



SEPTEMBER 20, 2026
SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



I know that I have life
only insofar as I have
love.

I have no love
except it comes from
Thee.

Help me please to
carry this candle
against the wind.

-Wendell Berry

Photo Credit: Rev. Kathleen King

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 in E flat Op.41 No.1

Alex Guilmant

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 36** For the Fruit of All Creation Ar Hyd Y Nos

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of love and life, We fall short of who you created us to be with shocking regularity. Please help us learn from our mistakes so that we can amend our ways and imagine a new way of being in the many spaces and places you have given us to inhabit.
Grace upon grace you have bestowed upon us, and yet we far too easily turn to judgement and rigidity. Forgive us for our ignorance and obstinance and help us carry your torch of love into the broken and beautiful world you made, so, it might reflect Your countless and magnificent gifts of Grace.
Amen.

Prayer continues in silence.

KYRIE 467

Give Us Light, v 4,5

Jyothi Dho

Save us now; save us now; save us now, O Lord.

Give us grace; give us grace; give us grace, O Lord.

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 583

Glory to God

Gloria

Glory to God, glory to God, Glory in the highest!

Glory to God, glory to God, alleluia, alleluia!

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.

Sunday School is available for children in PreK-5th grades.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Guide us, O God, by your Word and Spirit, that in your light we may see light, in your truth find wisdom, and in your will discover your peace, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

FIRST READING

Exodus 16:2-15

Old Testament p.62

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM

I Still Have Joy

trad. arr. Peter Amidon

I still have joy, I still have joy, after all the things
I've been through, I still have joy.

There are times in my life when I felt I couldn't go on,
But the Lord, he blessed me and he made me strong.
I kept the faith, and I held on through the night.
This is my testimony, that He made everything all right.

I get joy when I think about all He's done for me.
He even broke the habits trying to conquer me.
Well, I spoke to the mountain; it ran down to the sea!
I can't begin to tell you what He's done for me, 'cause you know that I...

SECOND READING

Matthew 20:1-6

New Testament p.21

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**

Or Are You Envious Because I Am Generous?

***HYMN 22**

God of the Sparrow

Roeder

WELCOME OF NEW MEMBERS*Presentation, Questions, and Prayer for New Members*

Let us welcome these newest members as they join with us in the worship,
ministry, and mission of the church!

**With joy and thanksgiving, we welcome you to share with us in the ministry of
Christ, for we are all one in Christ Jesus!**

THE THANKSGIVING**TIDINGS OF THE CHURCH AND PSA**

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 647** Give Thanks *(no repeats)*
Give thanks with a grateful heart; give thanks to the Holy One;
Give thanks because we're given Jesus Christ, the Son.
And now let the weak say, "We are strong";
let the poor say, "We are rich because of what the Lord has done for us!"
Give thanks. Give thanks.

***OFFERTORY PRAYER**
Generous God,
We pray these gifts of paper and coin are received in the spirit of gratitude
That we share them for healing tender places.
May our offerings of loving kindness continue in myriad and meaningful ways
as a new week unfolds. 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.

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

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

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

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

Our Father
in heaven,
holy is your name.

THE SENDING

***HYMN 307** God of Grace and God of Glory CWM Rhondda

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Les Cloches Nicolas Lebègue

PARTICIPANTS

Worship Leaders
Kathleen Robertson King
Meredith Alspach
Rev. Chrissy Westbury

Acolyte
Rick Wielopolski

Reader
Belinda Bullard

Music
Bill Cessna, organist
Hal Hobson-Morse, director

Sound & Video Team
Chris Honeysett
Bob Murray

Greeters
Sally & Jim Van Buren
(South)
Marilyn Loken
(Lovell)

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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 JENNIE BARRY 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.

Jane Beers
Sue Caulfield
Anna Clements
Bridin Clements
Helen Creager
Carole Cupps
Sam Cupps
Jeff Daniels
Lillian Daniels
Macy Daniels
Marcia Daniels

Deb Droppers
Joey Droppers
Kurt Droppers
Duane Fisk
Martha Flynn
Sue Grossman
Christopher Honeysett
Elizabeth Honeysett
Brian Kastman
Marilyn Loken
Dennis Mattingly

Martin Obed
Pamela Obed
Noel Ocen-Gorgone
Helen Rathbun
Ann Rohrbaugh
Diane Talo
Cindy Trout
Catherine Wall Emerson
Robert Wall Emerson
Phyllis Wilson
Kirsten Yohe

FROM JUST SANCTUARY...

"Each time a man stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope..." – Robert Kennedy

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

Sunday School is available for all pre-K through 5th grade students. Please pick your children up immediately after worship—PreK-1st grade, Room 208; 2nd -5th grades, Rooms 304/305.

Youth Group

These groups for all middle and high school students will gather in the Youth Room at the church from 5:30–7:00 p.m. September 20 and 27. Bring a friend!

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

Noodling at Noon with Meredith

The current book we will read and discuss is *The Way of Befriending* by Parfait Bassale. The reading for Noodling on the 22nd is Part 1 of the book, chapters 1-3. Everyone is 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

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.

Thoughtful Readers

All are welcome to join us for this book club! We usually meet on the 4th Monday of the month at 7 p.m. in Room 300. Our next book is *The Emperor of Gladness*, by Ocean Vuong with discussion on September 28.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Hearts-to-Hands Card Ministry

Our ministry of caring within the life of the congregation is based on the thought that sending someone a handmade card helps us share the love of Christ. Cards are always available on a donation basis. Please look for the cards on display in the Gathering Place before and after service today.

Koinonia at Pine Island

Koinonia meets today at the Pine Island Chapel (8882 W Q Ave). Join us for soup and fellowship at 5:00 p.m., with devotion beginning at 5:30 p.m. This monthly fellowship service, led by Pat Stromsta, gathers on the third Sunday of each month.

New Opportunity for the Fall!

We know FPC can feel like a large church, and many of you have asked for a small group. In response, we are introducing a newly updated group called **Connections**. The Scripture, prayer and reflections in **Connections** will inspire you to a richer spiritual experience and invite you to develop a closer relationship with God and with others. We will use the Prayer Book Sacred Space to start our conversations. Copies of the week's lesson will be provided for those who don't have a book.

You are welcome to join us at Connections, the first Sunday of the month beginning October 4, from 11:15 a.m. to Noon, in Room 301. For more information contact Pat Stromsta @pat.stromsta@gmail.com.

Expanded Greeter Coverage

You may notice expanded greeter coverage at our Lovell Street entrance, especially during evening activities. This added presence helps us provide both a warm welcome and a safe, secure building for everyone.

Thank you for signing in and out during the week!

A sign-in sheet is available at the Lovell Street entrance. This simple step helps us know who is in the building during emergencies and better supports our staff and greeters. *Please include your last name when signing in.* No sign-in is required for Sunday worship. Thank you for helping us keep our building safe and welcoming for all.

CTV: Red Door Dinner

This Wednesday evening meal ministry still has open dates throughout the rest of this year. Sign up on the calendar outside Meredith's office to help our neighbors. Individuals and small groups are welcome. Recipes, tools, and support are provided—and you won't have to do the dishes!

From the Nominating Committee

It is once again time to give thought to selecting officers to serve our congregation. We welcome your suggestion for the offices of: **Elder, Congregational Deacon, and Church Nominating Committee Member.**

You may suggest anyone, including yourself, for one or more of these roles. Please use the form in your bulletin and turn it into the office via the offering plate or in person **by October 4, 2026.**

Pick-up Choir

All middle and high 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.

Hope for Creation Concert

Join Hope for Creation on Saturday, October 3, for an evening of music, food, drinks, and good cheer as they raise funds to support a more just and resilient future for southwest Michigan. Tickets are expected to sell out, so reserve your spot soon: hopeforcreation.net

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 November 1.

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!

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.

Welcome New Members!

Kristin Alyousif works at the medical library at WMU Homer Stryker M.D. School of Medicine. Not surprisingly, she likes translating and teaching Latin and Greek. She can also be found reading or powerlifting. Let's lift up our gratitude that Kristin's call to visit evolved into a call for membership!

Belinda and Robert Bullard happily transferred to FPC after being active in their former church. When they aren't traveling or boating, they appreciate FPC's inclusive spirit and beautifully prepared services. We're delighted they have chosen to make FPC their church home!

Lindsay Davidson moved to Portage from Tennessee a couple of years ago. She works as a caregiver and is studying nursing. An avid reader and lifelong learner, she is a wonderful addition to our church family. We look forward to getting to know Lindsay as part of our church community.

Beth and Dale Hotelling recently moved to Kalamazoo from Grand Rapids. As Pastor Chrissy's parents, they were drawn to FPC by both their family connection and the congregation's creative approach to living out its faith. We look forward to sharing our creativity with them in the years ahead.

Logan McCafferty has been a dedicated FPC custodian for nearly five years. Drawn by the warmth and welcome they found in this community, Logan quickly became more than a staff member. Through worship attendance and singing in the choir, they've become a familiar and valued part of church life. We're delighted to officially welcome Logan into the church family.



WEEKLY CALENDAR

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

- 9:00 a.m. **Pick-up Choir Rehearsal,**
Choir Room
- 9:00 a.m.–11:30 a.m. **Cards on Display**
- 9:45 a.m. **Child Care/Nursery, #211**
- 10:00 a.m. **Worship, Sanctuary**
- 10:15 a.m. **Sunday School, PreK-5th gr.**
- 5:30 p.m. **Koinonia Service, Pine**
Island Chapel (8882 W Q Ave)
- 5:30 p.m.–7:00 p.m. **T.A.G. & Youth**
Group, Youth Room

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

- 9:00 a.m.–4:30 p.m. **Recovery Institute**
(R.I.), Dining Rm/#308
- 12:00 p.m. **AA, #300**
- 12:00 p.m. **Walking Grp, Lovell Entrance**
- 1:00 p.m. **Financial Review Team,**
Archives
- 6:30 p.m. **Deacons, #306**
- 7:00 p.m. **Connecting Chords, Choir Rm**
- 7:00 p.m. **Scouts, Dining Room**

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

- 7:30 a.m. **Men's Fellowship, Panera**
Bread, West Main Street
- 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**
- 12:00 p.m. **Noodling At Noon, Library**
- 3:00 p.m. **OLLI, Gathering Place**
- 6:00 p.m. **PEO- CN, Gathering Place**
- 6:45 p.m. **Kalamazoo Male Chorus,**
Choir Room

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

- 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, SEPTEMBER 24

- 9:00 a.m.–4:30 p.m. **R.I., Dining Rm/#308**
- 9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m. **Library Work**
- 9:30 a.m. **Women's Bible Study, #306**
- 12:00 p.m. **AA, #300**
- 1:00 p.m. **Organ Rehearsal, Sanctuary**
- 4:30 p.m. **Food Addicts, #314/315**

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

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

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

- 9:00 a.m. **Pick-up Choir Rehearsal,**
Choir Room
- 9:45 a.m. **Child Care/Nursery, #211**
- 10:00 a.m. **Worship, Sanctuary**
- 10:15 a.m. **Sunday School, PreK-5th gr.**
- 5:30 p.m.–7:00 p.m. **T.A.G. & Youth**
Group, Youth 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

Facebook.com/ASanctuaryInTheCity

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
Hal Hobson-Morse , Director of Music, x223	halhm@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

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

Upcoming Sunday Morning Worship Services

September 27

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

The Rev. Chrissy Westbury
Philippians 2:1-13; Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

October 11

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

The Rev. Chrissy Westbury
Exodus 32:1-14; Philippians 4:1-9

October 4

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

The Rev. Chrissy Westbury
Genesis 1:9-13; 1 Corinthians 11:17-26

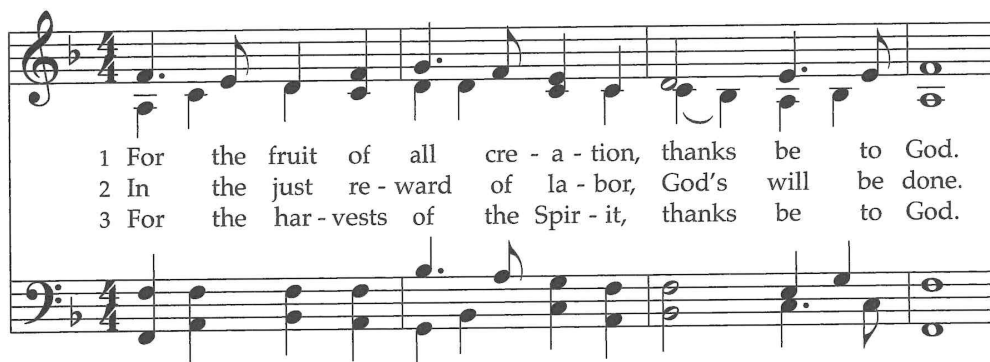
October 18

Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost

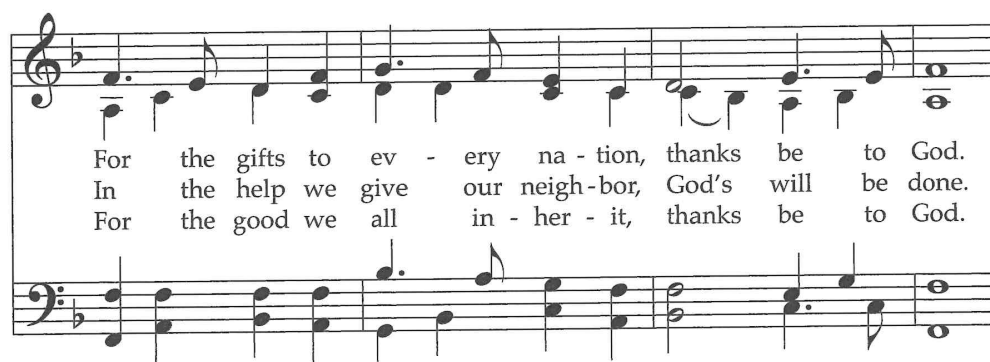
The Rev. Dr. Liz Hakken Candido
Exodus 33:12-23; Matthew 22:15-22

*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.*

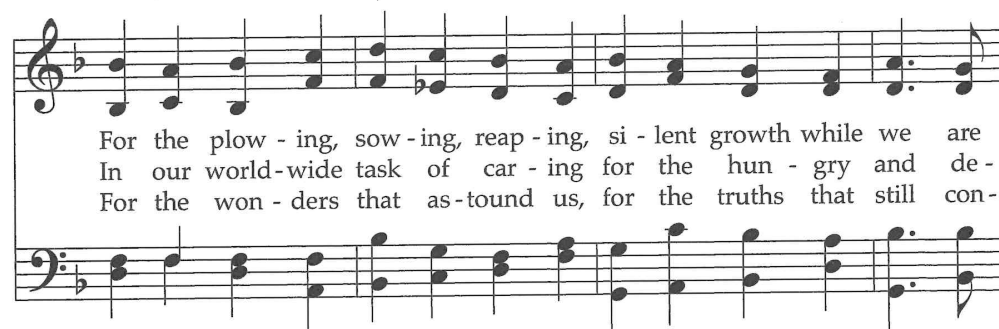
For the Fruit of All Creation 36



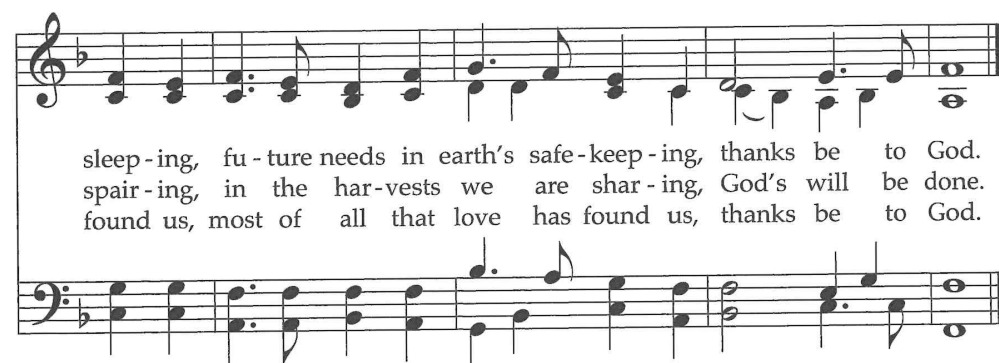
1 For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.
 2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will be done.
 3 For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God.



For the gifts to ev - ery na - tion, thanks be to God.
 In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will be done.
 For the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God.



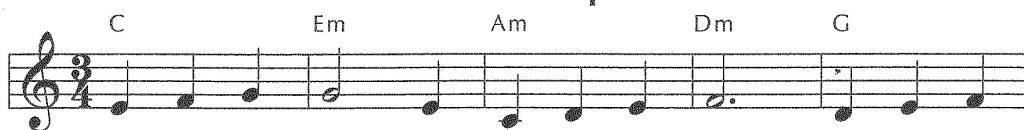
For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are
 In our world - wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry and de -
 For the won - ders that as - tound us, for the truths that still con -



sleep - ing, fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.
 spair - ing, in the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will be done.
 found us, most of all that love has found us, thanks be to God.

22

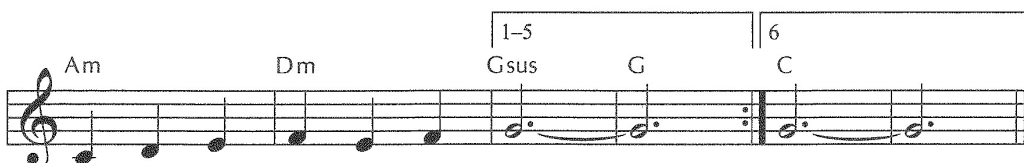
God of the Sparrow



1 God of the spar - row God of the whale God of the
 2 God of the earth - quake God of the storm God of the
 3 God of the rain - bow God of the cross God of the
 4 God of the hun - gry God of the sick God of the
 5 God of the neigh - bor God of the foe God of the
 6 God of the a - ges God near at hand God of the



swirl - ing stars How does the crea - ture say Awe
 trum - pet blast How does the crea - ture cry Woe
 emp - ty grave How does the crea - ture say Grace
 prod - i - gal How does the crea - ture say Care
 prun - ing hook How does the crea - ture say Love
 lov - ing heart How do your chil - dren say Joy



How does the crea - ture say Praise
 How does the crea - ture cry Save
 How does the crea - ture say Thanks
 How does the crea - ture say Life
 How does the crea - ture say Peace
 How do your chil - dren say Home

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

307 God of Grace and God of Glory

1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on thy peo - ple
 2 Lo! the hosts of e - vil round us scorn thy Christ, as -
 3 Cure thy chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to
 4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils

pour thy power; crown thine an - cient chur - ch's sto - ry; bring its
 sail his ways! From the fears that long have bound us free our
 thy con - trol; shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness, rich in
 we de - plore. Let the gift of thy sal - va - tion be our

bud to glo - rious flower. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,

for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.
 for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.
 lest we miss thy king - dom's goal, lest we miss thy king - dom's goal.
 serv - ing thee whom we a - dore, serv - ing thee whom we a - dore.

YOU ARE LOVED



KALAMAZOO FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
A SANCTUARY IN THE CITY: LIVING FAITH