Order of Worship for November 22, 2026
Reign of Christ Sunday
First Reformed Church Hastings on Hudson



"Homeless Jesus" | Sculpture by Timothy P. Schmalz

Statement of Welcome and Inclusion

First Reformed Church of Hastings-on-Hudson is a church for all people, each of us being unique and created in the image of God.

We believe God's unconditional love and grace, as revealed through Jesus Christ, does not distinguish among God's people based on race, ethnicity, sex, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, marital status, age, ability, or disability.

All are children of God, and all are welcome with joy in our Sanctuary. We strive to provide an environment of mutual respect, hospitality and warmth.

We Approach God

Sharing of Joys & Concerns

Votum, Sentences, and Salutation

Prelude: "Elleh mo'adei Adonai" Angelica Women's Chamber Choir

Call to Worship (responsive) from *Ministry Matters*

One: Though the dark clouds cover us and the violent storms assail;
All: God seeks us out and protects us. God brings us to the safe shelter of God's compassion.
One: When we feel lost and alone, wondering who will save us;
All: God reaches out in love, healing our wounds and transforming our lives.
One: Thank God who loves us so much.
All: Praise God who searches for us and brings us home.

*Gathering Hymn: "Let All Things Now Living" (#554)

Invitation to Confession

Prayer of Confession (unison) from *Feasting on the Word Worship Companion*

Sovereign God, we confess that we are not ready for your holy realm. You guide us toward right paths, but we refuse to follow where you lead. You love and feed and care for us, but we fail to love and serve others. Forgive us, merciful God, so that we may return to your fold and rejoice in your presence; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the Lamb upon the throne. Amen.

Silent Prayer

Kyrie (#572):

Lord have mercy upon us.
Christ have mercy upon us.
Lord have mercy upon us.

Words of Assurance

Summary of the Law of Love

*Gloria Patri (#579):

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen, amen.

We Hear God's Word

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Lessons
Psalm 100
Matthew 25:31-46

Children's Message

Sermon: "The Least of These"
A moment of silent reflection follows the sermon.

We Respond to God's Word

*Hymn of Response: "Come, Thou Almighty King" (#139)

Affirmation of Faith: The UCC Statement of Faith

We believe in God, the Eternal Spirit,
who is made known to us in Jesus our brother,
and to whose deeds we testify:
God calls the worlds into being,
creates humankind in the divine image,
and sets before us the ways of life and death.
God seeks in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.
God judges all humanity and all nations by that will of righteousness declared through prophets and apostles.
In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Lord,
God has come to us
and shared our common lot,
conquering sin and death
and reconciling the whole creation to its Creator.
God bestows upon us the Holy Spirit,
creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ,
binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.
God calls us into the church
to accept the cost and joy of discipleship,
to be servants in the service of the whole human family,
to proclaim the gospel to all the world
and resist the powers of evil,
to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table,
to join him in his passion and victory.
God promises to all who trust in the gospel
forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace,
courage in the struggle for justice and peace,
the presence of the Holy Spirit in trial and rejoicing,
and eternal life in that kingdom which has no end.
Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto God.
Amen.

Passing of the Peace

Stewardship Moment — Prema Samuel, Elder

Invitation to the Offering

For those attending remotely or preferring to give digitally, offerings may be made in three ways:

- *Electronic transfer using Zelle to frc1850@aol.com*
- *Online giving at https://tithe.ly/give?c=1289239*
- *Checks made out to First Reformed Church may be mailed to 18 Farragut Ave., Hastings on Hudson, NY 10706*

Offertory: “Justus cor suum tradet” Angelica Women’s Chamber Choir

*Doxology (#592):

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Prayer of Dedication (unison) from *Feasting on the Word Worship Companion*

Holy God, use us and these gifts to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and honor your presence in all people; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession & The Lord’s Prayer

Prayer response after each petition:
One: O God of love and mercy,
All: Hear our prayer.

Our time of prayer concludes with 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.

Closing Hymn: “Crown Him with Many Crowns” (#151)

*Blessing and Benediction

*Musical Benediction: “The Lord Bless You and Keep You” by Peter Lutkin (insert)

Postlude: “Sukkat Shelomekha” Angelica Women’s Chamber Choir

Those attending in person are invited to the Fraser Room for a time of fellowship and refreshments.

*Congregants in the sanctuary are invited to rise
Bold text is read in unison

Announcements

Thank you to today's worship leaders! Our lector and liturgist is Prema Samuel. Music is provided by Trish Waters and Angelica Women's Chamber Choir, directed by Marie Caruso. Ned Towle is teaching Sunday School.

If you had $40,000 to give away, what would you do with it? Each year, First Church makes donations to other organizations doing God's work in our community and beyond. The Deacons hold administrative responsibility for allocating these gifts. Currently, the Deacons are Alex Cornwell, Beth Rudd, and Ned Towle, and our budget for Benevolences is around $40,000 – about ten percent of our annual budget, in accordance with the biblical notion of "tithing." **This year, all are invited to the Deacons' Benevolences Meeting at 12pm on Sunday, November 29!** Come learn about the organizations we've supported in the past, share about causes and organizations that are meaningful to you, and help us discern how First Church is being called to share our blessings this year.

Advent and Christmas at First Church: Advent begins next Sunday, November 29! We have a wonderful season of worship, fellowship, and celebration ahead, and we hope you'll join us.

Greening of the Church | Sunday, December 6, 9:30am: Come help us welcome the season as we decorate the church with wreaths, candles, and evergreen boughs. This would be a wonderful day to bring a friend to church! After worship, everyone is invited to the Holiday Coffee Hour at the Manse.

Mark your calendars for these Advent and Christmas celebrations:

- **Saturday, December 19:** Christmas Carol Sing
- **Sunday, December 20:** Our annual Impromptu Christmas Pageant during worship! No rehearsals or advance preparation required—children and adults alike are invited to participate.
- **Monday, December 21, 8:00 p.m.:** Longest Night Service, a quiet, contemplative service offering space for reflection and prayer amid the joys and sorrows of the season.
- **Thursday, December 24, 4:30 p.m.: Christmas Eve Service.**

Next Consistory Meeting: Sunday, January 10, 12pm, in the Fellowship House.

January Bible Study with Temple Beth Shalom | *The Bible With and Without Jesus* | Wednesdays in January, 9:30-11am: Rabbi Daniel Reiser and Rev. Emily Brown will lead a four-part interfaith exploration of how Jewish and Christian interpretive traditions have shaped our understandings of Scripture, God, covenant, and messiah—revealing both meaningful connections and important differences.

Clergy: The Rev. Emily M. Brown

First Reformed Church Staff:

Trish Waters, Office Administrator & Music Director

Hanna Skaskiv, Sexton

www.frchoh.org

Angelica Women's Chamber Choir: Musicians, Texts, and Translations

Marie Caruso (Artistic Director), Gill Anderson, Rev. Emily Brown, Mary Florin-McBride, Nancy Heppner, Nancy Hertz, Kathleen McClafferty, Wilma Messenger, Julia Perrin, Laura Ravotti, Susan Saslow, Meaghan Shawcross.

Recorders: Wilma Messenger and Laura Ravotti
Violin: Rev. Emily Brown

Elleh mo'adei Adonai

Salamone Rossi (c. 1570–c. 1630)

Salamone Rossi was a Jewish violinist and composer at the Gonzaga court in Mantua. His *Hashirim asher lish'lomo* ("The Songs of Solomon," Venice, 1623) was the first published collection of polyphonic music for the synagogue, setting Hebrew liturgical texts in the style of the late Italian Renaissance. "Elleh mo'adei Adonai" is one of the 33 pieces from this collection. The text, from Leviticus 23:4, is recited at the festival Kiddush.

Elleh mo'adei Adonai,	These are the appointed festivals of the Lord,
mikra'ei kodesh,	the sacred convocations
asher tikre'u otam b'mo'adam.	to be proclaimed at their appointed times.

Justus cor suum tradet

Orlande de Lassus (c. 1532-1594)

Orlande de Lassus, born in Mons in present-day Belgium, spent most of his career at the Bavarian court in Munich and left more than 2,000 works, making him one of the most prolific composers of the Renaissance. This motet sets a verse from Ecclesiasticus (Sirach 39:6) describing the righteous person who rises early to give his heart to God in prayer.

Justus cor suum tradet ad vigilandum diluculo ad Dominum qui fecit illum, et in conspectu Altissimi deprecabitur.

The just man shall give his heart to resort early to the Lord that made him, and he will pray in the sight of the Most High.

Sukkat Shelomekha

Marjan Helms (b. 1951)

The words of *Sukkat Shelomekha* come from the *Hashkiveinu*, a prayer of the Jewish evening service asking God to spread a "shelter of peace" over those who lie down to sleep and to raise them up again to life. Marjan Helms gives this image of sheltering peace a gentle, flowing melody.

Ufros aleinu	Spread over us,
Adonai Eloheinu,	Lord our God,
Ufros aleinu	Spread over us
sukkat shelomekha.	the shelter of your peace.
Hashkivenu	Lay us down,
Adonai Eloheinu l'shalom	Lord our God, in peace
V'ha-amideinu	And raise us up again,
malkeinu l'chaim	Our King, to new life.

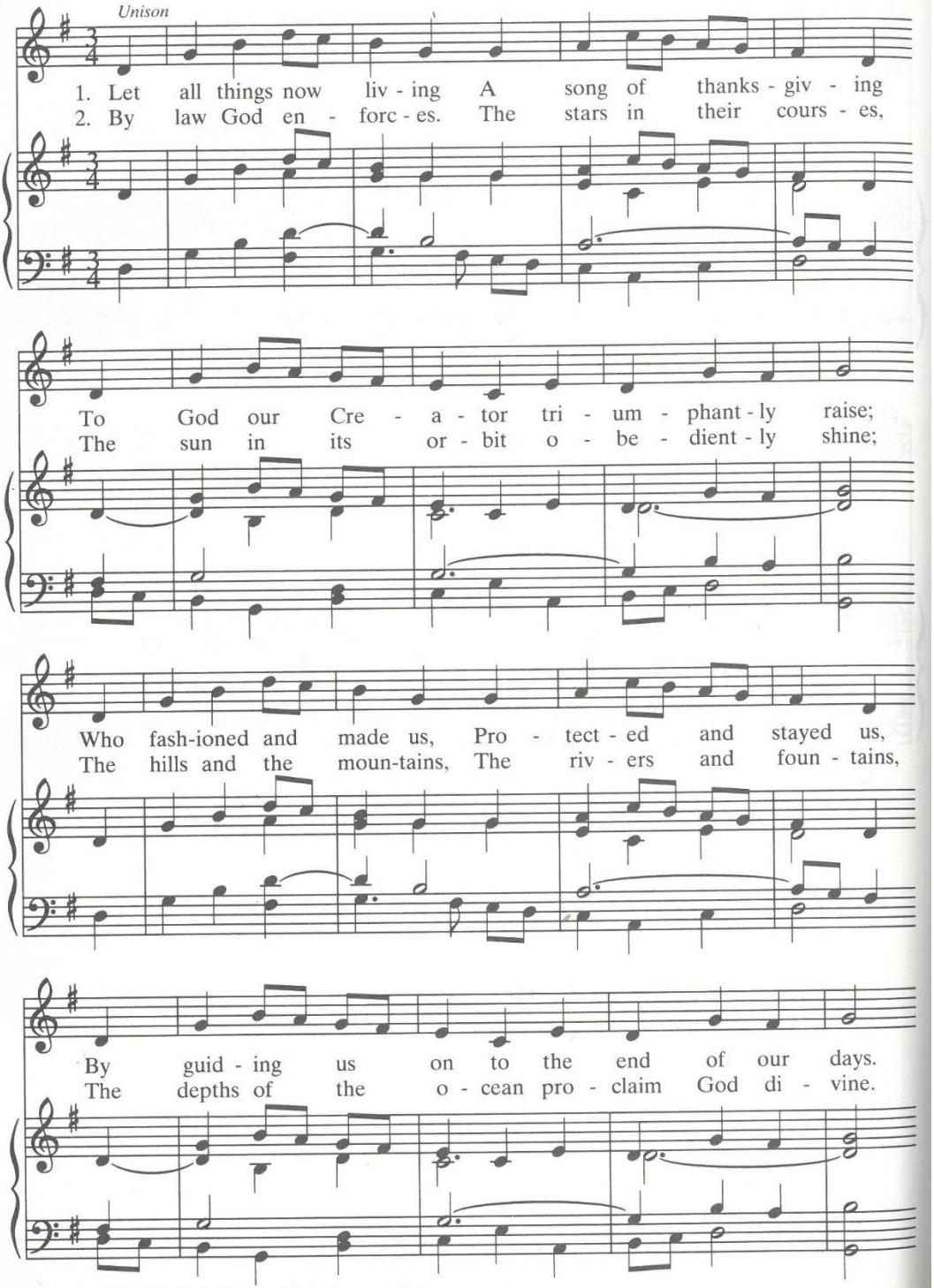
Genesis 1:2

554 Let All Things Now Living

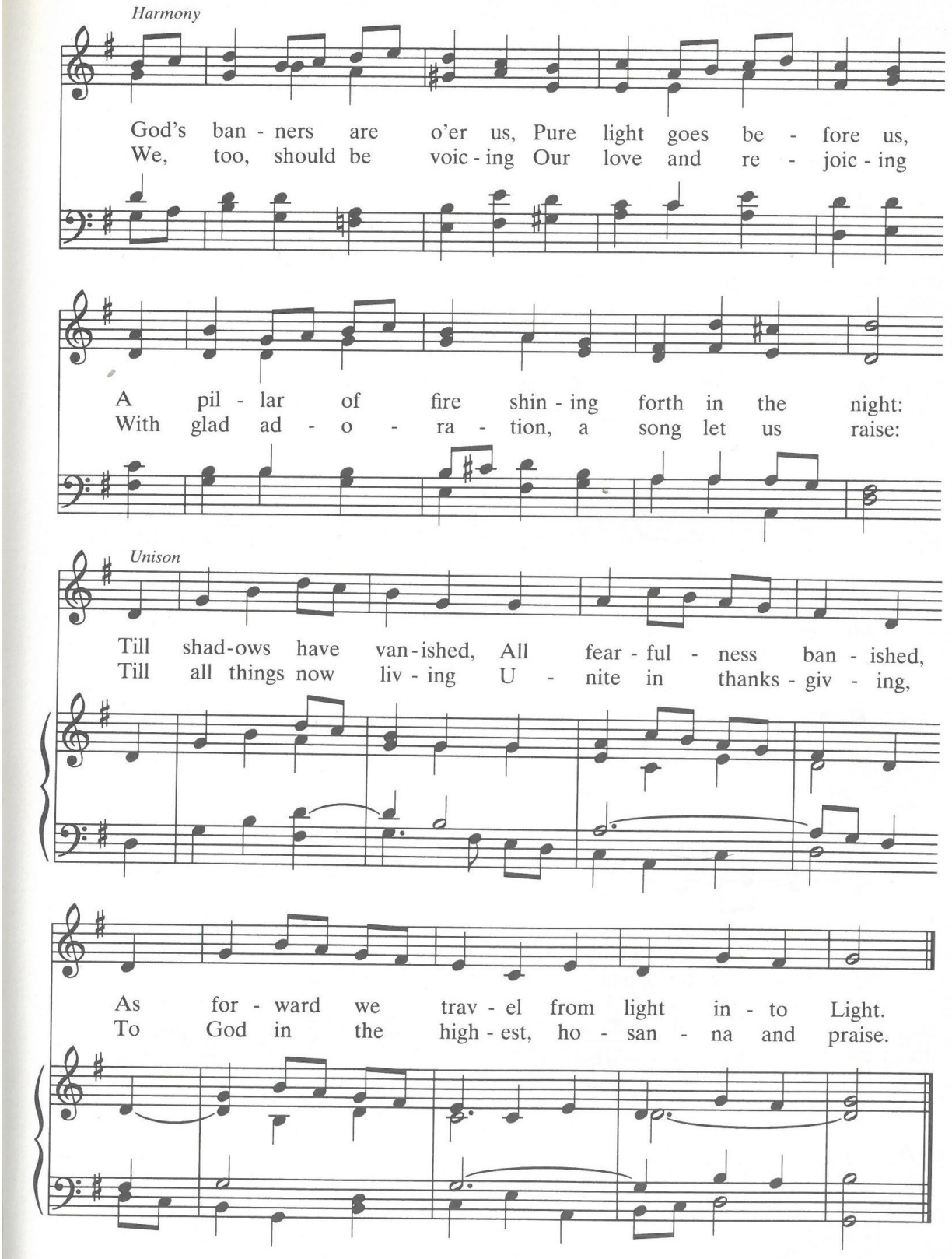
ASH GROVE 6.6.11.6.6.11 D

Welsh folk melody
Harm. Gerald H. Knight (1908–1979)

Katherine K. Davis, 1939; alt.



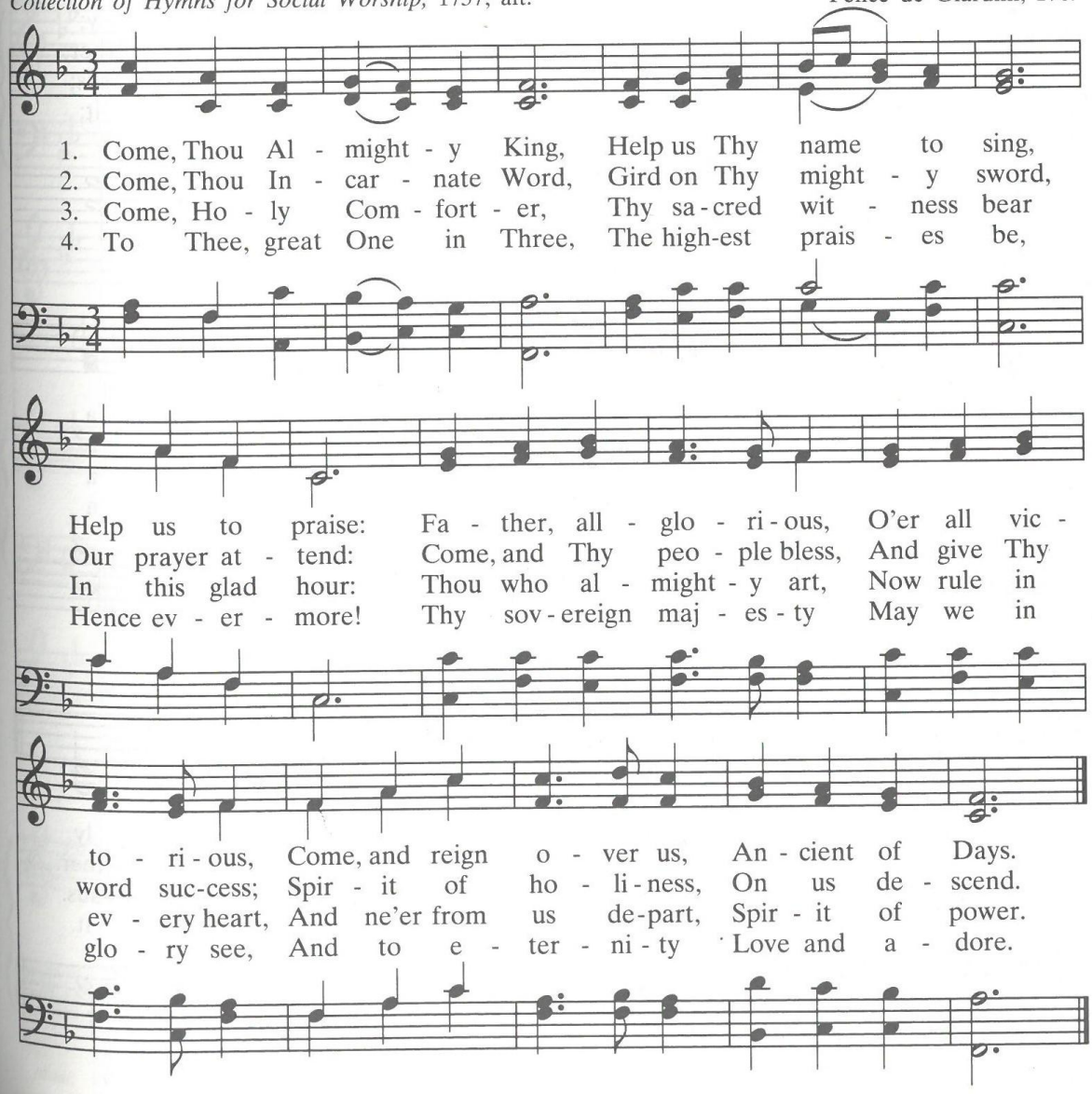
Text: © 1939, 1966, E. C. Schirmer Music Company, Boston.
Music: Harmonization used by permission of Royal School of Church Music.


Harmony
God's ban - ners are o'er us, Pure light goes be - fore us,
We, too, should be voic - ing Our love and re - joic - ing
A pil - lar of fire shin - ing forth in the night:
With glad ad - o - ra - tion, a song let us raise:
Unison
Till shad-ows have van-ished, All fear - ful - ness ban - ished,
Till all things now liv - ing U - nite in thanks - giv - ing,
As for - ward we trav - el from light in - to Light.
To God in the high - est, ho - san - na and praise.

Come, Thou Almighty King 139

ITALIAN HYMN 6.6.4.6.6.6.4
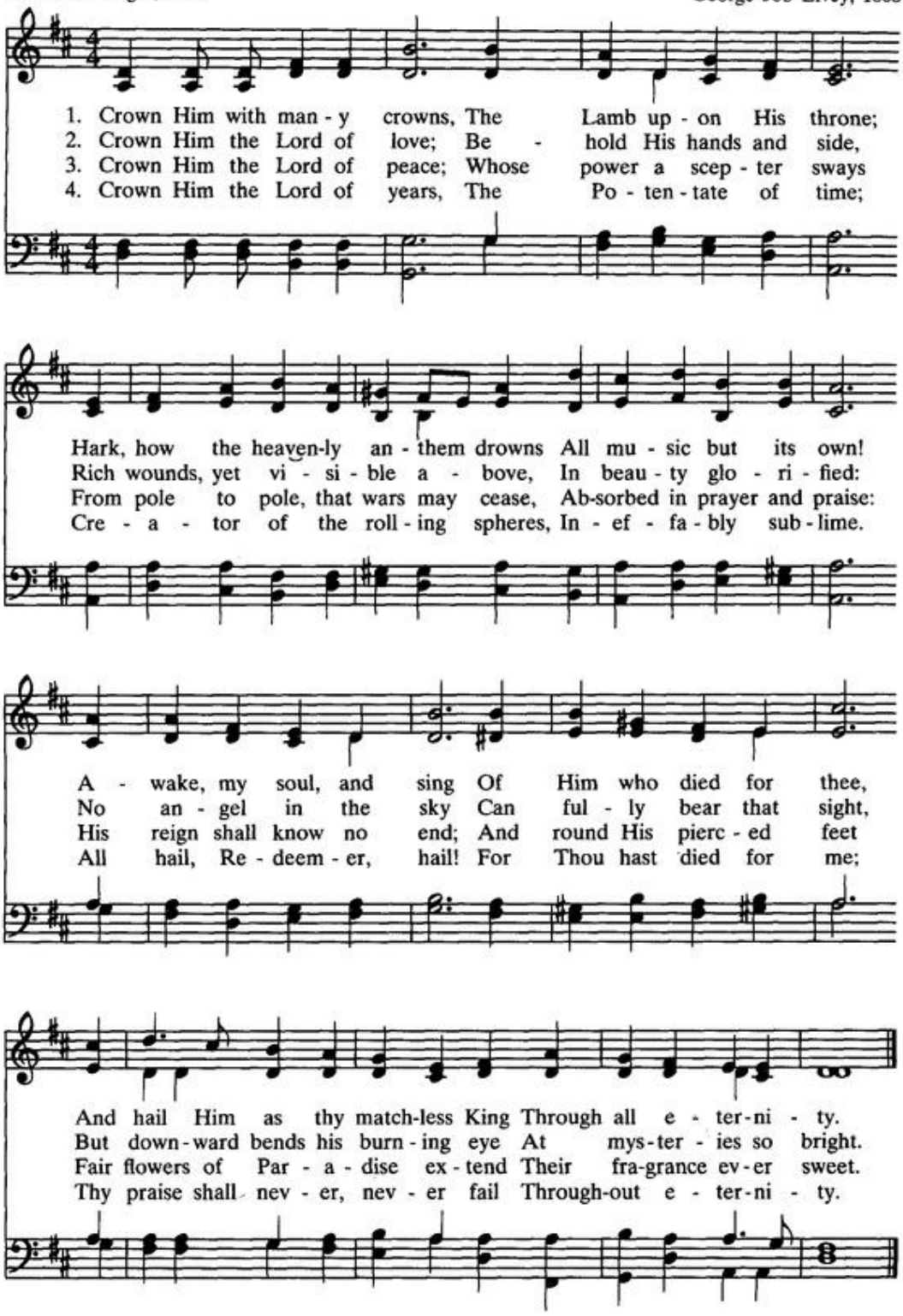
Collection of Hymns for Social Worship, 1757; alt. Felice de Giardini, 1769



Crown Him with Many Crowns 151

DIADEMATA SMD

Matthew Bridges, 1851 — George Job Elvey, 1868



THE LORD BLESS YOU AND KEEP YOU

Numbers 6:24–26
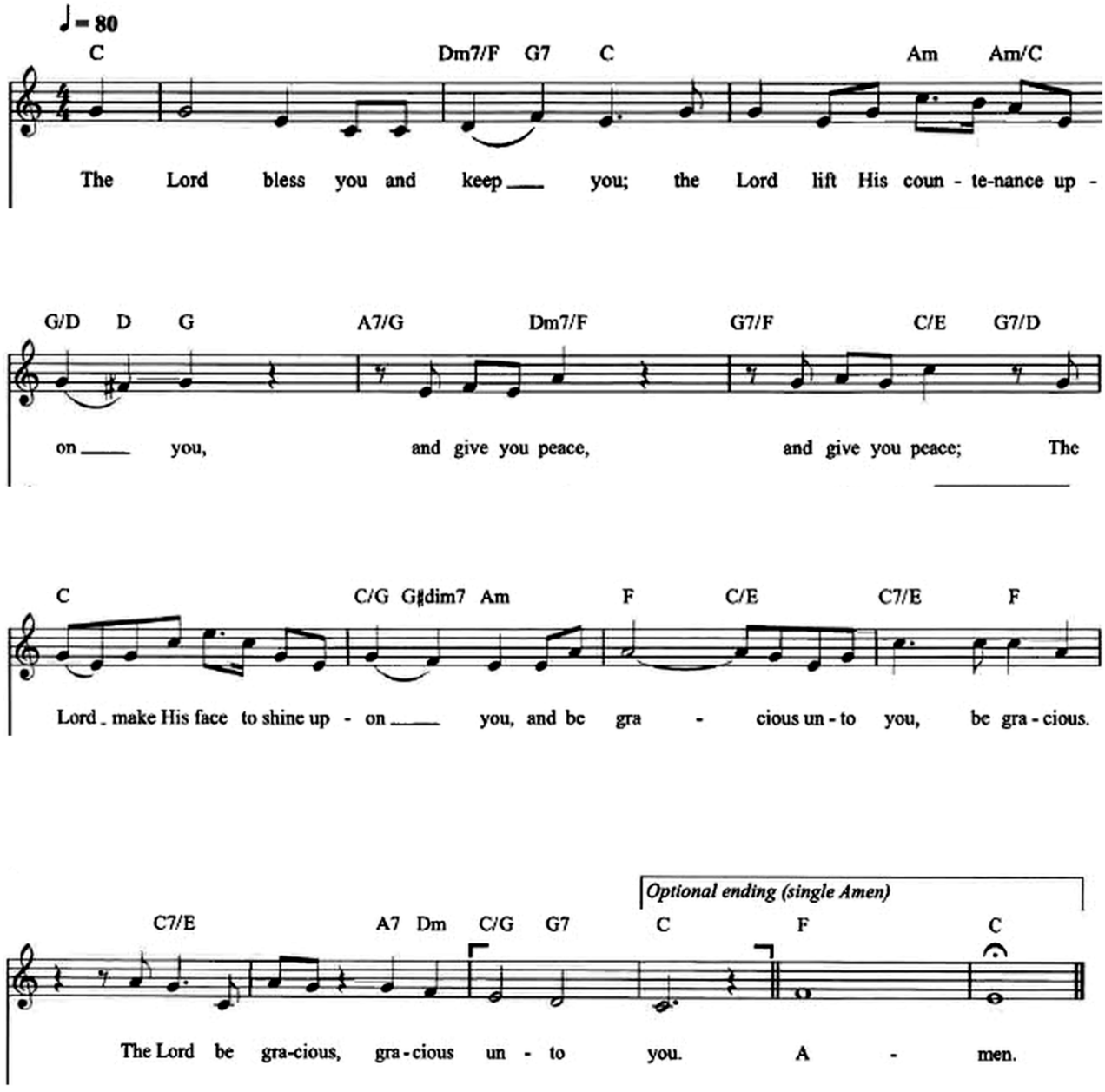
Music by Peter C. Lutkin

