

Sunday music for July 30,2023  
Suisse/France

Some words about today's music: When I looked at the music calendar for July 30, Alan had made a note of "Switzerland/France", which took me back to my hiking time in the Swiss and French Alps in 1978-a time of wayfaring in nature's peace and beauty. A wayfarer is "one who travels by foot", so I have chosen "Wayfaring Stranger" based on Jer. 14:10 "Thus have they loved to wander..." and arranged by John M. Dye in 1935. The original was found in Bever's Christian Songster in 1858. The second anthem, "My Faith, It Is an Oaken Staff" was written by Thomas T. Lynch in 1855 and set to a Swiss folk melody, first introduced into English in the Fellowship Hymn Book of 1910. The musical arrangements are my own. Since the Swiss national flower is Edelweiss, I couldn't resist "greeting" you with that song as the introit this morning, written by Rogers and Hammerstein in 1959, and the choral benediction was set to the same tune, by an unknown writer.

### **Edelweiss**

Edelweiss, Edelweiss, every morning you greet me  
Small & white, clean and bright, you look happy to meet me  
Blossoms of snow may you bloom and grow, bloom and grow forever  
Edelweiss, Edelweiss, bless my homeland forever

### **Wayfaring Stranger P.M.**

I am a poor, wayfaring stranger, while journ'ying through this world of woe  
Yet there's no sickness, toil or danger, in that bright land to which I go I'm  
going there to see my Father, I'm going there no more to roam I'm only  
going over Jordan. I'm only going over home

I know dark clouds will gather o'er me, I know my way is rough and steep;  
Yet beaut'ous fields lie just before me, Where God's redeemed, their vigils  
keep I'm going there to see my Mother, she said she'd meet me when I  
come I'm only going over Jordan, I'm only going over home

I want to wear a crown of glory, when I get home to that good land; I want  
to shout salvation's story, in concert with the blood-washed band I'm going  
there to meet my Savior, to sing God's praise for evermore I'm only going  
over Jordan, I'm only going over home

### **My Faith, It is an Oaken Staff**

My faith, it is an oaken staff-the traveler's well-loved aid My faith, it  
is a weapon stout, the soldier's trusty blade I'll travel on, and still be  
stirred by silent thought or social word by all my perils undeterred, a  
pilgrim unafraid.

I have a guide, and in his steps, when travelers e'er have trod whether  
beneath was flinty rock or yielding grassy sod. They cared not, but  
with force unspent, unmoved by pain they onward went. Unstayed  
by pleasures, still they bent their zealous course to God.

My faith, it is an oaken staff, O let me on it lean. My faith, it is a trusty  
sword, may falsehood find it keen. Thy spirit, Lord, to me impart; O  
make me what thou ever art of patient and courageous heart, as all  
true saints have been.

### **May The Lord, Mighty God**

May the Lord, Mighty God, Bless & keep you forever-Grant us peace,  
courage, in your every endeavor. Lift your eyes and see God's face,  
feel the grace forever-May the Lord, mighty God, Bless and keep you  
forever!