

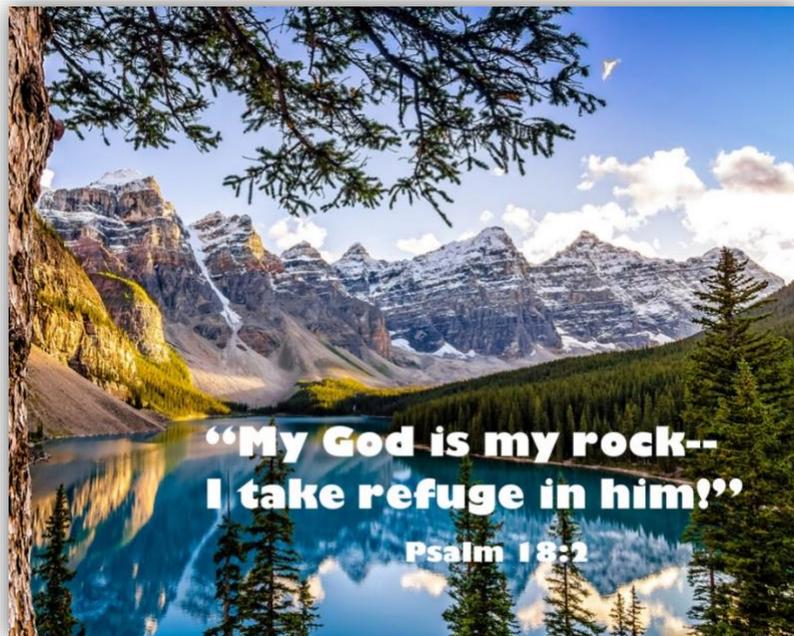
Worship – September 2021

Hymns: The Stories of our Faith

Opening Prayer

Almighty God, in this time of worship we seek to honor You with every fiber of our being. Help us to center our hearts and quiet our minds, so we might more fully hear Your voice. Nourish

us with Your Spirit and strengthen us so we may more fully serve You in the days to come. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.



Opening Hymn – Come, Christians, Join to Sing (UMH 158 vs 1)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=28Ic6bN0uVI>

1. Come, Christians, join to sing: Alleluia! Amen!
Loud praise to Christ our King: Alleluia! Amen!
Let all, with heart and voice, before his throne rejoice;
Praise is his gracious choice. Alleluia! Amen!

Hymn – Jesus Loves Me (UMH 191 vs 1)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zEGMBpN0cxE>

1. Jesus loves me! This I know, for the Bible tells me so. Little ones to him belong; they are weak, but he is strong.
Refrain: Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

Affirmation of Faith – The Apostles’ Creed (Traditional Version)

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth;
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord:

Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried;
the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from
thence he shall come to judge the quick 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.

Prayers of Thanksgiving

What are you thankful for today? (Congregants offer expressions of gratitude. After each expression, the congregation responds with “Thank you God!”). In response to these prayers of Thanksgiving, let us sing the Doxology:

Doxology – Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

https://youtu.be/pxg358xJ6_w

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

Scripture- Psalm 18:2 (CEB)

“The LORD is my solid rock, my fortress, my rescuer.
My God is my rock—I take refuge in him! — he’s my shield, my
salvation’s strength, my place of safety.”

Devotional¹

Our hymn of focus this month is “My Hope is Built” written by Edward Mote. Edward was born on January 21st, 1797, in London. Mote’s parents managed a pub and often allowed Mote to care for himself. Mote shared these words on his childhood, “My Sabbaths were spent in the streets at play. So ignorant was I that I did not know there was a God.”²

In his youth, Mote was apprenticed by his parents to a cabinetmaker. He became very good at cabinet making and established a successful cabinet making business in an area of London called Southwark. He worked in this industry for 37 years.

Early in his career, Mote found faith after hearing the preaching of John Hyatt at the Tottenham Court Road Chapel in London at age 15. He was baptized several years later.

Mote loved singing hymns and became a fruitful hymn writer composing more than 100 hymns in his time. Mote shared these words in a London periodical about how he came to write “My Hope is Built:” “One morning it came into my mind as I went to labour, to write a hymn on the ‘Gracious Experience of a Christian.’ As I went up to Holborn I had the chorus, *On Christ the solid Rock I stand, all other ground is sinking sand*. In the day I had four verses complete, and wrote them off. . . On the Sabbath following. . . by the fireside [I] composed the last two verses. . . Brother Rees of Crown Street, Soho, brought out an edition of hymns (1836) and this hymn was in it.”³

¹ Research for devotional came from these two sites: 1) Dr. Michael C. Hawn. “History of Hymns: My Hope is Built” *UMC Discipleship.org*, June 20, 2013. <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/history-of-hymns-my-hope-is-built>. Accessed August 2021. 2) Chris Fenner: “Edward Mote” *Hymnology Archive.com*. <https://www.hymnologyarchive.com/edward-mote> Accessed August 2021.

² Fenner.

³ Hawn.

The tune to “My Hope is Built” was composed by American Gospel Song Composer, William Bradbury, in 1863 and appeared in Bradbury’s *Devotional Hymn and Tune Book*.

In 1848, Mote became a Baptist pastor. He served as the pastor of Rehoboth Baptist Church at Horsham, Sussex for 26 years. Mote is remembered by this church as being an incredible preacher who blessed the congregants greatly. Mote peacefully passed away on November 13th, 1874, whispering these words: “Precious blood, precious blood, that makes peace with God.”⁴

Learning Mote’s life story and singing the lyrics to his hymn, caused me to recall a rafting experience I had in my youth. When I was 13 years old, I went white water rafting while on a mission trip with my church. Before we got in the water, our guide went over the safety protocols with us, making sure we understood that if we fell in the water that we were to keep our legs and feet as high as possible in the water and to “float” the river in our life jackets until our team could safely bring us back into the raft. Well, on one of the first big rapids we hit, I went flying into the water and, of course, did the opposite of everything I was instructed to do. I stood up immediately once in the water and found a reasonably sized rock I could safely wait on.

Though not recommended in my rafting situation, the rock I clung to as I waited for my team felt like a safe place to me. It was a sturdy rock that was not budging and helped me calm down. I believe the safety I felt on this rock is similar to what Mote experienced in his relationship with God.

⁴ Fenner.

Mote speaks in his hymn (and David spoke in Psalm 18) about how God is our rock: our source of salvation, strength, and refuge. These words came straight from Mote's heart and personal experience. He was raised by parents who ran a pub and didn't have a lot of time for him. His parents likely didn't provide much security or support. However, as Mote came to faith in his mid-teens, learning about salvation through Christ and the Amazing Grace of God, Mote found the support he longed for. Mote found safety and sanctuary in God.

God's work and grace in this world never ceases to amaze me. God used Mote, who had no spiritual upbringing, to write many beautiful hymns and to preach the Gospel. May Mote's story and his hymn be a reminder of God's active presence and support in our lives.

Let us joyfully sing and proclaim these amazing promises from God:

My Hope is built (UMH 386 vs 1 and 2)

1. My hope is built on nothing less than
Jesus' blood and righteousness. I dare not trust the
sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus' name.

Refrain: On Christ the solid rock I stand, all other ground is
sinking sand; all other ground is sinking sand.

2. When darkness veils his lovely face, I rest on his unchanging
grace. In every high and stormy gale, my anchor holds within
the veil.

Refrain: On Christ the solid rock I stand, all other ground is
sinking sand; all other ground is sinking sand.

Favorite Hymns

Hymn - *The Old Rugged Cross* (UMH 504 vs 1)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-JS9P8d2iOc>

1. On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross, the emblem of suffering and shame; and I love that old cross where the dearest and best for a world of lost sinners was slain.

Refrain: So I'll cherish the old rugged cross, till my trophies at last I lay down; I will cling to the old rugged cross, and exchange it some day for a crown.

Hymn – *Amazing Grace* (UMH 378 vs 1, 2 and 6)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ogxLNlgKM8c>

1. Amazing grace! How sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but now am found; was blind, but now I see.
2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear and grace my fears relieved; how precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed.
6. When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun, we've no less days to sing God's praise than when we'd first begun.

Hymn – *How firm a Foundation* (UMH 529 vs 1 and 2)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0plwESLhGwY>

1. How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord, is laid for your faith in his excellent word! What more can he say than to you he hath said, to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?
2. "Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed, for I am thy God and will still give thee aid; I'll strengthen and help thee, and cause thee to stand upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.

Communion Liturgy

We have come to the time in our service to remember Holy Communion. From Matthew 26, I would remind you that at the Last Supper “While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said, ‘Take, eat; this is my body.’ Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you; for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you, I will never again drink of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father’s kingdom.”

Communion Prayer

We are not able to physically take Communion today so please hear this prayer as a reminder of this important sacrament:

My Jesus, we believe that you are in the Blessed Sacrament. We love you above all things and long for you in our soul. Since we cannot now receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into our hearts. We adore Thee in the Sacrament of Thy love. Amen.

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; 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 – On Eagle’s Wings (UMH 143)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kzVL_Z2YL9g

1. And God will raise you up on eagle’s wings, bear you on the breath of dawn, make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of God’s hand.

Closing Prayer

Gracious God, thank You for Your amazing grace and Your promise of eternal life. We are grateful that You are our rock and a safe place in a world that can feel chaotic. May we always remember to turn to You - our refuge and our strength. Amen.



Benediction (Numbers 6:24-26)

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you; the Lord lift us his countenance upon you, and give you peace. Amen.

