



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

Prelude Ostinato

Frank Bridge

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

Jesus calls us to serve those in need.

We show love and kindness to all in your name, Jesus.

Jesus summons us to spread his gospel.

We are your disciples, Jesus, and we share your word to all, as children of God.

*HYMN 301

Let Us Build a House

Two Oaks

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Loving God

**You created this world for us, just as you created us for the world,
but we often forget ourselves.**

**We confess we forget that this world is our home, and we end up taking for
granted the things that give us comfort.**

We struggle to trust in others. We fail to recognize we are all one in your name.

Please Lord

Lead us to find home.

Lead us to find home in strangers, just as we do in friends.

Lead us to find home in places far from us, just as we do in places near to us.

Lead us to find home in all the beautiful world you created for us.

Amen

Prayer continues in silence.

KYRIE 577

Lord, Have Mercy

Kyrie Eleison

Kyrie eleison. Kyrie eleison.

Kyrie eleison. Kyrie eleison.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS AND PEACE

Jesus proclaimed God's reign: building and constructing; healing and forgiving.
Calling all to recognize our error. Calling all to help their neighbors with the
strength of the Lord. God, loving even our faults, forgives our sins.

**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 and to bear
witness as we 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

**Holy Spirit, we thank you for allowing us to experience the joy of helping those
that we love. Amidst the chaos of the world and the uncertainty of our lives, help
us serve those who need it more than us and return home to our loved ones each
day. Help us seek relationships with those different from us, using the discomfort
as a reminder that understanding is the beginning of kindness. May we pay that
kindness forward in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

FIRST READING

Habakkuk 3:17-19

Old Testament p.874

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God!**ANTHEM**

For the Beauty of the Earth†

arr. W.H. Monk

Text by F.S. Pierpont

For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies,
For the love which from our birth over and around us lies:
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's delight,
For the mystic harmony linking sense to sound and sight:
Lord of all...

For thyself, best gift divine, to the world so freely giv'n;
For that great, great love of thine, peace on earth and joy in heav'n:
Lord of all...

SECOND READING

Luke 6:27-36

New Testament p.64

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**

Reflections on the Colcord Service Trip

***HYMN 314**

Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness

Christ, Be Our Light

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

Amazing Grace

***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**

Christ has no body on earth but ours.
No hands, no feet but ours.
May our gifts be how Christ walks on earth.
May his grace flow through our hearts like the river rushes through the valley.
Ours are the hands with which he is to bless all people now. Amen.

PRAYERS 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 80** You Shall Go Out with Joy The Trees of the Field

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

‡MUSIC MINUTE: Art and music are cultural universals. There is a deep humanity in artistic expression, a real participation in God’s creative genius. An ancient philosophical idea, *musica universalis* or “the music of the spheres”, describes the heavenly bodies as moving in a kind of musical relationship; they sing with one another. This “mystic harmony” is found everywhere: cooking, gardening, dancing, writing, all become a kind of music when their different elements work together. The German poet Johann Wolfgang von Goethe described great architecture as “frozen music.” Take a moment to look around our sanctuary: each window, column, and pew is designed in a kind of harmony. We come to worship, to sing together, within a song itself.

PARTICIPANTS

Worship Leaders

Young Adult Mission
Trip Team

Meredith Alspach
Rev. Chrissy Westbury

Music

Summer Choir
Rick Van Enk, percussion
Sandy Sinotte, bells
Aimee Beehler, bells
Bill Cessna, organist
Michael Montgomery,
director

Sound & Video Team

Kurt Grossman
Mark Ohrstrom

Greeters

Joyce Artman (South)
Lindsay Davidson (South)
Dean & Kim Van Loo
(Lovell)

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IN MEMORIAM

Beloved church member David Rozelle passed away on July 29, 2026.

His service to the church as treasurer, his remarkable 25-year journey following a heart transplant, and much more will be remembered and celebrated at a 2:00 p.m. memorial service on Saturday, August 22, here at First Presbyterian Church. A reception will follow.

FLOWERS IN THE SANCTUARY

Last Sunday’s beautiful flowers were given by Kay C. Vermeulen and family to the glory to God and in loving memory of John D. Vermeulen. We apologize for the printing error; his correct birthday was August 3, 1933.

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 SANNY NUTTER and the parish group listed below, that they may feel God's presence.

Jean Appel
Bonnie Ayotte
Joan Colgren

Kim Cummings
Gail Fitzpatrick-Fox
Evelyn Garner

Ralph Jarl
Marion Palmer

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!

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 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

Church Yardwork Day

When: After worship today

What: Help keep our church grounds beautiful by deadheading daisies, pulling weeds, and trimming bushes.

Who: Everyone is welcome—no gardening experience needed. **Stay as long as you can:** Whether you have 15 minutes or an hour, many hands make light work. Thank you for helping care for our church home!

Welcome to our new organist!

We are delighted to welcome Bill Cessna as our new organist at First Presbyterian Church. Bill brings a rich musical background and a spirit of creativity to the organ bench, and we are grateful to have him share his gifts with us in worship. Please join us in giving Bill a warm FPC welcome!

Koinonia at Pine Island Chapel

Koinonia (fellowship in Jesus Christ) will meet on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of August. We meet at **5:15** (note the new time) for a potluck supper and from 6:00 - 6:30 to sing praises, study scripture and pray. This week our topic is "**The Spirit is Always with Us**". Pat Stromsta is the facilitator.

Thank you, Michael!

In honor of Michael Montgomery and his contribution to the life of our congregation, the Worship and Music Committee invites you to add to the Pastors' Discretionary Fund. As Michael begins life within the Monastery of the Holy Cross, he may bring almost nothing with him. Michael suggested that any funds we gather in his honor should support the good work our church is able to do for our neighbors in need through donations to the Pastors' Discretionary Fund. Contributions should be sent to the church or in the offering plate with a notation indicating that it is for the Pastors' Discretionary Fund.

Cookie Decorating Night

Thursday, August 20 | 6:00–8:00 p.m. in the Dining Room

Decorate “Back to School” cookies with us! Supplies will be provided, and all are welcome. Bring the whole family for a fun evening of decorating, laughter, and treats to take home. Please register so we have enough:



CTV: Red Door Dinner—Come Serve!

Help share welcome, compassion, and food with our neighbors at our Wednesday night meal. Nervous about cooking? We have recipes, tools, and support to help—and you do not have to do the dishes! There are many available weeks on the calendar outside Meredith's office, so grab a few of your favorite people and sign up for this simple and rewarding way to serve. Thank you for helping make this ministry possible!

Why First Pres?

Over the next few weeks, keep an eye out for the Stewardship Committee's Roving Reporters! They'll be asking one simple question: *Why First Pres?* What keeps you coming back? What inspires you to share your heart, your time, your talents, and yes, your financial gifts with the ministries of First Presbyterian Church? We'd love to hear your story. Your answers will help celebrate the many ways God is at work through this community and encourage others as we prepare for our stewardship season. You can also send your answers to Pastor Chrissy via email!

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.

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*. Equal parts amusing and moving, this film captures an unsettling clash between history and memory in a small Mississippi town. Antebellum homes draw visitors to Natchez, Mississippi, but not everyone agrees with the stories being told. As tour guides, homeowners, and activists navigate competing histories, the town confronts the tension between preservation and truth, offering a glimpse into a Southern community wrestling with race, memory, and identity.

FROM JUST SANCTUARY...

“So long as one people sit on another and are deaf to their cry, so long will understanding and peace elude all of us.” – Chinua Achebe

What is happening at Hope Garden?

Hope Garden at our Pine Island Chapel (8882 W Q Ave, Mattawan) provides fresh veggies for the community through Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes. If you want to lend a hand drop by from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on Monday, Wednesday, or Friday. (Photo of a day's harvest by Beth Dyer.)



Name Tags

Wearing your name tag at church may seem like a small thing, but it can have a substantial impact. New members and visitors can easily learn names and may feel more comfortable starting conversations. 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!

Hearts-to-Hands Card Ministry

Brighten someone's day with a handmade card (available in the Gathering Place)! **New crafters are always welcome to help create more—no experience needed.** Join us the second Monday of each month, 1:00–3:00 p.m.; our next gathering is Monday, August 10.

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).



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 9

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

MONDAY, AUGUST 10

- 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.
- 1:00 p.m. **Card Ministry Crafting**
- 7:00 p.m. **Scouts**, Dining Room

TUESDAY, AUGUST 11

- 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. **Organ Rehearsal**, Sanctuary
- 4:30 p.m. **Faith Formation Meeting**,
Sunday School Room
- 7:00 p.m. **Michigan Pilgrimage
Meeting**, Library

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12

- 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

THURSDAY, AUGUST 13

- 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
- 4:00 p.m. **Finance Committee Meeting**,
Archives
- 4:30 p.m. **Food Addicts**, #314/315
- 6:00 p.m. **Property & Maintenance
Committee Meeting**, Library

FRIDAY, AUGUST 14

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

SUNDAY, AUGUST 16

- 9:00 a.m.–11:30 a.m. **Cards Out on
Display**, Gathering Place
- 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. **New Members Orientation**,
#314/315

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

KALAMAZOO FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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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

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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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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 16

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

The Rev. Chrissy Westbury

Genesis 45:1-15; Matthew 15:1-28

August 30

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

The Rev. Chrissy Westbury

Exodus 3:10-15; Romans 12:9-21

August 23

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

The Rev. Chrissy Westbury

Exodus 1:8-22; Exodus 2:1-10

September 6

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

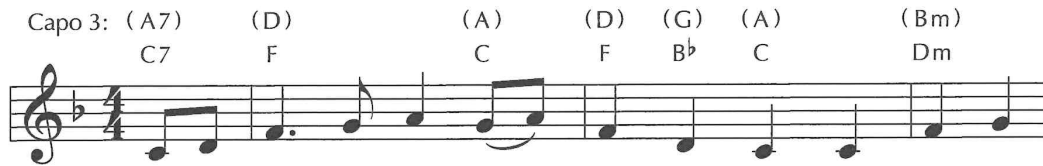
The Rev. Chrissy Westbury

Exodus 12:1-14; Romans 13:8-14

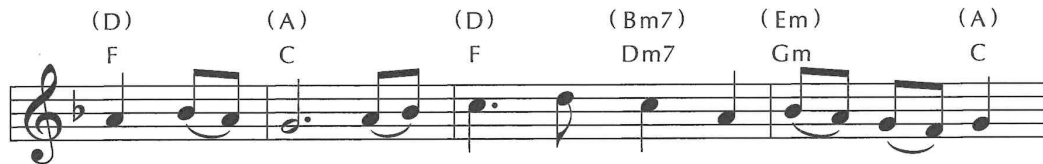
*Grounded in living faith, receiving diversity as a gift, we seek to reflect Christ's light in God's world.
Continually discerning God's vision of grace and peace, we share inspirational worship, spiritual
nurture, compassionate service to others, and the pursuit of justice... all to the glory of God.*

Let Us Build a House

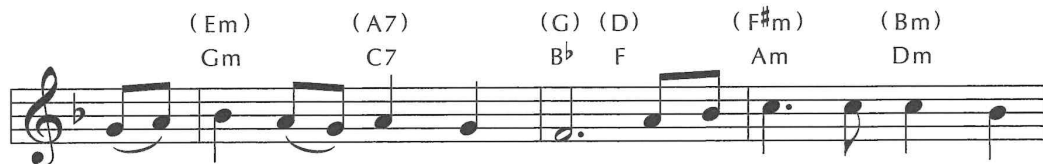
All Are Welcome



1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can
 2 Let us build a house where proph - ets speak, and words are
 3 Let us build a house where love is found in wa - ter,
 4 Let us build a house where hands will reach be - yond the
 5 Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and



safe - ly live, a place where saints and chil - dren tell
 strong and true, where all God's chil - dren dare to seek
 wine, and wheat; a ban - quet hall on ho - ly ground
 wood and stone to heal and strength-en, serve and teach,
 vi - sions heard and loved and trea - sured, taught and claimed



how hearts learn to for - give. Built of hopes and dreams and
 to dream God's reign a - new. Here the cross shall stand as
 where peace and jus - tice meet. Here the love of God, through
 and live the Word they've known. Here the out - cast and the
 as words with - in the Word. Built of tears and cries and



vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the
 wit - ness and as sym - bol of God's grace; here as
 Je - sus, is re - vealed in time and space; as we
 strang - er bear the im - age of God's face; let us
 laugh - ter, prayers of faith and songs of grace; let this

Refrain

(D) (G) (F#7) (Bm) (Em) (Bm)
 F B $\flat$ A7 Dm Gm Dm

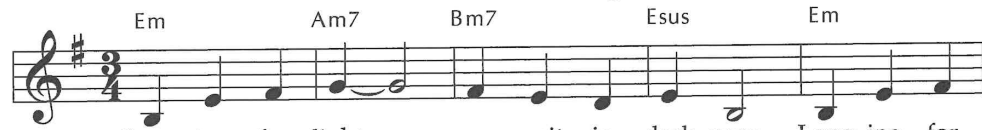
love of Christ shall end di - vi - sions:
 one we claim the faith of Je - sus:
 share in Christ the feast that frees us: all are wel - come;
 bring an end to fear and dan - ger:
 house pro-claim from floor to raf - ter:

(F#m) (Em) (D) (Em) (A7) (D) (G) (D) (A7)
 Am Gm F Gm C7 F B $\flat$ F (C7)

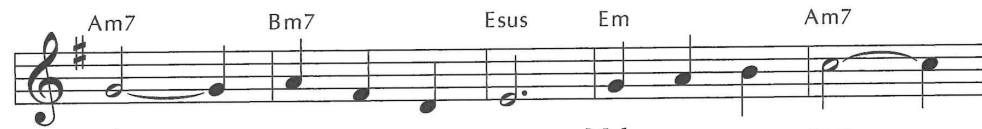
all are wel - come; all are wel - come in this place.

Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness 314

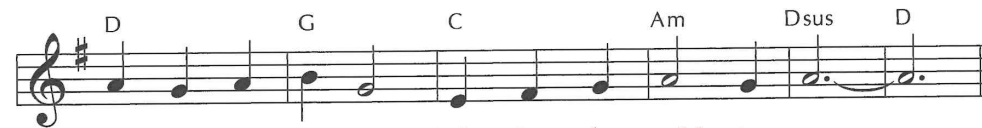
Christ, Be Our Light



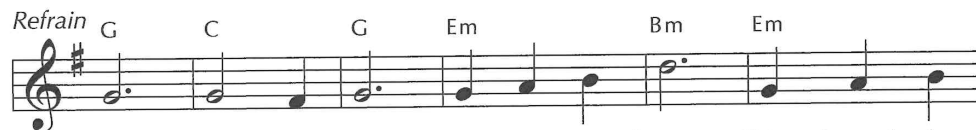
1 Long-ing for light, we wait in dark-ness. Long-ing for
 2 Long-ing for peace, our world is trou-bled. Long-ing for
 3 Long-ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long-ing for
 4 Long-ing for shel - ter, man - y are home-less. Long-ing for
 5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,
 hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone
 wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,
 warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,
 hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



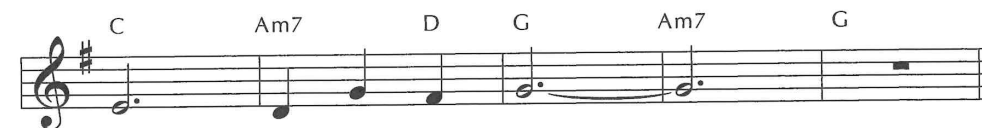
your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.
 has power to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.
 bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.
 shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.
 to one an - oth - er, mak - ing your king - dom come.



Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath - ered to - day.

You Shall Go Out with Joy

80

The Trees of the Field

Em B7 Em B7 Em

You shall go out with joy and be led forth with peace;

G C G D

the moun-tains and the hills will break forth be -

B N.C. Em B7 Em

fore you; there'll be shouts of joy, and all the

B7 Em B7 Em B7 Em

trees of the field will clap, will clap their hands.

D7 N.C. G C G D

And all the trees of the field will clap their hands;

D7 G D7 G

the trees of the field will clap their hands;

C G D

the trees of the field will clap their hands

B7 Em B7 Em

while you go out with joy.