he has given him all that he has. ³⁷My master made me swear, saying, 'You shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I live; ³⁸but you shall go to my father's house, to my kindred, and get a wife for my son.'

⁴²"I came today to the spring, and said, 'O LORD, the God of my master Abraham, if now you will only make successful the way I am going! ⁴³I am standing here by the spring of water; let the young woman who comes out to draw, to whom I shall say, "Please give me a little water from your jar to drink," ⁴⁴and who will say to me, "Drink, and I will draw for your camels also"—let her be the woman whom the LORD has appointed for my master's son.'

⁴⁵"Before I had finished speaking in my heart, there was Rebekah coming out with her water jar on her shoulder; and she went down to the spring, and drew. I said to her, 'Please let me drink.' ⁴⁶She quickly let down her jar from her shoulder, and said, 'Drink, and I will also water your camels.' So I drank, and she also watered the camels. ⁴⁷Then I asked her, 'Whose daughter are you?' She said, 'The daughter of Bethuel, Nahor's son, whom Milcah bore to him.' So I put the ring on her nose, and the bracelets on her arms. ⁴⁸Then I bowed my head and worshiped the LORD, and blessed the LORD, the God of my master Abraham, who had led me by the right way to obtain the daughter of my master's kinsman for his son. ⁴⁹Now then, if you will deal loyally and truly with my master, tell me; and if not, tell me, so that I may turn either to the right hand or to the left."

⁵⁸And they called Rebekah, and said to her, “Will you go with this man?” She said, “I will.” ⁵⁹So they sent away their sister Rebekah and her nurse along with Abraham’s servant and his men. ⁶⁰And they blessed Rebekah and said to her,

“May you, our sister, become
thousands of myriads;
may your offspring gain possession
of the gates of their foes.”

⁶¹Then Rebekah and her maids rose up, mounted the camels, and followed the man; thus the servant took Rebekah, and went his way.

⁶²Now Isaac had come from[£] Beer-lahai-roi, and was settled in the Negeb. ⁶³Isaac went out in the evening to walk[£] in the field; and looking up, he saw camels coming. ⁶⁴And Rebekah looked up, and when she saw Isaac, she slipped quickly from the camel, ⁶⁵and said to the servant, “Who is the man over there, walking in the field to meet us?” The servant said, “It is my master.” So she took her veil and covered herself. ⁶⁶And the servant told Isaac all the things that he had done. ⁶⁷Then Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah’s tent. He took Rebekah, and she became his wife; and he loved her. So Isaac was comforted after his mother’s death.

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Matthew 11:16-19. 25-30

¹⁶“But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,

¹⁷ ‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;
we wailed, and you did not mourn.’

¹⁸For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; ¹⁹the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.”[£]

²⁵At that time Jesus said, “I thank[£] you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; ²⁶yes, Father, for such was your gracious will.[£] ²⁷All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

²⁸“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

SERMON

INVITATION TO OFFERING

God has greatly blessed us with many kinds of wealth. Let our joy and gladness overflow as we express gratitude to God with our offerings. As we support the ministries of the church, let us consider those whose lives are grievously burdened, reaching out to them in practical acts of mercy.

We are profoundly grateful for your continued support of Hope UCC as we stay connected as a faith community in this time of social distancing and spiritual connection. We are continuing the ministry of our church throughout this stay at home order and we thank you for making this possible. We now have two ways to make your offering. Hope UCC is now able to offer e-giving through Breeze Management System to make it safer and easier for you to give anytime. You are able to safely donate electronically using your credit card or ACH transfer. You can find the link on our church

website (www.hopeuccqc.org). We also invite you to mail your offering to the church office – mail and messages are checked daily by Pastor Santina. Thank you for your generosity- your commitment is vital to continuing our congregation's ministries and commitments. Hope Grows! And there is nothing- not even a global pandemic - that can stop it! ☺

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

With all the gifts of creation, you have blessed us, gracious God. We give thanks for all your works. Gratitude is our first impulse for giving. Accept our grateful hearts, along with our gifts. We ask for wisdom as our church determines priorities for the use of resources. May we be as concerned about outreach and mission as we are about programs for ourselves. As you are faithful to us, O God, may we be faithful in all things, seeking always to live by your gracious will. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

(Please use whatever elements you have available for the bread and the cup)

Welcome

One: God be with you.

Many: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

Many: We lift them to God.

One: Let us give thanks to God Most High.

Many: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Holy God, we praise and bless you for creation and for your abiding love which brings us close to you, the source of all blessing. We thank you for creating us in your own image, for forgiving us when we act as though you have no claim on us, and for keeping us in your steadfast care. We rejoice in Jesus Christ, who shared the joys and sorrows of life as we know it. We remember Christ's death, we celebrate Christ's resurrection, and, as your church, we anticipate Christ's return. We take courage from your Holy Spirit and we offer you our praise for our sisters, brothers, and siblings of faith in every age who stand as witnesses to your love and justice. Together with all the company of heaven, we glorify you:

Holy, holy, holy God of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God Most High. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God! Hosanna in the highest!

Remember

We remember that on the night of betrayal and desertion, Jesus took bread, gave you thanks, broke the bread, and gave it to the disciples, saying: "This is my body which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, Jesus also took the cup, after supper, saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." By eating this bread and drinking this cup, we proclaim Christ's death, celebrate Christ's resurrection, and await Christ's coming again.

Consecration

Let us pray: Gracious God, by your Holy Spirit, bless these gifts of bread and cup – each unique in their composition and location, and yet common through the Spirit that anoints these gifts. Bless us as we receive the bread and cup, that we will offer you our faith and praise, and that we will be united with Christ and with one another. Through this table of fellowship, make us the Body of Christ and may your Spirit strengthen us when we feel weak, warm us when we are cold-hearted, bend us when we are stubborn, move us when we are uncaring, guide us in the way of love. May we continue to be faithful in all things. As we eat and drink, may the elements be symbols that remind us who we are and whose we are. We ask all this in the name of the one who extends the invitation to us, your Son, Christ Jesus. Amen

Through the broken bread we participate in the body of Christ.

Through the cup of blessing we participate in the new life Christ gives.

Invitation & Sharing Holy Communion

This is the table, not of the church, but of Jesus Christ. It is made ready for those who love him and for those who want to love him more. All are welcome. Come to the table because it is Jesus Christ who invites you. It is his will that those who want him should meet him here. Please join this feast in the spirit of joy and gratitude. These are the gifts of God for the people of God. Come, for all things are ready.

Take and eat, Christ's body given for you.
Take and drink, the cup of blessing.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our savior. Amen

CLOSING HYMN *In the Midst of New Dimensions* (New Dimensions)

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BENEDICTION

One: Carry with you innermost selves, delight in God's law. Meditate day by day on God's purpose for your lives.

Many: We rejoice that God dwells with us every day. We want to know and do God's will for us.

One: We encounter God in unexpected places. God surprises us in the life and witness of people.

Many: We learn from the youngest in our midst. Simple and humble persons have much to teach us.

One: Take Christ's yoke upon you, for that yoke is easy. It imparts confidence that lightens our burdens.

Many: We will find rest and renewal through Christ. We seek to express the same humility and gentleness.

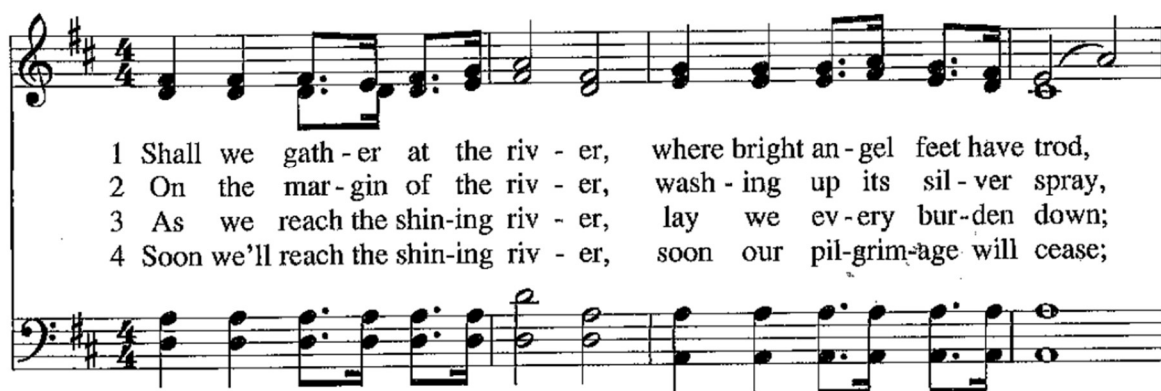
POSTLUDE *Gavotte* - Wesley

Shall We Gather at the River

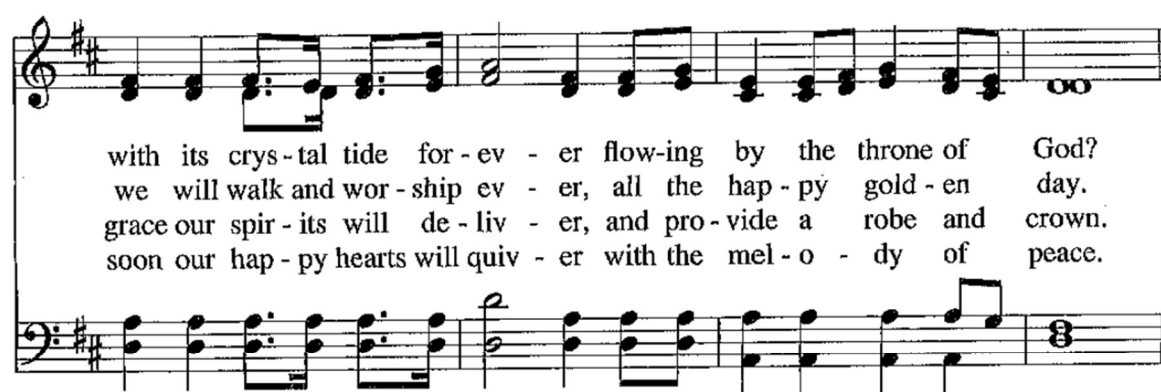
597

Robert Lowry, 1864; alt.

Rev. 22:1-5



1 Shall we gath-er at the riv-er, where bright an-gel feet have trod,
2 On the mar-gin of the riv-er, wash-ing up its sil-ver spray,
3 As we reach the shin-ing riv-er, lay we ev-ery bur-den down;
4 Soon we'll reach the shin-ing riv-er, soon our pil-grim-age will cease;

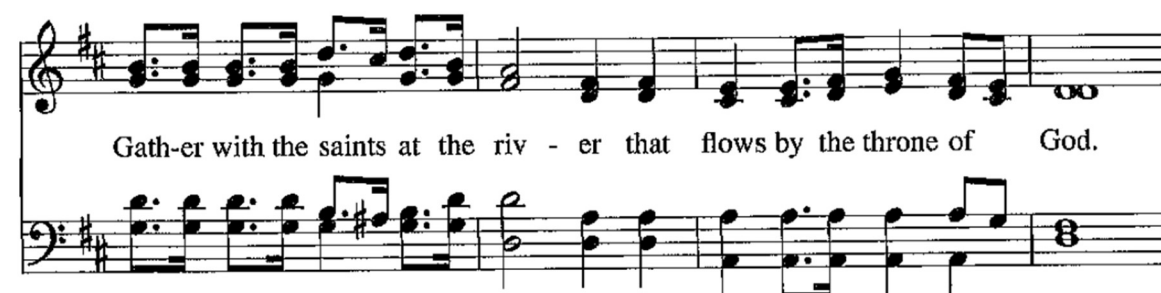


with its crys-tal tide for-ev-er flow-ing by the throne of God?
we will walk and wor-ship ev-er, all the hap-py gold-en day.
grace our spir-its will de-liv-er, and pro-vide a robe and crown.
soon our hap-py hearts will quiv-er with the mel-o-dy of peace.

Refrain



Yes, we'll gath-er at the riv-er, the beau-ti-ful, the beau-ti-ful riv-er,



Gath-er with the saints at the riv-er that flows by the throne of God.

Written during a time when an epidemic was claiming many lives in New York, Robert Lowry's hymn raised the question "Shall we meet again?" Lowry was pastor at Hanson Place Baptist Church in Brooklyn from 1861 to 1869, and collaborated on numerous hymn collections with William H. Doane.

Tune: HANSON PLACE 8.7.8.7, with refrain
Robert Lowry, 1864

In the Midst of New Dimensions

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Julian Rush, 1985; alt.

Gen. 9:12-16; Exod. 13:21-22; Num. 14:14

C C/B F C F Am7 Dm7 G7sus4 G7

1 In the midst of new di-men-sions, in the face of chang-ing ways,
 2 Through the flood of starv-ing peo-ple, war-ring fac-tions and de-spair,
 3 As we stand a world di-vid-ed by our own self-seek-ing schemes,
 4 We are man and we are wom-an, all per-sua-sions, old and young,
 5 Should the threats of dire pre-dic-tions cause us to with-draw in pain,

C C/B F C F Am7 Dm7 G C

Who will lead the pil-grim peo-les wan-dering in their sep-arate ways?
 Who will lift the ol-ive branch-es? Who will light the flame of care?
 Grant that we, your glob-al vil-lage, might en-vi-sion wid-er dreams.
 Each a gift in your cre-a-tion, each a love song to be sung.
 May your blaz-ing phoe-nix spir-it res-ur-rect the church a-gain.

Refrain
 Am Em F C F C G7 C Dsus4 D7 G7sus4 G7 Am

God of rain-bow, fier-y pil-lar, lead-ing where the ea-gles soar, We your

Em F C F C/E F C/E F C/E Dm7 G7 C

peo-ple, ours the jour-ney now and ev-er, now and ev-er, now and ev-er - more.

Julian Rush, an ordained minister in the United Methodist Church, has spent more than a decade as director of the Colorado AIDS Project. He wrote this hymn on the theme of "diversity" for a meeting of the Rocky Mountain Conference (United Methodist).

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Many: The gentle spirit of Christ invites us. We have come to find rest for our souls.

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One: May the Lord be with you.

Many: And also with you.

One: Let us pray:

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With the assurance Jesus offers, together we pray the words Jesus taught us:

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HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON

Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67

³⁴So he said, "I am Abraham's servant. ³⁵The LORD has greatly blessed my master, and he has become wealthy; he has given him flocks and herds, silver and gold, male and female slaves, camels and donkeys. ³⁶And Sarah my master's wife bore a son to my master when she was old; and he has given him all that he has. ³⁷My master made me swear, saying, 'You shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I live; ³⁸but you shall go to my father's house, to my kindred, and get a wife for my son.'

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NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Matthew 11:16-19. 25-30

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SERMON

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Many: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

Many: We lift them to God.

One: Let us give thanks to God Most High.

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We remember that on the night of betrayal and desertion, Jesus took bread, gave you thanks, broke the bread, and gave it to the disciples, saying: "This is my body which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, Jesus also took the cup, after supper, saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." By eating this bread and drinking this cup, we proclaim Christ's death, celebrate Christ's resurrection, and await Christ's coming again.

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Prayer of Thanksgiving

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CLOSING HYMN *In the Midst of New Dimensions* (New Dimensions)

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BENEDICTION

One: Carry with you innermost selves, delight in God's law. Meditate day by day on God's purpose for your lives.

Many: We rejoice that God dwells with us every day. We want to know and do God's will for us.

One: We encounter God in unexpected places. God surprises us in the life and witness of people.

Many: We learn from the youngest in our midst. Simple and humble persons have much to teach us.

One: Take Christ's yoke upon you, for that yoke is easy. It imparts confidence that lightens our burdens.

Many: We will find rest and renewal through Christ. We seek to express the same humility and gentleness.

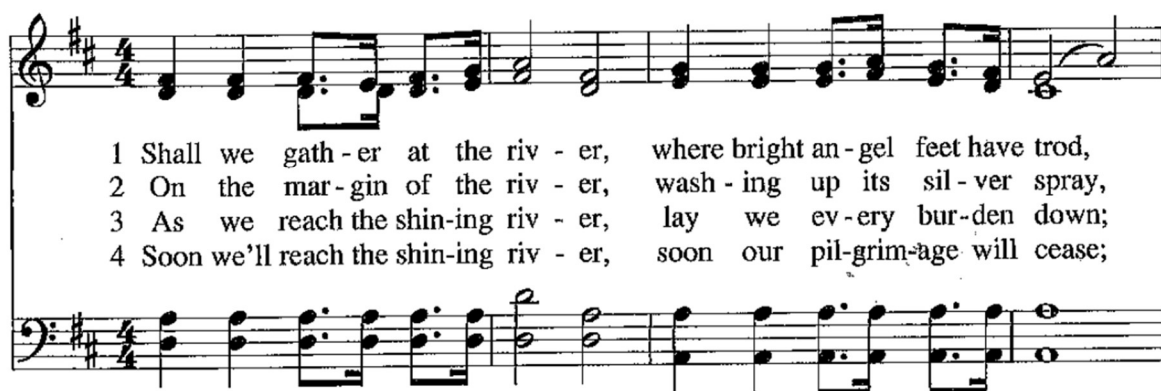
POSTLUDE *Gavotte* - Wesley

Shall We Gather at the River

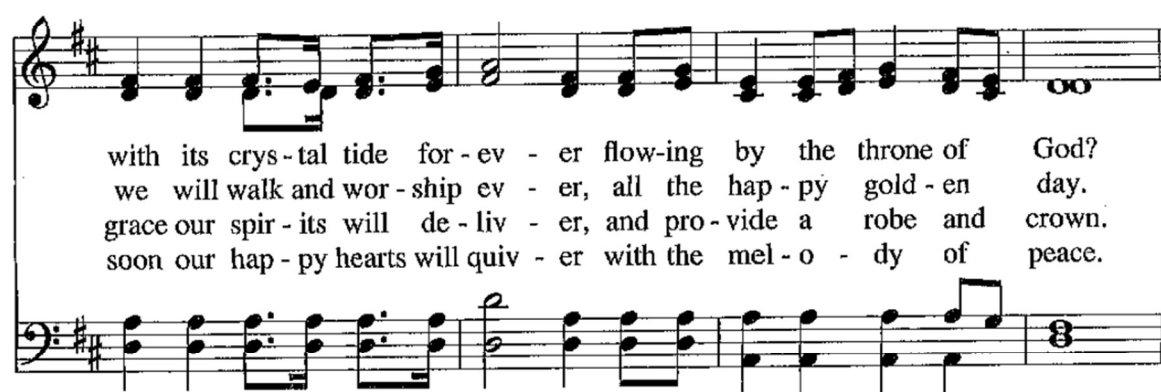
597

Robert Lowry, 1864; alt.

Rev. 22:1-5



1 Shall we gath-er at the riv-er, where bright an-gel feet have trod,
2 On the mar-gin of the riv-er, wash-ing up its sil-ver spray,
3 As we reach the shin-ing riv-er, lay we ev-ery bur-den down;
4 Soon we'll reach the shin-ing riv-er, soon our pil-grim-age will cease;

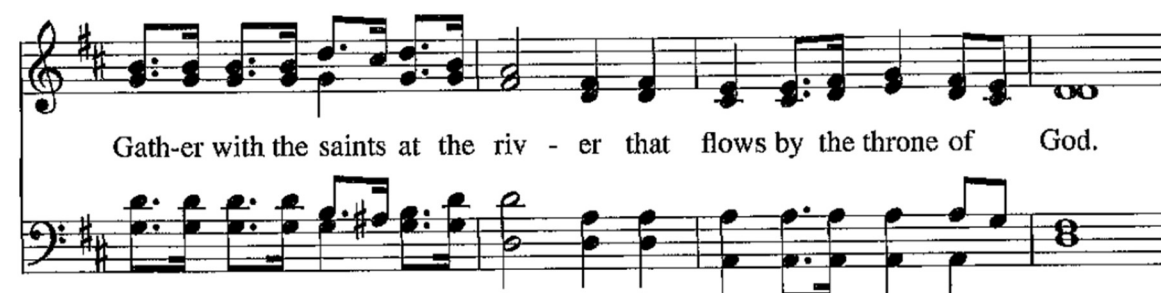


with its crys-tal tide for-ev-er flow-ing by the throne of God?
we will walk and wor-ship ev-er, all the hap-py gold-en day.
grace our spir-its will de-liv-er, and pro-vide a robe and crown.
soon our hap-py hearts will quiv-er with the mel-o-dy of peace.

Refrain



Yes, we'll gath-er at the riv-er, the beau-ti-ful, the beau-ti-ful riv-er,



Gath-er with the saints at the riv-er that flows by the throne of God.

Written during a time when an epidemic was claiming many lives in New York, Robert Lowry's hymn raised the question "Shall we meet again?" Lowry was pastor at Hanson Place Baptist Church in Brooklyn from 1861 to 1869, and collaborated on numerous hymn collections with William H. Doane.

Tune: HANSON PLACE 8.7.8.7, with refrain
Robert Lowry, 1864

In the Midst of New Dimensions

391

Julian Rush, 1985; alt.

Gen. 9:12-16; Exod. 13:21-22; Num. 14:14

C C/B F C F Am7 Dm7 G7sus4 G7

1 In the midst of new di-men-sions, in the face of chang-ing ways,
 2 Through the flood of starv-ing peo-ple, war-ring fac-tions and de-spair,
 3 As we stand a world di-vid-ed by our own self-seek-ing schemes,
 4 We are man and we are wom-an, all per-sua-sions, old and young,
 5 Should the threats of dire pre-dic-tions cause us to with-draw in pain,

C C/B F C F Am7 Dm7 G C

Who will lead the pil-grim peo-les wan-dering in their sep-arate ways?
 Who will lift the ol-ive branch-es? Who will light the flame of care?
 Grant that we, your glob-al vil-lage, might en-vi-sion wid-er dreams.
 Each a gift in your cre-a-tion, each a love song to be sung.
 May your blaz-ing phoe-nix spir-it res-ur-rect the church a-gain.

Refrain
 Am Em F C F C G7 C Dsus4 D7 G7sus4 G7 Am

God of rain-bow, fier-y pil-lar, lead-ing where the ea-gles soar, We your

Em F C F C/E F C/E F C/E Dm7 G7 C

peo-ple, ours the jour-ney now and ev-er, now and ev-er, now and ev-er - more.

Julian Rush, an ordained minister in the United Methodist Church, has spent more than a decade as director of the Colorado AIDS Project. He wrote this hymn on the theme of "diversity" for a meeting of the Rocky Mountain Conference (United Methodist).

Tune: NEW DIMENSIONS 8.7.8.7. with refrain
 Julian Rush, 1985
 Arr. The New Century Hymnal, 1994



Hanoi Street Vendor:
Photo by Fabian Irsara

Hope United Church of Christ Moline, IL
Worship Bulletin July 5, 2020
Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Thank you for joining us for worship today.

We are glad you are here!

*No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey,
you are welcome at Hope UCC!*

PRELUDE *Spirit of Jesus, if I Love My Neighbor* - Wren

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Come with joy and gladness to praise and honor God. Come to the refreshing waters that God provides.

Many: God is gracious and merciful and full of compassion. All creation joins us in giving thanks.

One: Give ear, all people, to the law of God. Give thanks for all the guidance God gives us.

Many: God upholds all who are falling. God raises us up when we are bowed down.

One: Come, all who are weary and carrying heavy burdens. Come, for Christ has promised rest.

Many: The gentle spirit of Christ invites us. We have come to find rest for our souls.

OPENING HYMN *Shall We Gather at the River* (Hanson Place)

INVITING GOD INTO OUR MIDST

We come together, gracious God, because we have heard your invitation. We sense that you alone know the burdens we carry. You understand our weariness. Sometimes our journey seems long and without respite. We long for the refreshment you provide as we come to worship you. The anticipation of this hour of rest and nourishment fills us with renewed joy and gladness. We thank you, God, that your revelation comes to us, not because we are worthy, but because we are open to your word. Open our hearts to receive all you offer. Amen

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God, we do not understand our own actions. We turn away from the good we are intent on doing. Yet, we find wisdom in your law. We delight in the idea of mutual caring and celebrating life together, but we get bogged down in our own concerns. We are too busy to seek community and too preoccupied to ponder your will for us. We go our own way, cutting ourselves off from you and one another. O God, help us to put away this sin. Amen

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS AND PASSING OF PEACE

We are created in the image of God and are blessed with the capacity to reflect God's will in our daily lives. God cares for us and invests us with responsibility. Thus God honors us with high expectations and confidence in our willingness to seek out life's best for all people. We are loved. We are forgiven. Our baptism is renewed.

Let us offer one another the gift of peace. May the Lord's peace be with you!

(If you are using this liturgy as a private devotion or participating in the live stream worship, please hold out your hands in blessing for all you are joined with in spirit. If you are participating in the live stream worship, please type in your peace greeting.)

PASTORAL PRAYER/LORD'S PRAYER (debts)

One: May the Lord be with you.

Many: And also with you.

One: Let us pray:

...

With the assurance Jesus offers, together we pray the words Jesus taught us:

Our Father, who is in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your 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 yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON

Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67

³⁴So he said, "I am Abraham's servant. ³⁵The LORD has greatly blessed my master, and he has become wealthy; he has given him flocks and herds, silver and gold, male and female slaves, camels and donkeys. ³⁶And Sarah my master's wife bore a son to my master when she was old; and he has given him all that he has. ³⁷My master made me swear, saying, 'You shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I live; ³⁸but you shall go to my father's house, to my kindred, and get a wife for my son.'

⁴²"I came today to the spring, and said, 'O LORD, the God of my master Abraham, if now you will only make successful the way I am going! ⁴³I am standing here by the spring of water; let the young woman who comes out to draw, to whom I shall say, "Please give me a little water from your jar to drink," ⁴⁴and who will say to me, "Drink, and I will draw for your camels also"—let her be the woman whom the LORD has appointed for my master's son.'

⁴⁵"Before I had finished speaking in my heart, there was Rebekah coming out with her water jar on her shoulder; and she went down to the spring, and drew. I said to her, 'Please let me drink.' ⁴⁶She quickly let down her jar from her shoulder, and said, 'Drink, and I will also water your camels.' So I drank, and she also watered the camels. ⁴⁷Then I asked her, 'Whose daughter are you?' She said, 'The daughter of Bethuel, Nahor's son, whom Milcah bore to him.' So I put the ring on her nose, and the bracelets on her arms. ⁴⁸Then I bowed my head and worshiped the LORD, and blessed the LORD, the God of my master Abraham, who had led me by the right way to obtain the daughter of my master's kinsman for his son. ⁴⁹Now then, if you will deal loyally and truly with my master, tell me; and if not, tell me, so that I may turn either to the right hand or to the left."

⁵⁸And they called Rebekah, and said to her, “Will you go with this man?” She said, “I will.” ⁵⁹So they sent away their sister Rebekah and her nurse along with Abraham’s servant and his men. ⁶⁰And they blessed Rebekah and said to her,

“May you, our sister, become
thousands of myriads;
may your offspring gain possession
of the gates of their foes.”

⁶¹Then Rebekah and her maids rose up, mounted the camels, and followed the man; thus the servant took Rebekah, and went his way.

⁶²Now Isaac had come from[£] Beer-lahai-roi, and was settled in the Negeb. ⁶³Isaac went out in the evening to walk[£] in the field; and looking up, he saw camels coming. ⁶⁴And Rebekah looked up, and when she saw Isaac, she slipped quickly from the camel, ⁶⁵and said to the servant, “Who is the man over there, walking in the field to meet us?” The servant said, “It is my master.” So she took her veil and covered herself. ⁶⁶And the servant told Isaac all the things that he had done. ⁶⁷Then Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah’s tent. He took Rebekah, and she became his wife; and he loved her. So Isaac was comforted after his mother’s death.

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Matthew 11:16-19. 25-30

¹⁶“But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,

¹⁷ ‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;
we wailed, and you did not mourn.’

¹⁸For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; ¹⁹the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.”[£]

²⁵At that time Jesus said, “I thank[£] you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; ²⁶yes, Father, for such was your gracious will.[£] ²⁷All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

²⁸“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

SERMON

INVITATION TO OFFERING

God has greatly blessed us with many kinds of wealth. Let our joy and gladness overflow as we express gratitude to God with our offerings. As we support the ministries of the church, let us consider those whose lives are grievously burdened, reaching out to them in practical acts of mercy.

We are profoundly grateful for your continued support of Hope UCC as we stay connected as a faith community in this time of social distancing and spiritual connection. We are continuing the ministry of our church throughout this stay at home order and we thank you for making this possible. We now have two ways to make your offering. Hope UCC is now able to offer e-giving through Breeze Management System to make it safer and easier for you to give anytime. You are able to safely donate electronically using your credit card or ACH transfer. You can find the link on our church

website (www.hopeuccqc.org). We also invite you to mail your offering to the church office – mail and messages are checked daily by Pastor Santina. Thank you for your generosity- your commitment is vital to continuing our congregation's ministries and commitments. Hope Grows! And there is nothing- not even a global pandemic - that can stop it! ☺

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

With all the gifts of creation, you have blessed us, gracious God. We give thanks for all your works. Gratitude is our first impulse for giving. Accept our grateful hearts, along with our gifts. We ask for wisdom as our church determines priorities for the use of resources. May we be as concerned about outreach and mission as we are about programs for ourselves. As you are faithful to us, O God, may we be faithful in all things, seeking always to live by your gracious will. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

(Please use whatever elements you have available for the bread and the cup)

Welcome

One: God be with you.

Many: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

Many: We lift them to God.

One: Let us give thanks to God Most High.

Many: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Holy God, we praise and bless you for creation and for your abiding love which brings us close to you, the source of all blessing. We thank you for creating us in your own image, for forgiving us when we act as though you have no claim on us, and for keeping us in your steadfast care. We rejoice in Jesus Christ, who shared the joys and sorrows of life as we know it. We remember Christ's death, we celebrate Christ's resurrection, and, as your church, we anticipate Christ's return. We take courage from your Holy Spirit and we offer you our praise for our sisters, brothers, and siblings of faith in every age who stand as witnesses to your love and justice. Together with all the company of heaven, we glorify you:

Holy, holy, holy God of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God Most High. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God! Hosanna in the highest!

Remember

We remember that on the night of betrayal and desertion, Jesus took bread, gave you thanks, broke the bread, and gave it to the disciples, saying: "This is my body which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, Jesus also took the cup, after supper, saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." By eating this bread and drinking this cup, we proclaim Christ's death, celebrate Christ's resurrection, and await Christ's coming again.

Consecration

Let us pray: Gracious God, by your Holy Spirit, bless these gifts of bread and cup – each unique in their composition and location, and yet common through the Spirit that anoints these gifts. Bless us as we receive the bread and cup, that we will offer you our faith and praise, and that we will be united with Christ and with one another. Through this table of fellowship, make us the Body of Christ and may your Spirit strengthen us when we feel weak, warm us when we are cold-hearted, bend us when we are stubborn, move us when we are uncaring, guide us in the way of love. May we continue to be faithful in all things. As we eat and drink, may the elements be symbols that remind us who we are and whose we are. We ask all this in the name of the one who extends the invitation to us, your Son, Christ Jesus. Amen

Through the broken bread we participate in the body of Christ.

Through the cup of blessing we participate in the new life Christ gives.

Invitation & Sharing Holy Communion

This is the table, not of the church, but of Jesus Christ. It is made ready for those who love him and for those who want to love him more. All are welcome. Come to the table because it is Jesus Christ who invites you. It is his will that those who want him should meet him here. Please join this feast in the spirit of joy and gratitude. These are the gifts of God for the people of God. Come, for all things are ready.

Take and eat, Christ's body given for you.
Take and drink, the cup of blessing.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our savior. Amen

CLOSING HYMN *In the Midst of New Dimensions* (New Dimensions)

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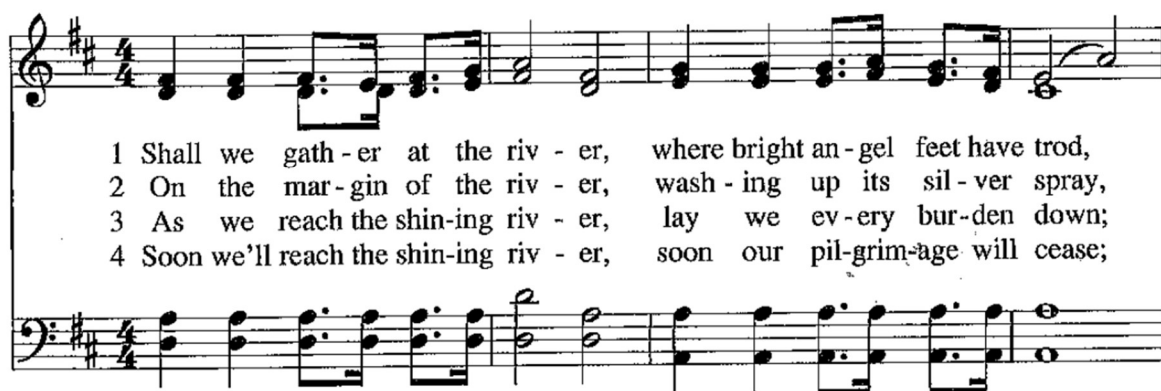
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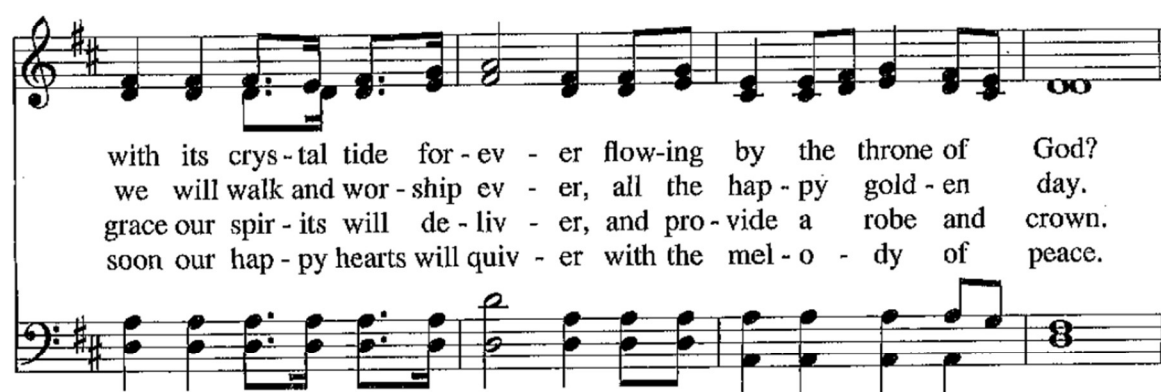
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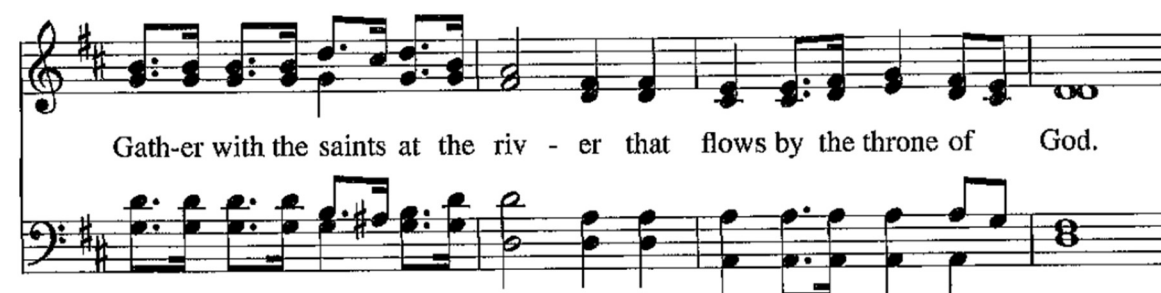


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Refrain



Yes, we'll gath-er at the riv-er, the beau-ti-ful, the beau-ti-ful riv-er,



Gath-er with the saints at the riv-er that flows by the throne of God.

Written during a time when an epidemic was claiming many lives in New York, Robert Lowry's hymn raised the question "Shall we meet again?" Lowry was pastor at Hanson Place Baptist Church in Brooklyn from 1861 to 1869, and collaborated on numerous hymn collections with William H. Doane.

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