First Presbyterian Church of Metuchen



November 15, 2026 at 9:30 a.m.

25th Sunday after Pentecost

Our vision is to love God with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength, and to love our neighbor as ourselves.

Livestreamed on our website and Facebook/FPC Metuchen

270 Woodbridge Avenue, Metuchen, NJ 08840 www.fpcweb.org (732) 491-2300

GATHERING

ENTRANCE OF CHRIST'S LIGHT
Candles are lit to represent the presence of Christ, offering a moment to center ourselves to worship.

PRELUDE Rondo Festivo — Covenant Ringers — Cynthia Dobrinski

WELCOME & TIDINGS — Rev. Dr. Fred G. Garry

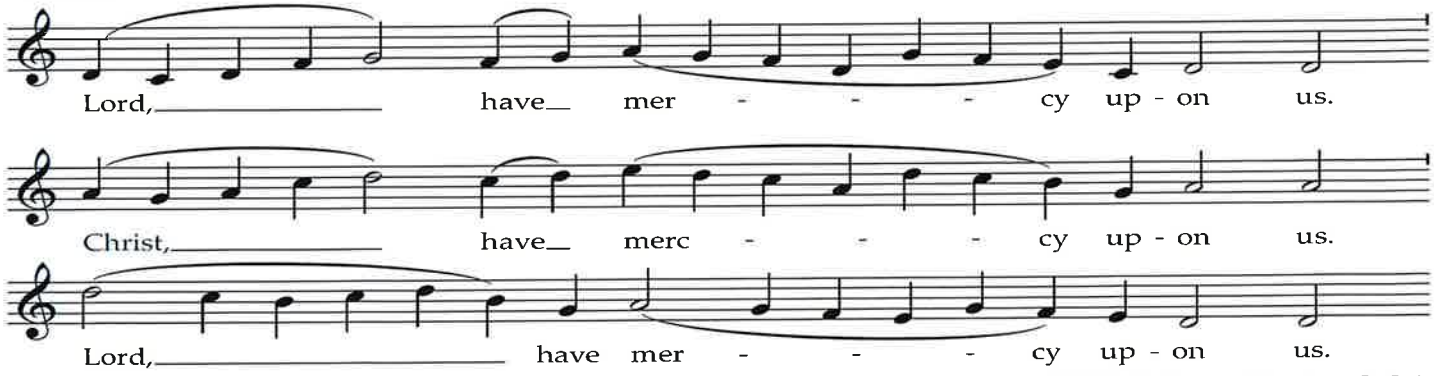
***CALL TO WORSHIP**
Leader: Draw near and hear the word of the Lord.
All: We seek the one who is the humble king.
Leader: We seek the one who lays down his life for us.
All: We seek the one born of Mary, our redeemer.
Leader: We seek the rock, the place to rise above the flood.
All: Draw near and hear the word from the beginning.

***HYMN 611** Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee — HYMN TO JOY

***OUR PRAYERS OF ADORATION AND CONFESSION** — Rev. Khayla J. Henry

God of mercy, hear our prayer.
We hear your words and seek to live them out.
We see your mercy and try to offer such in kind.
We carry your light burden, your easy yoke.
We trust you are with us here, now, and always.
Let our words and mercy and strength
Be a gift we give to others.
May our generosity make a path for generations.
God of mercy, hear our prayer. Amen.

***KYRIE**

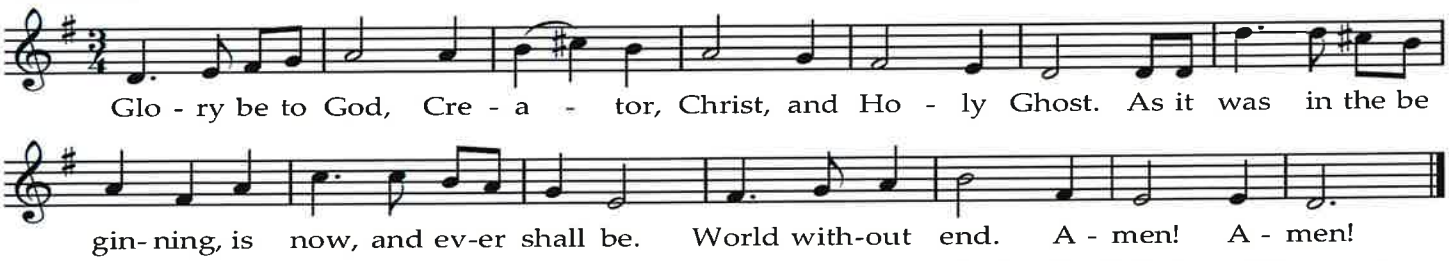


Written for Third Presbyterian Church, Rochester, NY by Peter DuBois

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON** — Rev. Khayla J. Henry
Leader: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.
All: Thanks be to God.

***Please rise in body or spirit.**

***GLORIA**



Written for Third Presbyterian Church, Rochester, NY by James Kealey

LISTENING

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Nehemiah 7:1-4 (Old Testament page 435) Janet Aspinwall
This is the Word of the Lord . . . **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM Look Around! Junior Choir & Westminster Choir Helen Kemp

CHILDREN'S TIME Presbyterian Puppeteers
Nursery care is available in Room 107. Children in Pre-K through 6th grade are invited to the GLOW Room.

SECOND SCRIPTURE Luke 21:29-33 (New Testament page 86)
This is the Word of the Lord . . . **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON For Generations to Come Rev. Dr. Fred G. Garry

SETTLING OF THE WORD

RESPONDING

***HYMN 300** We Are One in the Spirit THEY'LL KNOW WE ARE CHRISTIANS

***CONFESSION OF FAITH** (*from the* Brief Statement of Faith) Rev. Khayla J. Henry

In life and in death we belong to God.
Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit,
we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel,
whom alone we worship and serve.
We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God.
Jesus proclaimed the reign of God:
preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives,
teaching by word and deed, and blessing the children,
healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted,
eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners,
and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.

CALL TO OFFERING Rev. Khayla J. Henry

OFFERTORY So Fades the Lovely Blooming Flower George Shearing

***DOXOLOGY** OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God all creatures here below.
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION** Rev. Khayla J. Henry

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

The Peace of Christ be with you . . . **And also with you.**

ELDERS PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER Brian Smith

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 let us not fall into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory, forever. Amen.

SENDING

***HYMN 39** Great Is Thy Faithfulness FAITHFULNESS

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE Andante alla Marcia Felix Mendelssohn

The flowers in the Sanctuary are
from Grace Hammesfahr given in loving memory of Mom & Dad Hammesfahr,
and from Janet Aspinwall given to the glory of God and in loving memory of
Bill and Mary Aspinwall, and Bill Aspinwall III.
The flowers in the Niche are given in loving memory of Jennifer Mirande for her birthday today
from her parents John and Karen Keithler.

Our greeters this morning are the Jaramillo Family and the ushers are Andrene Sinclair-Pennix,
Beth Russian, and Bill Volz.

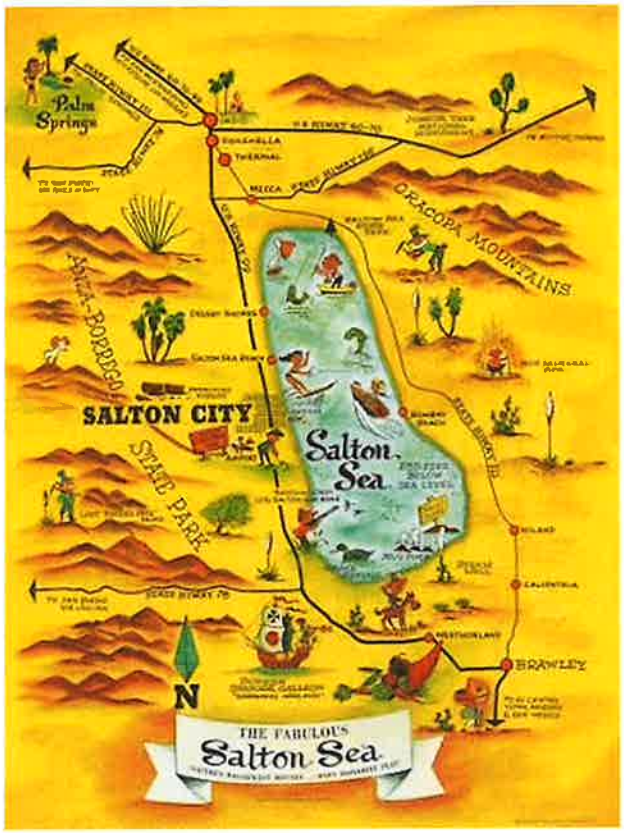
FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Nehemiah 7:1-4

Now when the wall had been built and I had set up the doors and the gatekeepers, the singers, and the Levites had been appointed, I gave my brother Hanani charge over Jerusalem, along with Hananiah the commander of the citadel, for he was a faithful man and feared God more than many. And I said to them, "The gates of Jerusalem are not to be opened while the sun is hot; while the gatekeepers are still standing guard, let them shut and bar the doors. Appoint guards from among the inhabitants of Jerusalem, some at their watch posts, and others before their own houses." The city was wide and large, but the people within it were few, and no houses had been built.

SCRIPTURE READER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: Thanks be to God.



SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

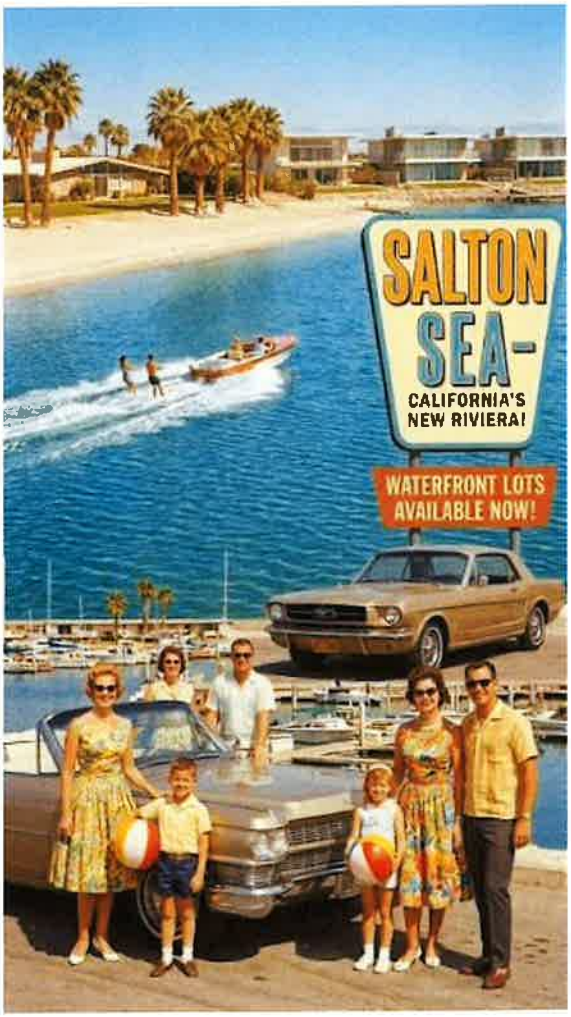
Luke 21:29-33

Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

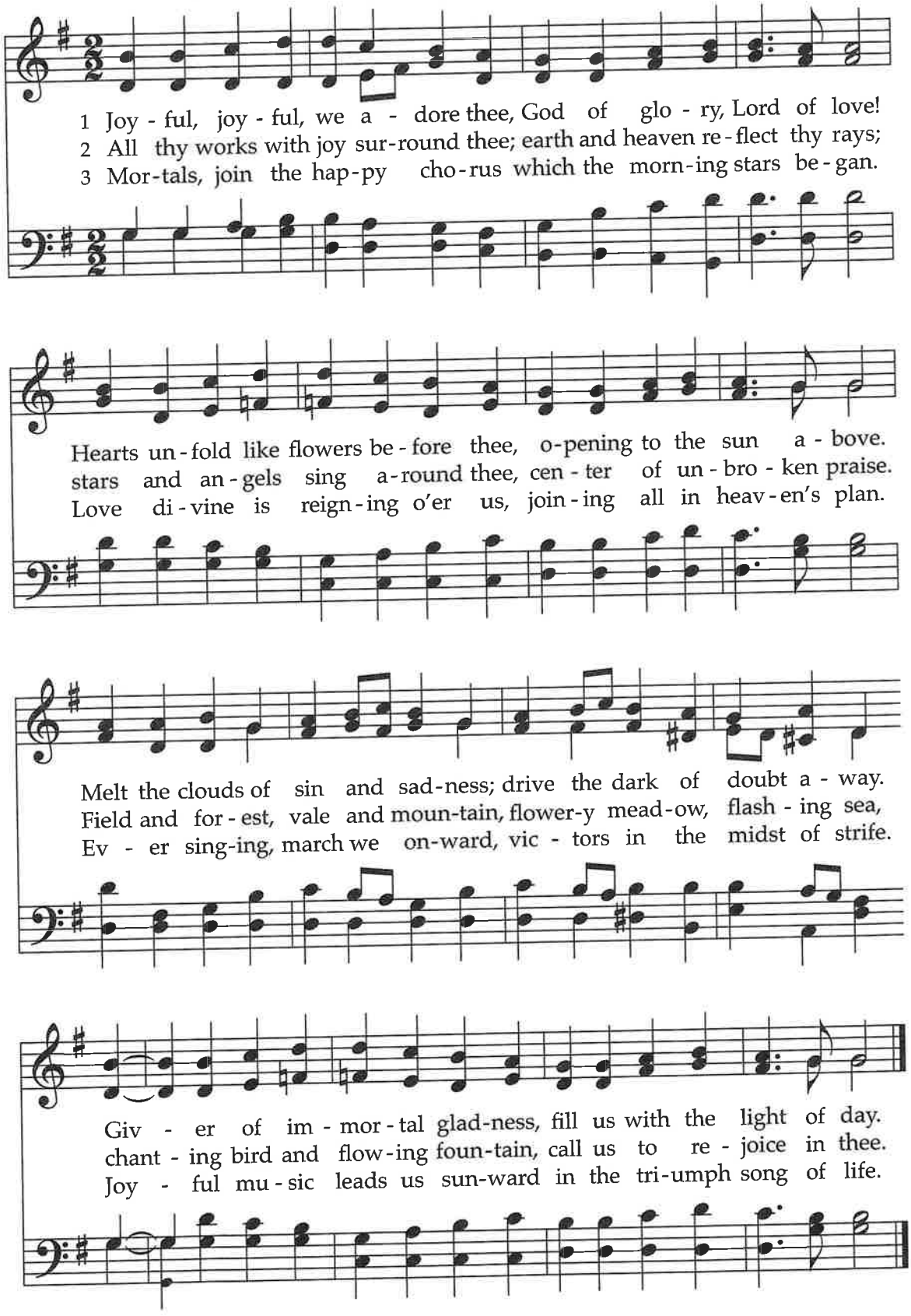
SCRIPTURE READER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: Thanks be to God.

New Revised Standard Version, Updated Edition. Copyright © 2021 National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.



611 Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee
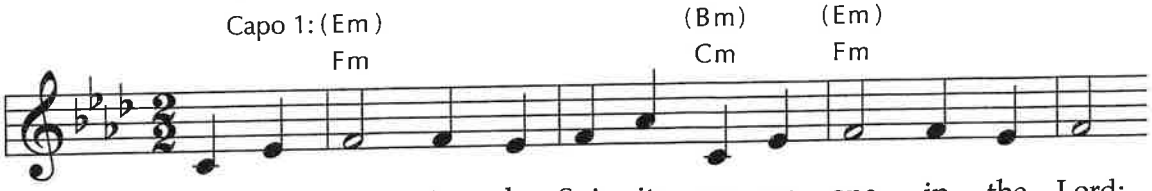


This well-known melody was created to provide a choral setting for J. C. F. von Schiller's poem, "An die Freude" (To Joy), as the final movement of the composer's *Ninth Symphony*. The author, a prominent Presbyterian pastor and author, wrote the words with this tune in mind.

TEXT: Henry van Dyke, 1907, alt.
MUSIC: Ludwig van Beethoven, 1824; adapt. Edward Hodges, 1842, alt.
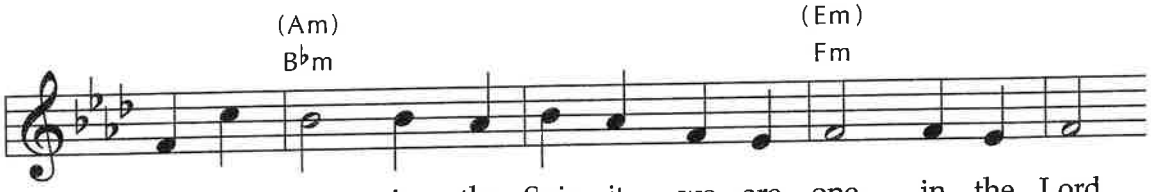
HYMN TO JOY
8.7.8.7.D

We Are One in the Spirit 300

They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love
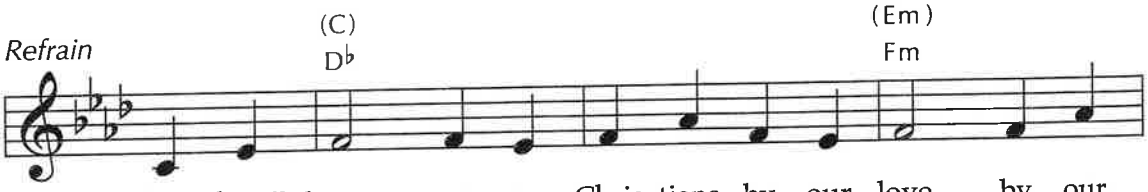


1 We are one in the Spir - it; we are one in the Lord;
2 We will walk with each oth - er; we will walk hand in hand;
3 We will work with each oth - er; we will work side by side;
4 All praise to the Fa - ther, from whom all things come,
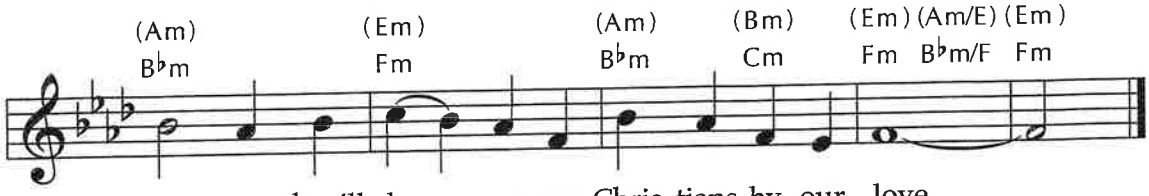


we are one in the Spir - it; we are one in the Lord,
we will walk with each oth - er; we will walk hand in hand,
we will work with each oth - er; we will work side by side,
and all praise to Christ Je - sus, God's on - ly Son,



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



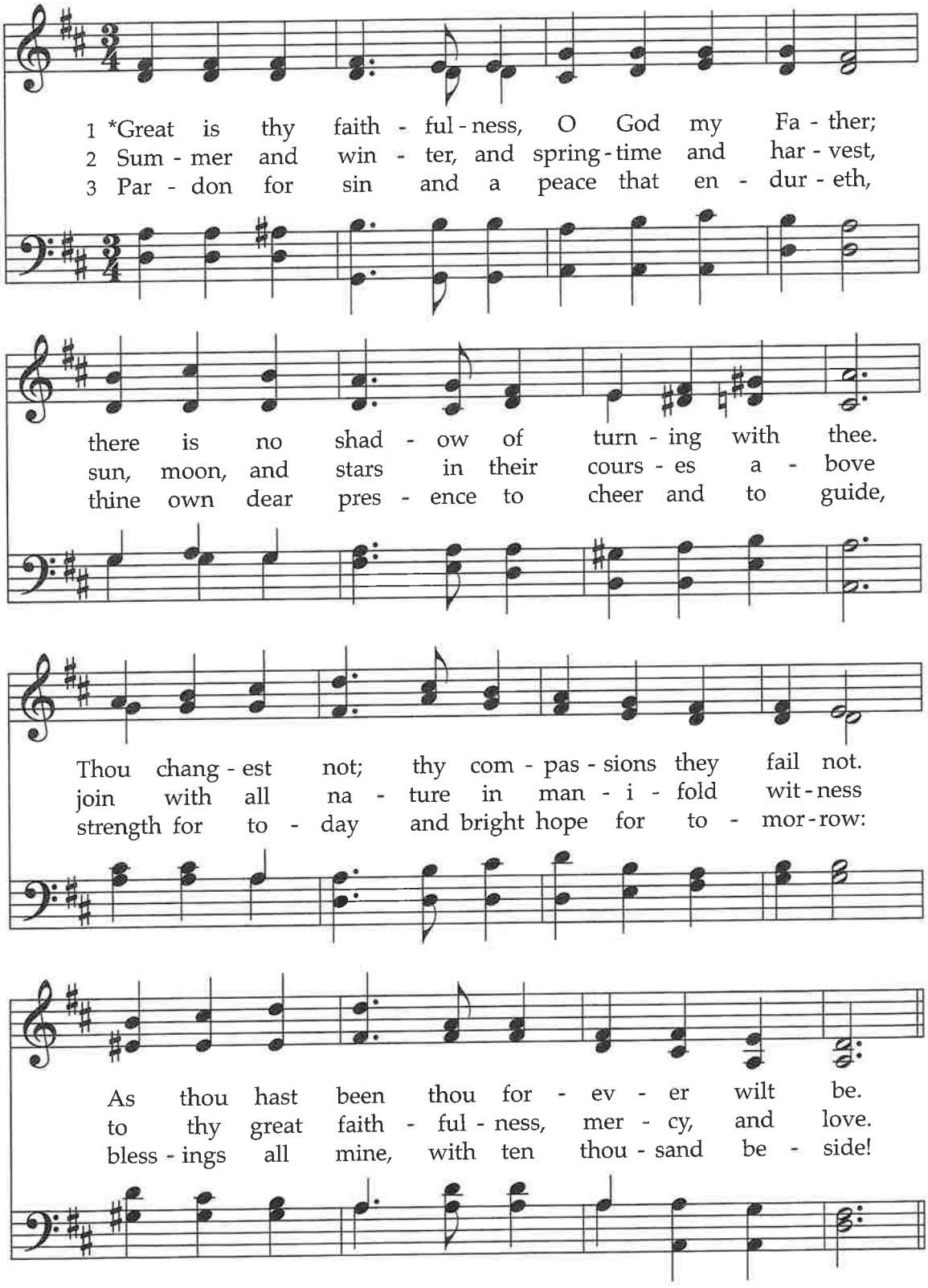
love; yes, they'll know we are Chris-tians by our love.

A parish priest at St. Brendan's on the South Side of Chicago in the 1960s was very involved in the local Civil Rights movement and needed something for his youth choir to sing at ecumenical, interracial events. Finding nothing, he wrote this song in a single day.

TEXT and MUSIC: Peter Scholtes, 1966
Text and Music © 1966 F.E.L. Publications, assigned 1991 to The Lorenz Corp.

THEY'LL KNOW WE ARE CHRISTIANS
7.6.7.6.8.6 with refrain

39 Great Is Thy Faithfulness
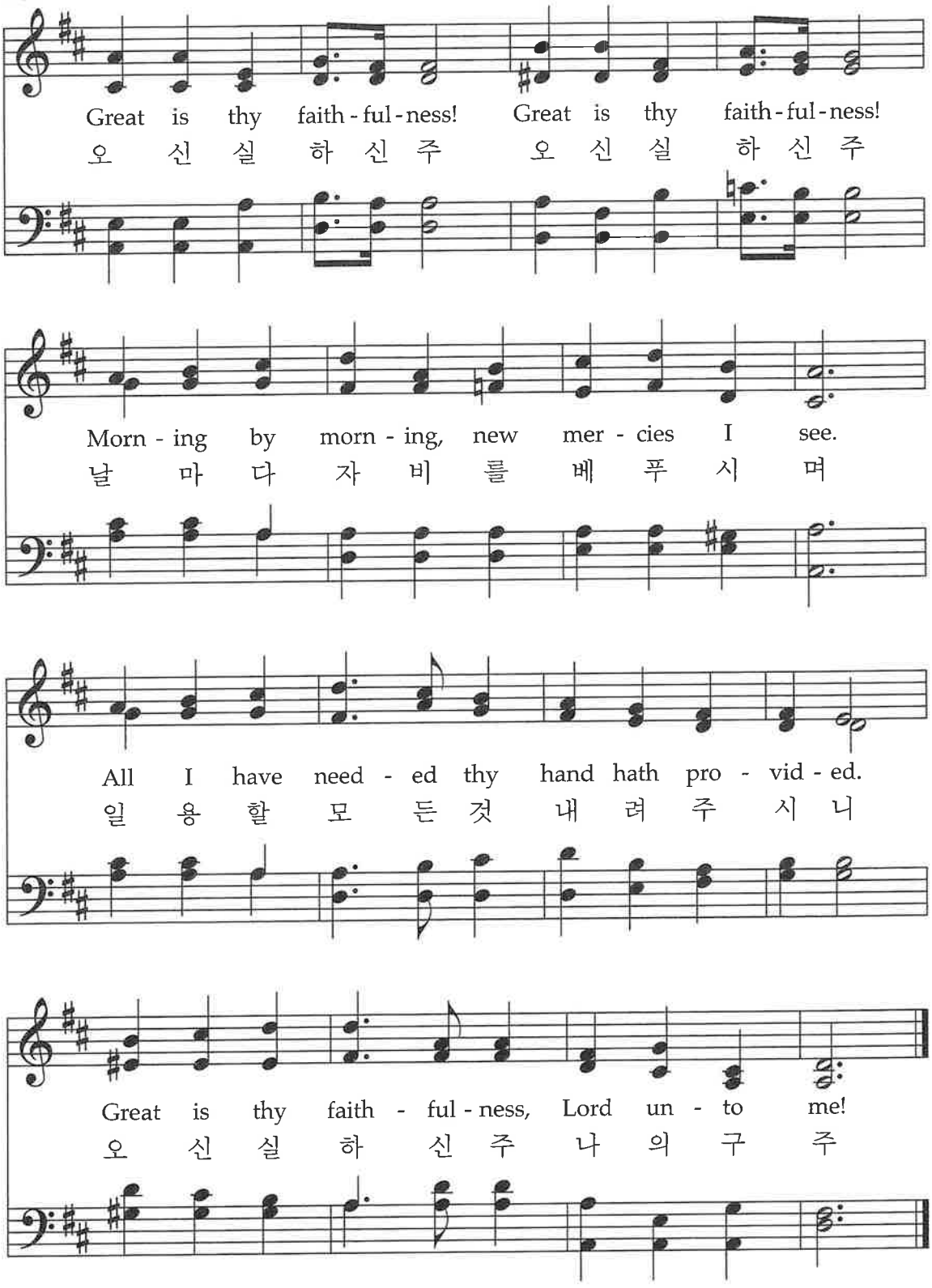


*Or "Great is thy faithfulness, O God, Creator."

Written as a meditation on Lamentations 3:22–23, this text is one of the few hymns among the 1200 poems by this Methodist writer and pastor that has gained much currency. The tune that appears here was composed especially for these words, and the pairing has proved enduring.

TEXT: Thomas O. Chisholm, 1923
MUSIC: William Marion Runyan, 1923
Text and Music © 1923, ren. 1951 Hope Publishing Company

FAITHFULNESS
11.10.11.10 with refrain

Refrain


Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Great is thy faith-ful-ness!
오 신 실 하 신 주 오 신 실 하 신 주
Morn-ing by morn-ing, new mer-cies I see.
날 마 다 자 비 를 베 푸 시 며
All I have need-ed thy hand hath pro-vid-ed.
일 용 할 모 든 것 내 려 주 시 니
Great is thy faith-ful-ness, Lord un-to me!
오 신 실 하 신 주 나 의 구 주

OUR WEEKLY PRAYER LIST

To be added in the weekly Prayer List, individuals must give permission for their names to be included. CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE – 732-491-2300 to add a person to the prayer list. Persons requested to be on the prayer list will remain for one month, unless requested to keep for a longer period.

Jackson Alcantara *(grandson of Lori Nielsen)*
*Lynne Angley
Christine Whalen Bender *(friend of Allison Brennan)*
John Bertelsen and family *(Brother of Amy Bertelsen-Robles)*
Linda Burr *(June Young's sister)*
Pat Byrne *(Sue Harmon's brother-in-law)*
Dorothy Canary *(aunt of Sue Harmon)*
Luis Canton *(Laurie Toth's father)*
Diane Cassidy *(Susan Kozo's cousin)*
Sophie Culton *(friend of the Reed family)*
*Mary Kay Dangremond
George Doerbecker *(friend of Kristina Scoglio)*
Hank Frank, Jr. *(Deb Teall's partner)*
Timothy Freeman *(Marie Freeman's son)*
*Judy Fuller
*Doris Gulotta
*Joey Hale *(Son of Matt and Laura Hale)*
*Margaret Hathaway
*Noah Haulenbeek
Ed Kopetz *(Betty Kopetz's brother)*
*Susan Kozo
Jetty Mailangkay *(wife of Rev. Herby Moningka)*
Dennis Maiuro (*Colleen Walker's brother-in-law)*
*Jan Margolis
Elliot Miller *(Larrie Servino's brother)*
Jean Miller *(Allison Brennan's aunt)*
*Joe Njuguna and family
Joseph Neupauer *(Marie Hoffsommer's brother)*
Alvin Newton *(Virginia Shaw's brother)*
Virginia Newton *(Virginia Shaw's mother)*
Joan Niederer *(friend of the Gunsser's)*
Jeff Rubin *(friend of June Keehbler)*
*Dave Ryder
Angela Sampoli *(friend of Dawn Adam)*
*Sanger Family
Katie Strittmatter *(friend of Kozo-Mollison family)*
Art Wegg
Bud Wilson *(friend of Niall Corbalis)*
Janice Wojcik *(sister of Karen Keithler)*
David Wong
*Lynn Hendricks Wong

Names highlighted in boldface were recently added
*Members of the church

PASTORAL CARE: If you or a family member is in the hospital, please contact Dr. Rev. Fred Garry at (315) 771-3590 or Rev. Khayla J. Henry at (843) 312-7288. **Hospitals no longer contact clergy when a parishioner is admitted.** We are more than ready and glad to visit. Please contact us even if it is to pray for you. You can also call the church office (732) 491-2300 during office hours.

FOR THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY:
Jeremy B., US Air Force, Stationed in Arkansas *(Son of Andrene Pennix's co-worker)*
PFC Daniel Eide, stationed at Fort Huachuca, Arizona *(grandson of Mary Ann Eide)*
David Garry, Coast Guard Cutter Bear, Philadelphia, PA *(Son of Fred & Kathy Garry)*
MSgt. David Hansen, USAF *(Son of Elaine Hansen)*
MC1 Kevin Leitner, U.S. Navy, On deployment from 6 to 9 months *(Sue Harmon's cousin)*
Lt. Cmdr. Krista Marquard, U.S. Public Health Service, Chicago, IL *(Bill & Susan Marquard's daughter-in-law)*
Lt. Col. Matthew McQueeney, USAF, Commander, Kadena AFB, Okinawa *(Son/Stepson of Amy & Pete Bellisano)*
LT John Alexander Petr, U. S. Navy, San Diego, CA *(Pennix Family friend)*
Mark Robinson, 82nd Airborne Division, deployed *(son of Steve and Moggie Davis's friend)*
*CPT Bradley Shaver, U. S. Army , Ft. Carson, CO *(Brother/Son of Greg and Julie Walton Shaver)*
CPT Julia Harris Switzer, MD USAF *(Granddaughter of Grace Hammesfahr)*
Petty Officer 1st Class Mason Weingarten, Coast Guard *(Bill & Susan Marquard's grandnephew)*

THIS WEEK

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:
Monday to Thursday, 9:00 am to 2:00 pm
And by appointment for other times

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15
Worship Service - Sanctuary and Virtual . . . . . 9:30 a.m.
Confirmation Class – Senior High Room . . . . . 10:30 a.m.
Capital Campaign Celebration – Social Center . . . 10:30 a.m.
Indonesian Worship Service – Sanctuary . . . . . Noon

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16
DBSA Support Group – Chapel . . . . . 7:30 – 9:00 p.m.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17
Carol Choir – Choir Room . . . . . 4:00 - 4:30 p.m.
Meeting of the Presbytery of the Coastlands
Social Center/Sanctuary . . . . . 4:00 – 9:00 p.m.
Social Justice Meeting – PW Lounge . . . . . .7:30 p.m.
Support Group – Chapel. . . . . 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18
Pastoral Bible Study – PW Lounge . . . . . 10:30 a.m.
Westminster Choir – Choir Room . . . . . 6:30 - 7:00 p.m.
Trinity Ringers – Bell Loft . . . . . 7:00 - 7:30 p.m.
Finance Commission – Office Conf. Rm/Zoom . . . . 7:00 p.m.
Prayer Shawl Circle – Session Room . . . . . .7:00 p.m.
Youth Group Friendsgiving – Dining Room . . . . . 7:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19
Junior Choir – Choir Room . . . . . .4:15 - 5:00 p.m.
Joy Ringers – Bell Loft . . . . . .5:00 - 5:30 p.m.
Junior Club – GLOW Room . . . . . .5:30 - 6:15 p.m.
Support Group – Chapel . . . . . .6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
Covenant Ringers – Bell Loft . . . . . 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Senior Choir – Choir Room . . . . . 8:00 – 9:30 p.m.
Stargazing – Ball Field . . . . . 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20
Women's AA Support Grp – Chapel . . . . . 7:30 – 8:30 p.m.

FULL CHURCH CALENDAR ONLINE:
Scan the QR code or visit our website
https://bit.ly/4emWby6

COMING SOON

Nov 21 Mission Volunteer Day – Auditorium – 9:00 a.m.
Nov 22 Advent Family Workshop – GLOW Room - 10:30 a.m.
Nov 23 Thanksgiving Packing – Auditorium – 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.
Nov 24 Thanksgiving Basket Distribution – 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.

TREASURER'S TWO CENTS

Offerings & Gifts Received November 8

Pledge	$ 8,862
Non-pledge	$ 801
Cash	$ 221
Other funds	$ 166
TOTAL:	**$10,050**

OTHER RECEIPTS $850
(Parking & Building Rental)

HERE ARE WAYS YOU CAN GIVE:

Direct Cash or check in the plate are always welcome!
Online From our website **fpcweb.org/give**, click on the ***Give Online*** button. This will redirect you to the Vanco app to set up your donation.

Thank you for your generous support!

CHURCH STAFF:

Senior Pastor/Head of Staff Rev. Dr. Fred G. Garry
Associate Pastor Rev. Khayla J. Henry
Pastor Emeritus Rev. Robert A. Beringer
Parish Associate Rev. Dr. Glory J. Thomas
Indonesian Pastoral Supply Rev. Leksmana Leonard
Director of Music Ministries Jordan Klotz
Minister of Music Emeritus Brenda Arnold Day
Director for Christian Education Nancy Leardi

Our Hope *for* Years to Come

Celebration Sunday!

Today, we celebrate the **goodness of God!**
We celebrate the **strength of our congregation!**
We celebrate the **dedication of our community!**

Please join us for a special celebration after worship in the Social Center Dining Room as we recognize the progress of "Our Hope for Years to Come," honor the faithfulness of the early commitments that have been made, and praise God for His many gifts! Add: delicious buffet, goodies for kids, etc.

Questions? Please reach out to our campaign chairs or the church office. Our goal is that every member feels fully informed.

Don't forget to look for the "Making Room" video series, featuring interviews about our project. For more information, scan the QR code or visit fpcweb.org/capital-campaign/



The Advent Angel Trees are here!
Look for them in the Chapel or Social Center lobby. The instructions are simple:

- Choose an angel(s). Please note of the gender of the recipient (F for female; M for male).
- Dolls and cars/trucks are for children 4 years old.
- Wrap gifts or place in gift bags, and return with the Advent Angel SECURELY attached to the wrapped gift or gift bag.
- **Return your gift(s) to the Angel Tree no later than 9:30 am, Sunday, December 13.**

Our Deacons will deliver the gifts to arrive in time for Christmas!



This year's Holly Fair has been re-imagined giving everyone, including families, an enjoyable time to shop for yourself and others, or simply get into the holiday spirit. Take a picture with Santa, enjoy Christmas crafts, or warm up to some hot chocolate!



Calling All Bakers!

We invite you to donate your baked sweets for the PW Holly Fair on Saturday, December 5! Sign up during Coffee Hour and pick up your FREE baker's boxes. You may drop off your baked goods between December 1-3 to the Social Center kitchen marked "PW."

Questions? Contact Cindy O'Neill or Deb Teall.





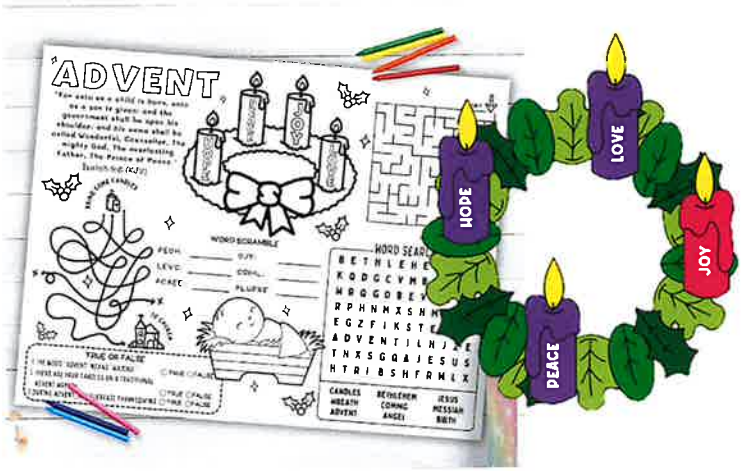
Explore the night sky with telescopic views of the Moon and Saturn. Local amateur astronomers will set up telescopes in the Ball Field of the Social Center. Drop by between 7:00-9:00 pm for some amazing views.

As we look forward to the coming of Advent, mark your calendars for the following:

Advent Family Workshop
November 22, 10:30 am in the GLOW Room
Join your church family in the GLOW Room to paint and make an ornament and create an advent craft to bring home. All are welcome! Take home is available as well.



Supported by Princeton Theological Seminary, the **Crossroads Project** offers a welcoming fellowship designed to explore how children with autism experience and express their faith. Open to anyone, this initiative invites participants to learn directly from neurodivergent perspectives and foster more inclusive spiritual communities.



Poinsettia orders. Help us prepare the sanctuary in time for Lessons and Carols with your poinsettia orders while honoring your loved ones.

Luminary orders. Initiated by our Deacons as a fundraiser, the luminaries and votives will brighten our walkways and shine through the night on Christmas eve. Loved ones will also be honored with your orders.

Look for the order forms for the poinsettias and luminaries in the Narthex.