

August 30, 2026 + 10:30 A.M.

Fifteenth Sunday of Pentecost

We Join in Worship

Liturgist: Hunter Balczo

*If you need extra space for a wheelchair or walker, or if you have young children with you, please feel free to make use of our
Prayground, the extra space across the aisle from the sound booth.*

PRELUDE

Arioso

Johann Sebastian Bach

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (Adapted from *Psalms* 67)

Leader: God, may you be gracious to us and bless us and make your face to shine upon us, that
your way may be known upon earth, your saving power among all nations.

ALL: Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

Leader: Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you judge the peoples with equity and guide
the nations upon earth.

ALL: Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

Leader: The earth has yielded its increase; God, our God, has blessed us.

**ALL: May God continue to bless us; let all the ends of the earth revere God! Let us
worship God!**

***OPENING HYMN:** "All Creatures of Our God and King" (455)

INVITATION TO CONFESSION:

Leader: In his letter to the Romans, Paul reminds us that we are not saved on the basis of works but
rather by God's grace. Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sins.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

God of grace, we join our hearts and voices in confessing unto you. When the whirlwinds of crisis and
chaos strike the world, we become fearful and frantic. We become overwhelmed and try to hide away
from what is happening. We lose faith. In our fear, we isolate ourselves and ignore the plight of those
most in need. Forgive us. Speak to us out of those whirlwinds and remind us that we can face the world
and its storms if we have faith in you. In the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Lord, we pray. Amen.

KYRIE: Glory to God, No. 579 (unison)

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Friends, hear the good news! We may be judged by our works, but we are saved by
God's grace!

ALL: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven! Hallelujah! Thanks be to God!

GLORIA PATRI (577)

Glory be to the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now, ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

As it was in the beginning, is now, ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

STATEMENT OF FAITH: (Adapted from *The Confession of 1967*)

The power of God's love in Christ to transform the world discloses that the Redeemer is the Lord and Creator who made all things to serve the purpose of love. God has created the world of space and time to be the sphere of God's dealings with people. In its beauty and vastness, sublimity and awfulness, order and disorder, the world reflects to the eye of faith the majesty and mystery of its Creator.

We Hear God's Word

EMBODIED WORD FOR DISCIPLES OF ALL AGES

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Gracious God, as we turn to your Word for us, may the Spirit of God rest upon us. Help us to be steadfast in our hearing, in our speaking, in our believing, and in our living. Amen.

HEBREW BIBLE LESSON: *Job 38:1-11*

EPISTLE LESSON: *Romans 11:1-6*

GOSPEL LESSON: *Mark 4:35-41*

SERMON: Peace! Be Still...and Know

SECOND HYMN: "It Is Well with My Soul" (Glory to God 840)

We Respond in Faith

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

OFFERING INVITATION:

Leader: As we weather storms together, may we take heart that Jesus is in the boat with us! Let us give our tithes and offerings so that we can support each other and our neighbors as storms rage outside and within. If you are here in person, please place your offering in the plate as it is passed. If you are worshiping from home, please mail in your checks or use our online giving option on the website. Now let us practice stewardship as we listen to today's offertory.

OFFERTORY *Bourée*

G.F. Handel

***DOXOLOGY**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures high and low;
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, in Jesus fully known;
Creator, Word, and Spirit one;
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

PRAYER OF DEDICATION: (Unison)

God of grace, you are faithful even when we lose faith. We honor your faithfulness by offering these gifts to you and committing to work with you. In the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Lord, we pray. Amen.

We Go Into the World

***CLOSING HYMN:** "Let All Things Now Living" (554)

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Adobe

Macon D. Sumerlin

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* So that we can properly greet people who come to the building during Sunday morning worship, Door A will be the only unlocked external door during the worship service.

PEEK AT THE WEEK:

SUNDAY 8/30: Worship In Person & Online – 10:30 AM
MONDAY 8/31: GA – 6:30 PM
 Al-Anon – 7:00 PM
TUESDAY 9/1: Private Flute Lessons 2-8 PM (FH)
 Deacons – 6:30 PM
 AA – 7:30 PM
WEDNESDAY 9/2: Private Flute Lessons 2-8 PM (FH)
 GA – 7:00 PM
THURSDAY 9/3: Choir – 7:00 PM
SATURDAY 9/5: AA – 6:30 PM
SUNDAY 9/6: Communion
MONDAY 9/7: LABOR DAY

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **FAITH DEVELOPMENT SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE EXTENDED** We're once again collecting school supplies to support students and teachers in Highland! If you'd like to participate, you're invited to bring a few school supplies to worship through **September 6**. If you aren't able to come to worship, supplies can be dropped off Mondays-Thursdays, 8 am to noon, in the collection bin near the church office until September 3. If you'd like to help but can't make it to the church building at all, you can mail in a monetary donation marked for school supplies, and we'll do the shopping for you. If you have any questions, contact Heather Casiano. Needed school supplies include: Boxes of facial tissue (such as Kleenex) • Disinfectant wipes • Hand sanitizer • #2 pencils • Crayons – box of 24 • washable markers – box of 8 • dry erase markers, low-odor • glue sticks and bottles of glue • highlighters • single subject notebooks, spiral & composition style • wide-ruled loose leaf paper • pocket folders • scissors • colored pencils – box of 12 • pink erasers

- **AUGUST CALENDAR FUNDRAISER** For the month of August, we will be doing a Calendar Fundraiser. A person selects a day to sponsor and donates the amount of the date sponsored. For example, if someone sponsors August 20, they would donate \$20. A copy of the calendar will be available in the narthex and digitally online. There is a limit of **three** sponsors per day, and it is open to members of the congregation and friends of the church.
- **FELLOWSHIP HOSTING IN THE FALL** We are asking folks to sign up to host fellowship time in the Fall. Our ministries and committees have been doing a fantastic job, and they are getting a well-deserved break! Hosting entails bringing a simple snack to share, setting it out, and cleaning up afterwards. On Sundays with no sign-ups, we will still have coffee and tea to enjoy.
- **CHOIR PRACTICE STARTS THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3RD!** We need singers of all sorts and welcome singers of all skill levels! We have a great time, and singing is a great way to give glory to God!
- **SAVE THE DATE!** Our Fall Kickoff and Brunch will be held on Sunday, Sept. 20 after worship. Our Session will provide delicious dishes for brunch, and you'll get a preview of all the exciting things happening this fall in the life of our congregation. A sign-up sheet will be available in the narthex beginning on Sept. 6. Questions? Contact Heather Casiano (hcasiano@fpchighland.org).
- **FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!** If you don't already follow us on Facebook and Instagram, please start doing so @firstpchighland on both Facebook and Instagram.
- **INTERESTED IN BECOMING A MEMBER OF FPCH?** You are always welcome here, whether a member or not! If you are interested in joining as a member, though, we would love to have you! Please talk to Pastor Tyler if you would like to learn more.

Opportunities to serve as the HEART, HANDS, and FEET of Jesus Christ:

- **BLESSING BOX** Please continue to place items in the Blessing Box and take items if you are a person in need! Items most commonly donated: Canned goods with pull tabs, socks, toilet paper, non-perishable foods, small snacks, toiletries, baby wipes and diapers. Please check expiration dates!
- **HELP STOCK OUR PANTRY!** Please pick up a beautifully decorated grocery bag in the narthex and fill it to help the church's food pantry.
- **GOT SNEAKERS??** The sneakers that we all collect will help raise money to support our church's general fund AND will help our environment by keeping sneakers out of landfills. Bring the sneakers (athletic shoes only) to the church and put them in one of the blue bins...either by Door D (inside) or in the narthex.

Prayer List

Anthony
Brady Vanes
George Griner
Guy Hendricks
Bill and Anettia Holmes
David Markley
David Kingen
Diana and Ray Mendoza
Janet Orem
Cindy Waltz and Sister
Yvonne Suroviak
Georgette and Garry Sknerski
Jakob Holden
Denise Matthys
Jan Oprea
Florance Cody
Kathy & Chuck Pumnea
The Windstrups
Rick Parker
Gary Everhart
Darlene O'Brien
Doug & Sue Matthews
Janet Terpstra
Glen Nahler
Tom
David Hamblin
Jana Tolley
Larry & Bonnie Perryman

Delta Rose
Winnie Owen
Breeanne
Mom Bechtler
Marian Clayton
Ella P
Rita Stronczek
Keren, Zuriel, and Gedeon
Edna Cruz
Charlie
Jerry & Rena Martinez
Tyler Gall
Luana Sulkowski
Sonny Buono
Tammy
Mike Kelly
Sue Heth
Oscar Ochoa
Jean and Clara
Dave Shelborne
Kali Rosalia
Wendy
Jessica S
Shirley McKnight
Renee Williams
Loved ones of Jill Kitowski

Job 38:1-11

38 Then the Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind:

² “Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge?

³ Gird up your loins like a man;

I will question you, and you shall declare to me.

⁴ “Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth?

Tell me, if you have understanding.

⁵ Who determined its measurements—surely you know!

Or who stretched the line upon it?

⁶ On what were its bases sunk,

or who laid its cornerstone

⁷ when the morning stars sang together

and all the heavenly beings shouted for joy?

⁸ “Or who shut in the sea with doors

when it burst out from the womb,

⁹ when I made the clouds its garment

and thick darkness its swaddling band,

¹⁰ and prescribed bounds for it,

and set bars and doors,

¹¹ and said, ‘Thus far shall you come and no farther,

and here shall your proud waves be stopped?’

Romans 11:1-6

11 I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. ² God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew. Do you not know what the scripture says of Elijah, how he pleads with God against Israel? ³ “Lord, they have killed your prophets, they have demolished your altars; I alone am left, and they are seeking my life.” ⁴ But what is the divine reply to him? “I have kept for myself seven thousand who have not bowed the knee to Baal.” ⁵ So, too, at the present time there is a remnant chosen by grace. ⁶ But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works, otherwise grace would no longer be grace.

Mark 4:35-41

³⁵ On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, ‘Let us go across to the other side.’ ³⁶ And leaving the crowd behind, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. Other boats were with him. ³⁷ A great gale arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped. ³⁸ But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke him up and said to him, ‘Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?’ ³⁹ He woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, ‘Peace! Be still!’ Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm. ⁴⁰ He said to them, ‘Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?’ ⁴¹ And they were filled with great awe and said to one another, ‘Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?’

Peace! Be Still...and Know

Job 38:1-11; Romans 11:1-6; Mark 4:35-41

“Peace! Be still!” A great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was being swamped. And Jesus spoke those words. “Peace! Be still!” The disciples were panicked, fearing for their lives as the storm raged. And Jesus spoke those words. “Peace! Be still!” Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm. And their panic and fear were replaced by wonder. They said, “Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?” Who then is this? This is Jesus of Nazareth, Son of God and son of Mary, Word made flesh, God in the flesh, human being in the flesh who understands the things we feel, the things we fear. Even the wind and the sea obey him!

“Peace! Be still!” I imagine many of us have needed those words these past few weeks. I know that ALL of us have needed the speaker of those words these past few weeks! As a great windstorm arose and battered homes and garages and fences and cars. As beloved, beautiful trees were uprooted and became battering rams. As branches and power lines fell. As electricity blinked out and heat seeped in. As the waters arose. “Peace! Be still!” As panic spiked, as fear took root—for family members, for neighbors, for church siblings. “Peace! Be still!” As questions arose. “How will I clear this?” “How will I clean this up?” “How will I pay for this?” “Why did this happen?” “Why did God allow this to happen?” “Peace! Be still!”

In response, Jesus has his own questions. “Why are you afraid?” “Have you still no faith?” He does not ask them to shame the disciples in the boat nor to shame us in our boats today. He asks those questions as an invitation to truly trust and truly believe in him and the power of his love for us. “Why are you afraid when I am here? You need not fear.” “Have you still no faith after all that I have done? Trust me. Believe me. Believe in me.” It is an invitation to witness his power, to remember his deeds, to reflect upon his words. Yes, even when the storm is raging! “Peace! Be still! I am in this boat with you!”

Dear ones, it has been a challenging few weeks for our community. Indeed, it has been a challenging *summer* for our community...with storm after storm. And we have witnessed devastating events happening all over the world. Wildfires, wars, heat waves, hurricanes, earthquakes, typhoons, even volcanic eruptions. It all seems to be happening at once. It is natural for us to wonder, to ponder, to question. Why? How? How long, O Lord?

And if there is anybody who understands what it means to feel the pain of the very world shaking, to withdraw from everything, and to ask the hard questions, it is Job the Uzite. Job went through stages of suffering and response to suffering. As he experienced grief and suffering, he never cursed God, but he certainly experienced sadness, frustration, anger, and incomprehension. And if you do a very careful reading of the book of *Job*, you'll discover that he is wrestling with a much deeper, scarier pain than that of thinking God is causing him harm. You'll find that there are times when Job comes to believe that God is completely absent. He says things like, “Why won't he answer my prayer?” “Why do you hide your face?” “If I go forward, he is not there; or backward, I cannot perceive him; on the left he hides, and I cannot behold him; I turn to the right, but I cannot see him.” And then in the midst of Job's final statement of his suffering: “I cry to you and you do not answer me.”

It is in these moments that we see Job at his absolute lowest and most lost. This is something entirely different from cries of rage and sadness. This is coming to a belief that there is nobody to even hear those cries in the first place. This is the type of moment that hardens our hearts, that sucks at our very souls like a demontor's kiss. Feelings of abandonment, loneliness, desolation, absence. Perhaps some of us have also reached that point at various times in our lives. Perhaps some of us felt it a bit this week.

Well, as Job goes through it, something incredible happens. As Job contemplates the possibility of God's absence, God makes God's presence known in the most spectacular of ways. A mighty whirlwind appears, and God speaks out of the whirlwind. Now we folks of the Region know firsthand what it is like when

the wind howls and the rain pounds and the thunder rolls. We know how loud and chaotic that can be! And piercing through that loudness, meaning louder than that loudness, is the voice of God!

This is a voice of sheer power, a voice that could make the mountains tremble—after all it is *the* voice that spoke all of Creation into existence. The voice, or we could call it the Word, of Creation calls out directly to this individual human being. And with that powerful voice, God makes God's self known by presenting Job with....everything. God appears in this whirling, primal force of nature and reminds Job that everything that ever was and ever will be is from God.

God pulls Job back from the precipice of nothingness by laying out the evidence of everything-ness, the evidence that God is present at all times and that one needs only to look at the stars or the ocean or the patterns of weather to remember that presence. Job has no choice but to marvel in awe and wonder at his smallness in the grand scheme of the cosmos.

But thank God it doesn't stop there, in that sense of smallness in the presence of all that ever was and ever will be. You see, after God recounts the galaxies, the oceans, and the phenomena of weather, God asks, "Who has put wisdom in the inward parts, or given understanding to the mind?" God thus takes this story of Creation directly to us humans. God then goes to the animals: "Do you know when the mountain goats give birth? Do you observe the calving of the deer?" "Is it by your wisdom that the hawk soars, and spreads its wings toward the south? Is it at your command that the eagle mounts up and makes its nest on high?"

This transcendent, all powerful being who created all the cosmos also created us and put Wisdom in our inmost parts and understanding in our minds. This transcendent, all powerful being cares about the birth of individual goats and deer, about the ability of hawks to fly and eagles to nest. And these things are an integral part of it all. What seems insignificant in the face of the vastness of the universe is actually significant and meaningful to the one who *made* the universe. In short, God cares about all of it. God cares about all of us.

Even as the storm rages. Especially as the storm rages! God is calling out in it. God is calling out *of* it. God is reminding us who made it all. God is reminding us who made *us*. God is making it clear that God is not absent when we are in the midst of our deepest struggles, of our worst whirlwinds. Indeed, instead, God is right there in the boat with us. And God does not just speak out of the whirlwind. God also speaks *to* it, and it obeys. "Peace! Be still!" This, loved ones, is the power of God. Both the voice that booms from the whirlwind and the voice that can dissolve the whirlwind into calm. And it is the voice that speaks to us as we weather the weather, as we get anxious, panicky, and fearful. "Peace! Be still!"

Ah, and that "Be still!" is a call back to a psalm that many of us know well and that Jesus and his disciples in that boat certainly would have known well. "Peace! Be still...and know that I am God!" In the boat with us, this is his command. This is his invitation. Peace. Be still and know that I am God. Be still and know that I am. Be still and know. Be still. Be.

As we clean up and rebuild, as we help our neighbors, as we ask for help ourselves, as we come together in care and love, as we continue asking big questions, may we take time to pause and remember that the big, big God who made us all and whose voice can overpower the whirlwind is in this with us. Let us pause and hear those words. "Peace! Be still...and know that I am God!"

Amen!

Francis of Assisi, 1225

Trans. and para. William Henry Draper, c. 1910; alt.

Geistliche Kirchengesäng, 1623; alt.

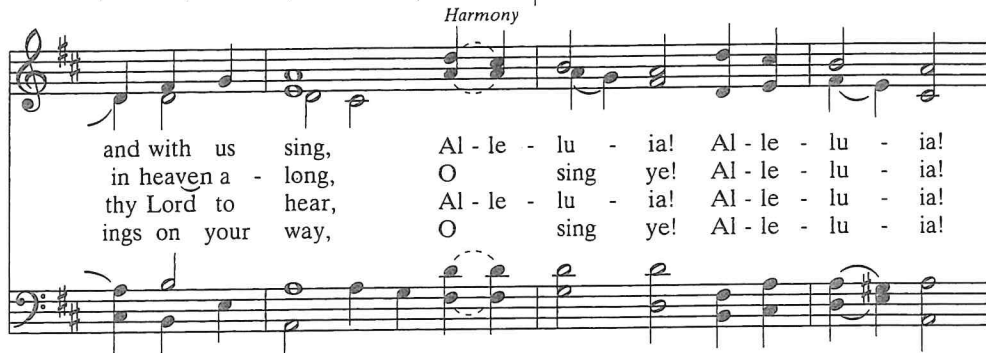
Harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

Unison



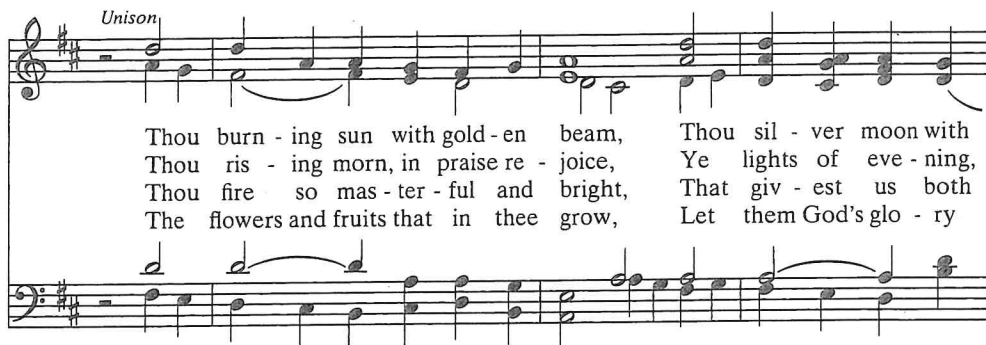
1. All crea-tures of our God and King, Lift up your voice
 2. Thou rush-ing wind that art so strong, Ye clouds that sail
 3. Thou flow-ing wa-ter, pure and clear, Make mu-sic for
 4. Thou fer-tile earth, that day by day Un-fold-est bless-

Harmony



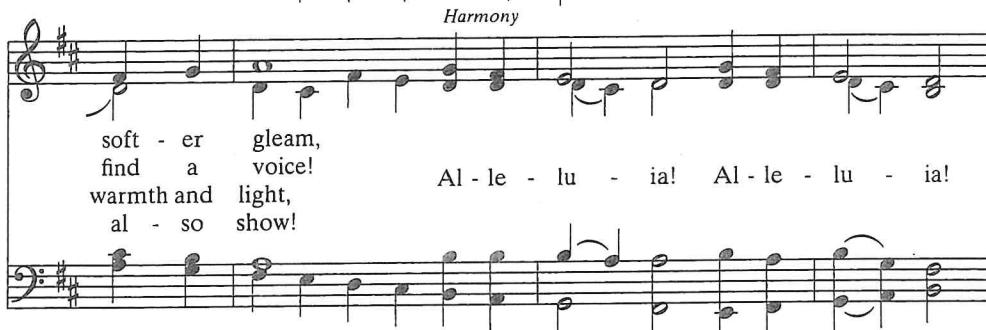
and with us sing, Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!
 in heav-en a-long, O sing ye! Al-le-lu-ia!
 thy Lord to hear, Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!
 ings on your way, O sing ye! Al-le-lu-ia!

Unison



Thou burn-ing sun with gold-en beam, Thou sil-ver moon with
 Thou ris-ing morn, in praise re-joice, Ye lights of eve-ning,
 Thou fire so mas-ter-ful and bright, That giv-est us both
 The flowers and fruits that in thee grow, Let them God's glo-ry

Harmony



soft-er gleam,
 find a voice!
 warmth and light, Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!
 al-so show!

Unison



Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!

5. And everyone of tender heart,
 Forgiving others, take your part.
 O sing ye! Alleluia!
 Ye who long pain and sorrow bear,
 Praise God and cast on God your care!
 Alleluia! Alleluia!
 Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

6. All creatures, your Creator bless,
 And worship God in humbleness.
 O sing ye! Alleluia!
 Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,
 And praise the Spirit, Three in One!
 Alleluia! Alleluia!
 Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

It Is Well with My Soul

1 When peace like a riv - er at - tend - eth my way, when
 2 Though Sa - tan should buf - fet, though tri - als should come, let
 3 He lives: O the bliss of this glo - ri - ous thought. My
 4 Lord, has - ten the day when our faith shall be sight, the

sor - rows like sea bil - lows roll, what - ev - er my lot, thou hast
 this blest as - sur - ance con - trol, that Christ hath re - gard - ed my
 sin, not in part, but the whole, is nailed to the cross and I
 clouds be rolled back as a scroll, the trum - pet shall sound and the

taught me to say, it is well, it is well with my soul.
 help - less es - tate, and hath shed his own blood for my soul.
 bear it no more. Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!
 Lord shall de - scend; e - ven so it is well with my soul.

Refrain

It is well with my soul;
 It is well with my soul;

it is well; it is well with my soul.

Let All Things Now Living

ASH GROVE 6.6.11.6.6.11 D

Welsh folk melody

Katherine K. Davis, 1939; alt.

Harm. Gerald H. Knight (1908-1979)

Unison

1. Let all things now liv - ing A song of thanks - giv - ing
 2. By law God en - forc - es. The stars in their cours - es,

To God our Cre - a - tor tri - um - phant - ly raise;
 The sun in its or - bit o - be - dient - ly shine;

Who fash - ioned and made us, Pro - tect - ed and stayed us,
 The hills and the moun - tains, The riv - ers and foun - tains,

By guid - ing us on to the end of our days.
 The depths of the o - cean pro - claim God di - vine.

Harmony

God's ban - ners are o'er us, Pure light goes be - fore us,
We, too, should be voic - ing Our love and re - joic - ing

A pil - lar of fire shin - ing forth in the night:
With glad ad - o - ra - tion, a song let us raise:

Unison

Till shad - ows have van - ished, All fear - ful - ness ban - ished,
Till all things now liv - ing U - nite in thanks - giv - ing,

As for - ward we trav - el from light in - to Light.
To God in the high - est, ho - san - na and praise.