



HYMN PREVIEW

Afflicted Saint, to Christ Draw Near

Note to Worship Planners: *The text below may be used in email / social media communication with your congregation in advance of the service when the hymn is used. This “Hymn Highlights” series will strive to give a week’s notice for hymns suggested in the Year C Planner available at [The Foundation](#). Some churches will sing this hymn on March 20.*

This coming Sunday we will sing the hymn “Afflicted Saint, to Christ Draw Near,” hymn 867 in our new hymnal Christian Worship. Here’s a preview of the hymn to help prepare you for worship.

Message:

Where is God? – a question frequently asked and incorrectly answered. We are tempted to believe that evidence of God’s presence and love is found in outward circumstances. We equate good fortune with God’s favor and bad fortune with his judgment. But his love and power are with us even in bad times. The hymn mentions affliction, weak faith, strong foes, Satan’s temptation, persecution, fiery trials, pain, loss, poverty. And it affirms that “God will supply all that you need.” “So, sing with joy, afflicted one.”

An interesting detail about this “new” hymn is that the verses are updated from a hymn written by someone who died in 1817. These verses are paired with a new refrain from 2018, 200 years after the verses were originally written.

Preview:

To become better acquainted with the music and the message of this hymn, and to help prepare yourself for worship this weekend, you’re invited to listen to a recording:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9zGbdg1YCY>.