



Red Clay Creek

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

500 McKennans Church Road
Wilmington DE 19808
(302) 998-0434 / rccpc.org

**TILL ALL SUCCESS BE NOBLENESS: A PRAYER SERVICE
ON THE OCCASION OF THE NATION'S 250TH ANNIVERSARY
SUNDAY, JULY 5, 2026 / 10 AM**

Rooted in Love, Lighting the Way
Welcome to worship, welcome to Red Clay, welcome home!

We're glad you're here. If needed, a family area with CCTV is in the narthex near the front doors, and our nursery is open for young children. Restrooms are available by exiting out the side door near the pulpit and turning left. After worship, join us for Coffee Hour in Founders Hall by the main parking lot. Please silence your cell phone as we enter into worship.

Today's service is inspired by:
A SERVICE OF LESSONS AND HYMNS FOR INDEPENDENCE DAY,
JULY 4, 2008 – THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. PAUL

GATHER

LIGHTING OF THE PEACE CANDLE

(Universal Prayer for Peace from the Iona Community)

Lead us from death to life, from falsehood to truth.
Lead us from despair to hope, from fear to trust.
Lead us from hate to love, from war to peace.
Let peace fill our lives, our world, our universe.
Peace, peace, peace.

PRELUDE

Simple Gifts

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

One: The Lord be with you.

Many: **And also with you.**



Sign-Up!

COMMISSIONING OF SUMMER ARTS CAMPS STAFF, HELPERS & VOLUNTEERS

Ben & Deena Andrews, Steve Armstrong, Ava Baldwin, Gail Bouck, Karen Caldas, Delaney Christel, Debra Crowley, Josephine DeCaire, Elaine DeLuca, Diane Freed, John Gast, Sue Gleason, Darlyn Green-Kocher, Abigail Haigh, Riley Harter, Bonnie Hudson, Janice Itzel, Meredith Jones, Jackie Kacmar, Brooke Kennedy, Shannon Kidder, Al Leonhard, Niquese Lewis, Samaria & Shea Lowman, Sofia Martin, Isabelle Mouldsdale, Linda Neel, David & Diana Newby, Kristian Paradis, Max Phillips, Liz Phung, Jada Roach, Jamie Russell, Caleigh Serpico, Norah Slusser, Vicki Smith, Lydia Van Horne, Jovie & Lawson & Lily Vaughn, Nick Waller, Ashlyn Ward, Beth & Tom Whipple

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Blessed be God, who Creates, Redeems and Sanctifies.

Many: **And blessed be the Realm of God, now and forever.**

*HYMN 338

O Beautiful for Spacious Skies

*BIDDING PRAYER

One: Hear the words of The Declaration of Independence, signed on July 4, 1776. *“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.”* As Christians who are Americans, we gather this day to thank God for the gifts of our freedom and liberty, to honor those whose vision, wisdom and sacrifice secured these ‘unalienable Rights’ for us and every generation, to confess that while we believe that all are created equal, we have not always allowed others to enjoy that freedom or those rights; we ask God’s forgiveness and call upon God’s unconditional love and boundless mercy to grant that we may be given the strength and courage to live more fully into our faith and beliefs. Let us pray:

O Lord our Governor, bless the leaders of our land, that we may be a people at peace among ourselves and a blessing to other nations of the earth.

(continued)

Many: Lord, keep this nation under your care.

One: To the President and members of the Cabinet, to Governors of States, Mayors of Cities, and to all in administrative authority, grant wisdom and grace in the exercise of their duties.

Many: Give grace to your servants, O Lord.

One: To Senators and Representatives, and those who make our laws in States, Cities, and Towns, give courage, wisdom, and foresight to provide for the needs of all our people, and to fulfill our obligations in the community of nations.

Many: Give grace to your servants, O Lord.

One: To Judges and officers of our Courts give understanding and integrity, that human rights may be safeguarded and justice served.

Many: Give grace to your servants, O Lord.

One: And finally, teach our people to rely on your strength and to accept their responsibilities to their fellow citizens, that they may elect trustworthy leaders and make wise decisions for the well-being of our society; that we may serve you faithfully in our generation and honor your holy Name.

Many: For yours is the kingdom, O Lord, and you are exalted as head above all. Amen.

*SUNG RESPONSE For the Healing of the Nations (vs. 1)

***For the healing of the nations, Lord, we pray with one accord;
for a just and equal sharing of the things that earth affords;
to a life of love in action help us rise and pledge our word.***

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Please greet those around you, wishing them "peace" or "the peace of Christ."

CHILDREN'S MOMENT & THE LORD'S PRAYER

At the conclusion, we look forward to welcoming all children through 8th grade to the nursery or their Sunday school classes, as the congregation prepares to hear the sermon.

SUNG RESPONSE For the Healing of the Nations (vs. 2)

***Lead us forward into freedom; from despair your world release,
that, redeemed from war and hatred, all may come and go in peace.
Show us how through care and goodness fear will die and hope increase.***

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

PRESENTATION

*Theodore Scott Blackburn,
son of Scott Christopher Blackburn & Ashley Nicole Farrell Blackburn*

HYMN 482, vs. 1

Baptized in Water

*Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit, cleansed by the blood of Christ our King;
Heirs of salvation, trusting the promise, faithfully now God's praises we sing.*

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION & BAPTISM

HYMN 482, vss. 2,3

Baptized in Water

*Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit, dead in the tomb with Christ our King;
One with his rising, freed and forgiven, thankfully now God's praises we sing.*

*Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit, marked with the sign of Christ our King;
Born of the Spirit, we are God's children; joyfully now God's praises we sing.*

WELCOME OF THE NEWLY BAPTIZED

Many: With joy and thanksgiving we welcome you into Christ's church
to share with us in his ministry, for we are all one in Christ.

LESSONS FROM THE AMERICAN STORY

I. THE MAYFLOWER COMPACT—1620

READING

HYMN 336

We Gather Together

(vs. 1)

II. ABIGAIL ADAMS TO JOHN ADAMS—MARCH 31, 1776

READING

HYMN 336

We Gather Together

(vs. 2)

III. PREAMBLE TO THE CONSTITUTION—SEPTEMBER 17, 1787

READING

HYMN 336 **We Gather Together** (vs. 3)

IV. CHIEF SEATTLE'S RESPONSE TO A GOVERNMENT
OFFICIAL'S OFFER TO PURCHASE THE REMAINING
SEATTLE LAND—1845

READING

HYMN 340 **This Is My Song** (vs. 1)

V. PRESIDENT ABRAHAM LINCOLN'S 2ND INAUGURAL
ADDRESS—MARCH 4, 1865

READING

HYMN 340 **This Is My Song** (vs. 2)

VI. A LETTER FROM THE BIRMINGHAM JAIL MARTIN LUTHER
KING, JR.—APRIL 16, 1963

READING

HYMN 340 **This Is My Song** (vs. 3)

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 21:1-4

HOMILY Till All Success Be Nobleness Rev. Dr. Phillips

CALL TO THE OFFERING

*We invite you to make an online donation or by placing a check or cash in the
collection plate. Envelopes are available in the pews for specified giving. The
gray envelopes are for our Roots & Rays Fund, which goes to creative
outreach projects in the community.*



ANTHEM Look at the World

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*HYMN 337

My Country, 'Tis of Thee

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE



Thanks to today's worship participants:

Chancel Choir, *Music Ministry*
Lois Galinat, *Usher Captain*
John Gast, *Greeter*

The flowers today are given to the Glory of God.



Join us for refreshments & fellowship in Founders Hall following the postlude. Or, come outside to watch the Wheel Parade, where bikes, scooters, strollers, wagons, unicycles, and anything else on wheels parades around the campus (helmets are required). Then, join us at 11:30 am in the sanctuary for our concert "*The Liberty Tree—The Music That Forged a Nation!*", featuring Charlie Zahm and Tad Marks.

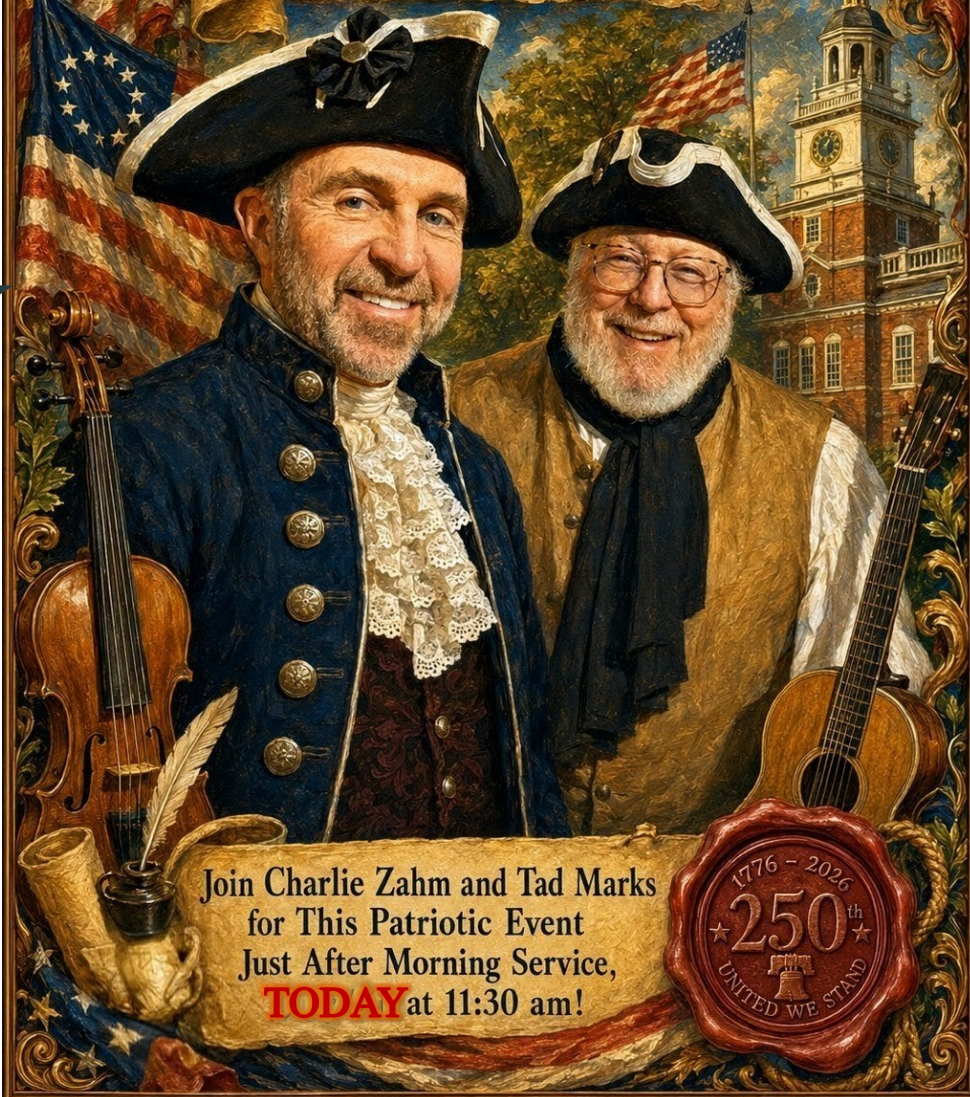


Through a series of in-person messages, devotionals, and worship opportunities, we hope to keep you connected to—and nurtured by—the Red Clay Creek Presbyterian Church community. Make sure you're signed up for our Thursday eNews, Facebook, and Instagram accounts. Visit www.rccpc.org.



The Liberty Tree--- The Music That Forged a Nation!

Celebrate the 250th Birthday of America
at Red Clay Creek Presbyterian Church
in Wilmington, DE!



Join Charlie Zahm and Tad Marks
for This Patriotic Event
Just After Morning Service,
TODAY at 11:30 am!



Red Clay Creek Presbyterian invites you to
its *Signature Services & Events* during the coming year.

CAMP RED CLAY — July 2026 | 9AM-12PM

Kids (K-5th grade) can attend Summer Music Camp (Jul. 6-10), our flagship Summer Arts Camp (Jul. 13-17) and Summer Recreation Camp (Jul. 20-24). Register to join the fun!

HOMECOMING SUNDAY — September 6th, 2026 | 10AM

We mark our return to regular church programming with the start of our fall sermon series and Sunday School kick off.

FALL CELEBRATION SUNDAY — October 25th, 2026 | 10AM

A joyous worship service where we give Bibles to our 3rd graders and dedicate our pledges, followed by outdoor trunk-or-treat and a flag football game.

ANNIVERSARY SUNDAY — November 15th, 2026 | 10AM

We give thanks for God's many blessings and our rich history of over 300 years.

CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS EVE — December 24th, 2026

- ◆ Family Service with Impromptu Pageant | 4PM
- ◆ Holy Night Service with Candlelight | 8PM
- ◆ Candlelight & Communion | 11PM

ROOTS AND RAYS SERVICE CHALLENGE — February –March, 2027

A month-long service effort each year, that directs our intention to the needs of our community.

HOLY WEEK 2027

- ◆ Maundy Thursday — March 25th ; Good Friday — March 26th
- ◆ Resurrection Remembrance Service — March 28th | 9:30AM Worship
- ◆ Easter Sunday — March 28th | 10AM Worship

KIRKIN' O' THE TARTAN — May 2027 | 10AM

Kirk is the Scottish word for church, so a church celebration and blessing of the tartans in our Presbyterian church honors both local and church heritage since it was the Scots who brought the Presbyterian Church to America.

OUTDOOR SERVICE & PICNIC — June 2027 | 10AM

Join us in the back meadow for worship and our annual picnic.

WELCOME TO RED CLAY

For LARGE print bulletins or children's bulletins, please ask an Usher.
Restrooms are available. Just ask!

Welcome to worship, welcome to Red Clay, welcome home! Rooted in God's abiding love for all, our church is lighting the way for friendship, compassion, and service. All are welcome, for Jesus gathers us together even as we divide ourselves by politics, denomination, or whatever labels the world puts on us. Please join us for coffee hour in Founder's Hall after service, and stop by the welcome cart in the hallway to learn more about our community. We hope you will worship with us again soon! If you are interested in deepening your participation, or if you just love Red Clay, it's time to think about membership! Contact Elder Karen Vordemberge at kvordemberge@gmail.com.

Here at Red Clay, we have numerous groups that are open and that welcome newcomers, including, e.g., Quilters, Crafters, "Friends and Fellowship" free luncheon for seniors, Bible study, ROMEOS ("Retired Old Men Eating Out"), Centering Prayer and "The Arcaders" social group for GenX and Millennials. Details can be found at www.rccpc.org!

Children: Nursery care is available from 9:45AM through the conclusion of worship in Room 305 (just down the hallway from the sanctuary). After the Children's Moment, Pre-K - Kindergarteners will adjourn to Room 303, Grades 1-3 will adjourn to Room 206, and Grades 4-8 will adjourn to Room 202/204.



UPCOMING EVENT SPOTLIGHT

**Sunday, July 12 at 11:30 AM—
Noon Day Concert with Ben and Deena**

Our Noonday Concert series continues with a lively program of works for string quartet, spanning classical and contemporary styles. The concert will also feature Ben and Deena on a piece for violin and marimba—a combination you don't hear every day! Join us for a refreshing musical break at 11:30 am.

RED CLAY CREEK PRESBYTERIAN — MINISTERS, STAFF & CHAIRS

Rev. Dr. Nathaniel D. Phillips, *Senior Pastor/Head of Staff*
Rev. Emily Schwenker

Jeffrey Miller, *Director of Music*
Deena Andrews, *Director of Children's Choir*
Lisa Nichols, *Bell Choir Director*

Rachele Gilmore, *Director of Community Life* ❖ Ben Andrews, *Director of Christian Formation*
Barbara Vanderkraats, *Pastoral Care Coordinator*
Jamie Russell, *Director of Children's Ministries*
Judy Lozier, *Nursery Director* ❖ Sofia Martin, *Nursery Support*
Delaney Christel, Josephine DeCaire, Quiara Smith, *Sunday School Teachers*

Julie Reeder, *Office Coordinator* ❖ Dinyar Vania, *Facilities Manager*
Kelley Norton, *Administrative Assistant* ❖ Anthony M. Condoluci-Smith, *Financial Associate*

Charlie Hannagan, *Technology Support*
A. Leonhard, S. Armstrong, K. Barton, A. Bloom, D. Howarth, J. Schubel, P. Worrell, *Livestream Production*

Nancy James, *Clerk of Session* ❖ Kathy Ciabattoni, *Deacon Moderator*
Bill Ciabattoni, *Belong Chair* ❖ Darlyn Green-Kocher, *Nurture Chair*
Linda Reisor, *Reach Chair* ❖ Lois Galinat, *Rejoice Chair*
Brandon Wallace, *Finance Chair* ❖ Christine Fischer, *Personnel Chair*
Mark Cozine, *Home Chair* ❖ John Gast, *Administration Chair*
Andrew Bloom, *Community Partners* ❖ Marcia Kelly, *Memory Garden Chair*

* For a complete list of all Session Ruling Elders and Board of Deacons members, please refer to <https://www.rccpc.org>.*

A NOTE ON THE LOGO

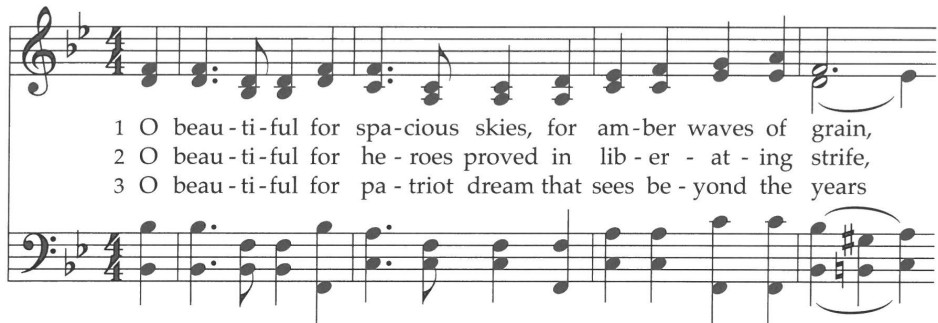
Our church has "roots" in the community that date back to 1722. We have been a good neighbor when we were surrounded by farmland up until now when we are surrounded by the suburbs. Our history helps us remember a time when people helped one another out because that was the right thing to do. We hope to be a sign that this kind of community can still exist. We also believe that, in order for that community to exist, we need to stay "rooted" in the Good News that God has chosen to love us - not because of who we are, but because of who God is. We call that grace.

That is where the "rays" come in. We hope to extend our love, and the love we know from the graciousness of God, in many ways today. This means engaging in friendships with those that Jesus would have made friends with - those that feel isolated for any number of reasons. We know we will never be perfect at that, but we will try! We are especially aware that churches have long held back from friendship with others based on age, economics, sexuality, race, disability, and the list goes on. We seek to be something different than that. There are so many stories about how Jesus entered into life-affirming friendships with those that others wouldn't. We seek to be like Jesus.

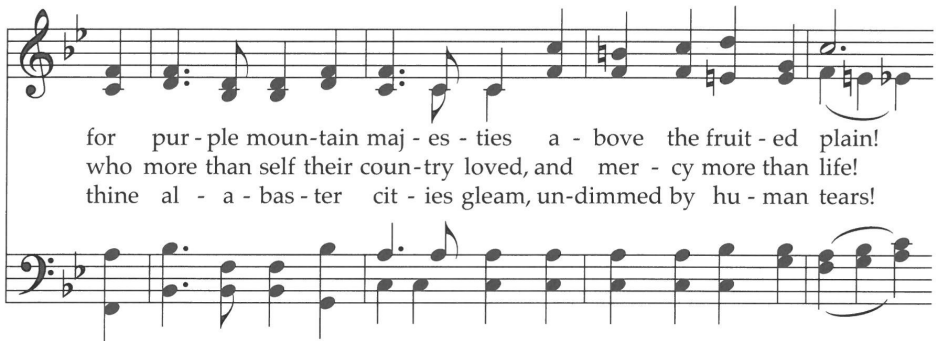
Right there, in the center of it all, is the **cross**. For us, the cross is a "Tree of Life." It represents how God broke into this world to establish a new way of being alive. It symbolizes how God calls us to love with freedom, with recklessness even, if it means connecting the world to the wonder of God's transformative presence.



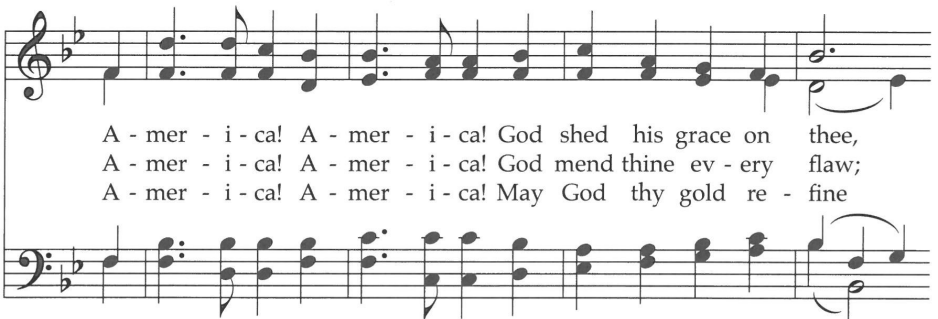
O Beautiful for Spacious Skies 338



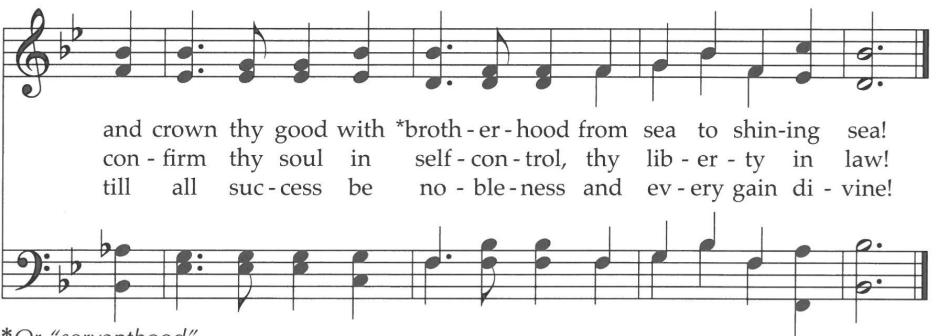
1 O beau-ti-ful for spa-cious skies, for am-ber waves of grain,
2 O beau-ti-ful for he- roes proved in lib-er - at - ing strife,
3 O beau-ti-ful for pa- triot dream that sees be - yond the years



for pur-ple moun-tain maj- es - ties a - bove the fruit - ed plain!
who more than self their coun-try loved, and mer - cy more than life!
thine al - a - bas - ter cit - ies gleam, un-dimmed by hu - man tears!



A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! God shed his grace on thee,
A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! God mend thine ev - ery flaw;
A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! May God thy gold re - fine



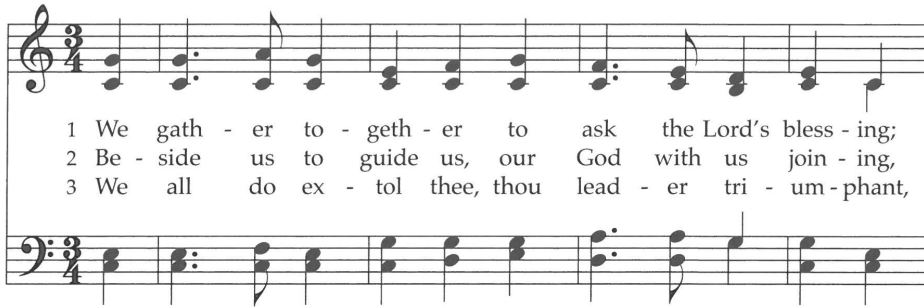
and crown thy good with *broth-er-hood from sea to shin-ing sea!
con - firm thy soul in self - con - trol, thy lib - er - ty in law!
till all suc - cess be no - ble - ness and ev - ery gain di - vine!

*Or "servanthood"

This text (inspired by the vista from Pike's Peak and by a visit to Chicago's Columbian World Exposition) and tune (named MATERNA because it was composed for "O Mother, Dear Jerusalem") were joined in 1912. The combination proved immensely popular during World War I and afterwards.

We Gather Together

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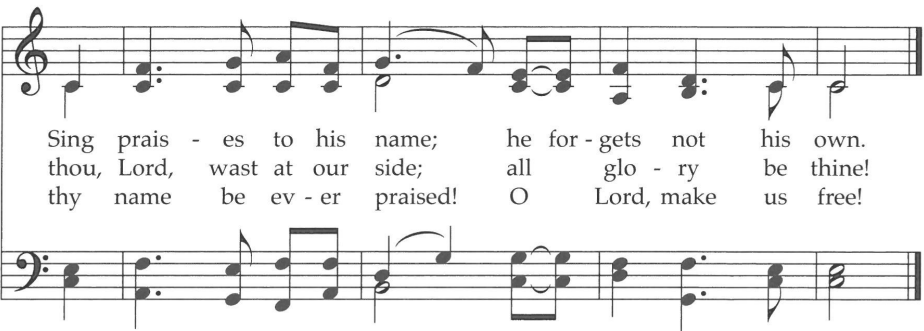
1 We gath - er to - geth - er to ask the Lord's bless - ing;
2 Be - side us to guide us, our God with us join - ing,
3 We all do ex - tol thee, thou lead - er tri - um - phant,



he chas - tens and has - tens his will to make known;
or - dain - ing, main - tain - ing his king - dom di - vine;
and pray that thou still our de - fend - er wilt be.



the wick - ed op - press - ing now cease from dis - tress - ing.
so from the be - gin - ning the fight we were win - ning;
Let thy con - gre - ga - tion es - cape trib - u - la - tion;



Sing prais - es to his name; he for - gets not his own.
thou, Lord, wast at our side; all glo - ry be thine!
thy name be ev - er praised! O Lord, make us free!

First published among songs celebrating the end of Spanish control of the Netherlands, this text's blend of patriotism and piety has made it popular at (often ecumenical) Thanksgiving Day services. The tune is named for the Viennese arranger whose male chorus popularized it.

This Is My Song

1 This is my song, O God of all the na - tions,
 2 My coun-try's skies are blu - er than the o - cean,
 3 This is my prayer, O Lord of all earth's king-doms:

a song of peace for lands a - far and mine.
 and sun - light beams on clo - ver - leaf and pine.
 thy king - dom come; on earth thy will be done.

This is my home, the coun - try where my heart is;
 But oth - er lands have sun - light too, and clo - ver,
 Let Christ be lift - ed up till all shall serve him,

here are my hopes, my dreams, my ho - ly shrine;
 and skies are ev - ery - where as blue as mine.
 and hearts u - nit - ed learn to live as one.

The first two stanzas of this hymn were written between the 20th century's two world wars and focus on the theme of international peace. The third stanza, by another author and added later, uses the language of the Lord's Prayer to voice a distinctly Christian perspective.

but oth - er hearts in oth - er lands are beat - ing
So hear my song, O God of all the na - tions,
So hear my prayer, O God of all the na - tions:

with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.
a song of peace for their land and for mine.
my - self I give thee; let thy will be done.

My Country, 'Tis of Thee

1 My coun - try, 'tis of thee, sweet land of
 2 My na - tive coun - try, thee, land of the
 3 Let mu - sic swell the breeze, and ring from
 4 Our *fa - thers' God, to thee, au - thor of

lib - er - ty, of thee I sing: land where my
 no - ble free, thy name I love; I love thy
 all the trees sweet free - dom's song. Let mor - tal
 lib - er - ty, to thee we sing. Long may our

*fa - thers died, land of the pil - grims' pride,
 rocks and rills, thy woods and tem - pled hills;
 tongues a - wake; let all that breathe par - take;
 land be bright with free - dom's ho - ly light;

from ev - ery moun - tain - side let free - dom ring.
 my heart with rap - ture thrills like that a - bove.
 let rocks their si - lence break, the sound pro - long.
 pro - tect us by thy might, great God, our King.

*Or "parents"

This now-familiar patriotic song was written by a Baptist minister and received its first public performance at an Independence Day celebration by the Boston Sabbath School Union in 1831. It was written to replace a German patriotic text sung to the same tune.