Prelude

Welcome and Announcements



Call to Worship

Leader: We gather to worship the Good Shepherd, **People: who lays down his life for his sheep.**Leader: We gather to worship Jesus Christ,

People: who call us to lay down our lives for others.

Leader: Easter people, Christ is risen! **People: Christ is risen indeed!**

Hymn # 610 - O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

O for a thousand tongues to sing my dear Redeemer's praise, the glories of my God and King, the triumphs of God's grace!

The name of Jesus charms our fears, and bids our sorrows cease, sings music in the sinner's ears, brings life, and health, and peace.

Christ speaks, and listening to his voice new life the dead receive; the mournful waken to rejoice; the poor in heart believe.

My gracious Master and my God, assist me to proclaim, to spread through all the earth abroad the honors of thy name.

To God all glory, praise, and love be now and ever given by saints below and saints above, the church in earth and heaven.

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

O God, you are the Good Shepherd who attend to our needs, but we fail to see your abundant life in our midst. We see only scarcity. Our consumer culture has engraved upon us the message that we are "not enough" — not beautiful or handsome enough, not smart enough, not rich enough. At the core of our being, we believe that we are "not enough." Help us to see that we are your beloved children, created in your image. And help us to live out of your goodness. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Passing of the Peace

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

People: And also with you.

Special Music

Prayer of Illumination

Sunday, April 25th

Scripture: 1 John 3:16-24

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon: Love Revealed

Affirmation of Faith: A Brief Statement of Faith

In life and in death we belong to God.

Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,

the love of God,

and the communion of the Holy Spirit,

we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel,

whom alone we worship and serve.

With believers in every time and place,

we rejoice that nothing in life or in death

can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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

My life flows on in endless song, above earth's lamentation. I hear the clear, though far-off hymn that hails a new creation. No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that Rock I'm clinging. Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing?

Through all the tumult and the strife, I hear that music ringing. It finds an echo in my soul. How can I keep from singing? No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that Rock I'm clinging. Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing?

What though my joys and comforts die? I know my Savior liveth. What though the darkness gather round? Songs in the night he giveth. No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that Rock I'm clinging. Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing?

The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a fountain ever springing! All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from singing? No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that Rock I'm clinging. Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing?

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.

Charge and Benediction

Congregational Response: Hymn # 243 – Be Not Afraid (x2)

Be not afraid; sing out for joy! Christ is risen, alleluia! Be not afraid; sing out for joy! Christ is risen, alleluia!

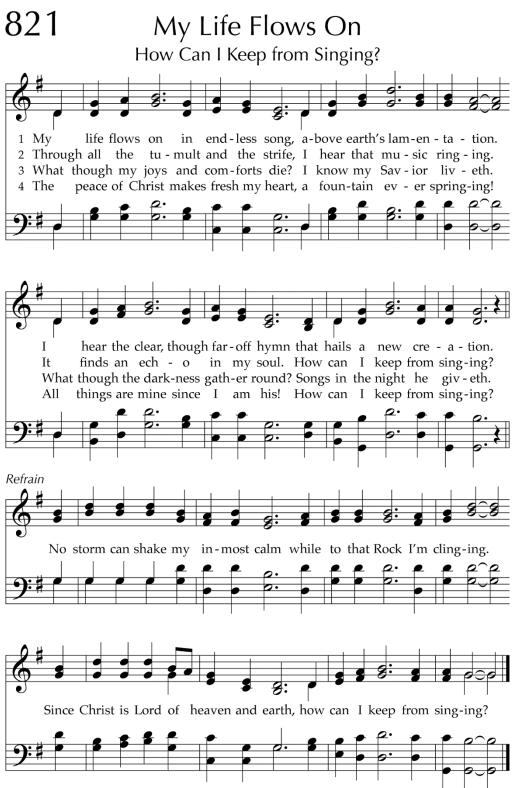
Postlude

O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing 610



This text comes from an eighteen-stanza hymn the author wrote to mark the first anniversary of his lifechanging conversion experience. It is now customarily the first hymn in Methodist hymnals worldwide. This tune, adapted from a German composer, is the usual North American setting.

LIVING AND DYING IN CHRIST



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.