



8 Let the floods clap their hands;  
let the hills sing together for joy

**\*Welcome Song**

**We Gather Together**

**#276, v. 1**

We gather together to ask for God's blessing,  
to turn to a wisdom surpassing our own;  
the pow'rs that oppress us now cease to distress us.  
O God, be present with us, and make your will known.

**\*Call to Worship**

**Aspen Baynes**

ONE: The Spirit is coming to bless us all with a new song:

**ALL: Let our joy be complete!**

ONE: Gifts for the good of all, poured out on all to teach us a new song:

**ALL: Love one another!**

ONE: Strangers and neighbors, foreigners and family will join in the new song:

**ALL: No longer servants but friends!**

ONE: Come, let our worship make a joyful noise,

**ALL: Rejoicing in the friendship of God.**

~ Rev. Susan A. Blaine

**\*Opening Hymn**

**“Here I am, Lord”**

**#452, vs. 1-3**

*Moment for Music*

*Compiled by Cheryl Delaney*

A Moment for Music written by Dr. Hawn, Professor of Sacred Music at Perkins School of Theology at Candler.

Many Protestants may be unaware that Here I Am, Lord represent Roman Catholic renewal music. Daniel L. Schutte, who wrote this hymn, is a native of Wisconsin. He received his education at St. Louis University with a bachelor's degree in 1973, a master of divinity degree in 1979 at the Jesuit School of Theology, Berkeley, California.

Following graduation, Mr. Schutte joined the Jesuits and entered parish ministry in Milwaukee serving as the director of music. He is currently director of music at the University of San Francisco, a Jesuit institution. The refrain, “Here I Am, Lord” recalls immediately Isaiah 6:8: “Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, ‘whom shall I send, and who will go for us?’ And I said ‘Here am I; send me!’”

The stanza speak from the perspective of God in the first person singular,

while the refrain, though remaining in first person, is from the perspective of the singers of the hymn offering their lives to God. Each stanza reflects a paradox. The powerful God, creator of “sea and sky,” “snow and rain” and “wind and flame” is also the God who hears the “people cry,” bears the “people’s pain” and “tends the poor and lame.” This is a hymn of transformation. God transforms the darkness into light, melts “hearts of stone” with love, nourishes the “poor and lame” with the “finest bread”, a clear reference to the Eucharist. And each stanza ends with the question, “Whom shall I send?” Each refrain immediately offer the response, “Here I am, Lord.” We are all grateful for this gift from a Roman Catholic composer to the church universal, a gift that has become one of the hymns most often sung by our generation.

**1** I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.  
 All who dwell in deepest sin My hand will save.  
 I who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.  
 Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?

***[Refrain]***

***Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?  
 I have heard you calling in the night.  
 I will go, Lord, if you lead me.  
 I will hold your people in my heart.***

**2** I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain.  
 I have wept for love of them. They turn away.  
 I will break their hearts of stone, Give them hearts for love alone.  
 I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send? **[Refrain]**

**3** I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.  
 I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.  
 Finest bread I will provide Till their hearts be satisfied.  
 I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send? **[Refrain]**

**Invitation to Generosity**

Invitation

**Aspen Baynes**



captain of the ship notified Spafford they were at the place where the Vill du Havre was struck. After those moments of reflection and over the course of the rest of the journey, Spafford penned the words to this beloved hymn. May God teach us that, “whatever our lot” we can still say “It is well.”

**1** When peace like a river attendeth my way,  
when sorrows like sea billows roll,  
whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say,  
It is well, it is well with my soul.

**[Refrain:]**

***It is well (It is well) with my soul (with my soul),  
it is well, it is well with my soul.***

**2** Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,  
let this blest assurance control:  
that Christ has regarded my helpless estate,  
and has shed his own blood for my soul. [Refrain]

**3** My sin, oh, the bliss of this glorious thought!  
My sin, not in part but the whole,  
is nailed to the cross and I bear it no more,  
praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul! [Refrain]

**4** May God haste the day when my faith shall be sight,  
the clouds be rolled back as a scroll;  
the trump shall resound and the Lord shall descend,  
even so, it is well with my soul. [Refrain]

**Pastoral Prayer & Lord’s Prayer**

**Rev. Chad Delaney**

ONE: Lord, in your Mercy...

**ALL: May our voices sing the story of your love.**

God of grace and goodness,

We thank you for the ways you meet us in beauty, truth, and every quiet moment that draws us closer to you. For the gifts that help us reflect your

presence—word, art, movement, sound, and silence—we are grateful. Thank you for all the encounters that lift our spirits, deepen our faith, and remind us we are not alone. Lord, in your Mercy...

**May our voices sing the story of your love.**

Merciful God, we confess the ways we fall short when we act out of fear, speak without love, or close ourselves off. Forgive us for the dissonance in our lives, and help us return to your rhythm of grace and peace. Forgive us when our lives become out of tune with your grace. Help us return to you. Lord, in your Mercy,

**May our voices sing the story of your love.**

Loving God, we lift up a weary world. Where, yes, there is unspeakable tragedy and grief. Where, for some, days are filled with fear and uncertainty. For those who grieve, who hunger, who fear what tomorrow holds—we ask your healing and hope. Move us to respond with compassion and courage, wherever we are needed and remind us that with you...ultimately all will be well. Lord, in your Mercy...

**May our voices sing the story of your love.**

God, we pray for this congregation and our shared life, our ministry, and our witness. Bless what we offer and all us to be an orchestra of your grace and to deepen our connection to one another. Guide our leadership, energize our service, and help us remain faithful to your call in every season. May our life together sing your song of grace and bear good fruit in this community and beyond. Lord, in your Mercy...

**May our voices sing the story of your love.**

God of Love, join us together now in saying the prayer Jesus taught us...

## **Holy Communion**

Méditation

**Communion Hymn**

**The Gift of Love**

**Linda Idoine**

**#526, vs. 1-3**

**1** Though I may speak with bravest fire,  
and have the gift to all inspire,  
and have not love, my words are vain;  
as sounding brass, and hopeless gain.

**2** Though I may give all I possess,  
and striving so my love profess,  
but not be given by love within,  
the profit soon turns strangely thin.

**3** Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control,  
our spirits long to be made whole.  
Let inward love guide every deed;  
by this we worship, and are freed.

Communion Prayer  
Words of Institution  
**Music**

**Vince Meier**  
**Vince Meier**  
**Sarah Park**

**“Jesus, My Lord, to Thee I Cry”**  
*[by I. D. Saneky]*

## Scripture

## Ephesians 5:19-20

<sup>19</sup> sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs to one another, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts, <sup>20</sup> giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ

**The Message in Music**  
Carol of the Bells

**MCCC Handbells**

Sweet Hour of Prayer

Fantasy on Hyfrydol [arr. by Hal Hopson]

**\*Closing Hymn**

**“Standing in the Need of Prayer”**

**#579, vs. 1-4**

*Moment for Music*

*Compiled by Cheryl Delaney*

A Moment for Music written by Darrell St. Romain

Standing in the Need of Prayer is an African American Spiritual. It’s me, it’s me, O Lord, reveals the intimate nature of prayer. It’s not my mother or father, sister, brother or preacher or deacon that needs prayer: It’s me. After praying for everyone else, it’s my time to make my petition. I need God to do what I know God can do. St. Augustine of Hippo, a fifth century Saint of African descent, describes prayer in this manner; “For in most cases prayer consist more in groaning then in speaking, in tears rather

then in words. But He setteth our tears in His sight, and our groaning is not hidden from Him who made all things by the word, He does not need human words.”

With all of that the enslaved Africans endured, tears and groaning were likely commonplace in their prayers. The text of “It’s Me, It’s Me, O Lord,” reveals that accountability and humility are required to live a Christian life. In Spirituals, “I equals “we” in the African sensibility, where individuals are responsible for the whole community, not only for themselves”.

Enslaved people turned to God for hope or deliverance. He is a testimony of an unknown enslaved African:

I pray now and just tell God to take me and do his will, for he knows every secret of my heart. He knows what we stand most in need of before we ask for it, and if we trust him, he will give us what we ought to have in good season.

***[Refrain:]***

**It’s me (it’s me), it’s me, O Lord,  
standing in the need of prayer.**

**It’s me (it’s me), it’s me, O Lord,  
standing in the need of prayer.**

**1** Not my brother, not my sister, but it’s me, O Lord,  
standing in the need of prayer.

Not my brother, not my sister, but it’s me, O Lord,  
standing in the need of prayer. [Refrain]

**2** Not the preacher, not the teacher, but it’s me, O Lord,  
standing in the need of prayer.

Not the preacher, not the teacher, but it’s me, O Lord,  
standing in the need of prayer. [Refrain]

**3** Not my father, not my mother, but it’s me, O Lord,  
standing in the need of prayer.

Not my father, not my mother, but it’s me, O Lord,  
standing in the need of prayer. [Refrain]

4 Not the stranger, not my neighbor, but it's me, O Lord,  
 standing in the need of prayer.  
 Not the stranger, not my neighbor, but it's me, O Lord,  
 standing in the need of prayer. [Refrain]

**\*Benediction**                      **Go My Children, with My Blessing**                      **#431**

- God is good...
- We have been reminded of this call to love and serve through the gifts of story and music today. Thank you to all who participated and gave to the Lord.
- Sarah, Jan, choir, Ryan Karly Lind, handbells
- Let us SING the benediction...

1 Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone.  
 Waking, sleeping, I am with you; you are my own.  
 In my love's baptismal river I have made you mine forever.  
 Go, my children, with my blessing—you are my own.

**Postlude**                      **“Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus”**                      **Sarah Park**  
*[by W. J. Kirkpatrick ]*