

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

JULY 26, 2026, NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



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

Great is Thy Faithfulness

arr. Dan Miller

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

Siblings of creation, since God is for us,
who is against us?

God, who sent Jesus, now gives us the Spirit in power!

The Holy One is in our midst:

equipping us for life in the service of Christ.

In Christ we are more than conquerors,

for nothing in creation can separate us from the love of God!

***HYMN 16** O That I Had a Thousand Voices O Dass Ich Tausend Zungen Hätte

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We need your forgiveness, O Lord of our lives, as surely and as regularly as the earth needs rain. We look quickly to meet our own wants, while the basic needs of so many go unmet. We criticize without understanding and speak without listening. We judge others, and excuse ourselves. We are quick to take credit for the good, and just as quick to blame others for our failures. Cleanse us by the power of your life-giving Spirit, that the goodness for which you created us may shine forth in our lives.

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. There is no Sunday School today. All children are invited to remain in worship.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

We listen for your word, God, coming to us in scripture, connecting with experiences of our lives. Open our hearts and minds by the power of your Spirit. God be in our listening, God be in our understanding, God be in our daily living. Amen.

FIRST READING

Romans 8:31-39

New Testament p.158

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God!**ANTHEM**

How Lovely is Thy Dwelling Place†

Psalm 84

from the 1650 Scottish Psalter, American Folk Melody

How lovely is Thy dwelling-place,
O Lord of Hosts, to me!
My very heart and flesh cry out,
O Living God, for Thee.

Behold, the sparrow findeth out
An house wherein to rest;
The swallow also for herself
Hath purchased a nest;

Upon Thine altars, where she safe
Her young ones forth may bring,
Her restless heart hath found its rest,
In Thee, her God and King.

SECOND READING

Matthew 13:31-33; 44-52

New Testament p.14

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**

“Hidden in Plain Sight”

***HYMN 771**

What Is the World Like

New World

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 MUSIC

***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**

 Thanks be to you, O God, that we have resources for life.
 May your purpose guide our every purpose, your hand empower our hands.
 May your love in Christ be revealed in our love, your will fulfilled in our work.
 So, through the light of this day, may we be led into the light of eternity. Amen.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION

 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 435** There's a Wideness in God's Mercy In Babilone

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Nachspiel in D minor Anton Bruckner

‡MUSIC MINUTE: This morning’s anthem text comes from the 1650 Scottish Psalter. More properly called *The Psalms of David in Metre*, this collection was compiled during the Westminster Assembly of Divines. One of the tasks of these early Reformed “divines” (theologians) was to translate the 150 psalms into regularly metered poetic verses, following John Calvin’s lead with the earlier *Genevan Psalter* (1562). Their hope was to aid in memorization and simplify the perceived excesses of more ancient European psalmody. Psalm-singing has long been a mark of Presbyterian heritage due to the “regulative principal” of worship, also formulated by the same Westminster Assembly. This principle directs elements of worship to be drawn exclusively from Scripture, making the psalms the principal corpus of poetry appropriate for congregational singing. Many a delightful phrase can be found in these sometimes-playful translations, like our swallow having “purchased a nest” near to the altars of the temple. Here I’ve paired the nearly four-hundred-year-old text with a gentle, American Folk Tune.

PARTICIPANTS

Worship Leaders

Laurie Tupper
Meredith Alspach
Rev. Chrissy Westbury

Reader

Sally Van Buren

Acolyte

Leo Harrison

Music

Summer Choir
Jake Zimmer, baritone
Michael Montgomery,
director

Sound & Video Team

Mark Ohrstrom
Jim Van Buren

Greeters

Karen & Rich Nellums
(South)
Joanne Baker
(Lovell)

*Music reprinted with
permission under
One License 731778-A.
All rights reserved.*

FROM JUST SANCTUARY...

“There is no ‘them and us.’ There is only us.” – Greg Boyle, S.J.

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 JIM MULCRONE 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.

Greg Chambers	Lana Griffin	Diane Johnson	Phyllis Thomas
Becky Chambers	Andy Hamilton	Carol McCloud	Tom Thomas
Shelly Denny	Elizabeth Hamilton	Donald McCloud	Phil Torrence
Derick Elliott	Justin Hassler	Craig Oliver	Sarah Torrence
Sairi Elliott	Karen Hassler	Kelsey Oliver	Jim Van Buren
Jen Freeland	Elaine Johns	Sally Pitt-Van Buren	Richard Van Enk
Matt Freeland	Ron Johns	Linda Swope	Jonathan Willoughby

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 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.). Thanks to the generous support of this church, this camp is *no cost for attendees*. **Space is limited. Registration is required.** Sign-up is easy using the link on our website fpckzoo.org.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

Noodling at Noon with Meredith

Join us on Tuesday as we finish our discussion of *The Crooked Places Made Straight* by Raphael Warnock. All are welcome!

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 a.m.-11 a.m. this summer. We will be using *Portals of Prayer* for our July and August studies.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

West Virginia Supplies Needed

The group takes all food and supplies with them for the week in WV. If you are able to help provide an item from their 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 August 1. If you have any questions please ask Meredith Alspach (mereditha@fpckzoo.org). Thank you for your support!



Koinonia at Pine Island Chapel

Koinonia (Fellowship) will meet this Sunday. Join us at 5:00 to walk the Labyrinth, at 5:15 for soup (you can bring a dish to share if you are able). At 6:00 we gather in the chapel to sing songs of praise, have a conversation based on John 14:15-21 and pray, following Thomas Keating's Centering Prayer practice. All Are Welcome!

"Come and Find the Quiet Center in the crowded life we lead. Find the room for hope to enter, find the frame where we are freed: Clear the chaos and the clutter, clear our eyes that we can see all the things that really matter, be at peace and simply be." *Sing the Faith*, #2128

Film & Supper Event – August 8

Join the League of Women Voters and community partners **at Mt Zion Baptist Church** on Saturday, August 8 for a free evening honoring the anniversary of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. The event includes a buffet supper and a livestreamed documentary, *One Bridge, Two Sisters, Three Marches*, followed by an interview with the featured sisters and time for discussion and action. Doors open at 4:00 p.m. with supper, and the program begins at 5:00 p.m. All are welcome. Please see the event flyer in our announcement email and posted in the building for registration information and additional details.

New Member Orientation

Have you been visiting FPC and would like to learn more? Join Pastor Chrissy and members of the Congregational Life Committee after worship on **Sunday, August 16, in Room 314** for a New Member Orientation. Meet others, learn about FPC and the PC(USA), and ask questions in a relaxed setting. Attending is not a commitment—just an opportunity to explore. To RSVP or learn about other membership options, contact Pastor Chrissy at chrissyw@fpckzoo.org.

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).

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.

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.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

AUGUST 1
Jacob Schut

AUGUST 2
Maddie Alspach

AUGUST 3
Michael Bova
Marilyn Loken
Diane Marsom

AUGUST 4
Wendy Miedema

AUGUST 5
Bev Murray
Jakob Schnur

AUGUST 6
Kim Cummings
Beth Dyer
Gail Fitzpatrick-Fox
Grace Kande

AUGUST 7
Annaliese Bol
Logan Brown
Carol Steinman

AUGUST 9
Scott Carter
Bob Cowell
Andrew Lenderink

AUGUST 10
Abigail Nkwewoh

AUGUST 11
Erin Leder

AUGUST 12
Cozette Ruff

AUGUST 13
Juanita Erdos

AUGUST 14
Mason Coleman
Phyllis Thomas

AUGUST 15
Christopher Honeysett
Curtis Leibbrand
Marshall Rutz
Ronald Tanis

AUGUST 17
Jill Aspergren
Crystal Richman

AUGUST 18
David Campbell

AUGUST 19
Joan Colgren
Brittany Robbins

AUGUST 21
Sydney Wilson

AUGUST 22
Carol Barratt-Schmiege
Benji Yohe

AUGUST 23
Rosingh Amofa-Adarkwa
Rosie Yohe

AUGUST 24
Lynn Arwady

AUGUST 25
Samantha Fuehr
Jeffrey Shaw
Norma Smith

AUGUST 26
Alden Bell
Daniel Corse
Geoffrey Wardwell

AUGUST 27
Alex Coryell
Marilyn Lamb
Michael Warlick

AUGUST 28
Semashere Pegheleh
Abigail Sherrill

AUGUST 29
Alissa Britigan
David Dell
Henry Lewis

AUGUST 30
Mackenzie Jonas

AUGUST 31
Patricia Corse
Paul Perks
Carter Tuin

WEEKLY CALENDAR

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 (Fellowship)**, Pine
Island Chapel (8882 W Q Ave)

MONDAY, JULY 27

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

TUESDAY, JULY 28

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

WEDNESDAY, JULY 29

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

THURSDAY, JULY 30

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

FRIDAY, JULY 31

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

SUNDAY, AUGUST 2

- 9:00 a.m. **Summer Choir Rehearsal**,
Choir Room
- 9:45 a.m. **Child Care/Nursery**, #211
- 10:00 a.m. **Worship/Communion**,
Sanctuary



OFFICE HOURS: 9 A.M.–3 P.M.
MONDAY – THURSDAY
CLOSED FRIDAY-SUNDAY

KALAMAZOO FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

321 W. South Street, Kalamazoo, Michigan 49007

fpckzoo.org

Facebook.com/ASanctuaryInTheCity

269.344.0119

Church Staff (in alphabetical order)

Meredith Alspach , Director of Youth, Families, Outreach, x208	mereditha@fpckzoo.org
Logan McCafferty , Custodian	loganm@fpckzoo.org
Michael Montgomery , Director of Music, x220	michaelm@fpckzoo.org
Dawn Reitano , Communications Coordinator, x209	dawnr@fpckzoo.org
Kelly Short , Operations Coordinator, x205	kellys@fpckzoo.org
Shawn Smith , Building Superintendent, x213	shawns@fpckzoo.org
Louise Taylor , Financial Coordinator, x206	louiset@fpckzoo.org
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

August 2

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost/Communion

Orlando Totobesola

Genesis 32:22-31; Matthew 14:13-21

August 16

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

The Rev. Chrissy Westbury

Genesis 45:1-15; Matthew 15: (10-20) 21-28

August 9

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

Mission Trip Youth & Young Adults

August 23

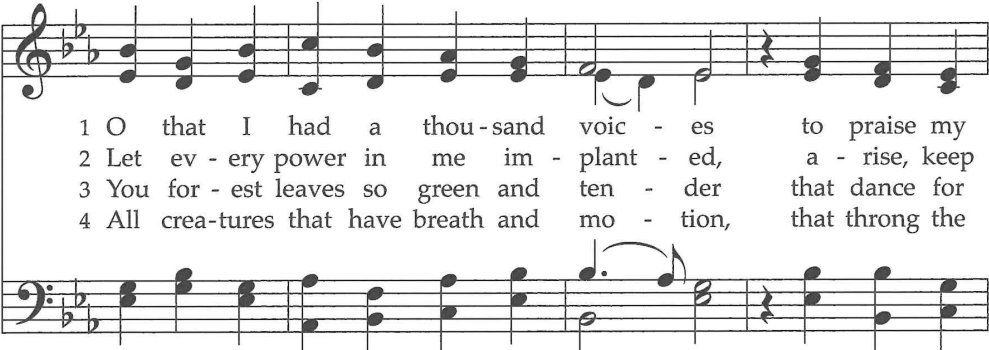
Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

The Rev. Chrissy Westbury

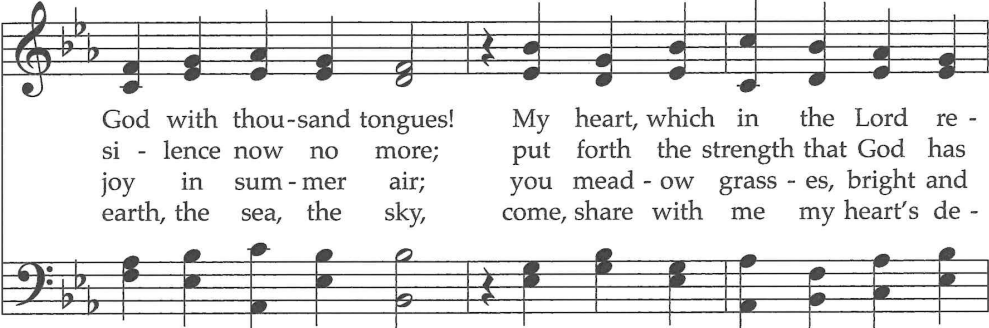
Psalms 124; Matthew 16:13-20

*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.*

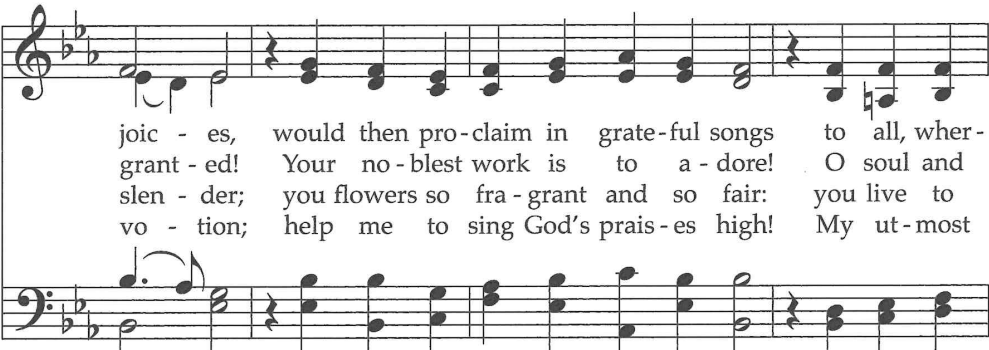
16 O That I Had a Thousand Voices



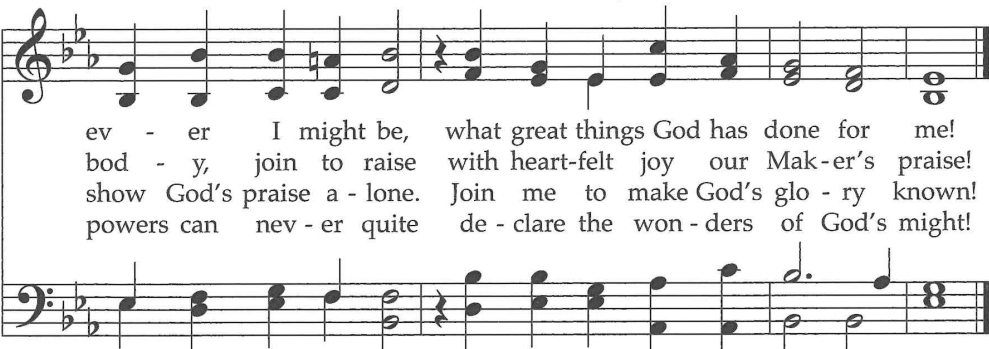
1 O that I had a thou-sand voic - es to praise my
 2 Let ev - ery power in me im - plant - ed, a - rise, keep
 3 You for - est leaves so green and ten - der that dance for
 4 All crea-tures that have breath and mo - tion, that throng the



God with thou-sand tongues! My heart, which in the Lord re -
 si - lence now no more; put forth the strength that God has
 joy in sum - mer air; you mead - ow grass - es, bright and
 earth, the sea, the sky, come, share with me my heart's de -



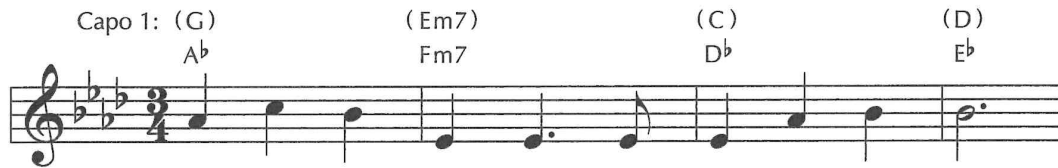
joic - es, would then pro-claim in grate-ful songs to all, wher -
 grant - ed! Your no - blest work is to a - dore! O soul and
 slen - der; you flowers so fra - grant and so fair: you live to
 vo - tion; help me to sing God's prais - es high! My ut - most



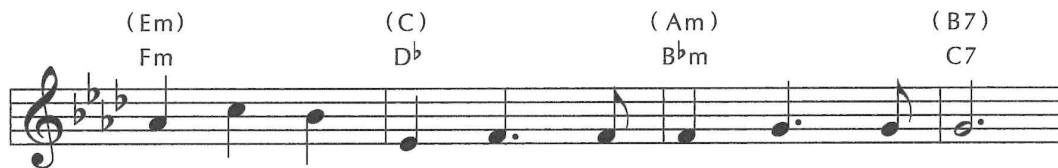
ev - er I might be, what great things God has done for me!
 bod - y, join to raise with heart-felt joy our Mak - er's praise!
 show God's praise a - lone. Join me to make God's glo - ry known!
 powers can nev - er quite de - clare the won - ders of God's might!

What Is the World Like

771



1 What is the world like when God's will is done?
 2 What is the world like when God's will is done?
 3 What is the world like when God's will is done?
 4 What is the world like when God's will is done?
 5 These are the sto - ries that Je - sus im - parts,



Mus - tard seeds grow more than we can con - ceive;
 Wit - ness the wan - der - ing child com - ing home;
 No more is neigh - bor just al - ly or friend;
 Read - y for feast - ing, we watch through the night,
 filled with the Spir - it who joins us as one.



roots thread the soil; branch - es reach for the sun.
 watch as the par - ent breaks in - to a run.
 peace thrives in plac - es where once there was none.
 tend - ing our lamps till the new day's be - gun.
 Born through our voic - es, our hands, and our hearts,



This is how God moves us each to be - lieve.
 This is how God longs for us when we roam.
 This is how God works when ri - val - ries end.
 This is how God read - ies us for the light.
 this is a new world where God's will is done.

435 There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

1 There's a wide-ness in God's mer-cy, like the wide-ness
 2 For the love of God is broad-er than the mea-sures

of the sea. There's a kind-ness in God's jus-tice,
 of the mind. And the heart of the E-ter-nal

which is more than lib-er-ty. There is no place where earth's
 is most won-der-ful-ly kind. If our love were but more

sor-rows are more felt than up in heaven. There is no place
 faith-ful, we would glad-ly trust God's Word, and our lives re-

where earth's fail-ings have such kind-ly judg-ment given.
 flect thanks-giv-ing for the good-ness of our Lord.

