

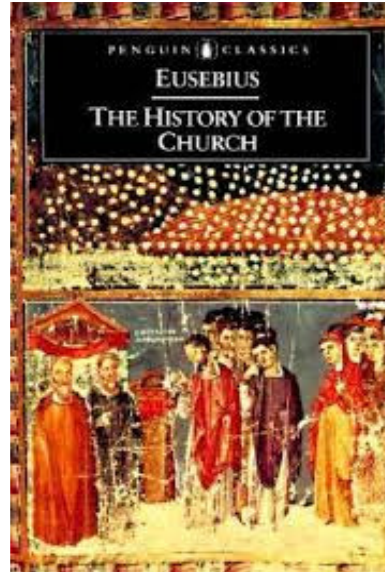
The Church's One Foundation

When I chose this hymn for one of our fellowship's services a few weeks ago, I did so hoping it meant I would avoid having to speak from the front, but it seemed not, as when I emailed my choice of hymn to the deacon who was leading that service, he asked me if I would give just a few words about my reason for choosing it...

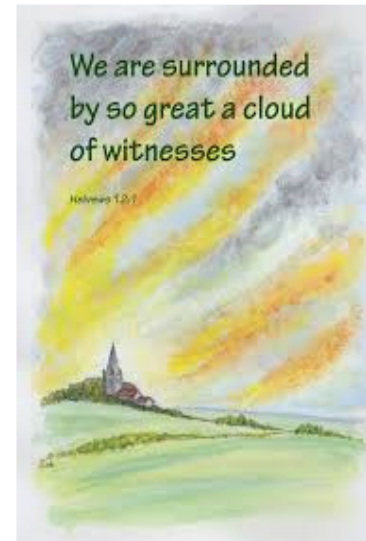
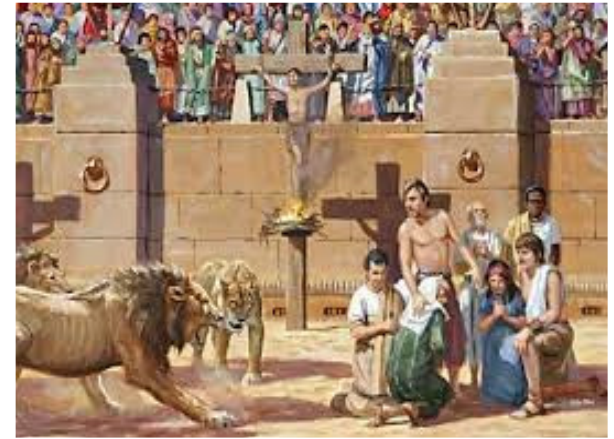
The Church's One Foundation has always been one of my favourite hymns. I think, perhaps, because I love history and it tells the history of the Church...

It starts with the Lord Jesus who is the Creator and only Foundation of the Church; there could be no Church without Him. It tells how throughout the ages Christ has been calling His Church out of every nation and that there is only one way of salvation for anyone who wants to be part of His Church ~ and that Way is the Lord Jesus Himself.

The hymn does not shrink from recounting how heresies and schisms within the Church have given excuse for the world to reject the Lord and mock His Church; but these divisions from error, though grievous, are needful, and have caused God's little flock to cling more closely to Him and to cry out to Him for his return.



The fourth and fifth verses comfort us that though the Church has always gone through internal conflicts and external persecutions, nevertheless she has steadfastly kept her eyes on her Lord as the years have progressed. Through all her trials, the Church has never been without her Lord to lead her, nor the "great cloud of witnesses", who have gone before her, to spur her on.



Finally, is the response of the Church 'militant' to this potted history: her flagging strength is renewed, and, with uplifted heart and voice, she prays for grace to persevere until, at last, at her Lord's return, His Church is complete, and she can now enter her eternal rest.

There are several renditions of *The Church's One Foundation* on the internet; the YouTube version we sung at our church's service can be found here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qe_jib5IKMbk

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