

Sunday, October 2nd

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements



***Call to Worship**

Leader: In the midst of war and division, we wait for God.

**People: The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases,
God's mercies never come to an end.**

Leader: In the midst of devastation and loss, we wait for God.

**People: The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases,
God's mercies never come to an end.**

Leader: In the midst of change and uncertainty, we wait for God.

**People: The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases,
God's mercies never come to an end;
they are new every morning.
Great is your faithfulness, O God!**

***Hymn # 39 – Great Is Thy Faithfulness**

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God,
we confess that the world suffers because of our sin.
We use power against others for our own benefit.
We misuse the natural resources of the earth
in carelessness and greed.
By our habits and apathies,
others are subjected to desolation, even despair.
Forgive us for making enemies and exiles
of those you call us to love and serve.
Forgive us for laying waste to the landscape of creation.
Forgive us for being complicit in causing others to grieve
and to wander without rest.
We wait on you, O God.
We hope in you.
You alone can restore all things, even us.
We pray in Christ's name. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

***Passing of the Peace**

Leader: The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

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Time with Children

After the Time with Children, we invite children to return to their seats and participate in the service. Activity bags may be found on the welcome table.

Choral Anthem

Prayer of Illumination

Scripture: Lamentations 3:19-26

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon: God's Steadfast Love

***Affirmation of Faith:** The Confession of 1967

Already God's reign is present as a ferment in the world, stirring hope in humanity and preparing the world to receive its ultimate judgment and redemption. With an urgency born of this hope, the church applies itself to present tasks and strives for a better world. It does not identify limited progress with the kingdom of God on earth, nor does it despair in the face of disappointment and defeat. In steadfast hope, the church looks beyond all partial achievement to the final triumph of God. Amen.

***Hymn # 507 – Come to the Table of Grace**

Invitation to the Lord's Table

The Thanksgiving

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your heart.

People: We lift them up to the Lord!

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

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

The Sharing of the Meal

Sunday, October 2nd

Prayer After Communion

**Gracious God,
how can we thank you for such a gift?
For you have met us, fed us,
drawn us to you,
and bound us to one another.
Now send us out to share your love
and proclaim our hope
until Christ comes again. Amen.**

Invitation to Offering

Offertory

Prayer of Thanksgiving

***Hymn # 821 – My Life Flows On (How Can I Keep from Singing?)**

***Charge and Benediction**

***Congregational Response: Hymn # 606 – Doxology**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below; Praise God above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Postlude

CREATION AND PROVIDENCE

39 Great Is Thy Faithfulness



1 *Great is thy faith - ful - ness, O God my Fa - ther;
2 Sum - mer and win - ter, and spring - time and har - vest,
3 Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth,
there is no shad - ow of turn - ing with thee.
sun, moon, and stars in their cours - es a - bove
thine own dear pres - ence to cheer and to guide,
Thou chang - est not; thy com - pas - sions they fail not.
join with all na - ture in man - i - fold wit - ness
strength for to - day and bright hope for to - mor - row:
As thou hast been thou for - ev - er wilt be.
to thy great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy, and love.
bless - ings all mine, with ten thou - sand be - side!

**Or "Great is thy faithfulness, O God, Creator."*

Written as a meditation on Lamentations 3:22–23, this text is one of the few hymns among the 1200 poems by this Methodist writer and pastor that has gained much currency. The tune that appears here was composed especially for these words, and the pairing has proved enduring.

CREATION AND PROVIDENCE

Refrain



Great is thy faith - ful - ness! Great is thy faith - ful - ness!
오 신 실 하 신 주 오 신 실 하 신 주



Morn - ing by morn - ing, new mer - cies I see.
날 마 다 자 비 를 베푸 시 며



All I have need - ed thy hand hath pro - vid - ed.
일 용 할 모 든 것 내 려 주 시 니



Great is thy faith - ful - ness, Lord un - to me!
오 신 실 하 신 주 나 의 구 주

Come to the Table of Grace 507

Capo 3: (D) (A) (Bm) (D7/A) (G)
F C Dm F7/C B^b

1 Come to the ta - ble of grace. Come to the

(A) (D) (A) (D) (Em)
C F C F Gm

ta - ble of grace. This is God's ta - ble; it's

(D/A) (G) (D/A) (A7) (D) (G) (D)
F/A B^b F/C C7 F B^b F

not yours or mine. Come to the ta - ble of grace.

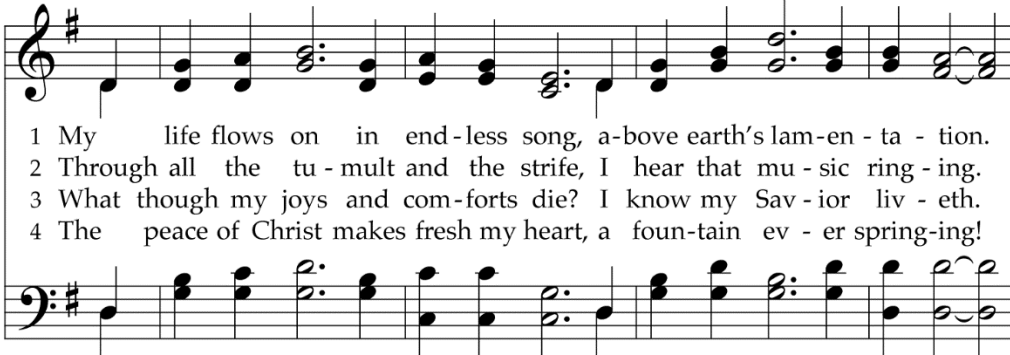
- 2 Come to the table of peace...
- 3 Come to the table of love...
- 4 Come to the table of hope...
- 5 Come to the table of joy...

The simple, formulaic nature of this song makes it especially suitable for use during the communion portion of the Lord's Supper. Because it can be learned readily and does not require reference to a printed source, it frees people to sing before and after receiving the elements.

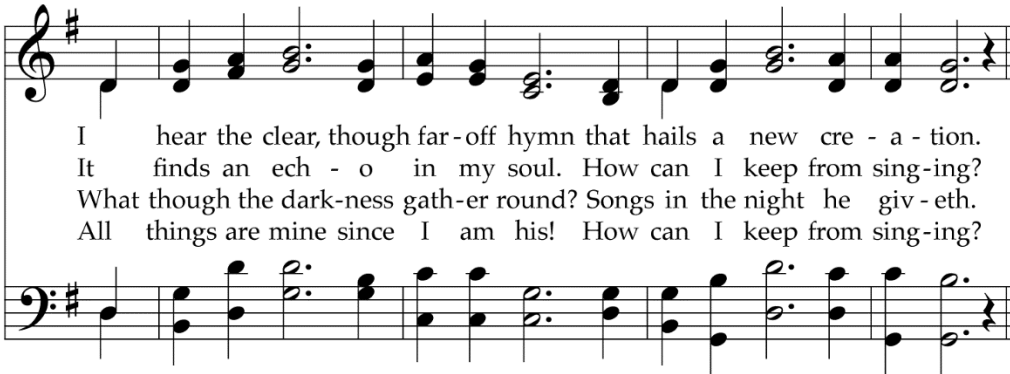
LIVING AND DYING IN CHRIST

821

My Life Flows On How Can I Keep from Singing?

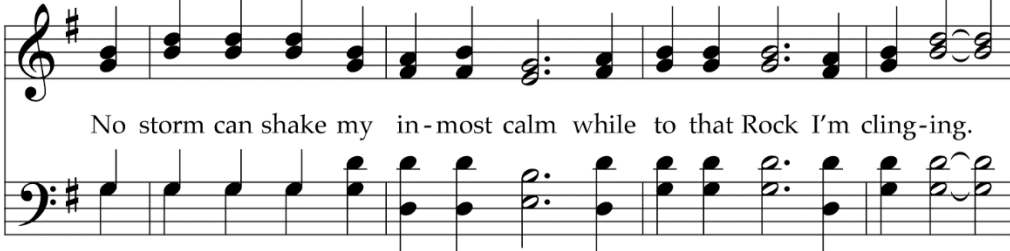


1 My life flows on in end-less song, a-bove earth's lam-en - ta - tion.
2 Through all the tu - mult and the strife, I hear that mu - sic ring - ing.
3 What though my joys and com-forts die? I know my Sav - ior liv - eth.
4 The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a foun-tain ev - er spring-ing!



I hear the clear, though far-off hymn that hails a new cre - a - tion.
It finds an ech - o in my soul. How can I keep from sing-ing?
What though the dark-ness gath-er round? Songs in the night he giv - eth.
All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from sing-ing?

Refrain



No storm can shake my in-most calm while to that Rock I'm cling-ing.



Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from sing-ing?

In the *New York Observer* of August 7, 1868, this text was titled "Always Rejoicing," and was attributed to "Pauline T." This may well be where the Baptist pastor and musician to whom it is usually credited encountered the words that he later published with his tune.