



**Hymn Sing Sunday**  
**September 27th, 2020**

*Twin Towers United Methodist Church*

1411 Oak Street, Alameda, CA 94501

510.522.6744 \*\* [twintowers.office@gmail.com](mailto:twintowers.office@gmail.com) \*\* [www.twintowersumc.org](http://www.twintowersumc.org)

## WORSHIP GUIDE

*Before you begin your time of worship, find a comfortable place to be and gather whatever you might need: your Bible, some paper or a notebook, something to write with, your computer/connected device (if you intend to listen to music online), etc. Feel free to adapt this worship guide in any way that makes best sense to you and those you might be gathered with. (Consider inviting someone – a friend, a family member – to worship with you.) Commit to spending the next hour with God.*

### **PRELUDE: Blessed Assurance, UMH 369**

Listen here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yuyf1YQvcwY>

1. Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!  
O what a foretaste of glory divine!  
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,  
born of his Spirit, washed in his  
blood.

#### *Refrain:*

This is my story, this is my song,  
praising my Savior all the day long  
(x2)

2. Perfect submission, perfect delight,  
visions of rapture now burst on my  
sight;  
angels descending bring from above  
echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

3. Perfect submission, all is at rest;  
I in my Savior am happy and blest,  
watching and waiting, looking above,  
filled with his goodness, lost in his  
love.

**WELCOME & SCRIPTURE** [Psalm 95:1-7 / CEB] – The Psalms are the ancient prayer book and hymnal of the Israelites. As such, they invite us over and over into praising God - through song, dance, and all kinds of instrumentation. Here is just one such call from Psalm 95:

Come, let's sing out loud to the Lord!

Let's raise a joyful shout to the rock of our salvation!

<sup>2</sup> Let's come before him with thanks!

Let's shout songs of joy to him!

<sup>3</sup> The Lord is a great God,

the great king over all other gods.

<sup>4</sup>The earth's depths are in his hands;  
the mountain heights belong to him;

<sup>5</sup> the sea, which he made, is his  
along with the dry ground,  
which his own hands formed.

<sup>6</sup> Come, let's worship and bow down!  
Let's kneel before the Lord, our maker!

<sup>7</sup> He is our God,  
and we are the people of his pasture,  
the sheep in his hands.

We gather this morning then, first and foremost, to sing out loud to our God, to raise a shout of joy to the rock of our salvation, to declare God is God...over our lives, over all that is happening, over all creation. Singing - lifting our voices - is one of the important practices we have to pray, and to praise and thank God!

As we do so, it is clear that God is not the only one being blessed. We are too! Researchers tell us that there are actual health benefits to singing. These include: improving your mood, your sleep, even your posture; relieving stress, anxiety, and depression, and releasing pain-reducing endorphins! Moreover, these benefits are enhanced when done in a group setting! The truth is that singing together is a unifying experience, a visible, concrete expression of what we proclaim: that we are one body, united in Christ. We can feel that as we sing together. As we sing to praise our God, we find that the blessing comes back to us!

Every one of today's songs was suggested by someone in our community. Every one of these songs speaks to someone's heart and spirit, be it a melody of comfort and consolation for them, or a tune of great encouragement and call. We all know the deep power of music, don't we, and how some music just speaks to us, speaks to that place deep in us, reverberates in our bones? Yet we in the church have become known for our worship wars which are most often centered on music. We fight over what is sacred, appropriate, beautiful, meaningful, theologically sound, and soulful. I confess I have always been troubled by this. Over the years, I have learned to sing music that is not "my" music only because I know it means so much to another. I have learned to sing in different languages, not because I know how to, but because it reminds

me that God speaks all languages and is known in all languages. I have come to understand that music can both comfort us, it can also stretch us. And both are good.

My hope is that we will hear something for ourselves in each of today's hymns. If you know the song, sing out! If you don't know it, sing out anyway! Listen to the words and open your heart to the melody. After each hymn, I invite you to share: aloud or via chat a word or phrase that blessed you, and, if you're willing, what the hymn means to you.

Great thanks to all who sent in their hymn suggestions. I'm sorry we couldn't use them all! I also give great thanks to Lucca, Anne, and the Tigas family who have helped to prepare and record the hymns today. They are all gems!

### **OPENING HYMN - Great Is Thy Faithfulness, UMH 140**

*Listen here:* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ErwiBz1QA4o>

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father,  
There is no shadow of turning with thee;  
Thou changest not, thy compassions,  
they fail not;  
as thou has been, thou forever wilt be.

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
thine own dear presence to cheer and to  
guide;  
strength for today and bright hope for  
tomorrow,  
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

*Refrain:*

Great is thy faithfulness! (x2)  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
all I have needed thy hand hath provided;  
great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!

### **OPENING PRAYER – *You are invited to take a deep breath as you pray:***

Holy, Creating, Creative God,  
We sing from the depths of our sorrow.  
We sing from the abundance of our joy.  
We sing in voices separate and unique.  
We sing with one voice as your body.  
May the words of our mouths, whether in speech or song,

and the meditations of our hearts, whether in prose or poetry,  
be pleasing to you this morning. Amen.

*Rev. Joanna Harader, Spacious Faith*

**HYMN SING** - The following songs were suggested by members of the congregation. You are invited to listen to these, or create a playlist of your own to have a time of praise and communing with God. Either way, you are invited to open your heart and sing along to the hymns. After each, pause and consider: what word or phrase most spoke to you and your spirit? What do you hear for your own life through this hymn? Make note of your responses before moving to the next hymn.

**What a Friend We Have in Jesus, UMH 526**

*Listen here:* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kLPZas0dBBA>

**Open the Eyes of My Heart, Lord (W&S 3008)**

*Listen here:* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z-FI27lqtIg>

**Change My Heart, O God (TFWS 2152)**

*Listen here:* [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OU3q\\_eQxrp8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OU3q_eQxrp8)

**O Spirit of the Living God (UMH 539)**

*Listen here:* [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KzmLjE-il\\_M](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KzmLjE-il_M)

**I Sought the Lord (UMH 341)**

*Listen here:* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8cdxUckqFbQ&t=64s>

**Let There Be Peace on Earth (UMH 431)**

*Listen here:* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rFi2osFtf4>

**PRAYERS of the PEOPLE** – *Spend time in prayer. What did you hear for yourself through today’s scripture and reflection? Talk to God about it. Then lift up the joys and concerns that are in your heart. You might write them down, speak them aloud, or pray them in silence.*

*I would be honored to pray with you and for you.*

*Please send a note via text, mail, or email or give me a call if I can do so.*

**SHARING OUR GIFTS**— *How might you offer yourself and all that you have to God this week? How are you being invited to practice generosity? Spend a moment listening for God’s direction.*

*You are invited to contribute financially towards the purpose and ministry of TTUMC. We are a congregation committed to being conduits of God’s healing in our neighborhood and beyond, and in so doing, impact the last and the least. You can contribute by mailing in a check, dropping off cash, or giving online via PayPal (visit [www.twintowersumc.org](http://www.twintowersumc.org)). Take a moment and do that now.*

*Please consider sending in a special donation for wildfire disaster relief and recovery. Thank you!*

**CLOSING HYMN** - “Pass it On”, UMH 572

*Listen:* <https://youtu.be/iwpZdR7m3S8> [Great thanks to the Tigas family!]

1. It only takes a spark  
to get a fire going,  
And soon all those around  
can warm up in its glowing  
That’s how it is with God’s love,  
once you’ve experienced it,  
You spread His love to everyone,  
you want to pass it on

2. What a wondrous time is spring -  
when all the trees are budding,  
The birds begin to sing,  
The flowers start their blooming  
That’s how it is with God’s love  
Once you’ve experienced it

You want to sing,  
It’s fresh like spring  
You want to pass it on

3. I wish for you, my friend,  
This happiness that I’ve found -  
You can depend on Him  
It matters not where you’re bound  
I’ll shout it from the Mountain top  
I want my world to know  
The Lord of love has come to me  
I want to pass it on

**BENEDICTION** - May we go from this time with a song in our heart. May it be a song that sings to us of a love so great, a peace so deep, and a hope so impatient that we cannot help but get up and dance: dance with God, dance with neighbors, and dance with the world. Go in peace and serve our God in joy!

**NOW GO AND PASS CHRIST'S PEACE!**

You are invited to spend the next stretch reaching out. Pick up our directory and consider calling someone you don't yet know well or someone who might not know others. It doesn't need to be complicated. Perhaps something as simple as, "Hi! I'm calling to say 'hello'. How have you been?"



If you are on Facebook, please like and follow our page:

<https://www.facebook.com/ttuncAlameda/>

**Scripture for Sunday, October 4th (World Communion Sunday)** - Isaiah 5:1-7; Matthew 21:33-46 (the MSG)

This week, please hold in God's light:

- The upcoming elections - to transform the divisions, to discern our vote with faith and love.
- **Phillip Taddei** healing and recovery journey.