



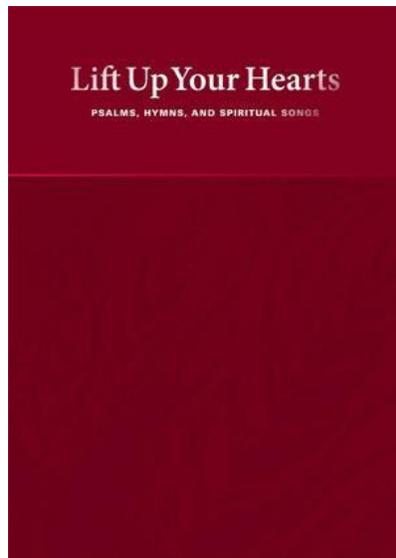
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Faith Alive to Release First Hymnal in More Than 20 Years**

**Grand Rapids, Mich., January 10, 2012**—Faith Alive Christian Resources, the publishing ministry of the Christian Reformed Church in North America (CRCNA) and resource provider for the Reformed Church in America (RCA), today announced the upcoming release of *Lift Up Your Hearts: Psalms, Hymns & Spiritual Songs* hymnal.



After extensive research was conducted in 2010\*—noting the continued strength of hymn singing—Faith Alive made the decision to release its first comprehensive hymnal in more than 20 years. The research, which included focus groups made up of RCA and CRC, other denominational church leaders, worship leaders and congregants of all ages, pointed to the need to provide a wider variety of songs for use by all generations while keeping the classics intact.

Most hymnals currently in use in the RCA and CRC denominations, the Psalter Hymnal, Rejoice in the Lord, Hymns, Psalms and Spiritual Songs, for example, were released in the late 80s early 90s.

“So much has changed in the past 20 years,” said Rev. Joyce Borger, Worship and Music Editor at Faith Alive. “With more focus on social justice issues, creation care, authentic emotions and global

awareness, along with greater ethnic diversity, we are a different church. Songs need to be added to the existing repertoire of our churches to reflect these changes, while maintaining the timeless classics we’ve grown to know and love.”

Scheduled to release in June 2013, *Lift Up Your Hearts*, which was created using editorial and advisory committees from both the CRC and RCA denominations, will build on the existing repertoire currently in use by the RCA and CRC, by including many of the same songs but providing a breadth of music and variety of genres from classic hymns to contemporary world music. It will be divided into two main sections. The first section reflects the story of salvation from creation to the new creation and includes Christ’s life and the Christian Year. The second section follows the traditional order of worship from songs calling us to worship through the concluding blessing and ends with services for morning and evening prayer.



“This is a hymnal of the church for the church,” said Borger. “Our ultimate desire is that this collection be deep enough to give voice to our praises and laments, be both sung prayer and proclamation, and play a significant role in the faith formation of Reformed Christians old and young alike.”

For more information, go to: [www.liftupyourheartshymnal.org](http://www.liftupyourheartshymnal.org)

Faith Alive Christian Resources encourages people to examine the documents online and respond with any concerns to [hymnal@crcna.org](mailto:hymnal@crcna.org) in the next couple of months as they finalize the contents.

\*JET Marketing/Faith Alive Christian Resources 2010