

**LITTLE
RIVER** 
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

May 12, 2024

The Sunday after Ascension Day

Mother's Day

8410 Little River Turnpike
Annandale, VA 22003-3710

(703) 978-3060 ~ office@lrucc.org

www.lrucc.org

WELCOME!

We are glad you're worshipping with us today! Since our founding in the 1950s, we at Little River United Church of Christ (UCC) have been called by God to celebrate diversity, independent thought, and faithful action. This call led us to become racially integrated in the segregated Virginia of the 1950s, and in 2001 to become an open and affirming congregation that celebrates LGBTQ+ folks, including full access to the rites of ordination and marriage. We invite you to become part of this community, building on our heritage of proclaiming God's radically inclusive love to our congregation, neighborhood, and world. We'd love to have you join us in these sacred tasks!

Please take a moment to fill out the red friendship notebook at the end of each pew, so that our pastor might offer a word of welcome.

WE'RE IN-PERSON AND ONLINE

We are excited to welcome members, friends, and visitors for worship both in person and online (hybrid services). Masks are optional for those attending worship in person. All worship services are recorded and uploaded to YouTube for on-demand viewing. Those attending worship in-person (adults and children) may be seen attending and participating during the worship service.

LET THE CHILDREN COME!

Little River's nursery welcomes infants through 4 year olds on Sunday mornings (9:30 A.M.–12 P.M.) with our devoted child care providers, Yris and Mia. During 10 A.M. Sunday worship, Sunday School is offered for 5 year olds through 12th grade. The Youth Group meets on select Sundays for 6th–12th grades. Please check with an usher for the location of classes.

STAY IN TOUCH

Little River UCC produces a weekly e-newsletter, *Current Tidings*, and periodically sends out *Alerts* (emails with significant, time-sensitive information). All submissions for the weekly bulletin and e-newsletter should be submitted to the office by Wednesdays at noon. We also send out a monthly print newsletter, *Current Reflections*. To receive any of these communications, please send an email to currents@lrucc.org or call the church office at 703-978-3060 to give us your contact information.

We have a Facebook page ([Facebook.com/LittleRiverUnitedChurchOfChrist](https://www.facebook.com/LittleRiverUnitedChurchOfChrist)) and an Instagram account ([Instagram.com/littleriverucc/](https://www.instagram.com/littleriverucc/)) where we post photos of recent events, announcements of upcoming programs, and news from the wider UCC. We also have a Facebook private group ([Facebook.com/groups/80950098659](https://www.facebook.com/groups/80950098659)) for members and friends, where we can share prayer concerns and thanksgivings, post and discuss church events, and post other items of interest to Little River community members.

STAFF AND PARTNERS

The Rev. Dr. Shelli M. Poe, Senior Minister

shelli@lrucc.org

Craig Stapert, Director of Music and Communications

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Yris Saenz, Child Care Provider

Mia Morgan, Church School Teacher Assistant

The Rev. Dr. Verne Arens, Pastor Emeritus

The Rev. Hubert S. Beckwith, Founding Pastor

SERVICE OF CELEBRATION AND WORSHIP

MAY 12, 2024

* PLEASE STAND AS YOU ARE ABLE

CENTERING MUSIC

If Thou But Trust in God to Guide Thee
arr. Kenneth Lowenberg

Handbell Choir

*Please take a moment to fill out the red friendship notebook at the end of each pew
and return it so that you can greet those sitting near you.*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Dr. Shelli M. Poe

INTROIT

Jubilant Fanfare
by Keven McChesney

Handbell Choir

CALL TO WORSHIP

Kathy McCrea

One: Praise God, who has raised Jesus the Christ to reveal new life.

All: Praise the Holy One, who sends the Spirit to empower the church.

One: Praise our Creator with trumpet sound, and praise her with flute and harp.

**All: Praise God with tambourine and dance,
praise them with strings and pipes!
Let everything that breathes sing praise.**

* HYMN

Crown with Your Richest Crowns

DIADEMATA

(SEE BACK OF BULLETIN FOR MUSIC)

INVOCATION

Kathy McCrea

CALL TO CONFESSION

Rev. Dr. Shelli M. Poe

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Kathy McCrea

Gracious One, you encourage us with your love, bringing new life out of death. We confess that we need your life-giving power in our lives and our relationships. We have hurt others and been hurt by them. We are often angry or afraid. We're not sure when to assert our needs and when to care for others' needs. Forgive us, Holy One. Pour your Spirit of wisdom and healing upon us, that by our lives and our loving, we may glorify you, through Christ the risen one. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

Rev. Dr. Shelli M. Poe

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Rev. Dr. Shelli M. Poe

*If you are worshiping with us online, please type your words of peace in the chat box.
If you are worshiping in person, please greet one another as you feel most comfortable.*

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

ANTHEM

As Truly as God
by William Mathias

Sanctuary Choir

The text comes from the writings of Julian of Norwich (c. 1342–1416)

As truly as God is our Father, so just as truly is he our Mother.
In our Father, God Almighty, we have our being;
In our merciful Mother we are remade and restored.
Our fragmented lives are knit together.
And by giving and yielding ourselves, through grace,
To the Holy Spirit we are made whole.
It is I, the strength and goodness of Fatherhood.
It is I, the wisdom of Motherhood.
It is I, the light and grace of holy love.
It is I, the Trinity.
I am the sovereign goodness in all things.
It is I who teach you to love.
It is I who teach you to desire.
It is I who am the reward of all true desiring.
All shall be well, and all manner of thing shall be well. Amen.

TIME WITH CHILDREN

Rev. Dr. Shelli M. Poe

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Kathy McCrea

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Psalm 104:24–34, 35*b*

Kathy McCrea

One: In these words, may we hear the Wisdom of God.

All: Amen.

SERMON

The Great De-Churching

Rev. Dr. Shelli M. Poe

* HYMN 335

Creating God, Your Fingers Trace

TALLIS' CANON

(SEE BACK OF BULLETIN FOR MUSIC)

MOMENT FOR MISSION

Strengthen the Church

Lolly Easley

CALL TO OFFERING

Kathy McCrea

An usher will be near the back of the sanctuary to receive your gifts at the end of the service. To give online, the QR code in your bulletin will direct you to the donation webpage, or you may visit www.lrucc.org. You may also mail a check to the church.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Kathy McCrea

DOXOLOGY

OLD HUNDREDTH

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above, ye heavenly host.
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

THANKSGIVINGS & CONCERNS

Rev. Dr. Shelli M. Poe

Those worshipping in person may raise a hand and a microphone will be brought to you. If you'd like to share with our community through our email communications only, please use the Thanksgivings and Concerns card near you, and give it to an usher when the service is concluded. Those on Zoom may type a prayer request in the chat box to be read in the service on your behalf; please include your name with the prayer request. If you do not wish to share your prayer concern with the congregation, you may email Pastor Shelli at Shelli@lrucc.org.

Please end your time of sharing by saying, "This is my prayer."
We will respond by saying, "This is our prayer."

PASTORAL PRAYER & PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR

Rev. Dr. Shelli M. Poe

**Loving God, through the Spirit's revelation,
may Your true nature be honored everywhere.
May Your reign of love come.
May the desire of Your heart for the world be done,
in us, by us, and through us in the power of the Spirit.
Give us the bread we need for each day.
Forgive us.
Enable us to forgive others.
Keep us from all anxiety and fear.
For You reign in the power that comes from love, which is Your glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

* HYMN

O God, Whose Steadfast Love

RHOSYMEDRE

(SEE BACK OF BULLETIN FOR MUSIC)

* BENEDICTION

Rev. Dr. Shelli M. Poe

POSTLUDE

Crown Him with Many Crowns
arr. Jerry Westenkuehler

Craig Stapert, organ

We encourage you to enjoy the postlude as a time of reflection to conclude our worship together. If you need to slip out, please use a side door.

Please join us in the social hall for coffee and conversation following the postlude.

*The sanctuary flowers today were given by Joyce Moncrieff in memory of
James Strawn Moncrieff.*

Portions of the liturgy are adapted from Ruth C. Duck and Maren C. Tirabassi, eds., *Touch Holiness: Resources for Worship, Updated* (The Pilgrim Press, 2012). Prayers are from “A Liturgy for Giving Thanks,” modified slightly, in *Liturgies for Hope*, by Audrey Elledge and Elizabeth Moore (Waterbrook: 2022). Music used with permission, reprinted and streamed under Onelicense A-715105.

Notes about Today’s Music

This Sunday marks the final Sunday in the season of Eastertide, with Pentecost following next week. As such, it is also the Sunday after the Ascension, which was Thursday (40 days after the Resurrection, if you are counting or looking just curious about numbers in the Bible). So the opening hymn gives a strong nod to Jesus’ Ascension, and that nod is echoed at the close of the service in the postlude. The “updated” language for this hymn appears in the New Century Hymnal and was crafted by Episcopal priest and Presbyterian minister Thomas Troeger, who penned some 400 hymn texts and poems before his death in 2022; his final post had been at the Institute of Sacred Music at Yale University.

The middle hymn builds off the sermon. Since we have three tenors this morning, on one verse the tenors will take the melody with the sopranos singing an upper harmony line. This is known as a Faux-bourdon.

Today is also Mother’s Day, and the closing hymn offers a nod to that date, which the UCC for years called “The Festival of the Christian Home.” While merging bits of Mother’s Day and Father’s Day may be curious, the strong references to biblical women makes the hymn compelling for this day.

About the Composer of the Anthem

William Mathias was born in Whitland, Dyfed. He studied at the University College of Wales, and subsequently at the Royal Academy of Music. From 1970 to 1988 he was head of the Music Department at the University College of North Wales, Bangor. Mathias’s musical language embraced both instrumental and vocal forms with equal success, and he addressed a large and varied audience both in Britain and abroad. He was also known as a conductor and pianist, and gave or directed many premières of his own works. He was made CBE in the 1985 New Year’s Honours.

TODAY

Childcare is available from 9:30 A.M. to 12 P.M. every Sunday! Bring your children of any age to the nursery, and Yris and Mia will care for them while you prepare for and participate in worship. At coffee hour, Yris and Mia staff our Kids' Table, where children of all ages can eat together and find table activities to enjoy. If some kids want to go outside on the playground, Yris or Mia will go with them to supervise. If you're on your way to another church activity, just sign your children in with Yris and Mia by 11:30 A.M. Depending on the needs of the children present, they'll stay in the social hall, play outside, or go to the nursery. Pick up your children by 12 P.M., or let us know at least a week ahead of time that you'll need extended child care by emailing office@lrucc.org.

Newcomers Welcome Opportunities

Are you new to Little River and looking for ways to connect? We want to get to know you and connect you with our community. Newcomers are welcome to join us for coffee hour after worship. Look for the "Welcome Table," where you can meet other newcomers and get to know us a bit better.

Art Exhibit: *The Nature of it All*

Little River has the privilege of hosting *The Nature of it All*, a traveling art exhibit featuring artists who are on death row. This collection of art was curated by Jessie Houff and Rachel Gross of the Death Row Support Project, a program of the Church of the Brethren that invites volunteers to correspond with death row inmates. Several Little River members have been a part of the ministry. The exhibit, which is displayed in the church's main hallway, lifts up the stories of incarcerated individuals and continues important conversations about the prison industrial complex. The artists sent their works of art they created to express their thanks for pairing them with a pen pal. Please take a few minutes to view the beautiful artworks. Special thanks to Caroline Labbé (picked up the artwork) and David Roach (helped hang and display the art) for their time and assistance with the exhibit.

Preorder Pride T-Shirts

Our Open and Affirming Ministry is gearing up for Pride month in June, and would like to have T-shirts that prominently display our church name on them so that we can be seen at Fairfax Pride on June 1 and in the DC Pride March on June 8. The t-shirts have been designed by the ONA Ministry team. They will have our logo on the front and LGBTQ + LRUCC = [heart] on the back. We are accepting pre-orders presently and through the week. The T-shirts will be \$25, which is just above the actual price of the shirt; the extra funds will go toward giveaways at Pride events. We now have the ability to take cash or card, so please stop by the table after worship if you would like to order a shirt.

LITTLE RIVER CHANGES LIVES!



Thank you for your generosity in supporting the ministries of Little River. To use the QR Code to the left, open your phone camera and direct it toward the code. Wait for a link to pop up, and then tap the link. It will take you directly to the Little River donation webpage. Thank you for your support!

THIS WEEK AND BEYOND

Pentecost & Confirmation

Sunday, May 19

Join us next week for the celebration of Pentecost as we remember the coming of the Holy Spirit and the birth of the church. On this special day, we also welcome eight youth as new members through Confirmation.

Strengthen the Church Offering

Sunday, May 19

This is the second UCC-wide special offering of this calendar year that we collect as a congregation. The offering is important to increase the impact of the UCC. Funds raised by Little River are shared with the Central Atlantic Conference and our national office. The offering supports new church starts, leadership development, youth ministry and innovation among existing congregations. You may place your offering in the designated envelopes, by check with “STC” in the memo line or online at Little River UCC’s website lrucc.org.

Ecumenical Advocacy Days

May 17–19

Join us in person for the 2024 Ecumenical Advocacy Days Spring Summit, “Faith in Action: Advancing Human Rights and Peace for All,” at the Crowne Plaza in Arlington. It will include advocacy training as well as education on topics such as voting rights, Christian nationalism, immigration, climate, human rights, and others. The Rev. Terri Hord Owens (General Minister for the Disciples of Christ) will be an opening speaker, and the Rev. Shari Prestemon (Associate General Minister) will be present at the UCC denominational time. Particularly during this election year, we need the training and connections this summit will provide to unify us and help us follow God’s call for justice and peace. Plan to join and help spread the word! (Scholarships available.) For more information and to register, visit advocacydays.org.

Fair Trade Sale

Sunday, May 19, before and after worship

The next Fair Trade Sale will be on Sunday, May 19, before and after the worship service. Look for the Fair Trade table outside the main social hall doors to stock up on olive oil, coffee, and delicious chocolate bars. Cash, checks and credit cards are now accepted for purchases.

Book Group

Monday, May 20, 7 P.M.

LRUCC Book Group in May will be presented by the Women's Ministry and supported by our Antiracism Ministry. We will discuss *Hollywatts*, the memoir of our former interim pastor, the Rev. Dr. Arthur L. Cribbs, Jr. He describes the journey his family took from the segregated life in Memphis to a new life in Southern California, seeking a better life that his parents wanted for the family. Seven years after graduating from high school the author returns to see a dramatically changed Watts. Guns, gangs, and drugs completely transformed his childhood home, a change that Pastor Art describes as orchestrated. Our discussion will center on the life of the Cribbs family and the possible sources of the changes the author describes. As a very special guest, the author himself, Pastor Art, will be joining the Book Group discussion from the west coast!

Knit & Crochet for Knit the Rainbow

Sunday, May 26

The Chat & Craft group will hold a "pop up" event on Sunday, May 26, 9–10 A.M. and 11 A.M.–12 P.M. in the Conference Room for Knit the Rainbow, which distributes winter accessories to homeless LGBTQ+ youth in NYC and several other US cities. Please join us for any length of time to chat, craft, or receive a knitting or crochet lesson! Yarn, needles, and patterns will be available. All ages welcome! For questions, email chatcraft@lruc.org.

Potomac Association Revival

Saturday, June 1

Love to the Fourth Power: Love of God, Service, Church, and Neighbor

The Potomac Association of the United Church of Christ is holding a Revival on Saturday, June 1, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., at Peoples Congregational UCC. The day is a celebration of our covenant with other area UCC churches, and its theme is Love⁴: Love of God, Service, Church, and Neighbor. The event includes a wonderful opportunity to hear our new General Minister and President, Karen Georgia Thompson preach during the Potomac Association's worship service. Pastor Shelli will offer a workshop (one of many) from 11 to 11:45 a.m. More details are forthcoming, and volunteers are welcome.

Fairfax Pride Parade

Saturday, June 1, 5–7 P.M.

On Saturday, June 1, we will share our LGBTQ+ pride at the second annual Fairfax Pride in the Old Town Hall (3999 University Drive) from 5 to 7 P.M. Our Open and Affirming Ministry will be there to represent us. We will be giving away crocheted hearts with affirming messages on them, created by our Chat and Craft Ministry, and we will have activities for the kids. At 5:30 P.M. there will be speeches and a ceremony, where Mayor Reed and other dignitaries will share. Please drop by and show your LRUCC pride!

DC Pride Parade

Saturday, June 8

On Saturday, June 8, we will march in the DC Pride Parade! The parade will last from 3 to 7:30 P.M. in the Logan & Dupont Circle Neighborhoods in Washington, DC. The Rev. Jason Carson Wilson is planning the event for our Potomac Association, and more details are forthcoming as the event approaches. We are planning to have a truck and flatbed so that the event will be accessible to those who are not able to walk the route. Please let us know if you plan to join us!

Chosen Family Brunch

Saturday, June 15, 10:30 A.M.

The Open and Affirming Ministry invites LGBTQ+ members, friends, and allies to a potluck brunch on Saturday, June 15, starting at 10:30 A.M. Join with chosen family members for food and community in the social hall. This is a purely social gathering. Bring a favorite brunch food to share and celebrate Pride Month!

Blessing of the Banned Books

Sunday, June 16

On Sunday, June 16, we will have a blessing of banned books! Our Open and Affirming Ministry and Antiracism Ministry invite you to bring in and donate a banned book for a blessing during the worship service. Here are some lists to inspire you:

- pen.org/2023-banned-book-list/
- www.nypl.org/blog/2023/09/25/banned-books-week-reading-list
- www.aclu.org/issues/free-speech/artistic-expression/banned-books-0

These books will be placed in our Antiracism or Open and Affirming Libraries in the atrium after worship.

ONGOING PROGRAMS AND MINISTRIES

Yoga at LRUCC

Saturday, May 18, 8:30 A.M.

Come for our yoga class led by Abigail Freeman every first and third Saturday. Abigail is experienced in teaching many forms of yoga, including Prenatal Yoga, Mommy and Me, chair yoga, and everything in between. This is a time for congregants and friends of all ages!

Meditation Group Meeting

Sundays, 9 A.M.

The Little River Meditation Group meets every Sunday in Room 8 and via Zoom. All are welcome. Meetings end at 9:45 A.M. so participants can make it to worship. Questions? Contact Carolyn Yocom. Zoom: bit.ly/LR-Meditation.

Monday Morning Religious Studies

Mondays, 10 A.M.

The class is viewing and discussing the 24-lecture video series *Thinking about Religion and Violence*. This is a hybrid class (in-person and online). For more information, please contact Little River member Joanne Zellers. In Room 8 or on Zoom: bit.ly/LR-ReligiousStudy.

2024 Graduation Information

Please help LRUCC and the Board of Christian Education celebrate our 2024 graduates by sharing graduation information using this form: bit.ly/LR-Grads2024. **Deadline for graduate information is May 17.** We will recognize graduates and celebrate high school graduates during our June 9th service. Any questions, email youthgroup@lruc.org.

Youth Events

- **May 19 - Confirmation Sunday.** We will celebrate youth who have been confirmed with a cake during social hour. We will have a **youth group meeting** in Room 7 after coffee hour until 1 P.M. We will enjoy pizza and play games.
- **June 8 - DC Pride Parade.** The youth are invited to join the Little River group marching in the DC Pride parade. Please let Karen Kleiber know if your youth would like to attend with the youth group, and we can meet up at a metro station.

Any questions, please email youthgroup@lrucc.org.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Food Pantry Donations on Communion Sundays and Wednesdays

Little River collects donations for neighbors in need across Northern Virginia and works with F.I.S.H. volunteers for distribution; walk in requests for food donations can be made by contacting the church office. You may bring donations for the food pantry to the church on Communion Sundays and place them in the narthex. Food donations may also be dropped off on Wednesdays by placing your items in bags outside the church front doors before 3 P.M. Food bags are distributed through F.I.S.H. and are packed with canned meat, canned fruit, canned vegetables, instant milk, peanut butter, cereal, pasta, and pasta sauce.

LITTLE RIVER EVENTS OF THE WEEK OF MAY 12, 2024

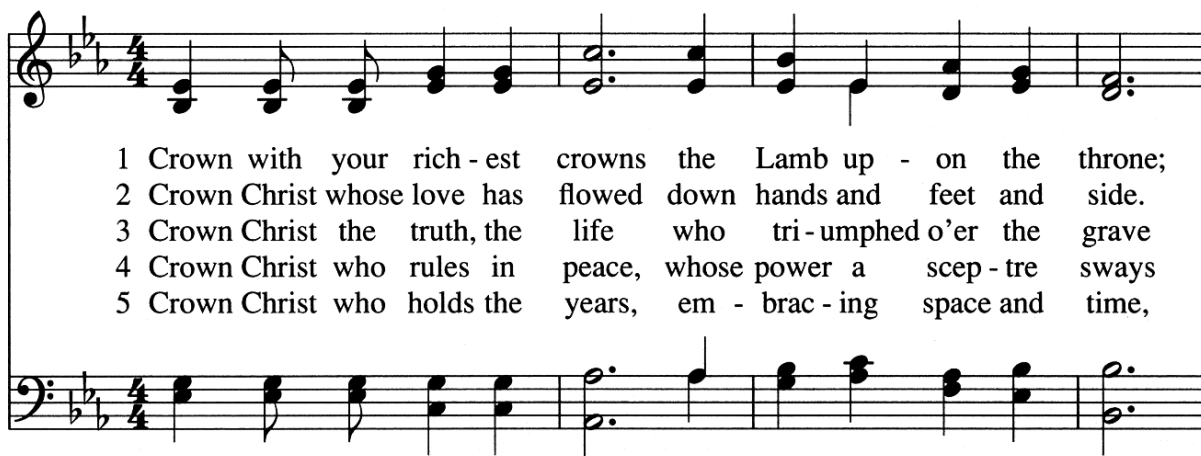
Sunday, May 12	9:00	Meditation Group Meeting
	10:00	Sunday Worship Service (Hybrid); Nursery
	11:15	Coffee Hour
Monday, May 13	10:00	Religious Studies (Hybrid)
	1:00	Nominations and Appointments Committee
	1:00	Staff Meeting
	7:00	Scouts
	7:30	ONA Ministry
Tuesday, May 14	7:30	Antiracism Ministry
Wednesday, May 15	1:30	Greenspring Ministry
	7:30	Music Committee
Thursday, May 16	3:00	Strategic Planning
	7:30	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
Friday, May 17		No LRUC events scheduled
Saturday, May 18	8:30	Yoga (Social Hall)

Crown with Your Richest Crowns

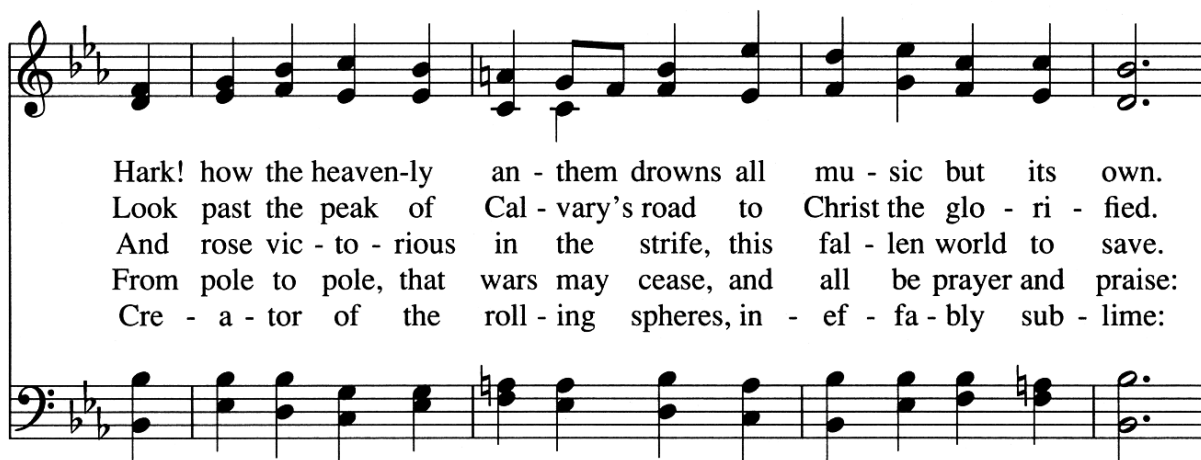
John 19:16-18, 31-34; Rev. 7:9-10

Matthew Bridges, 1851, and Godfrey Thring, 1874

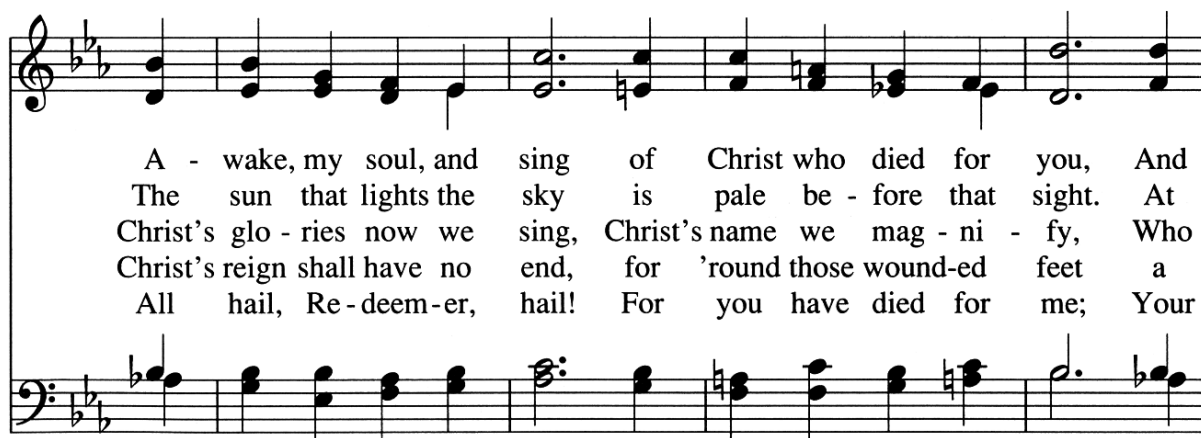
Adapt. Thomas H. Troeger, 1993



1 Crown with your rich - est crowns the Lamb up - on the throne;
2 Crown Christ whose love has flowed down hands and feet and side.
3 Crown Christ the truth, the life who tri - umphed o'er the grave
4 Crown Christ who rules in peace, whose power a scep - tre sways
5 Crown Christ who holds the years, em - brac - ing space and time,



Hark! how the heaven-ly an - them drowns all mu - sic but its own.
Look past the peak of Cal - vary's road to Christ the glo - ri - fied.
And rose vic - to - rious in the strife, this fal - len world to save.
From pole to pole, that wars may cease, and all be prayer and praise:
Cre - a - tor of the roll - ing spheres, in - ef - fa - bly sub - lime:



A - wake, my soul, and sing of Christ who died for you, And
The sun that lights the sky is pale be - fore that sight. At
Christ's glo - ries now we sing, Christ's name we mag - ni - fy, Who
Christ's reign shall have no end, for 'round those wound-ed feet a
All hail, Re - deem - er, hail! For you have died for me; Your

This hymn has evolved as a composite of the original text by Matthew Bridges and Godfrey Thring's version written twenty-three years later. Diademata was composed for Bridges' text and is titled for the Greek word meaning "crowns."

Tune: DIADEMATA S.M.D.

George J. Elvey, 1868



to your ris - en Sav - ior bring your thanks for life made new.
prayer we glimpse then turn the eye from mys - ter - ies so bright.
died e - ter - nal life to bring, and lives that death may die.
fra - grant gar - den shall ex - tend for - ev - er green and sweet.
praise shall nev - er, nev - er fail through-out e - ter - ni - ty.



Creating God, Your Fingers Trace

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1. Cre - at - ing God, your fin - gers trace the
 2. Sus - tain - ing God, your hands up - hold earth's
 3. Re - deem - ing God, your arms em - brace all
 4. In - dwell - ing God, your gos - pel claims one

bold de - signs of far - thest space; let sun and moon and
 mys - teries known or yet un - told; let wa - ter's fra - gile
 now de - spised for creed or race; let peace, de - scend - ing
 fam - ily with a bil - lion names; let ev - ery life be

stars and light and what lies hid - den praise your might.
 blend with air, en - a - bling life, pro - claim your care.
 like a dove, make known on earth your heal - ing love.
 touched by grace un - til we praise you face to face.

May be sung as a canon

WORDS: Jeffery Rowthorn, 1974
 MUSIC: Thomas Tallis, 1561

TALLIS' CANON
 LM

Words © 1979 The Hymn Society, used by permission of Hope Publishing Co.

O God, Whose Steadfast Love

Gen. 18:9-15; 1 Sam. 1:1-20; Luke 1:26-56; 2:1-7

James L. Haddix, 1986; rev. 1994

1 O God, whose stead-fast love true moth - er - hood has blessed;
2 Your prom - is - es, O God, so sure through-out the years,
3 In your great love, O God, full par - ent - hood is known:
4 May your house-hold of faith one fam - i - ly be - come,

who shields the in - fant small up - on its moth - er's breast:
have lived in moth - ers' hearts, have bloomed from moth - ers' tears.
a fa - ther mourns his child, a moth - er's strength is shown.
that love may be in - creased and none may be a - lone;

Em - brace us, too, O God, our God, and hold us in your
So Sar - ah laughed, and Han - nah wept, and sing - ing Mar - y
Let par - ents' faith - ful lives un - bind your love that through them
That moth - er's love and fa - ther's care and chil - dren's joy we

lov - ing arms, and hold us in your lov - ing arms.
se - crets kept, and sing - ing Mar - y se - crets kept.
we might find Christ's deep - er love for hu - man - kind.
all may share, and chil - dren's joy we all may share.

United Church of Christ minister James Haddix wrote this text for the "Festival of the Christian Home." It was dedicated and sung to his mother, Margaret Ann Lewis Haddix, at a reception in Missouri recognizing her thirty-year career as a first-grade teacher.

Tune: RHOSYMEDRE 6.6.6.6.8.8.8.
John D. Edwards, c. 1840