

October 11, 2026 + 10:30 A.M.
Twenty-First Sunday of Pentecost

We Join in Worship

Liturgist: Jean Smith

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.

PRELUDE

I Will Keep My Eyes on You

Cindy Berry

WELCOME

CHORAL INTROIT

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*THE PEACE OF CHRIST

* CALL TO WORSHIP (Adapted from *Psalms* 74)

Leader: God our Sovereign, you are from of old, working salvation in the earth. You divided the sea by your might; you broke the heads of the dragons in the waters.

ALL: Do not deliver the soul of your dove to the wild animals; do not forget the life of your poor forever. Have regard for your covenant.

Leader: You cut openings for springs and torrents; you dried up ever-flowing streams. Yours is the day, yours also the night; you established the moon and the sun. You have fixed all the bounds of the earth; you made summer and winter.

ALL: Do not deliver the soul of your dove to the wild animals; do not forget the life of your poor forever. Have regard for your covenant.

Leader: Do not let the downtrodden be put to shame; let the poor and needy praise your name. Rise up, O God, plead your cause.

ALL: Do not deliver the soul of your dove to the wild animals; do not forget the life of your poor forever. Have regard for your covenant. We worship you, O God our Sovereign!

*OPENING HYMN: "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing" (Glory to God 475)

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Leader: In one of his letters to the church in Corinth, Paul writes, "Do not deceive yourselves. If you think that you are wise in this age, you should become fools so that you may become wise." Let us confess our lack of Wisdom.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of the covenant, fill us with your Wisdom as we confess how we have followed the foolish ways of the world. We confess that we have not done our part as people of the covenant. We have chosen war over peace, oppression over liberation, violence over mercy, power over justice, and fear over love. Forgive us for our foolishness. Remind us what it really means to be in right relationship with you and with each other. In the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Lord, we pray. Amen.

KYRIE: Glory to God, No. 579 (unison)

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Friends, hear the good news! God's Spirit dwells in us, we belong to Christ, and Christ belongs to God!

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

GLORIA PATRI (577)

Glory be to the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now, ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

As it was in the beginning, is now, ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

STATEMENT OF FAITH: (From *The Confession of Belhar*)

We believe that God has entrusted the church with the message of reconciliation in and through Jesus Christ, that the church is called to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world, that the church is called blessed because it is a peacemaker, and that the church is witness both by word and by deed to the new heaven and the new earth in which righteousness dwells. We believe that God's lifegiving Word and Spirit have conquered the powers of sin and death and therefore also of irreconciliation and hatred, bitterness and enmity, and that God's lifegiving Word and Spirit will enable the church to live in a new obedience which can open new possibilities of life for society and the world. Amen.

We Hear God's Word

EMBODIED WORD FOR DISCIPLES OF ALL AGES

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Guide us, O God, by your Word and Spirit, that in your light we may see light, in your truth find wisdom, and in your will discover your peace. In the name of Jesus Christ our risen Lord we pray. Amen.

HEBREW BIBLE LESSON: *Genesis 8:1-12*

EPISTLE LESSON: *1 Corinthians 3:16-23*

GOSPEL LESSON: *Matthew 3:13-17*

SERMON: The New Dovenant

MUSICAL MEDITATION: *Here I Am, Lord* Daniel L. Schutte/Jack Schrader
In memory of Bette Smith

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.

OFFERING INVITATION:

Leader: God's Holy Spirit is flying through our lives, bearing the good news of God's love upon her wings. Let us give our tithes and offerings as a response to God's love. If you are here in person, please place your offering in the plate as it is passed. If you are worshiping from home, please mail in your checks or use our online giving option on the website. Now let us practice stewardship as we listen to today's offertory.

OFFERTORY *Remember Me*

Cindy Berry

***DOXOLOGY**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures high and low;
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, in Jesus fully known;
Creator, Word, and Spirit one;
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

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

God of the covenant, we dedicate these gifts to you as we dedicate our very selves to being in right relationship with you. May your Holy Spirit guide us as we use these resources and our spiritual gifts in your service. In the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Lord, we pray. Amen.

We Go into the World

***CLOSING HYMN:** "Spirit of the Living God" (322), sing 2x

BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

I Give You Praise

Cindy Berry

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PEEK AT THE WEEK:

SUNDAY 10/11:	Adult Study – 9:00 AM Worship in Person & Online – 10:30 AM
MONDAY 10/12:	GA – 6:30 PM AI-Anon – 7:00 PM
TUESDAY 10/13:	Private Flute Lessons 2-8 PM (FH) Mission – 6:00 PM Stewardship & Finance – 6:30 PM AA – 7:30 PM
WEDNESDAY 10/14:	Trustees – 10:00 AM Private Flute Lessons 2-8 PM (FH) "Bring Your Own Bible" Bible Study 7-8 PM (Zoom) GA – 7:00 PM
THURSDAY 10/15:	Choir – 7:00 PM
SATURDAY 10/17:	Sharon's Table Prep AA – 6:30 PM
SUNDAY 10/18:	Faith Development – Following Worship

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **TODAY IS PASTOR APPRECIATION SUNDAY** Come join us after worship for food and fellowship as we celebrate and give thanks for Pastor Tyler's ministry with us!
- **WORLD COMMUNION OFFERING** We will be collecting this special offering of the PC(USA) throughout October. You can find envelopes in the narthex.
- **"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. 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. All belong! You can join even if you have never done so before!
- **"THE BIBLE IN TODAY'S WORLD"** study class meets on Sunday mornings from 9-10 am at the church. We are excited to be using the study guide *United through Christ, Bound to Each Other: Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians*. If you have any questions, contact Heather Casiano. All are welcome! You can join even if you have never done so before!
- **FELLOWSHIP HOSTING IN THE FALL** We are asking folks to sign up to host fellowship time in the Fall. Hosting entails bringing a simple snack to share, setting it out, and cleaning up afterwards. On Sundays with no sign-ups, we will still have coffee and tea to enjoy.
- **CHOIR PRACTICE IS THURSDAYS AT 7PM** We need singers of all sorts and welcome singers of all skill levels! We have a great time, and singing is a great way to give glory to God!
- **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 bring non-perishable foods to help the church's food pantry.
- **GOT SNEAKERS?** The sneakers that we all collect will help raise money to support our church's general fund AND will help our environment by keeping sneakers out of landfills. Bring the sneakers (athletic shoes only) to the church and put them in one of the blue bins by Door D or in the narthex.

Prayer List

Anthony
Brady Vanes
George Griner
Guy Hendricks
David Markley
David Kingen
Diana and Ray Mendoza
Janet Orem
Cindy Waltz and Sister
Yvonne Suroviak
Georgette and Garry Sknerski
Jakob Holden
Denise Matthys
Florance Cody
Kathy & Chuck Pumnea
The Windstrups
Rick Parker
Gary Everhart
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
Marian Clayton
Ella P
Rita Stronczek
Keren, Zuriel, and Gedeon
Edna Cruz
Charlie
Jerry & Rena Martinez
Tyler Gall
Luana Sulkowski
Sonny Buono
Tammy
Mike Kelly
Sue Heth
Oscar Ochoa
Jean and Clara
Dave Shelborne
Kali Rosalia
Wendy
Jessica S
Shirley McKnight
Renee Williams
Kay Johnson
Loved ones of Charlene Calabro

Genesis 8:1-12

8 But God remembered Noah and all the wild animals and all the domestic animals that were with him in the ark. And God made a wind blow over the earth, and the waters subsided; ² the fountains of the deep and the windows of the heavens were closed, the rain from the heavens was restrained, ³ and the waters gradually receded from the earth. At the end of one hundred fifty days the waters had abated, ⁴ and in the seventh month, on the seventeenth day of the month, the ark came to rest on the mountains of Ararat. ⁵ The waters continued to abate until the tenth month; in the tenth month, on the first day of the month, the tops of the mountains appeared.

⁶ At the end of forty days Noah opened the window of the ark that he had made ⁷ and sent out the raven, and it went to and fro until the waters were dried up from the earth. ⁸ Then he sent out the dove from him to see if the waters had subsided from the face of the ground, ⁹ but the dove found no place to set its foot, and it returned to him to the ark, for the waters were still on the face of the whole earth. So he put out his hand and took it and brought it into the ark with him. ¹⁰ He waited another seven days, and again he sent out the dove from the ark, ¹¹ and the dove came back to him in the evening, and there in its beak was a freshly plucked olive leaf; so Noah knew that the waters had subsided from the earth. ¹² Then he waited another seven days and sent out the dove, and it did not return to him any more.

1 Corinthians 3:16-23

¹⁶ Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? ¹⁷ If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy that person. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple.

¹⁸ Do not deceive yourselves. If you think that you are wise in this age, you should become fools so that you may become wise. ¹⁹ For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, "He catches the wise in their craftiness,"

²⁰ and again,

"The Lord knows the thoughts of the wise,
that they are futile."

²¹ So let no one boast about people. For all things are yours, ²² whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or the present or the future—all are yours, ²³ and you are Christ's, and Christ is God's.

Matthew 3:13-17

¹³ Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. ¹⁴ John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" ¹⁵ But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now, for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. ¹⁶ And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw God's Spirit descending like a dove and alighting on him. ¹⁷ And a voice from the heavens said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

The New Dovenant

Genesis 8:1-12; 1 Corinthians 3:16-23; Matthew 3:13-17

Over the last several weeks we have been following the eternal flame, the blaze of glory, throughout our scriptures, exploring this image and manifestation of the Holy Spirit during this season of Pentecost. By the way, what wonderful time we had last Sunday afternoon gathered around the fire at Oak Ridge Prairie! We were surrounded by God's glory with the beautiful weather, the beautiful scenery, and the beautiful fellowship! Thank you to all of you who came out for it and to all of you who made it happen! Today we are going to take wing with another image and manifestation of the Holy Spirit—the dove.

As a city dweller for much of my adult life I have had many encounters with pigeons, and it always makes me laugh a little that these much-maligned birds (or rodents with wings) are one and the same as the doves that fly through our scriptures, that have become universal signs of innocence, peace and hope, and that have graced religious artwork throughout the ages—including the stunning stained glass that graces this church's entryway. A dove is a pigeon scientifically, and in Hebrew and Greek they are the exact same word. In English we tend to use these words to create an hermeneutical lens of distinction and difference—one is pure and holy, and the other is dirty and pesky. Those lenses, though, are simply not there in the scriptures! We could just as faithfully translate it as a pigeon carrying back the olive leaf and as a pigeon descending upon Jesus at his baptism.

And the blurred line, they gray area of the imagery makes it all the more meaningful! Pure, dirty, holy, and pesky all in one. It could have been the sleek, spotless dove of classical artistic imagination. It could have been the mottled, battle-scarred pigeon of city street notoriety. In God's eyes, they are equally beautiful. In God's eyes, they are equally valid as the purveyors of innocence, peace, and hope. In God's eyes, they are equally suited to be incarnations of the Holy Spirit. Oh yes, we could learn a lot from the interchangeability of those two words and the conceptual weight that they bear! It would be a powerful exercise in challenging our implicit, and sometimes explicit, biases to explore all that we project onto the canvases of these winged creations of God and then to examine how we do the same to our fellow human beings.

But I digress! Let's get back to the Word of the Lord...or Bird of the Lord! It makes all the sense in the world that our Triune God would have chosen the dove as an embodiment of the Holy Spirit, as the physical

figure of divinity to descend upon Jesus and to sit upon his shoulder at his baptism—in that intimate, transcendent moment of naming and claiming, “This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.” For, this was the beginning of a new covenant. This was God making it known that Jesus of Nazareth was the fulfillment of the law and the prophets, was the Word made flesh, was God’s own son, was both God and human, and so was the ultimate connection between God and human. How Jesus lived would be the embodiment of how we humans are to hold up our end of the covenant, of how we humans are to be in right relationship with each other and with God. After all, that was always the purpose of a covenant with God—a formalization and consecration of right relationship between Creator and created. And again, it was fitting that it should be a dove (or pigeon!) that did the consecrating.

For, a dove was the herald of the very first covenant between God and Creation. After forty days and forty nights of rain and 150 days of water swelling and covering the earth, and after forty-seven more days of the waters receding, it was a dove that brought back to the ark a fresh-plucked olive leaf—the evidence that there was life on earth once more. Upon those wings flew hope for a new creation. Upon those wings flew the promise of new life. Upon those wings flew reconciliation and peace between Creator and created. A pigeon with an olive leaf carried all of that power! And then it flew off, perhaps to meet its raven friend, wild and free before any of the other animals and before any of the humans. Oh yes, any image of the Holy Spirit must be wild and free!

Once everybody else was finally able to leave the ark, God made the very first covenant. And it is important to note here that this first covenant was not exclusive to any bloodline or ethnicity or race, or even species for that matter! There was no “chosen” people. Or, through another lens, *all* people were chosen people. This covenant that formed the roots of all other covenants was all-inclusive and all-embracing. For, as the story goes, Noah and family would have been the only humans left and thus the ancestors of every human that has ever been ever since. Hear now the account of the first covenant as gifted to us in the book of *Genesis*: *Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, “As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.”* That first covenant was brought on the wings of a dove and then was sealed with magnificent brilliance.

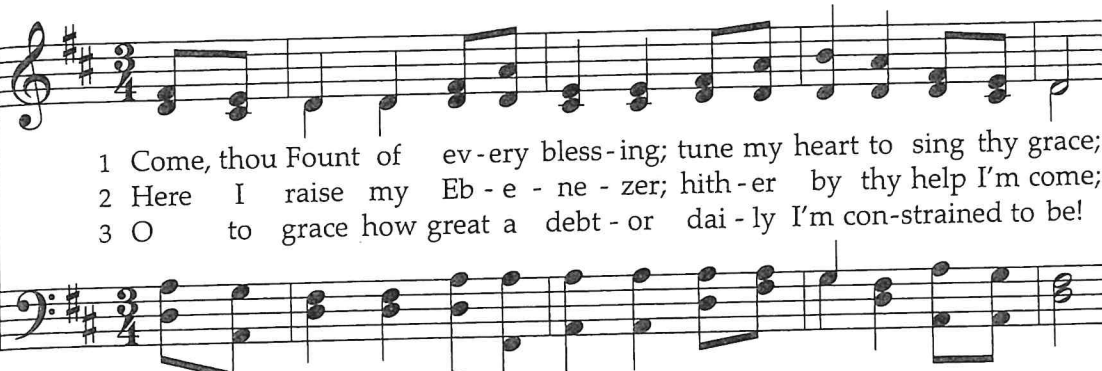
God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh, and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.”

When Jesus stood up after being submerged in the Jordan River, as water was still streaming down his face and he looked up into the heavens wide open, I cannot help but wonder if he saw rainbows where the brilliant light met the water droplets of baptism. And then the dove or pigeon descended. And a new covenant, a new *dovenant*, was gifted to all Creation. He would teach and live a love that was all-inclusive, all embracing. He would show us how to do the same, how to be in right relationship with each other and in right relationship with God. He would feed the hungry. He would honor women. He would learn from and lift up those considered to be the different “other.” He would reach out and touch those who were considered to be untouchable. He would heal the sick. He would make the outcasts to know that they belonged. He would welcome strangers. He would struggle for justice. He would flip the tables and chairs of those who would dare to sell doves (aha, there’s those doves again!) in the temple, for selling them and other animals for sacrifice was a way to extort money from the poor. He would lay down his life for the least and the last and the lost, defying an empire that would dare to think it had power to rival God. He would rise again from the dead for the love of all.

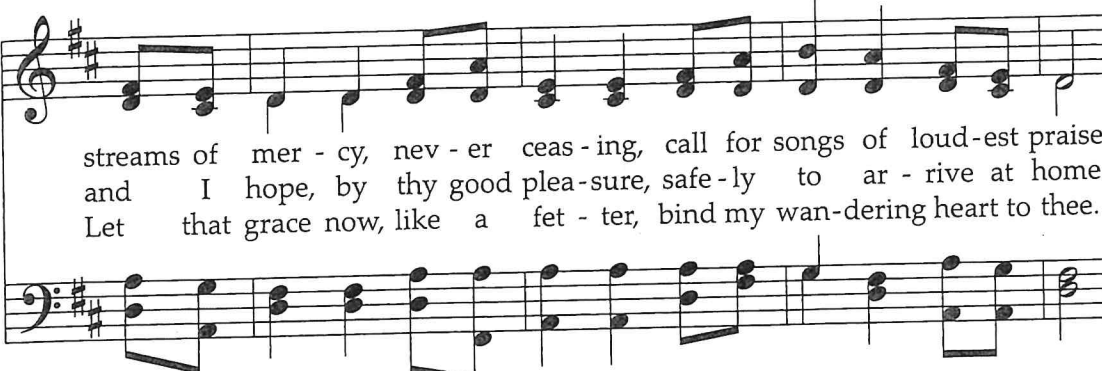
And through it all, he would be filled with the Holy Spirit who had descended upon him in the form of a dove and perched on his shoulder. *This* was the new covenant, Jesus of Nazareth. He showed us how to live in right relationship with each other and with God. Now, I know that seems like a tall order! How could we possibly be like Jesus? How could we ever approach his level of love? Well, for one thing, God does not expect us to be perfect. We have messed up, we are messing up, and we will mess up. That is why we confess every

week. That is why grace exists! We must not let fear of messing up get in the way of our trying to get it right! We must not let our pursuit of perfection be the enemy of the good! And for another thing, we are not left alone to try to figure out this call to live like Jesus. Jesus said, "The Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you." The same Holy Spirit that descended upon him at his baptism has also descended upon us! The same Holy Spirit that lived in him throughout his life is also alive in us! So let us dare to let our imaginations run wild and free with the possibilities of what we can do with love. Wait a minute! Love? Dove? Covenant. Dovenant. Lovenant! I'm lovin' it! Hallelujah! Amen!

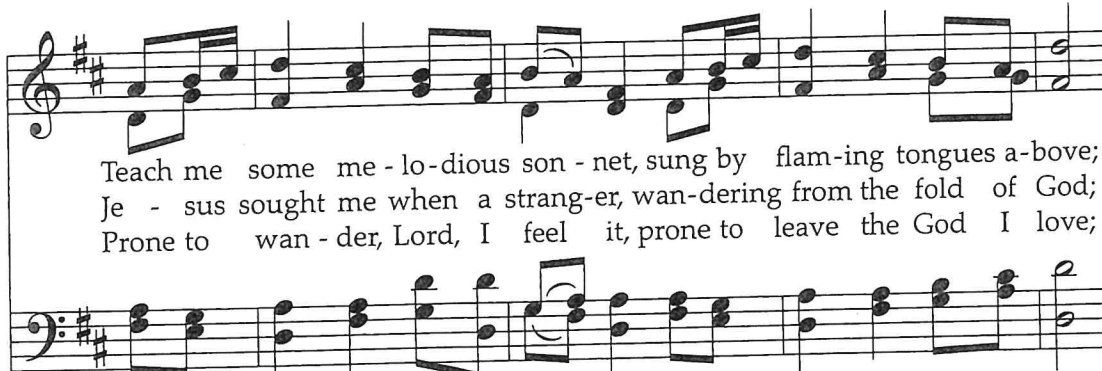
Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing 475



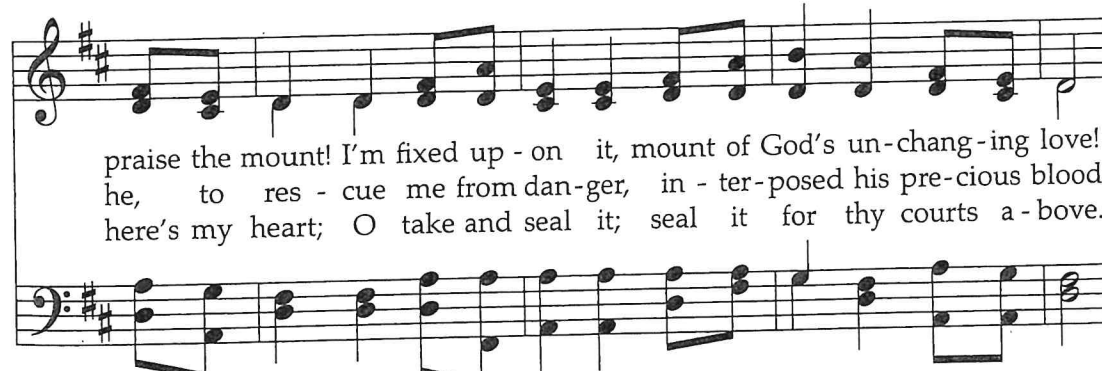
1 Come, thou Fount of ev-ery bless-ing; tune my heart to sing thy grace;
 2 Here I raise my Eb - e - ne - zer; hith-er by thy help I'm come;
 3 O to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con-strained to be!



streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, call for songs of loud-est praise.
 and I hope, by thy good plea-sure, safe-ly to ar - rive at home.
 Let that grace now, like a fet - ter, bind my wan-dering heart to thee.



Teach me some me - lo-dious son - net, sung by flam-ing tongues a-bove;
 Je - sus sought me when a strang-er, wan-dering from the fold of God;
 Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;



praise the mount! I'm fixed up - on it, mount of God's un-chang-ing love!
 he, to res - cue me from dan-ger, in - ter-posed his pre-cious blood.
 here's my heart; O take and seal it; seal it for thy courts a - bove.

Spirit of the Living God

322

LIVING GOD Irregular

Daniel Iverson, 1935; adapted

Daniel Iverson, 1935

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, Fall a-fresh on me;

The first system of music is in 4/4 time, key of B-flat major. The melody is in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes, with some rests. The bass line consists of quarter and eighth notes, with some rests. The lyrics are written below the melody.

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, Fall a-fresh on me.

The second system of music is in 4/4 time, key of B-flat major. The melody is in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes, with some rests. The bass line consists of quarter and eighth notes, with some rests. The lyrics are written below the melody.

Melt me, mold me, Fill me, use me.

The third system of music is in 4/4 time, key of B-flat major. The melody is in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes, with some rests. The bass line consists of quarter and eighth notes, with some rests. The lyrics are written below the melody.

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, Fall a-fresh on me.

The fourth system of music is in 4/4 time, key of B-flat major. The melody is in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes, with some rests. The bass line consists of quarter and eighth notes, with some rests. The lyrics are written below the melody.



WORLD COMMUNION OFFERING

The World Communion Offering works to ensure all God's people flourish as God intends through ministries working for racial justice, gender justice, peacemaking, global witness, and ecumenical and interfaith relations.

Thank you for your participation in the World Communion Offering.

IF WE ALL DO A LITTLE, IT ADDS UP TO A LOT!

WAYS TO GIVE —

- ✦ Through your congregation
- ✦ Donate by credit card online at pcusa.org/give/wco
- ✦ Text GIVEWCO to 41444 or scan this QR code



—or—

You can help sustain these important ministries that are supported by the World Communion Offering by making an online gift at any time throughout the year. Checks may be sent to Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.); P.O. Box 643700; Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700.

To learn more about how your gift to World Communion Offering makes a difference, visit pcusa.org/wco.



The World Communion Offering is one of three annual Special Offerings. The Churchwide Special Offerings of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) play an important role in defining what it means to be a congregational church, bringing together the diversity of the PC(USA) to focus and take faith-based action on shared concerns. The Offerings offer opportunities for partnership, learning, and witness and profoundly affect the life of the church as a collective witness to Jesus Christ's love for the whole church.

*What does the Lord require of you, but to do justice,
...to love kindness
and to walk humbly with your God.*

Micah 6:8

Reconciling
God's people
at the Table of
Grace through
ministries of
justice.



WORLD COMMUNION
OFFERING





Joining Together...

As a Young Adult Volunteer with the PC(USA)'s Office of Public Witness, Phille Dlamini's social media series focused on Sudan has helped connect Presbyterians to a global crisis by linking faith, advocacy, and international solidarity through faithful storytelling that calls the church into awareness and action alongside global partners.

Supported by a grant from the PC(USA), the Gullah Farmers' Cooperative Association helps farmers who are Black, Indigenous, and People of Color with limited resources to come together to secure markets for their products and to get paid fair prices, as well as provide the community with fresh, nutritional foods, including healthy meals for schoolchildren.



...Making a Difference

The Al Amana Centre in Oman, a partner of the PC(USA), is one of the few Christian-led organizations in the region working toward reconciliation and sustainable peace through safe, immersive, interfaith experiences. The Centre's facilitated discussions bridge the gap between people of different beliefs and help participants gain deeper insights into themselves.



Our gifts make a difference in answering the prophets' call to love kindness.

The prophet Micah's charge to "love kindness" is uniquely embodied when people around the world join together around Christ's Table of grace.

The prophet calls us to recognize the inherent worth of every person, to practice welcome, and to make room at the table for all God's children. This is expressed in action, often involving mercy, faithfulness and steadfast commitment.

Experience the grace that comes from reconciling all peoples from all nations around the corner and around the globe through the ministry of this Offering.

**Feast joyfully, give generously.
The table is set, and all are invited!**



*Please give generously.
If we all do a little, it adds up to a lot!*