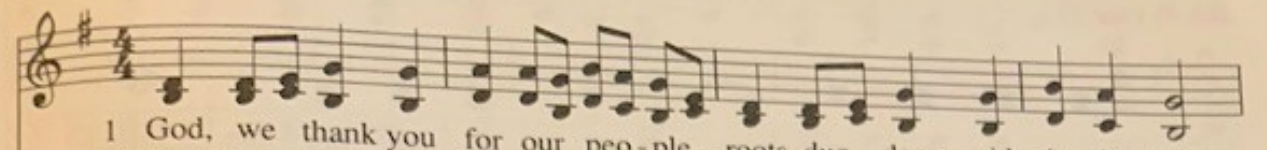
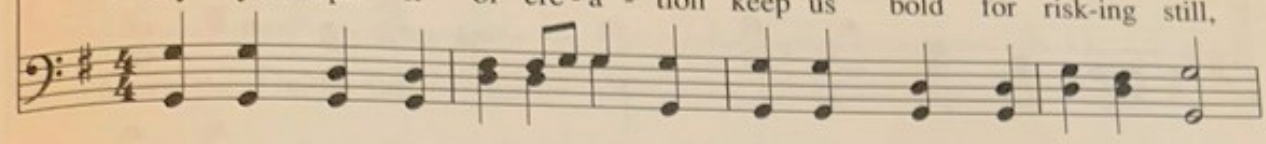
God, We Thank You for Our People

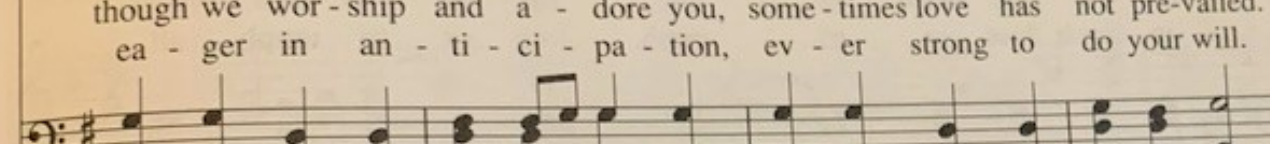
Ruth Duck, 1986



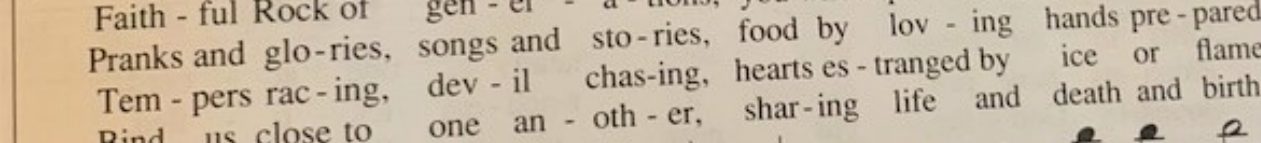
1 God, we thank you for our peo-ple, roots dug deep with-in the soil,
2 Thank you, God, for gen-tle plea-sure: les-sons learned and se-crets told,
3 Still we must con-fess be-fore you, some-times, Sav-ior, we have failed;
4 By your Spir-it of cre-a-tion keep us bold for risk-ing still,



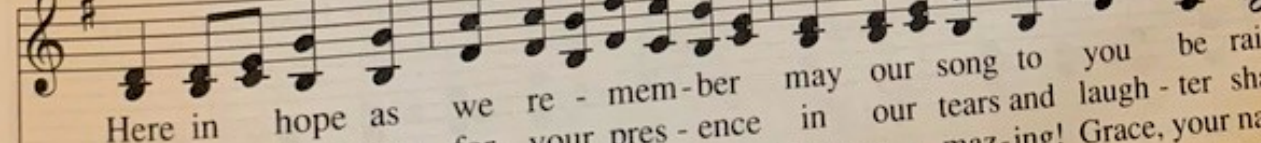
har-dy spir-its, rich in lov-ing, strong for strug-gle, bold for toil.
hopes and mem-ories saved as trea-sure, passed to young ones by the old,
though we wor-ship and a-dore you, some-times love has not pre-vailed.
ea-ger in an-ti-ci-pa-tion, ev-er strong to do your will.



Faith-ful Rock of gen-er-a-tions, you whom par-ents' par-ents praised:
Pranks and glo-ries, songs and sto-ries, food by lov-ing hands pre-pared.
Tem-pers rac-ing, dev-il chas-ing, hearts es-tranged by ice or flame
Bind us close to one an-oth-er, shar-ing life and death and birth,



Here in hope as we re-mem-ber may our song to you be raised.
God, we bless you for your pres-ence in our tears and laugh-ter shared.
You trans-form by ways for-giv-ing. Grace a-maz-ing! Grace, your name!
Wel-com-ing as sis-ter, broth-er, all your chil-dren on the earth.



Tune: HOLY MANNA 8.7.8.7.D.
William Moore, 1825

Ruth Duck created this text at the request of Harold (Hal) McSwain, Jr., for a family reunion. She found her inspiration in the stories of Harold, Sr., and in her own family heritage. The hymn speaks to any community that has shared life together for a long time.

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