

 KALAMAZOO
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
"A Sanctuary in the City... Living Faith"

JULY 19, 2026, EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

"Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place
I can feel God's mighty power and grace
I can hear the brush of angel's wings
I see glory on each face.
Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place."
1977 Lanny Wolfe Music



Photo by Fran Dwight

THE GATHERING

Wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here—with whatever joys, questions, or tears you bring today—as we worship God, who welcomes us all! You are invited to listen for God's Spirit speaking to you through the music of the Prelude as we prepare our hearts for worship.

Bold type indicates congregational response.

Where there is an asterisk, we are invited to stand together in God's Spirit.

PRELUDE

Choral no. 2 in B minor

César Franck

CALL TO WORSHIP

God's steadfast love endures forever, and God's faithfulness to all generations. Let us worship God.

***DOXOLOGY 607** Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow Old Hundredth
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise Christ, all creatures here below;
praise Holy Spirit evermore;
praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen

*OPENING RESPONSES

We come this morning carrying whatever we carry
our questions, our joys, our tears.

We come not because we have found God,
but because God has already found us.

Like Jacob on the road, we did not set out looking for holy ground.
We were only looking for a place to rest.

And yet here, we know, we see, we find
surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.

***HYMN 405** Praise God for This Holy Ground Heymonystraat

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of the wilderness and the waiting, we confess that we would rather have a map than a promise. We want to know how this ends before we take the next step. We want certainty where you offer companionship. Forgive us for the times we have mistaken your presence for absence simply because it did not come with answers. Forgive us for the times we have withheld our own presence from others. Meet us here, in our exhaustion and our half-finished plans. Meet us not because we have earned it, but because that has always been your way.

Prayer continues in silence.

KYRIE 577

Lord, Have Mercy

Kyrie Eleison

Kyrie eleison. Kyrie eleison.

Kyrie eleison. Kyrie eleison.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS AND PEACE

Friends, there is a kindness in God's justice that hears out our confessions and liberates us to move forward, to build a new and better world. God's Word forgives and redeems us. God's Breath revitalizes us for the journey.

We belong to God! With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from God's love in Jesus Christ!

Emboldened by this good news, let us share God's love with one another.

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Please stand and take a moment to share Christ's peace with others.

*GLORIA 582

Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me

Vasile

**Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.**

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

THE WORD

MOMENT WITH YOUNG WORSHIPPERS AND BLESSING

All children are invited to join us at the front of the sanctuary.

Children: You are loved!

Congregation: **You are loved!**

Infants & children through age 3 are invited to our nursery, Room 211. All children are invited to remain in worship. There is no Sunday School today.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God who speaks in dreams and stairways, in wind and in silence, open our ears this morning to hear more than words. Let your Spirit meet us here, not with easy answers, but with the presence that has never left us.

Amen.

FIRST READING

Romans 8:18-25

New Testament p.158

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God!**ANTHEM**

The Meditations of My Heart

Elaine Hagenberg

Text from Psalm 19

May the words of my mouth
And the meditations of my heart
Be acceptable in Thy sight, O Lord.

O Lord my Rock,
O Lord my strength,
O Lord my God and Redeemer

SECOND READING

Genesis 28:10-22

Old Testament p.25

For the Word of God in scripture, for the word of God among us,
for the word of God within us.

Thanks be to God!**SERMON**

Not a Map, but a Promise

***HYMN 762**

When the Poor Ones

El Camino

THE THANKSGIVING**TIDINGS OF THE CHURCH**

We give thanks to God and live faith, offering ourselves through worship,
work, service, and love in all its forms.

OFFERTORY INVITATION

Freely we receive at the hand of God; freely let us open our hands
for the work of God. Let us worship God with our offerings.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

More Love to Thee, O Christ†

James Richardson
text by Elizabeth Prentiss

More love to Thee, O Christ, more love to Thee!
Hear Thou the prayer I make on bended knee.
This is my earnest plea: More love, O Christ, to Thee;
More love to Thee, more love to Thee!

Once earthly joy I craved, sought peace and rest;
Now Thee alone I seek, give what is best.
This all my prayer shall be: More love, O Christ to Thee;
More love to Thee, more love to Thee!

Let sorrow do its work, send grief or pain;
Sweet are Thy messengers, sweet their refrain,
When they can sing with me: More love, O Christ, to Thee;
More love to Thee, more love to Thee!

Then shall my latest breath whisper Thy praise;
This be the parting cry my heart shall raise;
This still my prayer shall be: More love, O Christ to Thee;
More love to Thee, more love to Thee!

***OFFERTORY RESPONSE 701**

Lord, Prepare Me (sung twice)

Sanctuary

**Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and true.
With thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for you.**

***OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Ever-present God, receive these gifts with our gratitude. Bless them, and bless us, that through them we may become signs of your abiding presence in the world. Where people feel alone, may these offerings remind them that they are not forgotten. Where the road is hard, may they bear witness that no one walks alone, for you are always with us. Amen.

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION
WITH CHORAL AMEN**

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Let us pray...
**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, now and forever.
Amen.**

THE SENDING

***HYMN 475** Come, Ye Thankful People, Come St. George's Windsor

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Dancing in the Sky, Floating Among Clouds Autumn

‡MUSIC MINUTE: This classic hymn, written by American author Elizabeth Prentiss (1818-1878) has a rich history. In 1852, Elizabeth and her husband the Rev. George Prentiss lost two young children to illness. Soon afterward, George preached a sermon on love that inspired Elizabeth's now-beloved text. One line of his particularly moved her: "Love can prevent the soul from going blind." Amid great suffering and pain, still we are called to love God and neighbor with all that we are, even to "sing with" those messengers of grief and pain such as illness and loss. Not all songs are songs of joy; the Psalms clearly illustrate this. But as Augustine of Hippo said, "singing belongs to the one who loves." This anthem setting was done by a Kalamazoo neighbor of ours, James Richardson, Director of Music at St. Augustine Cathedral.

PARTICIPANTS

Worship Leaders
Ginny Dell
Meredith Alspach
Rev. Chrissy Westbury

Reader
Tina Egan

Acolyte
David Dell

Music
Summer Choir
Erika Mehring, soloist
Autumn, organist
Michael Montgomery,
director

Sound & Video Team
Chris Honeysett
Mark Ohrstrom

Greeters
Janet Lawing (Lovell)

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DEACON'S PRAYERS

As a community of faith, we can always provide one another with the gift of intentional prayer. This week, we uplift in prayer PAUL MINERT and the parish group listed below, that they may feel God's presence. If you're in this group, stop by the Gathering Place after worship to say hello to your deacon.

Next week, we will pray for another Deacon and parish group.

Matthew Beaver	Denise Freed	Cindy Leder	Jill Piwko
Sarah Beaver	Ken Freed	Erin Leder	Marshall Rutz
Alissa Britigan	Jessica Hay	Greg Leder	Gayle Sparks
Claudia Britigan	Lois Heuchert	Don Meldrum	Jamie Tuin
Robert Britigan III	Terri Hunter	Karen Meldrum	Geoffrey Wardwell
Sue Cole	Kristen Kern-Beaver	Linda Meloche	Marjorie Wardwell
Martha Finjap	Nancy Klesert	Marty Meloche	Sandra Western
	Bob Klesert	Heather Misner	Bob White

FROM JUST SANCTUARY...

"Being oppressed means the absence of choices." - bell hooks

CHILDREN & YOUTH

Nursery

The nursery is open each Sunday, starting fifteen minutes before worship, for children age 3 and under (Room 211). Parents will be given a pager in the event they need to be reached during worship. Please pick your child up immediately following worship.

Sunday School

Classes for PreK—5th grade students will resume in September.

Youth Group & T.A.G.

These groups for all middle and high school students will kick off in the fall. Stay tuned!

LAST CALL: VBS Day Camp

Rising K-6th graders are invited to **spend August 10-13 with Meredith** (daily from 8:30am - 4:30pm).

Thanks to the generous support of this church, this camp is *no cost for attendees*.

Space is limited. Registration is required. To sign up, use this link or find it on our website.



If you have trouble registering, please call the Guest Services Team at 989-883-2501 to complete the process.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

Noodling at Noon with Meredith

On July 21st we will meet in the library to discuss chapters 2-4 of *The Crooked Places Made Straight* by Raphael Warnock. All are welcome! Questions to Meredith Alspach (mereditha@fpckzoo.org)

Tuesday Morning Men's Fellowship

Join us weekly at Panera Bread on West Main at 7:30 a.m. New faces are always welcome!

Women's Bible Study Summer Plans

Ruth Minert is hosting this group at her home on Thursdays from 9:30-11 a.m. this summer. We will be using *Portals of Prayer* for our July and August studies.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

With Gratitude...

We remember Hugh and Ruth Moser and their dedication to this congregation, to youth and children, and to making the world a better place. A generous bequest from their estate has been received by the church and will be divided, according to the family's wishes, between the John Dunning Guild II Endowment (for programs benefiting children and youth in the church), the Ford-Neff Endowment (for Outreach programs), and the Lois Jean Powell Sacred Music and Organ Fund. We are deeply grateful for their time here, and their continued support of the mission of First Presbyterian Church.

New Member Orientation

Wherever you are on your journey through life, you are welcome here! Have you been visiting FPC? Are you curious about how to get more connected? Do you have questions about our church or the PC(USA) denomination? Join Pastor Chrissy and members of the Congregational Life Committee after worship on August 16 in Room 314 (on the Upper Level) for a new member orientation. We will get to know each other a bit, share some information about who we are, and explore your questions together. This is our first step in welcoming our newest members, but attending is not a commitment. You are welcome to come explore! Please email Pastor Chrissy at chrissyw@fpckzoo.org to let her know you plan to attend. If you're not available that day, but would like to explore membership, reach out to Pastor Chrissy for other options.

Game Night

The Congregational Life Committee invites you, your family, and friends to Game Night on Thursday, July 23, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. in the Dining Room. Enjoy giant Jenga, euchre, puzzles, children's games, snacks, and prizes. We hope to see you there! P.S. Save the date for cookie decorating night on August 20.

CTV: Red Door Dinner

Help host a Wednesday Red Door Dinner with friends, family, or a small group! We'll provide recipes, kitchen guidance, and dishwashing help. Check your calendars for late July and all of August! Sign up on the calendar outside Meredith's office.

Noisy Coins

Thank you for bringing your loose change for the offering. All loose coins go to the Deacon's Benevolence Fund which exists to help church members with emergency needs.

West Virginia Supplies

The mission trip to West Virginia is August 1-8 and they need your help! The group takes all food and supplies with them for the week. If you are able to help provide an item from the supply list, please sign up here (or find the link on our website events page):

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0E49A4AB2DA3F94-63878138-mission#/>



Most items listed are size and/or brand specific as requested by the group. Non-perishable items can be dropped off at Meredith's office anytime on or before July 29. Perishable items should be purchased to be fresh for the date. If you have any questions please email Meredith Alspach (mereditha@fpckzoo.org). Thank you for your support!

Love Music? Try Summer Choir!

Sundays at 9 a.m. in the Choir Room, this pick-up group prepares simple anthems for worship each week. No sign-up, no weeknight rehearsal, no long-term commitment, and no previous experience needed. Everyone middle school-age and up is welcome. For more information, contact Michael Montgomery (michaelm@fpckzoo.org).

Koinonia at Pine Island Chapel

Koinonia (koi-no-KNEE-ah) is a Greek word often translated as “fellowship.” Join us the second and fourth Sundays each month at 5:00 p.m. at Pine Island Chapel for Faith, Fellowship, and Food. Homemade summer vegetable soup and rolls will be provided by Pat Stromsta; bring a dish to pass if you’d like, but it is not required. Praise and Prayer will follow from 6:00–6:30 p.m. as we learn a new song, reflect on scripture, and pray together. This is a family-friendly event. Questions? Email Pat (pat.stromsta@gmail.com).

Hearing Assistance

FPC’s Sanctuary is equipped with a Hearing Loop system. Use your T-coil-enabled hearing aids or visit the sound booth to borrow headphones that link to the loop.

Weekly Calendar

SUNDAY, JULY 19

- 9:00 a.m. **Summer Choir Rehearsal**,
Choir Room
- 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. **Cards on Display**,
Gathering Place
- 9:45 a.m. **Child Care/Nursery**, #211
- 10:00 a.m. **Worship**, Sanctuary

MONDAY, JULY 20

- 9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. **Recovery Institute (R.I.)**, Dining/#308
- 12:00 p.m. **AA**, #300
- 12:00 p.m. **Walking Group**, Lovell St.
- 6:30 p.m. **Deacons**, #306
- 7:00 p.m. **Scouts**, Dining Rm

TUESDAY, JULY 21

- 7:30 a.m. **Men's Fellowship**, Panera
Bread on West Main
- 9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. **R.I.**, Dining
Rm/#308
- 11:00 a.m. **Staff Meeting**, Archives
- 12:00 p.m. **Noodling at Noon**, Library
- 2:00 p.m. **IPNC Meeting**, Archives
- 3:00 p.m. **Congregational Life**, Library
- 7:00 p.m. **KMC Board Meeting**, Library

WEDNESDAY, JULY 22

- 8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. **Taking Root**,
Library
- 9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. **R.I.**, Dining/#308
- 12:00 p.m. **Prayer Service**, Sanctuary
- 5:00 p.m. **CTV: Red Door Dinner**,
Dining Room

THURSDAY, JULY 23

- 9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. **R.I.**, Dining/#308
- 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. **Library Work**
- 12:00 p.m. **AA**, #300
- 4:30 p.m. **Food Addicts**, #314/315
- 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. **Family Game Night**, Dining Room

FRIDAY, JULY 24

- 9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. **R.I.**, Dining/#308

SUNDAY, JULY 26

- 9:00 a.m. **Summer Choir Rehearsal**,
Choir Room
- 9:45 a.m. **Child Care/Nursery**, #211
- 10:00 a.m. **Worship**, Sanctuary
- 5:00 p.m. **Koinonia (Food & Fellowship 5-6, Praise & Prayer 6-6:30)**, Pine Island
Chapel (8882 W Q Ave)

Office Hours

Monday – Thursday

9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

KALAMAZOO FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Michael Montgomery, Director of Music, x220

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Dawn Reitano, Communications Coordinator, x209

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Kelly Short, Operations Coordinator, x205

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Louise Taylor, Financial Coordinator, x206

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The Reverend Chrissy Westbury, Associate Pastor, x204

chrissyw@fpckzoo.org

South Lobby Receptionists, x221: Kailynn Bachman, Jennie Barry,

Sandy Sinotte, Deb Weurding

Custodians: Logan McCafferty, Randy Randt **Library:** library@fpckzoo.org

Upcoming Sunday Morning Worship Services

July 26

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

The Rev. Chrissy Westbury

Genesis 29:15-28; Romans 8:26-39

August 9

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

Mission Trip Youth & Young Adults

August 2

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost/Communion

Orlando Totobesola

Genesis 32:22-31; Romans 9:1-5

August 16

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

The Rev. Chrissy Westbury

Genesis 45:1-15; Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

*Grounded in living faith, receiving diversity as a gift, we seek to reflect Christ's light in God's world.
Continually discerning God's vision of grace and peace, we share inspirational worship, spiritual
nurture, compassionate service to others, and the pursuit of justice... all to the glory of God.*

Praise God for This Holy Ground 405

Capo 2: (D)

E (G) (A) (Bm)
A B C#m

1 Praise God for this ho - ly ground,
2 Praise God in whose word we find
3 Praise God who through Christ makes known
4 Praise God's Spir - it who be - friends,
5 Though praise ends, praise is be - gun

(Em7) (D/F#) (Em7) (Asus4) (A)
F#m7 E/G# F#m7 Bsus4 B

place and peo - ple, sight and sound.
food for bod - y, soul, and mind.
all are loved and called God's own.
rais - es, hum - bles, breaks, and mends.
where God's will is glad - ly done.

Refrain (D) (G) (Em7) (A) (F#7) (Bm)
E A F#m7 B G#7 C#m

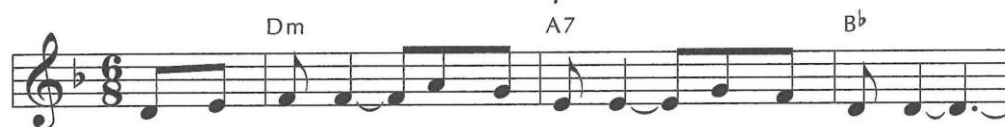
Hal - le - lu - jah! Hal - le - lu - jah! Hal - le - lu - jah!

(D) (Em7) (A7) (D)
E F#m7 B7 E

God's good - ness is e - ter - nal.

762

When the Poor Ones

Cuando el pobre

1 When the poor ones who have noth - ing share with strang - ers,
 2 When at last all those who suf - fer find their com - fort,
 3 When our joy fills up our cup to o - ver - flow - ing,
 4 When our homes are filled with good - ness in a - bun - dance,

1 Cuan - do el po - bre na - da tie - ne y aún re - par - te,
 2 Cuan - do un hom - bre su - fre y lo - gra su con - sue - lo,
 3 Cuan - do cre - ce la a - le - grí - a y nos i - nun - da,
 4 Cuan - do a - bun - da el bien y lle - na los ho - ga - res,



when the thirst - y wa - ter give un - to us all,
 when they hope though e - ven hope seems hope - less - ness,
 when our lips can speak no words oth - er than true,
 when we learn how to make peace in - stead of war,

cuan - do un hom - bre pa - sa sed y a - gua nos da,
 cuan - do es - pe - ra y no se can - sa de es - pe - rar,
 cuan - do di - cen nues - tros la - bios la ver - dad,
 cuan - do un hom - bre don - de hay gue - rra po - ne paz,



when the cripp - led in their weak - ness strength - en oth - ers,
 when we love though hate at times seems all a - round us,
 when we know that love for sim - ple things is bet - ter,
 when each strang - er that we meet is called a neigh - bor,

cuan - do el dé - bil a su her - ma - no for - ta - le - ce,
 cuan - do a - ma - mos, aun - que el o - dio nos ro - dé - e,
 cuan - do a - ma - mos el sen - tir de los sen - ci - llos,
 cuan - do "her - ma - no" le lla - ma - mos al ex - tra - ño,

Refrain / Estribillo



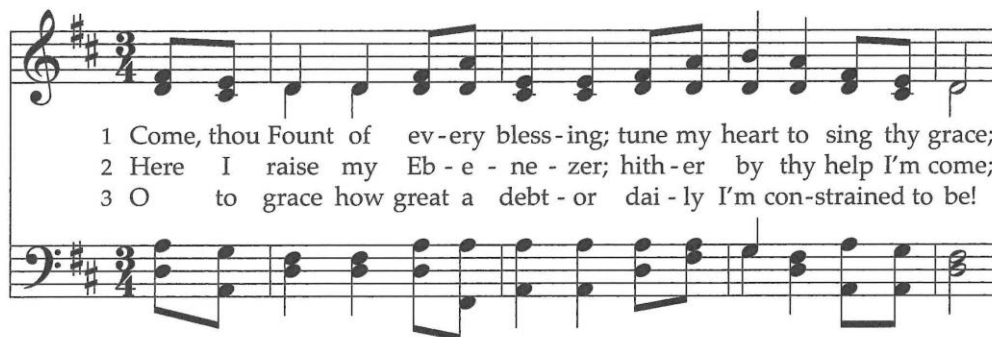
then we know that God still goes that road with us,
 va Dios mis - mo en nues - tro mis - mo ca - mi - nar.

D7 Gm A7 Dm Gm Dm

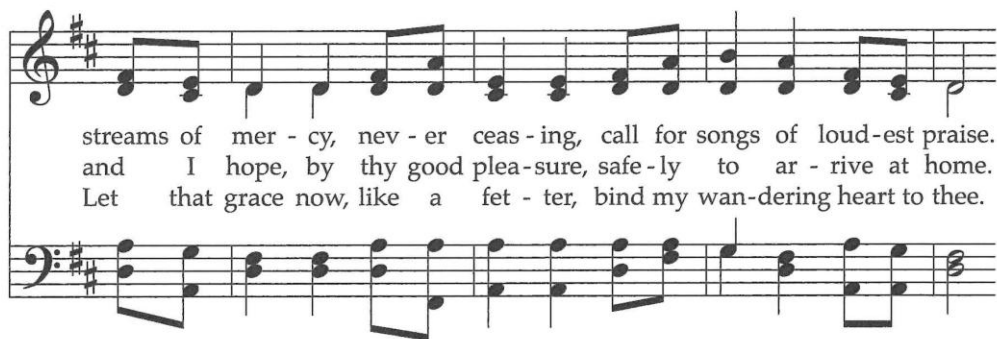
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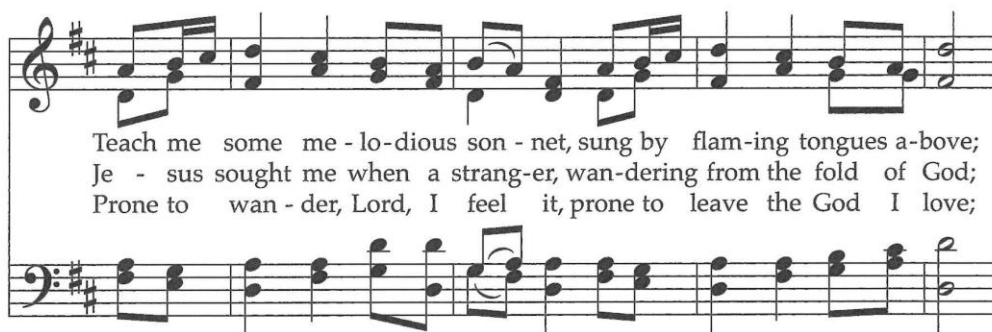
Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing 475



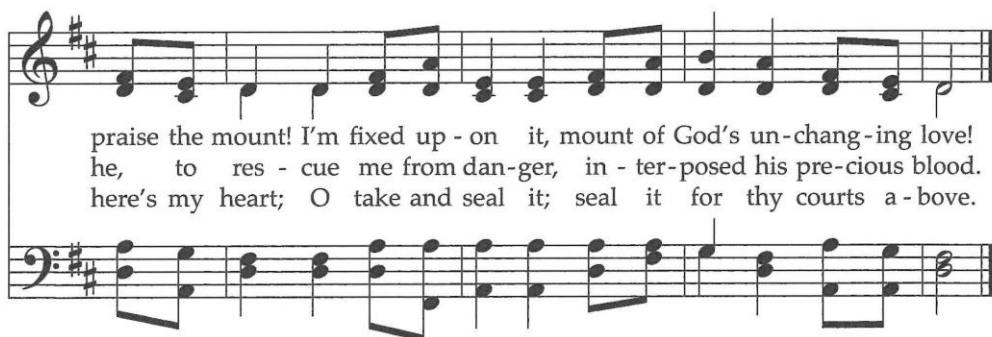
1 Come, thou Fount of ev-ery bless-ing; tune my heart to sing thy grace;
 2 Here I raise my Eb - e - ne - zer; hith-er by thy help I'm come;
 3 O to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con-strained to be!



streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, call for songs of loud-est praise.
 and I hope, by thy good plea-sure, safe - ly to ar - rive at home.
 Let that grace now, like a fet - ter, bind my wan-dering heart to thee.



Teach me some me - lo-dious son - net, sung by flam-ing tongues a-bove;
 Je - sus sought me when a strang-er, wan-dering from the fold of God;
 Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;



praise the mount! I'm fixed up - on it, mount of God's un-chang-ing love!
 he, to res - cue me from dan-ger, in - ter-posed his pre-cious blood.
 here's my heart; O take and seal it; seal it for thy courts a - bove.

