



## 839 Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine!

1 Bless - ed as - sur - ance, Je - sus is mine! O what a  
 2 Per - fect sub - mis - sion, per - fect de - light, vi - sions of  
 3 Per - fect sub - mis - sion, all is at rest; I in my

fore - taste of glo - ry di - vine! Heir of sal - va - tion,  
 rap - ture now burst on my sight; an - gels de - scend - ing,  
 Sav - ior am hap - py and blest, watch - ing and wait - ing,

pur - chase of God, born of his Spir - it, washed in his blood.  
 bring from a - bove ech - oes of mer - cy, whis - pers of love.  
 look - ing a - bove, filled with his good - ness, lost in his love.

*Refrain*

This is my sto - ry; this is my song, prais - ing my Sav - ior

all the day long; this is my sto - ry; this is my  
 song, prais - ing my Sav - ior all the day long.

**INVITATION TO CONFESSION**

**Elder Sue Figueroa, Liturgist**

Let us repent of those things that have drawn us away from God and our neighbors, that we may receive the joy of forgiveness.

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)**

**Elder Sue Figueroa, Liturgist**

**God, lover of humankind, you have asked us to proclaim your name to all people. We confess that we have held back from doing that, shy and self-conscious. Forgive us, we pray, and empower us in Jesus' name.**

Merciful God, hear now our own personal confessions that we lift up to you in silence.

**PERSONAL CONFESSION**

**Rev. Chris Houtz**

In the strong name of Jesus Christ we pray. **Amen.**

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

**Rev. Chris Houtz**

The promise of our faith is that we are already forgiven and, in Christ's name, given the power to rise up and subdue all that separates us from God and each other. Receive the Holy Spirit and be empowered to be witnesses of God's resurrection power in Jesus Christ.

**Thanks be to God.**

**\* THE RESPONSE #581**

**Glory Be to the Father**

# Glory Be to the Father 581

Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther, and to the  
Son, and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the be -  
gin - ning, is now, and ev - er shall be,  
world with - out end. A - men, a - men.

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of four systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are printed below the vocal line.

## **\*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

*(Please pass the peace with friends and loved-ones, either by calling, texting, or honking if you are outside!)*

**CHILDREN'S TIME**

**Rev. Chris Houtz**

**ANTHEM**

**Easter Gloria** (Leach & Hayes)

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

May the reading of your Word sanctify us in the truth and bring us to perfect joy. Amen.

## **SCRIPTURE READINGS**

### **1 John 5:9-13**

<sup>9</sup> If we receive human testimony, the testimony of God is greater; for this is the testimony of God that he has testified to his Son. <sup>10</sup> Those who believe in the Son of God have the testimony in their hearts. Those who do not believe in God<sup>[a]</sup> have made him a liar by not believing in the testimony that God has given concerning his Son. <sup>11</sup> And this is the testimony: God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. <sup>12</sup> Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

### **Ephesians 2:11-22**

<sup>11</sup> So then, remember that at one time you Gentiles by birth, called “the uncircumcision” by those who are called “the circumcision”—a physical circumcision made in the flesh by human hands— <sup>12</sup> remember that you were at that time without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. <sup>13</sup> But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. <sup>14</sup> For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us. <sup>15</sup> He has abolished the law with its commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace, <sup>16</sup> and might reconcile both groups to God in one body through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it. <sup>17</sup> So he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; <sup>18</sup> for through him both of us have access in one Spirit to the Father. <sup>19</sup> So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, <sup>20</sup> built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. <sup>21</sup> In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; <sup>22</sup> in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God.

## **THE MESSAGE**

**Hammer to Fall**

**Rev. Chris Houtz**

**\*HYMN #847**

**Our Hope, Our Life**

847

## Our Hope, Our Life

(Psalm 49)



1 Our hope, our life are in the Lord, the God we  
 2 Some flaunt their gold; some trust its power, but what they  
 3 Though wealth or learn - ing may be ours, or fame that  
 4 Be - yond this age of shame and sham we glimpse a



hon - or and con - fess. Why crave re - nown or  
 cher - ish will de - cay; and still the ran - som  
 spreads through - out the land, the shack - les of mor -  
 bet - ter des - ti - ny: the Lord will lift us



op - u - lence? They fade, those things we now pos - sess.  
 for a soul re - mains a price too great to pay.  
 tal - i - ty pre - vent so much that we have planned.  
 free from death to dwell in praise e - ter - nal - ly.

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH—Apostles' Creed**

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

**JOYS AND CONCERNS****THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE****THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Our Father, 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 as we forgive our debtors, and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil, For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever, Amen.

## THE OFFERING

With grateful hearts, let us bring our tithes and offerings to the God from whom they came.

### \*THE OFFERTORY RESPONSE #717

#### 717 For the Life That You Have Given

For the life that you have giv - en, for the love in  
Christ made known, with these fruits of time and la - bor, with these  
gifts that are your own: here we of - fer, Lord, our prais - es;  
heart and mind and strength we bring; give us grace to  
love and serve you, liv - ing what we pray and sing.

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). It consists of six systems, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The lyrics are printed below the vocal line of each system.

### \*THE PRAYER OF DEDICATION (In Unison)

Jesus has made God known to us. We already belong to God. And so we dedicate these gifts to God's service and to the glory of God's name. Amen.

### \*HYMN #765

May the God of Hope Go With Us (2x)

# May the God of Hope Go with Us 765

Song of Hope / *Canto de esperanza*

The musical score is written in G major, 2/4 time, and consists of five staves. The lyrics are written below the notes. Chords G, Am, and D7 are indicated above the staff.

May the God of hope go with us ev - ery day, fill - ing all our  
*¡Dios de la es - pe - ran - za, da - nos go - zo y paz! Al mun - do en*

lives with love and joy and peace. May the God of jus - tice speed us  
*cri - sis, ha - bla tu ver - dad. Dios de la jus - ti - cia, mán - da -*

on our way, bring - ing light and hope to ev - ery land and race.  
*nos tu luz, luz y es - pe - ran - za en la es - cu - ri - dad.*

Pray - ing, let us work for peace; sing - ing, share our joy with all;  
*O - re - mos por la paz, can - te - mos de tu a - mor.*

work - ing for a world that's new, faith - ful when we hear Christ's call.  
*Lu - che - mos por la paz, fie - les a ti, Se - ñor.*

## BENEDICTION

### CHORAL BENEDICTION

**Lord, I Lift Your Name on High (2x)** Don't forget your egg shakers!

Lord I lift Your name on high  
Lord I love to sing Your praises  
I'm so glad You're in my life  
I'm so glad You came to save us

You came from heaven to earth to show the way  
From the earth to the cross, my debt to pay  
From the cross to the grave, from the grave to the sky  
Lord I lift Your name on high

## THE POSTLUDE

## Friendly Reminders

Church Office open Monday-Friday, 9am to 1 pm

Sanctuary Open for Quiet Prayer and Contemplation  
Monday through Thursdays 9 am to 1 pm  
(Please call at 732.283.1188 before you come)

Prayer Shawl Ministry  
Tuesdays at 2 pm

Thursday Congregational Call  
Every Thursday at 11 am

Sunday Bible Study  
9:00 am

Divine Worship: In sanctuary and on Facebook Livestream  
10:30 am

**Beginning Wednesday, May27th at 11 am**  
Bible Study in Fellowship Hall

### **\*A writeup about Fanny Crosby, lyricist for Blessed Assurance.**

Known as an American hymn writer and poetess, Fanny Crosby wrote over 9,000 hymns during her life. Many stories have been told about her. She entered what was then known as the New York Institution for the Blind at the age of fifteen and afterward taught English and history (1847-58).

As a pupil and as a teacher, Fanny spent 35 years at the school. She was often asked to entertain visitors with her poems and she frequently met with presidents, generals and other dignitaries. She was asked to play at President Grant's Funeral. Her first book of poems was published in 1844 was called The Blind Girl and Other Poems.

After leaving the school, she dedicated her life to serving the poorest and the neediest. Supporting herself by her writing, she quickly gained fame for her hymns. It is said that publishers had so much of her work that they took to using them under pseudonyms. Her usual fee was a mere \$2 which frequently went to her work with the poor. Her mission work is legendary, as is her devotion to serving others above herself.