

# We Gather Together

*Netherlands folk hymn, 16th century  
Transl. Theodore Baker, 1894  
Adapt. Lavon Bayler, 1992*

- 1 We gath-er to-geth-er  
to ask for God's bless-ing,  
to live in com-mu-ni-ty,  
seek-ing God's will.  
We come now, as sis-ters  
and broth-ers, con-fess-ing  
the sins that di-vide  
and the wrong in us still.
- 2 Be-side us, for-giv-ing,  
en-a-bling, sus-tain-ing,  
you call us, O Sav-ior,  
to life that is new.  
You draw us a-way  
from self-cen-tered com-plain-ing.  
You lead us and guide us  
in ways that are true.
- 3 All praise to the Spir-it,  
pro-vid-er, de-fend-er.  
You of-fer us free-dom,  
to fol-low or stray,  
Em-pow-er-ing all by  
the hope you en-gen-der.  
Grant wis-dom and cour-age  
to fol-low your way.

*The original text of this hymn was one of thanksgiving for The Netherlands' independence from Spanish domination in the sixteenth century. It has been reinterpreted for contemporary congregations by United Church of Christ minister and writer Lavon Bayler.*

Tune: KREMSER 12.11.12.11.  
16th-century Dutch melody  
Arr. Edward Kremser, 1877

## Opening Hymn

# 422 Come, O Thankful People, Come

Exod. 23:16

St. 1, Henry Alford, 1844; alt.  
St. 2, Anna Laetitia Aiken Barbauld, 1772; alt.  
St. 3, composite of Alford and Barbauld; alt.

Descant

3 These to you, our God, we owe, source from whom all bless-ings flow;

1 Come, O thank-ful peo-ple, come, raise the song of har-vest home;  
2 All the bless-ings of the field, all the stores the gar-dens yield,  
3 These to you, our God, we owe, source from whom all bless-ings flow;

*This hymn represents the joining of two Thanksgiving hymns by nineteenth-century poet Henry Alford and eighteenth-century*

Tune: ST. GEORGE'S WINDSOR 7.7.7.D.  
George J. Elvey, 1858

and for these our songs we raise, grate-ful vows and sol-enn praise.  
all is safe-ly gath-ered in as the win-ter storms be-gin;  
all the fruits in full sup-ply, rip-ened 'neath the sum-mer sky,  
and for these our songs we raise, grate-ful vows and sol-enn praise.

Come, then, thank-ful peo-ple, come, raise the song of har-vest home;  
God our Mak-er does pro-vide for our wants to be sup-plied;  
All that spring with boun-teous hand scat-ters o'er the smil-ing land,  
Come, then, thank-ful peo-ple, come, raise the song of har-vest home;

come to God's own tem-ple, come, raise the song of har-vest home.  
come to God's own tem-ple, come, raise the song of har-vest home.  
all that lib-eral au-tumn pours from its rich o'er-flow-ing stores,  
come to God's own tem-ple, come, raise the song of har-vest home.

# Middle Hymn

THANKSGIVING

## We Praise You, O God

420

Julia C. Cory, 1902; alt.

1 We praise you, O God, our Re - deem - er, Cre - a - tor;  
 2 We wor - ship you, God of our moth - ers and fa - thers;  
 3 With voic - es u - nit - ed our prais - es we of - fer,

in grate - ful de - vo - tion our trib - ute we bring.  
 through life's storm and tem - pest our guide you have been.  
 and glad - ly our song of thanks - giv - ing we raise.

We lay it be - fore you, we kneel and a - dore you;  
 When per - ils o'er - take us, you nev - er will for - sake us,  
 Our sins now con - fess - ing, we pray for your bless - ing;

we bless your ho - ly name, glad prais - es we sing.  
 and with your help, O God, in life's strug - gles we win.  
 to you, our great Re - deem - er, for - ev - er be praise!

Julia Bulkley Cady Cory wrote this hymn for Thanksgiving in 1902.

Tune: KREMSER 12.11.12.11.

THANKSGIVING

# Closing Hymn

419

## Nun danket alle Gott (Now Thank We All Our God)

Sir. 50:20-24; 39:35; Ps. 67

Martin Rinkart, 1647; transl. Catherine Winkworth, 1858; alt.

1 Nun dank - et al - le Gott, mit Herz - en, Mund und Händ - en,  
 1 Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voic - es,  
 2 O may this boun - teous God through all our life be near us,  
 3 All praise and thanks to God our Mak - er now be giv - en,

der gro - sse Ding - e tut an uns und al - len End - en;  
 Who won - drous things has done, in whom this world re - joic - es,  
 With ev - er joy - ful hearts and bless - ed peace to cheer us,  
 To Christ, and Spir - it, too, our help in high - est heav - en,

der uns von Mut - ter - leib und Kind - es - bein - en an  
 Who, from our par - ents' arms, has blessed us on our way  
 And keep us still in grace, and guide us when per - plexed,  
 The one e - ter - nal God, whom earth and heaven a - dore,

un - zäh - lig viel zu gut bis hier - her hat ge - tan.  
 With count - less gifts of love, and still is ours to - day.  
 And free us from all ills in this world and the next.  
 For thus it was, is now, and shall be ev - er - more.

For much of his life, German Lutheran pastor and musician

Tune: NUN DANKET 6.7.6.7.6.6.6.6.