

The rainbow flower on the altar is given by **COLLAGE** (our LGBTQ group) in celebration of Pride Month & the anniversary of Stonewall Riots which began on June 28, 1969 in New York.

PRELUDE

CALL to WORSHIP

One: Scripture is hydro-powered; from the chaos sloshing in the first book of the Bible to a calm river that flows by two trees for the healing of the nations in the last book.

Many: And we are awash in God's grace and afloat in God's love.

One: When the waves of life come crashing down, knocking us off our feet,

Many: We pray, O God, for You to help us find our footing in the shifting sand.

One: When the sailing is smooth, water like glass,

Many: Help us see our connection with all creation and the water that gives us life.

One: We join our voices today, O God, in worshiping You.

Many: We gather at the river where bright angel feet still trod and sing out with gusto.

*HYMN

My Hope is Built on Nothing Less

see last page

Please stand today to sing!

OPENING PRAYER

God who dances and delights us in countless ways; from the harmony of hymns to creation alive with every color in the crayon box. Over the last several weeks we have lived the song that we learned as children, that the church is not just a building or a steeple, the church is the people! The people wherever and however we gather, even when we are scattered. You are limitless and with us in this liminal moment. In the constant change of these days, we can feel like life as we know it is unraveling. We can feel emotionally on edge, spiritually in the wilderness, and physically exhausted. We wonder with the psalmist, "Is the Lord among us or not?" And while that is a good question, perhaps in these summer days we might also ask, "How are You with us?" Help us hold both questions as ways to explore and encounter You. Help us hold onto You as we turn the calendar to July. Let us feel Your embrace now and every day this week. In the name of the One who came to show us Your constant compassion and care, Jesus our Christ. Amen.

RESPONSIVE READING (from the ONA Collation website – in honor of Pride Month)

One: Each of us is created with worth, imbued with dignity.

ALL: We are the representation of God's love in the world.

One: We are diverse in our experiences, vast in our manifestation of how love looks.

ALL: Our families are all different, but each represents and honors the many ways that your people live and love.

One: Our lives are enriched when LGBTQIA+ people are welcomed and affirmed in our churches and communities.

ALL: Our lives are enriched when our Black, Latinx, and Indigenous neighbors are

affirmed.

One: Your words, shared in Scripture, call us to be a people of justice.

ALL: We all suffer when any LGBT person is oppressed, excluded, or shamed.

One: When justice is denied to any of us, justice is denied to all of us.

ALL: Until we are *all* free, none of us are free.

One: May we work to build a world where all people are affirmed with love.

ALL: Our diversity enriches us, creates joy in our lives. Let us be a place built on Your creative presence in all people. Alleluia and Amen.

OUR ENCOUNTER with SCRIPTURE

Revelation 21:1-5 & 22:1-5

Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth,” for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. ² I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and God will dwell with them. They will be God’s people, and God will be with them and be their God. ⁴ ‘God will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death’ or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.” ⁵ God who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!” Then, the voice said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.” Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb ² down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. ³ No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city. They will see God’s face, and God’s name will be on their foreheads. ⁵ There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And God will reign for ever and ever.

SERMON

Labors of Love

*HYMN

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

**Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven, on earth be found.
Fix in us a humble dwelling, all your faithful mercies crown;
Jesus, you are all compassion; pure, unbounded love impart.
Visit us with your salvation, enter every trembling heart.**

**Breathe, O breathe your loving spirit into every troubled breast;
Let us all in you inherit, let us find your promised rest;
Take away our love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be;
End of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.**

**Finish, then, your new creation; pure and spotless may we prove;
Let us see your great salvation perfectly restored in you;
Changed from glory into glory, til in heaven we take our place,
Crowned as saints, we ever shall be lost in wonder, love, and praise.**

PASTORAL PRAYER & 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.

***HYMN**

Shall We Gather at the River

**Shall we gather at the river, where bright angel feet have trod,
With its crystal tide forever flowing by the throne of God?**

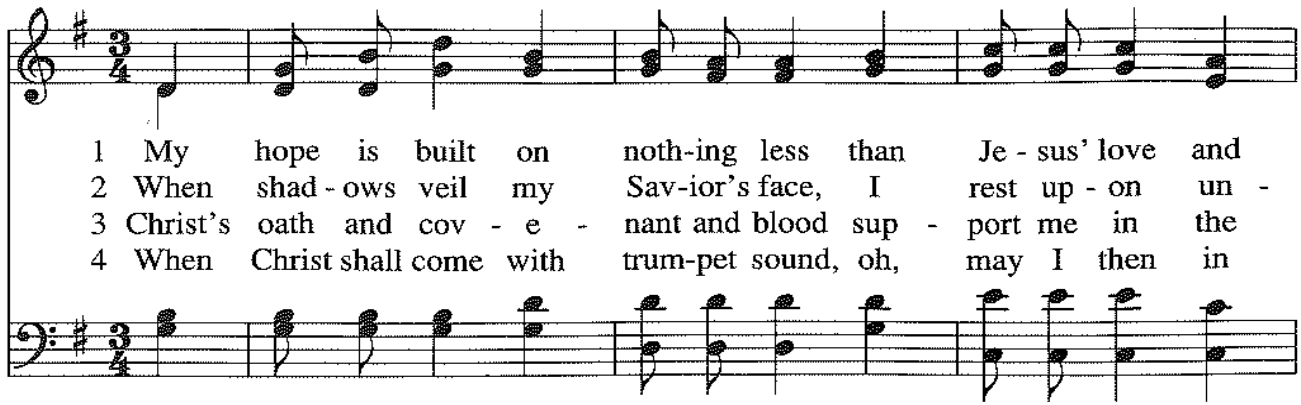
Refrain: **Yes, we'll gather at the river, the beautiful, the beautiful river,
Gather with the saints at the river that flows by the throne of God.**

**As we reach the shining river, lay we every burden down;
Grace our spirits will deliver, and provide a robe and crown. (*Refrain*)**

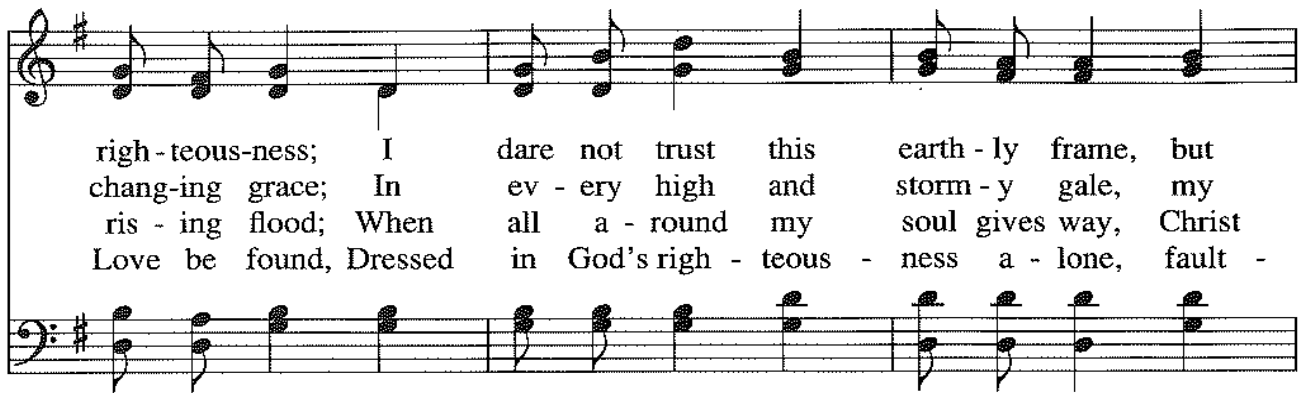
BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

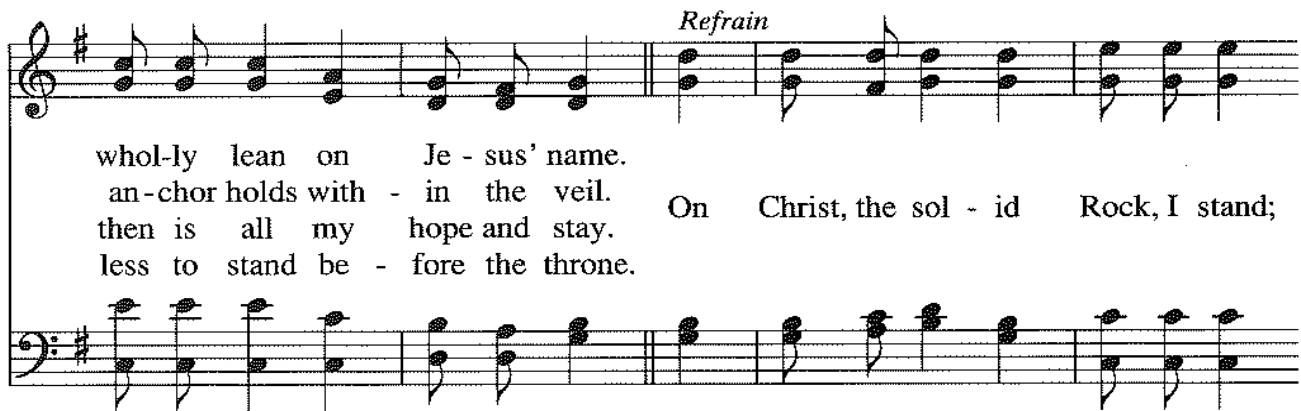
My Hope is Built on Nothing Less



1 My hope is built on noth-ing less than Je - sus' love and
2 When shad - ows veil my Sav - ior's face, I rest up - on un -
3 Christ's oath and cov - e - nant and blood sup - port me in the
4 When Christ shall come with trum - pet sound, oh, may I then in

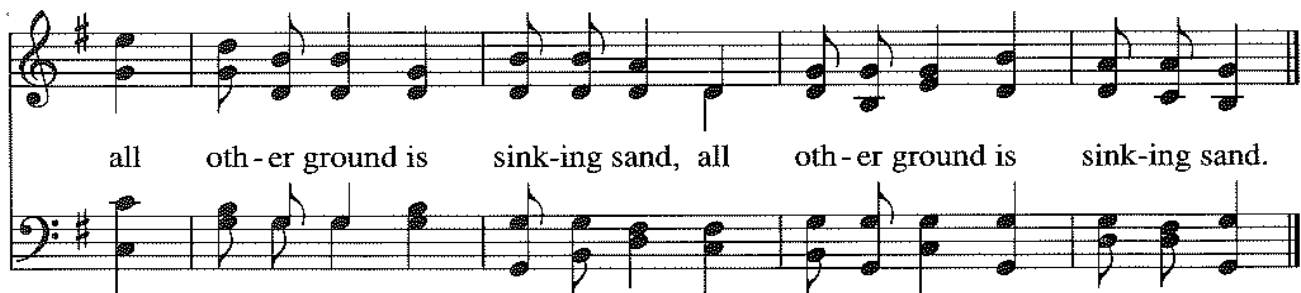


righteous-ness; I dare not trust this earth - ly frame, but
chang - ing grace; In ev - ery high and storm - y gale, my
ris - ing flood; When all a - round my soul gives way, Christ
Love be found, Dressed in God's right - teous - ness a - lone, fault -



Refrain

whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.
an - chor holds with - in the veil. On Christ, the sol - id Rock, I stand;
then is all my hope and stay.
less to stand be - fore the throne.



all oth - er ground is sink - ing sand, all oth - er ground is sink - ing sand.