

Order for the Worship of God
September 20, 2020
16th Sunday after Pentecost
11:00 AM Worship Service

WE COME TO WORSHIP

CALL TO WORSHIP (*Responsive*)

Leader: In God's providence we live and work and join in families.

People: By God's hands we receive those things we need.

Leader: We thank you God for the harvest of goodness you supply.

People: For food and shelter, for all our friendships.

Leader: Above all, we praise you for your Son, who shows us mercy.

People: Glory to God for God's great kindness to us.

OPENING VOLUNTARY "Brethren, We Have Met to Worship" arr. Don Hustad

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

HYMN #846 "Fight the Good Fight" DUKE STREET

Fight the good fight with all thy might.

Christ is thy strength and Christ thy right.

Lay hold on life, and it shall be thy joy and crown eternally.

Run the strait race through God's good grace;

lift up thine eyes, and seek Christ's face.

Life with its way before us lies; Christ is the path, and Christ the prize.

Cast care aside; lean on thy guide.

God's boundless mercy will provide.

Trust, and thy trusting soul shall prove

Christ is its life, and Christ its love.

Faint not nor fear: God's arms are near.

God changeth not, and thou art dear.

Only believe, and thou shalt see that Christ is all in all to thee.

CALL TO CONFESSION Paul Means, Associate Pastor

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*Together*)

Almighty God, in love you spread good gifts before us, more than we need or deserve. We confess that we always want more; that we never share as freely as you give. We resent what we lack, and are jealous of neighbors. We misuse what you intend for joy. God, forgive our stubborn greed, and our negative attitudes. In your mercy, help us take such pleasure in your goodness that we will always be thanking you, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE #581

GLORIA PATRI

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;

as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,

world without end. Amen, amen.

ANTHEM

“What a Friend We Have in Jesus/
The Old Rugged Cross/How Great Thou Art”
Stephanie Carson, Soloist; Mark Johnston, Violin

arr. Vince Gill

*What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and grief's to bear!
What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer!*

*And I'll cherish the old rugged cross, till my trophies at last I lay down;
I will cling to the old rugged cross, and exchange it some day for a crown.*

*Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee;
How great Thou art, how great Thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee;
How great Thou art, how great Thou art!*

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.

CALL TO OFFERING

HYMN #647

“Give Thanks”

GIVE THANKS

**Give thanks with a grateful heart; give thanks to the Holy One;
give thanks because we're given Jesus Christ, the Son. (repeat)**

**And now let the weak say, “We are strong”; let the poor say,
“We are rich because of what the Lord has done for us!” (repeat)**

Give thanks. Give thanks.

WE GROW IN THE WORD

SCRIPTURE READING

Acts 21:16 (NRSV)

SERMON SERIES

Some Things I'm Most Thankful For Just Now
#1 “Members of Long Standing”
Chris Curvin, Pastor

WE GO OUT TO SERVE

HYMN #716

“God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending” BEACH SPRING

**God, whose giving knows no ending, from your rich and endless store,
nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom, costly cross, grave's shattered door:
gifted by you, we turn to you, offering up ourselves in praise;
thankful song shall rise forever, gracious donor of our days.**

**Skills and time are ours for pressing toward the goals of Christ, your Son:
all at peace in health and freedom, races joined, the church made one.
Now direct our daily labor, lest we strive for self alone.
Born with talents, make us servants fit to answer at your throne.**

Treasure, too, you have entrusted, gain through powers your grace conferred:

**ours to use for home and kindred, and to spread the gospel word.
Open wide our hands in sharing, as we heed Christ's ageless call,
healing, teaching, and reclaiming, serving you by loving all.**

BENEDICTION

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

“Oh, Love How Deep”

arr. Michael Helman

Stephanie Carson, Music Director
Tom Huffman, Organist & Associate Music Director

Fight the Good Fight

846

1 Fight the good fight with all thy might.
 2 Run the straight race through God's good grace;
 3 Cast care a - side; lean on thy guide.
 4 Faint not nor fear: God's arms are near.

Christ is thy strength and Christ thy right.
 lift up thine eyes, and seek Christ's face.
 God's bound-less mer - cy will pro - vide.
 God chang - eth not, and thou art dear.

Lay hold on life, and it shall be
 Life with its way be - fore us lies;
 Trust, and thy trust - ing soul shall prove
 On - ly be - lieve, and thou shalt see

thy joy and crown e - ter - nal - ly.
 Christ is the path, and Christ the prize.
 Christ is its life, and Christ its love.
 that Christ is all in all to thee.

The opening phrase here (based on 1 Timothy 6:12) is not a military image but an athletic one, from a Greek verb meaning "struggle" or "grapple" or "wrestle." The sports context continues in later stanzas reflecting the experience of a runner (recalling Hebrews 12:1-2).

647

Give Thanks

Give thanks with a grate-ful heart; give thanks to the Ho-ly One;

give thanks be-cause we're giv-en Je-sus Christ, the Son. Give

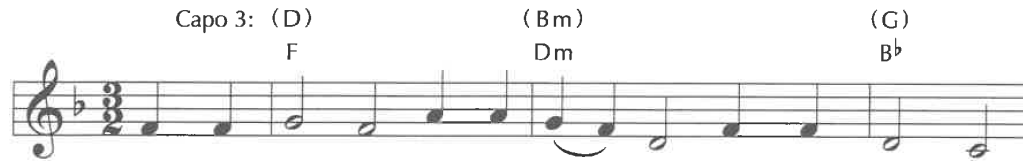
Son. And now let the weak say, "We are strong"; let the

poor say, "We are rich be-cause of what the Lord has done for

us!" And us!" Give thanks. Give thanks.

Drawing on language from 2 Corinthians 6:10 and 12:10 as well as Psalm 126:3, this short and repetitive song can be easily memorized. The simple vocabulary makes it suitable for multigenerational use, reminding all ages how gratitude for God's goodness changes our perspective.

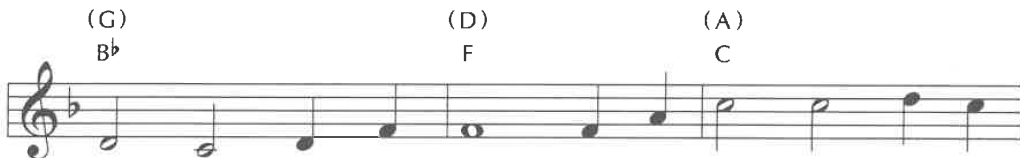
God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending 716



1 God, whose giv - ing knows no end - ing, from your rich and
 2 Skills and time are ours for press - ing toward the goals of
 3 Trea - sure, too, you have en - trust - ed, gain through powers your



end - less store, na - ture's won - der, Je - sus' wis - dom, cost - ly
 Christ, your Son: all at peace in health and free - dom, rac - es
 grace con - ferred: ours to use for home and kin - dred, and to



cross, grave's shat - tered door: gift - ed by you, we turn
 joined, the church made one. Now di - rect our dai - ly
 spread the gos - pel word. O - pen wide our hands in



to you, of - fer - ing up our - selves in praise; thank - ful song shall
 la - bor, lest we strive for self a - lone. Born with tal - ents,
 shar - ing, as we heed Christ's age - less call, heal - ing, teach - ing,



rise for - ev - er, gra - cious do - nor of our days.
 make us ser - vants fit to an - swer at your throne.
 and re - claim - ing, serv - ing you by lov - ing all.

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

This text on stewardship was one of about 450 submissions in a search for such hymns conducted by the Hymn Society of America in 1961. These words are well grounded by their musical setting, an early American shape note tune named for a Baptist church in Harris County, Georgia.