The author, Robert Robinson (1735–1790), was born of humble parents and could not afford schooling for the ministry, so was apprenticed at fourteen to a London barber and hairdresser. After a dissolve youth he was converted by George Whitefield and became a Calvinistic Methodist minister.

The text was said to have been written for use on Pentecost in 1758 and was originally four eight-line stanzas. The fourth is now almost universally omitted as you can probably understand why:

O that Day when freed from Sinning, I shall see thy lovely Face; 
Cloathed then in blood-wash’d Linnen, How I’ll sing thy sov’reign Grace: 
Come, my Lord, no longer tarry, take my ransom’d Soul away; 
Send thine Angels now to carry me to Realms of endless Day.

Like the more famous John Newton’s “Amazing Grace,” Robinson’s hymn is one of providence and grace. Like Jacob, who raised an Ebenezer (stanzas 2), he confesses how great a debtor he is to the grace of God, as are we all. The “Ebenezer” reference recalls I Samuel 7:12 where Jacob set up a stone altar which signified that God had brought him thus far.

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Order for the Public Worship of God
September 11, 2016
17th Sunday after Pentecost
8:15 & 11:00 AM Worship Services

WE GATHER
(Let the congregation be silent, and in prayer as the music begins.
Please silence electronic devices.)

CALL TO WORSHIP
Paul Means, Associate Pastor
Leader: Like a woman who finds a missing coin,
People: God rejoices in our salvation.
Leader: Like a shepherd who finds a lost sheep,
People: God rejoices in bringing us home.
Leader: Let us worship God.

OPENING VOLUNTARY “Prelude on NETTLETON” Gerre Hancock (based on the tune of the closing hymn, #475) (1934-2012)

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS
Chris Curvin, Pastor

*PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST
( Please complete the bulletin insert, “FRIENDSHIP SHEET,” and pass it toward the center aisle.)

*HYMN #12 “Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise” ST. DENIO

WE CONFESS

PRAYER OF CONFESSION
Sovereign God, we confess that we have not turned away from sin. You search for us, like lost sheep, but we pretend not to hear your voice. You treasure us, like lost coins, but we spend our lives in foolish ways. Forgive us, God of grace. Help us to repent and return to you, so that we may join the joyful feast of redemption and restoration; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*Congregational Response #581 GLORIA PATRI
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.

ANTHEM “His Eye Is On the Sparrow” arr. Ralph Manuel
Why should I feel discouraged, why should the shadows come, Why should my heart be lonely, and long for heaven and home, When Jesus is my portion? My constant friend is He:
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me.
Refrain: I sing because I’m happy, I sing because I’m free, For His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me.
Whenever I am tempted, whenever clouds arise, When song gives place to sighing, when hope within me dies, I draw the closer to Him, from care He sets me free;
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He cares for me. (refrain)

WE GATHER
(Leader: Like a woman who finds a missing coin,
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