

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Santa Clarita
The Sixth Sunday of Easter
10:30am — May 5, 2024

The Altar flowers are given to the glory of God.

Before the service begins, we encourage you to use the following for meditation.

Today is predicted to be an amazing day for you. For you to live fully, freely, meaningfully, joyfully — for you have the time of your life — live your life in sync with the Creator of life, and that will make a world of difference. -Br. Curtis Almquist, SSJE

Prelude

The Prayer

Carole Bayer Sager

THE WORD OF GOD

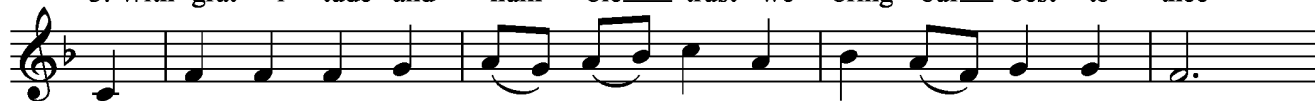
Entrance Hymn #705

“As those of old their first fruits brought”

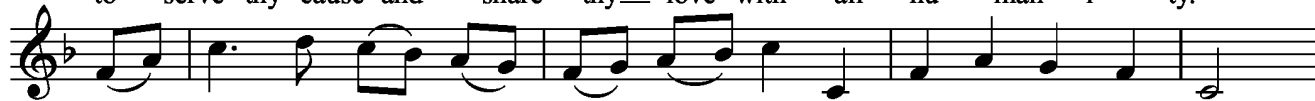
Forest Green



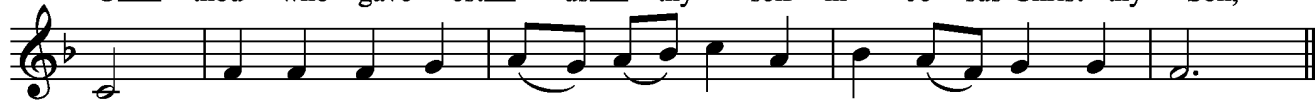
1. As those of old their first_ fruits_brought of vine- yard,_ flock, and field
2. A world in need now sum- mons_ us to la - bor,_ love, and give;
3. With grat - i - tude and hum - ble__ trust we bring our__ best to thee



to God, the giv - er of__ all__ good, the source of__ boun-teous yield;
to make our life an of - fer - ing to God that__ all may live;
to serve thy cause and share thy__ love with all hu - man - i - ty.



so__ we to - day__ our__ first_ fruits_ bring, the wealth of this good land,
the__ Church of Christ is__ call - ing__ us to make the dream come true:
O__ thou who gave - est__ us__ thy - self in Je - sus Christ thy Son,



of farm and mar - ket, shop__ and__ home, of mind, and__ heart, and hand.
a world re-deemed by Christ - like__ love; all life in__ Christ made new.
help us to give our - selves each_ day un - til life's_ work is done.

Priest: Alleluia. Christ is risen!

People: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Collect for Purity

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

Gloria Hymn #S236

Rutter

1. Glo - ry to you, Lord God of our fa- thers; you are wor- thy of praise; glo- ry to you. 2. Glo - ry to you for the ra - di- ance of your ho - ly Name; we will praise you and high- ly ex - alt you for ev - er. 3. Glo - ry to you in the splen - dor of your tem - ple; on the throne of your ma - jes - ty, glo - ry to you. 4. Glo - ry to you, seat - ed be - tween the Cher - u - bim; we will praise you and high- ly ex - alt you for ev - er. 5. Glo - ry to you, be - hold - ing the depths; in the high vault of hea - ven, glo - ry to you. 6. Glo - ry to you, Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Spi - rit; we will praise you and high- ly ex - alt you for ev - er.

The Collect of the Day

Priest: God be with you.
 People: And also with you.
 Priest: Let us pray.

O God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as surpass our understanding: Pour into our hearts such love towards you, that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Please be seated.
THE LESSONS

The First Reading Acts 10:44-48

Reader: Mark Bridgeford

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, "Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 98

Reader: Shari Schlaman

- 1 Sing to the Lord a new song, *
for he has done marvelous things.
- 2 With his right hand and his holy arm *
has he won for himself the victory.
- 3 The Lord has made known his victory; *
his righteousness has he openly shown in the sight of the nations.
- 4 He remembers his mercy and faithfulness to the house of Israel, *
and all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.
- 5 Shout with joy to the Lord, all you lands; *
lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.
- 6 Sing to the Lord with the harp, *
with the harp and the voice of song.
- 7 With trumpets and the sound of the horn *
shout with joy before the King, the Lord.
- 8 Let the sea make a noise and all that is in it, *
the lands and those who dwell therein.
- 9 Let the rivers clap their hands, *
and let the hills ring out with joy before the Lord,
when he comes to judge the earth.
- 10 In righteousness shall he judge the world *
and the peoples with equity.

The Second Reading 1 John 5:1-6

Reader: Shari Schlaman

A Reading from the First Letter of John.

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People: Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able.

Gradual Hymn #204

“Now the green blade riseth”

Noël novelet



1. Now the green blade ris - eth from the bur - ied grain,
2. In the grave they laid him, Love whom hate had slain,
3. Forth he came at Eas - ter, like the ris - en grain,
4. When our hearts are win - try, griev - ing, or in pain,



wheat that in dark earth man - y days hath lain;
think - ing that nev - er he would wake a - gain,
he that for three days in the grave had lain,
thy touch can call us back to life a - gain,



love lives a - gain, that with the dead has been:
laid in the earth like grain that sleeps un - seen:
quick from the dead my ris - en Lord is seen:
fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been:



Refrain
Love is come a - gain like wheat that spring - eth green.

The Gospel Reading John 15:9-17

Priest: The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to John.

People: Glory to you, O Christ.

Jesus said to his disciples, “As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. “This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and

bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.”

Priest: The Gospel of the Savior.

People: Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

The Sermon

The Very Rev. Christopher Montella
Rector

A period of silent reflection follows the sermon.

Please stand as you are able.

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Prayers of the People

Reader: Kelsey Raub

God has done marvelous things. So let us boldly pray, saying, “We lift up our voices to you: Holy Spirit, fall upon us.”

Loving Parent, you have chosen us to be members of your Church: help us to obey what you command; help us to love one another as you love us.

Silence

Intercessor: We lift up our voices to you:

People: Holy Spirit, fall upon us.

Loving Parent, you have openly shown your righteousness in the sight of the nations: we pray you judge the people of the world according to your righteousness, not according to our ignorance or folly.

Silence

Intercessor: We lift up our voices to you:

People: Holy Spirit, fall upon us.

Loving Parent, the rivers clap their hands and the hills ring out with joy before you: open our eyes to recognize your gracious hand in all your works.

The congregation may add their own thanksgivings.

Silence

Intercessor: We lift up our voices to you:

People: Holy Spirit, fall upon us.

Loving Parent, Jesus taught us that no one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends: bless the first responders who consistently risk their health and lives for friends and strangers.

Silence

Intercessor: We lift up our voices to you:

People: Holy Spirit, fall upon us.

Loving Parent, you always remember your mercy and faithfulness to your people: we ask you, in Jesus’ name, to heal and comfort those for whom we pray at this time, including Lindsey, Kody and Baby Camden.

The congregation may add their own petitions.

Silence

Intercessor: We lift up our voices to you:

People: Holy Spirit, fall upon us.

Loving Parent, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as surpass our understanding: may we, with those who have died, abide in your love forever. We pray for those who have died, especially Pauline Martinez Salinas, Emilio Dermedy, Corry Holly, Aisha Shoats and Reynaldo Alvarado.

Silence

Intercessor: We lift up our voices to you:

People: Holy Spirit, fall upon us.

Priest

O Gracious God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, the one, holy and undivided Trinity; God, Son & Spirit now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Peace

Priest: The peace of Christ be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Members of the congregation who are joining us via livestream are encouraged to post "Peace be with you" in the comments or to use the "like" or "love" reaction button to take part in the virtual exchange of God's peace with the rest of the congregation at this time.

Please be seated.

Welcome

We are pleased to celebrate the following birthdays: Brayson Wikler on May 9th and Victoria Bennett on May 11th.

Offertory Prayer

The People remain seated and say together:

Loving God, you alone are the source of every good gift. Everything we have, and all that we are, comes from you. Now, help us to be grateful, accountable, and, with praise and thanksgiving, to give of ourselves generously, through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Offertory

Sing to the Lord a Joyful Song
St. Stephen's Parish Choir

Hal Hopson

Please stand as you are able.

Doxology

Old 100th

Praise God from whom all blessings flow, Praise God all creatures,
here be - low. Praise God, you hosts in heav'n a -
bove; Praise God the Trin - i - ty of Love. A - men.

Priest: God be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Priest: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to God.**

Priest: Let us give thanks.

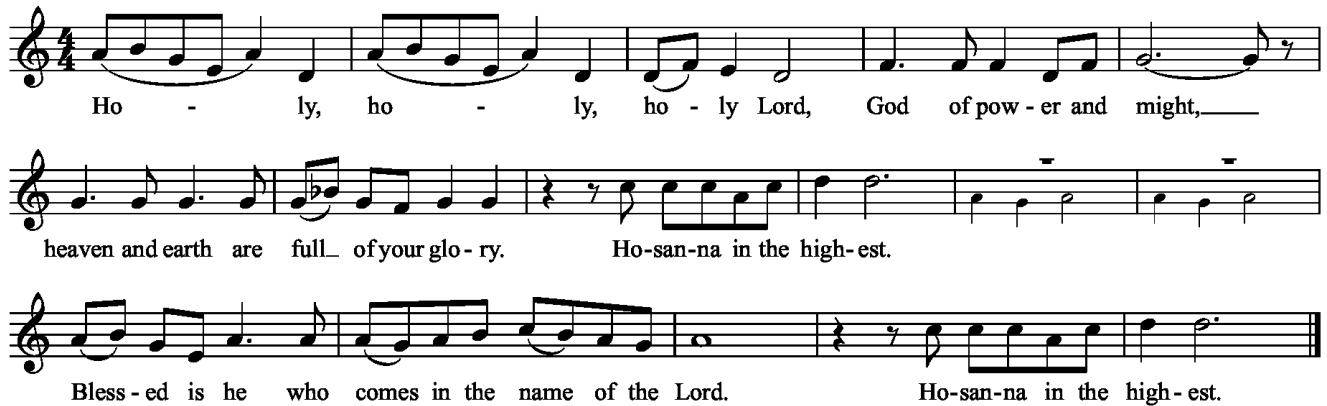
People: **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

All thanks and praise are yours at all times and in all places, our true and loving God; through Jesus Christ, your eternal Word, the Wisdom from on high by whom you created all things. You laid the foundations of the world and enclosed the sea when it burst out from the womb; You brought forth all creatures of the earth and gave breath to humankind.

Wondrous are you, Holy One of Blessing, all you create is a sign of hope for our journey; And so as the morning stars sing your praises we join the heavenly beings and all creation as we shout with joy:

Sanctus #S 128

Mathias



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might, _____
heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho-san-na in the high-est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high-est.

Glory and honor are yours, Creator of all, your Word has never been silent; you called a people to yourself, as a light to the nations, you delivered them from bondage and led them to a land of promise. Of your grace, you gave Jesus to be human, to share our life, to proclaim the coming of your holy reign and give himself for us, a fragrant offering.

Through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, you have freed us from sin, brought us into your life, reconciled us to you, and restored us to the glory you intend for us.

We thank you that on the night before he died for us Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, gave it to his friends and said: "Take, eat, this is my Body, broken for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper Jesus took the cup of wine, said the blessing, gave it to his friends and said: "Drink this, all of you: this cup is the new Covenant in my Blood, poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

And so, remembering all that was done for us: the cross, the tomb, the resurrection and ascension, longing for Christ's coming in glory, and presenting to you these gifts your earth has formed and human hands have made, we acclaim you, O Christ:

Priest and People

Dying, you destroyed our death.

Rising, you restored our life.

Christ Jesus, come in glory!

Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine that they may be to us the Body and Blood of your Christ. Grant that we, burning with your Spirit's power, may be a people of hope, justice and love.

Giver of Life, draw us together in the Body of Christ, and in the fullness of time gather us with blessed Stephen, and all your people, into the joy of our true eternal home.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever.

Great Amen from Mass of Creation

Marty Haugen

A - men, a - men, a - men!

A - men, a - men, a - men!

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

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 for ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

A period of silence is kept.

Please remain standing during the Fraction Anthem.

Fraction Hymn #S 154

Hurd

Cantor will sing the refrain first, followed by the congregation.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Christ our Pass - o - ver is sac - ri - ficed for us; there-fore let us keep the feast.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

The Gifts of God for the People of God.
 Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you,
 and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.
Please be seated.

*All are welcome to receive communion. The table we set belongs to God.
 Wherever you find yourself on your spiritual journey
 you are welcome to receive the Bread and Wine made holy.*

The church teaches that temporal isolation cannot constrain the sacrament's ineffable power. Calling us to "massive, corporate, spiritual communion,"

The Invitation to Holy Communion

A spiritual communion is a personal devotional that anyone can pray at any time to express their desire to receive Holy Communion at that moment, but in which circumstances impede them from actually receiving Holy Communion.

Priest and People say together:

My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I love you above all things, and long for you in my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though you have already come, I embrace you and unite myself entirely to you; never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.

Please be seated.

Please follow usher instructions for taking communion.

Communion Music Hymn #412

"Earth and all stars"

Earth and all stars



1. Earth and all stars,	loud rush - ing	plan - ets,	sing to the	Lord _____	a new song!
2. Hail, wind, and rain,	loud blow - ing	snow - storms,	sing to the	Lord _____	a new song!
3. Trum - pet and pipes,	loud clash - ing	cym - bals,	sing to the	Lord _____	a new song!
4. En - gines and steel,	loud pound - ing	ham - mers,	sing to the	Lord _____	a new song!
5. Class - rooms and labs	loud boil - ing	test - tubes,	sing to the	Lord _____	a new song!
6. Know - ledge and truth,	loud sound - ing	wis - dom,	sing to the	Lord _____	a new song!

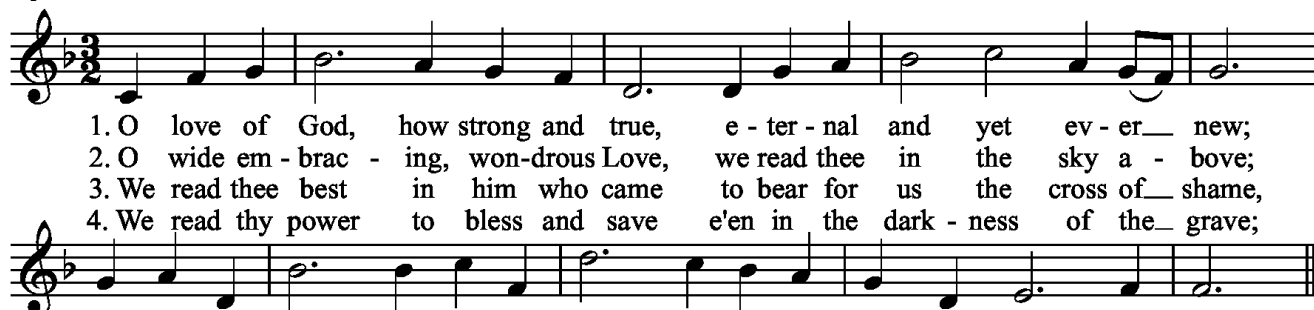


O vic - to - ry,	loud shout - ing	ar - my,	sing to the	Lord _____	a new song!
Flow - ers and trees,	loud rus - tling	dry leaves,	sing to the	Lord _____	a new song!
Harp, lute, and lyre,	loud hum - ming	cel - los,	sing to the	Lord _____	a new song!
Lime - stone and beams,	loud build - ing	work - ers,	sing to the	Lord _____	a new song!
Ath - lete and band,	loud cheer - ing	peo - ple,	sing to the	Lord _____	a new song!
Daugh - ter and son,	loud pray - ing	mem - bers,	sing to the	Lord _____	a new song!

Refrain



God has done mar - ve - lous things. I, too, will praise God with a new song!



1. O love of God, how strong and true, e - ter - nal and yet ev - er__ new;
 2. O wide em - brac - ing, won-drous Love, we read thee in the sky a - bove;
 3. We read thee best in him who came to bear for us the cross of__ shame,
 4. We read thy power to bless and save e'en in the dark - ness of the__ grave;

un - com - pre - hend - ed and un - bought, be - yond all know - ledge and all thought.
 we read thee in the earth be - low, in seas that swell and streams that flow.
 sent by the Fa - ther from on high, our life to live, our death to die.
 still more in re - sur - rec - tion light we read the full - ness of thy might.

Please stand as you are able.

Post Communion Prayer

Let us pray.

Most Holy God,
 whose Son Jesus Christ gives the water of eternal life:
 may we thirst for you,
 the spring of life and source of goodness,
 through him who is alive and reigns, now and for ever. Amen.

Blessing

May God, who gives patience and encouragement,
 give you a spirit of unity to live in harmony.

May Christ, who out of defeat brings new hope and a new future,
 fill you with his new life; so that with one voice you may glorify God.

May the Spirit give to you and to all you love
 comfort and peace, light and joy, safety and wisdom.
 And the blessing of God Almighty, the one,
 holy and undivided Trinity be among you
 and remain with you always. Amen.

Closing Hymn #344

“Lord, dismiss us with thy blessing”

Sicilian Mariners

1. Lord, dis - miss us with thy bless - ing; fill our hearts with
 2. Thanks we give and a - dor - a - tion for thy Gos - pel's
 3. so that when thy love shall call us, Sa - vior, from the

joy and peace; let us each, thy love pos - sess - ing,
 joy - ful sound: may the fruits of thy sal - va - tion
 world a - way, fear of death shall not ap - pall us,

tri - umph in re - deem - ing grace: O re - fresh us,
 in our hearts and lives a - bound: ev - er faith - ful,
 glad thy sum - mons to o - bey. May we ev - er,

O re - fresh us, trav - eling through this wil - der - ness.
 ev - er faith - ful to thy truth may we be found;
 may we ev - er reign with thee in end - less day.

The Dismissal

Priest: Alleluia, Alleluia. Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

People: Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia!

Prayers of the People taken from *Praying the Scriptures* by Jeremiah D. Williamson, ©2014 by Jeremiah D. Williamson. All Rights Reserved.

Spiritual Communion Prayer: St. Alphonsus de Liguori, 1696-1787

From *The Hymnal 1982* #705 “As those of old their first fruits brought”, Words: Frank von Christerson (1900–1996), alt. Music: *Forest Green*, English melody; adapt. and harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872–1958) Copyright: Words: Copyright © 1976, by The Hymn Society of America, Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, TX 76129. All Rights Reserved. Used by permission. Music: By permission of Oxford University Press. #S-128 Title: The Holy Eucharist II, Holy, holy, holy Lord: *Sanctus* Music: William Mathias (b. 1934) Copyright: © 1976, Oxford University Press, Inc. #S 154 Title: The Holy Eucharist, Fraction Anthem: Christ our Passover Music: From *New Plain-song*, David Hurd (b. 1950) Copyright: Copyright © 1981, G.I.A. Publications, Inc. #204 “Now the green blade riseth”, Words: John Macleod Campbell Crum (1872–1958), alt. Music: *Noël nouvelet*, medieval French carol; harm. Marcel Dupré (1886–1971); adapt. Roy F. Kehl (b. 1935); alternative accompaniment George Mims (b. 1938) Copyright: Words: From *The Oxford Book of Carols* © 1964, Oxford University Press. Music: Harmonization based on “Variation sur un Noël” for organ by Marcel Dupré, copyright © Alphonse Leduc, Paris. Used by permission. Adaptation © 1983, Roy F. Kehl. Used by permission. Alternative harmonization © 1984, George Mims. #412 “Earth and all stars”, Words: Herbert F. Brokering (b. 1926) Music: *Earth and All Stars*, David N. Johnson (b. 1922) Copyright: Words, Music: copyright Augsburg Publishing House. Used by permission. #455 “O love of God, how strong and true”, Words: Horatius Bonar (1808–1889) Music: *Dunedin*, Vernon Griffiths (b. 1894) Copyright: Music: Reprinted from the *New Catholic Hymnal* by permission of the publishers, Faber Music Ltd., London. #344 “Lord, dismiss us with thy blessing” Words: Att. to John Fawcett (1739/40–1817) Music: *Sicilian Mariners*, Sicilian melody; first published *The European Magazine and London Review*, 1792, alt. *Doxology* — Music: Old 100th, melody from *Pseumes octante trois de David*, 1551, alt.; harm. After Louis Bourgeois (1510?-1561?).