



**The First Church of Christ in Mansfield
(Congregational) United Church of Christ**

549 Storrs Rd. P.O. Box 36 Mansfield Center, CT 06250
860.423.9008 + www.myfcc.info

Ministers: All the Members of the Church

The Reverend Dr. Susan J. Foster, Bridge Minister

Erik Haeger, Organist

Olivia Russell, Worship Circle Coordinator

October 11, 2026 ~ Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

Thought for the Week

Do not get tired of doing what is good. Don't get discouraged and give up,
For we will reap a harvest of blessing at the appropriate time.

~ *Galatians 6:9* ~

Playing the Chimes

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

Erik Haeger

Call to Worship

Dave Litrico

Leader: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.

People: Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.

Leader: Serve the Lord with gladness; come into God's presence with singing.

People: We know that the Lord is God. God made us. We are God's people. Let us come together and worship our loving God.

***Opening Hymn**

Rejoice, You Pure in Heart (NCH55)

bulletin insert

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession and New Life

Ever-present God, you encourage us to put our trust in you and not be anxious for anything. We admit that it is not easy. We try to give you all of our worries, anxieties, and concerns and entrust them completely to your care. But then we grab them back again. We wake up in the middle of the

night and worry. We wonder how things will turn out. We are often frightened by events close by and far away and then we are angry at our powerlessness. Help us, we pray. We turn to you and give you thanks for your promise always to be with us. Help us to place our trust in you. You are the God of hope and new life; help us to share that Good News with others. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Words of Grace

Friends, hear the Good News - God so loved this world - and every single person in it - so much that God gave his only Son. In Jesus Christ we see God face to face and we hear of his mercy. Standing therefore in Jesus Christ, I celebrate with you the Good News - that we are loved, we are forgiven, we are cherished by God. Amen.

*Song of Praise

Glory to God

Paul Vasile

Glo-ry to God, whose good-ness shines on me, and to the Son, whose grace has
end, world with-out end, A - men. World with-out end, world with-out

par - doned me, and to the Spir - it, whose love has set me free! As it was in the be-ginning, is
end, A - men. World with-out e - nd, world with-out end, A - men.

now and ev - er shall be, A - men World with-out men!

First Reading

Isaiah 25: 1-5, 9

LORD, you are my God;
I will exalt you and praise your name,
for in perfect faithfulness
you have done wonderful things,
things planned long ago.
You have made the city a heap of rubble,
the fortified town a ruin,
the foreigners' stronghold a city no more;
it will never be rebuilt.
Therefore strong peoples will honor you;
cities of ruthless nations will revere you.
You have been a refuge for the poor,
a refuge for the needy in their distress,
a shelter from the storm
and a shade from the heat.

For the breath of the ruthless
 is like a storm driving against a wall
 and like the heat of the desert.
 You silence the uproar of foreigners;
 as heat is reduced by the shadow of a cloud,
 so the song of the ruthless is stilled.
 In that day they will say,
 "Surely this is our God;
 we trusted in him, and he saved us.
 This is the LORD, we trusted in him;
 let us rejoice and be glad in his salvation."

Second Reading

Philippians 4: 1-9

¹ Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

² I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. ³ Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, ^[a] help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my coworkers, whose names are in the book of life.

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ^[c] ⁵ Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

⁸ Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. ⁹ As for the things that you have learned and received and heard and noticed in me, do them, and the God of peace will be with you.

Reflection

"Stand firm"

Rev. Sue Foster

Hymn

What a Friend We Have in Jesus (NCH 506)

bulletin insert

Call to Prayer

Hear Us O Lord

Don Besig and Nancy Price

9 Hear us, O Lord, as we come now in prayer, shar - ing our joys, our trou-bles, and our cares.

Help us, O Lord, to be o - pen to your word, and teach us to put our trust in you.

Prayers of the People and Pastoral Prayer

The Prayer of Jesus

You are invited to pray in whatever language is most comfortable for you. The following examples are offered:

**Our Father / Mother / Creator,
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 / sins / trespasses,
as we forgive our debtors / those who sin / trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation / help us yield not to temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

Offering our Gifts and Gratitude

*Your financial offerings may be placed in the collection plates as they come around,
or mailed to: First Church of Christ in Mansfield UCC, PO Box 36, Mansfield Center, CT 06250*

Musical Offering

Erik Haeger

*Doxology

Praise God from whom all bless - ings flow; Praise God all crea-tures here be low; Praise
5 God for all that love has done: Cre - a - tor, Christ and Spi - rit, One. A - men!

*Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving

Loving and giving God, we rejoice in you today and always. With our hearts focused on what is good and true, honorable and just, we offer to you our gifts and ourselves. Use us, loving God, so that we may share your hope and your love near and far. Amen.

***Closing Hymn** *Rejoice, Give Thanks and Sing (NCH 303)*

bulletin insert

*Benediction

*Passing the Peace

The peace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, is with you always.

And also with you.

Let us share with one another a sign of that peace.

Postlude

Welcome to Our Guests!

We're delighted you have joined us for worship; the members are the ministers of this church... if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask us!

Our worship service is made available digitally for those who cannot attend in person. Footage from this service may also be used in marketing materials for our community. If you do not wish to have your likeness recorded, streamed, or photographed please inform a Greeter who can seat you appropriately.

Our Greeter this morning is Carol Fineout.

Our Cantor is Howard Drescher.

Our Coffee Hour hosts are Mary Anne Baker and Carol Drescher.

Please join us in Fellowship Hall for refreshments after worship!

All are welcome!

THE WEEK AHEAD...

Wednesday, October 14 1:00 p.m. Book Group
(No Meditation Group this week)

Saturday, October 17 12:00 p.m. Girl Scouts

Boo Bash and Trick-a-Trunk

We are gearing up for our participation in some SPOOK-tacular fun at the **Downtown Boo Bash!** Young and young-at-heart friends will gather for trick-or-treating at participating downtown businesses, **trick-a-trunk along Wilbur Cross Way**, performances, and Halloween activities during the two hour event.

The event will take place on **Saturday, October 24 from 3:00-5:00 p.m.** We are looking for donations of candy for the event. Please leave your contributions in the basket at the front of the sanctuary. Thank You.

Annual Stewardship Campaign

Deb Richards is convening a short-term committee to plan our annual Stewardship Campaign. This will only require a few meetings - starting in Mid-late October. Please see her if you are interested in assisting with the campaign.

****Help Needed: Invasive Plant Removal****

Mark Messier is looking for volunteers to help remove invasive plants from the church property. If you're able to lend a hand, please reach out to Mark at [860-729-1622](tel:860-729-1622) or mark.messier1973@gmail.com. He's happy to work around your schedule — whatever time is convenient for you! Please note - adult volunteers only.

Supporting Project HOPE this fall

Project HOPE (formerly the Windham Region No Freeze Project) is currently at capacity and will open its doors at the end of October for transient individuals to drop in and stay the night. Guests are provided with cots for sleeping and have access to essential amenities, including showers and laundry facilities.

The organization employs a dedicated outreach worker who remains in consistent contact with individuals living in tents and vehicles to monitor and address their immediate needs. Items needed include:

Household

Disinfectant wipes
Disinfectant spray
Hand soap
Tissues

Hygiene

Deodorant
Shampoo
Conditioner
Soap

Cleaning products and supplies
55 Gallon trash bags
Paper towels
Toilet Paper

Miscellaneous

Pillows
Twin blankets
Hand/foot warmers
Ear buds/ headphones
Ear plugs
Laundry detergent

Lotion
Razors
First Aid supplies
Nail clippers
Tweezers
Combs and brushes

Items can be dropped off at their 459 Valley Street location.

Or use this link to make an online monetary donation.

<https://thenofreezeproject.harnessgiving.org/donate>

The chrysanthemums on our Church steps have been placed by the Wednesday afternoon book group in loving memory of:

Arline Burkinshaw
Blanche Brauneck
Marcia Briggs
Joyce Decyk
Eve Eaton
Betsy Hamill
Patricia Felletter
Carol McMillan
Shirley Olsen
Margaret O'Connell
Ellen Shirshac
Carol Tetzlaff

**An Invitation -
"Sowing Seeds of Hope in Ukraine"**

A presentation on the immediate relief, lasting healing,
and support for the Ukrainian children and families impacted by war.

Sunday, November 8, 12 p.m.

Buckingham Congregational Church
16 Cricket Lane, Glastonbury

Light lunch will be provided, followed by presentation at 12:30 p.m.

Hosted by Common Man for Ukraine
(commonmanforukraine.org)

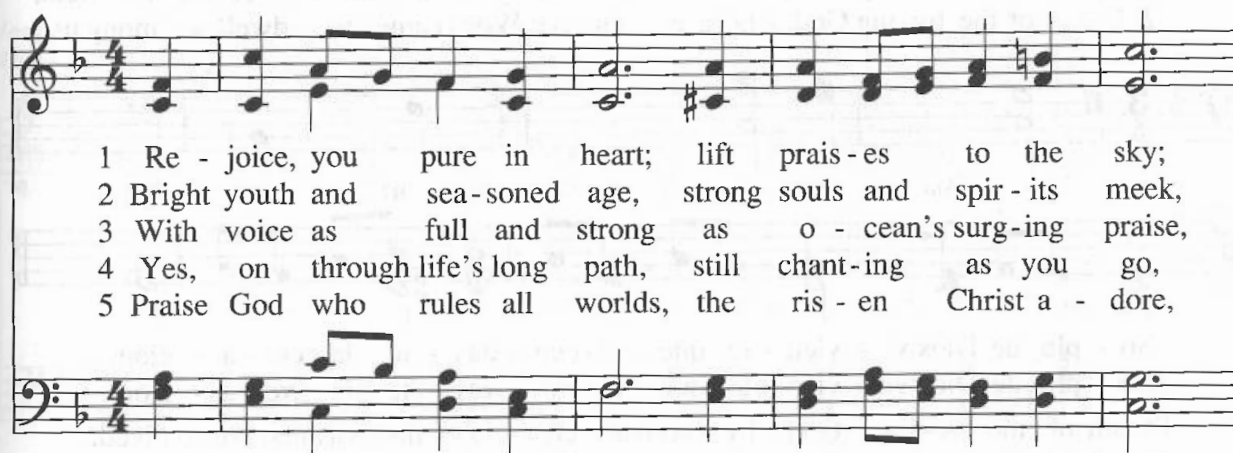
see Barbara Dobrocki for more information

Rejoice, You Pure in Heart

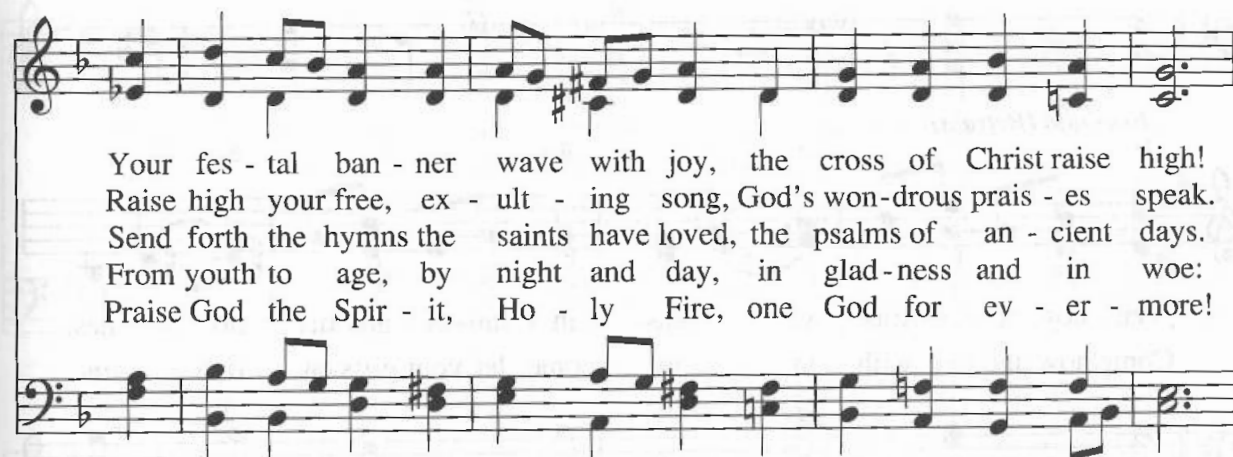
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Edward H. Plumptre, 1865; alt.

Ps. 20:5; Phil. 4:4

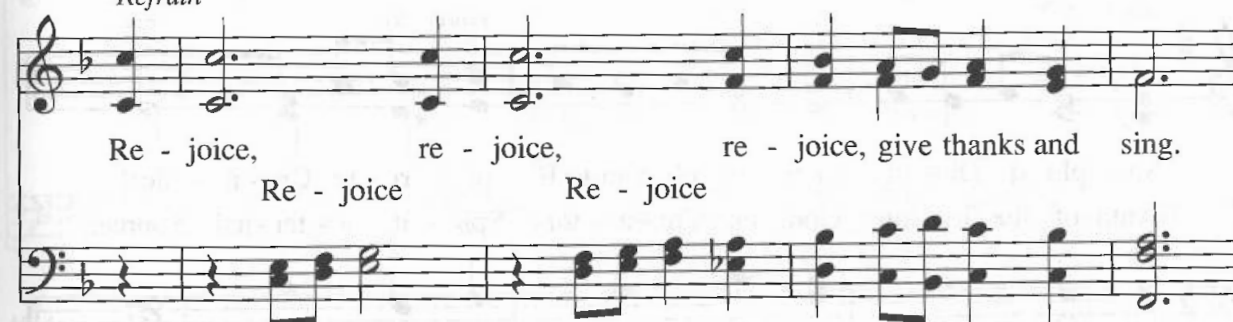


1 Re - joice, you pure in heart; lift prais - es to the sky;
 2 Bright youth and sea - soned age, strong souls and spir - its meek,
 3 With voice as full and strong as o - cean's surg - ing praise,
 4 Yes, on through life's long path, still chant - ing as you go,
 5 Praise God who rules all worlds, the ris - en Christ a - dore,



Your fes - tal ban - ner wave with joy, the cross of Christ raise high!
 Raise high your free, ex - ult - ing song, God's won - drous prais - es speak.
 Send forth the hymns the saints have loved, the psalms of an - cient days.
 From youth to age, by night and day, in glad - ness and in woe:
 Praise God the Spir - it, Ho - ly Fire, one God for ev - er - more!

Refrain



Re - joice, re - joice, re - joice, give thanks and sing.
 Re - joice Re - joice

This hymn, inspired by Philippians 4:4, was written for the Choral Festival held at Peterborough Cathedral in England. The author was an Anglican priest and a professor of theology at Oxford University.

Tune: MARION S.M. with refrain
 Arthur H. Messiter, 1883
 For an alternate setting, see 71
 Alternate tune: CHRISTPRAISE RAY

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

506

Joseph Scriven, 1855; alt.

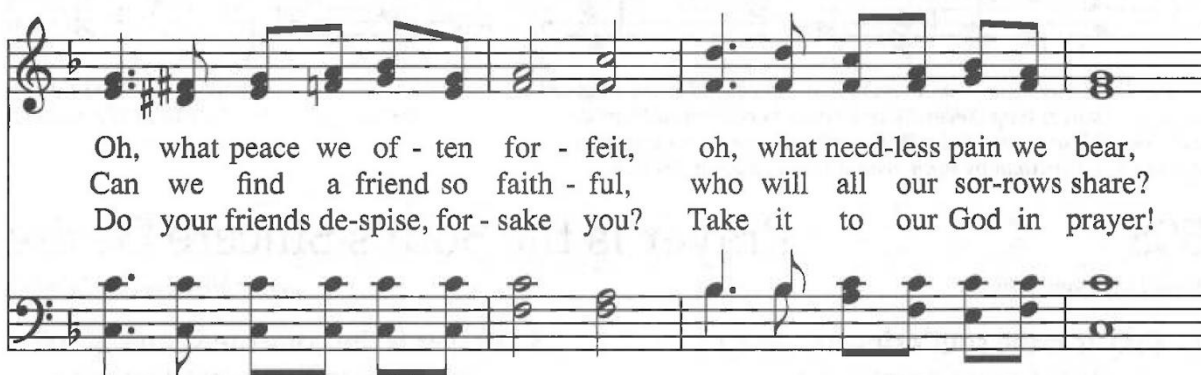
Phil. 4:6-7



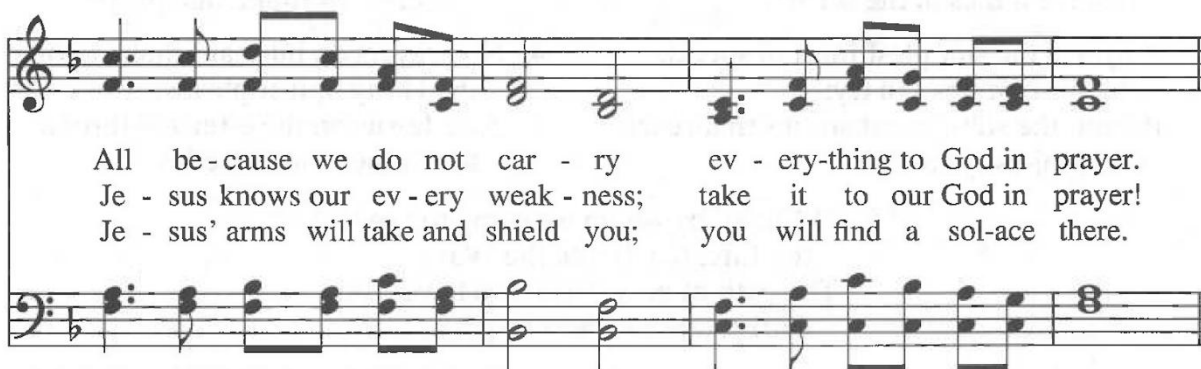
1 What a friend we have in Je - sus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
 2 Have we tri - als and temp - ta - tions? Is there trou - ble an - y - where?
 3 Are we weak and heav - y lad - en, bur - dened with a load of care?



What a priv - i - lege to car - ry ev - ery-thing to God in prayer!
 We should nev - er be dis - cour - aged; take it to our God in prayer!
 Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our ref - uge, take it to our God in prayer!



Oh, what peace we of - ten for - feit, oh, what need - less pain we bear,
 Can we find a friend so faith - ful, who will all our sor - rows share?
 Do your friends de - spise, for - sake you? Take it to our God in prayer!

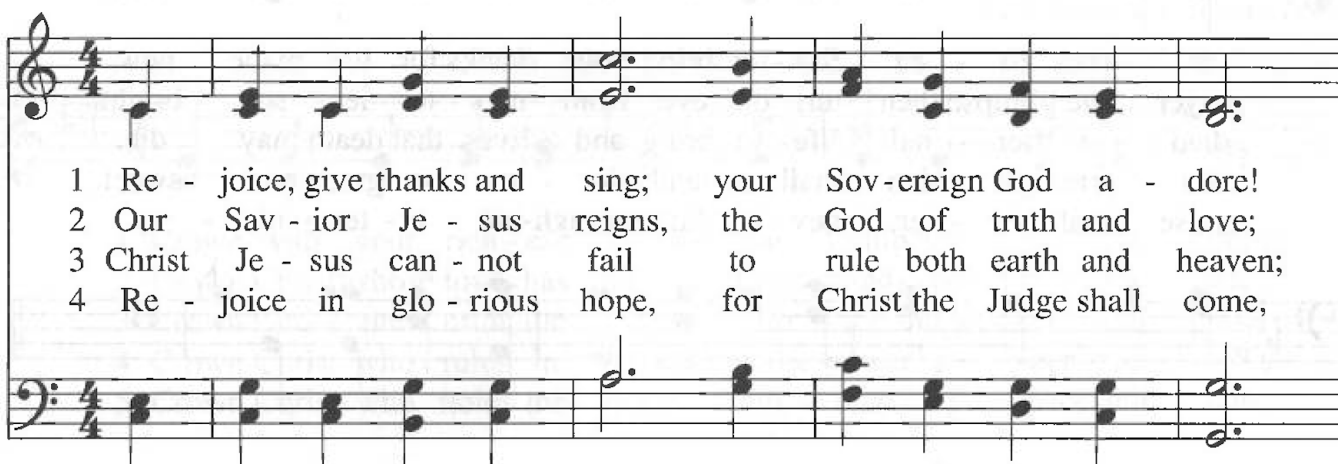


All be - cause we do not car - ry ev - ery-thing to God in prayer.
 Je - sus knows our ev - ery weak - ness; take it to our God in prayer!
 Je - sus' arms will take and shield you; you will find a sol - ace there.

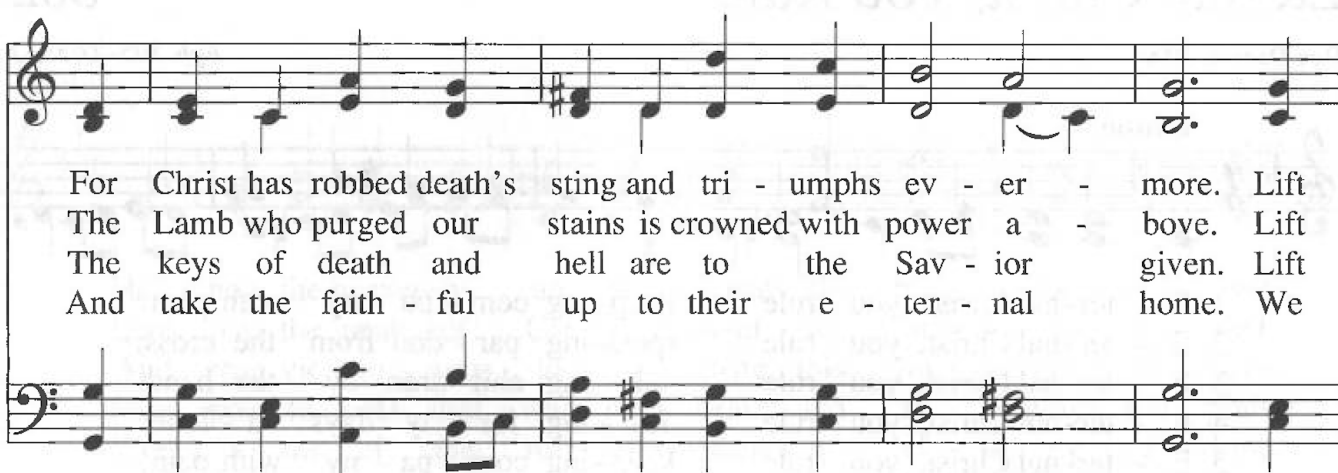
No stranger to sorrow himself, Joseph Scriven wrote this hymn to comfort his mother in Ireland. Scriven, who moved to Canada as a young man, attempted to follow literally the teachings of the Sermon on the Mount.

Tune: ERIE 8.7.8.7.D.
 Charles C. Converse, 1868

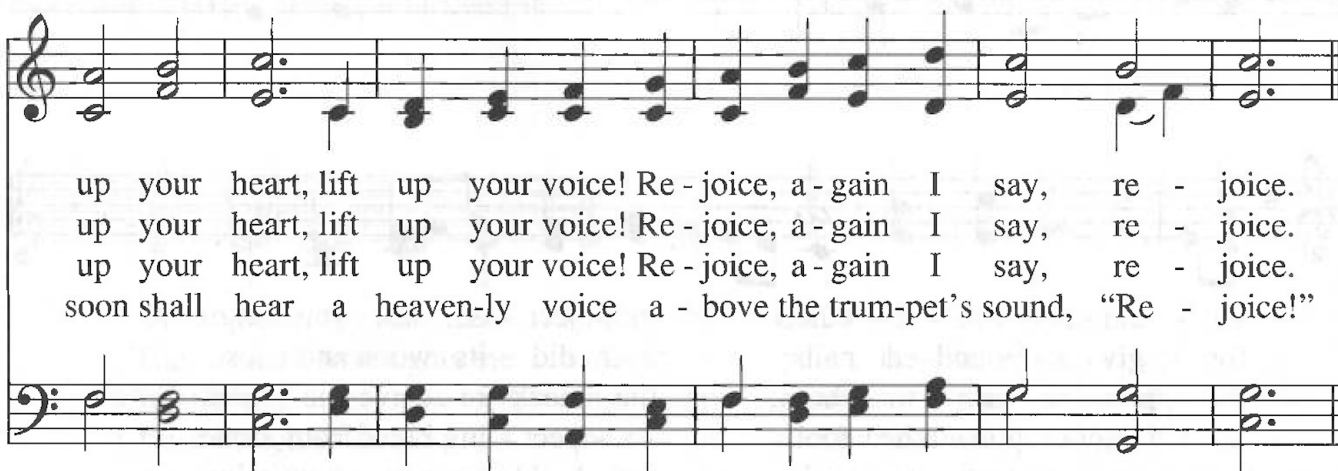
Rejoice, Give Thanks and Sing

*Phil. 4:4; Rev. 3:7; 19:6-7**Charles Wesley, 1746; alt.*


1 Re - joice, give thanks and sing; your Sov-ereign God a - dore!
 2 Our Sav - ior Je - sus reigns, the God of truth and love;
 3 Christ Je - sus can - not fail to rule both earth and heaven;
 4 Re - joice in glo - rious hope, for Christ the Judge shall come,



For Christ has robbed death's sting and tri - umphs ev - er - more. Lift
 The Lamb who purged our stains is crowned with power a - bove. Lift
 The keys of death and hell are to the Sav - ior given. Lift
 And take the faith - ful up to their e - ter - nal home. We



up your heart, lift up your voice! Re - joice, a - gain I say, re - joice.
 up your heart, lift up your voice! Re - joice, a - gain I say, re - joice.
 up your heart, lift up your voice! Re - joice, a - gain I say, re - joice.
 soon shall hear a heaven-ly voice a - bove the trum-pet's sound, "Re - joice!"

This Ascension text, one of the festival hymns by Charles Wesley, was published originally in John Wesley's Moral and Sacred Poems (1744). Somewhat altered, it appeared in this familiar version in Charles' 1746 collection, Hymns for Our Lord's Resurrection.

Tune: DARWALL'S 148th 6.6.6.6.8.8.
John Darwall, 1770