



Our St. James “Top Ten” Tunes



Throughout the month of May, the Worship and Music Committee invited worshipers to participate in a project to identify some favorite hymns that they would like to sing. Special “ballot” sheets were inserted in the bulletins for several weeks, and then made available on the window sill shelves during the weeks since.

The voting sheets were collected in baskets, and the results were tabulated by Shelli Wolfe. The outcome was quite interesting, indeed! A total of 73 different hymns were chosen. Predictably, a number of the hymns were shared favorites among quite a few of those participating, and received multiple votes. On the other hand, 47 out of the total number received only one vote each, reminding us that our members are very diverse in their musical preferences! As Shelli commented, that very fact serves as a reminder to all of us that although we may sometimes be tempted to complain about singing a certain hymn, it might indeed be one that another person counts among their favorites.

As might be expected, among the “Top Ten” are several of the standard old favorites like *Amazing Grace*, *I Love to Tell the Story*, and *Just As I Am*. Even so, several of the more contemporary hymns from the *With One Voice* hymnal made a strong showing in the list, including, *I, The Lord of Sea and Sky (Here I Am, Lord)*; *I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry*; and *Shine, Jesus Shine*.

During the summer months, we have been making an effort to include as many of the favorites as possible in our worship services, and will continue to do so into the fall. When they are used, the hymn title in the bulletin is being “flagged” with ++ marks, so that worshipers are aware that it comes from the list of our favorites.

So, here’s the list of our “Top Ten” (actually there are 11, and they are listed in alphabetical order, as there were several ties among the favorites). The number in parentheses following each title is the number of votes that hymn received...

- I, The Lord of Sea and Sky (9)
- You, Who Dwell in the Shelter of the Lord (8)
- Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound (7)
- This Is My Father’s World (5)
- Blessed Assurance (4)
- I Love to Tell the Story (4)
- I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry (4)
- O Lord My God (How Great Thou Art) (4)
- Shine, Jesus, Shine (4)
- Just As I Am (3)
- There Is A Balm in Gilead (3)