

# Hymn of the Week

**March 3 • Last Sunday  
after the Epiphany/Transfiguration**

## **We Have Come at Christ's Own Bidding**

**Text:** Carl P. Daw, Jr., 1988.

**Music:** BREWER, David Ashley White, 1988. Tune named for Robert Brewer, noted Houston musician.

COLUMBIA GORGE, Scott M. Hyslop. "In January of 2010, I was invited to be a guest lecturer and played for a hymn festival at Concordia University in Portland, Oregon. While I was in residence in Portland, I was working on a tune for Carl Daw's hymn for the Transfiguration of Christ 'We Have Come at Christ's Own Bidding' and my host took me on a tour to the Columbia Gorge area. The breath-taking vistas and spectacular views were seared into my heart and mind. When I returned to working on this tune I thought both of the 'high and holy places' which Daw references in his text as well as the high and holy place where I had just been and received a glimpse of God's glory. The name of the tune I was working just seemed obvious after that blessed experience."

**Topics:** Assurance, Biblical Names (Peter), Christian Life, Faith, Temptation

**Scriptural references:** Matthew 17:1-9, 14-18; Mark 9:2-9, 14-27; Luke 9:28-43

### **Publications**

*The Book of Praise* (Presbyterian Church in Canada, 1997)

*New Songs of Rejoicing* (Selah, 1994)

*The New Song Never Ends* (Selah, 2017)

# We Have Come at Christ's Own Bidding

1 We have come at Christ's own bid - ding to this high and  
2 Light breaks in up - on our dark - ness; splen - dor bathes the  
3 Strength - ened by this glimpse of glo - ry, fear - ful lest our

ho - ly place, where we wait with hope and long - ing  
flesh - joined Word; Mo - ses and E - li - jah mar - vel  
faith de - cline, we like Pe - ter find it tempt - ing

for some to - ken of God's grace. Here we pray for  
as the heaven - ly voice is heard. Eyes and hearts be -  
to re - main and build a shrine. But true wor - ship

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of three systems, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords that support the vocal melody. The lyrics are placed below the vocal line, with line numbers 1, 2, and 3 corresponding to the three systems.

new as - sur - ance that our faith is not in vain, search - ing like those  
hold with won - der how the Law and Proph - ets meet: Christ, with gar - ments  
gives us cour - age to pro - claim what we pro - fess, that our dai - ly

first dis - ci - ples for a sign both clear and plain.  
drenched in bright - ness, stands trans - fig - ured and com - plete.  
lives may prove us peo - ple of the God we bless.

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 Music: David Ashley White, 1988. © 1991 Selah Publishing Co., Inc.

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 BREWER

This text was commissioned by the Church of the Transfiguration in Dallas. Because it was anticipated that a tune would be commissioned for this text, no particular tune was originally associated with it.

St. 1. Throughout this hymn there is an implicit comparison between the attitudes and assumptions of the disciples on the Mount of the Transfiguration and the expectations of present day Christians as they gather for worship.

St. 2. The second stanza treats the Transfiguration narrative (Matthew 17:1-9; Mark 9:2-9; Luke 9:28-36) as remembered and made present (*anamnesis*). The water-imagery (“bathed in light,” “drenched in brightness”) is intended to suggest the parallels between the Transfiguration and the Baptism of Christ. These two events stand respectively as the

# We Have Come at Christ's Own Bidding

We have come at Christ's own bidding  
to this high and holy place,  
where we wait with hope and longing  
for some token of God's grace.  
Here we pray for new assurance  
that our faith is not in vain,  
searching like those first disciples  
for a sign both clear and plain.

Light breaks in upon our darkness,  
splendor bathes the flesh-joined Word,  
Moses and Elijah marvel  
as the heavenly voice is heard.  
Eyes and hearts behold with wonder  
how the Law and Prophets meet:  
Christ, with garments drenched in brightness,  
stands transfigured and complete.

Strengthened by this glimpse of glory,  
fearful lest our faith decline,  
we like Peter find it tempting  
to remain and build a shrine.  
But true worship gives us courage  
to proclaim what we profess,  
that our daily lives may prove us  
people of the God we bless.

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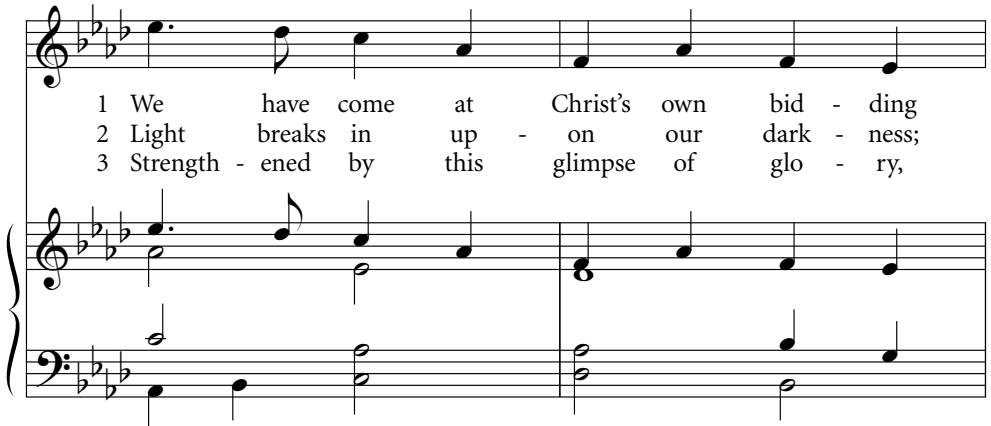
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last and the first of the Sundays after the Epiphany, and they are significantly united by being the only two occasions when a heavenly voice declared divine approval of Jesus. (I am grateful to the Rev. Dr. Thomas Talley for calling the latter point to my attention.)

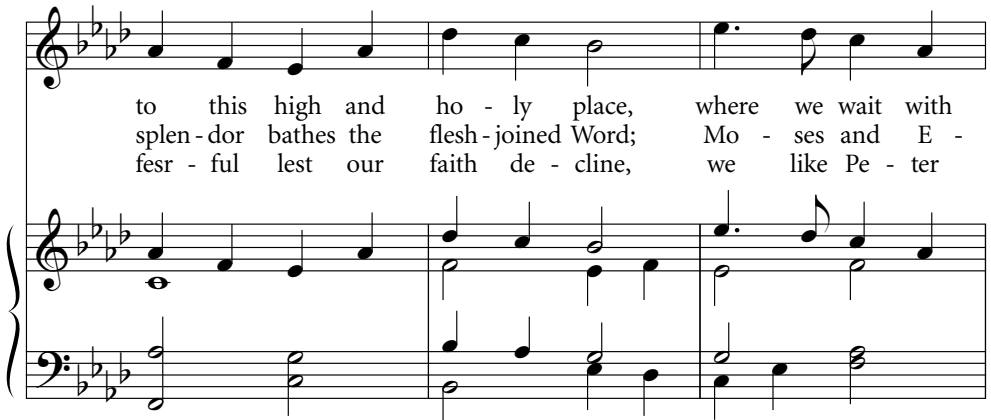
St. 3. Peter is the spiritual ancestor of everyone who has been granted some special religious experience and then hopes to recreate it by going back to the same place or reading another book by the same author or singing the same hymn again. All three synoptic accounts underscore the importance of returning to ministry in the world by following the account of the Transfiguration with the healing of the epileptic boy (Matthew 17:14–18; Mark 9:14–17; Luke 9:37–43).

–Carl P. Daw, Jr. (from *A Year of Grace*, © 1990 Hope Publishing Co.)

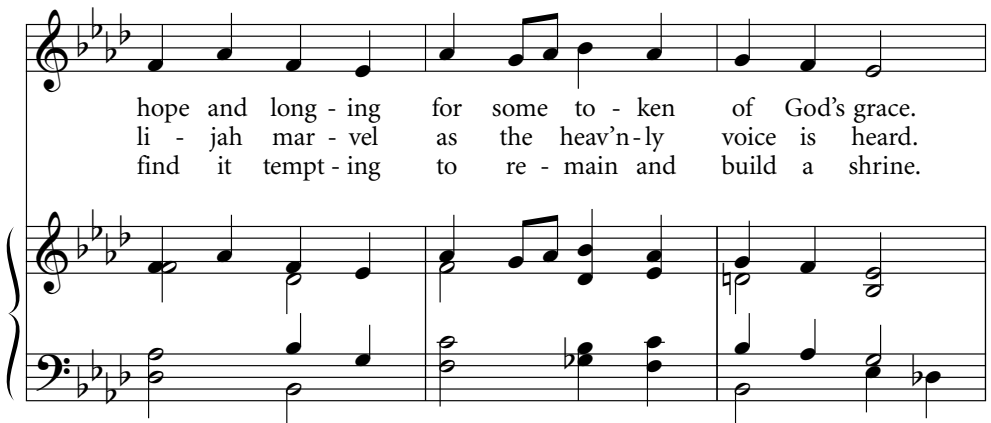
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3 Strength - ened by this glimpse of glo - ry,



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fesr - ful lest our faith de - cline, we like Pe - ter



hope and long - ing for some to - ken of God's grace.  
li - jah mar - vel as the heav'n - ly voice is heard.  
find it tempt - ing to re - main and build a shrine.

Here we pray for new as - sur - ance that our faith is  
Eyes and hearts be - hold with won - der how the Law and  
But true wor - ship gives us cour - age to pro - claim what

not in vain, search - ing like those first dis - ci - ples  
Proph - ets meet: Christ, with gar - ments drenched in bright - ness,  
we pro - fess, that our dai - ly lives may prove us

for a sign both clear and plain.  
stands trans - fig - ured and com - plete.  
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