

## THE BELGIC CONFESSION AFFIRMATION OF FAITH BELGIC CONFESSION, ART. XIII

The Belgic Confession, written in 1561, owes its origin to the need for a clear and comprehensive statement of Reformed faith during the time of the Spanish inquisition in the Lowlands. Guido de Brès, its primary author, was pleading for understanding and toleration from King Philip II of Spain who was determined to root out all Protestant factions in his jurisdiction. Hence, this confession takes pains to point out the continuity of Reformed belief with that of the ancient Christian creeds, as well as to differentiate it from Catholic belief (on the one hand), and from Anabaptist teachings (on the other).

During the sixteenth century the churches were exposed to terrible persecution by the Roman Catholic government. To protest against this cruel oppression, and to prove to the persecutors that the adherents of the Reformed faith were not rebels, as was laid to their charge, but law-abiding citizens who professed the true Christian doctrine according to the Holy Scriptures, de Brès prepared this confession in the year 1561. In the following year a copy was sent to King Philip II, together with an address in which the petitioners declared that they were ready to obey the government in all lawful things, but that they would "offer their backs to stripes, their tongues to knives, their mouths to gags, and their whole bodies to the fire," rather than deny the truth expressed in this confession.

**LEADER:** *What comfort does the truth that God is intimately involved in what happens in our world give us?*

**CONGREGATION:** This truth gives us unspeakable comfort since it shows us that nothing can happen to us by chance but only by the arrangement of our gracious heavenly Father. He watches over us with fatherly care, keeping all creatures so under his power that not one of the hairs on our heads (for they are all numbered), nor a sparrow can fall to the ground without the will of our Father, in whom we do entirely trust; being persuaded that he so restrains the devil and all our enemies that without his will and permission they cannot hurt us.

## THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

### THE OFFERTORY THIS IS MY FATHER'S WORLD ECBC ORCHESTRA

*This is my Father's world,  
And to my list'ning ears  
All nature sings, and round me rings  
The music of the spheres.  
This is my Father's world:  
I rest me in the thought  
Of rocks and trees, of skies and seas—  
His hand the wonders wrought.*

*This is my Father's world:  
The birds their carols raise,  
The morning light, the lily white,  
Declare their Maker's praise.  
This is my Father's world:  
He shines in all that's fair;  
In the rustling grass I hear Him pass,  
He speaks to me everywhere.*

*This is my Father's world:  
Oh, let me ne'er forget  
That though the wrong seems oft so strong,  
God is the ruler yet.  
This is my Father's world,  
The battle is not done:  
Jesus who died shall be satisfied,  
And earth and Heav'n be one.*

## CONGREGATIONAL GREETINGS

## STORIES VIDEO

### THE MORNING SERMON CONRAD "BUSTER" BROWN, SENIOR PASTOR

### RESPONSE SONG LORD, I NEED YOU

Lord, I need You, oh, I need You;  
Ev'ry hour I need You;  
My one desire, my righteousness;  
Oh God, how I need You.

## POSTLUDE



If you have EVER been a part,  
ARE currently a part (but have been out for a while),  
or ever THOUGHT about being a part of our choir, orchestra  
-- we need you now!

Join us for our 2017 Fall Music Workshop on August 25-26!  
This weekend of worship, fellowship  
and making music together  
is a GREAT time to get involved!

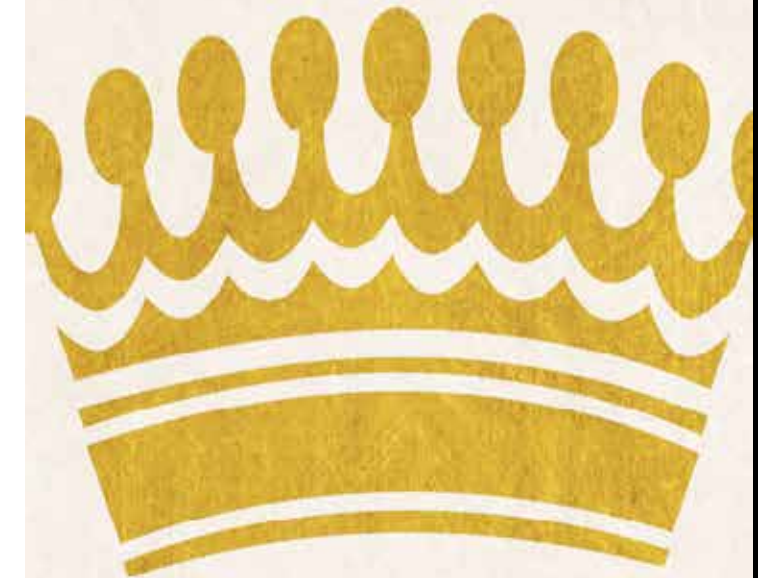
If God has given you an ability to sing or play an instrument  
-- use it for His glory in leading worship!

If you would like more information,  
please contact Donna Carole Kitchens at  
[donnacarolek@eastcooperbaptist.com](mailto:donnacarolek@eastcooperbaptist.com)  
or at (843) 856-3222, ext. 2130.



361 Egypt Road  
Mt. Pleasant, SC 29464  
843.856.3222

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# WORSHIP GUIDE

Please use the following prayer to prepare your hearts for worship:

Wonderful, merciful Savior, precious Redeemer and Friend, Who would have thought that a Lamb could rescue the souls of men?

You are the One that we praise;

You are the One we adore.

You give the healing and grace our hearts always hunger for.

Counselor, Comforter, Keeper, Spirit we long to embrace; You offer hope when our hearts have hopelessly lost the way.

Almighty, infinite Father, faithfully loving your own, Here in our weakness you find us falling before your throne.

Lift us up as we lift Your Name high.

Amen.

Every time we gather is an opportunity to rejoice in the assurance of Christ's victory for us. No matter how bad things look, this is my Father's world... He is in sovereign control and... we win!

**BEHOLD OUR GOD! SEATED ON HIS THRONE!  
COME LET US ADORE HIM! ALLELUIA!**

## REFLECTION THOUGHTS FOR WORSHIP PREPARATION

A gospel is an announcement of something that has happened in history, something that's been done for you that changes your status forever. Right there you can see the difference between Christianity and all other religions, including no religion. The essence of other religions is advice; Christianity is essentially news. Other religions say, "This is what you have to do in order to connect to God forever; this is how you have to live in order to earn your way to God." But the gospel says, "This is what has been done in history. This is how Jesus lived and died to earn the way to God for you." Christianity is completely different. It's joyful news... the gospel is not about choosing to follow advice, it's about being called to follow a King. Not just someone with the power and authority to tell you what needs to be done—but someone with the power and authority to do what needs to be done, and then to offer it to you as good news.

--Tim Keller

O Lord, let me not tire of thanking you for your mercy in rescuing me from all my wicked ways, so that you may be sweeter to me than all the joys which used to tempt me; so that I may love you most intensely and clasp your hand with all the power of my devotion; so that you may save me from all temptation until the end of my days.

-- St. Augustine

A moment of conscious triumph makes one feel that after this nothing will really matter; a moment of realized disaster makes one feel that this is the end of everything.

But neither feeling is realistic, for neither event is really what it is felt to be. The circumstances of triumph will not last, and the moment of triumph will sooner or later give way to moments of disappointment, strain, frustration, and grief, while the circumstances of disaster will prove to have in them seeds of recovery and new hope.

Life in this world under God's providence is like that; it always has been, and always will be; it is so in the Bible, and it remains so as the twentieth century gives way to the twenty-first. The mature person, who is mentally and emotionally an adult as distinct from a child, knows this and does not forget it.

-- J.I. Packer

To man belong the plans of the heart, but from the LORD comes the reply of the tongue... In his heart a man plans his course, but the LORD determines his steps.

-- Proverbs 16:1, 9

## ALL PRAISE TO THEE

One of the great biblical hymns is Philippians 2:5-11, the Kenosis Hymn, or hymn of self-emptying. This is one of the several New Testament creedal statements found throughout the Epistles.

To appreciate the beauty of F. Bland Tucker's paraphrase of this Biblical passage (the text for our morning hymn), one must have the Scripture firmly in mind.

*"Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: but made himself of no reputation, and took upon himself the form of a servant, and being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore God hath also highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven and things in earth, and things under the earth; and that every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father"* (Phil. 2:5-11).

Tucker's paraphrase draws directly from this central passage of the incarnation for its language in several places.

Stanza three begins, "Let this mind be in us which was in thee," a rewording very similar to the beginning of the passage.

Stanza four is strongly reminiscent of the final section, "and given the name to which all knees shall bow."

Stanza five begins, "Let every tongue confess with one accord/in heaven and earth that Jesus Christ is Lord," capturing the essence of the final phrases of the passage beautifully.

## PRELUDE ELENA CRUDGE, ORGANIST

## MORNING WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS VIDEO

## THE CALL TO PRAISE PSALM 34 RESPONSIVE

**LEADER:** *I will extol the Lord at all times; his praise will always be on my lips.*

**CONGREGATION:** My soul will boast in the Lord; let the afflicted hear and rejoice.

**LEADER:** *Glorify the Lord with me; let us exalt his name together.*

**CONGREGATION:** I sought the Lord, and he answered me; he delivered me from all my fears.

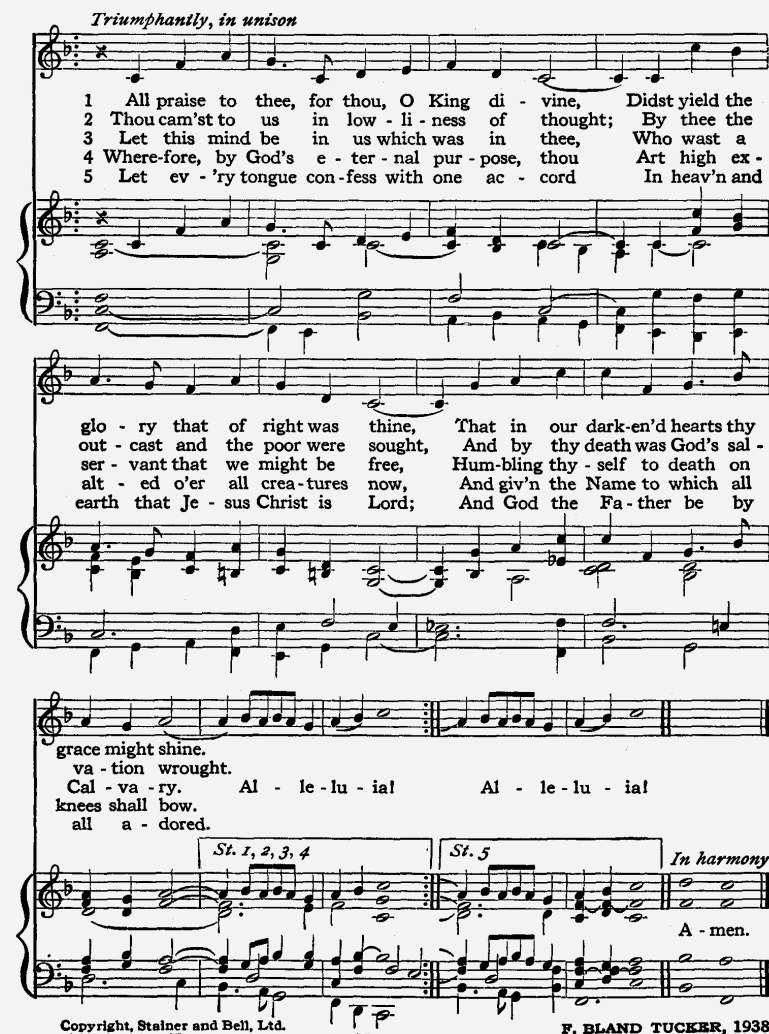
**LEADER:** *Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in him.*

**CONGREGATION:** Fear the Lord, you his saints, for those who fear him lack nothing.

## THE CHORAL RESPONSE DOXOLOGY

## ALL PRAISE TO THEE TO ENGELBERG TUNE

*Triumphantly, in unison*



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## VICTORY IN JESUS

Praise GOD! Jesus was not defeated that day at Calvary! Satan had his moment of gloating only to be defeated the moment Jesus rose out of the tomb! Death was not the end...but only the beginning of what would be the most glorious victory for all! John 11:25 says, "...I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies."

As believers we do not have to be afraid of death! We know we have an eternal home in Heaven with the Savior. He has gone to prepare a place for us. His promises are true and eternal. As the Apostle Paul stated, "To be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord."

We can experience peace and joy in the midst of trials and difficulties that will come our way. John 16:33 says, "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

## ALLELUIA RESPONSE

## VICTORY IN JESUS HARTFORD

I heard an old, old story,  
How a Savior came from glory,  
How He gave His life on Calvary  
To save a wretch like me;  
I heard about His groaning,  
Of His precious blood's atoning,  
Then I repented of my sins  
And won the victory.

I heard about His healing,  
Of His cleansing pow'r revealing.  
How He made the lame to walk again  
And caused the blind to see;  
And then I cried, "Dear Jesus,  
Come and heal my broken spirit,"  
And somehow Jesus came and bro't  
To me the victory.

I heard about a mansion  
He has built for me in glory.  
And I heard about the streets of gold  
Beyond the crystal sea;  
About the angels singing,  
And the old redemption story,  
And some sweet day I'll sing up there  
The song of victory.

**O victory in Jesus,  
My Savior, forever.  
He sought me and bought me  
With His redeeming blood;  
He loved me ere I knew Him  
And all my love is due Him,  
He plunged me to victory,  
Beneath the cleansing flood.**

## MORNING PRAYER OF PRAISE

## BEHOLD OUR GOD SOVEREIGN GRACE MUSIC

Who has held the oceans in His hands  
Who has numbered every grain of sand  
Kings and nations tremble at His voice  
All creation rises to rejoice

**Behold our God seated on His throne  
Come let us adore Him  
Behold our King nothing can compare  
Come let us adore Him!**

Who has given counsel to the Lord  
Who can question any of His Words  
Who can teach the One who knows all things  
Who can fathom all His wondrous deeds

Who has felt the nails upon His hands  
Bearing all the guilt of sinful man  
God eternal humbled to the grave  
Jesus, Savior risen now to reign!

*Men: You will reign forever!  
Women: Let Your glory fill the earth!*