



The Angel spares Abraham from sacrificing his son Isaac.
Engraving for the Bible, Germany, 1860 (Julius Schnorr von Carolsfeld)

ON THE ALTAR OF RELIGION

September 14, 2025

[JOIN US ON THE CORNER OF FILLMORE & JACKSON](#)

[Click here to watch on our website](#)

[Click here to watch on YouTube](#)

WELCOME

Our mission is to nurture and inspire
our faith community to transform lives for Christ.

COMMUNITY GROWS HERE

Thank you for joining us in worship. Your presence matters here. Author Rachel Held Evans wrote, "Christianity isn't meant to simply be believed; it's meant to be lived, shared, eaten, spoken, and enacted in the presence of other people... Try as I may, I can't be a Christian on my own. I need a community. I need the church. Imagine if every church became a place where everyone is safe, but no one is comfortable. Imagine if every church became a place where we told one another the truth. We might just create sanctuary."

We need you. As we work to create transformational community on the corner of Fillmore and Jackson, your community needs your presence and your voice. It's been five years since our world was upended by Covid. And while much has changed since then, our need for each other and our need for community has not. Worship, at its root, is participatory. Your voice, in prayer and song, joins with the voices of others, as an offering to God. "Liturgy"—the words we say together in worship—means "the work of the people." Thankful for the privilege of doing the work together.



For early and non-readers, icons are included in the left margin throughout the bulletin.



***The asterisk indicates rising in body or spirit.**

Assisted listening devices are available at the Front Desk, and **large print hymnals** are located in the Narthex (Sanctuary entry).



Rev. Marcella Auld Glass Rev. Joann H. Lee

Rev. Marcella Auld Glass *Joann H. Lee*

Rev. Victor H. Floyd

Michael Conley

Victor H. Floyd *Michael Conley*

Prayer Requests

Prayer boxes are located in the Narthex (Sanctuary entry) and at the Front Desk. The Deacons and Pastors honor confidentiality and pray for each request.

Calvary Deacons: Prayer, Essential Errands, Spiritual Support

Helen Huckleberry, Deacon Co-Moderator

Terry Milby, Deacon Co-Moderator

Rev. Victor Floyd, Minister of Spiritual Care



Notice of Filming: Most of Calvary's worship services are livestreamed on our Facebook page and YouTube channel. While most of the footage will feature worship leaders, video of the congregation may also appear. If you have concerns, please contact the church office.

DAILY LECTIONARY: SEPTEMBER 14–SEPTEMBER 21

Sunday: Genesis 21:1-3; 22:1-14; *Abraham and Isaac*

Monday: Genesis 24:1-14; *Abraham Seeks a Spouse for Isaac*

Tuesday: Genesis 24:15-33; *Rebekah Shows Hospitality*

Wednesday: Genesis 24:33-51; *Rebekah and Abraham's Servant*

Thursday: Genesis 24:52-67; *The Marriage of Rebekah and Isaac*

Friday: Genesis 25:19-28; *Birth of Esau and Jacob*

Saturday: Genesis 25:29-34; *Esau Sells His Birthright*

If you could use a new study Bible, we have some for sale. This is the updated version of the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) that we have in the pews. Available for \$25 after worship.



♪ **PRELUDE** "Preludio 'Sine Nomine' (Six Pieces, No. 1)" (1940) Herbert Howells (1892–1983)

♪ **INTROIT** "Lord, for Thy Tender Mercy's Sake" Richard Farrant (c1525–1580)
*Lord, for thy tender mercy's sake, lay not our sins to our charge,
but forgive that is past, and give us grace to amend our sinful lives.
To decline from sin and incline to virtue,
that we may walk in a perfect heart before thee, now and evermore. Amen.*
—Lidley's Prayers, 1566

👂 **WELCOME**

🔊 **CALL TO WORSHIP**

God is calling us by name, trying to get our attention.

Here we are, turning our full attention to God's presence.

God is calling us through the voices of our neighbors.

Here we are, listening for truth through holy human stories.

God is calling us to see the world anew.

Here we are, looking for what God will reveal and provide today.

♪ ***HYMN 361** "O Christ, the Great Foundation"

AURELIA

👂 ***CALL TO CONFESSION**

🕯 ***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Holy God, you give yourself to us and call us to bring our full selves to you. But we confess that we aren't always fully tuned-in to you, to each other, or even to ourselves. We run on autopilot pursuing our own passions, or we act without asking if there's more to the story. Forgive us when we say or think any variation of "I was just following orders." Forgive us when we use your call to faith as a way to hurt others. Forgive us when we believe the end justifies the means. Call us in to closer connection with you, and make us true covenant partners, invested in abundant life with you. Amen.

👂 ***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

♪ ***GLORIA** "Glory to the God Above"

GOLDEN GATE, Michael Conley

Glo-ry to the God a-bove, and to the Son, the Lord of
Love, Glo-ry to the Spi-rit, Three In One, Glo-ry to God through whom all good things come.
As it was in the be-gin-nig, is now, and for-ev-er shall be. A -
men, a - men, a - men, a - men!

🕯 ***THE PEACE**

The Peace of Christ be with you!

And also with you!

The congregation is invited to share a sign of peace.

🕯 **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Holy God, your mind is beyond our knowing;

your grace is beyond our imagining;

your way is beyond our capacity,

and yet you call us and provide for us and guide us.

May these words from scripture today illumine our lives and our very selves,

so that we might live more faithfully. Amen.



SCRIPTURE Genesis 21:1-3; 22:1-14 (page 15)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



CHILDREN'S MEDITATION

Following Children's Meditation, children ages infant to 5th grade are invited to walk with their parents down to the Lower Level Sunday Studio and Childcare space. Children may also sit with their families during worship.



ANTHEM "Sometimes I Feel Like a Motherless Child"

African-American spiritual, arr. Howard Helvey

American spiritual, arr. Howard Helvey

Sometimes I feel like a motherless child (3x), a long way from home.

Then I get down on my knees and pray. I fall on my knees, and pray.

Sometimes I feel like I'm almost gone (3x), a long way from home.



SERMON "On the Altar of Religion"



***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** from *A Brief Statement of Faith*

We trust in God the Holy Spirit everywhere the giver and renewer of life.

In a broken and fearful world

the Spirit gives us courage

to pray without ceasing,

to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior,

to unmask idolatries in Church and culture,

to hear the voices of peoples long silenced,

and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.

In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,

we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks

and to live holy and joyful lives,

even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

With believers in every time and place,

we rejoice that nothing in life or in death

can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Following the Affirmation of Faith, Youth (grades 6th-12th) may meet in the 2nd floor lounge area, called The S.P.O.T. (Spiritual, Passionate, Open-minded, Transformative).



MINUTE FOR MINISTRY San Francisco SafeHouse



OFFERING

The ushers will be walking down the aisles with offering plates if you'd like to pass your contribution toward either aisle as they walk by. You may also place your offering in the boxes at the back of the sanctuary.



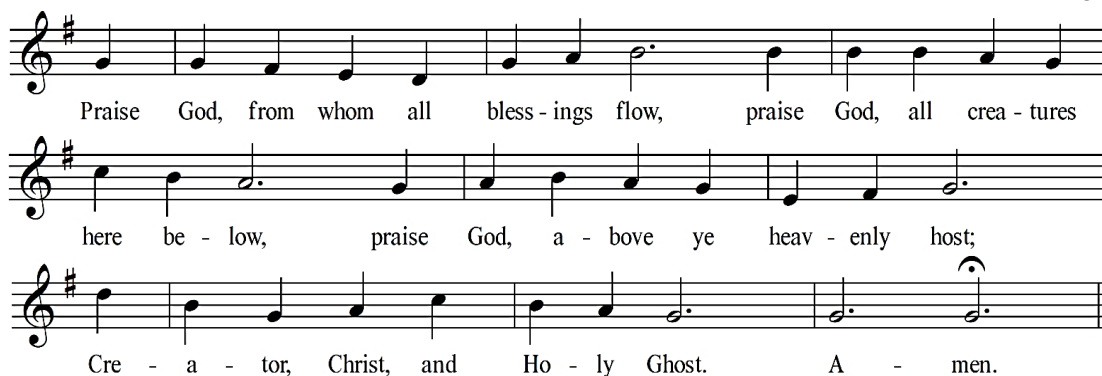
OFFERTORY ANTHEM "O God of Font and Altar"

K. Lee Scott

*O God of font and altar,
of music, grandeur, light;
toward whom the soaring arches
aspire beyond their height:
as beauty draws us to you
within this house of prayer,
let worship form and feed us
to help us show your care.*

*O life-bestowing Spirit,
inspire this hallowed space;
breathe through us with new fervor
and fill us with your grace.
Arouse our lagging spirits,
enflame our hearts with joy:
here let a love be kindled
that death cannot destroy.*

*O Christ, who cleansed the Temple,
baptize us with your zeal,
and teach us your compassion
to love, forgive, and heal.
Be in our midst to claim us
and mark us as your own,
then send us forth in witness
to make your mercy known.
—Carl P. Daw, Jr.*



🕯️ *PRAYER OF DEDICATION

🕯️ *PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

🎵 *HYMN 353 "My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less"

SOLID ROCK

🎵 *BENEDICTION

🎵 *CHORAL BLESSING "Hallelujah! We Sing Your Praises"

South African song

🎵 POSTLUDE "Rondeau" from Abdelazer (1695)

Henry Purcell (1659–1695)

Leading Worship This Morning

JoAnna Halk	Liturgist
Jet Appling	Minute for Ministry
Rev. Joann H. Lee	Preaching
Rev. Marcella Auld Glass	Assisting
Rev. Victor H. Floyd	Assisting
Alison Faison	Children's Meditation
Michael Conley	Conductor
John Walko	Organist/Pianist
Gabrielle Goozée-Nichols	Soloist
Natalie Ter Agapova	Soloist
Nancy Hall	Soloist
Joachim Luis	Soloist
Michael Villarreal	Soloist
Calvary Chancel Choir	

Next Week in Worship: September 21 at 10am

Rev. Marcella Auld Glass: To Remember When Waking
Genesis 27:1-4, 15-23 Do you remember your dreams? There are mornings we wake up and wish we could return to the narrative of our dreams, even as the details fade away. No matter how hard we try, we just can't return to that particular dream story. It would be easier to grab hold of a cloud or catch a shadow. There are mornings we wake up and thank the good Lord is was just a dream. There are some scenarios we play out in our dreams that we couldn't bear in real life. How do we dream together what God is dreaming for the church? Let's dream together.

The flowers this
 morning are given by
 Paul and Linda Vermeulen
 in memory of their mother,
 Pauline Barnes.



Every Drop Counts *Join Calvary's Extended Blood Drive!*

We had a great turnout at last Sunday's blood drive, collecting 18 units of blood, plus one plasma donation. Thank you to all our donors for helping save lives!

The response was so positive that we've extended the blood drive, which will be open for the next 30 days (through October 7).

**Scan the QR code or visit the link below
to donate at a Vitalant center.
vbd.vitalant.org/drive/SaveMore-4143-N**

They'll know Calvary sent you!

Together, our efforts can bring hope and healing to so many!



2025 ANNUAL GIVING CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Friends, we give thanks for the generosity you have already shown in support of the 2025 Annual Giving Campaign. Calvary has received pledged commitments of \$1,287,926 (or 95% of our goal). This means just \$62,074 remains to meet our ministry and program plans for this year.

Isaiah reminds us, 'Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?' We believe God is doing something new here at Calvary, and every pledge—regardless of the amount—brings us closer to that vision.

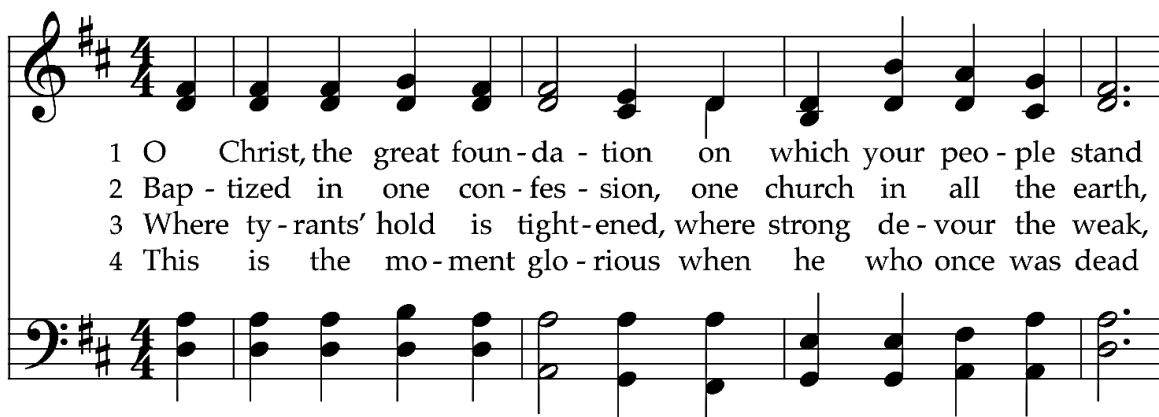
We invite you to prayerfully consider how you might be part of this final step. Together, let's ensure Calvary continues to be a beacon of love, grace, peace, and transformation in our community.

To make a pledge for 2025, please visit calpres.org or pick up a pledge card at the Welcome Table in the Atrium.

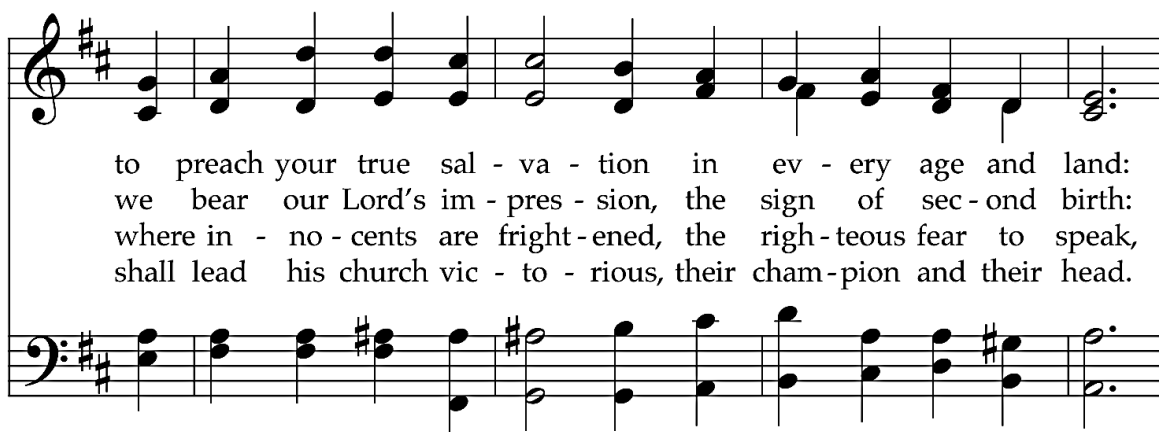
CALVARY WORSHIP, MUSIC, AND PROGRAM STAFF



The Rev. Marcella Auld Glass, Pastor & Head of Staff
The Rev. Joann H. Lee, Associate Pastor for Community Formation
The Rev. Victor H. Floyd, Minister of Spiritual Care
Michael Conley, Director of Music Ministries
John Walko, Organist
Alison Faison, Director of Children & Family Ministries
Robin Morjikian, Director of Development & Volunteer Ministries
Jeff Smith, Director of Youth Ministries



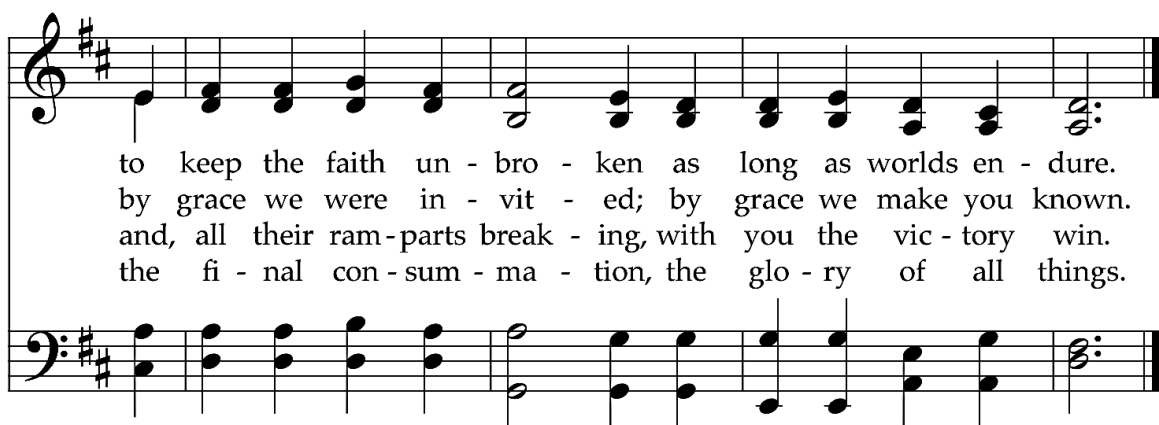
1 O Christ, the great foun-da-tion on which your peo-ple stand
 2 Bap-tized in one con-fes-sion, one church in all the earth,
 3 Where ty-rants' hold is tight-ened, where strong de-vour the weak,
 4 This is the mo-ment glo-rious when he who once was dead



to preach your true sal-va-tion in ev-ery age and land:
 we bear our Lord's im-pres-sion, the sign of sec-ond birth:
 where in-no-cents are fright-ened, the righ-teous fear to speak,
 shall lead his church vic-to-rious, their cham-pion and their head.

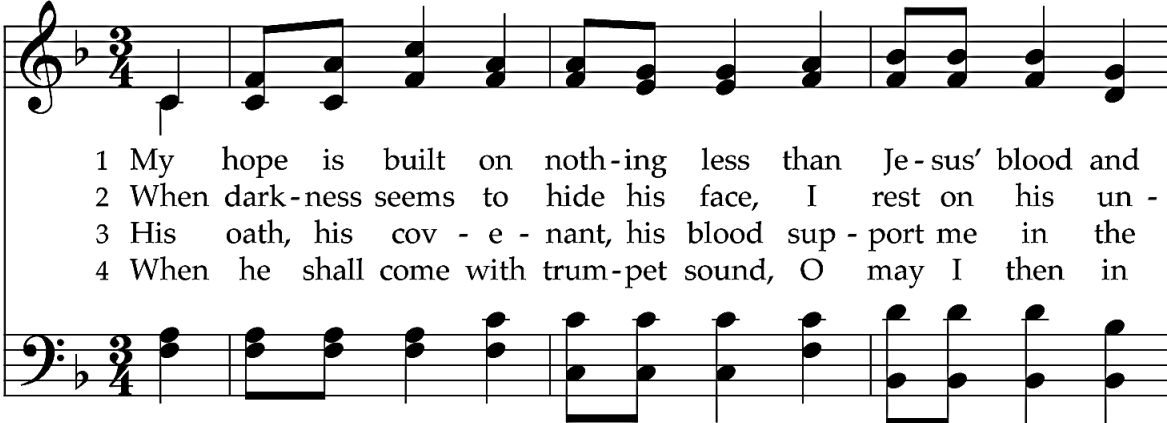


pour out your Ho-ly Spir-it to make us strong and pure,
 one ho-ly peo-ple gath-ered in love be-yond our own,
 there let your church a-wak-ing at-tack the powers of sin
 The Lord of all cre-a-tion his heaven-ly king-dom brings:

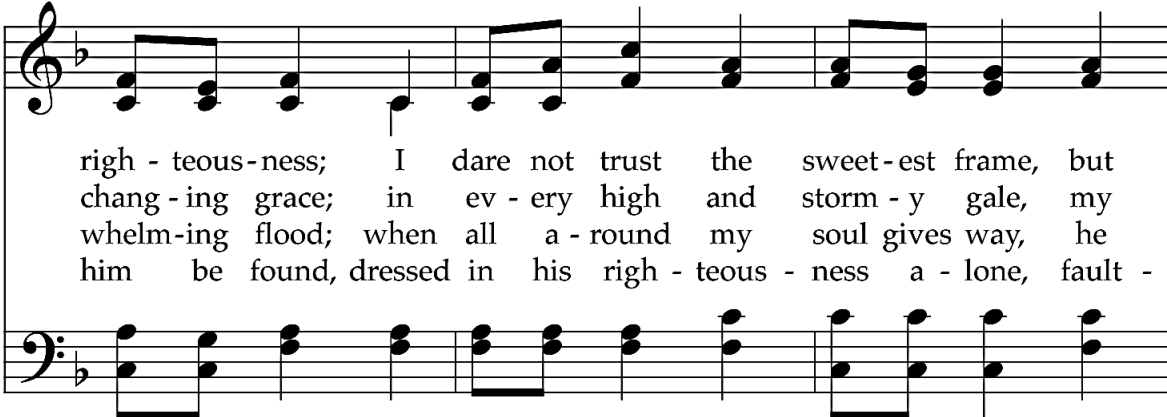


to keep the faith un-bro-ken as long as worlds en-dure.
 by grace we were in-vit-ed; by grace we make you known.
 and, all their ram-parts break-ing, with you the vic-tory win.
 the fi-nal con-sum-ma-tion, the glo-ry of all things.

The text was written by a leading Chinese educator, author, and editor who chaired the commission that prepared an important ecumenical Chinese hymnal, *Hymns of Universal Praise* (1936). This familiar tune invites comparison of these words with its usual text (see no. 321).

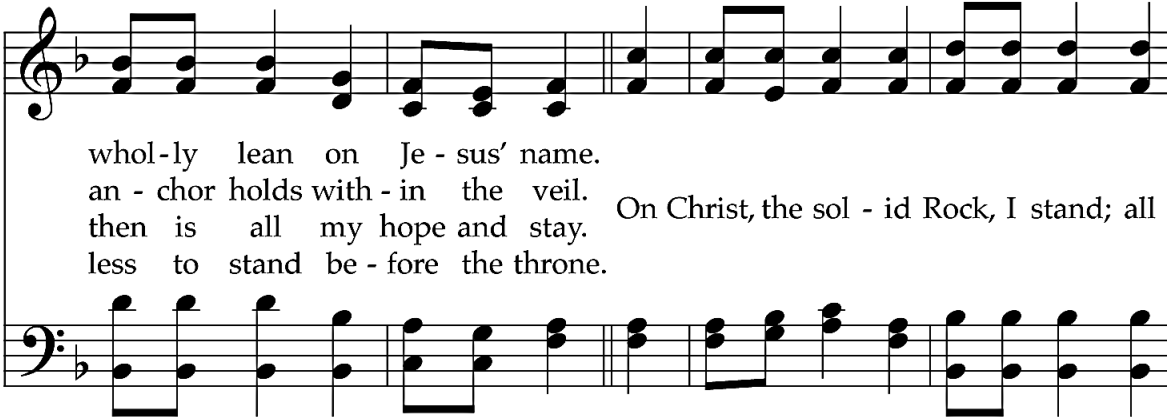


1 My hope is built on noth-ing less than Je-sus' blood and
 2 When dark-ness seems to hide his face, I rest on his un -
 3 His oath, his cov - e - nant, his blood sup - port me in the
 4 When he shall come with trum-pet sound, O may I then in



righ - teous-ness; I dare not trust the sweet-est frame, but
 chang - ing grace; in ev - ery high and storm - y gale, my
 whelm-ing flood; when all a - round my soul gives way, he
 him be found, dressed in his righ - teous - ness a - lone, fault -

Refrain



whol-ly lean on Je - sus' name.
 an - chor holds with - in the veil. On Christ, the sol - id Rock, I stand; all
 then is all my hope and stay.
 less to stand be - fore the throne.



oth-er ground is sink-ing sand; all oth-er ground is sink-ing sand.

This hymn develops the imagery of Jesus' remark (Matthew 7:24-27/Luke 6:47-49) that those who believe in him and act on that belief are like someone who builds a house on a rock. The text is set to a tune created for it by a prolific 19th-century American composer and editor.