



AUGUST 23, 2026
THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



From "Bible Primer 43 19. The Finding of Moses." Digitized by The Library of Congress.

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

Andante Sostenuto from *Symphonie Gothique* Charles Marie Widor

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** Psalm 138
Give thanks to God with your whole heart
I will sing God's praise.
Let us praise God's name, God's love and faithfulness
May God be glorified, and God's word above all things.
Though we walk in the midst of trouble, God will keep us safe;
O Lord, your love endures for ever;
do not abandon the works of your hands.

***HYMN 641** When in Our Music God is Glorified† Engelberg

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Loving God,
When we have wandered, and when we are lost,
We pray that you would find us and help us find our way home.
When we cannot quench our thirst, when we want that which is harmful to ourselves or others,
Satisfy us with your love and grace.
When we need forgiveness, shower us with your unending mercy.
Receive this prayer, and the silent prayers of our hearts.

Prayer continues in silence.

KYRIE 577

Lord, Have Mercy

Kyrie Eleison

Kyrie eleison. Kyrie eleison.

Kyrie eleison. Kyrie eleison.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS AND PEACE

from *A Brief Statement of Faith*

Trust in Jesus who proclaimed God's reign: preaching, teaching, healing, forgiving, and calling us to believe the gospel. God raised Jesus, breaking sin's power, redeeming all creation. Loving us still, God frees us to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor.

We belong to God. 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.

In a broken and fearful world, God's Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness to Christ as Lord and Savior, to hear voices of people long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. May 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

Loving God, open our ears to your voice as we hear your Word.

Quiet the distractions within us and help us recognize your call.

Shape us by your truth, that we may follow you with trust. Amen.

FIRST READING

Exodus 1:8-22

Old Testament p.49

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God!

HYMN 67

My Song Forever Shall Record†

Psalm 89, Metrical

SECOND READING

Exodus 2:1-10

Old Testament p.49

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**

Miriam: A Monologue Sermon

***HYMN**

There Came a Time in Egypt

Bulletin p.6

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

Offertory

John Ness Beck
Text from Micah 6

With what shall I come before the Lord,
And bow myself before God on high?
Shall I come before God with burnt offerings?
Shall I come before God with yearling calves?

Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams,
With ten thousand rivers of oil?
Shall I give God my first-born for my
transgressions,
The fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?

God has shown you, O world,
God has shown you what is good.
And what does the Lord require of you
But to do justice, and to love kindness,
And to walk humbly with your God?

***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**
Generous God, you provide for us in every season. Receive these gifts and use them to nurture your people and extend your care into the world. Lead us to live with open hearts and faithful trust, following where you guide us. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Let us pray...

Sung in call and response with the cantor.

Our Father
in heaven,
holy is your name.

Save us from the time
of trial,
and deliver us
from evil.

Your kingdom come,
your will be done
on earth
as in heaven.

For the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory are yours, forever.
For ever,
and ever.

Give us today
our daily bread;
and forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.

Our Father
in heaven,
holy is your name.

THE SENDING

***HYMN 547** Go, My Children, with My Blessing Ar Hyd Y Nos

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Toccata Gaston Belier

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There Came a Time in Egypt



1. There came a time in E - gypt when Jo - seph was - n't
2. The ru - lers told the mid - wives, "Don't let their num - bers
3. O God, you sent us Je - sus who said "Take up your
4. When im - mi - grants are strug - gling, when chil - dren live in



known; when peo - ple had for - got - ten the
grow." But Shiph - rah said, with Pu - ah, a
cross!" He taught that faith - ful liv - ing will
fear, when forc - es of de - struc - tion are



seeds of help he'd sown. With im - mi - grants in -
qui - et, faith - ful "No." When they were tasked with
of - ten have a cost. He taught us to be
threat - ning peo - ple here, God make us like those



creas - ing, the lea - ders lived in fear. That
kill - ing, they saved the ba - by boys. God,
dar - ing, cre - a - tive, wise and strong; to
wo - men, and may we seek to be, the



fear turned in - to murm - 'ring: "We do not want them here!"
may we, too, be will - ing to chal - lenge what de - stroys.
make the world more ca - ring, to chal - lenge what is wrong.
ones who ush - er life in, till all are whole and free.

‡MUSIC MINUTE: *And did not Jesus sing a psalm that night / when utmost evil strove against the light? / Then let us sing, [us] for whom He won the fight: Alleluia!* Today you'll notice that, where we usually listen to the (beautiful) singing of our choir, we will instead sing a psalm together. This was Chrissy's idea, for which I'm grateful! But why sing the psalms? Why sing hymns for that matter, especially the "old" ones? Aren't we told, even in the psalms, to "sing a new song"?

The book of Psalms is a hymnal, a collection of hymns of various genres and periods. They have no single attribution; rather the Psalmist is the whole People of God. They preserve for us stories and memories which were handed down orally for generations: in the Psalms we hear of the Exodus, the campaigns of David, the Assyrian destruction of Jerusalem, and the Babylonian exile; deeply personal groanings over sin and pain, followed by reflections on faith, hope, and the unending love of God; exuberant outbursts of joy, praise, and gratitude; even descriptions of pilgrimage and religious observance, the when and why and how these same psalms were sung more than two thousand years ago.

Athanasius of Alexandria saw the psalms as one great sketch of life: the life of the Jewish people, the life of Christ, and the life of the Church. The psalms are our *inheritance*, an enduring gift of love. Jesus knew them and sang them with His disciples (Matthew 26). I imagine He cherished them in the way that a mother cherishes a poem her child writes inside a Mother's Day card, with words learned from her. In this way, these ancient words are constantly made "new" by the hearts and voices of those who sing them. The Reformed tradition has a long heritage of congregational psalm singing. While this practice has diminished, it is my prayer that all Christians cherish singing these ancient hymns, alongside the many favorites, "old" and "new", collected in our hymnals today.

The psalm sung "that night" was likely Psalm 118, the traditional conclusion of the Seder meal, which begins and ends with this familiar phrase: *O give thanks to the Lord, for He is Good: his steadfast love endures forever.*

PARTICIPANTS

Worship Leaders

Pam Zandt
Meredith Alspach
Rev. Chrissy Westbury

Acolyte

Roland Prevost

Reader

Brian Nederveld

Music

Summer Choir
Joanne DeWit, piano
Mary Lou Boughton, cantor
Michael Montgomery,
director

Sound & Video Team

Kurt Grossman
Bob Murray

Greeters

Karen Conner (Lovell)
John Beck (South)

FLOWERS IN THE SANCTUARY

The flowers in the sanctuary today are to glorify God and honor the memory and life well lived of Betty Lee (Garrison) Van Der Slik (8/14/43 – 8/25/22)
by Ron, Chris, Michelle, and Juliet Van Der Slik.

IN MEMORIAM

We remember with thanksgiving the life of Marilyn Lee Jauch (4/7/47 – 8/11/26).
Services were held on August 22 in Grandville.
Please keep her loved ones in your prayers during this time.

DEACON'S PRAYERS

As a community of faith, we offer one another the gift of intentional prayer through our weekly rotation of deacons and parish groups. We uplift in prayer RICK TAYLOR and the parish group listed below, that they may feel God's presence. If you are in this group, stop by the Gathering Place near the name tags after worship to say hello to your deacon.

Steve Breisach	Heidi Egloff	Ken Kirton	Andrew Stults
Margo Clouse	Laura Ford	Marlena Kirton	Carolyn Stults
Stan Clouse	Dianne Hollenbeck	Warren Misner II	David Stults
David Dell	Kevin Hollenbeck	Allison Myers	Ellen Stults
Ginny Dell	Bill Hubbard	John Petro	Nancy Thiele
Guy Dennehy	Mackenzie Hunter	Joyce Petro	Sue Troff
Sandra Dennehy	Matthew Johnson	Norma Smith	Gabriel Weeldreyer
			Helen Yonan

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, Youth Group & T.A.G.

Our groups for young worshippers will resume soon. Stay tuned!

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

Noodling at Noon with Meredith

Noodling will pick up again in September. The next book will be announced soon!

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 Returns to Church on September 17!

Pastor Chrissy will lead a study on the Apostle Paul — his background, his letters, what we know about him from historical sources, and most importantly what he did and did not say! If you love Paul, if you hate Paul, if you're ambivalent or just want to learn more, join us in room 306 on Thursday mornings from 9:30-11.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday School & Nursery Volunteer Meeting

All current and prospective Sunday School and nursery volunteers are invited to a meeting immediately following worship **today**. Returning volunteers will receive orientation for the coming year, and anyone interested in learning more about serving is welcome to attend. Contact Meredith Alspach with questions.

Koinonia – Fellowship in Jesus Christ

Koinonia will meet tonight at the Pine Island Chapel for a **5:15 p.m.** potluck supper and 6:00 worship service, including singing, prayer, and discussion of John 14:15. Pat Stromsta will lead this time of worship. Beginning in September, Koinonia will meet once a month.

Thank you, Michael!

In honor of Michael Montgomery's ministry among us, the Worship and Music Committee invites contributions to the Pastors' Discretionary Fund. As Michael begins life at the Monastery of the Holy Cross, he asks that gifts given in his honor support our church's care for neighbors in need. Contributions may be sent to the church or placed in the offering plate marked "Pastors' Discretionary Fund."

6th Annual Anti-Gun Violence Carnival

Join the Northside Ministerial Alliance on August 29 from 11:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m. at the Lincoln International Studies School on N. Burdick. This free event includes games, rides, food, music and more. If you'd like to carpool, meet Pat Stromsta in our parking lot at Noon.

CTV: Red Door Dinner

Red Door Dinner, our Wednesday evening meal, still has open dates in September and October. Gather a few friends and sign up on the calendar outside Meredith's office to help extend welcome, compassion, and a good meal to our neighbors. Recipes, tools, and support are provided—and you won't have to do the dishes!

Film Screening and Panel Discussion: *NATCHEZ*

August 30, 6 p.m., in the Dining Room

Join the Just Sanctuary team for a screening of the award-winning 2025 documentary *NATCHEZ*, which explores how a Mississippi town wrestles with race, memory, and competing stories of history. A panel discussion will follow.

Pine Island Worship Schedule Change for Fall

Beginning in September, Pine Island Worship will be held on the first and third Sundays of each month. The first Sundays, led by Pastor Chrissy, will be worship in the style of Taizé. This includes a rhythm of music, readings and silence in a quiet, candlelit space, beginning at 5:30. On the third Sundays, Pat Stromsta will continue to lead the Koinonia service begun this summer, with food and fellowship at 5 p.m. and worship beginning at 5:30.

Name Tags

Wearing your name tag at church may seem like a small thing, but it can have a substantial impact on everyone's comfort. Name tags help bridge generations, support inclusivity, and make volunteers and leaders more approachable. If you need a new name tag, please reach out to Kelly in the office. Thank you for always making people feel loved at FPC!

Choir Update

There will be no choir on August 30. In September, a pick-up-style choir, similar to this summer's format, will meet on Sunday mornings. More information about choir and bells will be shared soon.

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

The sanctuary is equipped with a Hearing Loop system. Use your T-coil-enabled hearing aid or borrow loop-compatible headphones from the sound booth.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

SUNDAY, AUGUST 23

- 9:00 a.m. **Summer Choir Rehearsal,**
Choir Room
- 9:45 a.m. **Child Care/Nursery, #211**
- 10:00 a.m. **Worship, Sanctuary**
- 11:15 a.m. **Sunday School & Nursery**
Volunteer Meeting
- 5:15 p.m. **Koinonia, Pine Island Chapel**
(8882 W Q Ave)

MONDAY, AUGUST 24

- 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.**
- 7:00 p.m. **Scouts, Dining Room**

TUESDAY, AUGUST 25

- 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**
- 10:00 a.m. **IPNC Meeting, Library**
- 11:00 a.m. **Staff Meeting, Archives**
- 12:00 p.m. **Organ Rehearsal, Sanctuary**
- 7:00 p.m. **Kalamazoo Male Chorus**
Planning Meeting, Library

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26

- 9:00 a.m.–4:30 p.m. **R.I., Dining Rm/#308**
- 12:00 p.m. **Prayer Service, Sanctuary**
- 1:00 p.m. **Organ Rehearsal, Sanctuary**
- 5:00 p.m. **CTV: Red Door Dinner,**
Dining Room
- 6:30 p.m. **Session Meeting, #306**

THURSDAY, AUGUST 27

- 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, AUGUST 28

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

SUNDAY, AUGUST 30

- *No choir this morning*
- 9:45 a.m. **Child Care/Nursery, #211**
- 10:00 a.m. **Worship, Sanctuary**
- 6:00 p.m.–8:30 p.m. **NATCHEZ Film**
Screening & Discussion,
Dining Room

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

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269.344.0119

Church Staff (in alphabetical order)

Meredith Alspach , Director of Youth, Families, Outreach, x208	mereditha@fpckzoo.org
Bill Cessna , organist, x214	billc@fpckzoo.org
Logan McCafferty , Custodian	loganm@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 30

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

The Rev. Kathleen Robertson King
Exodus 3:1-15; Romans 12:9-21

September 13

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

The Rev. Chrissy Westbury
Psalm 103:1-13; Matthew 18:21-35

September 6

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

The Rev. Chrissy Westbury
Psalm 119:33-40; Romans 13:8-14

September 20

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

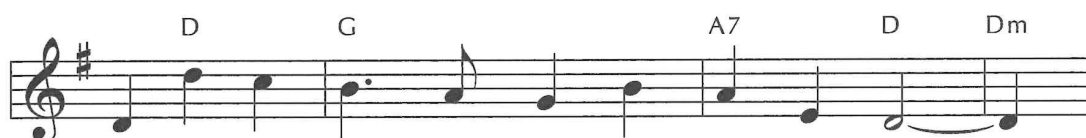
The Rev. Kathleen Robertson King

*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.*

641 When in Our Music God Is Glorified



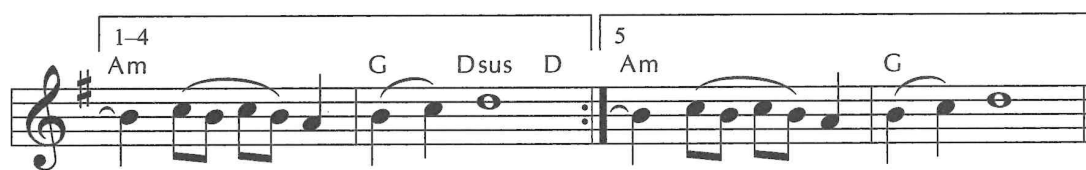
1 When in our mu - sic God is glo - ri - fied,
 2 How of - ten, mak - ing mu - sic, we have found
 3 So has the church, in lit - ur - gy and song,
 4 And did not Je - sus sing a psalm that night
 5 Let ev - ery in - stru - ment be tuned for praise!



and ad - o - ra - tion leaves no room for pride,
 a new di - men - sion in the world of sound,
 in faith and love, through cen - tu - ries of wrong,
 when ut - most e - vil strove a - gainst the light?
 Let all re - joice who have a voice to raise!



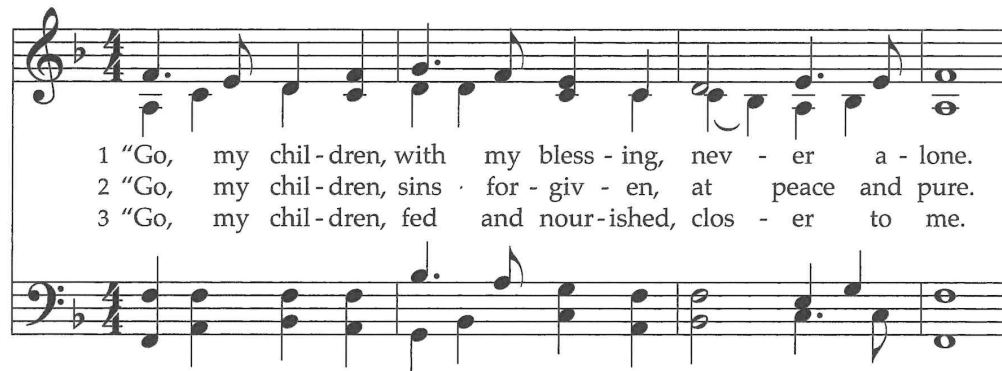
it is as though the whole cre - a - tion cried:
 as wor - ship moved us to a more pro - found
 borne wit - ness to the truth in ev - ery tongue:
 Then let us sing, for whom he won the fight:
 And may God give us faith to sing al - ways:



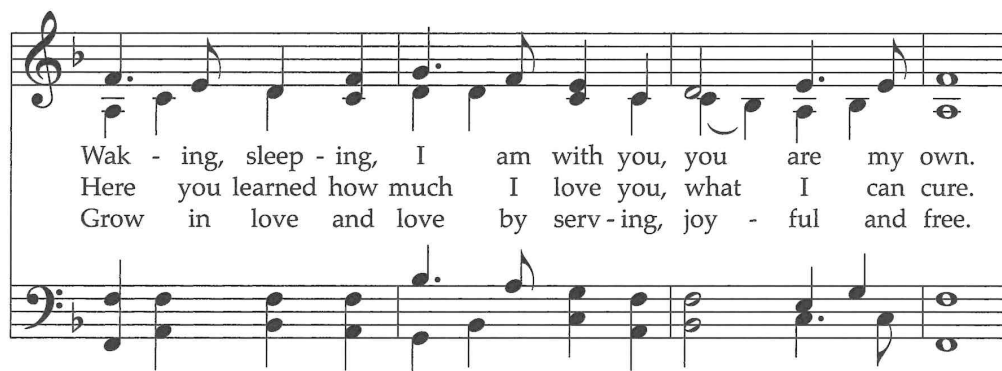
Al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia!

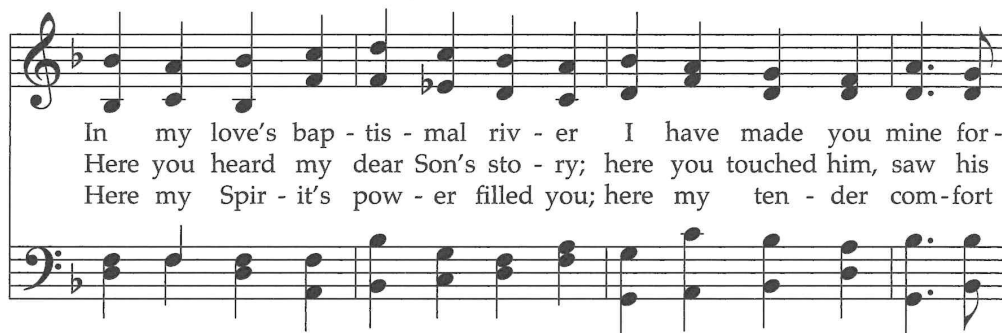
Go, My Children, with My Blessing 547



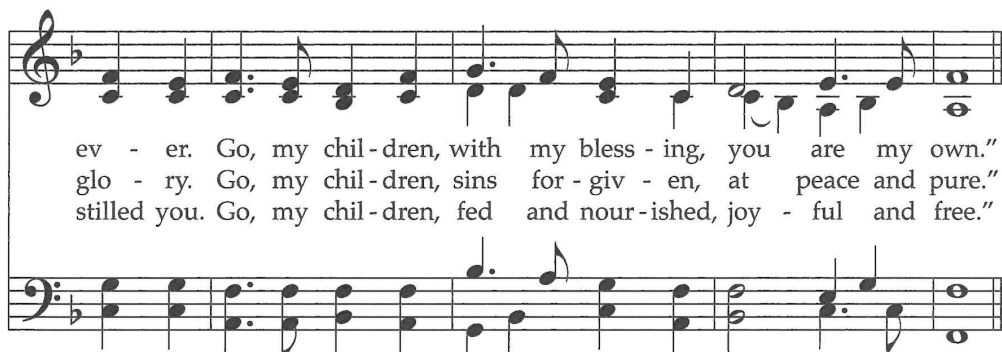
1 "Go, my chil-dren, with my bless-ing, nev-er a-lone.
 2 "Go, my chil-dren, sins for-giv-en, at peace and pure.
 3 "Go, my chil-dren, fed and nour-ished, clos-er to me.



Wak-ing, sleep-ing, I am with you, you are my own.
 Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
 Grow in love and love by serv-ing, joy-ful and free.



In my love's bap-tis-mal riv-er I have made you mine for-
 Here you heard my dear Son's sto-ry; here you touched him, saw his
 Here my Spir-it's pow-er filled you; here my ten-der com-fort



ev-er. Go, my chil-dren, with my bless-ing, you are my own."
 glo-ry. Go, my chil-dren, sins for-giv-en, at peace and pure."
 stilled you. Go, my chil-dren, fed and nour-ished, joy-ful and free."

**YOU ARE
LOVED**

