

November 16, 2025 + 10:30 A.M.
Twenty-Fourth Sunday of Pentecost

We Join in Worship

*If you need extra space for a wheelchair or walker, or if you have young children with you, please feel free to make use of our
Prayground, the extra space across the aisle from the sound booth.*

Liturgist: Renee Williams

PRELUDE *Promised Land*

Lani Smith

WELCOME

CHORAL INTROIT

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (Adapted from *Psalm 17*)

Leader: Hear us, LORD, our plea is just; listen to our cry. Hear our prayer—it does not rise from deceitful lips.

ALL: Keep us as the apple of your eye; hide us in the shadow of your wing.

Leader: Let our vindication come from you; may your eyes see what is right. We call on you, our God, for you will answer us; turn your ear to us and hear our prayer.

ALL: Keep us as the apple of your eye; hide us in the shadow of your wing.

Leader: Show us the wonders of your great love, you who save by your right hand those who take refuge in you from their foes.

ALL: Keep us as the apple of your eye; hide us in the shadow of your wing.

Leader: As for us, we will be vindicated and will see your face; when we awake, we will be satisfied with seeing your likeness.

ALL: Keep us as the apple of your eye; hide us in the shadow of your wing. We worship you, O God!

***OPENING HYMN:** “God Is Here!” (461)

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Paul urges us to be no longer conformed to this world, but to be transformed by the renewing of our minds, so that we may discern what is the will of God. Together let us confess the ways we have chosen conformity over renewal.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God who invites everyone to renewal, we speak with confession on our lips and repentance in our hearts. We confess that we conform to the world’s pattern of building walls to keep people out. We conform to the world’s pattern of building prisons to keep people excluded. We conform to the world’s pattern of building weapons to keep people afraid. We conform to the world’s pattern of building economies to keep people poor. In all of our conforming, we make it clear that not all are welcome. Forgive us for failing to be stewards of your radical welcome. Renew our minds again. In the beautiful name of Jesus Christ our liberator we pray. Amen.

KYRIE

Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Friends, hear the good news! Jesus presented his body as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God so that we may be made new.

ALL: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven! Hallelujah! Thanks be to God!

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. Amen.

***STATEMENT OF FAITH:** (from *A Brief Statement of Faith*)

In a broken and fearful world, the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!" With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

We Hear God's Word

EMBODIED WORD FOR DISCIPLES OF ALL AGES

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God of power and grace, fill us with the wisdom of your word and the understanding of your Spirit so that we may be your church: a people with dreams and visions at work in all the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

HEBREW BIBLE LESSON: *Isaiah 65:17-25*

EPISTLE LESSON: *Romans 12:1-8*

LESSON FROM ACTS: *Acts 28:23-31*

SERMON: Beautiful Belonging

MUSICAL MEDITATION: *Epilogue of Praise*
In memory of Linda Mann

Joseph Martin

We Respond in Faith

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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.

CHORAL RESPONSE**OFFERING INVITATION:**

Leader: The Body of Christ is the body of beautiful belonging. Let us give our tithes and offerings so that we can keep doing the work to ensure that all do indeed belong. Please place your offering in the plate as it is passed. If you are worshipping from home, please mail in your checks or use our online giving option on the website. Let us reflect on stewardship as we listen to today's offertory.

OFFERTORY *Choral Meditation on "St. Thomas"*

Robert Graham

***DOXOLOGY**

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

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION: (Unison)**

God who made us all and loves us all, we commit these gifts and our very selves to better embodying beautiful belonging. Grant us Wisdom, grant us courage as we strive forward. In the beautiful name of Jesus Christ our liberator we pray. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN "God of Grace and God of Glory" (420)**

We Go Into the World

BENEDICTION**CHORAL BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE *A Charge to Keep I Have*

Dan R. Edwards

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* So that we can properly greet people who come to the building during Sunday morning worship, Door A will be the only unlocked external door during the worship service.

Life of the Church

PEEK AT THE WEEK:

SUNDAY 11/16:	Adult Study – 9:00 AM Worship In Person & Online – 10:30 AM Soup Sale Fellowship Hosts:
MONDAY 11/17:	Women’s Bible Study 9:15-11:30 AM GA – 6:30 PM Al-Anon – 7:00 PM
TUESDAY 11/18:	Private Flute Lessons 2-8 PM (FH) Session – 6:30 PM AA – 7:30 PM
WEDNESDAY 11/19:	Private Flute Lessons 2-8 PM (FH) “Bring Your Own Bible” Bible Study 7-8 PM (Zoom) GA – 7:00 PM
THURSDAY 11/20:	Choir – 7:00 PM
SATURDAY 11/22:	AA – 6:30 PM
SUNDAY 11/23:	Hanging of the Greens

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **CRAFT SALE TODAY AFTER WORSHIP** The FPCH crafters ran a great booth on November 8th at St. James the Less Catholic Church! They will be selling items in Fellowship Hall on 11/16, 11/30, 12/7, and 12/14. Come see what the creative crafters have made and get some early holiday gifts. Proceeds from the sale support our general fund.
- **SOUP SALE AFTER WORSHIP** Come prepared to purchase delicious, homemade soup and to support our general fund in the process!
- **MINISTRY OF MISSION BAKE SALE NOV 23rd** Mark your calendars for the Ministry of Mission’s annual bake sale! Contact Melissa Melendez if you would like to contribute baked goods.
- **HANGING OF THE GREENS NOV 23rd** After grabbing some delicious baked goods from the bake sale, hang around to hang the greens for Advent and Christmastide! You’ll be wreathed with delight!
- **COMMITMENT SUNDAY AND STEWARDSHIP LUNCHEON NOV 30th** Please bring your pledge cards and committed hearts to worship and then enjoy a meal of gratitude from our Ministry of Stewardship and Finance! Sign up in the narthex so that we know how many to plan for—no need to bring any food this time!
- **THANKSGIVING SPIRITUAL PRACTICE** While we should be offering our thanks and praise to God throughout the year, if you’d like to be more intentional about reflecting on thanks-giving to our Loving Creator this month, you could try keeping a daily record of what you are grateful for. For this spiritual practice, you simply reflect on your day and identify at least one reason why you are thankful or grateful to God that day. You can take a picture of why you’re thankful (for example a person or something in nature), keep a list in a notebook or journal, or write down why you’re thankful on your calendar each day. After you identify your daily reason to be thankful, say a prayer and let God know how grateful you are for the blessings you’ve received.

- **CHOIR PRACTICE THURSDAYS AT 7:00 PM!** Our choir is a great group, and we would love to keep growing! All voice levels and skill levels are welcome!
- **"BYOB"** (Bring Your Own Bible) discussion group meets on Wednesday evenings from 7-8 pm online using Zoom. Each week this group takes a look at the scriptures from our Sunday worship services, asking questions, bringing up different perspectives, and hopefully encountering the Holy Spirit in a fresh way. The link for the Zoom meetings is emailed out weekly. You can connect to Zoom with a smart phone, tablet or computer. If you're not familiar with how to use Zoom, or to get on our e-mail list, please contact Pastor Tyler or Heather Casiano.
- **"THE BIBLE IN TODAY'S WORLD"** class meets on Sunday mornings from 9-10 am in the middle classroom (across from Pastor Tyler's office). This group is reading through the book, "A is for Alabaster" by Anna Carter Florence. Each week is independent of the other weeks, so come as you are able. If you need a book, or for any other questions, contact Heather Casiano.
- **ENDOWMENT FUND DONATIONS** Please consider making donations to our church Endowment Fund. Contributions can be made in memory of a loved one or in honor of someone. Donations to this fund can also be made to commemorate special events, such as weddings, birthdays, births and anniversaries. The Endowment Fund is a great way to support grants to ministries in our congregation and our general fund. The money is invested in Vanguard, and each year the fund has been growing. Envelopes are located in the pews and narthex or you can send a check to the office.
- **BUILDING USE FORMS** Just a quick reminder that for the safety and security of everyone using our building, we need to have building use request forms filled out by both members and non-members whenever they use any area of the building outside of regular church activity functions.
- **FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!** If you don't already follow us on Facebook and Instagram, please start doing so @firstpchighland on both Facebook and Instagram.
- **INTERESTED IN BECOMING A MEMBER OF FPCH?** You are always welcome here, whether a member or not! If you are interested in joining as a member, though, we would love to have you! Please talk to Pastor Tyler if you would like to learn more.

Opportunities to serve as the HEART, HANDS, and FEET of Jesus Christ:

- **BLESSING BOX** Please continue to place items in the Blessing Box and take items if you are a person in need! Items most commonly donated: Canned goods with pull tabs, socks, toilet paper, non-perishable foods, small snacks, toiletries, baby wipes and diapers. Please check expiration dates!
- **HELP STOCK OUR PANTRY!** Please pick up a beautifully decorated grocery bag in the narthex and fill it to help the church's food pantry.

Prayer List

Anthony
Brady Vanes
George Griner
Guy Hendricks
Bill and Anettia Holmes
David Markley
Pat and David Kingen
Diana and Ray Mendoza
Janet Orem
Cindy Waltz and Sister
Yvonne Suroviak
Georgette Sknerski
Jakob Holden
Denise Matthys
Jan Oprea
Florance Cody
Kathy & Chuck Pumnea
Laura Buono Domsic
The Windstrups
Rick Parker
Gary Everhart
Caroline Studer
Darlene O'Brien
Doug & Sue Matthews
Janet Terpstra
Glen Nahler
Tom
David Hamblin
Jana Tolley
Larry & Bonnie Perryman
Delta Rose
Winnie Owen
Breeanne
Mom Bechtler

Victor
Marian Clayton
Ella P
Melissa J.
Rita Stronczek
Keren, Zuriel, and Gedeon
OGB
Edna Cruz
Charlie
Jerry & Rena Martinez
Nicole
Greg
Pastor Jane
Mary Ellen Edeus
Jane and David
Flora R.
Tyler Gall
Phil
Luana Sulkowski
Sonny Buono
Shannon Sutton
Robin
Mary Hurtt
Eunice
Betsy
David
Trina & Scott
Joe & Kathy
Breanne Polan
Tammy
Alex
Ben
Mike Kelly
Sue Heth
Loved ones of Charlie Sullivan

Isaiah 65:17-25

¹⁷ For I am about to create new heavens
and a new earth;
the former things shall not be remembered
or come to mind.

¹⁸ But be glad and rejoice forever
in what I am creating,
for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy
and its people as a delight.

¹⁹ I will rejoice in Jerusalem
and delight in my people;
no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it
or the cry of distress.

²⁰ No more shall there be in it
an infant who lives but a few days
or an old person who does not live out a lifetime,
for one who dies at a hundred years will be considered a youth,
and one who falls short of a hundred will be considered accursed.

²¹ They shall build houses and inhabit them;
they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit.

²² They shall not build and another inhabit;
they shall not plant and another eat,
for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be,
and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands.

²³ They shall not labor in vain
or bear children for calamity,
for they shall be offspring blessed by the Lord—
and their descendants as well.

²⁴ Before they call I will answer,
while they are yet speaking I will hear.

²⁵ The wolf and the lamb shall feed together;
the lion shall eat straw like the ox,
but the serpent—its food shall be dust!

They shall not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain,
says the Lord.

Romans 12:1-8

¹² I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, on the basis of God's mercy, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your reasonable act of worship. ² Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

³ For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴ For as in one body we have many members and not all the members have the same function, ⁵ so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. ⁶ We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ⁷ ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; ⁸ the encourager, in encouragement; the giver, in sincerity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

Acts 28:23-31

²³ After they had set a day to meet with him, they came to him at his lodgings in great numbers. From morning until evening he explained the matter to them, testifying to the kingdom of God and trying to convince them about Jesus both from the law of Moses and from the prophets. ²⁴ Some were convinced by what he had said, while others refused to believe. ²⁵ So they disagreed with each other, and as they were leaving Paul made one further statement: "The Holy Spirit was right in saying to your ancestors through the prophet Isaiah,

²⁶ 'Go to this people and say,
You will indeed listen but never understand,
and you will indeed look but never perceive.

²⁷ For this people's heart has grown dull,
and their ears are hard of hearing,
and they have shut their eyes;
otherwise they might look with their eyes
and listen with their ears
and understand with their heart and turn—
and I would heal them.'

²⁸ "Let it be known to you, then, that this salvation of God has been sent to the gentiles; they will listen."

³⁰ He lived there two whole years at his own expense and welcomed all who came to him, ³¹ proclaiming the kingdom of God and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ with all boldness and without hindrance.

Beautiful Belonging

Isaiah 65:17-25; Romans 12:1-8; Acts 28:23-31

When last we met, Paul and the Gospel writer called Luke along with their centurion guards had boarded a ship after three months of being shipwrecked on the island of Malta. Their ship was heavy, fit to bursting with all of the provisions given by the locals who had saved them. Now listen to the words of Luke:

"We set sail on a ship that had wintered at the island, an Alexandrian ship with the Twin Brothers as its figurehead. We put in at Syracuse and stayed there for three days; then we weighed anchor and came to Rhegium. After one day there a south wind sprang up, and on the second day we came to Puteoli. There we found believers and were invited to stay with them for seven days. And so we came to Rome. The believers from there, when they heard of us, came as far as the Forum of Appius and Three Taverns to meet us. On seeing them, Paul thanked God and took courage. When we came into Rome, Paul was allowed to live by himself, with the soldier who was guarding him."

Finally, after years and years of journeying for Paul and weeks and weeks of us journeying alongside of Paul, he made it to Rome. Rome, the home of the church to which he wrote his most sophisticated and influential theological treatise. Rome, the center of the Empire that was still persecuting the Movement of the Way of Jesus of Nazareth and that had executed Jesus of Nazareth. Rome, the city where the Apostle Paul who once was Saul would live out the rest of his days and then be executed on the orders of the emperor Nero himself.

Wait a minute! What?! I thought he was going there to appeal for his freedom, not to lose his life! What happened?

"When Paul got there he called together the local leaders of the Jews. When they had assembled, he said to them, 'Brothers, though I had done nothing against our people or the customs of our ancestors, yet I was arrested in Jerusalem and handed over to the Romans. When they had examined me, the Romans wanted to release me, because there was no reason for the death penalty in my case. But when the Jews objected, I was compelled to appeal to the emperor—even though I had no charge to bring against my nation. For this reason therefore I have asked to see you and speak with you, since it is for the sake of the hope of Israel that I am bound with this chain.' They replied, 'We have received no letters from Judea about you, and none of the brothers coming here has reported or spoken anything evil about you. But we would like to hear from you what you think, for with regard to this sect we know that everywhere it is spoken against.'"

The plot thickens. He was originally accused by the temple leaders in Jerusalem. But religious leaders in Rome have no knowledge of this. They are simply curious. So, it wasn't Paul's religious brothers and sisters who ultimately led the charge for execution. It was without question the Roman elites, all the way up to the emperor himself, who would lead that charge. The emperor who was supposed to help him. Again, what happened!?

Today's reading from *Acts* is the final passage in the entire book. Hmm. I feel a pang of sadness that our sojourn in this often forgotten book is coming to an end. Our time spent in it has been beautiful and fruitful—the ascension of Jesus, the inbreathing of the Holy Spirit, the birth of the Church, the catching of fire, the spreading of the movement of the Way of Jesus of Nazareth, the raising of the deacons and deaconesses, the persecutions, the conversion of Paul, the disagreements, the leadership struggles, the reconciliations, the journeys, the miracles, the transformed hearts and minds, the relationships of mutuality and love between different religious and racial and language groups, the sharing of resources and meals in community. And now here we are. These final words of *Acts* are a perfect encapsulation of everything.

After all of his journeying, Paul finally had his own home. I hope he rested for awhile, but I doubt it. Our passage tells us that his home quickly became a gathering place, a hub of community. *"They came to him at his lodgings in great numbers. From morning until evening he explained the matter to them, testifying to the kingdom of God and trying to convince them about Jesus both from the law of Moses and from the prophets. Some were convinced by what he had said, while others refused to believe. So they disagreed with each other."*

Great numbers of people gathered together. Paul preached the good news. They disagreed. They argued. Sounds like the beginnings of the Church indeed!

“And as they were leaving, Paul made one further statement: ‘The Holy Spirit was right in saying to your ancestors through the prophet Isaiah:

*‘Go to this people and say,
You will indeed listen, but never understand,
and you will indeed look, but never perceive.
For this people’s heart has grown dull,
and their ears are hard of hearing,
and they have shut their eyes;
so that they might not look with their eyes,
and listen with their ears,
and understand with their heart and turn.’”*

Of course, Paul always has to get his digs in, his little jabs at the community that raised him and therefore presented the biggest challenge to him. But the quotation from Isaiah doesn’t end there. It ends like this:

“And I would heal them.” I would heal them.

After the digs and jabs, after the self righteousness and indignation, there is grace. There is healing. Those ears would be healed to hear, those eyes healed to see, those hearts healed to understand. No matter how far Paul tried to run in the other direction, it was always necessary that he return to his own people, that he minister to his own people, that he show the love and grace that saved him to his own people.

And then of course Paul reminds them that the saving love and grace of God are not limited to the tribes of Israel. They are limitless in their depth, and they are limitless in their breadth. And so he says, *“Let it be known to you then that this salvation of God has been sent to the Gentiles.”* Paul’s unique vocation was to expand the reach of the good news to include all people, regardless of where they came from or what religion they practiced.

Finally, our author called Luke gives us his closing narration: *“He lived there two whole years at his own expense and welcomed all who came to him, proclaiming the kingdom of God and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ with all boldness and without hindrance.”*

That, my friends is the heart of the book of *Acts*. Indeed it is the heart of the Gospel. **EVERYONE BELONGS HERE.** Everyone belongs in the community of the followers of the Way of Jesus of Nazareth. Everyone belongs in the house of worship. Everyone at the shared table. Everyone belongs in fellowship and debate and disagreement and the mutual sharpening of iron that that entails. Everyone belongs in the miracle of healing. Everyone belongs in the love and grace of God.

In the fullness of self and identity, everyone belongs. Male, female, intersex, transgender, and gender queer. Everyone belongs. Middle Eastern, European, African, Asian. Everyone belongs. Persecuted, prosecuted, imprisoned, free. Everyone belongs. Poor, middle class, rich. Everyone belongs. Gay, lesbian, bisexual, pansexual, asexual, straight. Everyone belongs. Child, adolescent, young adult, middle aged, old, very old. Everyone belongs. Disabled, sick, able. Everyone belongs. Street smart, book smart, emotionally smart. Everyone belongs. Demon possessed, substance addicted, depressed, anxious, hallucinating, functioning. Everyone belongs. Widowed, divorced, single, married. Everyone belongs. Orphaned, parented, adopted, fostered. Everyone belongs. Undocumented, documented, citizen, non-citizen. Everyone belongs. Sinners, saints, sinners who are saints. Everyone belongs.

After all, this is the Church of the Beautiful Community that formed when the Holy Spirit blew through a group of people from different continents, languages, and races. This is the Church of the man with a mobility disability who begged at the Beautiful Gate outside of the temple and then leapt for joy upon learning that he belonged inside. This is the Church of Stephen the protomartyr deacon who spoke truth to power with such Beautiful Boldness and Bravery. This is the Church of the Ethiopian eunuch who practiced Beautiful Communication. This is the Church of Lydia, the dealer of Beautiful Purple Cloth. This is the Church of Lydia's entire family, including the infants and children. This is the Church of refugees Priscilla and Aquila and their Beautiful Tentmaking Evangelism. This is the Church of Dorcas, Damaris, Euodia, Syntyche, and the other Preparers of the Beautiful Way. This is the Church of that unexpected community of 12 of John the Baptist's disciples who were doing the work of the Beautiful Body of Christ and spreading the good news long before anyone else. This is the Church of all the saints who faced persecution, punishment, and death all for the sake of their Beautiful Faith. This is the Church of Peter the denier who was so deeply flawed and who so deeply loved his Lord and best friend Jesus. This is the Church of James who was so deeply stubborn and rigid in race and religion and who so deeply loved his brother Jesus. This is the Church of Paul who was Saul who was once the cruelest of all but who then heard the Beautiful Voice and opened the Beautiful Eyes of his Heart and thus experienced that Beautiful Transformation. This is the Church in which all these vastly different people with their vastly different ways of being and believing and doing managed to work as a team to make the Beautiful Dreamwork. All of these sinners who were also saints from the book of *Acts* found belonging—that most precious of phenomena—all of *us* sinful saints find belonging in this Beautiful Community called the Church because this is the Church of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, O that Beautiful Name, God in the flesh, lover of all, savior of all—outcast, denied, persecuted, prosecuted, imprisoned and crucified.

Aha! This is why Paul would be executed by that same empire. His house was dangerous. His Church was dangerous. To declare that everyone belonged was to defy every system of division and oppression so meticulously built by the powers and principalities of this world. To ensure that everyone belonged was to subvert an economy of scarcity. To set a table where everyone belonged was to invert hierarchies of power. To build a community in which everyone belonged was to build a Kingdom that stood in opposition to a world built on foundations of hatred and violence and death.

Paul wrote to the church in Rome: *“Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.”*

First Presbyterian Church of Highland, what is good and acceptable and perfect is exactly this—to ensure that everyone knows that they belong to the love and grace of God. Yes, Beautiful Belonging. This is our highest calling. This is our purpose as the heart, hands, and feet of Jesus Christ. This is why we exist. This is why we serve. This is why we keep our doors open. This is why we commit our resources. This is why we commit ourselves. For we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. One body. All bound together. All part of one another. This is the Way of Jesus of Nazareth. This is the way of God.

I close with words that Paul wrote to his loved ones in Rome, words that tell us exactly how to create a community of Beautiful Belonging. May we learn them well. May we live them well.

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil; hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal; be ardent in spirit; serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; pursue hospitality to strangers.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be arrogant, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live in peace with all. Amen!

Fred Pratt Green, 1979; rev. 1988

Cyril Vincent Taylor, 1941

1. God is here! As we Your peo-ple Meet to of - fer
 2. Here are sym-bols to re - mind us Of our life - long
 3. Here our chil-dren find a wel-come In the Shep - herd's
 4. Lord of all, of church and king-dom, In an age of

praise and prayer, May we find in ful - ler mea-sure What it
 need of grace; Here are ta - ble, font, and pul - pit; Here the
 flock and fold, Here, as bread and wine are tak - en, Christ sus-
 change and doubt Keep us faith - ful to the gos - pel, Help us

is in Christ we share. Here, as in the world a - round us,
 cross has cen - tral place. Here in hon - es - ty of preach-ing,
 tains us as of old. Here the ser - vants of the Ser - vant
 work Your pur - pose out. Here, in this day's ded - i - ca - tion,

All our var - ied skills and arts Wait the com - ing
 Here in si - lence, as in speech, Here, in new - ness
 Seek in wor - ship to ex - plore What it means in
 All we have to give, re - ceive: We, who can - not

of the Spir - it In - to o - pen minds and hearts.
 and re - new - al, God the Spir - it comes to each.
 dai - ly liv - ing To be - lieve and to a - dore.
 live with - out You, We a - dore You! We be - lieve!

Harry Emerson Fosdick, 1930; alt.

1. God of grace and God of glo - ry, On Thy peo - ple
 2. Lo! the hosts of e - vil round us Scorn Thy Christ, as -
 3. Cure Thy chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness, Bend our pride to
 4. Set our feet on loft - y pla - ces; Gird our lives that

pour Thy power; Crown Thine an - cient chur - ch's sto - ry;
 sail Thy ways! From the fears that long have bound us
 Thy con - trol; Shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness,
 they may be Ar - mored with all Christ - like gra - ces,

Bring its bud to glo - rious flower. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 Free our hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 Rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 Pledged to set all cap - tives free. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,

For the fac - ing of this hour, For the fac - ing of this hour.
 For the liv - ing of these days, For the liv - ing of these days.
 Lest we miss Thy king - dom's goal, Lest we miss Thy king - dom's goal.
 That we fail not them nor Thee! That we fail not them nor Thee!

5. Save us from weak resignation
 To the evils we deplore;
 Let the gift of Thy salvation
 Be our glory evermore.

Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
 Serving Thee whom we adore,
 Serving Thee whom we adore.