

Today we give thanks to God and we seek God's blessing as we set apart these hymnals for the glory and praise of God.

Nearly a decade ago, an article was published with the title, "15 Reasons We Should Still Be Using Hymnals." Among the many reasons, including the way hymnals teach people to read music, my favorite is #6 – "Hymnals don't screw things up. Unless some kid has ripped the page out of your hymnal, you know the hymn you're looking for is going to be there. Technology lets us down all the time, and if it happens in the middle of a song or hymn, you're sunk."

I am thankful to all of our generous givers who made this set of hymnals possible for our use, beginning next week.

We give you thanks, O God, creator of the universe, for your abundant gifts.
The whole earth reflects your glory; all your creatures praise you.
We lift our voices to join the sounds and song of heaven and earth,
of things seen and unseen, in praise of your glory.
You alone do great wonders,
and by your wisdom you made the heavens and the earth.
You have breathed your breath of mercy into your children,
to hear from them a joyful shout with their own song.
In the fullness of time, O God, you sang your new song, our Lord Jesus Christ,
who is exalted by poets, musicians, and all your saints.
Your Spirit is the breath of our music and song.
Send your blessing upon us and upon these hymnals,
which we dedicate to your praise and glory.
Enrich the lives of your people through them,
and grant us faith to hear your gracious purpose in them.
By your Holy Spirit, let these hymnals enliven the proclamation of your word
to the building up of your church, to the glory of your name,
and to the good of all your people;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.