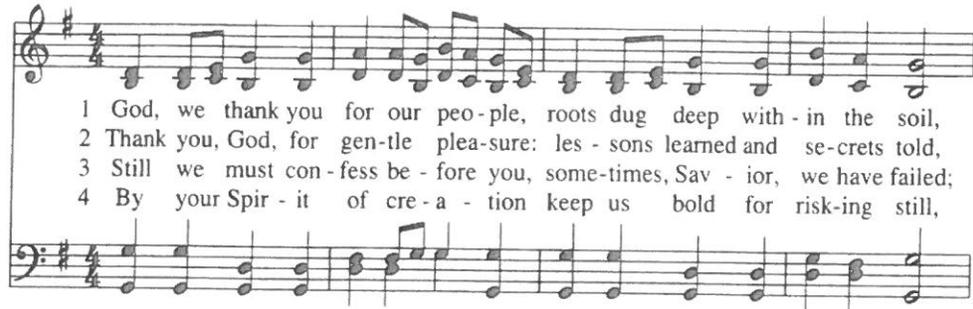


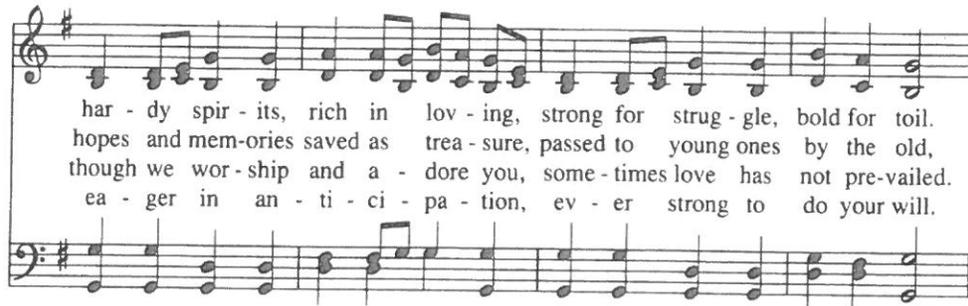
## God, We Thank You for Our People

376

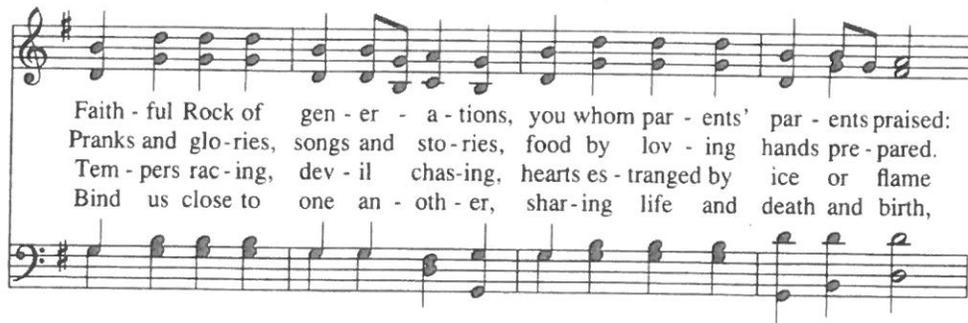
Ruth Duck, 1986



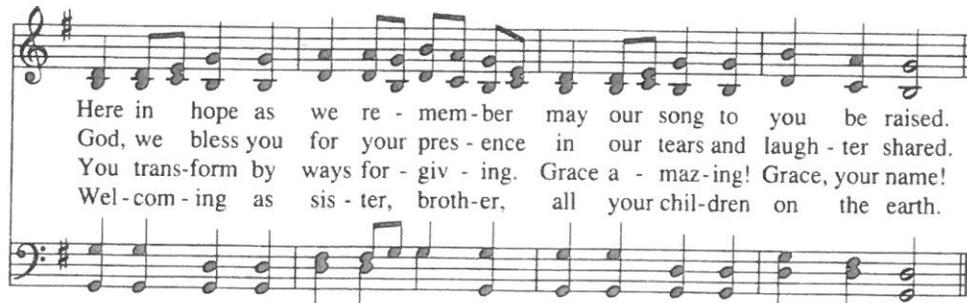
1 God, we thank you for our peo-ple, roots dug deep with - in the soil,  
 2 Thank you, God, for gen-tle plea-sure: les - sons learned and se-crets told,  
 3 Still we must con-fess be - fore you, some-times, Sav - ior, we have failed;  
 4 By your Spir - it of cre - a - tion keep us bold for risk-ing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

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.

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

## How Firm a Foundation

*Isa. 43:2-5; 2 Tim. 2:19; Heb. 13:5**"K" in John Rippon's Selection of Hymns, 1787; alt.*

1 How firm a foundation for you has been laid,  
 2 "Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dismayed,  
 3 "When through the deep waters I call you to go,  
 4 "When through fiery trials your pathway shall lie,  
 5 "The soul that on Je - sus has leaned for re - pose,

by God in the Word, in the sac - ri - fice paid!  
 for I am your God, I will still give you aid;  
 the riv - ers of woe shall not o - ver you flow;  
 my grace all - suf - fi - cient shall be your sup - ply;  
 I will not, I will not de - sert to its foes;

What more can God say than to you has been said,  
 I'll strength - en you, help you, and cause you to stand  
 For I will be with you, your trou - bles to bless,  
 the flame shall not hurt you; for I have de - signed  
 That soul, though all hell should en - deav - or to shake,

to you, who for ref - uge to Je - sus have fled?  
 up - held by my gra - cious, om - ni - po - tent hand."  
 de - liv - er - ing you from your deep - est dis - tress."  
 your soul to make pure just as gold is re - fined."  
 I'll nev - er, no nev - er, no nev - er for - sake!"

*In 1787, John Rippon, English Baptist clergyman, identified the author of this hymn as "K"; no one has yet verified a complete name. The pentatonic melody has been known by several names since it first appeared in Funk's Genuine Church Music (1832).*

Tune: FOUNDATION 11.11.11.11.  
 Early United States melody  
 from Funk's Genuine Church Music, 1832  
 Alternate tune: ADESTE FIDELES

# Lord, I Want To Be a Christian

454

*African-American spiritual*

*Deut. 6:5-6; 10:12-16*

1 Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian in my heart, in my heart;  
 2 Lord, I want to be more lov - ing in my heart, in my heart,  
 3 Lord, I want to be more ho - ly in my heart, in my heart;  
 4 Lord, I want to be like Je - sus in my heart, in my heart;

Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian in my heart.  
 Lord, I want to be more lov - ing in my heart.  
 Lord, I want to be more ho - ly in my heart.  
 Lord, I want to be like Je - sus in my heart.

*Refrain*

In my heart, in my heart, in my heart,  
 In my heart, in my heart, in my heart,

Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian in my heart.  
 Lord, I want to be more lov - ing in my heart.  
 Lord, I want to be more ho - ly in my heart.  
 Lord, I want to be like Je - sus in my heart.

*Many of the enslaved of antebellum America did not want to become Christians because they did not want to adopt the religion of their captors. But this spiritual attests that the Christian faith was an internal strength and aim for many.*

Tune: I WANT TO BE A CHRISTIAN  
 8.6.8.3. with refrain  
*African-American spiritual*  
 Arr. Joyce Finch Johnson, 1992