

# **A Service of Song & Praise**

**Celebrating**

**Two Hundred Years of Music**

**in the**

**Churches of God, General Conference**



**Held at Peace Church**

**St. John's Church Road, Camp Hill, PA, 17011**

**Monday the 14<sup>th</sup> of July 2025 at 4:00 p.m.**

# The Order of Service

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Host & Narrator	Pastor Edward L. Rosenberry
Song Leader	Pastor David A. Welker
Organist & Keyboard	H. Timothy Koch

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Prelude	The Doll (1807) Organ	
Welcome	John Winebrenner's Musical Legacy	Pastor Ed
Invocation		Pastor Ed

## **The Reformation Heritage: German Hymnody**

<i>All My Heart This Night Rejoices</i>	Paul Gerhardt – 1656
(Found in the 1953 hymnal)	

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<i>O Sacred Head Now Wounded</i>	Paul Gerhardt – 1656
(Found in the 1881, 1953 hymnals)	

## **The Great Awakening and Early American Context**

<i>Alas and Did My Savior</i>	Isaac Watts – 1707
(Found in the 1825, 1859, 1953 hymnals)	

<i>Come We that Love the Lord</i>	Isaac Watts – 1707
(Found in the 1825, 1859, 1953 hymnals)	

<i>Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing</i>	Robert Robinson – 1757
(Found in the 1825, 1859, 1881, 1953 hymnals)	

## **Winebrenner's Prayer Meeting and Revival Hymn Book (1825)**

<i>All Hail the Power of Jesus Name</i>	Edward Perronet – 1778
(Found in the 1825, 1859, 1881, 1953 hymnals)	

<i>Brethren we are met together</i>	George Atkins – 1819
(Found in the 1825 hymnal)	

<i>Now to the Father – A doxology</i>	John Winebrenner – 1825
(Found in the 1825 hymnal)	



**Winebrenner's Seraphina (1854)**

Interlude      Thoughts on Winebrenner's Choral Music      Pastor Ed

**Winebrenner's Church Hymn Book (1859)**

*The Church of God Believes It Right*      John Winebrenner – 1859  
(Found in the 1859, 1881, 1953 hymnals)

*Hearken, Christians! Hear the groaning*      Unknown  
(Found in the 1859 hymnal – anti-slavery song)

**The Church of God Selection of Spiritual Songs (1881)**

*Rock of Ages*      Augustus Toplady – 1776  
(Found in the 1859, 1881, 1953 hymnals)

*If I Would Be a Child of God*      Lydia Forney – 1881  
(Found in the 1881, 1953 hymnals)

**The Churches of God Hymnal (1953)**

*Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling*      Will Thompson – 1880  
(Found in the 1953 hymnal)

**The Legacy: Music in the CGGC Today**

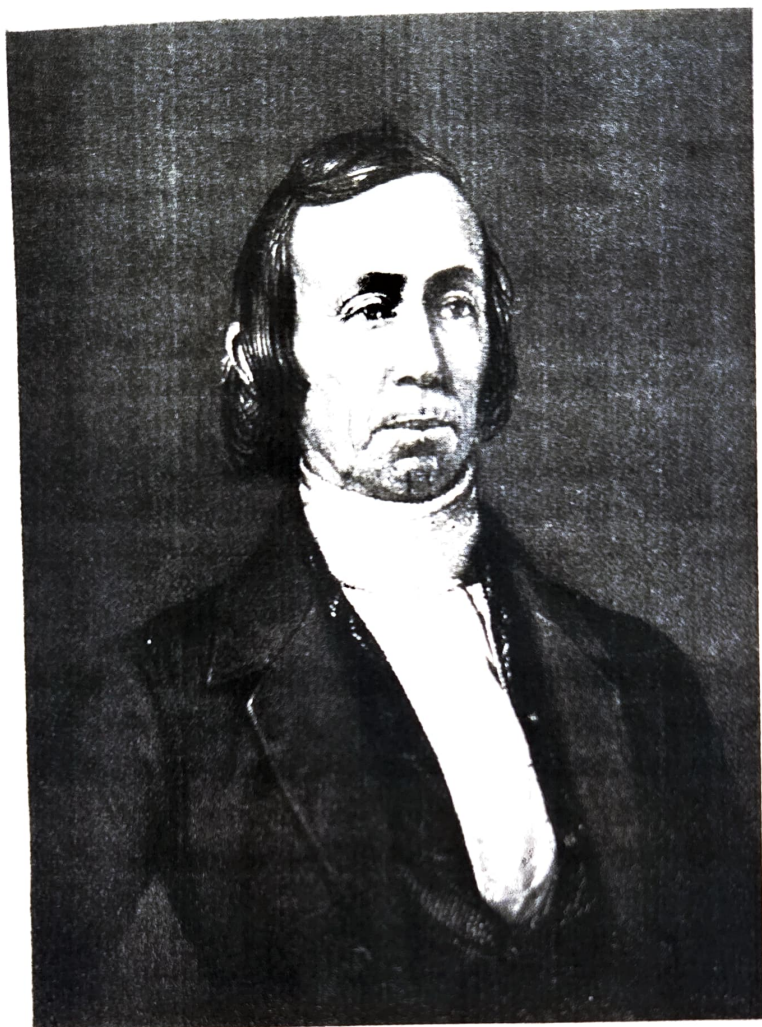
*I'm So Glad I'm a Part of the Family of God*      Bill & Gloria Gaither

*How Great is Our God – How Great Thou Art*      Chris Tomlin

Closing Prayer & Benediction  
Announcements & Dismissal  
Postlude

Pastor David  
Pastor Ed

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No offering will be collected during the service, but a contribution box is provided at the door. All funds received will go to support the ongoing preservation and use of Peace Church. Gifts by check should be made out to "The Friends of Peace Church." Thank-you.



T. WINEBRENNER

*John Winebrenner*

Throughout his life Winebrenner wrote and/or published several ephemeral music works often for special occasions like a building dedication or for inclusion in one of his publications. In 1880 George Ross, who knew him personally, offered the following remembrance of Winebrenner. "Many will call to mind with what fervor he sung his favorite hymns, such as his preferred invitation hymn, 'Come, ye sinners, poor and needy.' He possessed the very rare facility of striking the popular chord in hymnology."



## CGGC Historic Music Books

### **A Prayer Meeting and Revival Hymn Book – Winebrenner**

In 1825 Winebrenner issued this pocket-sized, words-only hymnal, no doubt to supplement his income but also to provide a vehicle to disseminate contemporary songs, as the title page stated “for the use of social prayer meetings and revivals of religion.” It became a popular work and went through many press runs during Winebrenner’s lifetime. The 10th edition, issued in 1845, contained 501 hymns with an appendix of 72 additional selections. It included no less than 8 written by Winebrenner and 1 each by Elders Joseph H. Bamberger (1818–1846) and John F. Weishampel (1807–1883). The General Eldership purchased the publication rights from Winebrenner near the end of his life and continued publication to the 27th stereotyped edition, years after his demise.

### **Das Christliche Gesang-Buch – John Winebrenner**

In 1834 John and Francis Wyeth of Harrisburg printed this 412-page pocket *Gesang-Buch* for Winebrenner. In his preface he states 3 reasons for producing this songbook. “One reason prompting this was the earnest and persistent desire and request of many beloved friends and brothers in Christ. Another was to provide the said brothers and congregations with a complete, edifying, and inexpensive hymnal; omitting mixed material, false doctrine, and anything else useless and subject to fundamental contradiction. Finally, it was also the wish and intention in writing and publishing this book to share with all congregations and to warmly recommend various new, unpublished, solid and, on many occasions, very appropriate and useful hymns for worship use.” Undoubtedly, a 4th, unstated reason involved Winebrenner’s need to support himself financially as he derived income from book sales. About 1849 Winebrenner reissued this work in a new and expanded edition produced by Leary & Co. in Philadelphia and available from them or booksellers in Pittsburgh, Wooster, and St. Louis. Winebrenner quoted Psalm 96:1 on the title page of both editions, but he cites the reference as Isaiah 40:10. Interesting. One wonders why?

### **The Seraphina – John Winebrenner**

In 1854 Winebrenner published his 483-page oblong songbook *The Seraphina* with words set in either the shaped (Fa-Sol-La) or the round (Do-Re-Mi) music notation system. The title page advertises the book as a “Christian library of church music: containing a large and choice collection of new and standard hymn tunes, set pieces, anthems, chants, etc. designed for the use of churches, choirs, singing societies, sabbath-schools, literary institutions, temperance meetings, and various other occasions.” Winebrenner’s “prime motive” in *The Seraphina* was, as he said it, to facilitate “those who have the gift to sing ...to acquire a proper knowledge of this art, so that they may best glorify their Maker and edify each other, by singing with the spirit and with understanding.” He

further states, "I feel it my duty and aim, by all laudable means, to make myself useful to all, in my day and generation." The final song selection by Leopold Meignen (1793–1873), who also wrote the introductory essay on the Art of Singing, is "An Ascension Anthem" with the tune labeled Winebrenner.

### **The Church Hymn Book – John Winebrenner**

In 1859 the General Eldership published this words-only work for use among the churches. In 1848 and 1851 they had authorized committees to produce it, but nothing happened. Then in 1854 they prevailed upon Winebrenner to compile the hymn book, but made no provision for his expenses. So, again, it became in Winebrenner's words a "dead letter." Finally, in May 1857 the Church allocated funds for Winebrenner to begin the project. It took 2 years to complete the project. The finished work contains 846 pages with 1250 selections, 19 doxologies and extensive indexes of subjects, scripture texts, and hymn tune first lines. Among the entries at least 11 by Winebrenner can be identified, several of which appeared earlier in his *Revival Hymn Book*. One of his hymns appearing here for the first time, "The Church of God believes it right" will reappear in the 1881 and 1953 General Conference hymnals. Over the next 2 decades the General Eldership republished *The Church Hymn Book* several times.

### **The Church of God Selection of Spiritual Songs The General Eldership**

In 1878 the General Eldership authorized a revision of the 1859 hymnal, but after review it was decided that a totally new book with musical notation was needed. In 1881 the General Eldership approved the endeavor and *Spiritual Songs* resulted. It consists of 441 pages incorporating 1086 songs, 24 doxologies, and indexes for tunes, meter, authors, texts, first lines of hymns and individual stanzas, and subjects. Only 1 song by Winebrenner appears, but songs by other Church of God authors include 1 by Lydia Forney (1841–1925) and 2 by Martin S. Newcomer (1840–1911). This song book went through several printings in subsequent years with press runs known as late as 1915.

### **The Churches of God Hymnal – The General Eldership**

At the General Elderships of 1941 and 1944 the need for a new church hymnal came up for discussion, but no definitive action was taken due to the war then in progress. In the next triennium 1947–1950 an official hymnal committee was appointed, but post-war shortages prohibited publication. At the next eldership gathering in 1950 the committee was enlarged and provided adequate finances to complete the project. This hymnal went through several press runs starting in 1953 through the fourth (last?) edition of 1965. That edition included 693 selections along with a variety of worship aids and indexes. At the very back several "supplementary hymns" appeared including several by Churches of God authors along with orders of worship for the ordinances.



## A Service of Song and Praise

### Hymn/Song Lyrics

#### *All My Heart This Night Rejoices*

German Title: Fröhlich soll mein herze springen; Author: Paul Gerhardt (1656); Translator: Catherine Winkworth (1858); Tune: WARUM SOLLT ICH; Meter: 8.3.3.6.D

1 All my heart this night rejoices,  
As I hear, Far and near, Sweetest angel voices;  
"Christ is born," their choirs are singing,  
Till the air Ev'rywhere Now with joy is ringing.

2 For it dawns, the promised morrow  
Of his birth, Who the Earth Rescues from its sorrow.  
God in human form descending; Of his grace  
To our race Here his Son is lending.

3 Come then, let us hasten yonder;  
Here let all, Great and small, Kneel in awe and wonder.  
Love Him who with love is yearning;  
Hail the Star That from far Bright with hope is burning!

4 You who pine in weary sadness,  
Weep no more, For the door Now is found of gladness.  
Cling to him, for he will guide you  
Where no cross, Pain or loss Can again betide you.

5 Hasten, come, you heavy-hearted,  
Who for sin Deep within Long and sore have smarted;  
For the poisoned wounds you're feeling,  
Help is near; One is here, Mighty for his healing!

6 Blessèd Savior, let me find you!  
Keeping me Lovingly, Cast me not behind you!  
Life of life, my heart you're stilling;  
Calm I rest On thy breast, While this void you're filling.

#### *O Sacred Head Now Wounded*

German Title: O Haupt voll Blut und Wunden; Attributed to: St. Bernard of Clairvaux; Attributed to: Arnulf, Abbot of Villers-la-Ville; Author (German version): Paul Gerhardt (1656); Translator: James W. Alexander (1829); Tune: PASSION CHORALE (Hassler); Meter: 7.6.7.6.D.

1 O sacred Head, now wounded, with grief and shame weighed down,  
now scornfully surrounded with thorns, Thine only crown.  
O sacred Head, what glory, what bliss till now was Thine!  
Yet, though despised and gory, I joy to call Thee mine.

2 What Thou, my Lord, hast suffered was all for sinners' gain;  
mine, mine was the transgression, but Thine the deadly pain.  
Lo, here I fall, my Savior! 'Tis I deserve Thy place;  
look on me with Thy favor, vouchsafe to me Thy grace.

3 What language shall I borrow to thank Thee, dearest Friend,  
for this, Thy dying sorrow, Thy pity without end?  
O make me Thine forever! And should I fainting be,  
Lord, let me never, never outlive my love for Thee.

4 Be near when I am dying, O show Thy cross to me!  
And, for my succor flying, come, Lord, to set me free:  
these eyes, new faith receiving, from Thee shall never move;  
for he who dies believing dies safely in Thy love.

### ***Alas, and Did My Savior Bleed***

Author: Issac Watts (1707); Tune: MARTYRDOM (AVON, HUDSON);  
Meter: 8.6.8.6.

1 Alas! and did my Savior bleed, and did my Sovereign die!  
Would he devote that sacred head for sinners such as I?

2 Was it for crimes that I have done, he groaned upon the tree?  
Amazing pity! Grace unknown! And love beyond degree!

3 Well might the sun in darkness hide, and shut its glories in,  
when God, the mighty maker, died for his own creature's sin.

4 Thus might I hide my blushing face while his dear cross appears;  
dissolve my heart in thankfulness, and melt mine eyes to tears.

5 But drops of tears can ne'er repay the debt of love I owe.  
Here, Lord, I give myself away; 'tis all that I can do.

### ***Come, We that Love the Lord***

Author: Isaac Watts (1707); Tune: MARCHING TO ZION (Lowry); Meter:  
6.6.8.6.Ref.

1 Come, we that love the Lord, and let our joys be known;  
join in a song with sweet accord, and thus surround the throne.

*We're marching to Zion, Beautiful, beautiful Zion;  
We're marching upward to Zion, The beautiful city of God.*

2 Let those refuse to sing who never knew our God;  
but children of the heav'nly King may speak their joys abroad.

3 The hill of Zion yields a thousand sacred sweets  
before we reach the heav'nly fields, or walk the golden streets.

4 Then let our songs abound, and every tear be dry;  
we're marching through Emmanuel's ground to fairer worlds on high.



### ***Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing***

Author: Robert Robinson (1758); Altered: Martin Madan (1760); Tune: NETTLETON; Meter: 8.7.8.7.D.

1 Come, thou Fount of every blessing; tune my heart to sing thy grace;  
streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.

Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above;  
praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, mount of God's unchanging love!

2 Here I raise my Ebenezer; hither by thy help I'm come;  
and I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.  
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God;  
he, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood.

3 O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be!  
Let that grace now, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee.  
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;  
here's my heart; O take and seal it; seal it for thy courts above.

### ***All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name***

Author: Edward Perronet (1780); Tune: CORONATION (Holden);  
Meter: 8.6.8.6.8.6.

1 All hail the power of Jesus' name! Let angels prostrate fall.  
Bring forth the royal diadem, and crown him Lord of all.  
Bring forth the royal diadem, and crown him Lord of all!

2 Crown him, ye martyrs of our God, Who from his altar call;  
Extol the stem of Jesse's rod, And crown Him—Lord of all.  
Extol the stem of Jesse's rod, And crown Him—Lord of all.

3 Hail him, ye heirs of David's line, Whom David Lord did call;  
The God incarnate! Man Divine! And crown him—Lord of all.  
And God incarnate! Man Divine! And crown him—Lord of All.

4 Ye chose seed of Israel's race, Ye ransom'd from the fall,  
Hail him who saves you by his grace, and crown him--Lord of all.  
Hail him who saves you by his grace, and crown him--Lord of all!

5 Sinners, whose love can ne'er forget The wormwood and the gall;  
Go, spread your trophies at his feet, And crown him—Lord of all.  
Go, spread your trophies at his feet, And crown him—Lord of all.

6 Let every kindred, every tribe, On this terrestrial ball,  
To him all majesty ascribe, And crown him—Lord of all.  
To him all majesty ascribe, And crown him—Lord of all.

### ***Brethren, We Have Met to Worship/***

### ***Brethren, We Have Met Together***

Author: George Askins; Tune: HOLY MANNA; Meter: 8.7.8.7.D.

1 Brethren, we are met together, To adore the Lord our God;  
Will you pray with all your power, While we try to preach the word.  
All is vain, unless the Spirit Of the Holy One come down;  
Brethren, pray, and holy manna Will be showered all around.

2 Brethren, see poor sinners round you, Standing on the brink of woe;  
Death is coming, hell is moving; Can you bear to let them go?  
See our fathers--see our mothers, And our children sinking down;  
Brethren, pray, and holy manna Will be showered all around.

3 Brethren here are poor backsliders, Who were once near heav'n's  
door.

But they have denied their Savior And are worse than e'er before.  
Yet the Savior offers pardon, If they will confess their wound.  
Brethren, pray, and holy manna Will be showered all around.

4 Sisters will you join and help us? Moses' sister helped him;  
Will you seek the trembling mourners, Who are struggling hard with  
sin?

Tell them all about the Savior Tell them that he will be found.  
Sisters, pray, and holy manna Will be showered all around.

5 Brethren, let us love each other, And our God supremely too;  
Let us love and pray for sinners, Till our God makes all things new  
Then he'll call us home to heaven, At his table we'll sit down.  
Christ will gird himself and serve us With sweet manna all around.

### ***Now to the Father***

Author: John Winebrenner (1825); Tune: OLD HUNDRETH; Meter: 8.8.8.8.  
(LM)

Now to the Father, and the Son, And Holy Spirit, three in one;  
Be kingdom, pow'r and glory giv'n, By all on earth, and all in heav'n.

### ***The Church of God Believes It Right***

Author: John Winebrenner (1859); Tune: GRATITUDE; Meter: 8.8.8.8. (LM)

1 The Church of God believes it right, To think and do as Jesus bade,  
When on that dark and doleful night He gave His law, and plainly said:

2 Mark the example which I give: Keep it, and show your mutual love  
My precepts do, and you shall live, In bliss below, and heaven above.

3 Then, do we love our brethren now? And are we bound in union  
sweet?

If so, like Jesus, let us bow, And let us wash each other's feet.



4 Let no one be ashamed of this,—Or, Peter-like, turn, and say, no;  
 But as we aim for heav'nly bliss, We'll in our Master's footsteps go.

5 Now, Lord, we'll wash Thy people's feet, And here enjoy their fond  
 embrace;  
 Each with a kiss of friendship greet; And hope in love to see thy face.

6 And then we'll feast on heav'nly love, And find our joys to be  
 complete:  
 Yes, then we'll sing thy praise above, And bow, with angels, at thy feet,

### ***Hearken, Christian, Hear the Groaning***

Author: Unknown; Tune: ARISE; Meter: 8.7.8.7.

1 Hearken, Christian, hear the groaning Of the poor oppressed slave;  
 Hear him now this state bemoaning; None to pity, none to save.

2 Listen, friends of every nation, To the wailing bondman's plea,  
 Hear his doleful lamentation, Hear him sigh for liberty.

3 Will you by your votes and silence Servitude perpetuate?  
 Can you look without abhorrence On a system God doth hate?

4 Can you bow with cold indifference, And the throne of God address?  
 Will you there ask no assistance, For the bondman in distress?

5 Think, ye sons of ease and freedom, Of the suff'rings he endures;  
 You would sigh for liberation, Were the slave's condition yours.

### ***Rock of Ages***

Author: Agustus Toplady (1776); Tune: TOPLADY (Hastings); Meter:  
 7.7.7.7.7.7.

1 Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee;  
 let the water and the blood, from thy wounded side which flowed,  
 be of sin the double cure; save from wrath and make me pure.

2 Not the labors of my hands can fulfill thy law's demands;  
 could my zeal no respite know, could my tears forever flow,  
 all for sin could not atone; thou must save, and thou alone.

3 Nothing in my hand I bring, simply to the cross I cling;  
 naked, come to thee for dress; helpless, look to thee for grace;  
 foul, I to the fountain fly; wash me, Savior, or I die.

4 While I draw this fleeting breath, when mine eyes shall close in death,  
 when I soar to worlds unknown, see thee on thy judgment throne,  
 Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee.

### ***If I Would Be a Child of God***

Author: Lydia A. Forney (1881); Tune: TEMA; Meter: 8.8.8.8.Ref.

1 If I would be a child of God, I surely must obey his word;  
With cheerful heart and willing mind, To all his precepts be inclined.

*O blessed Redeemer! Thou who has died for me;  
Whatever thy will may be, dear Lord, I'll gladly follow thee.*

2 The last great Feasttime having come Before our Lord was going  
home—  
Adorned in humbleness complete, He washed his twelve disciples' feet.

3 Then seated in their midst again, This new example to explain,  
He taught them how to understand, And to observe this plain command.

4 "Ye call me Lord and Master, true, For so I am." Then ought ye too  
Be of a meek and lowly mind; In sweet obedience pleasure find.

5 "If I, your Lord, have seen it meet, To stoop and wash my brethren's  
feet;

No greater than your Lord are ye; Then in this act do follow me."

6 Dear Lord, we'll gladly follow thee; We come to deep, humility;  
Oh, bless us now, while here we meet, Thy will to do in washing feet.

### ***Softly and Tenderly, Jesus Is Calling***

Author: Will. Thompson (1880); Tune: THOMPSON (Thompson); Meter:  
11.7.11.7.Ref.

1 Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling, calling for you and for me;  
see, on the portals he's waiting and watching, watching for you and for  
me.

*Come home, come home; you who are weary come home;  
earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling, calling, O sinner, come home!*

2 Why should we tarry when Jesus is pleading, pleading for you and for  
me?

Why should we linger and heed not his mercies, mercies for you and for  
me?

3 Time is now fleeting, the moments are passing, passing from you and  
from me;  
shadows are gathering, deathbeds are coming, coming for you and for  
me

4 O for the wonderful love he has promised, promised for you and for  
me!

Though we have sinned, he has mercy and pardon, pardon for you and  
for me.



## ***The Family of God***

Author: Gloria Gaither; Author: Bill Gaither; Meter: Irregular

I'm so glad I'm a part of the fam'ly of God.  
I've been washed in the fountain, cleansed by His blood!  
Joint hears with Jesus as we travel this sod;  
For I'm part of the fam'ly, the fam'ly of God.

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## ***How Great Is Our God***

Author: Ed Cash; Author: Chris Tomlin; Author: Jesse Reeves; Meter: Irregular

The splendor of the King, Clothed in majesty;  
Let all the earth rejoice, Let all the earth rejoice.  
He wraps Himself in light, And darkness tries to hide,  
It trembles at His voice, It trembles at His voice.  
How great is our God! Sing with me: How great is our God!  
And all will see how great, how great is our God!

~~And age to age His stands, And time is in His hands;~~  
Beginning and the End, Beginning and the End.

The God-head, three in one, Father, Spirit, Son,  
The Lion and the Lamb, the Lion and the Lamb.

How great is our God! Sing with me: How great is our God!  
And all will see how great, how great is our God!

Name above all names, Worthy of all praise;  
My heart will sing, "How great is our God!"

Name above all names, Worthy of all praise;  
My heart will sing, "How Great is our God!"

How great is our God! Sing with me: How great is our God!  
And all will see how great, how great is our God!

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## Service Notes

John Winebrenner (1793 – 1860) separated from the German Reformed Church Synod in 1828 after having been locked out of Salem Church in Harrisburg for promoting “new measures.” As a consequence, he organized an independent congregation which erected its own sanctuary on Mulberry Street in 1825. Over the next five years a network of like-minded ministers developed in the greater Harrisburg area, and in 1830 they decided to form an association dedicated to promoting experiential faith in Christ, establishing churches on the “New Testament plan,” and preaching the Gospel wherever needed. Thus began the Church of God.

Winebrenner’s new measures included a new approach to church music and congregational singing. He not only sought a restoration of sound biblical faith and practice, polity and even nomenclature, but he wanted to see spirit-filled worship that would honor God and transform lives. To that end he published the first edition of *A Prayer Meeting and Revival Hymn Book* in 1825. It was still in print at the time of his death thirty-five years later. It was the first of several song books he produced for the Church. See the insert to this bulletin for a listing of Churches of God music books.

The song service today reflects the broader context of American Protestant Christianity over the past two centuries, but it will feature several selections, particularly from the 1800s, that originated within the Churches of God. Winebrenner himself wrote seventeen songs published in his various books (See insert), and at least four other Church of God authors contributed one or more entries.

The service follows a chronological sequence beginning with songs typical of the Reformation and Early America and continues with those popular at the zenith of the Second Great Awakening during Winebrenner’s lifetime. These are followed by selections from the 1881 *Spiritual Songs* and the 1953 *Churches of God Hymnal*. The service concludes with a few familiar contemporary numbers. As part of the service the congregation is expected to sing with “fervor” as Winebrenner insisted. Singing will be accompanied by organ and piano but there may be some *acapella* or lined out singing as well. Enjoy the service and worship in spirit and truth.