

**Feb 25 2018 Where are You taking us LORD**

February 25, 2018

10:00 a.m.



to all who would know God and do God's will;  
for all who would live and serve to make the world better;  
to all who seek comfort and would find rest  
to old and young, wise and unlearned, rich and poor,  
saint and sinner, this church opens wide its doors  
and in the name of Jesus Christ bids you welcome  
to our Father's house.

Lent is a period of time between Ash Wednesday and Easter where Christians  
focus on spiritual purification, meditation and penance.

Today is the 2nd Sunday in Lent

**Enter to Worship      Leave to Serve**

**INTRODUCTION**

Every one of us is being prepared for our greatest moment when we will be  
tapped on the shoulder and asked to do something that is unique to us and fitted  
to our talents. What a tragedy it will be if we are unprepared and incapable of  
meeting that great call. Sir Winston Churchill.

**Welcome** to our worship service this morning. Visitors, please take a moment to  
introduce yourselves and to sign our guest book in the hall just outside the sanctuary.

## **Welcome and Announcements**

### **BOM meeting update**

**Keppel**

The BOM had a meeting on Wednesday Feb 21 2018. 4/7 members present  
Lisa our Admin contract is being extended on a month by month basis  
Interviews for an Admin. Assistant who is also finance savvy has started.  
Had a briefing on Knox St Paul's as a potential tenant. We have to study  
SJPC Net Income for Jan was \$ 5822. However the WOC contributed  
\$10,000 so our income was \$5000 below our outgo.  
Our final budget for 2018 was \$266, 429. Heating bill for January was \$3117  
Our board continues to do excellent work here in St Johns.

### **Call to Worship (Responsive)**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of  
the Holy Spirit be with us all.

**Let us turn to the The Liturgy for lent 2 insert and read responsively.**

### **Opening Hymn**

**He leadeth me**

**650**

**It was a rainy evening in March 1862 in the city of Philadelphia. Gas street  
lamps flickered in the dimly lit wet streets as Rev. Gilmore was briskly  
walking along in the rain.**

**He had preached from this scripture three or four times before, but as he  
was quoting the scripture to himself, he got no further than "He Leadeth  
Me".**

**As he strode along, suddenly the "Blessed Thought" of the phrase and the  
beauty and comfort of its message appeared like a helping hand in the  
darkness.**

**Arriving at the First Baptist Church where he was preaching a revival for  
two weeks, he entered the church to lead the service and his heart was  
still on fire from the revelation he received from the scripture.**

**He had seen in his mind the beautiful, immortal, and inspired words of  
the psalm.**

**He began to think, can I put this message into modern words so that the average layman can understand it.**

**Thinking of the dark world he was living in, he knew it had need of new hope, new vigor, and vitality.**

**Where better could these be found than in the underlying inspiration and comfort of this psalm? He sought for new words to express his thoughts.” He leadeth me O blessed thought! O words with heavenly comfort fraught! What’er I do, where’er I be, Still tis God’s hand that leadeth me!”**

**Still inspired from the blessings of the revival results and the leadership of the Holy Spirit, he wrote the second verse of “He Leadeth Me”. The words came to him as fast as he could write them down. When he finished writing the poem, he gave the paper to his wife to put away and gave no further thought to it. Several months later, Rev. Gilmore’s wife, without the knowledge of her husband sent the poem to the “Watchman and Reflector” a religious paper published in Boston, where the poem was first printed.**

**Two years later, William Bradbury, a great composer of music for hymns seeing the poem in the paper, set it to the beautiful music, as we know it today. “He Leadeth Me” with the Bradbury tune first appeared in a Sunday school songbook entitled the “Golden Censor” compiled by Mr. Bradbury in 1864.**

**Rev. Gilmore moved to Rochester, New York in 1865 to pastor the Second Baptist Church and stayed there until 1867. It was in this church that Rev. Gilmore picked up a hymnal and while thumbing through it, discovered his own hymn, “He Leadeth Me”. This was the first time he knew his hymn had found a place among the songs of the church. This song blessed him throughout his life and has blessed Christians of all faiths as well.**

**Opening Hymn**

**He leadeth me**

**650**

## **Opening Prayer**

**Gracious God, we come before you in prayer on this 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in lent. Lent is the period of time where Christians focus on spiritual purification so Help us to focus on purification of ourselves .**

**We meditate on our lives and seek help in renewing our Spirits. Help us to come closer to you so we can live in your shadow with purpose.**

**Show us the way.**

**Fill us with your love which knows no bounds.**

**Fill us with your compassion and free our lips to proclaim words of praise to you,**

**Help us to share your good news with others,**

**Guide, empower, and encourage us as we seek to minister to the community and the world, In the name of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen**

## **\*Praise Song                      Can a little child like me      441**

**Can a little child like me is a wonderful children's hymn published in 1877. It asks a simple question, and then proceeds to offer many possible answers to it.**

**Answers that, even more than a century later, are still relevant.**

**This hymn was written by Basswood who was an organ and piano teacher, and a composer, but little more is known of him.**

**Can a little child offer suitable praise and thanks to God? Yes, of course. The Lord Jesus said, "Out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants You [Father] have perfected praise" (Matt. 21:16. And what is the circumstance that fulfilled this prophecy from Psalm 8:2? It is the children crying in the temple precincts at the time of Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem, "Hosanna [save, I pray] to the Son of David" (vs. 15).**

**(The Bible exhorts us, “In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you” (I Thess. 5:18). And “let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name” (Heb. 13:15; cf. Eph. 5:20; Col. 3:17). That will be a major occupation of heaven too. “Then a voice came from the throne, saying, ‘Praise our God, all you His servants and those who fear Him, both small and great!’” (Rev. 19:5).**

**How worthwhile, then, to teach children, as soon as they can begin to understand it, that they should praise and thank God for blessings enjoyed. It’s part of the injunction to, “Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it” (Prov. 22:6).**

**Mary Dodge gives us an instrument by which a life of praise and thankfulness can be taught. Young children should learn and sing this beautiful hymn, with each of the particulars explained to them.**

**Stanza 1. One of the chief ways an individual can glorify God is by being the kind of person the Lord intends him or her to be. By being good (obeying God’s Word), and true (truthful, honest), faithful (dependable, loyal), and kind to others. In a way, this helps to fulfil Christ’s exhortation to “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven” (Matt. 5:16).**

**This is followed in the hymn by loving the Lord, and doing your part. The latter either relates to doing one’s part to praise God, or perhaps to fulfilling duties assigned by parents and teachers. Finally, the “little child,” and all of us, should “learn to say with all [our] hearts, Father, we thank Thee.” The need is for sincere and heartfelt praise, not just going through the motion, not just praise from the teeth outward.**

### **Time with the Young and Young at Heart**

**When I was young I went to Church on foot. We wore the same clothes every Sunday . Sunday best so to speak and our teachers were the same teachers that we had during the week in regular school . So if you did not show up on Sunday , those teachers on Monday morning would ask**

**where you were the day before . And since the teachers knew my parents we knew that we had to go to Sunday school.**

**When I was 16, my mother told me that we were coming to Canada.**

**We did not know much about Canada.**

**We knew that it had snow and was largely uninhabited**

**I was going to leave my country, my people and my home and go to the land far away.**

**It will be a great nation and I will bless you; and your name will become great.**

**I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse.**

**On the morning of our flight , all of the family came to say Good bye because that is what we did.**

**So I got to the airport and checked my one bag and counted my \$100 which is what I came to Canada with.**

**1 bag and 100\$.And now 45 years later here I am with one bag and bunch or credit cards.**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

### **Song of Illumination #500**

**Duet: keppel Bharath & Dr. Michele Alexis**

**Clara H. Scott (1841-1897) provides us with a hymn of consecration that has been sung for over 100 years.**

**In 1856, Scott attended the first Music Institute held by C.M. Cady in Chicago, Ill.**

**By 1859, she was teaching music at the Ladies' Seminary, Lyons, Iowa. She married Henry Clay Scott in 1861, and published in 1882 the Royal Anthem Book, the 1st volume of choir anthems published by a woman.**

**Horatio R. Palmer, an influential church musician in Chicago and later New York City, was a source of encouragement for Scott, and helped her publish many of her songs. Three collections were issued.**

**The text of "Open My Eyes" was written in 1895 shortly before Scott's death. Each stanza reveals an increasing receptiveness to the "Spirit divine." Open eyes lead to "glimpses of truth." Open ears lead to "voices of truth." An open mouth leads to sharing the "warm truth everywhere." An open heart leads to sharing "love to thy children."**

**The image of open ears is also significant in the biblical witness. Matthew often reprises the theme "Who hath ears to hear, let him hear." Closed ears become a metaphor for a lack of understanding: While the eyes and the ears are receptive organs, the mouth has the capacity to project. "O Lord, open thou my lips; and my mouth shall show forth thy praise."**

**The heart is the only organ included in this hymn that is not visible. Jesus also realized that the heart has the capacity for purity: "Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God" (Matthew 5:8).**

**Scott has given us not only a list of organs through which we may receive and project truth and love, but also provides the method in her refrain:**

### **The Scriptures**

Read by **Dan Plant**

Genesis 17 verse 1-7;  
Psalm 22: verses 22-31 responsively  
Romans 4: 13- 25  
Mark 8: 31 - 38

### **Hymn of the Month: Like the murmur of the dove's song #385**

**The Hymn of the month emphasizes the dove as symbol of Holy Spirit. . Like the murmur of the dove's song, like the challenge of her flight, like the vigor of the wind's rush, like the new flame's eager might: Come, Holy Spirit, come. This Hymn was written by The Reverend Dr. Carl P. Daw, Jr. who was born in Louisville, Kentucky and grew up in a succession of towns in Tennessee where his father was a Baptist pastor. He received his undergraduate education at Rice University and his M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Virginia. He has served successively as Secretary and Chair of the Standing Commission on**

**Church Music of the Episcopal Church and was a consultant member of the Text Committee for The Hymnal 1982, to which he contributed a number of translations, metrical paraphrases, and original hymns. His hymns have subsequently appeared in numerous hymnals in the U.S. and England, including Songs of Rejoicing, and New Songs of Rejoicing, as well as in a number of smaller collections and over two dozen anthem settings. A member of the Advisory Committee for The Hymnal 1982 Companion, he wrote the book's essay on "The Spirituality of Anglican Hymnody" as well as numerous text commentaries. The Church Hymnal Corporation has published a volume he edited called Breaking the Word: Essays on the Liturgical Dimensions of Preaching. He has written numerous articles and reviews for The St. Luke's Journal of Theology, The Anglican Theological Review, and The Hymn, and has spoken at many conferences and seminaries across the country.**

**Hymn of the Month: Like the murmur of the dove's song #385**

### **SERMON**

**You have all learned great stories about Abram from your earliest days in Sunday school. He was introduced as ABRAM – the name would be changed to Abraham later. You heard about God calling him from his ancestral home:**

**Everybody knows old Abe. I doubt that any individual in history is more widely recognized and or revered. Abram is patriarch to history's three great religions: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.**

**In the Bible, of all the incredible people of faith we find there, the only one called the "friend of God" is Abram.**

**"Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you. I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all**

**peoples on earth will be blessed through you.” So Abram left, as the LORD had told him.**

**Now hold on a minute.**

**If you were to get that edict today what would you do?**

**1st step I will take is to get on line and find that place. Then see who flies there and if there are 4\* hotels close by.**

**Do they have UBER ? These are a few questions that I will have.**

**Jamila and Michele are heading off to Japan on March 12 because Jamila is called there. So while sitting on our sofa they were able to get tickets booked and a hotel booked and places to visit when they are in Tokyo before heading off to leave Jamila in Hiroshima. All of this happens in real time. In less than 5 seconds there are 14 flights / routes found for the travel dates specified.**

**Now Abram did not have an iPhone nor did he have Siri. HE only had Sarai.**

**But he was a faithful servant of the LORD. So when he was called, he pulled up stakes and began a journey which took him from one end of the known world to the other, and for no other reason than his God told him to do it. THAT IS FAITH.**

**So let us see how God Led Abram. Let us look at how Abram was tested**

**Let us take a good look as to how Abram aligned his will to be the same as God’s will because the end game is our wills and God’s will MUST be aligned.**

**Place yourselves in their shoes. Let us compare reactions.**

**The Sermon this morning is tagged “WHERE ARE YOU TAKING US”**

**Leave your country, your people and your father’s household and go to the land I will show you. I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all**

**peoples on earth will be blessed through you.” So Abram left, as the LORD had told him.**

**Not very long into this family’s journey, a famine arose in Canaan. But Abram, despite all his faith, was not so sure that he could follow God blindly. So now we see the wavering in Abraham’s faith .He was not so sure anymore.**

**In danger of starvation, he headed for Egypt and hoped-for relief. As they came near the border, Abe said to Sarai**

**“Listen, you are one good-looking lady. If these Egyptians figure we are husband and wife, after seeing you, and wanting you, they will kill me to get to you.**

**And that is what they did. The word comes to Pharaoh about this pretty newcomer. He buys her from her so-called brother for his harem; Abe not only is spared but makes a huge profit – as the scripture says, “sheep and cattle, donkeys, menservants and maidservants, and camels.” BUT, Pharaoh and his household suddenly began to experience one disaster after another. He traced their onset back to the arrival of Sarai, investigated, found out the deception, and confronted “Brother” Abram: “What have you done to me?” he said. “Why didn’t you tell me she was your wife? Why did you say, ‘She is my sister, Look take your wife and depart my kingdom. Take her and go!”**

**So Abram and Sarai and company made their exit, not only with their lives, but with all that booty as well, including one slave girl whom we hear a good deal about later. Genesis C13 V 2 now calls him “very wealthy.”(3) But God was not done with Abram yet. He was still leading him. Abram was following. THAT’S FAITH**

**As you may recall, Abram’s childless wife, Sarai, in an effort to fulfill her conjugal responsibility to provide offspring, does the next best thing – she offers her husband the pro- creational services of her Egyptian slave girl Hagar.**

**You see, children were the Social Security system of the day – when you got old and were no longer able to manage for yourself, they would take care of you; it was their solemn duty. Not having any children was more**

**than an embarrassment; it was socially and economically dangerous. Hagar gets pregnant.**

**Now Sarai did not like that Hagar became pregnant and came to Abraham to complain.**

**It is your entire fault and insists that Abe run Hagar off.**

**But Abe tells Sarai to handle it herself, which she does by treating Hagar so terribly that the young maid leaves on her own accord.**

**As the story unfolds, the Angel of the Lord sees Hagar's predicament, comes to her in her distress in the wilderness, and tells her to return to Abram and Sarai, have the baby, and know that God will bless him. She does, and brings forth Ishmael. But God is not done with Abram yet.**

**Now even though Abram has a son Ishmael and an heir now, there is still a lot of tension in the family because the baby came from a slave girl instead of his wife. Again God intervenes.**

**This is my covenant with you: You will be the father of many nations.**

**And I will change your name s. No longer will you be called Abram [which means Exalted Father]; your name will be Abraham ["Father of many nations"], for I have made you a father of many nations. I will make you very fruitful; I will make nations of you, and kings will come from you. I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you.**

**"As for Sarai, your name will now be Sarah.**

**Both names come from a root meaning Princess. Sarah would have been understood as "great princess" or "princess of many.**

**By giving new names to these two folks, God is affirming a certain relationship with them. Something similar occurs when we name our children, our pets, other things that are precious to us. In giving names, we are accepting a special responsibility for nurturing and caring.**

**God gave them new names as HE was taking the responsibility for nurturing and caring for Abraham and Sarah.**

**God was again saying “I am not done with Abraham or Sarah yet.”**

**Then he drops a real bombshell.**

**I will bless Sarah. She will give you a son. I will bless her so that she will be the mother of nations; kings of peoples will come from her.”**

**Sarah chuckled. She must have thought that God was losing track of his stars. She was after all 89 and past her child bearing years. I will have a baby? Really? Abraham – Mr. Rock-Solid, Unwavering Faith – does not simply chuckle at the thought; he falls on his face laughing at such a prospect. After all, he was 99 years old; Sarah was 89.**

**But God’s will has no limitations. Sarah became pregnant and Isaac came along miraculously late in Abraham’s and Sarah’s life – Abraham was 100, Sarah 90 when Isaac was born.**

**Sadly, Abe allows Ishmael and his mom Hagar to be run off by the jealous Sarah once more.**

**As the Genesis story has it, Sarah finally dies at the age of 127; Abraham marries again (at around 140 years of age) and has another half-dozen kids. An ACTIVE senior citizen, eh?**

**That was in fulfillment of God’s promise that Abraham’s offspring would be as numerous as the stars in the sky or the sand by the sea.**

**And so Abraham desire to have an heir was granted in his son Isaac.**

**Now God was not done testing Abraham. He called on Abraham to take the teenage Isaac to a mountain and offer him as a sacrifice.**

**Now, some of you may welcome that offer from God. But faithful Abraham did as he was told, took Isaac, prepared to sacrifice him, and had the knife poised and ready to strike but God intervened.**

**Abraham had passed this strange test. The boy was spared; a ram which had been caught in a nearby thicket was sacrificed instead.**

**This was God's will because it was through Isaac that all these grandchildren and great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren were supposed to come.**

**Abram was a generous fellow – when there was a land dispute between his family and the family of his nephew Lot, Abe gave Lot first choice and was content to take the leftovers.**

**Abram was a compassionate fellow: when he learned that God planned to destroy Lot's new hometown, Sodom, Abe interceded on the city's behalf – he actually argued with God in an attempt to save Lot's neighbors, sinful though they might be.**

**He finally dies at the age of 175, “old and full of years.”**

**I love the story of Abraham because I learn some incredibly important truths from it. First, I learn that God chooses and uses real people, imperfect people like us to do His Will. But God was not done with Abraham yet.**

**Second, I see the unconditional nature of God's covenant. The promise of land, descendants and a blessed heritage never changed from Day 1. It was indeed FIRM,**

**There is no “If you do this, I will do that.” No quid pro quo. There was a lot of growth and development that would occur, because God was not done with Abraham yet. But the covenant is as secure today as the day it was uttered. That is the nature of our God.**

**Third, I see that people of faith go through their ups and downs. Centuries later Paul would write to the Romans concerning this man, “he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised.”**

**But Abe had his moments. How many other times do we read of someone falling on the ground and laughing at what God has to say? But, of course, God had a plan for Abraham.**

**And that is the big lesson I get from this wonderful saga. No matter where Abraham was in his life, God was not done with him. God is STILL not done with him – just the fact that we are reading the story, learning from it, being inspired and guided by it proves that.**

**Abraham and Sarah may have thought they were done...others may have thought so too...but not God.**

**I for one am GLAD to know that. There are times when life spins wildly out of control. There are other times when life is so routine that even your rut is in a rut. And there are times when life is everything in between. Well, my friends, no matter what your life is like, the good news I have for you this morning is that just as surely as God was not done with Abraham and Sarah, God is not done with you and me either. God can still bring things to “birth,” to new life, through us.**

**We have seen it right here, haven't we? We have experienced some exhilarating times in recent weeks here at SJPC . There are many candles being lit every week in memory of those who went before us.**

**I did not know Dr MacLennan, but I knew Gwelda Markell . She took our kids away on Sep 6 1992 and we have been here ever since. I know Marvin Scrimshaw . He hired me to clean his windows at 10 \$ per hour and we spent the entire time talking about electronics.**

**I believe that we will continue to experience new visions for ministry and mission at St John's . Why? Because God's leading us somewhere.**

**I believe we will continue to see new growth, both spiritual and numerical at St John's . Why? Because God's leading us somewhere.**

**I believe that the wonderful sense of excitement that is here in this church will continue to grow. Why? Because GOD'S NOT DONE WITH US YET! But where is he taking us?**

**God is never done with us. Why? Because of God's unconditional covenant love that we begin to see in Abraham but come to know in a special way in Jesus Christ. It is a love that will never let us go...regardless of our failures, regardless of our fumbles, regardless of our falls, regardless of our fears.**

**God is always leading us. Just follow his guidance.**

**This is not news. It is the reality of our lives here at St John's.**

**And so He gives us strength and shines his light for us to follow so HE can lead us out of our darkness . We therefore praise and adore HIM**

### **Presentation of our Offerings and Gifts**

#### **Offertory Anthem: Gary**

**We thank thee dear FATHER for these gifts that we have received from your bounty. Help us to use it wisely to continue doing your work here at St Johns. We ask these things in your name AMEN.**

#### **THANKS**

**Thanks to the Session for allowing me to be your lay preacher this morning here at St John's .**

**I would like to thank Gary and the Choir for the Anthem, Rev Fred for his historical review of the hymns that we sung. I would also like to thank Rev Draffin who was instrumental in showing me how to construct a Sermon and establish links with the Scriptures and Hymns  
Lastly my wife Michele who read and tailored this Service.  
So if you did not like it you now know who to blame.**

#### **Pastoral Prayer**

##### **Prayers for the World**

**As we prepare to leave your house this morning, I would like us to put our collective prayers for the following.**

**St Regis has declared a state of emergency due to flooding caused by Ice Jams in the tributaries leading to the St Lawrence. Please modulate the temperatures to assist them in clearing these jams.**

**We pray for Syria so that they may respect the ceasefire and stop the bombing of your neighbours to the East of Damascus**

**Pray that North Korea offer to meet with the US President comes through after a great North / South Olympic corporation in Pyongchang  
Please intervene in Nigeria, Chad, Democratic Republic of Congo and South Africa to install calm in their population as these countries prepare to change their leaders.**

**We also take a few moments to pray for those people who are near to us  
and in need of our prayers .**

**We ask these prayers in your name and your sons name AMEN**

**Closing Hymn                      Lead us heavenly Father Lead us                      647**  
Everything known about James Edmeston, writer of ‘Lead us, heavenly  
Father, lead us’ seems to have been condensed into a single paragraph,  
leaving us to try to make deductions about his thoughts as he wrote the  
hymn.

**Putting what we know of his life, together with the words he wrote, we  
can form some impression of what his faith meant to him.**

**James Edmeston was born in 1791 in Wapping in east London, an area  
that was to become part of the London docklands as the city grew and  
trade expanded.**

**He was baptized at Bull Lane Independent Chapel in Stepney where his  
mother’s father served as pastor for some fifty years.**

**Edmeston trained as an architect and surveyor, starting out on his  
professional career in 1816, when he was 25.**

**In the architectural world, Edmeston became known for having Sir  
George Gilbert Scott articulated to him for training. Scott was to rise to  
fame for his buildings in central London His attachment to Edmeston’s  
practice in Bishopsgate, arose because Edmeston was recommended to  
his father by ‘the travelling agent to the Bible Society.’**

**In 1866, a year before his death, Edmeston reflecting on his life, wrote,  
‘From early years I had a strong leaning towards the Church of  
England, the service of which I find more congenial to my own feelings.’**

**Edmeston valued his church membership, becoming church warden of  
his local parish of Saint Barnabas at Homerton in London, a prominent  
position in times when the Church dominated the life of the country.  
Edmeston must also have devoted a great deal of time to his writing, for  
he wrote the extraordinary total of two thousand hymns; it was said  
that he wrote a hymn every Sunday.**

**He wrote many hymns marked by their simplicity and the directness of their message in his attempts to communicate the Christian faith to young people. Edmeston was concerned with the practical as well as the spiritual welfare of children and he was a strong supporter of and regular visitor to the London Orphan Asylum.**

**‘Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us’ first appeared in ‘Sacred Lyrics’, a collection of Edmeston’s writing that was published in 1821; it is the only one of the 2,000 hymns he wrote that is still in regular use, but perhaps it is quality and not quantity that matters, for it has become one of the most popular traditional hymns.**

**The hymn is titled “A Hymn to the Trinity” in one collection, and we see the verses beginning with Father, Saviour and Spirit. As we read through the lines of the hymn, do we catch glimpses of Edmeston’s feelings in the way he expresses his personal faith in God?**

**Edmeston concludes the hymn with a poetic prayer to the Holy Spirit. The Spirit brings many gifts, but foremost amongst them are love, joy and peace and these are sought in Edmeston’s lines: heavenly joy, love and peace that cannot be destroyed.**

**‘Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us’ is profoundly spiritual and profoundly practical; it acknowledges God as he is and it acknowledges ourselves as we are. Singing it, may we have a sense of God as the one who comes to share our life that we might go to share his life.**

### **Commissioning (Unison)**

**In the power of the Holy Spirit,  
we now go forth into the world, to fulfill our calling  
as the people of God, the body of Christ.**

### **Benediction—We are Here Joined in Christ ( Edelweiss)**

**We are here joined in Christ,  
called to serve and adore Him.  
Give us peace, perfect peace,  
patience and hope everlasting.  
Send us to serve in our Master’s name,  
and to glorify Him.  
Joined with Christ, and through Christ,  
praise our Father forever.**