Pickens Presbyterian Church

311 WEST MAIN STREET
PICKENS, SOUTH CAROLINA 29671

"To the Glory of God, and the Service of People"

September 10th, 2023 | 15th Sunday after Pentecost | Eleven o'clock

The Church Gathers

The Session invites members to wear masks to worship and other gatherings, if you are more comfortable doing so in a group situation, and of course if you are sick to please stay home.

Chiming of the Hour
Concerns of the Church

Preparation for Worship

Let us prepare our hearts and minds for worship, first in silence, then as we listen to the prelude.

Prelude *"We Gather Together"* *Eduard Kremser*

***Call to Worship**

Where two or three are gathered together, ***God is in their midst.***
We gather to proclaim the promises, ***to retell the stories, to remember who we are as people of God.***
ALL: ***Come, Let us worship God!***

***Prayer of Praise**
***Hymn of Praise (see #620, pg 6)** *"Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven"*

The Church Confesses

***Invitation to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession:**

Beautiful Savior, you have made your law clear: Love. Love one another. Owe one another nothing but love. Do no wrong to a neighbor. But we have not mastered what it is to love. We have fallen short, causing harm to others through careless action and thoughtless lack of action. Forgive us. Teach us how to love more fully, more perfectly, as generously as you love, following your law and fulfilling your will. . . . *(silent, personal confession)* Amen.

Kyrie #572** ***Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us.
Christ, Have Mercy Upon Us.
Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us.

***Assurance of Pardon**

. . . in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. ***Thanks be to God.***

***Corporate Passing of the Peace**

Peace be with you. ***And also with you.***

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.

The Church Proclaims God's Word

Prayer for Illumination *Elder Robert Simms*

1st Scripture Reading: Exodus 12.1-14

The Word of God for the People of God. ***Thanks be to God.***

Special Music *"Softly and Tenderly"* *Arr. Hugh Alexander*
Carolyn Few Yarborough – Soloist

2nd Scripture Reading: Matthew 18.15-20

The Word of God for the People of God. ***Thanks be to God.***

Time with Young Disciples

Sermon *"Guarantee: A Synonym for ____"*
The Reverend Dr. David Torrey

The Church Responds in Faith

Affirmation of Faith *Adapted from the Confession of 1967*

In Jesus Christ, God was reconciling the world to Godself. Jesus Christ is God with humankind. He is the eternal Son of the Father, who became human and lived among us to fulfill the work of reconciliation. He is present in the church by the power of the Holy Spirit to continue and complete his mission. This work of God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, is the foundation of all confessional statements about God, humankind, and the world.

In Jesus of Nazareth, true humanity was realized once for all. Many rejected him and demanded his death. In giving himself freely for them, he took upon himself the judgment under which all people stand convicted. God raised him from the dead, vindicating him as Messiah and Lord.

The risen Christ is the Savior for all people and the judge of all people. The reconciling work of Jesus was the supreme crisis in the life of humankind. His cross and resurrection become personal crisis and present hope for people when the gospel is

proclaimed and believed. In this experience, the Spirit brings God's forgiveness to people, moves them to respond in faith, repentance, and obedience, and initiates new life in Christ.

The new life takes shape in a community in which people know that God loves and accepts them in spite of what they are. To be reconciled to God is to be sent into the world as his reconciling community.

***Hymn (See #31, p. 7)** *"Let Us With a Gladsome Mind"*

Offering

Offertory *"I Love Him"* *Arr. Elmo Mercer*

***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**

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer (debts/Debtors)

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.

***Hymn of Commitment (See #394, p.8)** *"Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation"*

***Benediction**

Postlude *"The Power of Your Love"* *Geoff Bullock*

(Please remain seated until worship ends with the end of the Postlude)

Worship Has Ended – Service Begins

**Those who are able please stand in body or spirit.*

PRAYER REQUESTS: Please share prayer concerns and celebrations in worship, or on the pew rack cards placing them in the offering plates, or email the church office – admin@pickenspresbyterian.org.

Prayer Concerns and Celebrations List

Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. – Philippians 4:6 (NRSV)

(Prayer concern list policy: Names will remain on the list for 4 weeks, after which they may be either renewed for another 4 weeks, or moved to the Long-Term Prayer Concern List)

Name (relationship)	Concern
Janice & Mike (friends of Liza, Donna, and Kerry)	his health concerns
Mary & Charles Barron	his health concerns
Legacy Partnership Project Team	discernment

**new this week*

Peace in Ukraine. PDA support: gifts to DR000156 or text PDAUKR to 41444. *Make checks payable to Presbyterian Church USA and put the gift number in the memo line.*

Maui Fire Victims. PDA support: gifts to DR000165. *Make checks payable to Presbyterian Church USA* **&** *put the gift number in the memo line.* Or contribute to the Maui Food Bank using this link: Maui Food Bank.

Long Term Prayer Concern List

"Gig" Alexander, Barbara & Joe Christopher, Doug Finney, Jane Gillespie, Scott Kelly, John Owens, Faye Padgett, Patti Rivers, Jo Ann Taylor, Melvin Tolliver (Deb Holtel's uncle), John & Tiffanie Torrey (David's brother and sister-in-law)

A Memorial Service for Mary Sue Day, who passed away on Sunday September 27th, will be held on Monday, October 2nd, in the Chapel at Dillard Funeral Home.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Blessings and greetings to one and all. In the name of Christ, you are welcome today and every day! *If you are visiting, we offer a special welcome and invite you to participate with us in mission and ministry.* Contact the church office to begin receiving our newsletter.

NOTE FOR SUNDAY USHERS: The Worship Committee asks that: *"The scheduled ushers for each week are requested to arrive no later than 10:40 to hand out bulletins and to be greeters to welcome people as they enter the sanctuary." "Also, please return the offering plates to the table, and not on one of the chairs. Thank you!"*

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR CDC: Ingles Tools for Schools Program. Even if you have already connected your Ingles' savings card for this in the past, it must be renewed each year. In order to support our CDC, please use school code #22903. You can do this online at: ingles-markets.com or at the store's front desk.

FALL KICK-OFF CELEBRATION: We will continue to celebrate our Church-Wide Fall Kick-Off following this morning's service. Hamburgers, Hotdogs and Drinks will be provided. All are welcome!

SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP TIME: Please join us in All Saints' Hall at 10:30am for food and fellowship. **Sign up online at:**
https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0D45A9A828A6FC1-ppcrefreshments#/
or see the QR code in the Cliffnotes to sign up.

GENERAL FUND UPDATE:

Offering last Sunday: General Fund: **$3,992.00,** Building Fund: **$0.00.**
Total General Offering Year-to-Date: **$147,171.67, includes $13,572 online.**
Total General Expenses Year-to-Date: **$184,311.77.**
Contributions Needed Weekly to Maintain 2023 Budget: $5,316.60.

Serving:	**September 10, 2023**	**September 17, 2023**
Pulpit Elder:	Robert Simms	Ken Townsend
Sanctuary Guild:	Cindy Wood	Cindy Wood
Ushers:	Cindy & Austin Townsend	June Simms & Jaden Harden
Refreshments:	Rally Day Breakfast	TBD
Camera Operation:	Carole Thomas	Ginger Chastain
Communion Servers:		

Lectionary readings for today:
Pulpit Elder: Robert Simms
Exodus 12.1–14
Psalm 149
Romans 13.8–14
Matthew 18.15–20

Lectionary readings for next Sunday:
Pulpit Elder: Ken Townsend
Exodus 14.19–31
Psalm 114 *or* Exodus 15.1b–11, 20–21
Romans 14.1–12
Matthew 18.21–35

Church Activities and Events This Week:

Online calendar: http://73970421.view-events.com

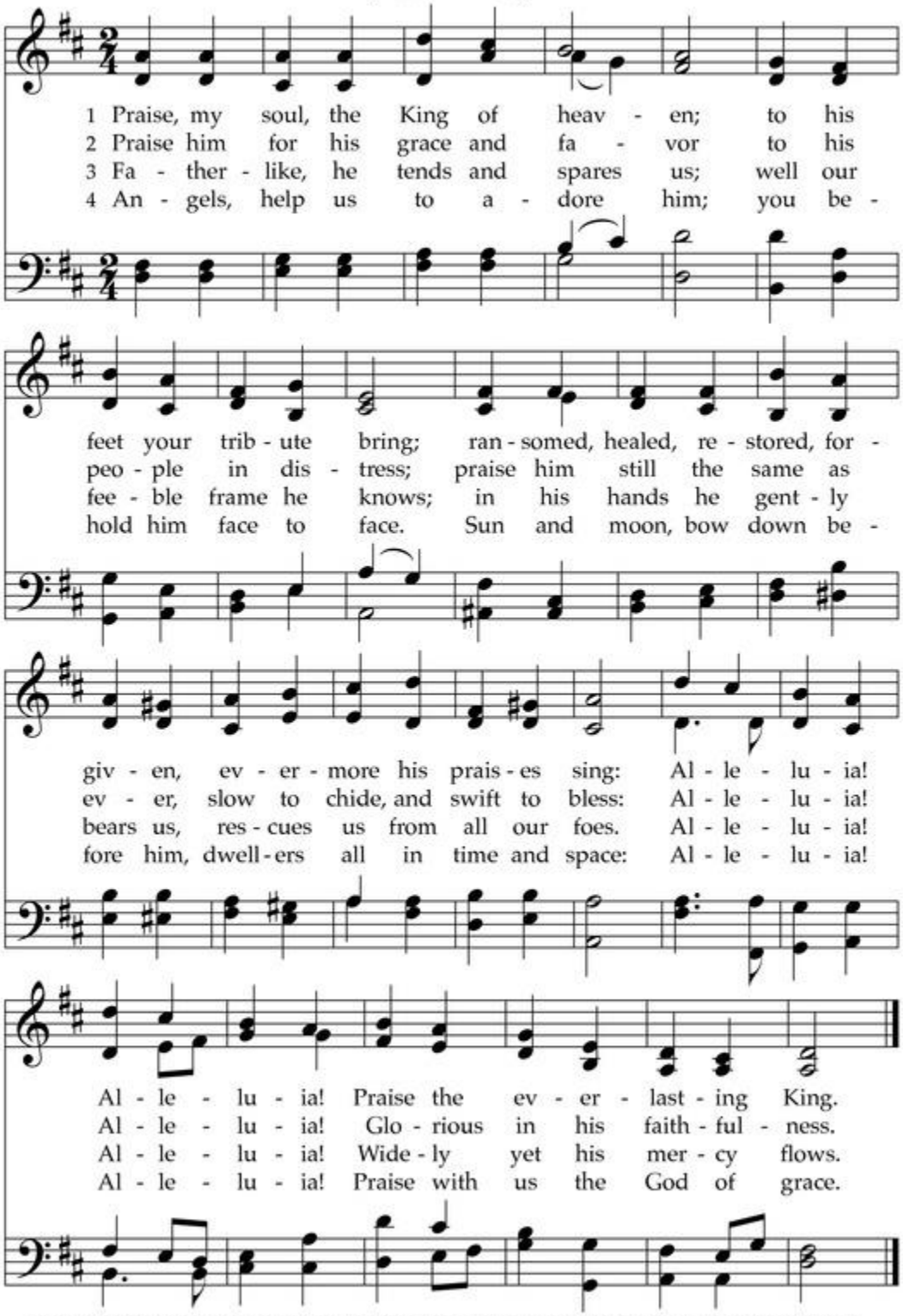
Day	Time	Event	Location
Sunday, Sept 10	8:45am	Fall Kick-Off Breakfast	All Saints' Hall
	9:30am	Fall Kick-Off Celebration	ASH
	10:15am	Adult Choir Rehearsal	ASH
	11:00am	Worship Service – 15th Sunday after Pentecost	ASH
	12:30pm	Fall Kick-Off Lunch	ASH
	TBD	All Committee Meetings	
	5:30pm	Youth Fellowship	ASH
Monday, Sept 11	8:30am	Food Pantry	Church Office
	11:00am	Centering Prayer	ASH
	6:00pm	Girl Scouts	Ed Bldg/ASH
Tuesday, Sept 12			
Wednesday, Sept 13	8:30am	Food Pantry	Church Office
	10:00am	Children's Chapel	All Saints' Hall
	10:30am	Bible Study	ASH
	4:30pm	Adult Choir Rehearsal	ASH
	5:30pm	LPP Team Meeting	ASH
Thursday, Sept 14	12:00pm	**DEADLINE** – Bulletin & Cliffnotes	All Saint's Hall
	4:00pm	Sailboat Church Prayer Group	ASH
Friday, Sept 15		*Office Closed*	
Saturday, Sept 16			
Sunday, Sept 17	9:30am	Sunday School	All Saints' Hall
	10:15am	Adult Choir Rehearsal	ASH
	10:30am	Fellowship Time	ASH
	11:00am	Worship Service – 16th Sunday after Pentecost	ASH
	12:30pm	Session Meeting	ASH
	5:30pm	Youth Fellowship	ASH

SESSION & COMMITTEES

Building and Grounds: Roy Stoddard ('23) and David McCormick ('25) (Co-Moderators)
Child Development Center: Jim Mahanes ('22), Roy Stoddard ('23), and David McCormick ('25)
Christian Education: Cindy Townsend ('24) and Robert Simms ('25) (Co-Moderators)
Administration: Budget: Ken Acker ('23),
Administration: Donna Owen ('24),
Finance: Ken Townsend ('23)
Fellowship and Care: Tina LaFoy ('24) and Nancy Goldsmith ('25) (Co-Moderators)
Missions: Roger Gettys ('23) and Rocky Harden ('23) (Co-Moderators)
Worship: Debbie Teeple ('24) and Starla Taylor ('25) (Co-Moderators)
Trustees: Allison Ranson ('23), Debbie Carmical ('24), Tim Crocker ('25)
Moderator: Rev. Dr. David A. Torrey
Phone: 864.878.9422 ext. 2, 803.317.3331 (cell)
Clerk of Session: Kay Rentz **Co-Clerk of Session:** Karen Brown

ADORATION

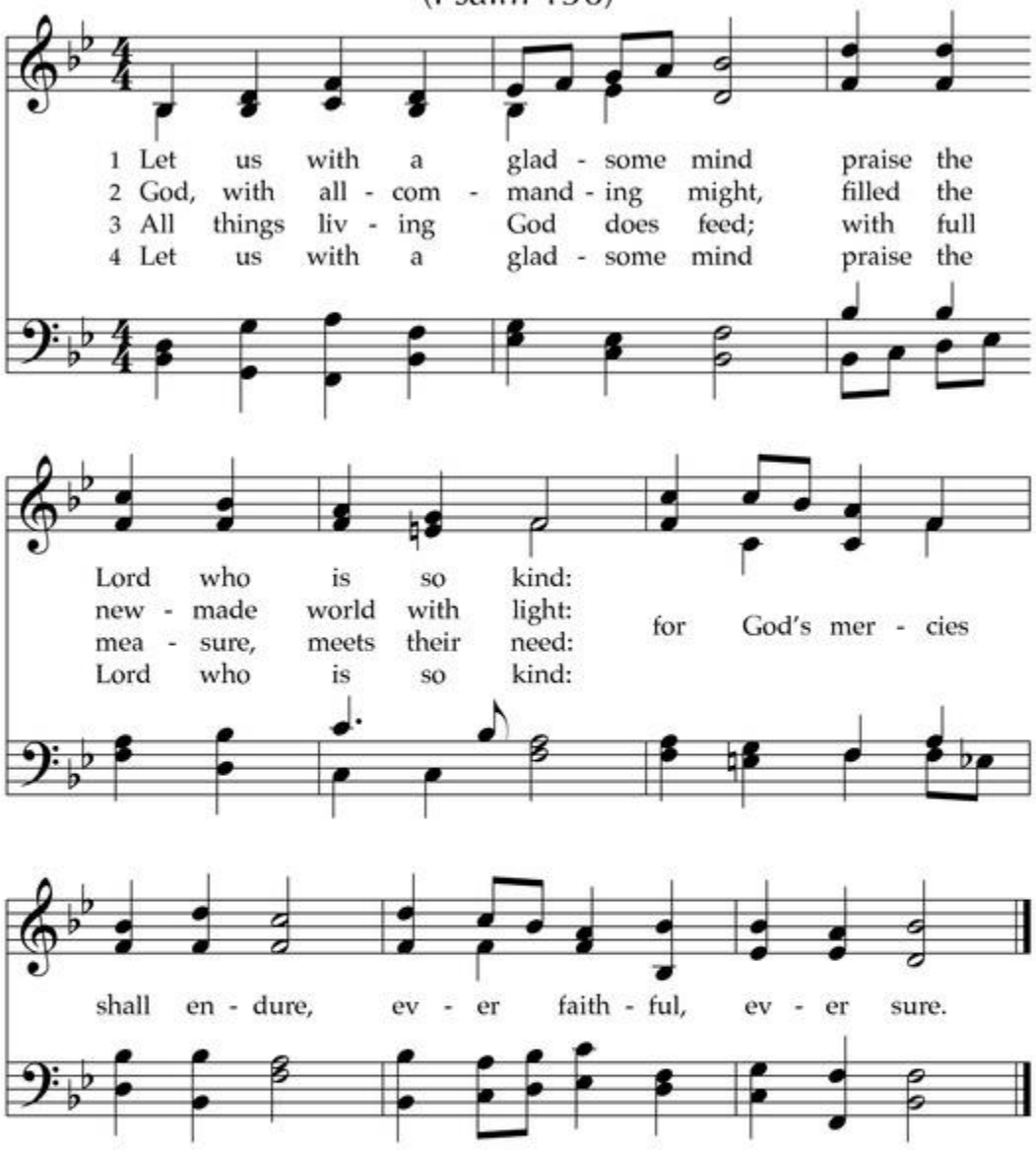
620 Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven

(Psalm 103)

This free paraphrase of Psalm 103 gains much energy and conviction by including the double "Alleluia!" before the final line of text. That repeated four-note figure descending from the tune's highest note gives voice to the praise that the rest of the hymn evokes.

TEXT: Henry Francis Lyte, 1834, alt.
MUSIC: John Goss, 1869

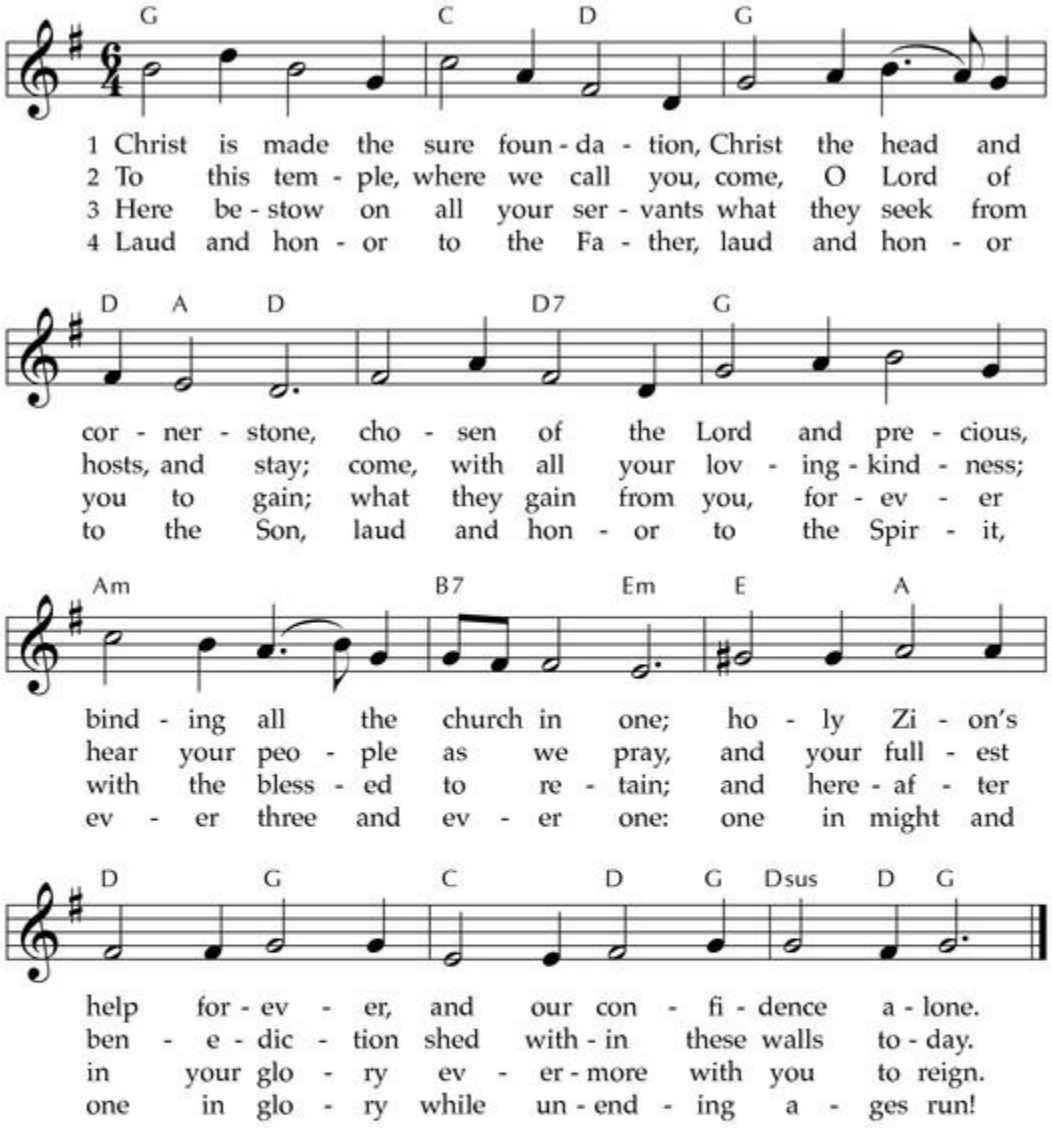
LAUDA ANIMA
8.7.8.7.8.7

Let Us with a Gladsome Mind 31

(Psalm 136)

These few stanzas are among the least florid of the two dozen that make up the rather flamboyant paraphrase of Psalm 136 written by the fifteen-year-old who would become one of the greatest English poets. It is set here to a sprightly tune with Moravian connections.

TEXT: John Milton, 1624, alt.
MUSIC: Attr. John Antes, c. 1790; harm. John B. Wilkes, 1861

MONKLAND
7.7.7.7

Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation 394

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

Although this ancient text has often been used at church dedications, the first stanza clearly refers to the people of God and the second to the place where they meet. The stately and soaring tune is aptly named for the edifice where the composer served as organist and is buried.

TEXT: Latin, 7th cent.; trans. John Mason Neale, 1851, alt.
MUSIC: Henry Purcell, c. 1680; adapt. Ernest Hawkins, 1843

WESTMINSTER ABBEY
8.7.8.7.8.7
(alternate tune: REGENT SQUARE)