**St. John United Church of Christ**

***“In Christ We Live, Celebrate, & Serve”***

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| October 15, 2023 | 20th Sunday after Pentecost (A) |
| Rev. Karla Frost, Pastor | Dave Ekstrand, Dir. of Music |
| 9:30 Zoom & In-Person Worship | 9:30 Sunday School for Children |
| 2901 Nameoki Road | Granite City, IL 62040 |
| [E-stjohnucc2901gc@yahoo.com](mailto:E-stjohnucc2901gc@yahoo.com)  Web-stjohnuccgranitecity.com | (618) 877-6060  Instagram: @stjohnucc2901gc |

YouTube: gcstjohnucc Facebook: Search St. John UCC Granite City

Large print bulletins are available from the Ushers.

***Bold italic denotes congregation reads or sings.***

\*Denotes all who are able, please stand.

**WE COME TO WORSHIP GOD**

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC AND BELLS CALLING TO WORSHIP

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

\*GREETING ONE ANOTHER WITH A WAVE

\*SUNG RESPONSE ***“Majesty”*** #43

***Majesty, worship his majesty;***

***unto Jesus be all glory, honor, and praise.***

***Majesty, kingdom authority***

***flow from his throne unto his own, his anthem raise.***

***So exalt, lift up on high the name of Jesus;***

***magnify, come glorify Christ Jesus, the King.***

***Majesty, worship his majesty;***

***Jesus, who died, now glorified, King of all kings.***

A STORY FOR ALL GOD’S CHILDREN Matthew 22:1-14

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son.” (Vss. 1-2)

SUNG RESPONSE ***“Come to a Wedding”*** Vs. 1 #609

CENTERING THOUGHT1

Rejoice in the Lord always. God is worthy of our hearts’ delight.

PRELUDE AND CENTERING OUR HEARTS ON WORSHIP

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*This is the Day* Garrett

CALL TO WORSHIP AND PRAYER From Psalms 106 & 19

Praise the Lord! O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,

***For his steadfast love endures forever.***

Who can utter the mighty doings of the Lord

or declare all his praise?

***Happy are those who observe justice,***

***who do righteousness at all times.***

The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul;

***The precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart;***

Moreover, by them is your servant warned;

***In keeping them there is great reward.***

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart

be acceptable to you, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.

Let us pray:

***Together we praise you, O Lord. And, we seek to stand firm in obeying you as individuals and the church. Forgive us when we do not remain obedient, when we allow others to influence our decisions in poor ways. Forgive us when we think there is no way or expectation to settle matters with faithfulness. Grant us your Spirit to lead us in your true, honorable, just, pure, pleasing, commendable, excellent and praiseworthy ways. May we rejoice to know your peace through Jesus our Savior. Amen.***

\*HYMN  ***“Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart”***  #113

\*RESPONSIVE STATEMENT OF FAITH2  Portions of the

United Church of Christ Statement of Faith, Doxology Adapted 1981

We believe in you, O God, Eternal Spirit, God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God, and to your deeds we testify:

***You call the worlds into being,***

***Create persons in your own image,***

***and set before each one the ways of life and death.***

You seek in holy love to save all people

from aimlessness and sin…..

***You call us into your church***

***to accept the cost and joy of discipleship,***

***to be your servants in the service of others,***

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***to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil,***

***to share in Christ’s baptism and eat at his table,***

***to join him in his passion and victory.***

You promise to all who trust you

forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace,

courage in the struggle for justice and peace,

your presence in trial and rejoicing,

and eternal life in your realm which has no end.

***Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you. Amen.***

**WE HEAR GOD’S WORD**

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON Exodus 32:1-14 pg. 75

ANTHEM *Just a Little talk with Jesus* AMENZ

EPISTLE LESSON Philippians 4:1-9 pg. 187

REFLECTION

**WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD**

\*HYMN ***“What a Friend We Have in Jesus”***  #473

PASTORAL PRAYER & UNISON 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.***

STEWARDSHIP INVITATION

OFFERTORY *Lord We Hear Your Word* Clarkson

\*SUNG RESPONSE3 ***“Give Thanks”*** #359

***Give thanks with a grateful heart,***

***give thanks to the Holy One,***

***give thanks because he’s given Jesus Christ his Son.***

***Give thanks with a grateful heart,***

***give thanks to the Holy One,***

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***give thanks because he’s given Jesus Christ his Son.***

***And now let the weak say “I am strong,”***

***let the poor say “I am rich,”***

***because of what the Lord has done for us.***

***And now let the weak say “I am strong,”***

***let the poor say “I am rich,”***

***because of what the Lord has done for us, Give thanks!***

\*UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

***We rejoice to give thanks to you, O Lord, through these offerings. Use them, and us, to uplift whatever is true, honorable, just, pure, pleasing, commendable, excellent and worthy of praise. May your peace, which surpasses all understanding, guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus as we faithfully serve in his name. Amen.***

\*HYMN ***“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”*** #72

\*BENEDICTION

\*POSTLUDE  *We Remember You*  Harrah

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Welcome to worship in the name of God, the maker of all; Jesus, the Savior; and the Holy Spirit, divine guide of our lives. Amen.

The **bulletin** is given in memory of my mother Myrtle Gee’s 98th birthday on October 18th and in honor of Mina McBrian’s 98th on October 14th by Diana & Leroy Schaefer.

If you would like to place **flowers on the altar**, and pick them up after church or on Monday, please call **Rosalie Watson** (618-741-2979). Flower Emporium offers $25 (small), $30 (medium), or $35 (large) arrangements. If you would like to sponsor the **bulletins**, please call the **church office** at (618) 877-6060. The next available date to sponsor the bulletin is October 29th.

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Thank you to **Rev. Charles Preston** for serving as liturgist and to AMENZ (**George Cochran, Jack Dawson, Dave Ekstrand, & John Nitchman**)for offering the anthem.

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**THIS WEEK**

Today: **Annual Reports Due**

In-person and Zoom Worship, 9:30 a.m.

**Sausage Dinner, 11:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.**

Monday: Sausage Dinner Clean-Up

Tuesday: Quilters, 8:30 a.m.

Bible Study, 12:30 p.m.

Wednesday: TOPS, 9:00 a.m.

Head Start in Nursery, 1-2 p.m.

Bell Choir, 5:30 p.m.

Chancel Choir, 6:30 p.m.

Thursday: Head Start on Youth Side, 5:30 p.m.

GCC Band Rehearsal, 6:15-9:45

Saturday:  **Herald Deadline**

Illinois South Conference Annual Meeting

Next Sunday: Connie Ahlers & Karen Gaines Leading Worship

In-person and Zoom Worship, 9:30 a.m.

Sunday School for Children, 9:30 a.m.



We extend our Christian Sympathy to the family of **Carol Braundmeier** who died on Thursday, October 12, 2023. A funeral service will be announced at a later date. May the peace and comfort that come from God sustain her loved ones during this time of grief.

**THANK YOU**

Thank you to Roger Kriegel, Bob Jacobs, Rusty Crider, Leroy Schaefer and Randy Crider for all of your help during the rummage sale.  We appreciate all that you do for us. From the Ladies of the Evening Guild.

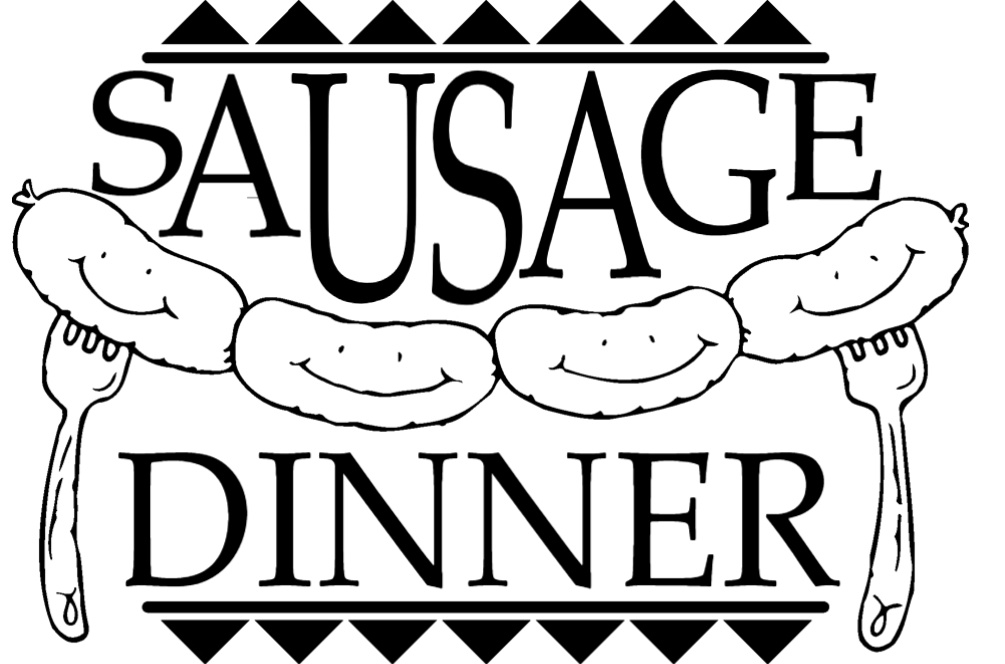
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**OCTOBER MISSION OF THE MONTH: NEIGHBORS IN NEED**

In October we are collecting the Neighbors in Need offering. Offering envelopes can be found on the table in the Narthex and were included in the October edition of the Herald. In 2023, the Neighbors in Need **“BEHOLD!”** theme continues. This year’s focus is on environmental impact. Plastics, electronics, and other non-compostable wastes are being shipped across, and even tossed into, our waterways, launched into space, as well as buried in landfills. As people of faith, we believe these acts are harmful to creation. We must be better stewards of our planet!

**SCRIP**

The October scrip orders will be submitted TODAY with delivery in time for Halloween. Gift cards are available in $10 denominations and great for favorite trick or treaters. It’s not too early to start Christmas shopping. Orders submitted second Sunday in November and December due to holiday business closures. December 10th will be the deadline to order in time for Christmas delivery. Master list of vendors and St. John “favorites” order forms are on the table in the blue folder in the Narthex. Give order form and check payable to St. John UCC to Betty Meszaros at any time. Cash is also accepted but only if giving order to Betty in person. You can still participate in the program if not attending in-person worship. Just drop off or mail your check to the church with a note of cards you are ordering. Cost is face value of the card with no tax or service fee. Rebate is automatically sent to the church. Contact Melissa Lane 314 575-7627 or Betty Meszaros 618 451-1968 with questions.



TODAY IS THE DAY! The Annual Sausage Dinner will run from 11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and will be available for both dine in and carry out. Pricing is as follows:

**Dine In:** (all you can eat)

Adults - $15.00

Children 6-12 - $10.00

Children under 6 - Free

**Carry Out:**

All ages - $15.00

All dinners will include sausage, sauerkraut, applesauce, mashed potatoes & gravy, green beans, and dessert. Thank you in advance to everyone who has volunteered to help!

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**CELEBRATE THE CARDINALS**

No World Series for the 2023 Saint Louis Cardinals but what a year! Adam Wainwright’s historic 200th game winner, Jordan Walker’s rookie year in the big leagues, unbelievable defensive plays –– all captured in beautiful photographs. Many of these memories will be included in the Cardinals official 2024 calendar. The calendar measures 17” by 15” and includes the 2024 game schedule. Orders will be taken until November 12th with delivery in time for Christmas gift-giving. Cost of the calendar

will be the same $17 as last year. Each order also entitles the purchaser to one entry for the “Celebrate the Cardinals” gift basket. Basket includes two $20 gift certificates to Ravanelli‘s Steakhouse, book on history of Sportsman’s Park, Yadi Molina photo on wooden plaque and replica jersey plus so much more! Additional chances may be purchased $1 each or six for $5. Chances may also be purchased if no calendar order. Proceeds to benefit St. John Cemetery projects. Betty Meszaros will be in Fellowship Hall after worship services with order forms and raffle tickets or call the cemetery office at 618-876-5811 if questions. Today, orders will be taken in a tent by the parking lot during Sausage Dinner.

**TRUNK-OR-TREAT**

It is that time of year again when spooky things are all around us. The St. John Youth Group along with the Christian Education Group will be sponsoring the 2nd Annual Trunk-Or-Treat on Sunday, October 29, 2023 from 2:00-4:00 p.m. This event will take place rain or shine in the church parking lot. Listed below are three things we need to make this event a success.

1. **Trunks** - We need volunteers to fill the parking lot with Halloween decorated vehicles. Let’s spruce up our trunks and/or truck beds with crepe paper and pumpkins and fill them with treats for the kids. While you are decorating your vehicle, remember to dress up yourself! Costumes are encouraged for everyone!
2. **Treats** - While those decorating their cars will bring treats for the kids, we will also need candy for game prizes and to shore up any shortages. Don’t want to donate candy? We will take other treats as well, such as spider rings, vampire teeth, spooky stickers, etc. Please bring donations anytime before October 29th and drop off in the church office.
3. **Helpers** - Don’t feel like cleaning out the trunk or bed of your vehicle? That is ok. We can use you at the games. We intend to have various games set up and are looking for volunteers to supervise. Again, this is a great chance to bring out your capes and wigs to participate in the fun by dressing up!

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New this year we will have at least 2 food trucks along with some spooky music playing. To volunteer in any capacity, please contact:

Sharon O’Toole - 314-420-1548

sharon.otoole66@gmail.com

Donna Brandes - 618-802-1072

[donnabrandes@yahoo.com](mailto:donnabrandes@yahoo.com)

**OUR PRAYERS**

**Hospital**

Bob Braundmeier is at Anderson Hospital, room 212.

**Nursing, Assisted, & Independent Living**

Carol Braundmeier, Earl Buenger, Marcia Buenger, Ruth Buer, Myra Cook, Hilde Few, JoAnn King, Karen Luddeke, and Marjorie Schmidt.

**At Home**

Chloe Affolter, Karen Anders, Isabella Boyer, Bonnie Fornaszewski, Mary Franz, Luitgard Fries, Melba Grady, Chuck Hasse, Lou Hasse, Ruth Hubbard, Chuck King, Mina McBrian, Cindy Meyer, Sandy Mueller, Cliff Robertson, June Stille, Janice Weeks, and Nancy Wilson.

**Illinois South Conference**

Hookdale St. Peter UCC, Rev. P. Jerry Bennett. Hoyleton Zion Evangelical UCC, Rev. Sharon Patton. Retired Pastor, Rev. Gustav and Suzanne Kuether, Belleville, IL.

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**Exodus 32:1-14**

When the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mountain, the people gathered around Aaron and said to him, “Come, make gods for us, who shall go before us; as for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him.” **2**Aaron said to them, “Take off the gold rings that are on the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters and bring them to me.” **3**So all the people took off the gold rings from their ears and brought them to Aaron. **4**He took these from them, formed them in a mold, and cast an image of a calf, and they said, “These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!” **5**When Aaron saw this, he built an altar before it, and Aaron made a proclamation and said, “Tomorrow shall be a festival to the Lord.” **6**They rose early the next day and offered burnt offerings and brought sacrifices of well-being, and the people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to revel. **7**The Lord said to Moses, “Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; **8**they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf

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and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it and said, ‘These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!’”

**9**The Lord said to Moses, “I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. **10**Now let me alone so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them, and of you I will make a great nation.”

**11**But Moses implored the Lord his God and said, “O Lord, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? **12**Why should

the Egyptians say, ‘It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains and to consume them from the face of the earth’? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. **13**Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, ‘I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.’ ” **14**And the Lord changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

**Philippians 4:1-9**

**1**Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved. **2**I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. **3**Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my coworkers, whose names are in the book of life. **4**Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. **5**Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. **6**Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. **7**And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. **8**Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. **9**As for the things that you have learned and received and heard and noticed in me, do them, and the God of peace will be with you.

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**CALL FOR INFORMATION**

Bell Choir – Talk to Kathy Morris, 618-210-6095

Cemetery - Talk to Kathy Montgomery, 618-876-5811

Chancel Choir – Talk to John Nitchman, President, 618-288-5297

Council – Talk to Kiki Cochran, President, 618-797-2511 or Donna Brandes, Vice President, 618-802-1072

Evening Guild – Talk to Christie Roth, 618-931-6194

Financial Reports – Talk to Mike Seibold, Treasurer, 618-792-4301

Church Secretary, 618-877-6060 (church office)

Heavenly Stars – Talk to Betty Meszaros, 618-451-1968

Karen Gaines, 618-288-0845

Herald – Talk to Church Secretary, 618-877-6060 (church office)

Hilltoppers – Talk to Dee Roethemeyer, 618-876-6860

Historian – Talk to Sandy Dawson, 618-791-8246

Men’s Brotherhood – Talk to Chuck Hasse, 618-876-0936,

Dave Douglas, 618-452-3336

Quilters – Talk to Sandy Dawson 618-791-8246

Doris Peterson 618-877-1606

Sausage Dinner – Talk to Donna Brandes, 618-802-1072

Nancy Jacobs, 618-931-0673

Scrip Orders – Talk to Melissa Lane, 314-575-7627 or Betty Meszaros 618-451-1968

Sunday School – Talk to Donna Brandes, 618-802-1072

Youth Fellowship – Talk to Sharon O’Toole, 314-420-1548

**Try our QR code! This little square will take you directly to our secure MyVanco website where you can contribute to any of our various funds. Just follow three simple steps:**

1. **Open your smart phone’s camera app**
2. **Qr code

   Description automatically generatedAim the camera at the black and white square below and a link will appear on your screen.**
3. **Click the link and you’ll be directed to our donations website. From there, you can select a fund to which you’d like to make a contribution.**

**Thank you!**

***“Come to a Wedding”***

Words: Shirley Erena Murray. Music: Gaelic melody; arr. Jack Schrader. Words © 1992 Hope Publishing Company. Music Arr. © 1989 Hope Publishing Company. Reprinted by permission CCLI License #1334401.

***Come to a wedding, come to a blessing,***

***Come on a day when happiness sings!***

***Come rain or sun, come winter or summer,***

***Celebrate love and all that it brings.***

***“Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart”***

***Rejoice, ye pure in heart,***

***Rejoice, give thanks and sing;***

***Your festal banner wave on high,***

***The cross of Christ your King.***

***Rejoice, (Rejoice), rejoice, (rejoice),***

***Rejoice, give thanks and sing.***

***Bright youth and snow-crowned age,***

***Strong souls and spirits meek,***

***Raise high your free, exulting song,***

***God’s wondrous praises speak.***

***Rejoice, (Rejoice), rejoice, (rejoice),***

***Rejoice, give thanks and sing.***

***With voice as full and strong***

***As ocean’s surging praise,***

***Send forth the hymns the saints have loved,***

***The psalms of ancient days.***

***Rejoice, (Rejoice), rejoice, (rejoice),***

***Rejoice, give thanks and sing.***

***Yes, on through life’s long path,***

***Still chanting as you go,***

***From youth to age, by night and day,***

***In gladness and in woe.***

***Rejoice, (Rejoice), rejoice, (rejoice),***

***Rejoice, give thanks and sing.***

***“What a Friend We Have in Jesus”***

***What a friend we have in Jesus,***

***All our sins and griefs to bear!***

***What a privilege to carry***

***Everything to God in prayer!***

***O what peace we often forfeit,***

***O what needless pain we bear,***

***All because we do not carry***

***Everything to God in prayer!***

***Have we trials and temptations?***

***Is there trouble anywhere?***

***We should never be discouraged;***

***Take it to the Lord in prayer!***

***Can we find a friend so faithful***

***Who will all our sorrows share?***

***Jesus knows our every weakness;***

***Take it to the Lord in prayer!***

***Are we weak and heavy laden,***

***Cumbered with a load of care?***

***Precious Savior, still our refuge --***

***Take it to the Lord in prayer!***

***Do your friends despise, forsake you?***

***Take it to the Lord in prayer!***

***In his arms he’ll take and shield you;***

***You will find a solace there.***

***“Great is Thy Faithfulness”***

Words: Thomas O. Chisholm. Music: William M. Runyan. Words & Music © 1923, Ren. 1951 Hope Publishing Company. Reprinted by permission, CCLI License #1334401.

***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.***

***Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!***

***Morning by morning new mercies I see;***

***All I have needed thy hand hath provided--***

***Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!***

***Summer and winter, and spring-time and harvest,***

***Sun, moon and stars in their courses above***

***Join with all nature in manifold witness***

***To thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.***

***Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!***

***Morning by morning new mercies I see;***

***All I have needed thy hand hath provided--***

***Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!***

***Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,***

***Thy own dear presence to cheer and to guide;***

***Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,***

***Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!***

***Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!***

***Morning by morning new mercies I see;***

***All I have needed thy hand hath provided--***

***Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!***