

Heritage Praise Songs of St. Andrew's 180 Years

During the month of October, as we celebrate St. Andrew's 180th anniversary, we will be featuring praise selections which have been a part of our congregation's history. These songs will be included in our worship services and their story will be featured here in the bulletin.

This morning, we have two hymns, ***Here, O my Lord, I see thee*** and ***How Deep the Father's Love for Us***. The more traditional ***Here, O my Lord*** is a traditional favorite at St. Andrew's communion services, book-ending the observance of the Lord's Supper by our church family. Verses 1,2 and 3 sung beforehand, as we approach the table of our Lord and verses 4 and 7 sung afterwards, as we depart.

*"The Lord's Supper has always been a special time for Christians. It is a time of soul-searching, but also joy. We remember Christ's death, but also His resurrection. Christ is the host of this meal; we have fellowship with Him as we eat and drink. For Horatius Bonar, a maverick Scottish Presbyterian and author of ***Here, O my Lord***, the important thing was that it would be a personal encounter with Christ. You can sense the rich interaction in the lines of the hymn, the flux of emotions and the warm devotion to the Lord, his "shield and sun". (from The One Year Book of Hymns)*

How Deep the Father's Love for Us, in our congregation's recent heritage, has become a contemporary hymn sung regularly as we celebrate Holy Communion. Stuart Townend, author of the song, writes the following: *"I distinctly remember getting this feeling one day that I was going to write a hymn! Now, like most people, I am familiar with hymns – they form part of my church background, and I love the truth contained in many of them. But I don't go home at the end of a busy day and put on a hymns album! Nevertheless, I'd been meditating on the cross, and in particular what it cost the Father to give up his beloved Son to a torturous death on a cross. And what was my part in it? Not only was it my sin that put him there, but if I'd lived at that time, it would probably have been me in that crowd, shouting with everyone else 'crucify him'. It just makes his sacrifice all the more personal, all the more amazing, and all the more humbling."*