

### Media and Graphics Notes

<b>Word of Witness Video?</b>	No
<b>Sermon Starter Video?</b>	Yes
<b>Sermon Notes?</b>	There are several scriptures throughout the sermon.
<b>Other Notes</b>	

### Key Questions, Metadata and Outline

#### ***What is this sermon about?***

This sermon is about the good news and truths of scripture found in Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty, In the Garden and Because He Lives.

#### ***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 is the second week of the Then Sings My Soul worship series.

#### ***What are the next action steps?***

This week ask yourself:

What three characteristics of God are most meaningful to me?

Do I experience the joy of the very first Easter in my every day life?

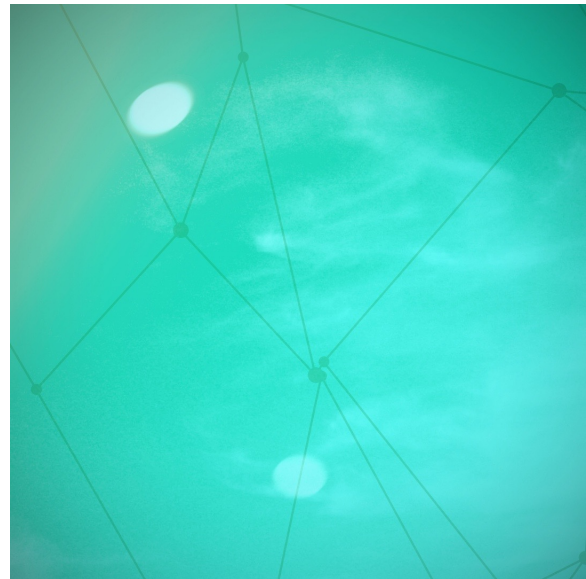
What is different in my life because Jesus lives?

#### ***What is the good news (bottom line)?***

The good news is that Jesus, the one who died, lives and we can experience the joy of living a in relationship with the Holy Trinity.

#### ***Metadata***

1. Topic(s)
  1. Worship
  2. Changing Lives
  3. Making Disciples
2. Sermon Books of the Bible



1st Sunday after Pentecost  
Then Sings My Soul - The Glory of the Triune God  
First United Methodist Church of El Dorado  
Text Online at <http://j.mp/1Knfalf>

May 31, 2015  
Revelation 4:8  
Preaching Target Word Count: 2,050  
Audio Online at [Insert Link Here]

1. John, Revelation
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, Holy, God, Trinity, Jesus, Mary, resurrection

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## **Because He Lives - UMH #364**

**10**

Background

Theology and Scripture

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Verse 1

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Good News

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## Revelation 4:8, CEB

Each of the four living creatures had six wings, and each was covered all around and on the inside with eyes. They never rest day or night, but keep on saying, "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is coming."

## Response to Scripture

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

**All: Thanks be to God!**

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## Introduction

### Sermon Starter Video

Play sermon starter video.

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\*\*\* Start Sermon Timer \*\*\*  
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## 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. Join First United Methodist Church on Sunday from May 24 to June 15 for Then Sings My Soul, a worship series focused on the faith we sing.

## 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.

### Story

[Text here]

### Transition

[Text here]

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## Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty - UMH #64

### Background

Reginald Heber was a priest in the church of England who served for sixteen years at Hodnet, before being appointed to serve as Bishop of Calcutta. He was an excellent poet and during his time in the local church, wrote 57 hymns.<sup>1</sup> These hymns were designed to be used at specific times in the Christian Year.<sup>2</sup>

Let's take a closer look at this hymn:

### Theology and Scripture

#### Trinity

Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty was written to be sung [today] on Trinity Sunday.<sup>3</sup> Trinity Sunday is the first Sunday after Pentecost and we celebrate one God in three persons - Father, Son and Holy Spirit. "The Trinity, God in three persons, is a central doctrine of the Christian faith, clearly stated for the first time at the council of Nicaea in 325 AD."<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Pamela J. Kennedy. *Hymns of Faith & Inspiration* (Nashville: Ideals Publications Incorporated, 1990), 56.

<sup>2</sup> Diana Sanches, Volume Editor. *The Hymns of The United Methodist Hymnal* (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1989), 39.

<sup>3</sup> Diana Sanches, Volume Editor. *The Hymns of The United Methodist Hymnal* (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1989), 39.

<sup>4</sup> Pamela J. Kennedy. *Hymns of Faith & Inspiration* (Nashville: Ideals Publications Incorporated, 1990), 56.

Let's take a closer look at this hymn:

## **Hymn Text**

"Looking carefully at the hymn, one finds it not only speaks of the Trinity, but also speaks in trinities."

### **Verse 1**

Verse 1 shares a trinity of characteristics - holy, merciful, and mighty

Holy, holy, holy!  
Merciful and mighty,  
God in three persons,  
blessed Trinity!

### **Verse 2**

Verse 2 shares a trinity of time - wert, art and evermore.

cherubim and seraphim  
falling down before thee,  
which wert, and art,  
and evermore shalt be.

This comes directly from the scripture passage for today: "... Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is coming."<sup>5</sup>

### **Verse 3**

Verse 1 shares another trinity of characteristics - power, love, and purity

only thou art holy;  
there is none beside thee,  
perfect in power,  
in love and purity.

### **Verse 4**

Verse 1 describes the scope of God's power in a set of three - earth, sky and sea.

Holy, holy, holy!  
Lord God Almighty!  
All thy works shall praise thy name,  
in earth and sky and sea.

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<sup>5</sup> Revelation 4:8, CEB.

### **Transition**

“Heber’s attempt to clarify the Trinity for his small nineteenth century parishioners has become a classic hymn of worship for Christians ever since and is sung in churches of almost all denominations.”<sup>6</sup>

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## **In the Garden - UMH #314**

### **Background**

“C. Austin Miles was a pharmacist who began writing gospel songs and eventually became an editor of hymnals and songbooks, as well as a popular music director at camp meetings, conventions, and churches. His hobby was photography, and he found his darkroom was perfect for ... his devotional life.” He could read the Bible there in total privacy.<sup>7</sup>

Let’s take a closer look at this hymn:

### **Theology and Scripture**

#### **John 20**

“One day in Marcy, 1912, while waiting for some film to develop, he opened the Bible to his favorite chapter, John 20, the story of the first Easter.”<sup>8</sup> He had a vision of Mary’s encounter with the risen Christ in which she mistakes him for a gardener.

Miles wrote this about his experience, “I awakened in full light, gripping my Bible, with muscles tense and nerves vibrating. Under the inspiration of this vision I wrote as quickly as the words would be formed the poem exactly as it has since appeared. That same evening I wrote the music.”<sup>9</sup>

Let’s take a closer look at this hymn:

### **Hymn Text**

Let me read the text from John 20 that corresponds with each verse:

#### **Verse 1**

From John 20:1:

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<sup>6</sup> Pamela J. Kennedy. *Hymns of Faith & Inspiration* (Nashville: Ideals Publications Incorporated, 1990), 56.

<sup>7</sup> Robert J. Morgan. *Then Sings My Soul: 300 of the World’s Greatest Hymn Stories* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2006), 537.

<sup>8</sup> Robert J. Morgan. *Then Sings My Soul: 300 of the World’s Greatest Hymn Stories* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2006), 537.

<sup>9</sup> Robert J. Morgan. *Then Sings My Soul: 300 of the World’s Greatest Hymn Stories* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2006), 537.



“Early in the morning of the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb.”<sup>10</sup>

I come to the garden alone  
while the dew is still on the roses,

Then from John 20:14-16:

“As soon as she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she didn’t know it was Jesus.

Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you crying? Who are you looking for?”

Thinking he was the gardener, she replied, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him and I will get him.”

Jesus said to her, “Mary.”

She turned and said to him in Aramaic, “Rabbouni” (which means Teacher).<sup>11</sup>

and the voice I hear falling on my ear  
the Son of God discloses.

### **Verse 2**

Verse 2 continues reflecting on Mary’s experience of recognizing Christ:

He speaks, and the sound of his voice,  
is so sweet the birds hush their singing,  
and the melody that he gave to me  
within my heart is ringing.

### **Verse 3**

Then verse 3 continues with John 20:17:

Jesus said to her, “Don’t hold on to me, for I haven’t yet gone up to my Father. Go to my brothers and sisters and tell them, ‘I’m going up to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’”<sup>12</sup>

but he bids me go; thru the voice of woe  
his voice to me is calling.

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<sup>10</sup> John 20:1, CEB.

<sup>11</sup> John 20:14-16, CEB.

<sup>12</sup> John 20:17, CEB.

### **Chorus**

Then, as we sing the chorus together, “In worship, the singer is allowed to enter into the personal joy of Mary as she enters the garden tomb and is the first to know of Jesus’ resurrection - a joy “none other has ever known.”<sup>13</sup>

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## **Because He Lives - UMH #364**

### **Background**

“In 1974, “Because He Lives” was named “Best Gospel Song of the Year” by the Gospel Music Association. William J. Gaither wrote its tune and co-authored the text with his wife, Gloria.”<sup>14</sup>

In the fall of 1969, Bill and Gloria Gaither, were expecting a child and faced a combination of national turmoil and personal trouble. Given their current circumstances, they were trying to imagine the future for their child, even just 15 years in the future.

While pondering and praying about these things, they came to realize that courage does not come from a stable world, but instead we take on the world and live our lives fully because the Resurrection is true!”<sup>15</sup> Shortly after the birth of their son, they wrote Because He Lives.

Let’s take a closer look at this hymn:

### **Theology and Scripture**

“Presenting a message of justifying grace and pardon and proclaiming new life through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, this personal expression of faith echoes the words of hope found in John 14:19:<sup>16</sup>

“Soon the world will no longer see me, but you will see me. Because I live, you will live too.”<sup>17</sup>

Let’s take a closer look at this hymn:

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<sup>13</sup> Diana Sanches, Volume Editor. *The Hymns of The United Methodist Hymnal* (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1989), 116.

<sup>14</sup> Diana Sanches, Volume Editor. *The Hymns of The United Methodist Hymnal* (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1989), 130.

<sup>15</sup> Robert J. Morgan. *Then Sings My Soul: 300 of the World’s Greatest Hymn Stories* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2006), 597.

<sup>16</sup> Diana Sanches, Volume Editor. *The Hymns of The United Methodist Hymnal* (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1989), 130.

<sup>17</sup> John 14:19, CEB.

## Hymn Text

### **Verse 1**

The first verse summarizes the gospel story:

God sent his Son, they called him Jesus;  
he came to love, heal and forgive;  
he lived and died to buy my pardon,  
an empty grave is there to prove my Savior lives.

### **Verse 2**

The words of verse 2 make sense with the context of Bill and Gloria recently giving birth to a child when they wrote this song:

How sweet to hold a newborn baby,  
and feel the pride and joy he gives;  
but greater still the calm assurance,  
this child can face uncertain days because he lives.

### **Verse 3**

Verse 3 anticipates the end of our life on this earth and the transition from this life to the next. From birth to death, God is there.

And then one day I'll cross the river;  
I'll fight life's final war with pain;  
and then as death gives way to victory,  
I'll see the lights of glory and I'll know he reigns.

### **Chorus**

The chorus connects with the scripture from John 14:19 in which Jesus says, because I live, you will live too.

Because he lives, I can face tomorrow;  
because he lives, all fear is gone;  
because I know he holds the future,  
and life is worth the living just because he lives.

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## Conclusion

### **Good News**

The good news is that Jesus, the one who died, lives and we can experience the joy of living a in relationship with the Holy Trinity.

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### Call to Action

This week ask yourself:  
What three characteristics of God are most meaningful to me?  
Do I experience the joy of the very first Easter in my every day life?  
What is different in my life because Jesus lives?

### Invitation

Will you pray with me?

### Closing Prayer

[Text here]  
Amen.

	8:30 AM	11:00 AM
Sermon Time		