

444 Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive

Capo 5: (Am) (Dm) (Am) (C) (Em) (Am) (Am) Dm

1 "For - give our sins as we for - give," you taught us, Lord, to pray.
 2 How can your par - don reach and bless the un - for - giv - ing heart
 3 In blaz - ing light your cross re - veals the truth we dim - ly knew:
 4 Lord, cleanse the depths with - in our souls and bid re - sent - ment cease.

(F) (Em) (C) (Dm) (Em)(Am) (Am) Dm

B \flat Am (F) Gm

but you a - lone can grant us grace to live the words we say.
 that broods on wrongs and will not let old bit - ter - ness de - part?
 what triv - ial debts are owed to us, how great our debt to you!
 Then, by your mer - cy rec - on - ciled, our lives will spread your peace.

445 God, How Can We Forgive

1 God, how can we for - give when bonds of love are torn?
 2 When we have missed the mark, and tears of an - guish flow,
 3 Who dares to throw the stone to damn an - oth - er's sin,

How can we rise and start a - new, our trust re - born?
 how can you still re - lease our guilt, the debt we owe?
 when you, while know - ing all our past, for - give a - gain?

When hu - man lov - ing fails and ev - ery hope is gone,
 The o - cean depth of grace sur - pass - es all our needs,
 No more we play the judge, for by your grace we live.

your love gives strength be - yond our own to face the dawn.
 A priest who shares our hu - man pain, Christ in - ter - cedens,
 As you, O God, for - give our sin, may we for - give.

Few petitions of the Lord's Prayer are as difficult to pray as this one, and we would not dare to pray it; if we had to depend on ourselves rather than the example of forgiveness we are given in Jesus Christ. The shape note tune sets these words with appropriate sparseness.

This text reflects both the struggle to deal with a deep personal hurt and a keen awareness of biblical language and content. The opening line of stanza two, for example, draws on the root meaning of the Greek word for sin, and the beginning of stanza three alludes to John 8:3-6.

463 How Firm a Foundation

1 How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
 2 "Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed,
 3 "When through the deep waters I call thee to go,
 4 "When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie,
 5 "The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose,
 I will not desert to its foes;
 that is the promise which God's ex-cel-lent Word!
 I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;
 the rivers of sorrow shall not overflow;
 my grace, all sufficient, shall be thy supply;
 I will not desert to its foes;
 that is the promise which God's ex-cel-lent Word!
 I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;
 the rivers of sorrow shall not overflow;
 my grace, all sufficient, shall be thy supply;
 I will not desert to its foes;
 that is the promise which God's ex-cel-lent Word!

What more can be said than to you God hath said,
 I'll strength-en these, help thee, and cause thee to stand,
 for I will be near thee, and thy troubles to bless,
 the flame shall not hurt thee; I on-ly de-sign
 that soul, though all hell should en-deav-or to shake,
 to you who for refuge to Je-sus have fled?
 up-held by my right-eous, om-ni-potent hand.
 and sanc-ti-fy to thee thy deep-est dis-tress.
 thy dross to con-sume, and thy gold to re-fine.
 I'll nev-er, no, nev-er, no, nev-er for-sake."

It seems odd now to think of singing this text to ADESTE FIDELES, but mainline churches did so well into the 20th century because of a cultural bias against shape note music. The vigor of the present tune seems

464 Our Father, Which Art in Heaven

Leader or All
 1 Our Fa-ther, which art in heav-en
 2 On earth as it is in heav-en
 3 And for-give us all our debts
 4 And lead us not in-to temp-ta-tion
 5 For thine is the king-dom, the power, and the glo-ry

All
 hal-low-ed - a - be thy name,
 Thy king-dom come; thy will be done;
 Give us this day our dai-ly bread;
 As we for-give our debt-or men;
 But de-liv-er us from -
 For - ev-er and ev-er, a -
 hal-low-ed - a - be thy name.

This lively call-and-response setting of the Lord's Prayer, based on the King James Version, uses the traditional blessing as the congregation's refrain. This repetition is more than a convenience; it is a reminder of the abiding hope that all people will come to honor God's name.

353 My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

1 My hope is built on nothing less than Je - sus' blood and
 2 When dark-ness seems to hide his face, I rest on his un -
 3 His oath, his cov - e - nant, his blood sup - port me in the
 4 When he shall come with trum - pet sound, O may I then in

right - teous - ness; I dare not trust the sweet - est frame, but
 chang - ing grace; in ev - ery high and storm - y gale, my
 whelm - ing flood; when all a - round my soul gives way, he
 him be found, dressed in his righ - teous - ness a - lone, fault -

Refrain

whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.
 an - chor holds with - in the veil.
 then is all my hope and stay.
 less to stand be - fore the throne.

On Christ, the sol - id Rock, I stand; all

oth - er ground is, sink - ing sand; all, oth - er ground is sink - ing sand.

This hymn develops the imagery of Jesus' remark (Matthew 7:24-27 / Luke 6:47-49) that those who believe in him and act on that belief are like someone who builds a house on a rock. The text is set to a tune created for it by a prolific 19th-century American composer and editor.

