



AUGUST 30, 2026
FOURTEENTH 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

Toccata Per L'elevazione

Girloamo Frescobaldi

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** from the Corrymeela community

Courage comes from the heart
and we are always welcomed by God, the heart of all being.
We bear witness to our faith, knowing that we are called to live lives of
courage, love and reconciliation
in the ordinary and extraordinary moments of each day.
We bear witness, too, to our failures and our complicity
in the fractures of our world.
May we be courageous today, may we learn today, may we love today.

***HYMN 611** Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee Hymn to Joy

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

FIRST READING

Exodus 3:1-15

Old Testament p.50

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God!

arr. Diane Bish

New Testament p.162

Thanks be to God!

Let Love Be Genuine

Gift of Love

**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 300** They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Prelude in F Major J.S. Bach

PARTICIPANTS

Worship Leaders
Rev. Kathleen Robertson King
Meredith Alspach
Rev. Chrissy Westbury

Acolyte
Deb Bender

Reader
William Case-Blanchard

Music
Joseph Sablan, tenor
Bill Cessna, organist

Sound & Video Team
Chris Honeysett
Bob Murray

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FLOWERS IN THE SANCTUARY

The flowers in the sanctuary today are to glorify God and
honor the memory of Rosemary Hatfield and Raoul Youchim.

IN MEMORIAM

We give thanks for the life of beloved church member Kay Vermeulen, who passed away on August 23. Kay was a cherished part of our church family for 61 years. A memorial service will be held at First Presbyterian Church on October 2 at 2 p.m. Please hold Kay's family and friends in your prayers.

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 KIM VAN LOO 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.

Richard Aldrich	Anna Gleaton	George Kremer	Lynn Russell
Thomas Becker	Christopher Gleaton	Susan Kremer	Rick Russell
Mary Lou Boughton	Cindy Gleaton	Curtis Leibbrand	Joseph Sablan
Careen Bumpus	Nicholas Gleaton	Carolyn Maki	Benjamin Taylor
Franklin Davidson	Patrick Gleaton	Katherine Millar	Grace Tiffany
Frank Demcovitz	Jim Gleeson	Keenan Millar	Astrid Westbury
Becky Demcovitz	Sharon Gleeson	Marysol Millar	Daphne Westbury
Juanita Erdos	Caroline Ham	Linda Parks	Dirk Westbury
Celine Finjap	Eva Hanka	Paul Parks	Ray Wicks
Richard Finjap	Char Hansen	Leah Pierce	Louise Wright
		Luis Rodriguez	Andy Young

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 Kick-off Sunday, September 13. Stay tuned for all the fun details!

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.

TONIGHT

Film Screening & Conversation at 6 p.m. | Dining Room

Join the Just Sanctuary team tonight for a screening of the
award-winning 2025 documentary

A FILM BY SUZANNAH HERBERT

NATCHEZ

“NATCHEZ captures an unsettling clash between history and memory in a small Mississippi town; a layered mosaic of people contending with the weight of the past in a place where it is always present. Equal parts amusing and disturbing, we journey through an antebellum tourist destination at a crossroads as it grapples with a deeply troubled history that is so thoroughly ingrained in its present, we’re left to wonder if it’s actually past at all.”

(www.natchezfilm.com)

Come for an evening of film, conversation, and reflection together.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Choir Update

Choir members and anyone interested in singing are invited to gather at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday, September 6, in the Choir Room to meet our new Music Director, Hal Hobson-Morse, and preview music for the weeks ahead. The choir will not sing in worship that morning.

Beginning September 13, all middle school-aged youth and adults are welcome to join our pick-up choir. The group will meet each Sunday at 9:00 a.m. to prepare simple anthems for worship. Like Summer Choir, there is no evening rehearsal, no long-term commitment, and no previous experience required. Come as you are able and sing with us!

Regular Church Choir and Handbell Choir rehearsals will begin on Thursday, October 8.

Taizé Prayer Service for the Season of Creation

Sunday, September 6 at 5:30 p.m. — Pine Island Chapel, 8882 W Q Avenue

Join us for a peaceful and contemplative Taizé-style prayer service as we celebrate the Season of Creation. Through simple songs, scripture, prayer, silence, and reflection, we will give thanks for the beauty of God's creation and renew our commitment to care for the earth and all its creatures. All are welcome.

Save the Date

Mark your calendars for Sunday, September 13, for two fall highlights at FPC!

- Kick-off Sunday: when Sunday School and youth groups will resume
- Volunteer Fair: connection and discovery as stewards of our time and talents

CTV: Red Door Dinner

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

Presbyterian Women — Martha Circle

Martha Circle is a Presbyterian Women gathering where women nurture faith through prayer and Bible study, build an inclusive and caring community, and encourage one another in service and witness to God's promised kingdom. The first meeting of the new season is Wednesday, September 9 at 2:00 p.m. in the Gathering Place. We will begin a new PW/*Horizons* Bible Study, "United Through Christ, Bound to Each Other" which is based on Paul's first letter to the Corinthians. Study books are available at the meeting. All women are welcome.

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!

Office Update

- Pastor Chrissy will be out of the office September 1-4 for a study leave.
- The building will be closed for Labor Day, Monday, September 7.
- September 15 the office will be closed for the annual Staff Planning Retreat.

Ushers Needed for Memorial Service

We are seeking ushers to assist with the Memorial Service for Kay Vermeulen on Friday, October 2 at 2:00 PM. Ushers help us extend FPC's sacred hospitality by welcoming guests, assisting with seating, and helping the service run smoothly. If you are available to serve, please contact Kelly at kellys@fpckzoo.org.

Honorarium for Michael Montgomery

With gratitude and love, we have sent Michael Montgomery off with our prayers and blessings. Thank you to all who contributed for Michael's ministry among us, at his request, toward the Pastor's Discretionary Fund. As of today, \$2080 has been given. Please continue to hold Michael in prayer as he begins life at the Monastery of the Holy Cross.

Bible Collection: A Night of Hope and Healing

We are collecting new and gently used Bibles to support an upcoming Night of Hope & Healing in Battle Creek. If you have a Bible you would like to donate, please place it in the collection box in the Gathering Place. Donations will be accepted through Nov. 1.

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.

Happy Birthday

SEPTEMBER 1
Jackson Matthews
Paul Minert

SEPTEMBER 2
Marlene Stoops

SEPTEMBER 3
Stan Clouse
Max Hubbard
Barb Kafil

SEPTEMBER 4
Marianne Crawford
Sandra Western

SEPTEMBER 5
Caroline Breisach

SEPTEMBER 6
Timothy Tyler
Deborah Wiebeck

SEPTEMBER 8
Jan Bedrosian
Allison Myers
Craig Oliver
Ann Rigg
Sandy Sinotte

SEPTEMBER 9
Ginny Dell
Sue Forsch
Ethan Nettleton

SEPTEMBER 10
Martha Finjap
Greg Lozeau
Jim Van Buren

SEPTEMBER 11
Aimee Beehler
Carol Parfitt
Sandy Rozelle
Lindsey Walters

SEPTEMBER 12
Dawn Marciniak
Laurie Tupper

SEPTEMBER 13
Brenda Noel
Paul Schonveld
Faith Simpson

SEPTEMBER 14
Steve Johnkoski

SEPTEMBER 15
Jim Mitchell

SEPTEMBER 16
Cameron Lozeau

SEPTEMBER 17
Joya Ruff

SEPTEMBER 18
Lee Mizeur
Alex Wall Emerson

SEPTEMBER 19
Anne Gladstone
Kevin Plemmons
Deborah Taylor

SEPTEMBER 20
Caroline Elliott
Kaylin Taylor
William Willoughby

SEPTEMBER 21
Matt Bates
Robert Brush Jr.
Cathy Cook
Justine Ngweka Konjoh
Linda Parks
John Todd III

SEPTEMBER 22
Susan Anthony
Gerald Case-Blanchard
Derick Elliott

SEPTEMBER 23
Becky Demcovitz
Laura Schreiner

SEPTEMBER 24
Char Hansen
Jean Hollar

SEPTEMBER 25
Miranda Fiore

SEPTEMBER 26
Jeff Daniels

SEPTEMBER 27
Kevin Hollenbeck
Matthew Loughrin
Morgan Schut
Rick Taylor

SEPTEMBER 28
Robert Britigan III

SEPTEMBER 29
Aedin Clements
Jill Piwko

SEPTEMBER 30
Elizabeth Hamilton
Grace Johnson

WEEKLY CALENDAR

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**

MONDAY, AUGUST 31

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**

7:00 p.m. **Connecting Chords
Rehearsal, Choir Room**

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

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. **Organ Rehearsal, Sanctuary**

4:00 p.m. **Worship & Music Committee
Meeting, Library**

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

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**

1:00 p.m. **Communication Committee
Meeting, #301/online**

5:00 p.m. **CTV: Red Door Dinner,
Dining Room**

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

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**

1:00 p.m. **Organ Rehearsal, Sanctuary**

4:30 p.m. **Food Addicts, #314/315**

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

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

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

9:00 a.m. **Choir Meeting, Choir Room**

9:45 a.m. **Child Care/Nursery, #211**

10:00 a.m. **Worship/Communion,
Sanctuary**

5:30 p.m. **Taizé Prayer Service, Pine
Island Chapel (8882 W Q Ave)**

OFFICE HOURS: 9 A.M.–3 P.M.
MONDAY – THURSDAY
CLOSED FRIDAY – SUNDAY
CLOSED FOR LABOR DAY

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

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Bill Cessna, organist, x214

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Logan McCafferty, Custodian

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Dawn Reitano, Communications Coordinator, x209

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Shawn Smith, Building Superintendent, x213

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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

September 6

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

The Rev. Chrissy Westbury

Psalm 119:33-40; Romans 13:8-10

September 20

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

The Rev. Kathleen Robertson King

Psalm 105:1-6; Matthew 20:1-16

September 13

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

The Rev. Chrissy Westbury

Psalm 103:1-13; Matthew 18:21-35

September 27

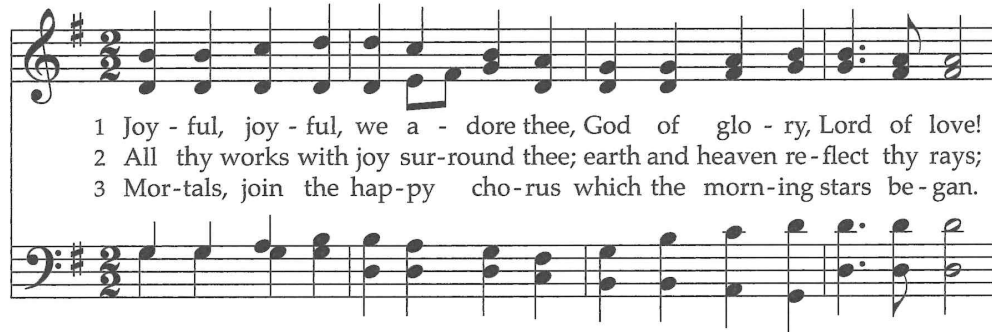
Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

The Rev. Chrissy Westbury

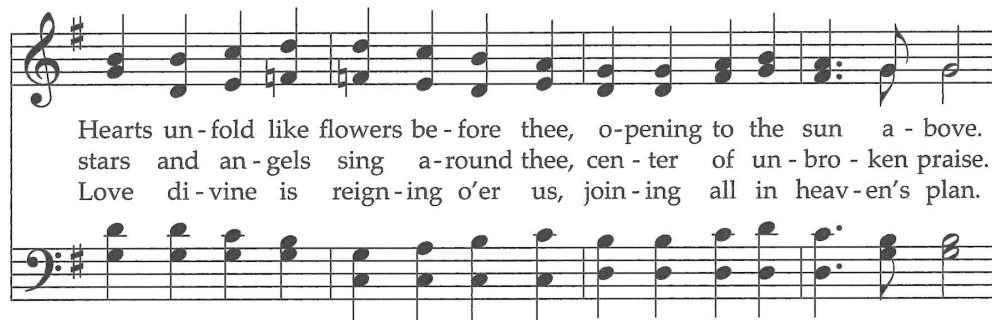
Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16

*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.*

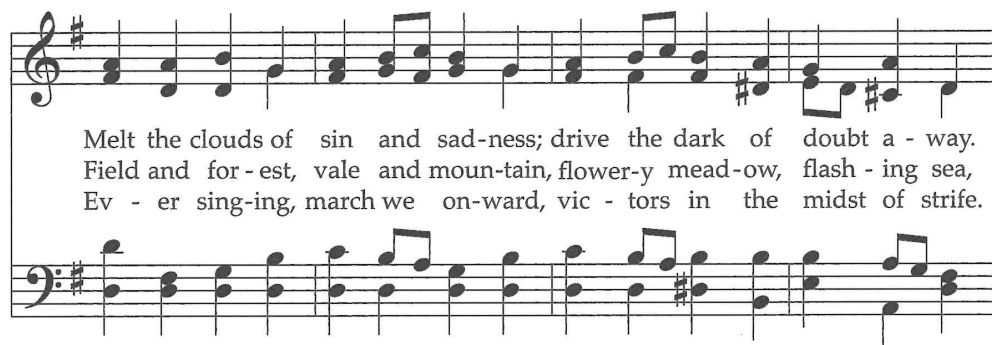
611 Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee



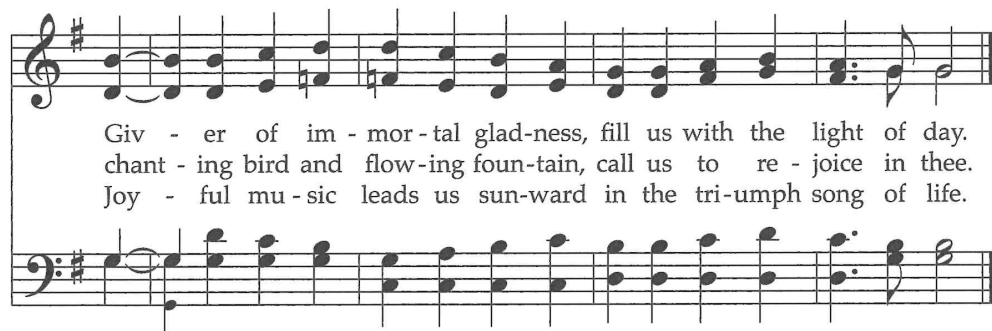
1 Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!
 2 All thy works with joy sur-round thee; earth and heaven re-flect thy rays;
 3 Mor-tals, join the hap-py cho-rus which the morn-ing stars be-gan.



Hearts un-fold like flowers be-fore thee, o-pen-ing to the sun a-bove.
 stars and an-gels sing a-round thee, cen-ter of un-bro-ken praise.
 Love di-vine is reign-ing o'er us, join-ing all in heav-en's plan.



Melt the clouds of sin and sad-ness; drive the dark of doubt a-way.
 Field and for-est, vale and moun-tain, flower-y mead-ow, flash-ing sea,
 Ev-er sing-ing, march we on-ward, vic-tors in the midst of strife.

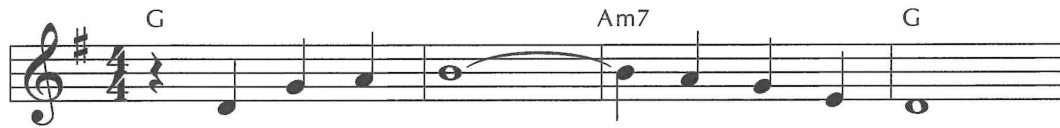


Giv-er of im-mor-tal glad-ness, fill us with the light of day.
 chant-ing bird and flow-ing foun-tain, call us to re-joice in thee.
 Joy-ful mu-sic leads us sun-ward in the tri-umph song of life.

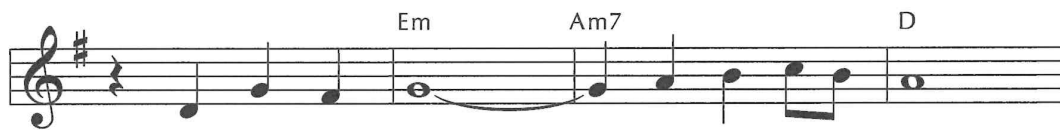
Though I May Speak

The Gift of Love

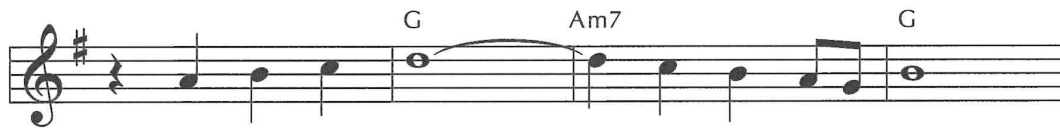
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1 Though I may speak with brav - est fire,
 2 Though I may give all I pos - sess,
 3 Come, Spir - it, come, our hearts con - trol;



and have the gift to all in - spire,
 and striv - ing so my love pro - fess,
 our spir - its long to be made whole.



and have not love, my words are vain,
 but not be given by love with - in,
 Let in - ward love guide ev - ery deed;



as sound - ing brass, and hope - less gain.
 the prof - it soon turns strange - ly thin.
 by this we wor - ship, and are freed.

We Are One in the Spirit 300

They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love



1 We are one in the Spir - it; we are one in the Lord;
 2 We will walk with each oth - er; we will walk hand in hand;
 3 We will work with each oth - er; we will work side by side;
 4 All praise to the Fa - ther, from whom all things come,



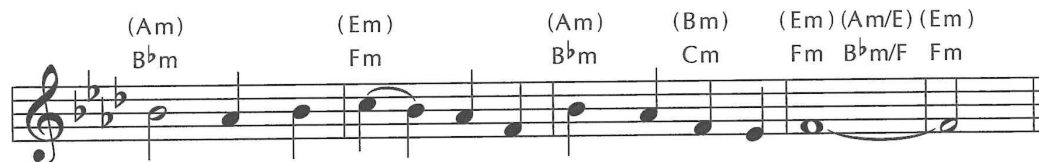
we are one in the Spir - it; we are one in the Lord,
 we will walk with each oth - er; we will walk hand in hand,
 we will work with each oth - er; we will work side by side,
 and all praise to Christ Je - sus, God's on - ly Son,



and we pray that all u - ni - ty may one day be re - stored:
 and to - geth - er we'll spread the news that God is in our land:
 and we'll guard hu - man dig - ni - ty and save hu - man pride:
 and all praise to the Spir - it, who makes us one:



And they'll know we are Chris-tians by our love, by our



love; yes, they'll know we are Chris-tians by our love.