

MORE LIGHT SHALL BREAK FORTH

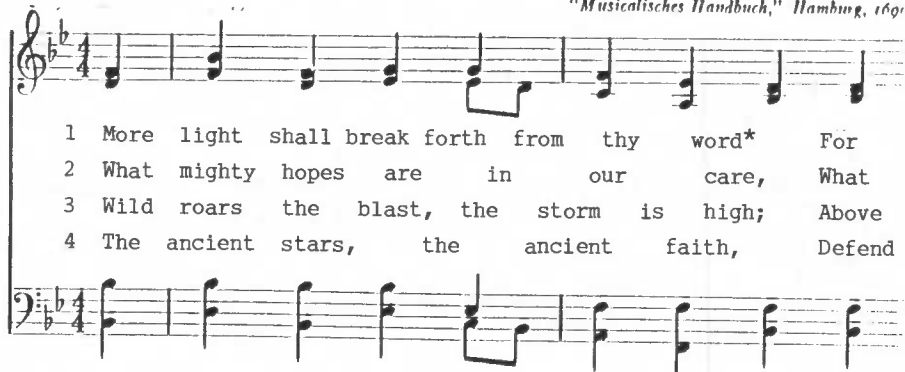
Allen Eastman Cross, 1920

WINCHESTER NEW I.M.

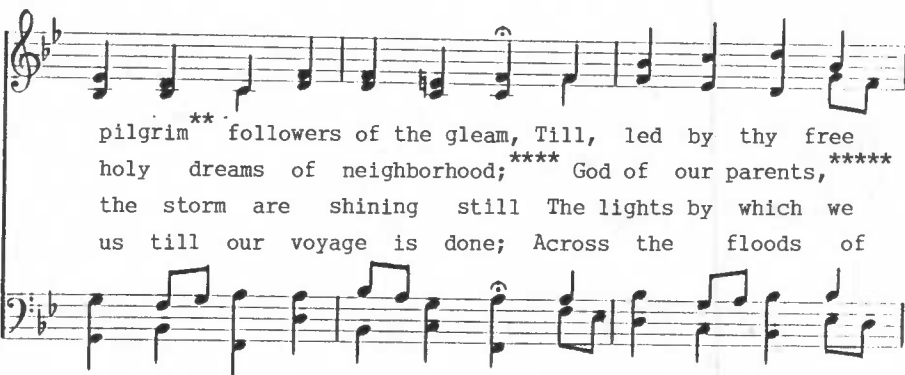
Adapted from
"Musicalisches Handbuch," Hamburg, 1699

My first choice.
But these, in descending order of preference, are good also:

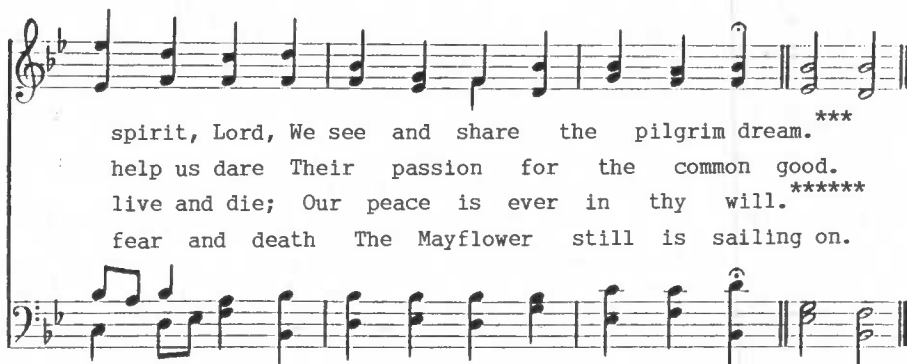
Maryton
Rockingham
Mendon
Melcombe
Duke Street
Old Hundreth
Melrose



1 More light shall break forth from thy word* For
2 What mighty hopes are in our care, What
3 Wild roars the blast, the storm is high; Above
4 The ancient stars, the ancient faith, Defend



pilgrim** followers of the gleam, Till, led by thy free
holy dreams of neighborhood;**** God of our parents,*****
the storm are shining still The lights by which we
us till our voyage is done; Across the floods of



spirit, Lord, We see and share the pilgrim dream.***
help us dare Their passion for the common good.
live and die; Our peace is ever in thy will.*****
fear and death The Mayflower still is sailing on.

* From Pastor Robinson's farewell at the Mayflower's sailing: "The Lord hath more truth and light yet to break forth out of his Holy Word." AEC had "from out." John 16.13.

** The hymn's early notice that the historical setting is "the [1620] Pilgrims," here as models for all pilgrims, the word broadened to mean future-oriented folk whose Mayflower (as the hymn's last line has it) never stops sailing--to my knowledge, literature's only occurrence of this idea. For this spirit, see Philipians 3.13-14.

*** The tune I've chosen has "Amen," but I suggest not using it.

**** AEC had "brotherhood."

***** AEC had "Fathers."

***** In sua voluntate, nostra pax ("In his will is our peace!")--what some consider the greatest line in Dante's DIVINE COMMEDIA.

H. Augustine Smith (LYRIC RELIGION: THE ROMANCE OF IMMORTAL HYMNS [D.Appleton-Century/31], pp.251-3) calls it "A Hymn of Twentieth Century Pilgrims," but offers no hymn-tune suggestion.

What can I tell you of this hymn? (1) While it was written for the Mayflower tricentennial convention of the International Council of Congregational Churches, it transcends denomination. (2) While it celebrates the coming of only one ethnic group, that group's culture became foundational to the nation: all Americans own the Mayflower. (3) The American spirit continues to bear "their passion for the common good." (4) While the hymn's not locked into a season, it's especially appropriate for Thanksgiving Day (along with Leonard Bacon's "O God, beneath thy guiding hand"). (5) First sung in Old South Church, Boston, AEC on clergy staff.