



SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SEPTEMBER 13, 2026

Preparation for Worship

Apprehend God in all things, for God is in all things. Every single creature is full of God and is a book about God. Every creature is a word of God.

— Meister Eckhart

Voluntary

Praeludium in F Major

Vincent Lübeck
(1654-1740)

Greeting

Please sign and pass the friendship folder.

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Introit

Ring Out Your Joy to the Lord!

Clark Kimberling
(b. 1942)

Ring out your joy to the Lord!
Praise is fitting for loyal hearts.

Adapt. Psalm 33:1

✠ Call to Worship

Creator of the cosmos, of eternity and time:

Be with us in this time.

Savior of the world, healer of the nations:

Be with us in this place.

Breath of all that lives, of people near and far:

Stir within our lives.

Maker-Spirit-Son,

God of here and now:

Be present in our worship,

that we may find new ways to be present in your world.

✠ Hymn 301 [\(see page 10\)](#)

Let Us Build a House

TWO OAKS

✠ Prayer of Confession

Nurturing God,
like a hen gathers her brood under her wings,
you desire to gather your children.
But division and disagreement plague us.
We cling to rigid certainties,
approach each other in arrogance,
and fail to listen.
We walk away from conflict,
rather than working through it.
Forgive us, Holy God.
Help us grow in faith, mature in relationship,
and be transformed through your steadfast love.

silent prayer

✠ Response

You are the Lord, giv-er of mer-cy!

You are the Christ, giv-er of mer-cy!

You are the Lord, giv-er of mer-cy!

TEXT: Traditional liturgical text; revised in *The Worshipbook*, © 1970 The Westminster Press
MUSIC: Appalachian folk melody; arranged by Richard D. Wetzel, © 1972 The Westminster Press

WAYFARING STRANGER
9.9.9

✦ Declaration of Forgiveness

Believe the good news. **In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.**

✦ Response

Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther, and to the

Son, and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the be -

gin - ning, is now, and ev - er shall be,

world with - out end. A - men, a - men.

✦ The Peace

Peace be with you. **Peace be with all.**

Conversation with Children

*Afterwards, Children's Chapel meets in Room 203.
Infants - Age 4 may go to the Nursery in Room 106.*

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading

Romans 14:1-13

N. T. pg. 163

Holy wisdom, holy word. **Thanks be to God.**

Anthem

Lead Me Lord

Will Todd
(b. 1970)

Lead me, Lord, in your righteousness.
Make your Way clear before my face.
Only my Lord brings me safety
So lead me, Lord.

Adapt. Psalm 5

Sermon

When We Cannot Agree

Keatan King

silence and stillness✠ Hymn 445 ([see page 12](#))*God, How Can We Forgive*

LEONI

✠ Affirmation of Faith

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God the Father Almighty,
 Maker of heaven and earth,
 and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;
 who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
 born of the Virgin Mary,
 suffered under Pontius Pilate,
 was crucified, dead, and buried;
 he descended into hell;
 the third day he rose again from the dead;
 he ascended into heaven,
 and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
 from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost;
 the holy catholic Church;
 the communion of saints;
 the forgiveness of sins;
 the resurrection of the body;
 and the life everlasting.

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

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 forever. Amen.

Offering

Offertory

*Lord God of Abraham*Felix Mendelssohn
(1809-1847)

Lord God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel!
 This day let it be known that Thou art God;
 And that I am Thy servant!
 Lord God of Abraham!

O shew to all this people
 That I have done these things according to Thy word!
 O hear me, Lord, and answer me,
 Lord God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel!

O hear me and answer me;
And shew this people that Thou art Lord God;
And let their hearts again be turned!

Adapt. 1 Kings 18:36-37

✦ Prayer of Thanksgiving

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We offer you praise, dear God,
and hearts lifted high.
**In the communion of your love,
Christ comes close to us
and we come close to Christ;
keep us near to Christ until we meet again. Amen.**

✦ Hymn 692 [\(page 13\)](#)

Spirit, Open My Heart

WILD MOUNTAIN THYME

✦ Charge and Blessing

Please be seated in silence for the closing voluntary, or kindly depart quietly.

Voluntary

Komm, Gott Schöpfer, Heiliger Geist
BWV 667

Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685-1750)

SERVING TODAY

Pastors

Keatan King | Omar Rouchon

Liturgist

Anne Wilson

Musicians

Matthew Dirst, organist | Cathy Patterson, handbells | St. Philip Choir | Tessa Larson, soloist
David Le, baritone | Justin Langham, director of music

FLOWERS

The flowers are given by Melissa Aldrich and family to the glory of God and in memory of Guy Franklin Aldrich III.

WORSHIP NOTES

Today's readings and prayers are borrowed from various sources such as:

- Exodus 14:19-31 — *At the sea, God delivers the Israelites from the Egyptian army.*
- Psalm 114 — *The earth shakes and the sea retreats in the presence of the Lord.*
- Exodus 15:1b-11, 20-21 — *Moses and Miriam sing praise to God, who has delivered them.*
- Genesis 50:15-21 — *Joseph's brothers seek forgiveness; God turned their evil to good.*
- Psalm 103:(1-7) 8-13 — *Bless the Lord, who is gracious and merciful, forgiving our sin.*
- Romans 14:1-12 — *Refrain from judgment; whether we live or die, we are the Lord's.*
- Matthew 18:21-35 — *A lesson in forgiveness from a parable about debts and debtors.*

SABBATICAL NOTES:

John Wurster is on a sabbatical through November 9. Guided by the phrase attributed to Augustine, "It is solved by walking," John is reflecting on a series of scripture passages as part of his daily walking regimen over these three months. You are invited to join him in engaging the biblical texts through the weeks. The passage for the week of September 14 is **Mark 10:32** — They were on the road, going up to Jerusalem, and Jesus was *walking* ahead of them; they were amazed, and those who followed were afraid. He took the twelve aside again and began to tell them what was to happen to him.

MUSIC NOTES

Vincent Lübeck served for nearly forty years as organist and composer at the Nikolaikirche in Hamburg, where he presided over one of the finest and largest instruments in North Germany. His organ *praeludia* follow the model established by Buxtehude and other contemporaries in their alternation of brief rhapsodic and more strictly composed sections. The **Praeludium in F Major** begins with alternating passagework for the hands and feet, which, after a series of interconnected ideas, resolves into a short but spirited fugue.

Clark Kimberling is an Illinois-based composer and mathematician, who has served as mathematics professor at the University of Evansville since 1970. Today's **introit** comes from his collection of short pieces for choir and bells, adapting the opening verse of Psalm 33 in a modal and unmetered choral fanfare.

English composer Will Todd has established a reputation as a composer equally at home across a wide range of styles and genres. Originally written for a school choir, Todd's short and tender "**Lead Me Lord**" exemplifies his engaging and accessible compositional voice, combining colorful harmonies with expressive melodicism. These

qualities reflect the influence of his formative studies in both jazz and the English choral tradition.

Composed in 1846, Mendelssohn's oratorio *Elijah* recounts the biblical story found in 1 Kings 18. Our **offertory**, one of the work's most well-known arias, is sung by the prophet Elijah as he prays on Mount Carmel, asking God to reveal Himself to the Israelites and demonstrate that He alone is the true Lord.

Bach's setting of *Komm, Gott Schöpfer, heiliger Geist* (Martin Luther's paraphrase of the Latin sequence for Pentecost, "Veni, Sancta Spiritus") comes from his collection of 18 "Leipzig" Chorales, collected late during his tenure in that city. Bach sets two verses of the chorale in triple meter, the first featuring the tune in the top of the musical texture, with busy figuration in the inner voices and regular third-beat punctuations in the pedal. Following a seamless transition to a second verse, the chorale melody sounds in long pedal notes, which are accompanied by busy figuration in the manuals above.

— Notes by Matthew Dirst & Justin Langham

IN OUR PRAYERS

Doy Cole and family upon the death of his wife, SuzAnne Cole, who died on September 5.

St. Philippians and their families — Sondra Sullivan; Angelina Fonseca-Grewal; John Bobbitt; Molly Boren; Charlotte Kibler; Laney Miller; Laurie Sims; Jan Meyer; Emily Estill; Arlette Keene; Joy Maguire; Bonnie Moore; Bob Ardell; Diane Clarke; Mary Herlitz; Eleanor Grant; Don Padgett; Arlette Keene; Mezgebe Gebray; Ada & Bob Austin — parents of Nina Lambright; Barbara Torpy — sister of Gary Willis; Bill Davis — brother of Meg Scott-Johnson; Lara Bain — niece of Jo Helland; Jonathan Castro — brother of David Castro; Jo Hadley Smith — cousin of William Rowe; Katie Forbes — daughter of Marise Robbins-Forbes; Ann Perenyi — mother of Lad Perenyi; Suzanne Frazier & Ann Perkins Cloud — cousins of Stephen Paine.

Homebound — Elizabeth Arp; Beverly Baker; Joan Boelens; Joe Harwood; Kathryn Harwood; Arlette Keene; Jan Ostendorf; Joyce Randolph; Larraine Scott; and Mary Sinderson.

Friends of St. Philippians — Camilo Triana — uncle of Jésus Toribio; Austin Miller — friend of Charles Swan; Christiane Richter — friend of Roderick James; Ann Swanson — friend of Deborah Unruh; Tanya Voinche & Sidney Roach — friends of Stephen Paine; Keith Kirby, Tandi Porter, Audrey Eubank Harris, Jay Stokes & Anna Domonte — friends of Curt & Sharon Webb; Marianne Hash — friend of Jane Cooper; Kenneth & Donna Benton — friends of William Rowe; Patty Ryan & Tom Barnett — friends of Robin & Gary Willis; and Shirley Stubblefield — friend of Barbara Runge.

If you have a pastoral care need or a prayer request you would like to share, please email: deacons@saintphilip.net

Prayer List is a powerful tool for bringing comfort, healing, and peace to those in need. So, let's keep it up to date and continue to lift up our brothers and sisters in prayer.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Cover art by Diana Weiss.

The Call to Worship and Prayer of Thanksgiving are adapted from *the Iona Abbey Worship Book* (Wild Goose Publications: Glasgow, 2001).

The Prayer of Confession is written by Teri McDowell Ott and published for free distribution by *the Presbyterian Outlook*, 2026

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NURSERY CARE IS AVAILABLE THROUGHOUT SUNDAY MORNINGS

9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Infants to age 4 are invited to our Nursery which is staffed by professional childcare providers. Please find that our Nursery is located in the hallway off of the Gathering Area. An usher or a greeter will be happy to direct you there.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FOR ALL AGES

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES START AT 9:45 AM UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

GODLY PLAY—Ages 3—Kindergarten—Room 103—led by Ruthie Waldrop, Omi Ford, Joyce Fox, and Jane Cooper

CHILDREN: Grades 1-4—Room 206—Jon Martin and Olga Piskor

YOUTH—Grades 5-12—Room 205—Keatan King

ADULT BIBLE STUDY—ROOM 204—Al Waldrop—We are studying Isaiah in Volume 2, *Prophets*, in Dr. Robert Alter's *The Hebrew Bible: A Translation with Commentary* (2019). Join us as we seek to deepen our understanding of God's faithfulness to all God's people. All are welcome.

CHURCH & SOCIETY—ROOM 201—Ken Meyers, John Hartman, Ken Fountain, Denise Wilborn, Judy Hartman—Join us from **9:30–10:40 AM** with presentations in person and by Zoom. **Sept. 20**—Issues and Opportunities Facing Houston presented by Alejandra Salinas, Houston City Council, and St. Philip member. Alejandra is a third-generation Texan and nationally recognized attorney who is proud to call Houston home. Elected in December 2025, she is the first openly LGBTQ+ Latina ever elected to Houston City Council and the first Latina elected citywide in nearly 30 years. If you would like the Zoom link for the classes, email: jshartman01@gmail.com.

CHILDREN'S CHAPEL—In the Children's Chapel, our young disciples learn the whos, whats, wheres, whens and whys of worship in the chapel, while also praying, seeing and hearing God's word at an age-appropriate level. Children return to join the congregation in the first few pews on the lectern side of the church for the last hymn. The Children's Chapel is held every 2nd and 4th Sunday when we have Sunday School classes. Children are able to participate in this during the worship service.

ST PHILIP DURING THE WEEK

SOCIAL JUSTICE STUDY GROUP—Please join us for our next book discussion on Monday, **Oct. 5**, 7-8 p.m. zoom. A review of Matthew Desmond's *Poverty, by America* will be led by Keatan King. This book is available anywhere you buy your books. It is a very readable, concisely written treatise by a Pulitzer Prize winner, a contributing writer to The New York Times. Do mark your calendars; a zoom link will be sent out the day before to those who want to participate. Contact Sara Jean Jackson at sjj10223@gmail.com.

WOMEN'S MONTHLY BOOK CLUB—This self-led, interactive group produces lively discussions and wonderful fellowship. The next meeting is **Oct. 8** at 7:00 PM they will be discussing *The Correspondent* by Virginia Evans. Watch your email for details about location. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Nina Lambright at: nnl@lambrightlaw.com.

PRESBYTERIAN MEN'S WEEKLY FELLOWSHIP—**Returns Sept. 25**—Men of all ages are welcome to participate in this self-led group. The Men's Weekly Fellowship meets each Friday in person in the office Conference Room and via Zoom at 11:45 AM We are discussing *Short Stories by Jesus* by Amy-Jill Levine. If you would like to join them please contact Gary Gardner at: ggardne148@aol.com.

MIDWEEK BIBLE STUDY—Wednesday Bible study with the pastor of the week meets weekly at 9:30 AM, and is a hybrid format with an in-person option in the Office Conference Room and also a Zoom option. Bible novices, Bible experts, and everyone in between is welcome! To get on the list for the Zoom links, send a note to: welcome@saintphilip.net

ST. PHILIP DAY SCHOOL CALL TO SERVICE DAY

Sat. **Sept. 26** from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.

The day will consist of putting together 2 infant cubbies, hanging shelves, and additional TO DO LIST items. If you would like to help, contact Candice at director@stphilipdayschool.org

ST. PHILIP'S MUSIC MINISTRY
CHILDREN'S MUSIC
 SUNDAYS, OCTOBER 4 THROUGH DECEMBER 13
 9 TO 9:40 AM, CHILDREN'S CHAPEL
 FOR AGES 5 THROUGH 5TH GRADE
 Singing, Movement, Percussion, & More!
 Register your child through SAINTPHILIP.NET



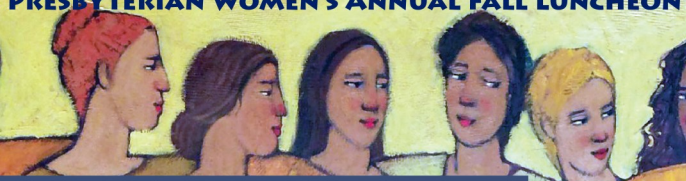
CHECK YOUR VOTER REGISTRATION STATUS EARLY! AND OFTEN!

Start making your plan to vote in the November 3, 2026 midterms TODAY! Check your voter registration status to make sure you are still on the rolls. Check on your status often between now and November 3rd. Voters are being suspended for various reasons. One common reason is change of address. There are several avenues to check your status:

<https://www.vote411.org/check-registration>
<https://texasimpact.org/action-center/#elections>

You can also search through the data base of the county you live in and are registered to vote in. Or if you have moved go to that county's website to find out how to register. This link to the Texas League of Women's Voters can direct you to your county:
https://lwvtexas.org/content.aspx?page_id=22&club_id=979482&module_id=469611#gsc.tab=0

Good Hope Missionary Baptist Church
 3015 N MacGregor Way, Houston, TX 77004
 Carpool after church? Contact Denise Wilborn at
dwilborn55@gmail.com

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S ANNUAL FALL LUNCHEON

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20 | 12:15 PM
[FELLOWSHIP HALL] KEATAN KING, LEADS 1ST LESSON
PLEASE RSVP BY SEPT. 14
BUA'S BISTRO LUNCH: \$15 EACH



Y'ALL ARE INVITED

If you are curious about what we do, what issues we strive to address, or what relationships we are making along the way, please just show up.

Peacemaking and Social Justice Committee

Monthly Meeting – **TODAY**

Immediately after Worship, Room 205

Denise Wilborn, Chair, dwilborn55@gmail.com

CHECK YOUR VOTERS REGISTRATION!

vote411.org/check-registration

MAKE YOUR VOTING PLAN NOW.

BRING A FRIEND!!

2026 General Election Key Dates

5 OCT	Last day to register to vote or update your registration
19 OCT	First day to vote early in person
23 OCT	Last day for Vote by Mail ballot application to be received
30 OCT	Last day to vote early in person
3 NOV	Election Day and last day for Vote by Mail ballot to be received

VOTE 411 **LWV** LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TEXAS

Sponsored by **★ TEXAS IMPACT** PEOPLE OF FAITH WORKING FOR JUSTICE
 Hosted by **GOOD HOPE** MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

READY. SET. VOTE!

VOTER ENGAGEMENT EVENT for the 2026 Midterms and Beyond!

Elections ▪ Immigration ▪ Education ▪ Democracy
Women's Health ▪ Climate ▪ Gun Violence Prevention

Join faith leaders and community members from across Houston for a day of learning, connection, and civic action

SUN, SEPT. 27 **2 PM – 5 PM** Good Hope Missionary Baptist Church

Event is free. Registration required.
txfaith.org/RSVHouston

SCAN 

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF HOUSTON
 CHRIST THE KING CHURCH
 CONVENT CHURCH
 CONGREGATION EMANU EL
 ST. JAMES MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH
 UCM
 HOUSTON FAITH VOICES
 RESURRECTION
 WOMEN RESOURCE CENTER
 ST. PHILIP
 UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH



[GUEST BOOK]

Welcome to Worship at St. Philip

Please register your attendance by scanning the QR code or by visiting the Guest Book tab at saintphilip.net.

AS FOLLOWERS OF JESUS CHRIST,

we seek to be an inclusive,
 grace-filled community,
 engaging the world with open minds,
 willing hands and generous hearts.

WE LONG

for deeper faith,
 vibrant hope
 and boundless love
 for everyone, every day, everywhere.

Thank you for joining us today! We hope that you find our worship together to be joyous, meaningful, and thought-provoking. **Children of all ages** are welcome to worship with their families. Activity bags containing worship aids for children are available in the Narthex on the way into the Sanctuary. Resources such as noise-dampening headphones and fidget tools for our neurodivergent neighbors and anyone needing sensory support can be found there too.

Nursery care is available throughout the morning from 8:30 AM – 12:30 PM. Infants to age 4 are invited to our Nursery which is staffed by professional childcare providers. Please find our Nursery has returned to the Education Bldg. and can be accessed from the hall off the Gathering Area on the first floor. An usher or a greeter will be happy to direct you there.

A **Hearing Loop** is installed within the sanctuary. If you have a hearing aid equipped with a telecoil, please activate your "T switch" to hear the worship service most clearly. If you need assistance with hearing the service clearly and do not have a t-coil equipped hearing aid, please ask an usher for wireless headphones.

LARGE PRINT COPIES OF TODAY'S BULLETINS ARE IN THE NARTHEX.

Contributions, pledge payments, communion gifts and other donations to support the Church can be made anytime through our website, or sent to the Church Office at 4807 San Felipe, Houston, TX 77056.



[MAKE A CONTRIBUTION]



I Give Electronically – in response to parents' hopes that their children might be able to see their ongoing commitment to St. Philip and with the intent to better represent the totality of our giving as a congregation, we have available in the pews giving cards that can be placed in the offering plate by our electronic givers.

Connect with St. Philip through saintphilip.net and our social media. To join our e-mail list for regular news updates, send a note to lorrie@saintphilip.net.

If you are interested in joining St. Philip Presbyterian Church by profession of faith, by reaffirming your faith, or by transferring your membership, please speak with one of the ministers today or call the church office during the week. **The Session meets the third Sunday of each month after the 11:00 worship service in Room 100 for the purpose of receiving new members.**

Worship with us, whenever, wherever. Our 11:00 AM Sunday service is live-streamed at saintphilip.net. Services can be viewed live or later in our video archives.

Lost & Found – did you leave a pair of glasses, umbrella, or other item during worship? There is a canvas basket in the Library where these items may be found. Jewelry, phones and more valuable items are turned into Lorrie Castle in the Church Office, lorrie@saintphilip.net or 713-622-4807.

Nametags – Please wear your nametags not just in the sanctuary, but as you socialize before and after worship and at other events. To make it easier, if you don't want to bring your nametag home, there are labeled wicker BASKETS by several exit doors for you to return your nametag at the last possible moment! Those returned tags will be replaced on the boards in the narthex before the following Sunday morning. Visitor nametags are available in the pews and from an usher.

St. Philip Day School is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to providing high-quality childcare at no cost to low-income families. (www.stphilipdayschool.org) To support the school, **please make all contributions payable directly to St. Philip Day School** or visit their website for online donations. You are welcome to leave in the church offering plate or mail to St. Philip Day School, 4807 San Felipe, Houston, 77056. If you have any questions, please email: Director@stphilipdayschool.org.

301 Let Us Build a House

All Are Welcome

Capo 3: (A7) (D) (A) (D) (G) (A) (Bm)
C7 F C F B^b C Dm



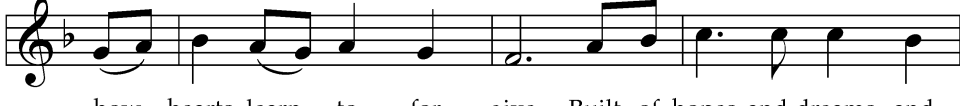
1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can
2 Let us build a house where proph - ets speak, and words are
3 Let us build a house where love is found in wa - ter,
4 Let us build a house where hands will reach be - yond the
5 Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and

(D) (A) (D) (Bm7) (Em) (A)
F C F Dm7 Gm C



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

(Em) (A7) (G) (D) (F#m) (Bm)
Gm C7 B^b F Am Dm



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

(Em) (A) (D) (G)
Gm C F B^b



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

Although it was written for a church dedication, this text is not about a physical structure but a spiritual one. The building is at best only a vessel for the essential love and hope, life and faith, peace and justice, hospitality and nurture that form the worshipping community.

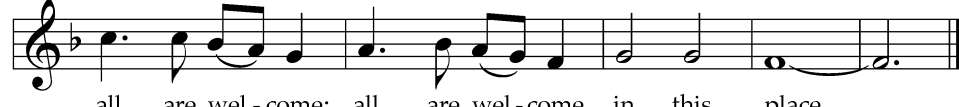
Refrain

(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:

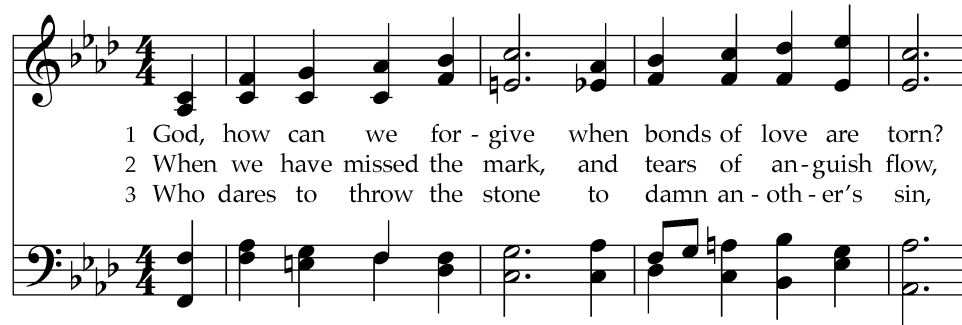
(F#m) (Em) (D) (Em) (A7) (D) (G) (D)
Am Gm F Gm C7 F B $\flat$ F



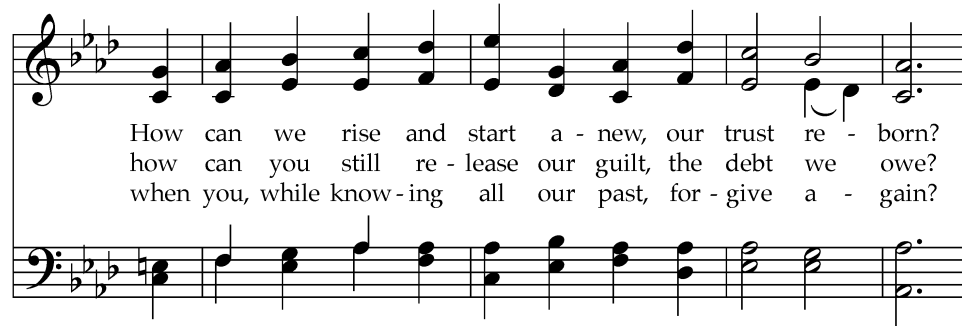
all are wel - come; all are wel - come in this place.

[Return to page 2](#)

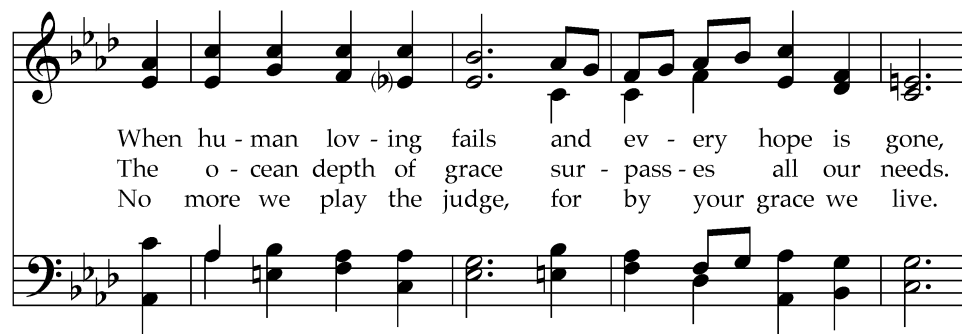
445 God, How Can We Forgive



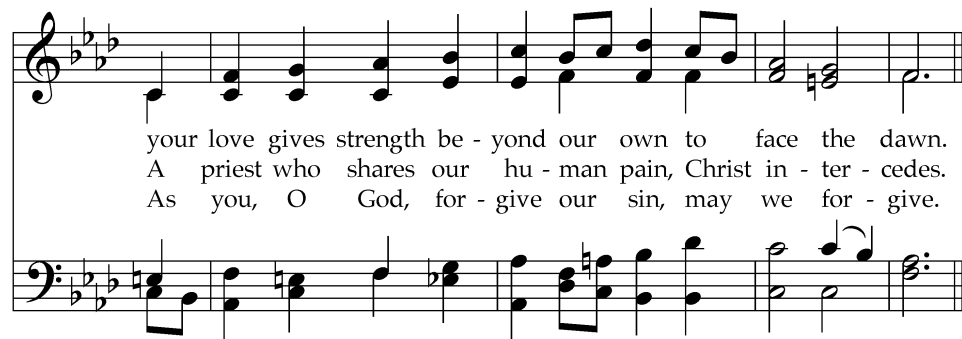
1 God, how can we for - give when bonds of love are torn?
 2 When we have missed the mark, and tears of an - guish flow,
 3 Who dares to throw the stone to damn an - oth - er's sin,



How can we rise and start a - new, our trust re - born?
 how can you still re - lease our guilt, the debt we owe?
 when you, while know - ing all our past, for - give a - gain?



When hu - man lov - ing fails and ev - ery hope is gone,
 The o - cean depth of grace sur - pass - es all our needs.
 No more we play the judge, for by your grace we live.



your love gives strength be - yond our own to face the dawn.
 A priest who shares our hu - man pain, Christ in - ter - cedes.
 As you, O God, for - give our sin, may we for - give.

This text reflects both the struggle to deal with a deep personal hurt and a keen awareness of biblical language and content. The opening line of stanza two, for example, draws on the root meaning of the Greek word for sin, and the beginning of stanza three alludes to John 8:3-8.

TEXT: Ruth Duck, 1994
 MUSIC: Jewish melody, 17th cent.; adapt. Meyer Lyon and Thomas Olivers, 1770
 Text © 1996 The Pilgrim Press

LEONI
 6.6.8.4.D

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692 Spirit, Open My Heart

Capo 3: (D) (G) (D) (G) (A7)
F B $\flat$ F B $\flat$ C7

Refrain

Spir - it, o - pen my heart to the joy and pain of
liv - ing. As you love may I love, in re - ceiv - ing
and in giv - ing. Spir - it, o - pen my heart.

(D) (G) (Em7) (D) (G) (D)
F B $\flat$ Gm7 F B $\flat$ F *Fine*

1 God, re - place my ston - y heart with a heart that's
2 Write your love up - on my heart as my law, my
3 May I weep with those who weep; share the joy of

(A7) (Bm) (D/A) (G) (A7)
C7 Dm F/C B $\flat$ C7

kind and ten - der. All my cold - ness and
goal, my sto - ry. In each thought, word, and
sis - ter, broth - er. In the wel - come of

(Bm) (Em7) (D) (G2) (G)
Dm Gm7 F B $\flat$ 2 B $\flat$ *to Refrain*

fear to your grace I now sur - ren - der.
deed, may my liv - ing bring you glo - ry.
Christ, may we wel - come one an - oth - er.

The pace and diversity of modern life often hinder us from remaining vulnerable to our emotions and to the humanness of other people. This prayerful text to be open to such joys and pains draws on Ezekiel 11:19 and 36:26 in stanza one and echoes Jeremiah 31:33 in stanza two.

TEXT: Ruth Duck, 1994
MUSIC: Irish melody; arr. Alfred V. Fedak, 2011
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WILD MOUNTAIN THYME
Irregular

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