



## A CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE OF

# GORDON F. SARGENT

August 2, 1932 – March 14, 2024

Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; who  
comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able  
to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort  
wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God.

–2 Corinthians 1:3-4

*Please silence cell phones and other devices during the service. Masks are welcome, but not required.*

*\*Those who are able are invited to stand. The first two hymns are on the insert; the final hymn is on the back.*

### Prelude

### Words of Welcome

### Call to Worship

Psalm 121

One: I lift up my eyes to the hills—from where will my help come?

**All: My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.**

One: He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber.

**All: He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.**

One: The Lord is your keeper; the Lord is your shade at your right hand.

**All: The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.**

One: The Lord will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life.

**All: The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and forevermore.**

### \*Hymn

*How Great Thou Art*

O store Gud

### Prayer of Invocation

Almighty God, whose will is sovereign and whose mercy is boundless, look upon us in our sorrow and enable us to hear your word. Through the veil of our tears and the silence of our emptiness, assure us again that ear has not heard nor eye seen, nor human imagination envisioned, what you have prepared for those who love you; through Jesus Christ the firstborn from the dead. Amen.

### A Reading from the Psalter (*Unison*)

Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

**Musical Offering**     *It Is Well with My Soul (When Peace Like a River)*     arr. C. Courtney

### **A Prayer of Thanksgiving** (*Unison*)

We give you thanks, Lord, that you have called us to live, given us bread to eat and wine to gladden our hearts. We give you thanks that the earth itself has become a sign of life and place of wonder, our homeland, the place your kingdom comes. The table we set could be empty, but you have filled the whole world with your abundance, you who are existence, life, and joy. We give you thanks for all those who gather in friendship and love, who break bread and pass a cup, but most of all for him who did this as our brother Jesus, who shared our pain and joy.

### **A Lesson from Scripture**

Ecclesiastes 3:1-15

<sup>1</sup>For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: <sup>2</sup>a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted; <sup>3</sup>a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; <sup>4</sup>a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; <sup>5</sup>a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; <sup>6</sup>a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to throw away; <sup>7</sup>a time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; <sup>8</sup>a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace.

<sup>9</sup>What gain have the workers from their toil? <sup>10</sup>I have seen the business that God has given to everyone to be busy with. <sup>11</sup>He has made everything suitable for its time; moreover he has put a sense of past and future into their minds, yet they cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end. <sup>12</sup>I know that there is nothing better for them than to be happy and enjoy themselves as long as they live; <sup>13</sup>moreover, it is God's gift that all should eat and drink and take pleasure in all their toil. <sup>14</sup>I know that whatever God does endures forever; nothing can be added to it, nor anything taken from it; God has done this, so that all should stand in awe before him. <sup>15</sup>That which is, already has been; that which is to be, already is; and God seeks out what has gone by.

### **Meditation**

The Rev. Stephen R. Silver

### **\*Hymn 217**

*Lord of All Hopefulness*

Slane

### **Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession**

Almighty God, in Jesus Christ you promised many rooms within your house. Give us faith to see, beyond touch and sight, some sure sign of your kingdom, and, where vision fails, to trust your love which never fails. Lift heavy sorrow and give us good hope in Jesus, so we may bravely walk our earthly way, and look forward to glad reunion in the life to come, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Loving God, you are nearest to us when we need you most. In this hour of sorrow we turn to you, trusting in your loving mercy. We bless you for the gift of Gordon, for the joy he gave all who knew him, for the precious memories that will abide with us, and for the assurance that he lives forever in the joy and peace of your presence. Amen.

### **The Lord's Prayer** (*Unison*)

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.

### **Words of Commendation**

We seem to give him back to thee, dear God, who gavest him to us. Yet, as thou didst not lose him in giving, so we have not lost him by his return. Not as the world giveth, givest thou, O Lover of Souls! What thou givest, thou takest not away. For what is thine is ours always, if we are thine. Life is eternal; and love is immortal; and death is only a horizon; and a horizon is nothing save the limit of our sight.

Lift us up, strong Son of God, that we may see further; cleanse our eyes that we may see more clearly; draw us closer to thyself that we may know ourselves nearer to our beloved who are with thee. And while thou dost prepare a place for us, prepare us for that happy place, that where they are, and thou art, we too may be; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**\*Hymn 649**                      *Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound*                      New Britain

### **\*Benediction**

Loving God, your beloved Son took children into his arms and blessed them. Give us grace, that we may entrust Gordon to your never-failing care and love, and bring us all to your heavenly kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **Postlude**

### **Witness to the Life of Gordon Sargent**

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### *Leading This Morning's Service*

The Rev. Stephen R. Silver, Pastor • Henry Danaher, Organist • Brian Clancy, Tenor  
*All are warmly invited to gather for a reception in the Parish Hall following the service.  
Many thanks to Patricia Heatherton and the FCC congregation for providing it.*

### **First Congregational Church of Lebanon**

**The Rev. Stephen R. Silver, Pastor**

**Ernie Drown, Organist and Choir Director • Brian Clancy, Church Administrator**

**Jon Scott, Chair of Church Council • Linda Gerlach, Chair of Deacons • Barbara Jones, Moderator**

**603-448-4281 • church@fccleb.org • prayer@fccleb.org • music@fccleb.org • www.fccleb.org**

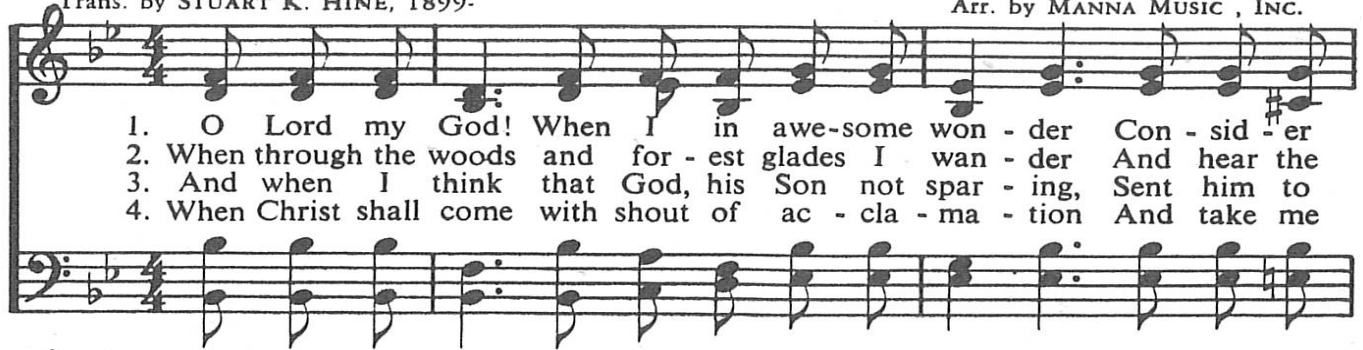
# How Great Thou Art

CARL BOBERG, 1859-1940

Trans. by STUART K. HINE, 1899-

O STORE GUD Irregular with Refrain  
Swedish Folk Melody

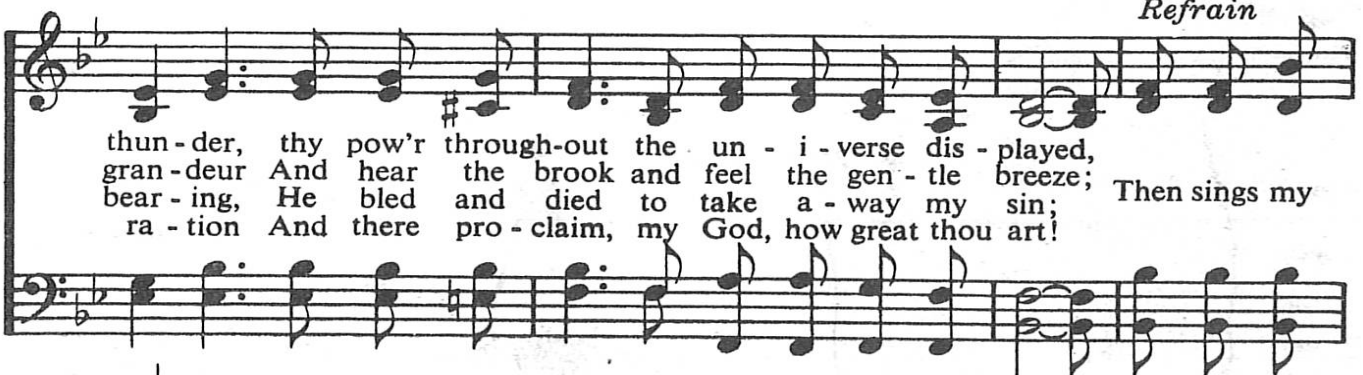
Arr. by MANNA MUSIC, INC.



1. O Lord my God! When I in awe-some won - der Con - sid - er  
2. When through the woods and for - est glades I wan - der And hear the  
3. And when I think that God, his Son not spar - ing, Sent him to  
4. When Christ shall come with shout of ac - cla - ma - tion And take me

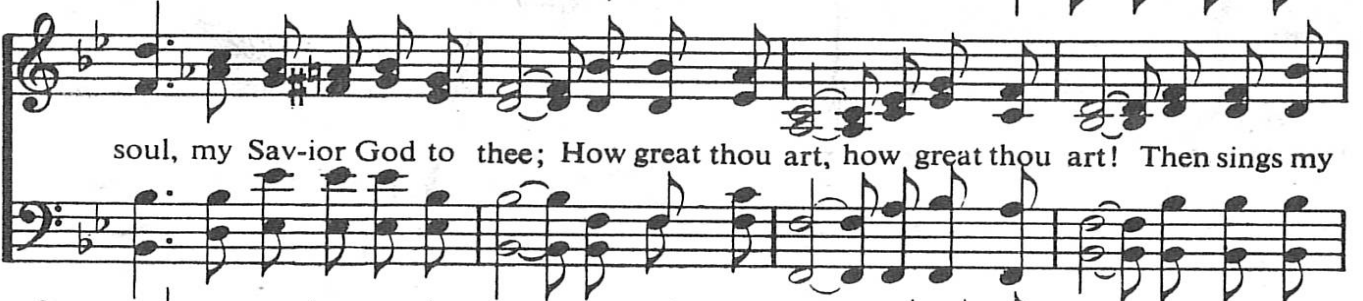


\* all the worlds thy hands have made, I see the stars, I hear the roll - ing  
birds sing sweet - ly in the trees; When I look down from loft - y moun - tain  
die, I scarce can take it in; That on the cross, my bur - den glad - ly  
home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then I shall bow in hum - ble ad - o -

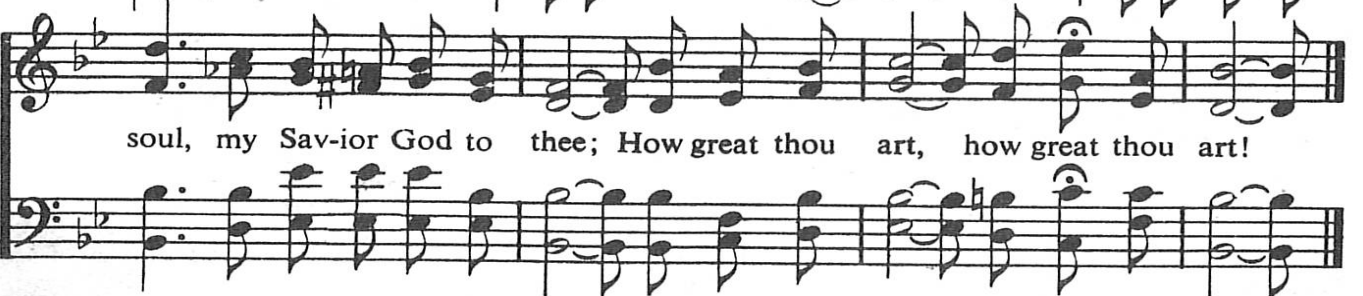


*Refrain*

thun - der, thy pow'r through-out the un - i - verse dis - played,  
gran - deur And hear the brook and feel the gen - tle breeze; Then sings my  
bear - ing, He bled and died to take a - way my sin;  
ra - tion And there pro - claim, my God, how great thou art!



soul, my Sav - ior God to thee; How great thou art, how great thou art! Then sings my



soul, my Sav - ior God to thee; How great thou art, how great thou art!

\*Translator's original words are "works" and "mighty".

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## Lord of All Hopefulness

Jan Struther, 1901-1953

SLANE 10.11.11.12.

Traditional Irish Melody

Harm. by David Evans, 1874-1948

In unison

1 Lord of all hope - ful - ness, Lord of all joy,  
 2 Lord of all ea - ger - ness, Lord of all faith,  
 3 Lord of all kind - li - ness, Lord of all grace,  
 4 Lord of all gen - tle - ness, Lord of all calm,

Whose trust, ev - er child - like, no cares could de - stroy,  
 Whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe,  
 Your hands swift to wel - come, your arms to em - brace,  
 Whose voice is con - tent - ment, whose pres - ence is balm,

Be there at our wak - ing, and give us, we pray, Your  
 Be there at our la - bors, and give us, we pray, Your  
 Be there at our hom - ing, and give us, we pray, Your  
 Be there at our sleep - ing, and give us, we pray, Your

bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.  
 strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.  
 love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.  
 peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day. A - men.

# 649 Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

1 A - maz - ing grace, how sweet the sound, that  
 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and  
 3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares, I  
 4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his  
 5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright

saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but  
 grace my fears re - lieved. How pre - cious did that  
 have al - read - y come. 'Tis grace has brought me  
 word my hope se - cures. He will my shield and  
 shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to

now am found, was blind, but now I see.  
 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!  
 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.  
 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.  
 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

As was his custom, the author wrote this hymn to accompany his sermon on 1 Chronicles 17:16-17, preached on January 1, 1773; he called it "Faith's Review and Expectation." Much of its current popularity comes from this now-familiar tune, an association that began in 1835.

TEXT: Stanzas 1-4, John Newton, 1772; stanza 5, *A Collection of Sacred Ballads*, 1790; Navaho, Albert Tsosie

AMAZING GRACE

MUSIC: *Columbian Harmony*, 1829; arr. Edwin O. Excell, 1910, alt.

CM

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