

The United Methodist Church at Absecon

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A God Who Pursues

August 9, 2026

Today's Lay Reader: Melissa Wilson

Welcome

Call to Worship

Leader: Ascribe to the Lord the glory of his name;

People: worship the Lord in holy splendor.

Leader: The voice of the Lord is over the waters;

People: the God of glory thunders; the voice of the Lord is mighty over the waters.

Leader: The voice of the Lord is powerful;

People: the voice of the Lord is full of majesty.

Hymn

God of the Ages

(verses 1, 2, and 4)

Trumpets, before each stanza

1. God of the a - ges, whose al-might-y hand
 2. Thy love di - vine hath led us in the past;
 3. From war's a-larms, from dead-ly pes-ti - lence,
 4. Re-fresh thy peo - ple on their toil-some way;

leads forth in beau - ty all the star - ry band
 in this free land with thee our lot is cast;
 be thy strong arm our ev - er sure de - fense;
 lead us from night to nev - er - end - ing day;

of shin - ing worlds in splen - dor through the skies,
 be thou our rul - er, guard - ian, guide, and stay,
 thy true re - li - gion in our hearts in - crease;
 fill all our lives with love and grace di - vine,

our grate - ful songs be - fore thy throne a - rise.
 thy Word our law, thy paths our cho - sen way.
 thy boun - teous good - ness nour - ish us in peace.
 and glo - ry, laud, and praise be ev - er thine.

Opening Prayer

It's your voice we long for this morning, Lord, thundering into our lives, mighty and powerful. The voice of wisdom instructing us, the voice of justice inspiring us, the voice of hope encouraging us, the voice of love calling us home.

Give us ears to hear this morning, we pray this in Jesus' name, Amen.

Morning Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Chorus

In Moments Like These

In moments like these, I sing out a song, I sing out a love song to Jesus.
In moments like these, I lift up my hands, I lift up my hands to the Lord.
Singing I love You Lord, singing I love you Lord,
Singing I love You, Lord, I love You.

Scripture Lesson

Exodus 3:1-15

Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness and came to Mount Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight and see why the bush is not burned up." When the Lord saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." Then he said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." He said further, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

Then the Lord said, "I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and spacious land, to a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. Now go, I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt." But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" He said, "I will be with you, and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain."

But Moses said to God, "If I come to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?" God said to Moses, "I am who I am." He said further, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'I am has sent me to you.'" God also said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'The Lord, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you':

This is my name forever,
and this my title for all generations.

Leader: The Word of God for the people of God
People: **Thanks be to God**

Message

A God Who Pursues

Lisa Whitaker

Offering Ourselves and Our Gifts to God

Offertory

Prelude on "New Britain"

Peter Pindar Stearns

Doxology

Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

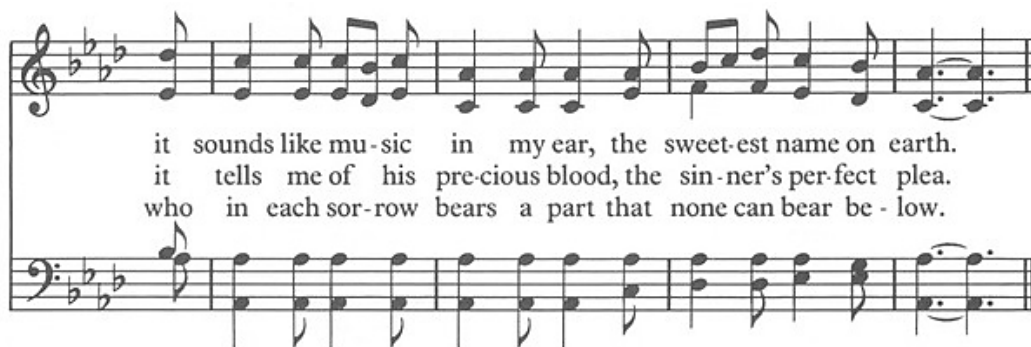


Hymn

O How I Love Jesus

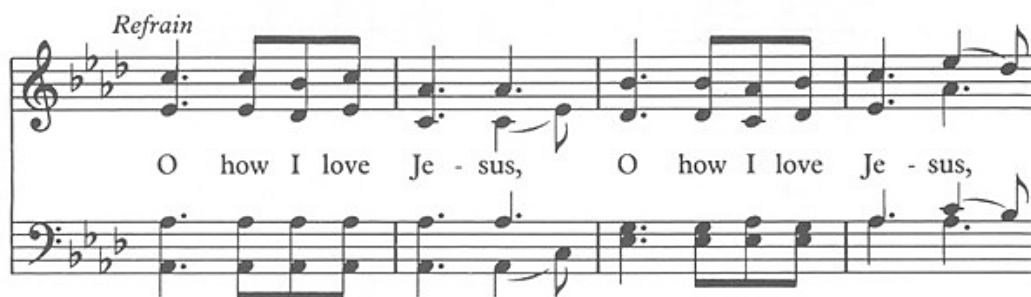
A musical score for the hymn "O How I Love Jesus". It features a treble and bass staff in 6/8 time, with a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). The melody is in the treble staff, and the bass staff provides a simple harmonic accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

1. There is a name I love to hear, I love to sing its worth;
2. It tells me of a Sav-ior's love, who died to set me free;
3. It tells of one whose lov- ing heart can feel my deep-est woe;



it sounds like mu-sic in my ear, the sweet-est name on earth.
it tells me of his pre-cious blood, the sin-ner's per-fect plea.
who in each sor-row bears a part that none can bear be-low.

Refrain



O how I love Je - sus, O how I love Je - sus,



O how I love Je - sus, be - cause he first loved me!

Benediction

Postlude

Prelude in A Minor

J. S. Bach