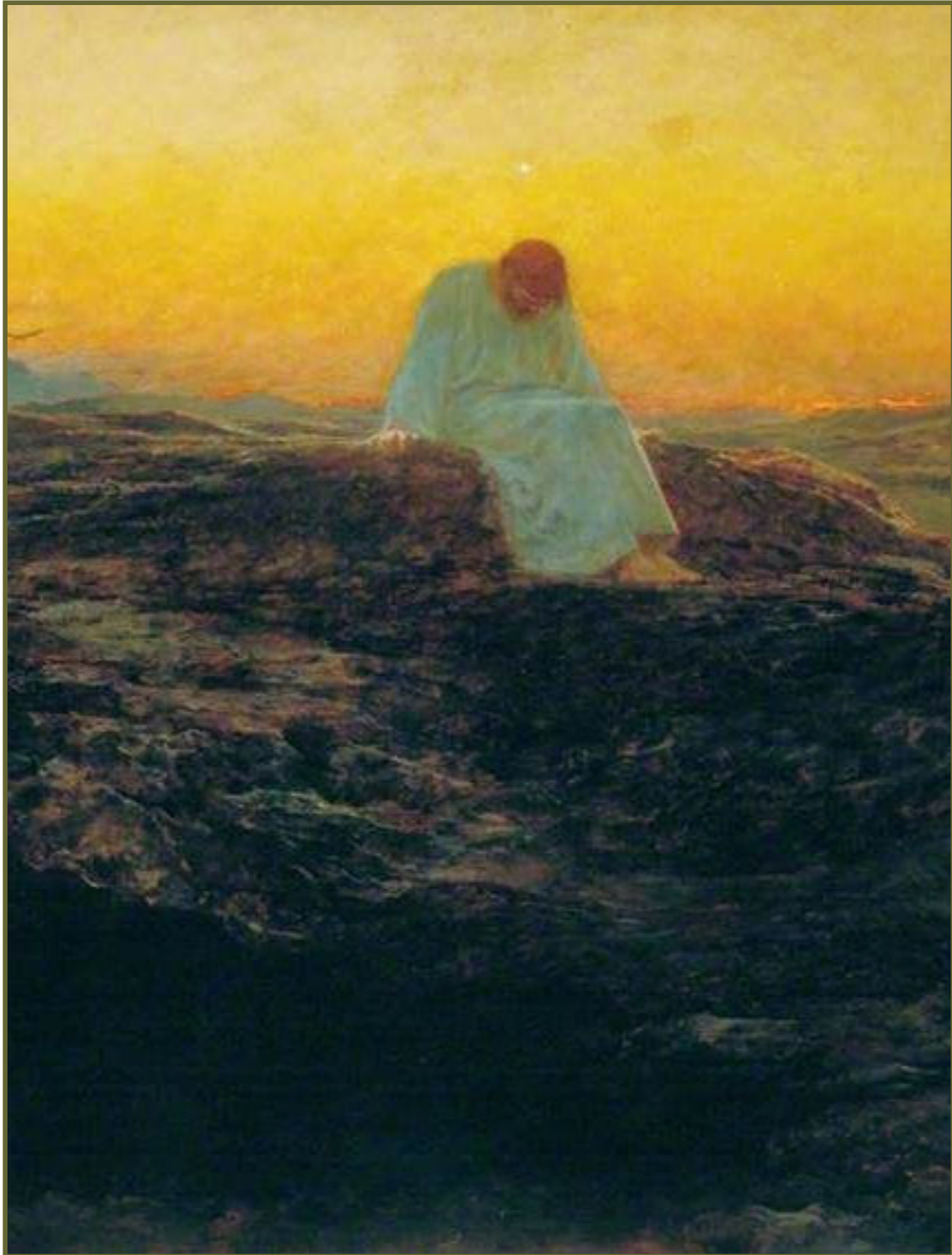


KIRK IN THE HILLS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)
9:00 A.M. GARDEN | 11:00 A.M. SANCTUARY WORSHIP
13TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST | AUGUST 23, 2026



Temptation in the Wilderness | Briton Rivière, 1840-1920 | from *Art in the Christian Tradition*, a project of the Vanderbilt University Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.



A Note from Pastor Edwin!

Welcome to worship at the Kirk in the Hills. Whether you are a long-time member, a returning friend, or a first-time visitor, we are grateful that you are here. Summer offers a unique opportunity to slow down, reconnect, and enjoy many of the gifts God has given us—time with family and friends, travel and recreation, evenings on the lake, walks through beautiful gardens, and moments of rest and renewal.

This year, as our nation commemorates the 250th anniversary of American Independence, we give thanks for the blessings of freedom while recommitting ourselves to working toward *a more perfect union, with liberty and justice for all*. As Christians, we remember that our highest allegiance is to God, whose kingdom calls us to seek the common good and love our neighbors.

Throughout the summer, our worship series, **Summer in the Psalms: Songs from the Heart of David**, invites us to pray, sing, reflect, and grow through the Bible's ancient songbook. The Psalms speak honestly about joy and sorrow, gratitude and struggle, worship and wonder, helping us discover God's presence in every season of life.

As you worship today, take in the beauty around you, the sunlight hitting the stained-glass windows just so, the gardens in bloom, the music that lifts our hearts, the prayers we offer, and the community gathered beside you. May this be a time to connect more deeply with God, with your own soul, and with the people God has placed in your life.

May you experience the Holy God today through worship and fellowship.

Join us next Sunday for **Psalm 103** and **Summer in the Psalms: The Father's Compassion**.

Let us worship God!

Rev. Dr. Edwin Estevez

Sr. Pastor | Head of Staff | Kirk in the Hills



A Note from Rev. Dr. Annemarie Kidder!

Kirk West Parish Associate

The scriptures are replete with references to wilderness. The Israelites are wandering there, prophets find refuge and solace in the vast deserted landscape, and John the Baptist chooses the wilderness as his permanent address. To speak of wilderness today suggests less of a territory than a state of mind. We say that we are bewildered, meaning we are perplexed or even confused. The wilderness may be a protracted state of disorientation, a frame of mind where the past is done and over with, while the future is still a closed book.

I often hear those talking about a wilderness experience who have recently retired or changed jobs or relocated. It's no coincidence that wilderness suggests to us that "wild" things are living and growing there. Maybe there are the proverbial wild beasts ready to attack or treacherous vines poised to tie us up. They all make us feel a bit shaken and destabilized. And we wonder how to ever gain a sure footing again.

The Psalm writers tend to grope in wilderness terrain repeatedly; and yet, they do not stay there but find a way out of the thicket of dislocation and confusion. I trust we can join them in that!

PS: The great reformer Martin Luther lived and breathed the Psalms. One of his favorites was Psalm 46, based on which I wrote new lyrics, set to the tune of Finlandia.

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

9:00 a.m. Garden Worship

PRELUDE

In the Garden

Peter Vantine

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Dr. Edwin Estevez

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 90

Rev. Rami Almaqdasi

Heavenly Father, teach us to number our days,
that we may gain wise hearts.

**The Lord is our dwelling place
throughout all generations.**

Let everything that has breath praise the Lord.

Praise the Lord!

* HYMN 298

Lord, You Give the Great Commission (*See pages 11 & 12.*) ABBOT'S LEIGH
Stanzas 1 & 5 only.

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Rami Almaqdasi

Eternal God,

Our days pass quickly

and we confess how often we fail to seek you.

We cling to what fades and neglect the treasure of your kingdom.

Forgive us for our pride, impatience, and unbelief.

By your Holy Spirit,

Teach us wisdom, deepen our trust,

And make us steadfast in faith and love;

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Lord, Have Mercy

John Merbecke



Lord, have mer-cy up-on us; Christ, have mer-cy up-on us; Lord, have mer-cy up-on us.

* ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Rev. Rami Almaqdasi

Hear the promise of the gospel:

"If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just

to forgive us our sins

and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

In Jesus Christ, we are a new creation!

Alleluia, Amen!

* ACCLAMATION OF PRAISE 581

Glory Be to the Father

GLORIA PATRI

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.

WORD

WORD WITH CHILDREN AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Lauren Clopton

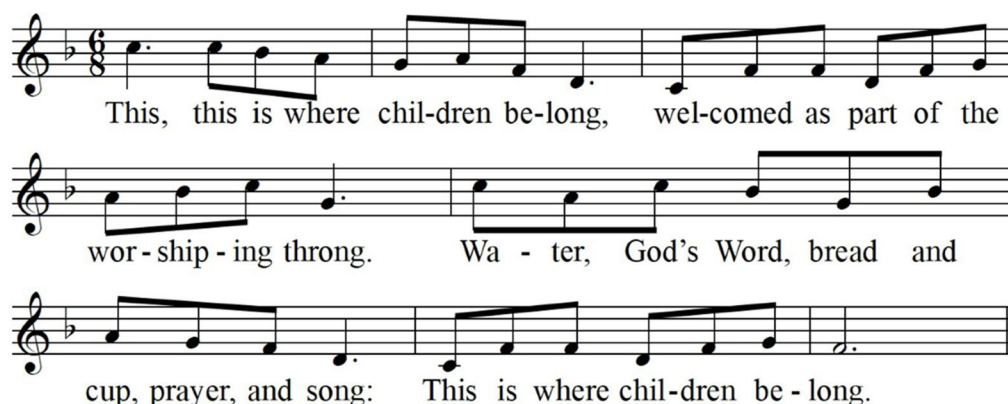
Children grade 3 through grade 8 will go to The Abbey Lounge after The Word With Children.

INVITATION HYMN

Where Children Belong

James Ritchie

Please join in singing.



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.

PRAYER

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Matthew Means

WORD

ANTHEM

Spirit of God, Unseen as the Wind *Traditional Scottish, arr. A. D. Miller*

*Spirit of God, unseen as the wind, gentle as the dove;
Touch us with love and teach us to sing joy to you, Lord above.
Your voice the sound, heard in the wind, o'er fields and hills you sing;
Now I can hear the joy, my Lord, the peace your song will bring.*

*Spirit of God...
Love in our hearts, praise in our prayers, we follow on your way;
Lord of the sky, Lord of the earth, answer us when we pray.*

Spirit of God...

(Richard M. S. Erwin, b. 1955)

SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 63

Elder Chip Tallinger

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Summer in the Psalms: Thirsty for God

Rev. Dr. Annemarie Kidder

SENDING

*** HYMN**

Be Still My Soul

FINLANDIA

*Be still, my soul, and cease the reckless striving,
give up the wish to conquer and to quell;
leave to the Lord the guiding and providing,
the claim to judge, the chances to prevail.
Let go of battles of your own devising,
and let the Lord appease your thought and will.*

*Be still, my soul, and face the haunting worries
of changing times, of turbulence and strife;
the roaring waters and the quaking mountains,
the sense of being out of step with life.
They are much smaller than you first had thought them
and smaller still when seen against God's light.*

*Be still, my soul, you are the holy dwelling,
the sanctuary of the living God,
the house built on the rock of Christ's salvation,
the new creation born of word and blood;
you have been freed from life in isolation:
you are a son and daughter of your God.*

*Be still, my soul, and cease the empty striving,
the urge for triumph and the need for gain.
Your fear of losing is but vain and idle,
the urge to cling the source of needless pain.
Be still, my soul, and learn to be abiding
in patient trust that God will never fail.
(Annemarie Kidder, 2002; from Psalm 46)*

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION *(seated)*

POSTLUDE

Praeludium XV, BWV 884

J. S. Bach

*Garden worshippers are encouraged to drop off donations in the baskets located at the Celtic Cross
near ramp or at the door to the cloister as you exit to the front patio as you depart. Please see notes on page 6.
Join us for coffee and fellowship on the patio immediately following service!*

INFORMATION ON TODAY'S SERVICES

Feeling called to join Kirk in the Hills? Mercy Adams—Kirk Member, Stephen Minister, Usher, and staff support to New Member and Evangelism and Outreach & Mission Committees is here to guide you. Meet Mercy after Sunday Worship or call her directly at 248-973-8013.

Musicians: Jamie Jurado, Courtney Jolley, Angelique Walsh, Katherine Faddol, Trinity Green, sopranos; Merideth Estevez, oboe; Jesse Ward, cantor; Marilyn and James Biery, organists.

About the Music: The composer of the Garden service prelude, Peter Vantine, is an accomplished pianist and award-winning composer whose music has been featured on stage and across media platforms including the Biography Channel, Discovery Channel, PBS, The Learning Channel, MTV, corporate websites, educational software, museum exhibits, and film. He has produced over 30 albums, both of his own work and in collaboration with others as performer, arranger, and orchestrator.

The organ music is by Sir Charles Villiers Stanford (1852 – 1924) an Anglo-Irish composer, music teacher, and conductor. Born to a well-off and musical family in Dublin, Stanford was educated at the University of Cambridge before studying music in Leipzig and Berlin. While still an undergraduate, Stanford was appointed organist of Trinity College, Cambridge. In 1882, aged 29, he was one of the founding professors of the Royal College of Music, where he taught composition for the rest of his life. Gustav Holst and Ralph Vaughan Williams both studied with Stanford. Ralph Vaughan Williams left a significant contribution to hymnody, writing and arranging many of the tunes in our hymnal, including the organ accompaniment for today's final hymn.

The anthem is based on a traditional Scottish tune, known as "The Skye Boat Song," which is a late 19th-century Scottish song adaptation of a Gaelic song written around 1782 by William Ross, entitled Cuachag nan Craobh ("Cuckoo of the Tree"). As is common with our hymnody, sacred words were written to a tune with secular roots.

Ian Callanan (born 1971) is an Irish composer of music for the Church. Influenced by Ireland's rich musical heritage, Callanan's compositions blend traditional Irish melodies with contemporary harmonies.

The text to "Search Me, O God," was written by James Edwin Orr (1912 – 1987), an Irish-born American Baptist minister, hymnwriter, professor, author and promoter of church revival and renewal. The tune MAORI was written around 1885 by David Clement Scott (1853-1907), a missionary from Scotland who served in Chi Nyanja, Africa.

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Stephen Ministers are available for personal, confidential prayer in the Garden after the 9:00 a.m. outdoor worship and in Melrose Chapel immediately following each service Sunday. If you or someone you know is in need of prayer please contact Nancy Lau at 248-835-6691. If you are interested in being connected with a Stephen Minister, please call Robin Brinks at 248-310-2034.



Camera and Phone Usage Guidelines: Out of respect for your fellow worshipers and those leading worship, we kindly ask you to silence cellphones and other communication devices and to refrain from taking photos or video during worship. Recordings of past worship services and other sanctuary events are available at kirkinthehills.org/worship/past-messages.

Deacon Flower Ministry: If you or someone you know needs a little cheering up, our Deacon flower ministry has bud vases each Sunday in the narthex. Please take a flower to remind someone of God's love or to remind yourself of the same.

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

11:00 a.m., Sanctuary

PRELUDE

Prelude (in form of a Minuet)

C. V. Stanford

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Dr. Edwin Estevez

* *Please rise in body or spirit at the ringing of the bell.*

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 90

Rev. Rami Almaqdasi

Heavenly Father, teach us to number our days,
that we may gain wise hearts.

**The Lord is our dwelling place
throughout all generations.**

Let everything that has breath praise the Lord.

Praise the Lord!

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN 298

Lord, You Give the Great Commission

ABBOT'S LEIGH

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Rami Almaqdasi

Eternal God,

Our days pass quickly

and we confess how often we fail to seek you.

We cling to what fades and neglect the treasure of your kingdom.

Forgive us for our pride, impatience, and unbelief.

By your Holy Spirit,

Teach us wisdom, deepen our trust,

And make us steadfast in faith and love;

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Lord, Have Mercy

John Merbecke



Lord, have mer-cy up-on us; Christ, have mer-cy up-on us; Lord, have mer-cy up-on us.

* ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Rev. Rami Almaqdasi

Hear the promise of the gospel:

"If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just
to forgive us our sins

and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

In Jesus Christ, we are a new creation!

Alleluia, Amen!

* ACCLAMATION OF PRAISE 581

Glory Be to the Father

GLORIA PATRI

WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Gracious God

Arabic Tune

Gracious God, you are the source of all light. By your Word you give light to the soul. Pour on us the source of your wisdom that we may hear your Word through Jesus Christ. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 63 (OT, page 527)

Elder Camille Breen

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

Spirit of God, Unseen as the Wind *Traditional Scottish, arr. A. D. Miller*

*Spirit of God, unseen as the wind, gentle as the dove;
Touch us with love and teach us to sing joy to you, Lord above.
Your voice the sound, heard in the wind, o'er fields and hills you sing;
Now I can hear the joy, my Lord, the peace your song will bring.*

*Spirit of God...
Love in our hearts, praise in our prayers, we follow on your way;
Lord of the sky, Lord of the earth, answer us when we pray.*

Spirit of God...
(Richard M. S. Erwin, b. 1955)

SERMON

Summer in the Psalms: Thirsty for God Rev. Dr. Annemarie Kidder

* HYMN

Be Still My Soul

FINLANDIA

Be still, my soul, and cease the reckless striving,
give up the wish to conquer and to quell;
leave to the Lord the guiding and providing,
the claim to judge, the chances to prevail.
Let go of battles of your own devising,
and let the Lord appease your thought and will.

Be still, my soul, and face the haunting worries
of changing times, of turbulence and strife;
the roaring waters and the quaking mountains,
the sense of being out of step with life.
They are much smaller than you first had thought them
and smaller still when seen against God's light.

Be still, my soul, you are the holy dwelling,
the sanctuary of the living God,
the house built on the rock of Christ's salvation,
the new creation born of word and blood;
you have been freed from life in isolation:
you are a son and daughter of your God.

Be still, my soul, and cease the empty striving,
the urge for triumph and the need for gain.
Your fear of losing is but vain and idle,
the urge to cling the source of needless pain.
Be still, my soul, and learn to be abiding
in patient trust that God will never fail.
(Annemarie Kidder, 2002; from Psalm 46)

(Please be seated after the hymn.)

THANKSGIVING

CALL TO OFFERING AND DEDICATION

Rev. Dr. Edwin Estevez

Our giving is an offering to God. All offerings are part of our worship of God and are used to support the Kirk's ministry. Text "KITH" to 73256 to give using your mobile device.

OFFERTORY

Love is the Boat for the Journey

Ian Callanan

*You are the way to heaven's yielding fold.
You are the truth bringing freedom.
You are the life burning deep within our hearts,
for you are the boat for the journey.

You are the stream where flows the path of life,
guiding the way for disciples.
Though storms may arise you calm the fear inside,
for you are the boat for the journey.

You are our God, the living, saving Word,
You are the banquet of justice.
You know our pain, you lift us from our shame,
for you are the boat for the journey.

We'll sing this song of never ending joy,
filled with the truth of your gospel. With faith, hope, and love,
we claim your living Word,
for you are the boat for the journey.
Love is the boat for the journey.*

* DOXOLOGY (Hymn 606)

OLD HUNDREDTH

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him* all creatures here below;
Praise him* above, ye heavenly host,
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
* or God**

PRAYER

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Matthew Means

Our Father, who art in heaven... (debts & debtors)

SENDING

* RECESSIONAL HYMN 348 **Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending**

HELMSLEY

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION (*seated*)

POSTLUDE **Allegro, Op. 105, No. 6**

C. V. Stanford

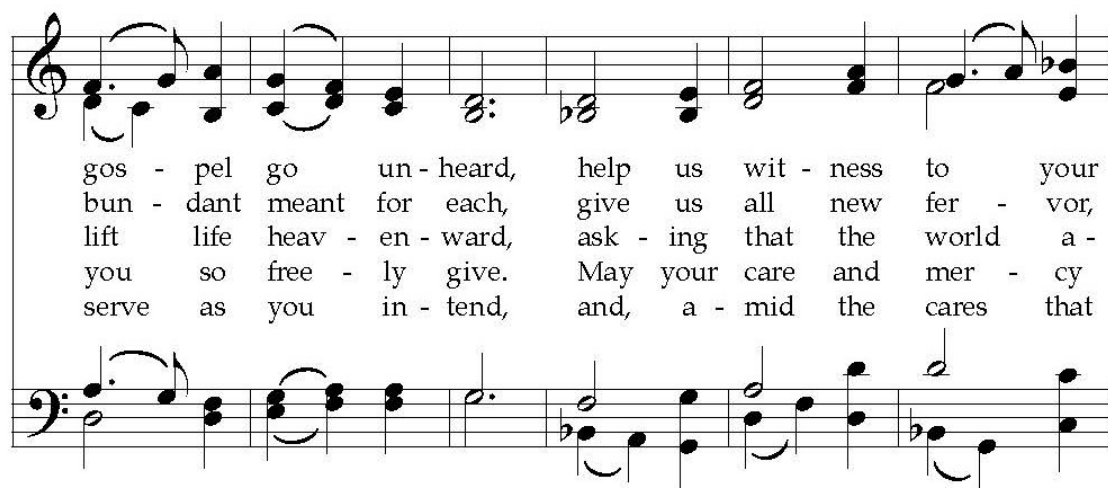
298 Lord, You Give the Great Commission



1 Lord, you give the great com-mis-sion: "Heal the sick and
 2 Lord, you call us to your ser-vice: "In my name bap-
 3 Lord, you make the com - mon ho - ly: "This, my bod - y;
 4 Lord, you show us love's true mea-sure: "Fa - ther, what they
 5 Lord, you bless with words as - sur-ing: "I am with you



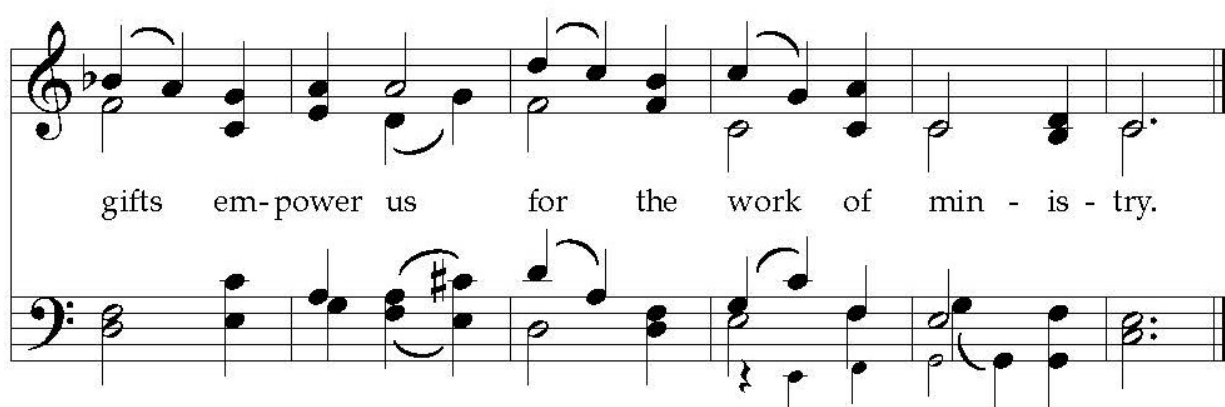
preach the word." Lest the church ne - glect its mis - sion, and the
 tize and teach." That the world may trust your prom-ise, life a -
 this, my blood." Let us all, for earth's true glo - ry, dai - ly
 do, for - give." Yet we hoard as pri - vate trea - sure all that
 to the end." Faith and hope and love re - stor - ing, may we



gos - pel go un - heard, help us wit - ness to your
 bun - dant meant for each, give us all new fer - vor,
 lift life heav - en - ward, ask - ing that the world a -
 you so free - ly give. May your care and mer - cy
 serve as you in - tend, and, a - mid the cares that



pur - pose with re - newed in - teg - ri - ty:
 draw us clos - er in com - mu - ni - ty:
 round us share your chil - dren's lib - er - ty: with the Spir - it's
 lead us to a just so - ci - e - ty:
 claim us, hold in mind e - ter - ni - ty:



gifts em-power us for the work of min - is - try.



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