

Media and Graphics Notes

Word of Witness Video?	Yes. There will be a video for Memorial Day which I will introduce
Sermon Starter Video?	Yes
Sermon Notes?	There are numerous scriptures and definitions for the screen throughout the sermon.
Other Notes	There will be a video at the very beginning of worship which will introduce the Day of Pentecost. I will introduce it at the welcome.

Key Questions, Metadata and Outline

What is this sermon about?

This sermon is about the truths of scripture found in Blessed Assurance, It is Well with My Soul and The Old Rugged Cross.

Why is this sermon important?

This sermon is important because it helps us know more about the songs that we sing in worship. It is designed to help us connect with the truth of scripture and God's promises found in the faith we sing.

What is the context of this sermon?

This sermon is preached on Memorial Day weekend. It is the start of summer and the start of a new worship series.

What are the next action steps?

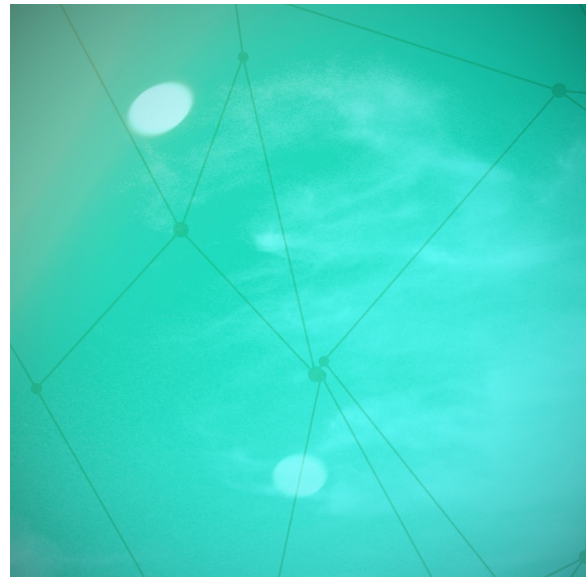
This week, let these songs penetrate your soul. They teach us some of the essentials of our faith.

What is the good news (bottom line)?

No matter what comes, the good news is that we can be assured of our salvation through the death of Christ on the cross.

Metadata

1. Topic(s)
 1. Worship



Day of Pentecost
Then Sings My Soul - Acts of Worship
First United Methodist Church of El Dorado
Text Online at <http://j.mp/1FALynZ>

May 24, 2015
Psalm 34:19
Preaching Target Word Count: 2,050
Audio Online at [Insert Link Here]

2. Grow
3. Making Disciples
2. Sermon Books of the Bible
3. Series
 1. Then Sings My Soul
4. Speaker
 1. Andrew Conard
5. Tags
 1. sermon, worship, church, Methodist, United Methodist, United Methodist Church, First United Methodist Church, El Dorado, Kansas, Great Plains, Annual Conference, Great Plains Annual Conference, Blessed Assurance, It is Well With My Soul, The Old Rugged Cross, salvation, cross, theodicy, providence

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Conclusion

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Good News

Call to Action

Invitation

Closing Prayer

Psalm 34:19, CEB

The righteous have many problems, but the Lord delivers them from every one.

Response to Scripture

One: The Word of God for the People of God.

All: Thanks be to God!

Introduction

Sermon Starter Video

Play sermon starter video.

*** Start Sermon Timer ***

Series Review

The great hymns of our faith share the truth of scripture. They remind us of God's promises in times of trouble and relax our hearts when we are overcome with worry. Songs such as, How Great Thou Art, Amazing Grace, Because He Lives and It Is Well with My Soul, give voice to our praise, prayers and the rhythm of our heart.

Sermon Notes and Scripture Study

I invite you to open your bulletin to a place where you can take notes during the message today. Today, I hope that you will hear:

- Something new or find new questions
- Perspective on your life or something in your life that gives additional meaning to the message today.
- Guidance about how to live as a disciple of Jesus.

I invite you to write down some of the things that you hear in the sermon today and take your bulletin home as a tool to grow in your faith outside of worship. You can reflect on what you heard today, pray for people of our congregation and read scripture to prepare for worship next week.

Opening

Prayer

Will you pray with me? O God, use these words to speak good news so that as individuals and as a congregation we will fear nothing but sin, desire nothing but you and live as part of your kingdom on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

Directions for Singing

When I was growing up, my brother, sister and I would sometimes look through the hymnal during worship. I remember being surprised to find that the hymnal has directions for singing. They are in the front of the hymnal that you have in front of you. Our favorite was Sing modestly. Do not bawl... We would always nudge each other and point to this one.

We shared a survey with you a few weeks ago about you favorite songs and hymns. This series is designed with songs from your top 20. Over the next several weeks, we will take a closer look at three hymns, their background, connections with scripture and what the lyrics teach us about faith.

Whether we are aware of it or not, music teaches us faith. I hope that you will plan to be here every Sunday to take a closer look at the faith that we sing.

Transition

Today, we consider Blessed Assurance, It is Well with my Soul and The Old Rugged Cross.

Blessed Assurance - UMH #369

Background

“Fanny Crosby, the blind nineteenth-century gospel hymn writer, wrote over 8,000 texts. Her ability to write hymns almost spontaneously is shown in the way this hymn came about.”¹

“One afternoon in 1873, Fanny was visiting with her good friend [Phoebe] Knapp, the wife of the founder of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company.”² “Phoebe said that she had a tune she wanted to play. Going to the music room, she sat at the piano and played a new composition of her own while [Fanny Crosby] listened.”³ “Immediately Crosby said that the tune suggested the words “Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine” and within a short time had completed the entire text.”⁴

Let’s take a closer look at this hymn:

¹ Diana Sanches, Volume Editor. *The Hymns of The United Methodist Hymnal* (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1989), 131.

² Pamela J. Kennedy. *Hymns of Faith & Inspiration* (Nashville: Ideals Publications Incorporated, 1990), 100-101.

³ Robert J. Morgan. *Then Sings My Soul: 300 of the World’s Greatest Hymn Stories* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2006), 325.

⁴ Sanches, Diana. Volume Editor. *The Hymns of The United Methodist Hymnal* (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1989), 131.

Theology and Scripture

Assurance

The title and first line of this hymn refer to a theological concept - assurance of salvation. Here is one definition of assurance:

Assurance of salvation - "Divinely given confidence that one has truly received salvation"⁵

Scripture

One description of assurance which we find in the scriptures is found in Hebrews 10:22:

"let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water."⁶

Let's take a closer look at the text of this hymn.

⁵ McKim, Donald. Westminster Dictionary of Theological Terms. (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 1996), 20.

⁶ Hebrews 10:22, NIV.

Hymn Text

	Text	Reflection
Verse 1	Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! O what a foretaste of glory divine! Heir of salvation, purchase of God, born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.	We experience blessed assurance when we are born of the Holy Spirit and washed clean in the blood of Christ
Verse 2	Perfect submission, perfect delight, visions of rapture now burst on my sight; angels descending bring from above echoes of mercy, whispers of love.	Perfect submission to Christ is one of the goals of the Christian life
Verse 3	Perfect submission, all is at rest; I in my Savior am happy and blest, watching and waiting, looking above, filled with his goodness, lost in his love.	In Christ, we are happy, blessed and lost in love. "We love because God first loved us." - 1 John 4:19
Chorus	This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long; this is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.	God's love is the story of our faith and experiencing the assurance of salvation leads to praising God

It Is Well with My Soul - UMH #377

Background

"In 1873, Chicago lawyer Horatio G. Spafford sent his wife and four daughters on a European trip, with plans to join them later. His family sailed on the SS *Ville du Havre*, which was struck by another ship and sank. Mrs. Spafford survived, but the daughters were lost. She cabled her husband from Cardiff, Wales: "Saved alone."⁷ "Horatio immediately booked passage to join his wife. En route, on a cold December night, the captain called him aside and said, "I believe we are now passing over the place where the *Ville du Havre* went down." Spafford went to his cabin but found it hard to sleep. He said to himself, "It is well, the will of God be done." He later wrote his famous hymn based on these words."⁸

⁷ Sanches, Diana. Volume Editor. *The Hymns of The United Methodist Hymnal* (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1989), 134.

⁸ Robert J. Morgan. *Then Sings My Soul* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2006), 327.

Theology and Scripture

Theodicy

Horatio Spafford was wrestling with theodicy as he wrote this hymn.

Theodicy - "The justification of [God's] justice and goodness in light of suffering and evil."⁹

How can we reconcile the goodness of God in the face of suffering? How was Mr. Spafford to respond to the loss of all of his children? His response is that, no matter what, it is well with his soul.

Scripture

We find a similar response in the scriptures. From Psalm 34:19:

"The righteous have many problems, but the Lord delivers them from every one."¹⁰

Also, from Psalm 46:1-3:

"God is our refuge and strength, a help always near in times of great trouble. That's why we won't be afraid when the world falls apart, when the mountains crumble into the center of the sea, when its waters roar and rage, when the mountains shake because of its surging waves."¹¹

Let's take a closer look at the text of this hymn.

⁹ McKim, Donald. Westminster Dictionary of Theological Terms. (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 1996), 279.

¹⁰ Psalm 43:19, CEB.

¹¹ Psalm 46:1-3, CEB.

Hymn Text

	Text	Reflection
Verse 1	When peace, like a river, attendeth my way, when sorrows like sea billows roll; whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say, It is well, it is well with my soul.	“Sorrows like sea billows roll” is a direct reference to his children lost at sea. No matter what, all is well.
Verse 2	Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come, let this blest assurance control, that Christ has regarded my helpless estate, and hath shed his own blood for my soul.	Christ shed his blood for our soul. “But God shows his love for us, because while we were still sinners Christ died for us.” - Romans 5:8
Verse 3	My sin, oh, the bliss of this glorious thought! My sin, not in part but the whole, is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more, praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!	“He destroyed the record of the debt we owed, with its requirements that worked against us. He canceled it by nailing it to the cross.” - Colossians 2:14
Verse 4	And, Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight, the clouds be rolled back as a scroll; the trump shall resound, and the Lord shall descend, even so, it is well with my soul.	This verse tells of the second coming of Christ.
Chorus	It is well with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.	The chorus reinforces the message of all being well, no matter what the circumstances.

The Old Rugged Cross - UMH #504

Background

“George Bennard was the son of a coal miner, converted during a Salvation Army meeting, who later became a Methodist evangelist in the Midwest and Canada.”¹² [After an evangelistic meeting], he reflected on the meaning of the cross in the life of a

¹² Sanches, Diana. Volume Editor. *The Hymns of The United Methodist Hymnal* (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1989), 173.

believer ... He became convinced that the cross was not merely a symbol of Christianity, but the very heart of it. In his writings, Bennard reports that as he meditated upon this, the words, “the old rugged cross,” came into his mind and then the notes of a melody ran through his head.”¹³

“It took several months for the words to formulate in his mind. ... George went to the home of [his friends] it for them. After the last note, he looked at them and asked, “Will it do?” [His friends] were so moved that they helped pay the fees to have it printed, and it soon began appearing in hymnbooks across America.”¹⁴

Theology and Scripture

Cross

George Bennard expresses his personal response to this theological truth:
“The cross is an instrument of execution which in the Christian faith is also the means of salvation through the death of Jesus Christ on a cross.”

Scripture

In the scripture we read the Apostle Paul writing about the cross to the early church in Galatia. From, Galatians 6:14:

“But as for me, God forbid that I should boast about anything except for the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ. The world has been crucified to me through him, and I have been crucified to the world.”¹⁵

Also, to the early church in Corinth, from 1 Corinthians 1:22-25:

“Jews ask for signs, and Greeks look for wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified, which is a scandal to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles. But to those who are called—both Jews and Greeks—Christ is God’s power and God’s wisdom. This is because the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.”¹⁶

Let’s take a closer look at the text of this hymn.

¹³ Pamela J. Kennedy. *Hymns of Faith & Inspiration* (Nashville: Ideals Publications Incorporated, 1990), 88-89.

¹⁴ Robert J. Morgan. *Then Sings My Soul* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2006), 545.

¹⁵ Galatians 6:14, CEB.

¹⁶ 1 Corinthians 1:22-25, CEB.

Hymn Text

	Text	Reflection
Verse 1	On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross, the emblem of suffering and shame; and I love that old cross where the dearest and best for a world of lost sinners was slain.	The cross was designed to maximize suffering and publicly shame those who were executed. Christ's death was for a world of sinners - you and me.
Verse 2	O that old rugged cross, so despised by the world, has a wondrous attraction for me; for the dear Lamb of God left his glory above to bear it to dark Calvary.	Kenosis - emptying "But he emptied himself by taking the form of a slave and by becoming like human beings. When he found himself in the form of a human, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross." - Philippians 2:7-8
Verse 3	In that old rugged cross, stained with blood so divine, a wondrous beauty I see, for 'twas on that old cross Jesus suffered and died, to pardon and sanctify me.	In Christ's life, death and resurrection we have the opportunity for both pardon - forgiveness of sins and sanctification - being made perfect in love.
Verse 4	To that old rugged cross I will ever be true, its shame and reproach gladly bear; then he'll call me some day to my home far away, where his glory forever I'll share.	Jesus said, "Whoever doesn't carry their own cross and follow me cannot be my disciple." - Luke 14:27
Chorus	So I'll cherish the old rugged cross, till my trophies at last I lay down; I will cling to the old rugged cross, and exchange it some day for a crown.	Anticipating the second coming of Christ. "And when the chief shepherd appears, you will receive an unfading crown of glory." - 1 Peter 5:4

Conclusion

Good News

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No matter what comes, the good news is that we can be assured of our salvation through the death of Christ on the cross.

Call to Action

This week, let these songs penetrate your soul. They teach us some of the essentials of our faith.

Invitation

You can receive Blessed Assurance of salvation.
You can say, "It is Well with My Soul" in the face of all circumstances.
Cling to the Old Rugged Cross and follow the way of Jesus.

Closing Prayer

[Text here]
Amen.

	8:30 AM	11:00 AM
Sermon Time		