

## Music Blurbs for 9-8-19

### News and Notes

This week, the St. James' Singers return with "All Things Work Together for Good" by John Carter. We will also sing "Will you come and follow me" and "Lift high the cross."

### Sunday Bulletins

#### Lift high the Cross

Today's closing hymn "Lift high the cross" had long been popular in British congregations. When it first appeared in the 1979 Episcopal Church's publication *Hymns III*, it became an overnight hit. The text is considered by some to be the twentieth century replacement of "Onward Christian soldiers." The original text by George Kitchin was written for a festival for the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in 1887. The text recalled the vision of the cross seen by the emperor Constantine: "in this sign you will conquer." In 1916, Michael Newbolt revised the text for the supplement to *Hymns Ancient and Modern*. For the United States version that appeared in *Hymns III*, the number of verses was pared down to four, the militaristic imagery was removed, and more inclusive language was employed. The tune CRUCIFER was the music written for this text in the 1916 *Hymns Ancient and Modern* supplement. The tune name suggests both the person that carries the cross in a liturgical procession as well as the Christian who bears the cross as a sign of baptism.