

# The Church's One Foundation

Words by Samuel J. Stone (1866) and Music (Aurelia) by Samuel S. Wesley (1864)

Sing along with Grace Community Church @ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v-AzLnm1Tws>



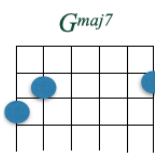
*D G D A*  
The Church's one foundation,  
*G A D*



*D G D A*  
'Mid toil and tri-bulation,  
*G A D*

Is Jesus Christ her Lord;

*A7 D F#7 Gmaj7 G*



And tumult of her war,

*A7 D F#7 Gmaj7 G*

She is His new crea- - - tion,

*A A7 D A*

She waits the consumma - - - tion,

By water and the word:

*D G G D*

Of peace for evermore;

*D G G D*

From heav'n He came and sought her,

*Bm B7/F# Em*

Till, with the vision glorious,

*Bm B7/F# Em*

To be His holy bride;

*A7 D G D Gmaj7 Em7*

Her longing eyes are blest,

*A7 D G D Gmaj7 Em7*

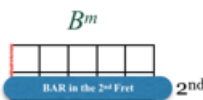
With His own blood He bought her,

*Em Asus4 A7 D*

And the great Church vic-to - - rious,

*Em Asus4 A7 D*

And for her life He died.



Shall be the Church at rest.

Capo to fret 1 to Transpose to D#

*D G D A*

*D G D A*  
Elect from every nation,

*G A D*

Yet she on earth hath union,

*G A D*

Yet one o'er all the earth,

*A7 D F#7 Gmaj7 G*



With God the Three in One,

*A7 D F#7 Gmaj7 G*

Her Charter of salva - - - tion,

*A A7 D A*

And mystic sweet communion,

*A A7 D A*

“One Lord, one faith, one birth!”

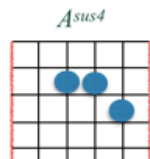
*D G G D*

With those whose rest is won:

*D G G D*

One holy Name she blesses,

*Bm B7/F# Em*



O happy ones and ho-ly!

*Bm B7/F# Em*

Partakes one holy food,

*A7 D G D Gmaj7 Em7*

Lord, give us grace that we,

*A7 D G D Gmaj7 Em7*

And to one hope she pres - ses,

*Em Asus4 A7 D*

Like them, the meek and low - ly,

*Em Asus4 A7 D*

With every grace en-dued.

On high may dwell with Thee.

Play upon the reddened strings at your peril.

Intro {

# Scripture and History

Samuel John Stone wrote “**The Church’s One Foundation**” based on the Apostles’ Creed and as a direct response to teaching considered unorthodox by John William Colenso, first Bishop of Natal, which created schism within the church in South Africa.

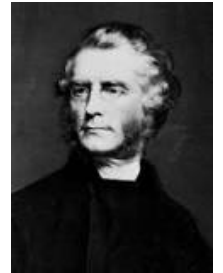


Samuel Stone  
Image from

[www.umcdiscipleship.org](http://www.umcdiscipleship.org)

Samuel Stone was a clergyman of the Church of England, born at Whitmore, Staffordshire, April 25, 1839. He was educated at Pembroke College, Oxford, where he was graduated B.A. in 1862. Later he took orders and served various Churches. He succeeded his father at St. Paul's, Haggerstown, in 1874. He was the author of many original hymns and translations, which were collected and published in 1886. His hymns are hopeful in spirit and skillfully constructed. He published several poetic volumes. Reverend Stone died November 19, 1900.

John William Colenso’s experiences in Natal informed his development as a religious thinker. He found he could not preach that the ancestors of newly Christianized Africans were condemned to eternal damnation. In his commentary upon Paul's Romans Epistle (1861) he countered the doctrine of eternal punishment and the contention that Holy Communion was a precondition to salvation. The thought provoking questions put to him by students at his missionary station encouraged him to re-examine the contents of the Pentateuch and the Book of Joshua and question whether certain sections of these books should be understood as literally or historically accurate. His conclusions, positive and negative, were published in a series of treatises on the Pentateuch and the Book of Joshua, during period from 1862 to 1879. The publication of these volumes created a scandal in England and was the cause of a number of anguished and patronizing counter-blasts from those (clergy and laity alike) who refused to countenance the possibility of biblical fallibility.



John William Colenso  
Image from Wikipedia

Colenso was a polygenist; he believed in CoAdamism that races had been created separately. Colenso pointed to monuments and artifacts in Egypt to attempt to debunk monogenist beliefs that all races came from the same stock. Egyptological evidence was taken to indicate the existence of permanent differences in the shape of the skull, bodily form, color and physiognomy between different races, which he believed were difficult to reconcile with biblical monogenesis. Colenso believed that racial variation between races was so great, that there was no way all the races could have come from the same stock just a few thousand years ago. He with other biblical polygenists believed that monogenists had interpreted the bible wrongly.

Colenso further claimed that God had created all races equal, that polygenism militated against racist attitudes or practices, and that monogenesis was the cause of slavery and racism.

When Bishop Colenso was deposed for his teachings, he appealed to the higher ecclesiastical authorities in England. It was then that Samuel Stone became involved in the debate. It inspired him to write a set of hymns based on the Apostles' Creed in 1866. He titled it, *Lyra Fidelium; Twelve Hymns on the Twelve Articles of the Apostles' Creed*. "**The Church's One Foundation**" is based on the ninth article, "The holy Catholic Church; The Communion of Saints."

The hymn also served as inspiration for [Rudyard Kipling's](#) 1896 poem, [Hymn Before Action](#).

[hymnary.org](#) and Wikipedia