A CELEBRATION OF THANKSGIVING

Wednesday, November 25, 2026

Trinity United Methodist Church
Tallahassee, Florida

First Presbyterian Church
Tallahassee, Florida



Governor Bradford of Massachusetts made this first Thanksgiving Proclamation three years after the Pilgrims settled at Plymouth:

Inasmuch as the great Father has given us this year an abundant harvest of Indian corn, wheat, peas, beans, squashes, and garden vegetables, and has made the forests to abound with game and the sea with fish and clams, and inasmuch as He has protected us from the ravages of the savages, has spared us from pestilence and disease, has granted us freedom to worship God according to the dictates of our own conscience.

Now I, your magistrate, do proclaim that all ye Pilgrims, with your wives and ye little ones, do gather at ye meeting house, on ye hill, between the hours of 9 and 12 in the daytime, on Thursday, November 29th, of the year of our Lord one thousand six hundred and twenty three and the third year since ye Pilgrims landed on ye Pilgrim Rock, there to listen to ye pastor and render thanksgiving to ye Almighty God for all His blessings.

William Bradford, Ye Governor of Ye Colony

THE CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

VOLUNTARY — Prelude in G Major, Op. 109 — Camille Saint-Saëns

CALL TO WORSHIP

In deep gratitude we come to worship God.
We recognize God as the source of all goodness.
All good gifts come from the Spirit of God:
love, peace, joy, patience, kindness, gentleness are all of God.
We come with grateful hearts, not for things, but for who God is.
We gather to show our gratitude in song and prayer.

OPENING PRAYER

We thank you, God, for being the faithful God that you are. Thank you for always providing our needs. Thank you for always watching over us. You are in the brightest of days and the darkest of nights. Though the year has been trying, we still have much to be thankful for. So may our worship today echo our gratitude and our steadfast love and faith in you. In Christ we pray, Amen.

*HYMN 367 — Come, Ye Thankful People, Come — St. George's Windsor

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious and generous God, as we gather here to give thanks, we realize we have not been thankful for the blessings you have bestowed on us: the love of good friends; the simple gifts of life; the joy of the holiday season. Forgive us for scurrying toward burnout. Teach us to slow down and be thankful for the deliberateness of pilgrimage. Have mercy upon our overindulgence, we pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

*RESPONSE Hymn 37 — Let All Things Now Living — Ash Grove

WELCOME

SOLO — Thanksgiving — John Ness Beck

SCRIPTURE READING — Luke 17:11–19

An asterisk invites the congregation to stand in body or spirit. Congregational responses are in* **bold.

MEDITATION *Gratitude Without Borders*

*HYMN 318 In Christ There is No East or West St. Peter

LITANY OF THANKSGIVING

Come, let us praise God joyfully.

Let us come to God with thanksgiving.

For the good world; for things great and small, beautiful, and awesome; for seen and unseen splendors:

thank you, God.

For human life; for talking and moving and thinking together;
for common hopes and hardships shared from birth until our dying:

thank you, God.

For work to do and strength to work; for the comradeship of labor; for exchanges of good humor and encouragement:

thank you, God.

For marriage; for the mystery and joy of flesh made one; for mutual forgiveness and burdens shared; for memories cherished in love:

thank you, God.

For family; for living together and eating together; for family amusements and family pleasures:

thank you, God.

For children; for their energy and curiosity; for their brave play and startling frankness; for their sudden sympathies:

thank you, God.

For the young; for their high hopes; for their irreverence toward worn-out values; for their search for freedom; for their solemn vows:

thank you, God.

For growing up and growing old; for wisdom deepened by experience; for rest in leisure; and for time made precious by its passing:

thank you, God.

For your help in times of doubt and sorrow; for healing our diseases; for preserving us in temptation and danger:

thank you, God.

For our nation, throughout seasons of rising and falling; for leaders who seek and abide by your wisdom; for your light and truth that corrects our ways:

thank you, God.

For the church into which we have been called; for the good news we receive by Word and Sacrament; for our life together in the Lord:

we praise you, God.

For your Holy Spirit, who guides our steps and brings us gifts of faith and love; who prays in us and prompts our grateful worship:

we praise you, God.

Above all, O God, for your Son Jesus Christ, who lived and died and lives again for our salvation; for our hope in Him and for the joy of serving Him:

we thank and praise you, eternal God, for all your goodness to us.

Give thanks to the Lord, who is good.

God's love is everlasting.

THE LORD'S PRAYER (Ecumenical Version)

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

CALL FOR THE OFFERING

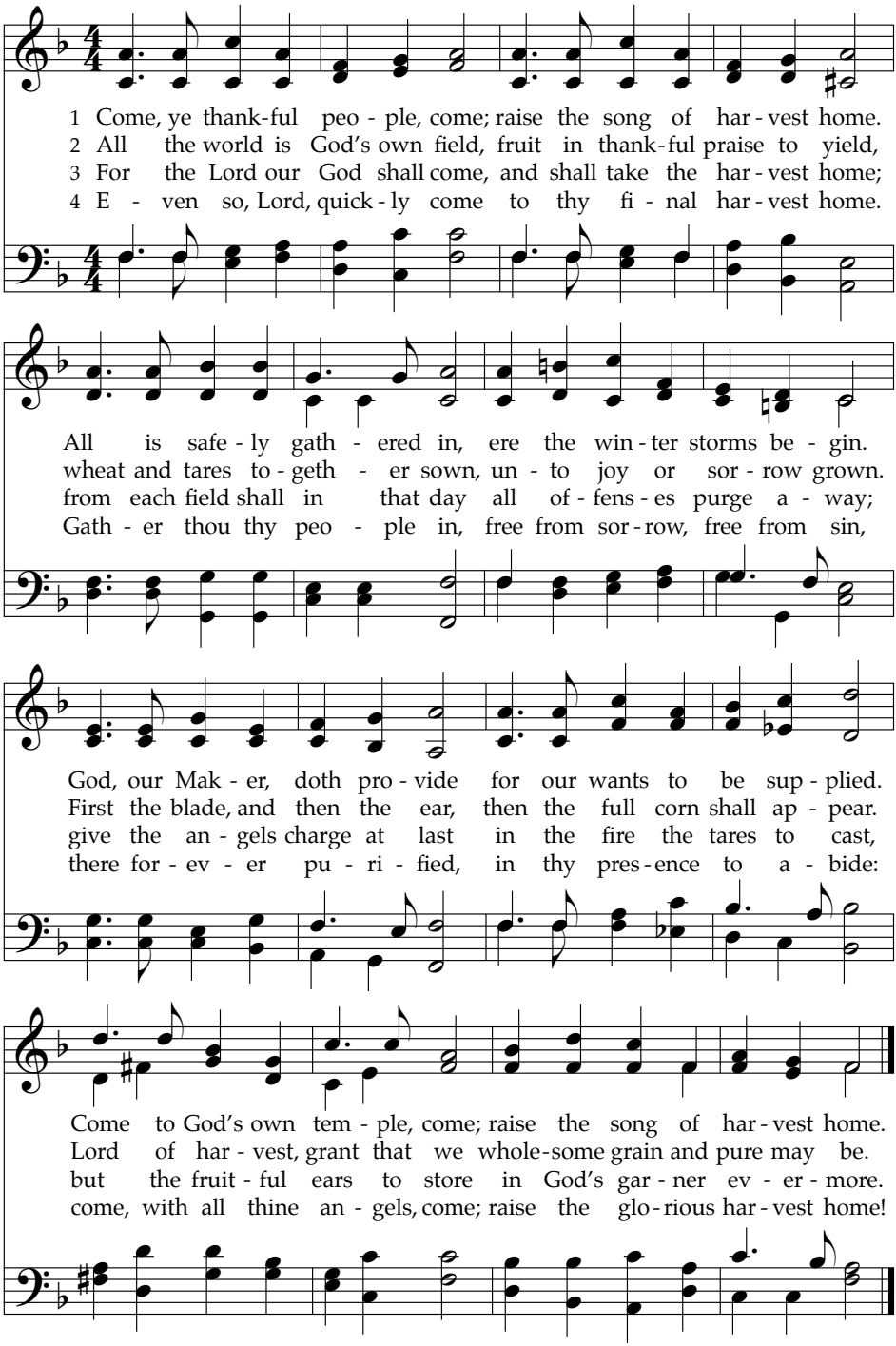
PRESENTATION OF GIFTS

OFFERTORY MEDITATION	Organ Sonata No. 1 in F minor, Op. 65: II. Adagio	Felix Mendelssohn
*PRESENTATION HYMN 607	Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow	Old Hundredth
*PRAYER OF DEDICATION		
*HYMN 643	Now Thank We All Our God	Nun Danket Alle Gott
*BENEDICTION		
*VOLUNTARY	Fugue in C Major, BWV 547	J.S. Bach

Worship Leadership

Ms. Victoria Coey, Organist, First Presbyterian Church
Mr. Gregory Hilliard, Director of Music, Trinity United Methodist Church
Rev. Mark Phillips, Pastor, First Presbyterian Church
Rev. Dr. Ivy Smith, Associate Pastor, Trinity United Methodist Church
Rev. Dr. Matthew Williams, Senior Pastor, Trinity United Methodist Church

367 Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

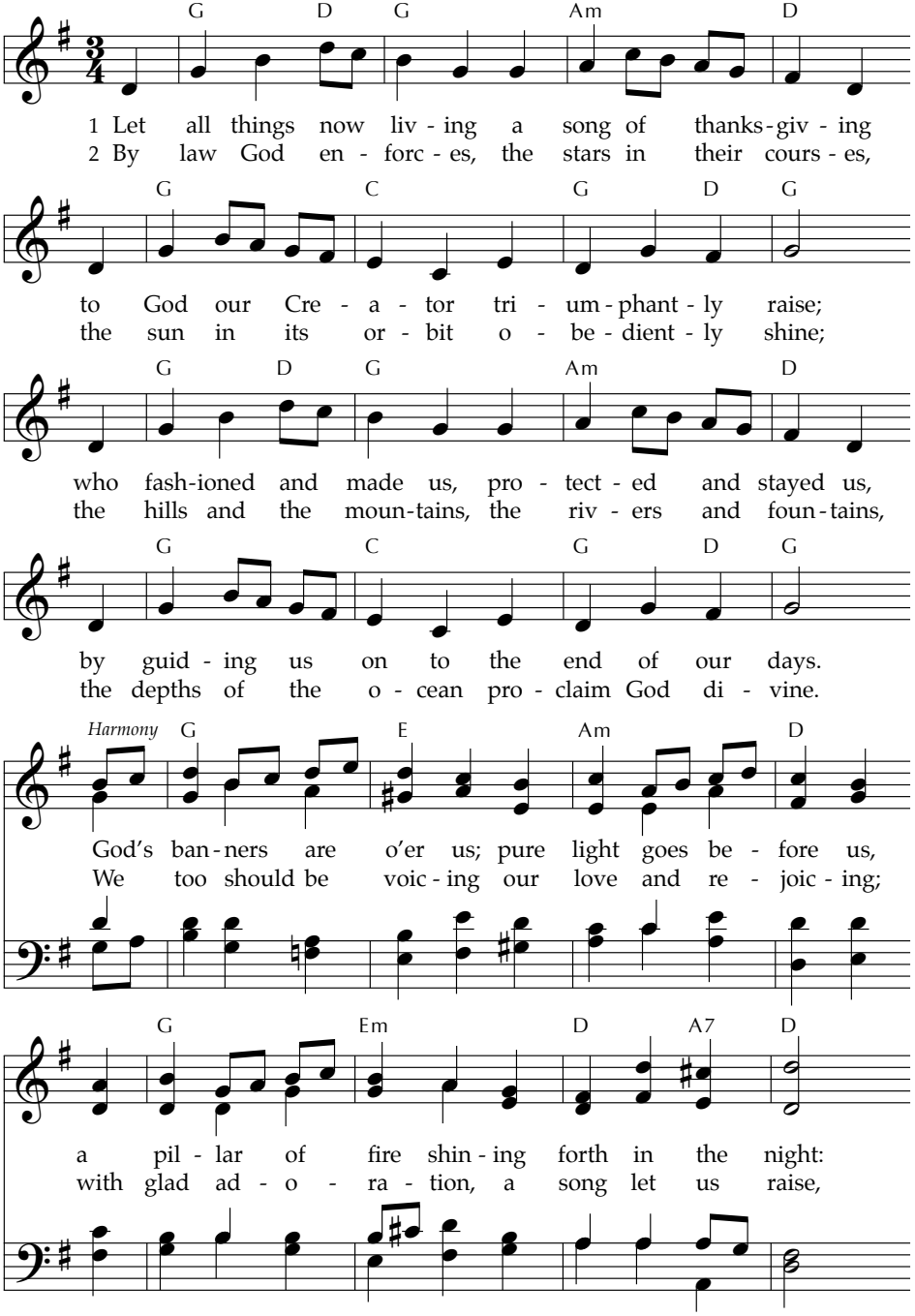


Despite its familiar Thanksgiving associations, the real concern of this text is to recall the harvest imagery Jesus used to describe the fulfillment of God's sovereignty. The tune name commemorates the royal chapel where the composer was organist for forty-seven years.

TEXT: Henry Alford, 1844, alt.
MUSIC: George Job Elvey, 1858

ST. GEORGE'S WINDSOR
7.7.7.7.D

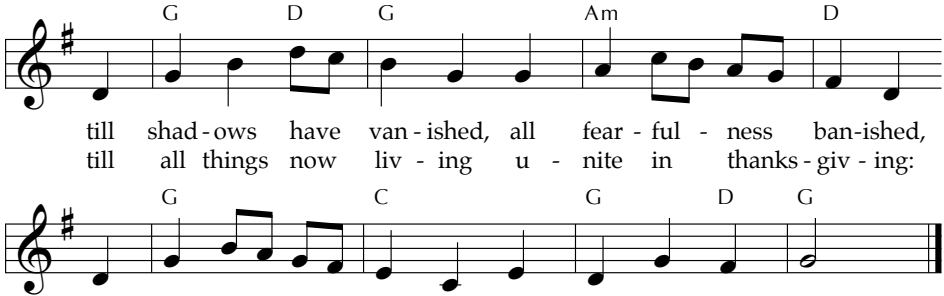
37 Let All Things Now Living



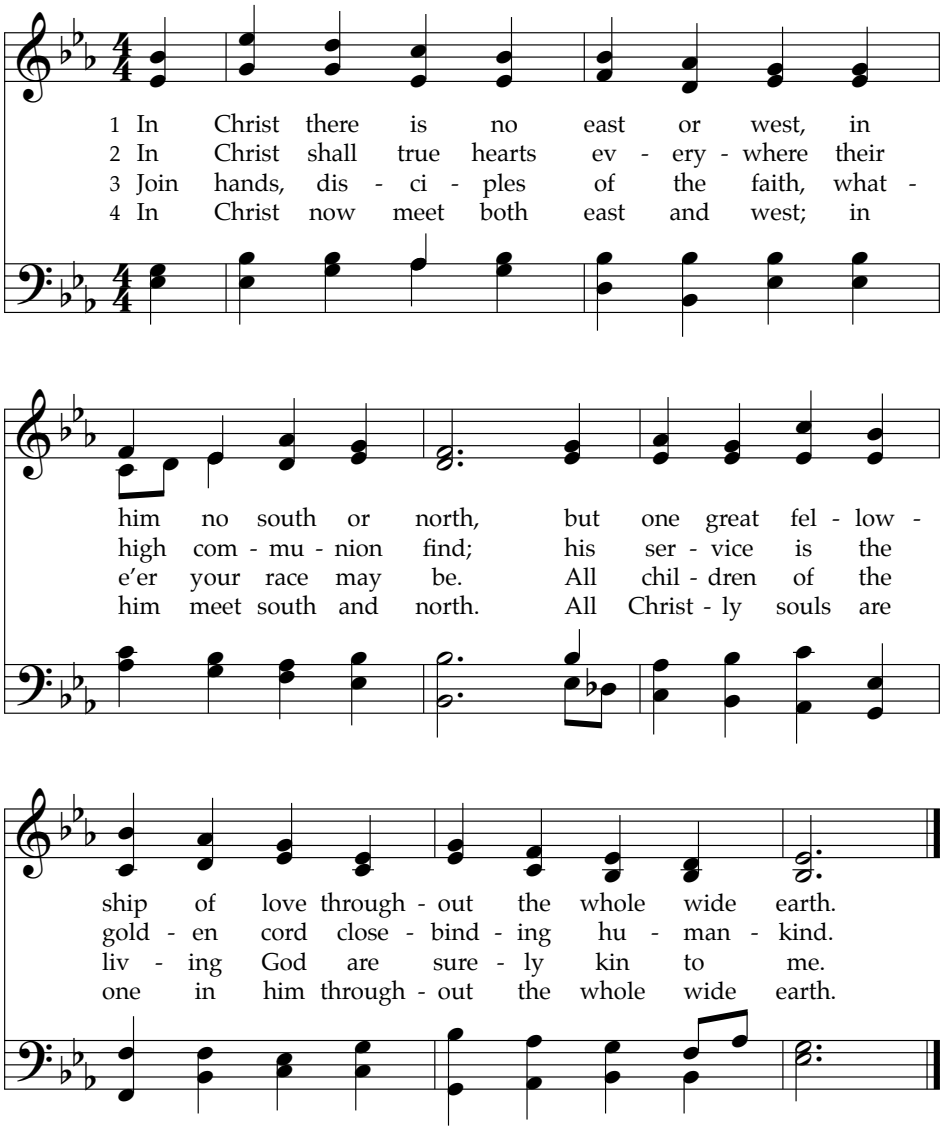
Written for an easy-to-sing folk melody familiar in England as well as Wales, this 20th-century North American text bears many resemblances to both Psalm 148 and the traditional canticle *Benedicite, omnia opera Domini* (Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord).

TEXT: Katherine K. Davis, 1939, alt.
MUSIC: Welsh folk melody; harm. Gerald H. Knight, 20th cent.
Text © 1939, 1966 E. C. Schirmer Music Company
Music Harm. © Royal School of Church Music

ASH GROVE
6.6.11.6.6.11.D


G D G Am D
till shad - ows have van - ished, all fear - ful - ness ban-ished,
till all things now liv - ing u - nite in thanks - giv - ing:
G C G D G
as for - ward we trav - el from light in - to light.
to God in the high - est, ho - san - na and praise!

In Christ There Is No East or West 318



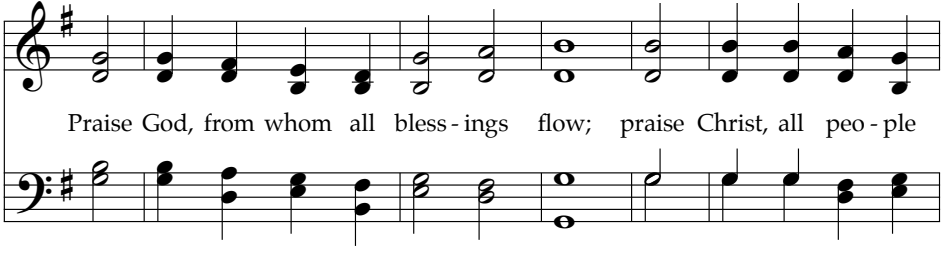
This text formed a very small part of an elaborate Christian missionary pageant in the early 20th century, yet it has endured while the grander aspects of that production have faded away. It is set to a simple 19th-century tune that does not get in the way of its message.

TEXT: John Oxenham, 1908, alt.
MUSIC: Alexander Robert Reinagle, 1836

ST. PETER
CM
(alternate tune: MC KEE, 317)

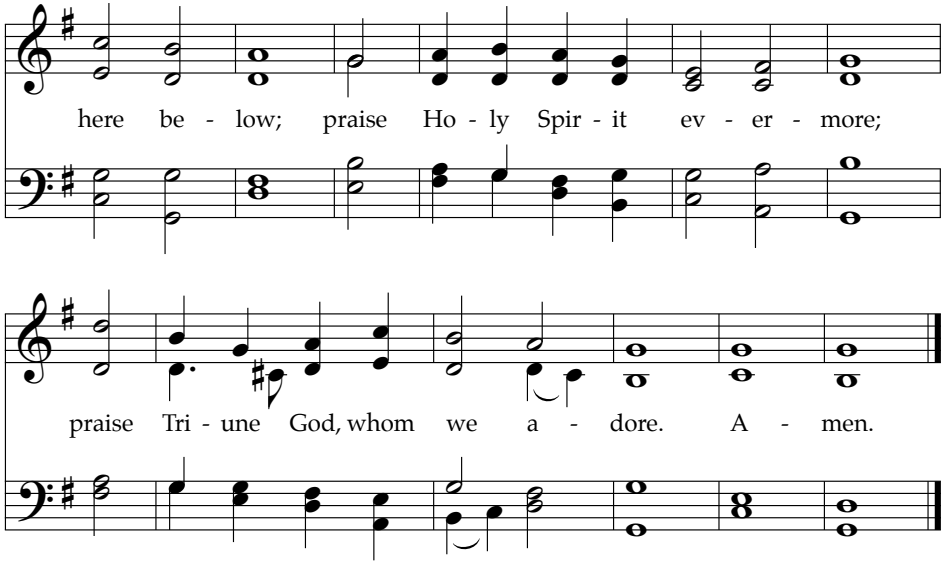
607 Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Doxology

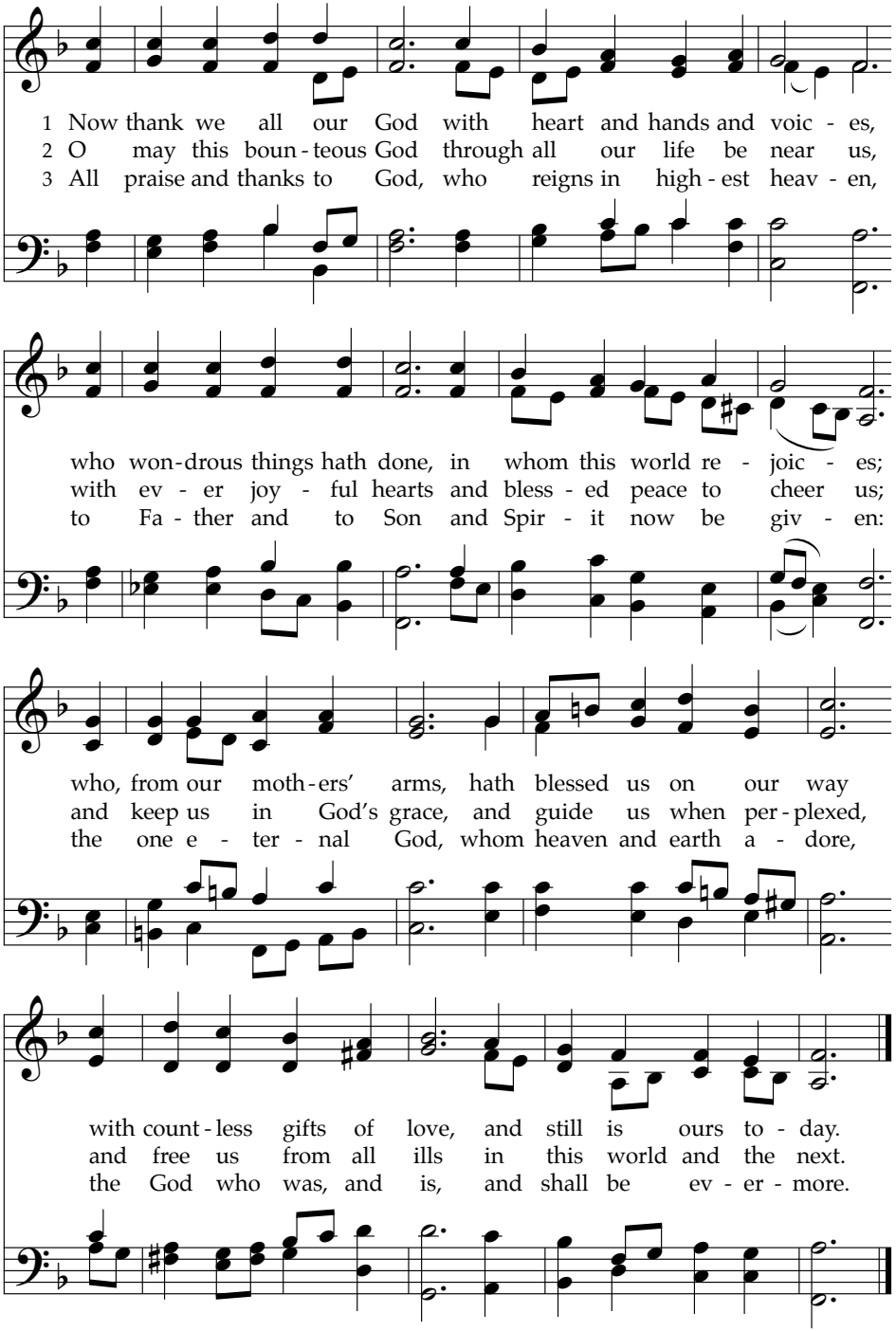


TEXT: Neil Weatherhogg, 1988
MUSIC: Genevan Psalter, 1551
Text © 1990 Neil Weatherhogg

OLD HUNDREDTH
LM


here be - low; praise Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more;
praise Tri - une God, whom we a - dore. A - men.

643 Now Thank We All Our God



Although this hymn is often used on large and festive occasions, its first two stanzas had much humbler beginnings: they originated as a family table prayer during the Thirty Years' War (1618–1648). These words have been associated with this tune since the mid-17th century.

TEXT: Martin Rinkart, c. 1636; trans. Catherine Winkworth, 1858, alt.
MUSIC: Johann Crüger, 1647; harm. Felix Mendelssohn, 1840

NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT
6.7.6.7.6.6.6.6