Worship Bulletin - Bethel Congregational Church UCC

November 8th , 2026 – 24th Sunday after Pentecost



Centering Words

(Joshua 24, Psalm 78)

God asks that we Choose this day whom we will follow and whom we will serve. Will we choose God? The choice is ours.



www.betheluccontario.org

536 N Euclid Ave Ontario CA 91762

In Person & Live Streaming Sundays at 9:55am

Facebook, YouTube, Twitch, Twitter

Also available On Demand on Vimeo, Roku and Amazon Fire TV

Whoever you are and wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

Quienquiera que seas y dondequiera que estés en el camino de la vida,
eres bienvenido aquí.

Bethel Congregational Church, UCC
Sunday – November 1, 2026

Prelude Music for Gathering

Responsive Call to Worship

One: Set your hope in God, who is worthy of our trust.
Many: We remember the glorious deeds of the Holy One.
One: Set your hope in God, who orders our days and redeems our lives.
Many: We rejoice in the wonders the Holy One has done.
One: Set your hope in God, who leads us.
Many: We recommit to the ways of the Holy One. Our hope is in God!

Unison Opening Prayer

Holy One, we come before you with praise and thanksgiving.
We invite you to inhabit our praise as we honor your precious name.
Bind us together and refresh us as a community
with justice and righteousness overflowing like a stream.
Open our minds and hearts to be receptive to your still speaking voice.
Make yourself known among us.
You are our God, and we are your people.
Amen.

Gathering Hymn ***Take My Life and Let it Be Consecrated***
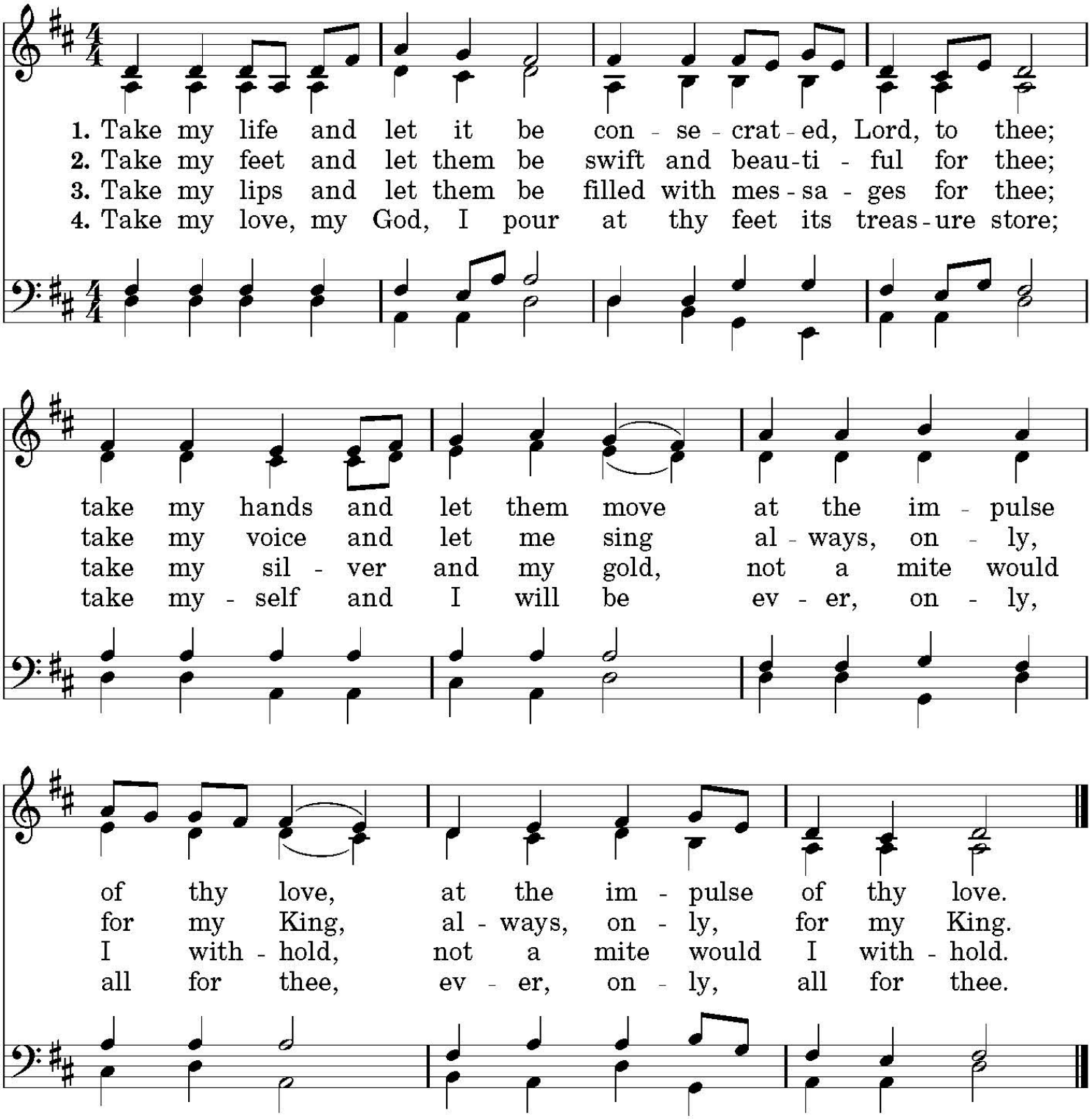
1 Take my life and let it be
consecrated, Lord, to thee;
take my hands and let them move
at the impulse of thy love,
at the impulse of thy love.

2 Take my feet and let them be
swift and beautiful for thee;
take my voice and let me sing
always, only, for my King,
always, only, for my King.

3 Take my lips and let them be
filled with messages for thee;
take my silver and my gold,
not a mite would I withhold,
not a mite would I withhold.

4 Take my love, my God, I pour
at thy feet its treasure store;
take myself and I will be
ever, only, all for thee,
ever, only, all for thee.

Take My Life, and Let It Be Consecrated
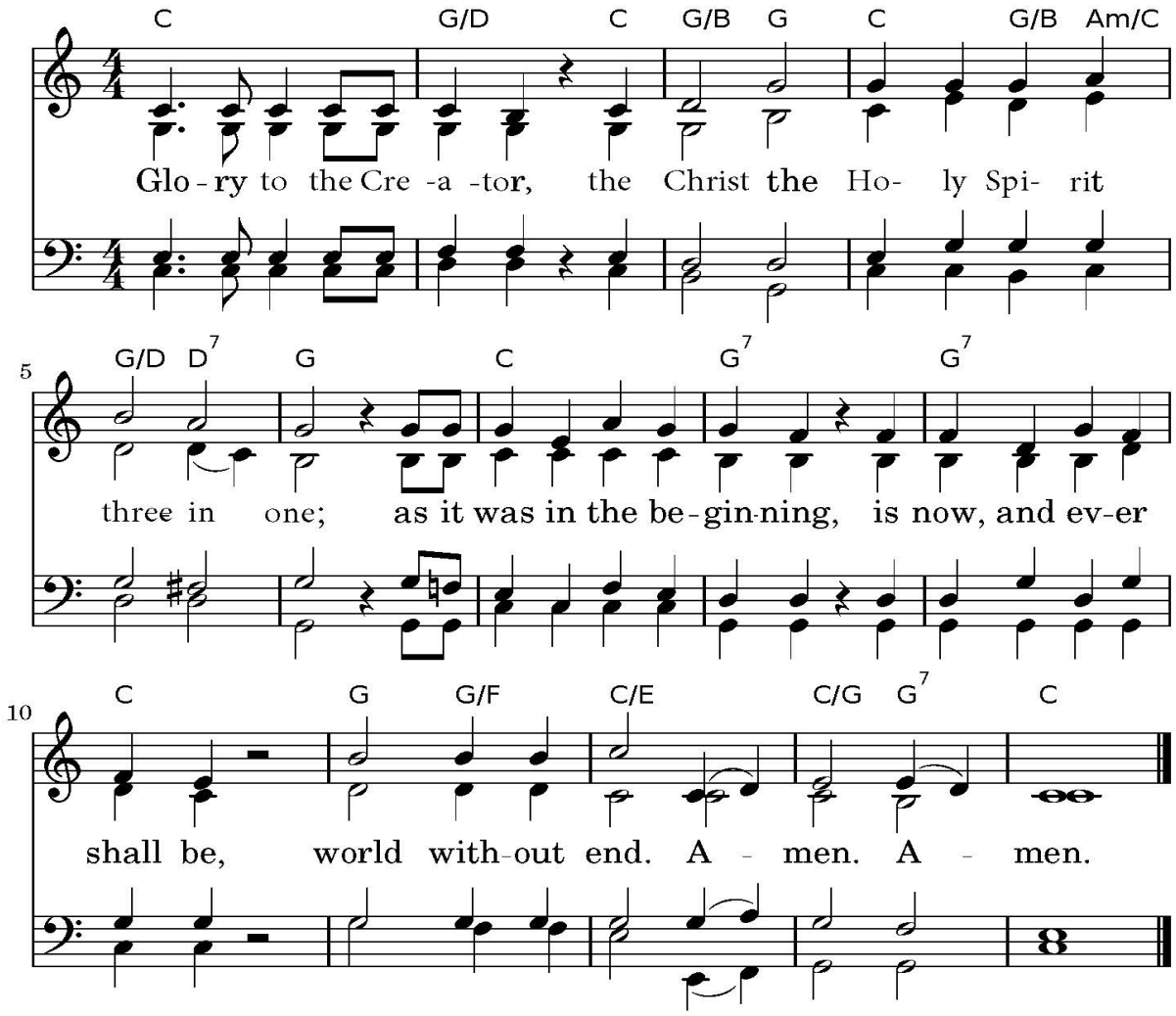


Welcome, Passing the Peace – Announcements

- **Sundays –** Worship! (Bethel 10am Sanctuary/Parlor; FCCO 11:30am)
- **Sundays 9:15am – Pop-Up Choir practice!**
- **Thursdays 10am -** Qi-Gong/Tai Chi
- **Fridays – Southland Wind Ensemble Rehearsal – eve**
- **Concerts coming up:**
  - **Sat Nov 21 – Southland Wind Ensemble Chamber Concert 4pm at Bethel; ALSO – La Verne Symphony 4pm at Morgan Auditorium, University of La Verne**
  - **MESSIAH – Sunday Dec 6 at 4pm at Bethel;**
  - **Sunday Jan 3rd – Opera – The Mikado 4pm.**

Children's Time Kids' Video

* Gloria

Glory to the Creator,
The Christ, the Holy Spirit Three in One
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be
World without end, Amen, Amen.



Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25

Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God.

And Joshua said to all the people, "Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: Long ago your ancestors--Terah and his sons Abraham and Nahor--lived beyond the Euphrates and served other gods.

Then I took your father Abraham from beyond the River and led him through all the land of Canaan and made his offspring many.

"Now therefore revere the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD.

Now if you are unwilling to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD."

Then the people answered, "Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods; for it is the LORD our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; and the LORD drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the LORD, for he is our God."

But Joshua said to the people, "You cannot serve the LORD, for he is a holy God. He is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions or your sins. If you forsake the LORD and serve foreign gods, then he will turn and do you harm, and consume you, after having done you good."

And the people said to Joshua, "No, we will serve the LORD!"

Then Joshua said to the people, "You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen the LORD, to serve him." And they said, "We are witnesses."

He said, "Then put away the foreign gods that are among you, and incline your hearts to the LORD, the God of Israel."

The people said to Joshua, "The LORD our God we will serve, and him we will obey." So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day, and made statutes and ordinances for them at Shechem.

Matthew 25:1-13 **Pastor Sylvia**

"Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom.
Five of them were foolish, and five were wise.
When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them;
but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps.

As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept.
But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.'

Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps.
The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.'

And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us. 'But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.'

Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour**.**

Sermon ***Whom Shall We Follow?*** Dr. Sylvia Lee Mann

Prayer for Transformation and New Life (Unison)

Wise and just God, we do not want to come before you with empty words and meaningless acts. We know that your love has the power to transform us with compassion. Strengthen our resolve to choose you each day.
We declare that your truth can liberate us and renew us as liberators in the world. In the midst of a world too often guided by the pursuit of power, privilege, and prestige, soften our hearts. Help us reject the othering of our neighbors and your beloved. Help us reflect your goodness and good news through our lives, in word and deed. Fill our lamps with your grace,
that we might share your light with our children
and with the generations that follow. Amen.

Words Assurance and Grace

Beloved, when we turn toward the Holy One, we find the Holy One has turned toward us. The God of compassion and grace will meet you in your hopes for a new life, will bring strength and power in your struggle, and will release you from actions and attitudes of the past. Receive God's forgiveness and invitation to embrace a new way going forward.

Prayers of the People (Joys and Concerns to share)

Silent Prayers

The Lord's Prayer *(Unison)*

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 and ever.
Amen

Offering

Invitation to Generosity

Please remember to send your offerings in so that we can continue our ministries. (If you want a portion of your offering to be designated as something specific, just write that in the message area.) If you forget to write a note with the offering – just email us (info@BethelUCCOntario.org) *or message us through Facebook.*

Giving Options: **In person –***We are not yet "passing the plate". You may leave your offering in one of the offering plates (front of the sanctuary, or usher's table in the rear).*



Give online at www.betheluccontario.org,
To use a credit or debit card, use the yellow "Donate" button (processed by PayPal – no PP account required), or green Tithe.ly button (Processed by Tithe.ly)







Use **ZELLE** (through your bank website or via the stand alone app) to transfer your offering to us directly from your bank. When you use Zelle, we are "Bethel Congregational Church" Our verified Zelle email is info@betheluccontario.org



MAIL - Just mail your check to Bethel Congregational Church 536 N Euclid Ave, Ontario CA 91762.

QR Code – Scan the code to send your offering to us through PayPal



Blessing of the Gifts *(Unison) (1 John 3, Matthew 5)*

Loving God, accept our offerings as a testament
to our love, faith, and hope.
Magnify them for your glory
and to meet the needs of the community.
Expand our reach
and glorify your name through our giving, O God.
Amen.

*Singing into Mission *Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning*

1 Keep your lamps trimmed and burning,
keep your lamps trimmed and burning,
keep your lamps trimmed and burning,
for this work's almost done.

Refrain:
Sisters, don't grow weary,
brothers, don't grow weary,
children, don't grow weary,
for this work's almost done.

2 It's our faith makes us happy;
it's our faith makes us happy;
it's our faith makes us happy,
for this work's almost done. *[Refrain]*
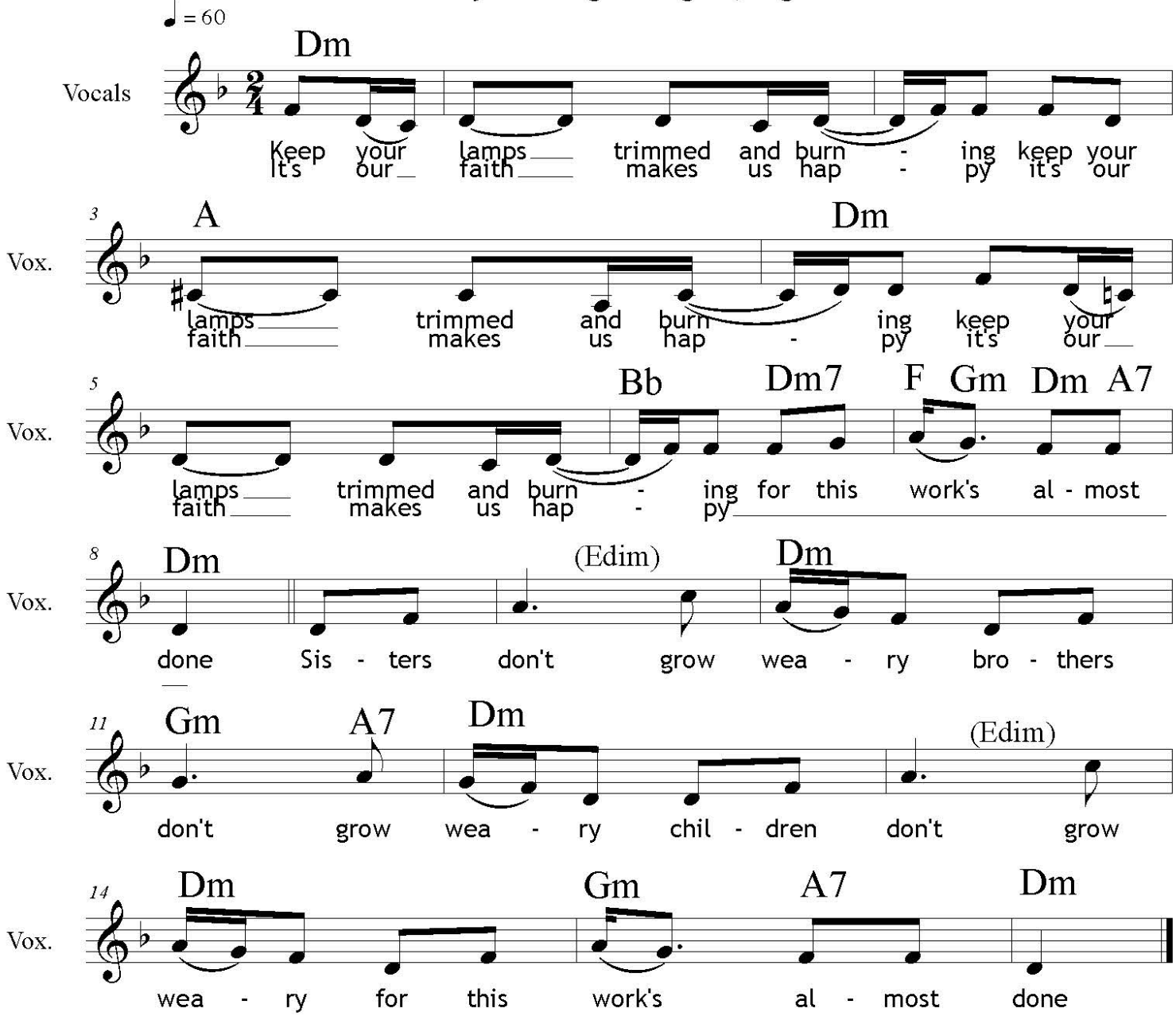
3 We are climbing Jacob's ladder,
we are climbing Jacob's ladder,
we are climbing Jacob's ladder,
for this work's almost done. *[Refrain]*

4 Every round goes higher, higher,
every round goes higher, higher,
every round goes higher, higher,
for this work's almost done. *[Refrain]*

Score

Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning

*Vs. 3 - We are climbing Jacob's ladder
Vs. 4 - Every Round goes higher, higher



Vs. 3 - We are climbing Jacob's ladder
Vs. 4 - Every Round goes higher, higher

Benediction Responsive

L: As you go from this time and gathering,
P: Rest in the covenant,
L: Choose love every day,
P: Sustain hope in action,
L: Serve the Holy One with love and honor,
P: And be a witness for the goodness of God in the land of the living.

ALL: Go in peace! AMEN.

Postlude Carillon



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Live Stream Worship Sundays at 10 am on Facebook, YouTube, Twitch

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God sends us to serve, but God does not send us alone.
The Spirit is with us in the world, guiding our steps and protecting our paths.
Christ yearns for us to be one in ministry and service,
and one in community and faith—a unity that we discover
through the Spirit's miraculous power in our lives.
Sent to serve, we are sent not only with the power of the Spirit,
but also with the power of unity with one another.
Embracing this unity with both the Holy Spirit and one another
opens a path to the "complete joy" that Christ prays we may one day know.

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