

First hymn:

The God of Abraham praise
who reigns enthroned above,
ancient of everlasting days,
and God of love:
to him uplift your voice,
at whose supreme command
from earth we rise and seek the joys
at his right hand.

There dwells the Lord our King,
the Lord our righteousness,
triumphant o'er the world of sin,
the Prince of peace:
on Sion's sacred height
his kingdom he maintains,
and glorious with his saints in light
for ever reigns.

Before the great three-one
they all exulting stand,
and tell the wonders he hath done
through all their land:
the listening spheres attend,
and swell the growing fame,
and sing in songs which never end
the wondrous name.

The God who reigns on high
the great archangels sing,
and 'Holy, holy, holy,' cry,
'almighty King!
who was, and is the same,
and evermore shall be:
Eternal, Father, great I AM,
we worship thee.'

The whole triumphant host
give thanks to God on high;
'hail, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,'
they ever cry;
hail! Abraham's God, and mine!
(I join the heavenly lays)
all might and majesty are thine,
and endless praise.

Thomas Olivers 1725-99

Tune: Leoni

from the Hebrew

The Choir sing verses from Psalm 121— we all sing the response

My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heav'n and earth

Offertory hymn:

Thy hand, O God, has guided
thy flock, from age to age;
the wondrous tale is written,
full clear on every page;
our fathers owned thy goodness,
and we their deeds record;
and both of this bear witness:
one Church, one Faith, one Lord.

Thy heralds brought glad tidings
to greatest, as to least;
they bade men rise, and hasten
to share the great King's feast;
and this was all their teaching,
in every deed and word,
to all alike proclaiming
one Church, one Faith, one Lord.

Through many a day of darkness,
through many a scene of strife,
the faithful few fought bravely
to guard the nation's life.
Their gospel of redemption,
sin pardoned, man restored,
was all in this enfolded,
one Church, one Faith, one Lord.

And we, shall we be faithless?
Shall hearts fail, hands hang down?
Shall we evade the conflict,
and cast away our crowns?
Not so: in God's deep counsels
some better thing is stored;
we will maintain, unflinching,
one Church, one Faith, one Lord.

Thy mercy will not fail us,
nor leave thy work undone;
with thy right hand to help us
the victory shall be won;
and then, by men and angels,
thy name shall be adored,
and this shall be their anthem:
one Church, one Faith, one Lord.

E. Plumtre (1821-91) Tune: Thornbury

Communion Hymn

It is a thing most wonderful,
almost too wonderful to be,
that God's own Son should come from heaven,
and die to save a child like me.

And yet I know that it is true:
he chose a poor and humble lot,
and wept and toiled and mourned and died
for love of those who loved him not.

But even could I see him die,
I could but see a little part
of that great love which like a fire,
is always burning in his heart.

It is most wonderful to know
his love for me so free and sure;
but 'tis more wonderful to see
my love for him so faint and poor.

And yet I want to love thee, Lord!
O light the flame within my heart,
and I will love thee more and more,
until I see thee as thou art.

W. Walsham How 1823-97

Final Hymn

Immortal Love for ever full,
for ever flowing free,
for ever shared, for ever whole,
a never-ebbing sea!

Our outward lips confess the name
all other names above;
love only knoweth whence it came
and comprehendeth love.

We may not climb
the heavenly steps
to bring the Lord Christ down;
in vain we search the lowest deeps,
for him no depths can drown:

But warm, sweet, tender, even yet
a present help is he;
and faith has still its Olivet,
and love its Galilee.

The healing of his seamless dress
is by our beds of pain;
we touch him in life's throng
and press,
and we are whole again.

Through him the first fond prayers
are said
our lips of childhood frame;
the last low whispers of our dead
are burdened with his name.

Alone, O Love ineffable,
thy saving name is given;
to turn aside from thee is hell,
to walk with thee is heaven.

John Whittier