

July 2026

The Lighthouse

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

Lyrics by
Martin Rinkart, 1589 – 1649
Translated – Catherine Winkworth, 1829 – 1878

Music by
Johann Cruger, 1598 – 1662
Harmonization – Felix Mendelssohn

This hymn, often sung around Thanksgiving each year, is one of the universal hymns which transcends all national and denominational boundaries and is known the whole world over. It has three verses and is hymn 181 in our Trinity Psalter Hymnal. Its translation from German into English is by Catherine Winkworth, who earned herself the title “the Queen of translators”. She wrote and published translations of nearly four hundred German hymns and also invented stories for children. But more than that she was an expert linguist, a brilliant and cultured woman of devout Christian faith.

The hymn has three stanzas. The first two act as a complimentary pair. The first two act as a complimentary pair. The first is an act of praise and gives grateful recognition of the goodness and providence of God:

Now thank we all our God, with heart and hands and voices,
who wondrous things hath done, in whom His world rejoices;
who from our mother's arms hath blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.

The second stanza is a petition:

O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us;
and keep us in his grace, and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all ills in this world and the next.

In this stanza we ask God to do three things for us. First, keep us in His grace; for it is tragically possible to fall from grace, to be ensnared by evil and lose touch with God. Second, we ask him to guide us when perplexed. Who is not perplexed at times amid the conflicting voices of the world and the problems of life? Pray for grace and guidance. The third petition is for God to free us from all ills, in this world and the next. There are many ills such as sickness, pain, sorrow, and loneliness. We are assured that *“He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.”* (Revelation 21: 4).

The third verse is a Trinitarian doxology, giving it a distinctive Christian character. How splendid and majestic this final outburst of adoring worship, giving all praise and thanks to the one eternal God.

All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given,
the Son, and him who reigns with them in highest heaven –
the one eternal God, whom earth and heav'n adore;
for thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.

To Him who reigns with the Father and the Son is of course the Holy Spirit. The call is to thank God - our God - and it is addressed to us all, wherever we are, wherever we may be, whatever our circumstances. Give thanks with heart, with hands our deeds and activities, and with voices, in word and song, especially in our worship!

Keep a song in your heart!

– Melba Sipriano

This was written by Melba several years ago for our newsletter, and it is reprinted here as a tribute to her memory.

Missions Conference Announcement!

Our church is having a Missions Conference September 25 – 27. So far, we have confirmation from Jon & Karen Schmidt and from Dr. Jody Collinge that they will participate. We look forward to hearing from them! The latest missions report from Dr. Collinge follows...

"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, ESV

Prayer and Praise

Jody Collinge

June 12, 2025



Nyankunde Hospital

1. Let me share with you an urgent need from the Democratic Republic of Congo. Dr. Kent Brantly writes, "I am writing to you as a physician, as an Ebola survivor, and as the Chief Operating Officer of Christian Health Service Corps.

"Twelve years ago, I nearly lost my life to Ebola virus disease. But God saved my life, in part through the hands of healthcare workers who were willing to care for me at great personal risk.

"That is exactly what our colleagues at Nyankunde Hospital in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo are doing right now. A rapidly escalating Ebola outbreak has placed them on the front lines. Their hospital has been designated as a treatment center, and the burden they are carrying is immense. Some of their own staff have already been infected while caring for patients. And yet, these brave healthcare workers continue to show up.

"Day after day, in the face of fear, exhaustion, and real danger, they choose to care for the sick rather than step away. I know the courage that takes—and the cost. At the same time, fear has driven regular patients away, cutting off the hospital's income entirely. Now, just as the need is greatest, they lack the resources to pay staff, secure protective equipment, provide essential medicines, or even feed the patients who must remain inside the hospital to prevent further spread of this outbreak."

- To see a video from Dr. Kent Brantly directly, click [here](#).
- Please be praying for an end to the Ebola outbreak and for the patients, medical staff and families at Nyankunde Hospital and other areas caring for Ebola patients.
- If you feel led to give to the Nyankunde Hospital, click on this [link](#).
- Many thanks!



International Wholistic Missions Conference

2. We are gearing up for the International Wholistic Missions Conference in October. It is exciting to see how the Lord is raising up leaders to penetrate communities with with the gospel and to build committed Christ-followers in Mexico and in Latin America. We hope this conference will equip and encourage them. But I have some specific prayer needs: I will be leading a mini-track. One part of the track will be an introduction to Children's CHE and CHE with Youth. The second part will focus on strategies and ministries to keep youths connected and growing in the Lord and continuing to serve Him in their families and communities. Pray for innovative leaders and creative strategies and for a dynamic time together and that we may continue to work together after the conference.

3. As you probably know, most of the year I live on the grounds of the Christian Health Service Corps in Texas. The goal of CHSC is to bring "Christ-centered, compassionate care where it's needed most", and they send medical missionaries to hospitals and communities around the world. In July, CHSC will be having an orientation of new medical missionaries, and I will be helping with their children. Thanks for your prayers.

RUTH



Portrait of a woman as Ruth (c. 1853)
by Francesco Hayez

4. I have been enjoying our online Bible studies. We have nearly finished Foolish Decisions of the Bible, and over the summer we will study the book of Ruth. Pray for continuing strong fellowship and that we may grow in Christ. Please let me know if you would like to join us!

¡Muchas gracias!

Thank God for his protection and care each day, and for the gift of his Son. And many thanks to you for your ongoing prayers, encouragement, and support! Let me know how I can be praying for you.

Dios les bendiga. (May God bless you.)

Jody

BIRTHDAYS for JULY

Sarah Horn 5th
Steve VanderKooy 9th
David Allen 12th
Kathy Davenport 14th
Luna Diaz 19th
Sakura Diaz 21st
Kerri Willson 21st
Gideon Smith 25th
Andy Bagby 31st

the 4th of July

Dates to Remember for July

July 3 Church Office will be closed for the 4th of July Holiday

July Communion

July 6 Men's Bible Study at 6:30 p.m. in the parlor

July 9 Ladies Circle at 11:00 a.m. at the church

July 12 Monthly luncheon after the worship service, please bring a dish to share

July 13 Session Meeting in the library at 6:00 p.m.

July 20 Deacons meeting at the church at 5:45 p.m.

July 20 Men's Bible Study at 6:30 p.m. in the parlor

July 23 Summer book club meeting at Sarah Horn's home at 6:00 p.m. with a salad supper and a book review.

July 25 Ladies Bible Study and Brunch at the church, starting at 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Men's Breakfast will not meet this month of July, but will resume next month
No July 4th celebration at the church this year





**1340 Beach Boulevard
Biloxi, Mississippi 39530
228.374.6880
firstpresbiloxi.org**

[A congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America.](#)

Pastoral Staff

Tim Horn (Senior Pastor)	662-313-8445	tim.horn@firstpresbiloxi.org
Dean Rydbeck (Pastoral Care Minister)	337-351-5294	dean.rydbeck@firstpresbiloxi.org
Kyle Palmer (Pastoral Intern)	228-860-7412	kyle.palmer@firstpresbiloxi.org

Church Staff

Jeff Harrison	Music Director
Janet Misner	Interim Pianist
Kim Clark	Secretary
Greg Mann	Facilities Manager
Kerri Willson	Nursery Coordinator

Elders

David Allen	228-547-1007	david.allen@firstpresbiloxi.org
Ben Bowden	228-596-5007	ben.bowden@firstpresbiloxi.org
John Chaney	228-238-4379	john.chaney@firstpresbiloxi.org
Mike Clark	228- 326-3213	mike.clark@firstpresbiloxi.org
Jeff Harrison	228-596-6600	jeff.harrison@firstpresbiloxi.org
Aaron Smith	601-214-0918	aaron.smith@firstpresbiloxi.org
Ken Pennell (Elder Emeritus)	601-674-1637	ken.pennell@firstpresbiloxi.org

Deacons

Andy Bagby	228-547-5334	andy.bagby@firstpresbiloxi.org
Jonathan Blakeney	228-327-1781	jonathan.blakeney@firstpresbiloxi.org
Phil Harding	410-310-2389	phil.harding@firstpresbiloxi.org
Steve VanderKooy	228-990-1933	steve.vanderkooy@firstpresbiloxi.org
Ben Willson	910-274-1464	ben.willson@firstpresbiloxi.org