The Church’s One Foundation

1 The church’s one foundation is Jesus Christ, her Lord;
2 Elect from every nation, yet one o’er all the earth,
3 Though with a scornful wonder this world sees her oppressed,
4 Through toil and tribulation and tumult of her war,
5 Yet she on earth has union with God, the Three in One,

she is his new creation by water and the word,
her charter of salvation one Lord, one faith, one birth:
by schisms rent a sower, by heresies distressed,
she waits the consummation of peace for evermore;
and mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won.

From heav’n he came and sought her to be his holy bride;
one holy name she blesses, partakes one holy food,
yet saints their watch are keeping; their cry goes up: “How long?”
till with the vision glorious her longing eyes are blest,
Oh, blessed heav’nly chorus! Lord, save us by your grace,

with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.
and to one hope she presses with every grace endued.
and soon the night of weeping shall be the morn of song.
and the great church victorious shall be the church at rest.
that we, like saints before us, may see you face to face.

Text: Samuel J. Stone, 1839–1900
Music: AURELIA, Samuel S. Wesley, 1810–1876