

# Church

August 06 2025

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## **Hymn. 176:1–3**

Long hast thou stood, O church of God,  
Long mid the tempest's assailing,  
Founded secure on timeless rock  
Rises thy light, never failing;  
Shining that all may understand  
What has been wrought by God's command,  
O'er night and chaos prevailing.

Let there be light, and light was there,  
Clear as the Word that declared it;  
Healing and peace to all it gave,  
Who in humility shared it.  
Ah, they were faithful, they who heard,  
Steadfast their trust in God's great Word,  
Steadfast the Love that prepared it.

Let there be light, the Word shines forth,  
Lo, where the new morning whitens;  
O church of God, with Book unsealed,  
How its page beacons and brightens.  
Living stones we, each in his place,  
May we be worthy such a grace,  
While Truth the wide earth enlightens.

Words: BASED ON THE DANISH OF NIKOLAJ F. S. GRUNDTVIG  
Music: Ludvig M. Lindeman

### **Hymn. 261:1–3**

One holy church of God appears  
Through every age and race,  
Unwasted by the lapse of years,  
Unchanged by changing place.

From oldest time, on farthest shores,  
Beneath the pine or palm,  
One unseen presence she adores,  
With silence or with psalm.

Her priests are all God's faithful sons,  
To serve the world raised up;  
The pure in heart her baptized ones;  
Love, her communion cup.

Words: SAMUEL LONGFELLOW

Music: John B. Calkin

### **Hymn. 537:1–4**

O church of God, built on a firm foundation,  
Standing secure amid the storms of life,  
Where all may come to learn of true salvation  
And find release from discord, pain, and strife.

We hear the Word, in song and sermon spoken,  
In silent prayer, we turn to God today;  
Our humble hearts receive the blessed token  
Of Truth that guides us in the upward way.

O Spirit, feed us with Your bread from heaven,  
We drink Your living water and are free;  
And every lesson that Your love has given,

Oh, may we learn it with humility.

We feel Your peace, Your arms of Love enfolding,

We lift our hearts in praise and gratitude.

We, from this hour, a glimpse of heaven beholding,

Go forward with our joy and strength renewed.

Words: RUBY NILSON, ALT.

Music: William J. Reynolds

**Isa. 7:14, 15**

- 14 Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.
- 15 Butter and honey shall he eat, that he may know to refuse the evil, and choose the good.

**Matt. 3:13–17**

- 13 ¶ Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him.
- 14 But John forbad him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me?
- 15 And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer *it to be so* now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness. Then he suffered him.
- 16 And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him:
- 17 And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

**John 12:23, 26 (to ;), 32**

- 23 ¶ And Jesus answered them, saying, The hour is come, that the Son of man should be glorified.
- 26 If any man serve me, let him follow me; ...
- 32 And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all *men* unto me.

## **Luke 6:47, 48**

- 47 Whosoever cometh to me, and heareth my sayings, and doeth them, I will shew you to whom he is like:
- 48 He is like a man which built an house, and digged deep, and laid the foundation on a rock: and when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently upon that house, and could not shake it: for it was founded upon a rock.

## **Matt. 16:13–18**

- 13 ¶ When Jesus came into the coasts of Cæsarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?
- 14 And they said, Some *say that thou art* John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets.
- 15 He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am?
- 16 And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.
- 17 And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Bar-jona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed *it* unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.
- 18 And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

## **Acts 2:22–24, 37, 38, 41–47**

- 22 Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know:
- 23 Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain:
- 24 Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it.
- 37 ¶ Now when they heard *this*, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men *and* brethren, what shall we do?
- 38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

- 41 ¶ Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day  
there were added *unto them* about three thousand souls.
- 42 And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in  
breaking of bread, and in prayers.
- 43 And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the  
apostles.
- 44 And all that believed were together, and had all things common;
- 45 And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all *men*, as every  
man had need.
- 46 And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread  
from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart,
- 47 Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the  
church daily such as should be saved.

#### Heb. 10:23–25

- 23 Let us hold fast the profession of *our* faith without wavering; (for he *is* faithful  
that promised;)
- 24 And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:
- 25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some *is*;  
but exhorting *one another*: and so much the more, as ye see the day  
approaching.

#### Rom. 12:1, 2

- 1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your  
bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is* your reasonable  
service.
- 2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of  
your mind, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect,  
will of God.

#### SH 56:1

- 1 **W**HEN our great Teacher came to him for baptism,  
John was astounded. Reading his thoughts, Jesus
- 3 added: “Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us  
to fulfil all righteousness.” Jesus’ concessions (in certain

cases) to material methods were for the advancement of  
6 spiritual good.

### SH 581:23–26

**BAPTISM.** Purification by Spirit; submergence in  
24 Spirit.

We are “willing rather to be absent from the body,  
and to be present with the Lord.” (II Corinthians v. 8.)

### SH 241:23–8

One’s aim, a point beyond faith, should be to find the  
24 footsteps of Truth, the way to health and holiness. We  
should strive to reach the Horeb height where God is re-  
vealed; and the corner-stone of all spiritual building is  
27 purity. The baptism of Spirit, washing the body of all  
the impurities of flesh, signifies that the pure in heart  
see God and are approaching spiritual Life and its  
30 demonstration.

It is “easier for a camel to go through the eye of a  
needle,” than for sinful beliefs to enter the kingdom of  
1 heaven, eternal harmony. Through repentance, spiritual  
baptism, and regeneration, mortals put off their material  
3 beliefs and false individuality. It is only a  
question of time when “they shall all know  
Me [God], from the least of them unto the greatest.”  
6 Denial of the claims of matter is a great step towards  
the joys of Spirit, towards human freedom and the final  
triumph over the body.

Spiritual  
baptism

### SH 35:19–25

Our baptism is a purification from all error. Our  
church is built on the divine Principle, Love. We can  
21 unite with this church only as we are new-  
born of Spirit, as we reach the Life which  
is Truth and the Truth which is Life by bringing forth

Spiritual  
Eucharist

24 the fruits of Love, — casting out error and healing the sick.

### SH 255:1

1 **E**TERNAL Truth is changing the universe. As mortals drop off their mental swaddling-clothes, thought  
3 expands into expression. “Let there be light,” is the perpetual demand of Truth and Love, changing chaos into order and discord into the  
6 music of the spheres. The mythical human theories of creation, anciently classified as the higher criticism, sprang from cultured scholars in Rome and in Greece, but they  
9 afforded no foundation for accurate views of creation by the divine Mind.

Inadequate theories of creation

### SH 593:18 (only)

18 **Rock.** Spiritual foundation; Truth.

### SH 136:1–5, 11; 137:8–11, 16–9; 138:14–22

1 Jesus established his church and maintained his mission on a spiritual foundation of Christ-healing. He taught  
3 his followers that his religion had a divine Principle, which would cast out error and heal both the sick and the sinning.

The Christ-mission

He appealed to his students: “Whom do  
12 men say that I, the Son of man, am?” That is: Who or what is it that is thus identified with casting out evils and healing the sick? They replied, “Some  
15 say that thou art John the Baptist; some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets.” These prophets were considered dead, and this reply may indicate that  
18 some of the people believed that Jesus was a medium, controlled by the spirit of John or of Elias.

Ancient spiritualism

Yearning to be understood, the Master repeated,  
9 “But whom say ye that I am?” This renewed inquiry  
meant: Who or what is it that is able to do the work, so  
mysterious to the popular mind?

With his usual impetuosity, Simon replied for his  
brethren, and his reply set forth a great fact: “Thou  
18 art the Christ, the Son of the living God!”  
That is: The Messiah is what thou hast de-  
clared, — Christ, the spirit of God, of Truth, Life, and  
21 Love, which heals mentally. This assertion elicited from  
Jesus the benediction, “Blessed art thou, Simon Bar-  
jona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee,  
24 but my Father which is in heaven;” that is, Love hath  
shown thee the way of Life!

A divine  
response

Before this the impetuous disciple had been called  
27 only by his common names, Simon Bar-jona, or son of  
Jona; but now the Master gave him a spir-  
itual name in these words: “And I say also  
30 unto thee, That thou art Peter; and upon this rock [the  
meaning of the Greek word *petros*, or *stone*] I will build  
my church; and the gates of hell [*hades*, the *under-*  
1 *world*, or the *grave*] shall not prevail against it.” In  
other words, Jesus purposed founding his society, not  
3 on the personal Peter as a mortal, but on the God-  
power which lay behind Peter’s confession of the true  
Messiah.

The true and  
living rock

6 It was now evident to Peter that divine Life, Truth, and  
Love, and not a human personality, was the healer of the  
sick and a rock, a firm foundation in the realm  
9 of harmony.

Sublime  
summary

The supremacy of Spirit was the foundation on which



15 Jesus built. His sublime summary points to the religion  
of Love.

Jesus established in the Christian era the precedent for  
18 all Christianity, theology, and healing. Christians are  
under as direct orders now, as they were then,  
to be Christlike, to possess the Christ-spirit, to  
21 follow the Christ-example, and to heal the sick as well as  
the sinning.

New era  
in Jesus

### SH 583:12–19

12 **CHURCH.** The structure of Truth and Love; what-  
ever rests upon and proceeds from divine Principle.

The Church is that institution, which affords proof of  
15 its utility and is found elevating the race, rousing the  
dormant understanding from material beliefs to the ap-  
prehension of spiritual ideas and the demonstration of  
18 divine Science, thereby casting out devils, or error, and  
healing the sick.

### SH xi:9–24

9 The physical healing of Christian Science results  
now, as in Jesus' time, from the operation of divine  
Principle, before which sin and disease lose their real-  
12 ity in human consciousness and disappear as naturally  
and as necessarily as darkness gives place to light and  
sin to reformation. Now, as then, these mighty works  
15 are not supernatural, but supremely natural. They are  
the sign of Immanuel, or "God with us," — a divine  
influence ever present in human consciousness and re-  
18 peating itself, coming now as was promised aforetime,

To preach deliverance to the captives [of sense],  
And recovering of sight to the blind,

21 To set at liberty them that are bruised.

When God called the author to proclaim His Gospel  
to this age, there came also the charge to plant and  
24 water His vineyard.

### SH 351:8

The author became a member of the orthodox Con-  
9 gregational Church in early years. Later she learned  
that her own prayers failed to heal her as did the prayers  
of her devout parents and the church; but when the  
12 spiritual sense of the creed was discerned in the Science  
of Christianity, this spiritual sense was a *present help*. It  
was the living, palpitating presence of Christ, Truth, which  
15 healed the sick.

### SH 107:1–14

1 **I**N the year 1866, I discovered the Christ Science or  
divine laws of Life, Truth, and Love, and  
3 named my discovery Christian Science. God  
had been graciously preparing me during many  
years for the reception of this final revelation of the ab-  
6 solute divine Principle of scientific mental healing.

This apodictical Principle points to the revelation of  
Immanuel, “God with us,” — the sovereign ever-pres-  
9 ence, delivering the children of men from  
every ill “that flesh is heir to.” Through  
Christian Science, religion and medicine are  
12 inspired with a diviner nature and essence; fresh pinions  
are given to faith and understanding, and thoughts ac-  
quaint themselves intelligently with God.

Christian  
Science  
discovered

Mission of  
Christian  
Science

### SH 28:9

9 While respecting all that is good in the Church or out  
of it, one’s consecration to Christ is more on the ground

of demonstration than of profession. In conscience, we  
12 cannot hold to beliefs outgrown; and by understanding  
more of the divine Principle of the deathless Christ, we  
are enabled to heal the sick and to triumph over sin.

**SH 224:22, 31 (only)**

A higher and more practical Christianity, demonstrat-  
ing justice and meeting the needs of mortals in sickness  
24 and in health, stands at the door of this age, knocking  
for admission. Will you open or close the door upon this  
angel visitant, who cometh in the quiet of meekness, as he  
27 came of old to the patriarch at noonday?

No power can withstand divine Love.