



OCTOBER 11, 2026
TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



"The morning glories and the sunflowers turn naturally toward the light,
but we have to be taught, it seems." – Richard Rohr

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

Offertoire

César Franck

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

Who made this beautiful day?
We believe that God, the Creator, made this day –
God made this day so we can rest, and reflect, and enjoy;
God made this day so we can open our eyes and see beauty,
And see pain, and see opportunity,
And see hope.
So let us go into this day with our eyes and hearts wide open,
And let us worship God.

*HYMN 14

For the Beauty of the Earth

Dix

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy and gracious God, At times we feel so frail and fragile,
getting blown about by the latest crisis, by bad news,
by our own short tempers and failings. You call us to hold fast to what is good,
but so often we flounder, unable to find that solid thing that will center us again.
Help us, we pray. Help us to see you as our center,
and to cling to the good that you create in the world.
Help us to set aside all our jealousies and prejudices, all of our betrayals
and lies, all that adds to the world's hurt. Help us to grow even more
into Christ's likeness, that we will bear his love and truth to the world.

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

Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Gloria, gloria, 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

**God our helper, by your Holy Spirit,
open our minds that as the Scriptures are read and your Word is proclaimed,
we may be led into your truth and taught your will,
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

FIRST READING

Exodus 32:1-14

Old Testament p.78

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM

The Gift of Love

Hal H. Hopson

Though I may speak with bravest fire, and have the gift to all inspire,
And have not love, my words are vain as sounding brass and hopeless gain.

Though I may give all I possess, and striving so my love profess,
But not be given by love within, the profit soon turns strangely thin.

Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control. Our spirits long to be made whole.
Let inward love guide every deed. By this we worship and are freed.

SECOND READING

Philippians 4:1-9

New Testament p.198

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

Think About That

***HYMN 821**

My Life Flows On

How Can I Keep From Singing

THE THANKSGIVING**TIDINGS OF THE CHURCH**

We give thanks to God and live our 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, you entrust us with blessings beyond measure.
Receive these gifts, signs of our gratitude,
and use them for the healing of the world.
Make us faithful stewards of all you have given,
that justice may roll down like waters,
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream. 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 (*3 times*)

The Trees of the Field

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Postlude

Ernest A. Dicks

PARTICIPANTS

Worship Leaders

Brian Nederveld
Rev. Chrissy Westbury

Reader

Sandra Dennehy

Acolyte

Deb Bender

Music

FPC Choir
Bill Cessna, organist
Hal Hobson-Morse, director

Sound & Video Team

Bob Murray
Dana Underwood

Greeters

Karen Conner (South)
John Beek (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 GRACE COOK 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.

Amy Anderson
Barbara Baker
Dick Baker
Gerald Case-Blanchard
Mason Coleman
Victoria Coleman
Sarah Cox

Sandy Denzel
Sue Forsch
Dick Hodgman
Jean Hollar
Robin Johnkoski
Steve Johnkoski
William Mack

Mark Olmsted
Thomas Owen
Mary Jo Poel
Carol Schreiner
Andrew Van Ness
Phyllis Youse



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 PreK – 5th grade students. Please pick your children up immediately after worship: PreK-1st grade, Room 208; 2nd – 5th, Rooms 304/305

Youth Group/T.A.G.

These groups for all middle and high school students will not meet this week but will gather in the church Youth Room on the 18th from 5:30-7:00 p.m. Also, save the date for our Halloween Party on the October 25.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

Morning Men's Fellowship

Join us weekly, on Tuesdays, at Panera Bread on West Main at 7:30 a.m. New faces are always welcome!

New Group: In-Betweeners

Designed for adults who are established in their careers but have not yet reached the empty-nest stage, the In-Betweeners will hold their first gathering at Pine Island Chapel (8882 W Q Ave.) on Saturday, October 24, at 6:30 p.m. Join us for s'mores and conversation. Children are welcome, and childcare supervision will be provided so everyone can relax, connect, and enjoy the evening. For more information, please contact Meredith (mereditha@fpckzoo.org).

Noodling at Noon with Meredith

The current book we are discussing is *The Way of Befriending* by Parfait Bassale. Join us Tuesdays in the Library. This week we will dive into chapters 7 and 8. Everyone is welcome!

Women's Bible Study

Pastor Chrissy is leading 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. Please note, while Chrissy is leading a pilgrimage, including the 15th and 22nd, this group will not be meeting.

FROM JUST SANCTUARY...

“It is in justice that the ordering of society is centered.” - Aristotle

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Help with CTV Meals

CTV: Red Door Dinner, our Wednesday evening meal ministry, needs help **the next two Wednesdays (Oct. 13 & 20)**. Please reach out to Meredith (mereditha@fpckzoo.org) if you can assist with this urgent need.

Sunday Parking

The Kalamazoo Civic Theatre has asked that our congregation not use their parking lots on Sunday mornings, as their staff, crews, and performers need the limited parking for rehearsals and performances. Please be especially mindful on Sunday, October 18. Thank you for helping us be good neighbors!

Butter Braids

Have you placed your order yet? If you still need to order, scan the QR code on the poster in the Gathering Place today or look for Meredith after worship next week.

- **October 18 is the last day to order.**
- **Payment is due at the time**
- **Proceeds support the West Virginia Mission Trip.**

Delivery will be November 8, so please be prepared to pick up your frozen pastries right after worship that Sunday.

Music at FPC

Church Choir is open to anyone in high school and older. Rehearsals will be held on Thursdays from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m., in the Choir room, with a break for treats and fellowship. The choir will also meet for a warm-up rehearsal on Sunday mornings from 9:00 to 9:30 a.m. **The Red Door Ringers, our handbell choir**, will rehearse on Thursdays from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. in our brand-new Handbell Choir Room. The Red Door Ringers will perform in worship once a month. No prior experience is required to participate in either choir, and you are welcome to come and try it out. If you have questions, please contact Hal Hobson-Morse, Music Director (halhm@fpckzoo.org).

Office Update

Pastor Chrissy will be out of the office October 14-28 while leading the Mystics Pilgrimage. If a pastoral need arises while she is away, please call the church office. We are here to help and will connect you with a member of the pastoral care team. If you'd like to follow along with the pilgrimage, there are copies of the devotional on the table outside Chrissy's office.

Pine Island Chapel

Koinonia (fellowship in Jesus Christ) meets monthly on the third Sunday at Pine Island Chapel (8882 W Q Ave). We meet at 5:30 for a potluck supper and at 6:00 we sing praises, study scripture, and pray. Join facilitator Pat Stromsta on the 18th.

Because of scheduling conflicts with other church events, the Pine Island evening service scheduled for November 1 will not be held.

Stewardship Fun Fact!

Each week until we reach our 2027 Pledge Goal of \$610,000, the Stewardship Committee will be sharing a “Stewardship Fun Fact!” – a little-known number from our lives together at FPC! After three weeks of collecting your pledges, we are at \$228,150. Keep an eye on the progress board in the Gathering Place for how we’re doing, and get those pledges in. They help us to set the budget for the coming year.



There are over a thousand choir anthems in our church music library, thanks to the generosity and stewardship of those who came before us. We rarely have to buy new music, but our wonderful music staff, upkeep of the pianos and organ, care of bells and choir robes, and the licensing that allows us to use copyrighted music are great ways we utilize our annual budget!

Bible Collection: A Night of Hope & Healing

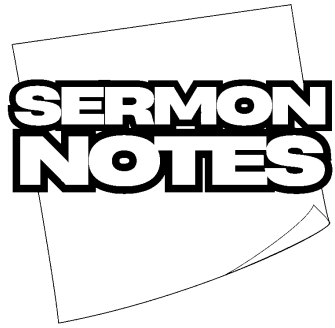
We are collecting new and gently used Bibles to support an upcoming Night of Hope & Healing in Battle Creek. If you have a Bible you would like to donate, please place it in the collection box in the Gathering Place. Donations will be accepted through November 1.

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!

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, OCTOBER 11

- 9:00 a.m. **Choir Warm-up**, 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.**
- 11:00 a.m. **Welcome Hal & Bill**,
Gathering Place

MONDAY, OCTOBER 12

- 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
- 6:00 p.m. **Orchestra Rouh**, #300
- 7:00 p.m. **Scouts**, Dining Room

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13

- 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**, Library
- 1:30 p.m. **Piano Tuning**, Sanctuary
- 6:00 p.m. **PEO- CN**, #301
- 6:00 p.m. **Kal. Pipe Band**, Dining Room
- 6:00 p.m. **Orchestra Rouh**, #300
- 6:45 p.m. **Kalamazoo Male Chorus**,
Choir Room

OFFICE HOURS: 9 A.M.–3 P.M.,
MONDAY – THURSDAY
(CLOSED FRIDAY – SUNDAY)

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14

- 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
- 2:00 p.m. **Martha Circle**, Gathering Pl.
- 5:00 p.m. **CTV: Red Door Dinner**,
Dining Room
- 7:00 p.m. **Outreach Comm.**, Archives

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15

- 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
- 4:00 p.m. **Finance Committee**, Archives
- 4:30 p.m. **Food Addicts**, #314/315
- 5:30 p.m. **Red Door Ringers**, Bell Room
- 6:30 p.m. **Personnel Comm.**, Archives
- 6:35 p.m. **Faith Formation**, SS Room
- 7:00 p.m. **Choir Rehearsal**, Choir Room

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16

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

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18

- 9:00 a.m. **Choir Warm-up**, Choir Room
- 9:00 a.m.–11:30 a.m. **Cards on Display**,
Gathering Place
- 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**, Pine Island Chapel
(8882 W Q Ave)
- 5:30 p.m.–7:00 p.m. **T.A.G./Youth Group**

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

October 18

Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost

The Rev. Dr. Liz Hakken Candido
Exodus 33:17-23; Matthew 22:15-22

November 1

All Saint's Sunday/Communion

The Rev. Chrissy Westbury
Psalm 34:1-10,22; Revelation 7:8-17

October 25

Reformation Sunday

The Rev. Annamarie Groenenboom
Matthew 22:34-46; Psalm 90:1-6,13-17

November 8

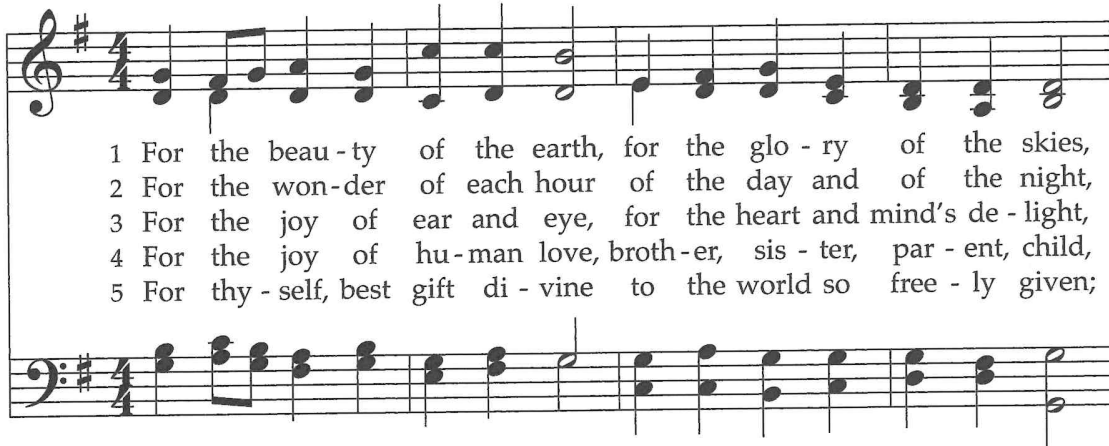
Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost

The Rev. Chrissy Westbury
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Joshua 24:1-15

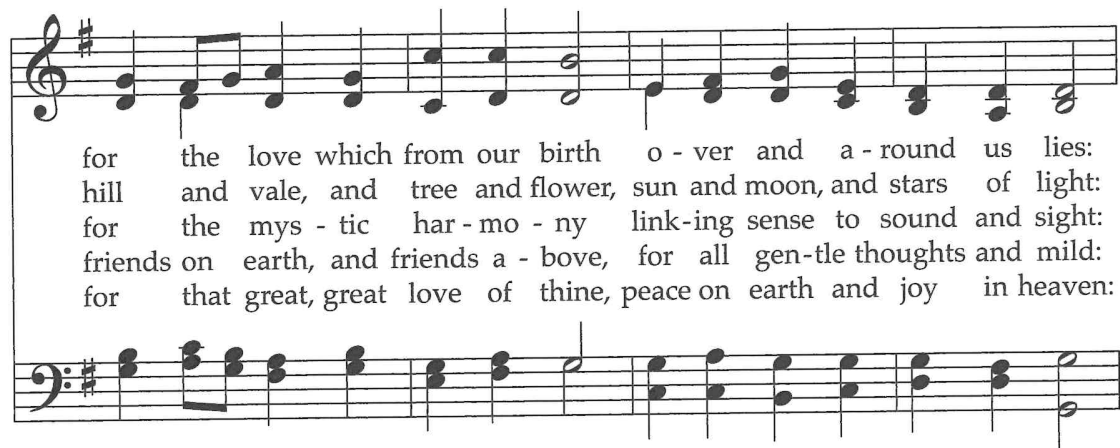
*Grounded in living faith, receiving diversity as a gift, we seek to reflect Christ's light in God's world.
Continually discerning God's vision of grace and peace, we share inspirational worship, spiritual
nurture, compassionate service to others, and the pursuit of justice... all to the glory of God.*

For the Beauty of the Earth

14

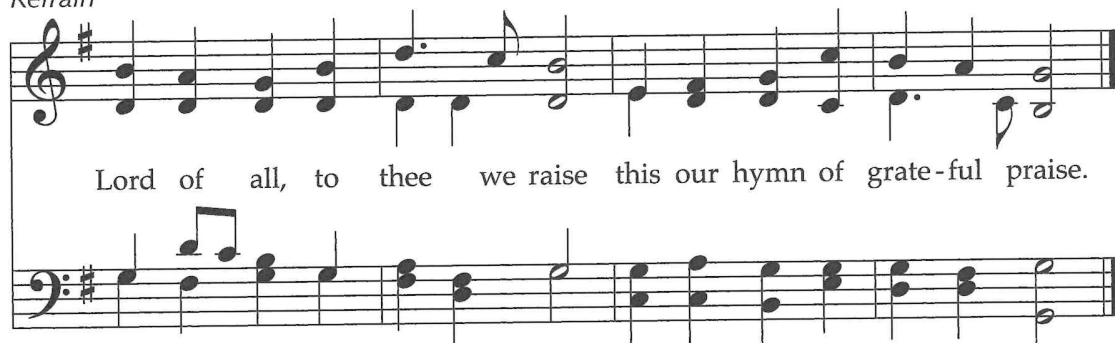


1 For the beau - ty of the earth, for the glo - ry of the skies,
 2 For the won - der of each hour of the day and of the night,
 3 For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's de - light,
 4 For the joy of hu - man love, broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child,
 5 For thy - self, best gift di - vine to the world so free - ly given;



for the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies:
 hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light:
 for the mys - tic har - mo - ny link - ing sense to sound and sight:
 friends on earth, and friends a - bove, for all gen - tle thoughts and mild:
 for that great, great love of thine, peace on earth and joy in heaven:

Refrain

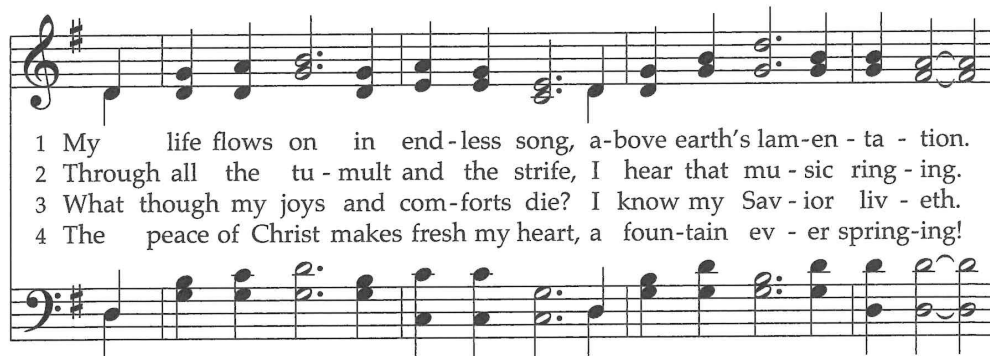


Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grate - ful praise.

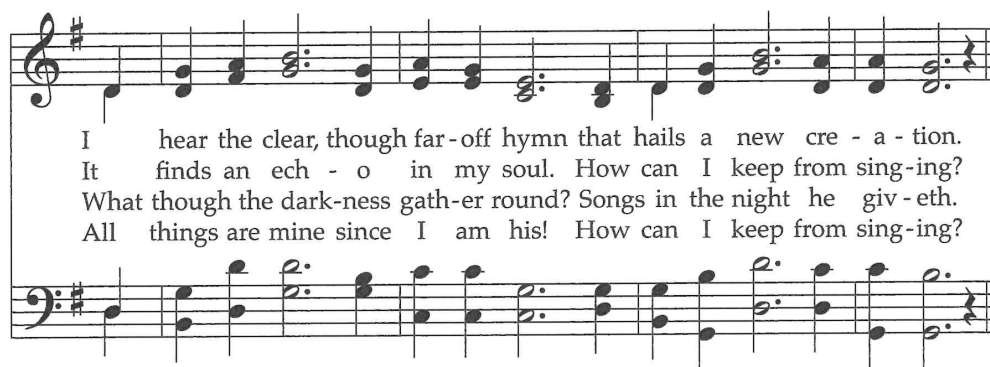
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My Life Flows On

How Can I Keep from Singing?

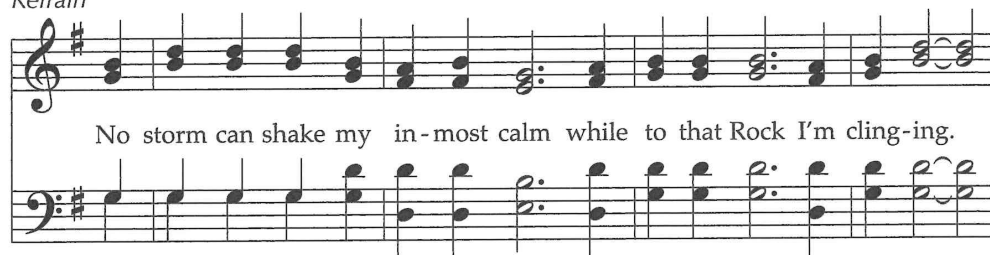


1 My life flows on in end-less song, a-bove earth's lam-en - ta - tion.
 2 Through all the tu - mult and the strife, I hear that mu - sic ring - ing.
 3 What though my joys and com-forts die? I know my Sav - ior liv - eth.
 4 The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a foun-tain ev - er spring-ing!

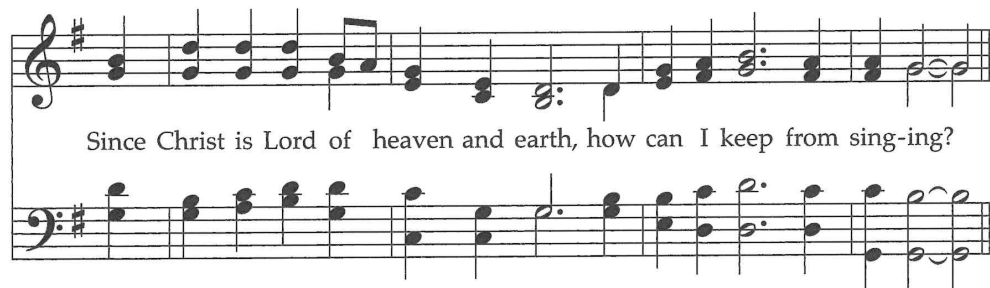


I hear the clear, though far-off hymn that hails a new cre - a - tion.
 It finds an ech - o in my soul. How can I keep from sing-ing?
 What though the dark-ness gath-er round? Songs in the night he giv - eth.
 All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from sing-ing?

Refrain



No storm can shake my in-most calm while to that Rock I'm cling-ing.



Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from sing-ing?

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.