



June 1, 2023

GATHERING  
393 O Day of Rest and Gladness

1 O day of rest and glad - ness, O day of joy and light,  
2 On you, at earth's cre - a - tion the light first had its birth,  
3 On you, God's pres - ence greet - ing, the Ho - ly Spirit came home,  
O bal - m for care and sad - ness, most ben - e - fit, most bright;  
on you, our soul and - va - tion Christ rose from depths of earth,  
Christ's liv - ing pres - ence greet - ing, through bread and wine made near,  
on you, the high and low - ly through a - ges joined in time,  
on you, our Land vic - ty - mous, since '89, forth from heaven,  
New grac - y - er gain - ing from this our day of rest,  
sing "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly" to the great God ter - rific,  
And thus on you, most glo - rious, a tri - ple light was given,  
we reach the rest re - main - ing, so spir - it - al, at the close.

In this hymn the first line of the words appears in identical translations of English, German, and Russian and is used in accordance with the translation of the hymn in the hymnal. The text is a modification of the original text of the hymn. The text is a modification of the original text of the hymn. The text is a modification of the original text of the hymn.

## A Day of Rest and Gladness

As Presbyterian Women began our study of Sabbath this year, we recalled many of the Sunday/Sabbath habits and practices that were part of our growing up: visits with families, things we

couldn't do "because it was Sunday," quiet walks, big meals. Our closing hymn this Sunday Well, if you've ever had to get a family up, fed, dressed, and ready to go to church on a Sunday morning, or if you've ever had committee meetings right after worship, you might not think about Sunday as a day of rest. We understand that. But we are all going to be singing about "rest and gladness," and the words of the hymn might help us think about that in a new way. In fact, our hymnal, *Glory to God*, is a much bigger treasure trove than we tend to think. We usually open the book, sing the hymns, and close the book. Let's take a closer look at this closing hymn for Sunday, June 4.

This Sunday is Trinity Sunday, and Hymn 393 helps us focus on that, reminding us that through the ages Christ's church has gathered on the first day of the week to sing "holy, holy, holy" (note the use of three repeats) to "the great God triune." Reformed theology has always insisted on the importance of our Trinitarian God, refusing to separate the "God of the Old Testament" from Jesus Christ and the Spirit. We have no creeds or confessions that are all about Jesus - we affirm our faith in God who is One-in-Three. It is our gathering together on this first day to worship God that makes it "beautiful" and "bright".

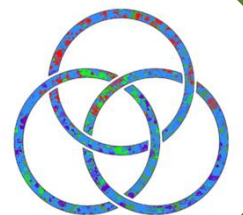
The second verse includes a line for each person of the Trinity: God the creator, Christ our salvation, and the Spirit sent to us. This "triple light" mentioned in the last line reminds us that in our worship, on every Sunday, we should be aware of all three persons. As the note at the bottom of the hymnal page says, we are - or should be - reminded in this song (and, indeed, every Sunday) of Creation, Easter, and Pentecost in the three persons of the Trinity. It was on the first day that light was created, the first day of the week that Christ rose, and the first day of the week that the Spirit fell on the disciples in Jerusalem. The first day should surely be for us a day of gladness!

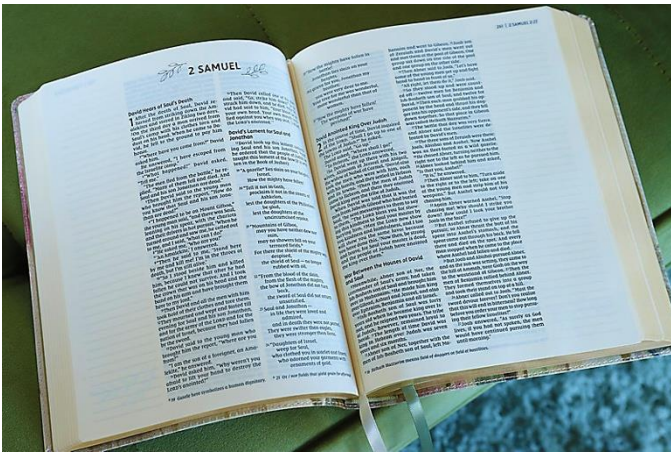
The third verse is a newer verse added to this hymn. The original hymn text had six verses. Charles P. Price wrote a third verse that summarizes some of the ideas in the remaining four original verses. Price's verse speaks directly to the people of God and includes a reference to the Lord's Supper (which we will celebrate Sunday), a "visible sign of invisible grace," as they say. Price echoes that we receive new graces from taking this day of rest here and now as we move on to the rest that is promised to us as followers of Christ.

*Glory to God* gives lots of information on each hymn. In addition to brief commentary, each page identifies the text writer and composer for the hymn. "O Day of Rest and Gladness" was written by Christopher Wordsworth, member of the Anglican clergy who became Bishop of Lincoln in 1868. He was the nephew of English Romantic poet William Wordsworth. The hymn's tune, *Es flog Ein Kleins Waldvoegelein* ("A Little Forest Bird Flew"), is a German folk tune first published in a manuscript collection in the early 1600s.

Those are the things you should be thinking about as we sing this hymn Sunday. Our hymns carry more theology than we think - which is why we are blessed to have Sharon prayerfully choosing hymns for us each week, and our instrumental musicians Rita, Jim, and David, offering their gifts in worship. We will gather this Sunday - a day of rest and gladness - to worship our triune God and to gather at Christ's table. Please join us.

Three interlocking rings are one way to symbolize the Trinity.





## Bibles Still Available to Sign

In worship on Sunday, May 28, the congregation presented Bibles to Landon Wyatt and Harper Blanton in recognition of their completion of the “Learning to Use My Bible” class. Members of the congregation were invited to come by the church, highlight a favorite verse, and sign the Bibles. Because several folks were unable get by the church, the Bibles are still \ in the church library and will be available until Wednesday, June 7. Please come by and share with Harper and Landon the verses of scripture that you find particularly meaningful.



## Giving and Doing

Winston Churchill once said, “We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give.” Giving is part of the life of a follower of Christ. We give of our time, our talents, and our treasure. The church needs all of those gifts.

There are opportunities to serve the congregation with your **talents**. Are you interested in learning to facilitate the livestreaming of our worship services? Would you like to learn how to arrange flowers for the sanctuary? Are your building skills available for the congregation? Those gifts of talents are also gifts of **time** as you put your talents to use. We also need your gifts of **treasure**. The bills come in during the summer as well as during the school year. We have plans for the future that will require additional financial gifts. Some are big plans; others are smaller. All are important for the health of the congregation.

In July the LPC Outreach Committee will introduce an outline to help us as a congregation think about both *giving* and *doing*. Each month there will be an emphasis for our *giving* and an opportunity for *doing*. Additionally, our children will be going and *doing* this summer on Wednesday afternoons.

The church of Jesus Christ exists within our church walls, but we are called to go outside the walls and take Christ to the world. How will you answer that call in what and how you *give* and in what and how you *do*?

## CALENDAR of EVENTS

### Sunday, June 4

9:45 AM Sunday School – Parlor  
 9:45 AM Children’s Sunday School  
 10:15 AM Chancel Choir Practice – Choir Room  
 11:00 AM Worship – Sanctuary & via Facebook Live  
 4:00 PM Yoga – FLC

### Monday, June 5

1:00 PM Picturing God – FLC

### Tuesday, June 6

Summer Reading – R. King

### Wednesday, June 7

1:00 PM – Ready! Set! Go! Pool Party

### Sunday, June 4

9:45 AM Sunday School – Parlor  
 9:45 AM Children’s Sunday School  
 10:15 AM Chancel Choir Practice – Choir Room  
 11:00 AM Worship – Sanctuary & via Facebook Live

### Please remember in prayer:

Hugh Fincher; Fran Ross; Peggy Wyatt; Buck Jolley; Emma June; DeAnna Tock, Justina Eddy; the family of Sandra Woodlief; Alex Copeland.

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