THE HAVEN

A Congregation of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church
www.thehavenli.com

Then they were glad that the waters were quiet
and He brought them to their desired haven.
Psalm 107:30

The Lord's Day
Remembering: Christ's Ascension
May 24, 2020
A Service for Family Worship

Yet Another Unusual Lord's Day

☩ **Our "Present Distress"**: The apostle Paul uses this phrase in I Corinthians 7:26 to speak of circumstances at certain times and places which disrupt the usual order of things. Wartime, for example, disrupts marriages, family life, the economy, and society as a whole. Currently, with the "present distress" of the coronavirus, we are in a time of such disruption. In order to contain the spread of this highly infectious virus, those in authority over us have asked that - for the time being - all unnecessary travel be suspended, and also that there be no gatherings of more than ten. This has, of course, led to the closing of most churches and the curtailing of public worship, at least for a time. We are currently not permitted to use our usual meeting place, Ascension Lutheran Church in Deer Park, NY.

Many churches are now using live streaming or recorded video to have "virtual worship services", in which homebound people can access the service and follow along through an electronic device. The Haven, OPC's elders in training, Jimmy Brewer and John Vaeth, and I discussed this option. However, until the "present distress" is over we have chosen to provide something that will help heads of households lead a family worship service on the Lord's Day. We opted for this for two reasons:

1. "Family Worship" is part of our doctrinal commitment. Our Confession of Faith affirms that "God is to be worshiped everywhere, in spirit and in truth, as in private, **families** (emphasis mine), daily, in secret, each one by himself, so, more solemnly in the public assemblies" (WCF 21:6) This "present distress" gives us an opportunity to practice family worship - something that is both very foreign to our culture and challenging in a day of multiple time commitments and distractions. It's a good time to learn something that should be part of every family's healthy Christian life - whether or not we are in a time of "present distress.".

2. This gives an opportunity to invite others to join you (honoring sanitary standards, of course) in your home for what can become a useful evangelistic opportunity.

You should have your family worship with access to an electronic device so that you can use the links to the hymn. In that way you will be able to sing along with another group, albeit a recorded one. You'll also need your electronic device to access the Lord's Day sermon through sermonaudio.com. It's especially important that pastors keep up their ministries to the flock in this day of fear, anxiety, and uncertainty. We need to be reminded that there is no uncertainty in our God - and he IS in control!

So, heads of households - whether you are single or have family members - may the following special bulletin for this "present distress" help you and your household worship the Lord acceptably and joyfully on this upcoming Lord's Day Sabbath.

Yours in our ever faithful Savior,
Pastor Bill

☩ **Scripture quotations** are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version® (ESV®).
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☩ **The Haven, OPC** is a home mission work of the Presbytery of Connecticut and Southern New York, Orthodox Presbyterian Church (OPC). For more information on the Orthodox Presbyterian Church: www.opc.org For more information about this church, visit our website: www.thehavenli.com

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☩ **Pastoral Needs:** To contact Pastor Bill, his study phone number is (516) 593-1507, or you can reach him by e mail at **WShishko@gmail.com**

A Service for Family Worship
The Lord's Day — May 24, 2020
Preparation for Worship: Psalm 52:1-9

THE LORD OUR GOD CALLS US

The Promise of God's Presence:

Leader: Where two or three are gathered together, in Christ's name, he promises that he is there among them. *(Matthew 18:20).*
That promise is fulfilled by the Spirit of the risen Jesus Christ, who is with us now!
***People:* Amen!**

Call to Worship: From Psalm 93

*Leader***:** The Lord reigns! He is robed in majesty!

***People*: The Lord is robed. He has put on strength as his belt!**

Leader: Yes, the world is established. It shall never be moved!

People: The Lord's throne is established from of old. He is from everlasting!

Leader: The floods have lifted up, O Lord. The floods have lifted up their voice!

People*: T*he floods lift up their roaring!

Leader: Mightier than the thunders of many waters; mightier than the waves of the sea!

***People*: The Lord on high is mighty!**

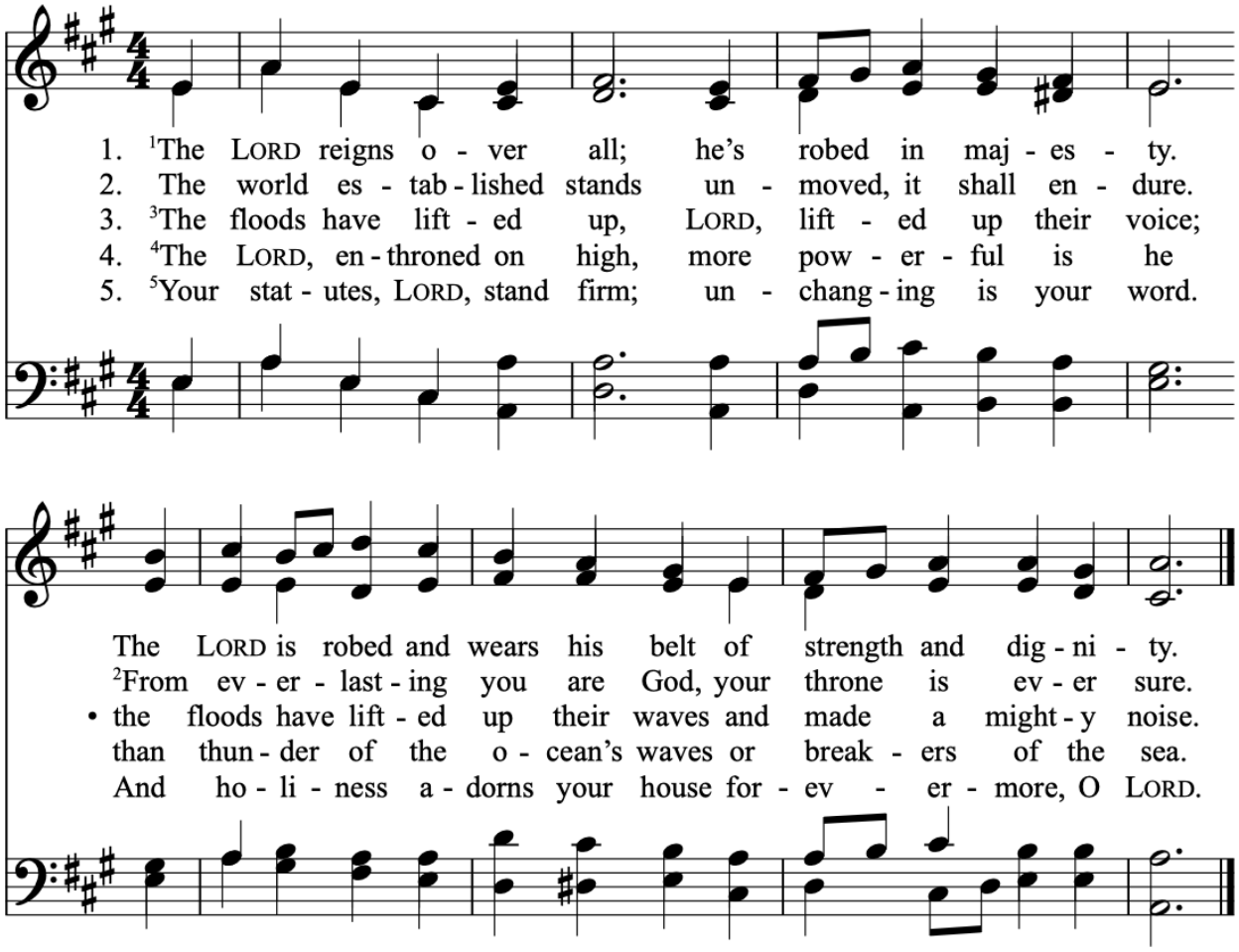
All: Your decrees are very trustworthy. Holiness befits your house, O Lord, for evermore!

All*: *Amen! Hallelujah!

Opening Hymn: *"The Lord Reigns Over All"* (Psalm 93, TPH) **(**turn to next page)

Sing along with accompaniment from Mary's Gallery: https://churchos-uploads.s3.amazonaws.com/2020/05/09/12/29/54/606df069-df66-468d-8f55-62e2b7097c5e/Psalm%2093%20%20%20The%20Lord%20Reigns%20Over%20All.wav

Psalm 93



OPC/URCNA 2016
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FESTAL SONG S.M.
William Howard Walter, 1894

***Leader*: Our help is in the name of the Lord!**
People: Who made heaven and earth!

†Opening Prayer (Leader may use his own words, or the following):

Now, our God - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit: Meet with us according to your promise. Bless the reading, singing, preaching, and praying of your Word to the end that we might know Jesus Christ, in whom is eternal life and true blessedness. We ask in His wonderful name.

All: Amen!

THE LORD OUR GOD CLEANSES US

Call to Confession of Sin: "I sent among you a pestilence after the manner of Egypt… yet you did not return to me", declares the Lord. I overthrew some of you as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah…yet you did not return to me, declares the Lord. Therefore thus will I do to you…prepare to meet your God." (From Amos 4:10-12)

Corporate Confession (which may be preceded by a time of private confession):

Sovereign Lord: We are humbled by your providences during this time of present distress. We are humbled by what you are doing with a microscopic virus. We are humbled by what you are doing with our economy. We are humbled with how our freedoms have been taken away so quickly. But forgive us for not being humbled enough. We are more humbled by what you are doing than by who you are as the sovereign Lord of all these things Forgive us when we do not return to you with all of our heart. Forgive us when we forget that your judgments in the earth are to prepare us to meet you in the day of judgment to come. Make us to be a people who are prepared to meet our God, through faith in the one who has taken that judgment on himself and who promises us a life of no condemnation in him. We pray in that name that is above all names, Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen.

The Promises of God that are *Yes* in Christ: "I will restore the fortunes of my people… and they shall rebuild the ruined cities and inhabit them. They shall plant vineyards and drink their wine, and they shall make gardens and eat their fruit. I will plant them again on their land, and they shall never again be uprooted out of the land that I have given them", says the Lord your God."(From Amos 9:14,15): As he will do by Jesus Christ in the New Heavens and the New Earth!

People: Amen - Let it be so! Thanks be to God! Oh Lord, haste the day!

Our Response of Praise: *"Before the Throne of God Above""* (Turn to next page)

Sing along and be blessed: **https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qJZrmqPwKCM**

Before the Throne of God Above

Stanza 1:

Before the throne of God above, I have a strong a perfect plea.
A great High Priest whose name is Love, who ever lives and pleads for me.
My name is graven on His hands. My name is written on His heart,
I know that while in heav'n he stands, no tongue can bid me thence depart.
No tongue can bid me thence depart.

Stanza 2:

When Satan tempts me to despair, and tells me of the guilt within;
Upward I look and see Him there, who made an end to all my sin.
Because the sinless Savior died, my sinful soul is counted free,
For God the just is satisfied, to look on Him and pardon me.
To look on Him and pardon me.

Stanza 3:

Behold him there, the risen Lamb; my perfect spotless righteousness.
The great unchangeable I AM. The King of glory and of grace.
One with himself I cannot die. My soul is purchased with his blood.
My life is hid with Christ on high; with Christ my Savior and my God.
With Christ my Savior and my God.

Stanza 4:

I bow before the cross of Christ, and marvel at this love divine.
God's perfect Son was sacrificed, to make me righteous in God's eyes.
The river's depths I cannot know, but I can glory in its flood.
The Lord Most High has bowed down low, and poured on me His glorious love.
And poured on me His glorious love.

Repeat:

The Lord Most High has bowed down low, and poured on me His glorious love.
And poured on me His glorious love.

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THE LORD OUR GOD CONSECRATES US

Scripture Readings:

Acts 1:1-11

In the first book, O [a]Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began [b]to do and
teach, [2] until the day when [c]he was taken up, after he [d]had given commands [e]through the Holy
Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. [3] [f]He presented himself alive to them after his suffering
by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.

[4] And while staying[1] with them [g]he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for
the promise of the Father, which, he said, "you heard from me; [5] for [h]John baptized with water, [h]but
you will be baptized [i]with[2] the Holy Spirit not many days from now.

[6] So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, [j]will you at this time [k]restore the
kingdom to Israel?" [7] He said to them, [l]"It is not for you to know [m]times or seasons that the Father
has fixed by his own authority. [8] But you will receive [n]power [o]when the Holy Spirit has come
upon you, and [p]you will be [q]my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and [r]Samaria, and [s]to the
end of the earth." [9] And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, [t]he was lifted up,
and [u]a cloud took him out of their sight. [10] And while they were gazing into heaven as he went,
behold, [v]two [w]men stood by them in [x]white robes, [11] and said, [y]"Men of Galilee, why do you stand
looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, [z]will [a]come in the same
way as you saw him go into heaven."

Romans 8:31-35

31 What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? 32 He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? 33 Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. 34 Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. 35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword?

Hebrews 7:23 - 25

23 The former priests were many in number, because they were prevented by death from continuing in office, 24 but he holds his priesthood permanently, because he continues forever. 25 Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.

John 15:12-15

12 "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. 13 Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. 14 You are my friends if you do what I command you. 15 No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you.

Leader: ***The grass withers, and the flowers fade away; but the word of our God will stand forever!***

People: Thanks be to God!

†Confession of Faith: The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended to heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

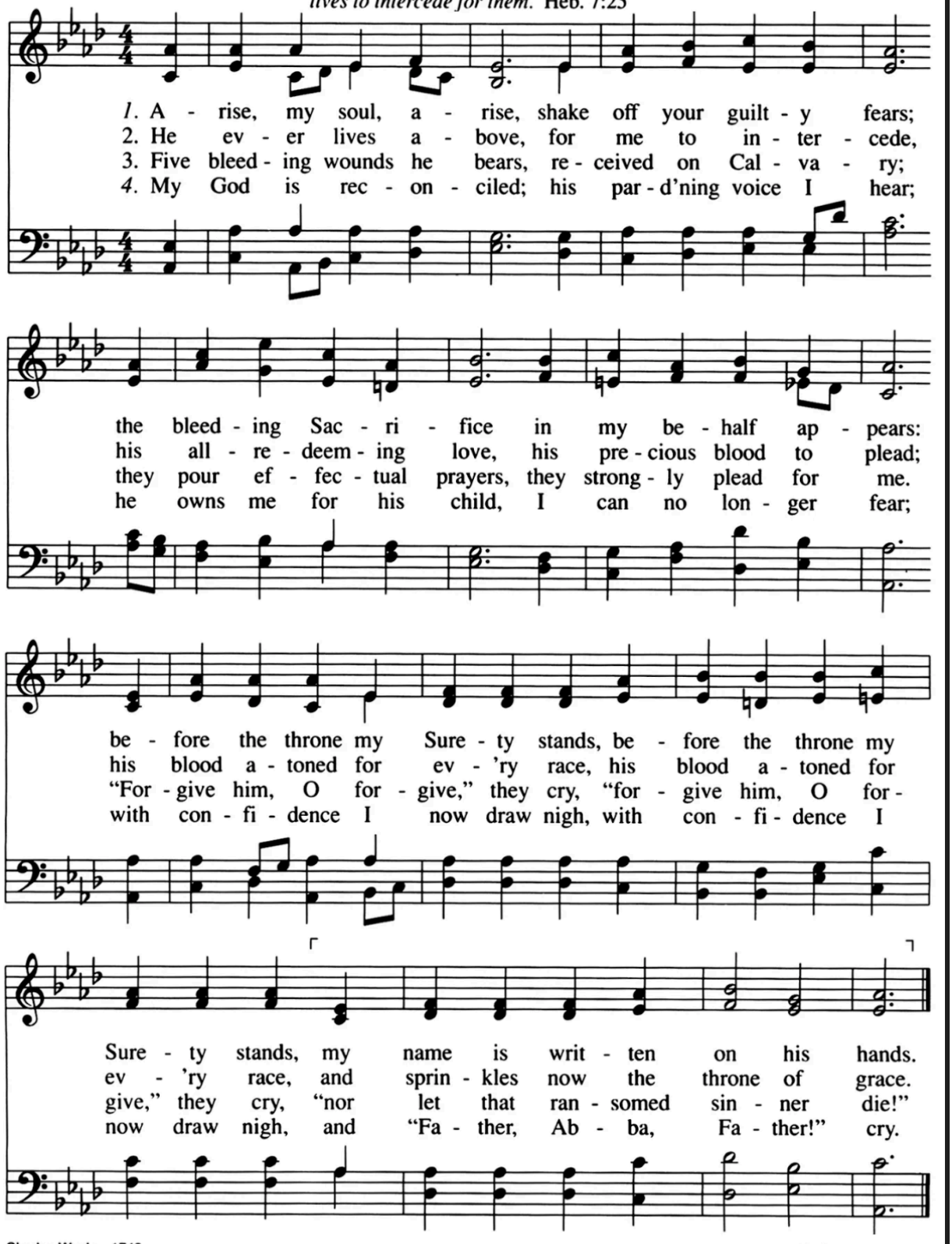
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic* church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

**that is, the true Christian church of all times and all places*

†We Prepare Our Hearts for the Word of God Preached:
Hymn of Praise: *"Arise, My Soul, Arise!"* (Turn to next page)
Sing Along and be Blessed: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yGm0kRU2kgQ

Arise, My Soul, Arise

He is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them. Heb. 7:25



Charles Wesley, 1742
Alt. 1961, mod.

LENOX 6.6.6.6.8.8.8.
Louis Edson, 1782

For the following parts of worship:
sermonaudio.com/sermon/523202031295329

Prayer for Understanding and for Transformation
People: **Amen!**

Sermon: ***"Your Best Friend"***

Prayer for Blessing on the Word of God Preached and Pastoral Prayer
(followed by the Lord's Prayer in unison)

Our Father which art in heaven:
Hallowed be thy Name.
Thy kingdom come.
Thy will be done in 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 the Evil One.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever.
Amen

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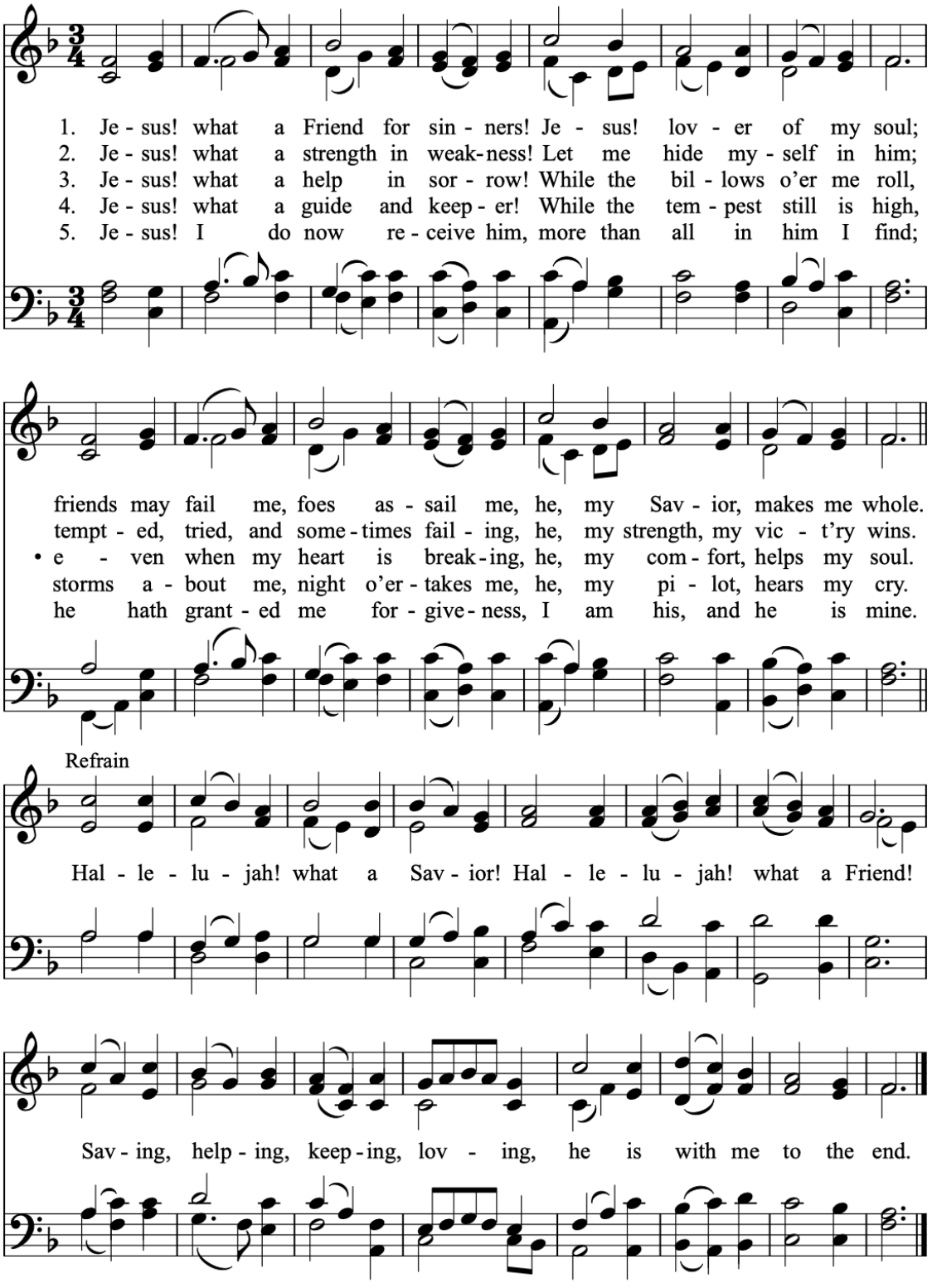
Closing Hymn: *"Jesus! What a Friend for Sinners"* (Turn to Next Page)
Sing along with accompaniment from Mary's Gallery: https://drive.google.com/file/d/194YxfJfA9TuVpIgPRVYSTwduIu-sdelg/view

The Lord Our God Commissions Us

Leader: Prayer of Benediction:
May the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ
equip us with everything good that we may do his will,
working in us what is pleasing in his sight through Jesus Christ,
to whom be glory forever and ever!.
People: **Amen!**

Go forth in peace to love and serve those around you - in Jesus' Name

Jesus! What a Friend for Sinners!



J. Wilbur Chapman, 1910

HYFRYDOL 8.7.8.7.D.
Rowland H. Pritchard, 1830

Announcements

✢ **Haven Hope Givers**: That's our ministry of reaching out by cards and notes to inmates who have learned about (and pray for) The Haven, OPC. Send a message of Gospel hope to: *Mr. Darren Emanuel*, #03A2176, Fishkill Correctional Facility, POB 1245, Beacon, NY 12508 & *Mr. Arthur F. Tomlinson* #12B1623, Eastern New York Correctional Facility, PO Box 338, Napanoch, NY 12458. **You can now e mail them: Go to https://www.jpay.com/ to learn more and to sign up.**

Also: Send a card and note of appreciation to a front line worker whom you know. Express your appreciation for his or her work during this time of present distress. Our own front line worker is Dr. Megan Gaffey, a surgeon at the NYU Langone Medical Center. She'd love hear from you: Dr. Megan Gaffey, 845 United Nations Plaza, #21C, NY, NY 10017

✢ **Haven Open Forum: Today at 4:30 p.m**. Join us. and invite others to this new Haven outreach.

Join the meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89896483305

Call in at 4:25 p.m. so that we can all be "present" for the meeting at 4:30.
It's helpful if you e mail your question to Pastor Bill in advance: WShishko@gmail.com
Or you can text your questions to him at the special Pastor Bill Text Free number: (516) 367-0391
Question this week: *What's God doing through the pandemic? (pt. 3)*

✢ ***Sing!*** Our monthly "choir practice" is at the home of John & Mary Vaeth (46 Monell Ave., Islip). God willing, our next *Sing!* meeting will be Tuesday, June 2. from 7:30 - 9:00 p.m.

✢ **Prayer Meeting,: This Wednesday, May 27 at 7:30 p.m.**

Join the meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84774216263

Call in at 7:25 p.m. so that we can all be "present" for the meeting at 7:30.
Be sure to have your weekly "Present Distress" Prayer List that comes out on Saturday evenings.
We'll hear any updates and spend the first part of our time in prayer.

✢ **Presbytery Church Picnic: Saturday, June 27. More details to come. Mark your calendars!**

✢ **Banks:** Remember to put your spare change into your special "Worldwide Outreach" banks. In November we'll apply these gifts to our annual Thank Offering gift.

You can continue to give your tithes and offerings even when we're not able to meet during this "present distress". Send them to: Kathy Toto, 34 Spinnaker Ln., Patchogue, NY 11772
Checks payable to "The Haven OPC LLC"
Or: Scroll to the bottom of our website's home page.
Look for the green "Donate to The Haven" button.
https://www.thehavenli.com/