

463 How Firm a Foundation

1 How firm a foun - da - tion, ye saints of the Lord,
2 "Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dis - mayed,
3 "When through the deep wa - ters I call thee to go,
4 "When through fi - ery tri - als thy path - way shall lie,
5 "The soul that on Je - sus hath leaned for re - pose,

is laid for your faith in God's ex - cel - lent Word!
for I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;
the riv - ers of sor - row shall not o - ver - flow;
my grace, all suf - fi - cient, shall be thy sup - ply;
I will not, I will not de - sert to its foes;

What more can be said than to you God hath said,
I'll strength - en thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,
for I will be near thee, thy trou - bles to bless,
the flame shall not hurt thee; I on - ly de - sign
that soul, though all hell should en - deav - or to shake,

to you who for ref - uge to Je - sus have fled?
up - held by my righ - teous, om - nip - o - tent hand.
and sanc - ti - fy to thee thy deep - est dis - tress.
thy dross to con - sume, and thy gold to re - fine.
I'll nev - er, no, nev - er, no, nev - er for - sake."

It seems odd now to think of singing this text to ADESTE FIDELES, but mainline churches did so well into the 20th century because of a cultural bias against shape note music. The vigor of the present tune seems especially right for the final line's reference to Hebrews 13:5.