

July 28, 2024 + 10:30 A.M.  
Eleventh 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.*

**PRELUDE**                      *Brethren, We Have Met to Worship*                      William Moore, arr. Cindy Berry

**WELCOME**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**\*THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP** (Adapted from *Psalms* 145)

Leader: All your works shall give thanks to you, O LORD, and all your faithful shall bless you. They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom, and tell of your power, to make known to all people your mighty deeds, and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.

**ALL: Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures throughout all generations.**

Leader: The LORD is faithful in all words and gracious in all deeds. The LORD upholds all who are falling and raises up all who are bowed down.

**ALL: The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food in due season. You open your hand, satisfying the desire of every living thing.**

Leader: The LORD is just in all ways and kind in all doings. The LORD is near to all who call, to all who call in truth. The LORD fulfills the desire of all who fear the LORD; the LORD also hears their cry and saves them. The LORD watches over all who love the LORD.

**ALL: Our mouths will speak the praise of the LORD, and all flesh will bless the LORD's holy name forever and ever. We worship you, O LORD!**

**\*OPENING HYMN:** "O Christ, the Healer" (380)

**INVITATION TO CONFESSION:**

Leader: The author of *Ephesians* writes, "I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God." Together let us confess how much we still need to comprehend and know.

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (unison)

**Loving God, we confess our sins to you, trusting in your justice and kindness. We confess that we have failed to comprehend the power of Christ in our lives. We go through the motions of religion but have lost authentic faith. We no longer turn to our savior when we are in need of healing and wholeness. We no longer turn to our messiah when we fear what is happening in the world. We no longer turn to our great teacher when we are in need of Wisdom and guidance. In turning away from your Son, we no longer seek justice, love kindness, or walk humbly with you. Forgive us. Remind us of the power of Jesus Christ, in whose name 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! Christ dwells in our hearts through faith, as we are being rooted and grounded in love.

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

#### **GLORIA PATRI (577)**

**Glory be to the Father, and the Son, and 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 Nicene Creed*)

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. Amen.**

#### **We Hear God's Word**

#### **MESSAGE FOR DISCIPLES OF ALL AGES**

#### **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**Gracious God, as we turn to your powerful Word for us, may your Spirit rest upon us. Help us to be steadfast in our hearing, in our speaking, in our believing, and in our living. Amen.**

**HEBREW BIBLE LESSON**      *Micah 6:6-8*

**EPISTLE LESSON**      *Ephesians 3:14-21*

**GOSPEL LESSON**      *Mark 6:53-56*

**SERMON**      The Power of Christ

**MUSICAL MEDITATION**      *10,000 Reasons*, sung by the FPCH Praise Choir      Matt Redman

#### **We Respond in Faith**

#### **PASTORAL PRAYER AND 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: The people of Gennesaret understood the power of Christ, reaching out to touch the fringe of his cloak just as the hemorrhaging woman had. Let us give our tithes and offerings, trusting in the power of Christ to guide us. If you have not already done so, please place your offering in the plate as you leave. If you are worshiping 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**      *A Blessing*

James V. Marchionda, arr. Michael K. Runyan

## \* 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)

**Loving God, as we dedicate these gifts to you, we also dedicate ourselves to the work that Christ calls us to. Remind us that in him we have true power. It is in his name that we pray. Amen.**

<b>We Go into the World</b>
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\* CLOSING HYMN: "Take My Life" (391)

## BENEDICTION

**POSTLUDE** *Holy God, We Praise Thy Name (Katholisches Gesangbuch)*      Vienna 1774, arr. Cindy Berry

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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.

<b>Life of the Church</b>
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## PEEK AT THE WEEK:

SUNDAY 7/28:	Worship In Person & Online – 10:30 AM Fellowship Hosts: Mission
MONDAY 7/29:	GA – 6:30 PM Al-Anon – 7:00 PM
WEDNESDAY 7/31:	GA – 7:00 PM

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **FAITH DEVELOPMENT SURVEY** “The Faith Development Ministry team is curious what you’re interested in when it comes to faith formation opportunities. A survey link was emailed out this week to everyone on our email list, and paper copies were mailed to those without email. We’d like each person, all ages, to complete a survey – including any children or youth who are part of our congregation. Be honest and give us your thoughts so we can plan for great faith development opportunities. Surveys are due by the end of the month. If you have any questions, contact Heather Casiano.”
- **SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE AUGUST 4<sup>TH</sup>** We’re collecting school supplies to support students and teachers in the Highland area! All are invited to bring a few school supplies to worship on Aug. 4<sup>th</sup>, to be donated to local schools. If you aren’t able to come to worship on Aug. 4<sup>th</sup>, supplies can be dropped off in the collection bin inside Door D at the church (during church office hours) July 28<sup>th</sup> through August 9<sup>th</sup>. Thank you for your help in equipping our local students and teachers!
- **EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT AUGUST 17<sup>TH</sup>** One of our church members, Robbie Casiano, is working towards earning his Eagle Scout rank in Boy Scouts. His chosen Eagle Scout project is an Essential Items Drive, to benefit our church’s food pantry and local homeless shelters. On **Saturday, August 17, from 9 am to 3 pm**, you can drop off much needed items (listed below) at the church. You can drive up to the curb near Door B, where Robbie and his troop members will accept your donations without you having to even get out! The collection drive will take place rain or shine. If you can’t make it on Aug. 17<sup>th</sup>, there will be a bin in the narthex at church for donated items from Aug. 12–23. Thank you for your help! -non-perishable food (nothing expired or homemade) -hygiene items for men and women, such as toothpaste, toothbrushes, shaving cream, razors, deodorant, soap, body wash, shampoo/conditioner -Socks of all sizes – men, women and children -Baby items such as diapers, wipes, powdered baby formula
- **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.
- **JOIN US FOR FELLOWSHIP AFTER WORSHIP** Every Sunday after worship we have delicious snacks, coffee, lemonade, and conversation. Join us for this vital part of our life together!
- **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.
- **BIN OF HUGS** Bring in clean, gently used stuffed animals for distribution to migrant families with young children who need the joy of loving welcome!
- **GOT SNEAKERS?** We are still participating in the Got Sneakers Fundraiser where there is nothing to buy or sell; all we need is your support and your gently worn, used, or new sneakers! Blue bins are located in the narthex, and inside and outside DOOR D by the office. Every pair counts!

## Prayer List

Anthony  
George Nelson  
Brady Vanes  
George Griner  
Guy Hendricks  
Bill and Anettia Holmes  
Daniel Litwicki  
David Markley  
Pat and David Kingen  
Diana and Ray Mendoza  
Janet Orem  
Jeanne Nestor  
Cindy Waltz and Sister  
Yvonne Suroviak  
Wendy  
Georgette Sknerski  
Jakob Holden  
Denise Matthys  
Steve & Melinda  
Jan Oprea  
Ric Jaeggi  
Florance Cody  
Josephine Kim  
Carol Figley  
Kathy & Chuck Pumnea  
Nick  
Laura Buono Domsic  
The Windstrups  
Ruth Dekker  
Rick Parker  
Gary Everhart  
Gale Osterby  
Bonnie Kern  
Collin & Kathy Stein  
Peter  
Tim  
Barbara Morton  
Caroline Studer

Holly Letnich  
Jaden Mendez  
Frank Falzone  
Doug & Sue Matthews  
Robert Urich  
Richard Simmons  
Janet Terpstra  
Glen Nahler  
Tammy  
Tom  
Jana Tolley  
Larry & Bonnie Perryman  
Virginia Marshall  
Delta Rose  
Winnie Owen  
Charity Lynn  
Shannon  
David Hamblin  
Judy  
Breeanne  
Joe Petersen  
Susan Agbor  
Mom Bechtler  
A Close Friend  
Gloria  
John Miramontes  
Colton Bobonick  
Cletus  
Victor  
Mary Ellen Edeus  
Crystal and David Cervantes  
Cheryl  
Marian Clayton  
Lou Ann Sulowski  
Ella P  
Donald Churilla  
Edie Delgano  
Melissa

### **Micah 6:6-8**

<sup>6</sup> “With what shall I come before the LORD  
and bow myself before God on high?  
Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,  
with calves a year old?  
<sup>7</sup> Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams,  
with ten thousands of rivers of oil?  
Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,  
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”  
<sup>8</sup> He has told you, O mortal, what is good,  
and what does the LORD require of you  
but to do justice and to love kindness  
and to walk humbly with your God?

### **Ephesians 3:14-21**

<sup>14</sup> For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, <sup>15</sup> from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. <sup>16</sup> I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit <sup>17</sup> and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. <sup>18</sup> I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth <sup>19</sup> and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.  
<sup>20</sup> Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, <sup>21</sup> to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

### **Mark 6:53-56**

<sup>53</sup> When they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret and moored the boat. <sup>54</sup> When they got out of the boat, people at once recognized him <sup>55</sup> and rushed about that whole region and began to bring the sick on mats to wherever they heard he was. <sup>56</sup> And wherever he went, into villages or cities or farms, they laid the sick in the marketplaces and begged him that they might touch even the fringe of his cloak, and all who touched it were healed.

## The Power of Christ

*Micah 6:6-8; Ephesians 3:14-21; Mark 6:53-56*

Throughout the month of July we have been on a journey of empowerment, moving through the powerful events narrated in *Mark 6*. We have learned of the power of faith, as demonstrated by Jesus' healing and miracle working being impacted by the lack of faith shown by the villagers of his hometown of Nazareth. We have learned of the power of hospitality, as demonstrated by the disciples' healing and miracle working being impacted by the abundance of hospitality shown by the villagers of the towns surrounding Nazareth. We have learned of the power of inner peace, as demonstrated by Jesus' ability to walk on water and calm the wind after encountering God on the mountaintop. At the heart of all this power, of course, is Christ. It is his power that heals. It is his power that works miracles. It is his power that brings peace. And so, all of what we have been learning about is the power of Christ.

And so let us be reminded of exactly how Christ understood and embodied power. With Jesus we should of course expect the unexpected, and this is especially true when it comes to his power. It is in direct opposition to the paradigm of *power as dominance* that pervades the patriarchy and, alas, today's politics. Back on July 7 we heard of one of Paul's encounters with Jesus in his second letter to the Corinthians. In that encounter, Jesus said, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness." And so, there we have it. For Christ, power is perfected in weakness. This is so because power is strengthened through relationship, and it is our weaknesses that catalyze our need for relationship with each other and with God. For, my weaknesses can be covered by your strengths and vice versa, and so we are made more powerful together. If you pay attention, that is exactly how power is demonstrated throughout *Mark 6*. It is even true for Jesus. His power is enhanced by the faith of others and thus made more perfect in relationship. His power coursing through the disciples is enhanced by the hospitality of others and thus made more perfect in relationship. His power is enhanced by cultivating inner peace in his encounters with God and thus made more perfect in relationship.

It stands to reason, then, that if power is made more perfect in relationship, then the greatest power would be in our relationship with Jesus. And the nature of that relationship, of course, is the profoundest love. That love pervades everything that Jesus does as recorded in our scriptures and everything that we feel Jesus doing in our own lives today. After all, it is the reason that he was enacting deeds of power in the first place—to heal people physically and spiritually, to feed people, to calm people's fears, to give people hope—all because of that profound love for all. We will return to the role of that love in our lives in a moment. First, though, let's return to our journey of empowerment through *Mark 6* to see just how astonishing the power of Christ is.

When last we met Jesus and the disciples, they were all on a boat upon the Sea of Galilee. Jesus had joined them a bit later, having walked across the sea after communing with God on the mountain. He had accessed the power of inner peace and then shared it with the disciples who were worried about ghosts and about the choppiness of the water due to wind. Jesus calmed the wind and the sea and so calmed the storms within. It was in this serene tableau that we left them last week. This week, we find them reaching the other side and mooring their boat in a place called Gennesaret. As had happened previously, people knew who they were and quickly spread word that the healers and miracle workers had arrived. They rushed to find them and crowded around them with those most in need of healing. Renewed by the power of peace this time around, Jesus and the disciples were ready. No more grumbling and complaining. It was healing time! They embarked on a journey through villages, cities, and farms, and everywhere they went they met these crowds of people.

In the midst of this, something particularly pertinent to our exploration of power happened. We have one of those stunning full circle moments. As Mark puts it, people "begged him that they might touch even the fringe of his cloak, and all who touched it were healed." Somehow in all of my years of reading the gospels, I have never paid attention to that detail. Thank Holy Spirit I've noticed it this time, though! For, as always, our scriptures are exquisite in their attention to detail. This is such a significant full-circle moment, of course, because of the events that led up to all the power presented in *Mark 6*. Hopefully you recall the story of the hemorrhaging woman who touched the cloak of Jesus and was healed in *Mark 5*. She was lifted up as a paragon of faith. Recall the words of Jesus: "Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your

disease.” So deep was her faith that she knew in her heart that she only needed to touch the cloak that he wore, and his power would overflow. Jesus only knew it was happening because he felt that surge of power coming from him. This was juxtaposed with the diminishing of power that he then experienced in Nazareth, due to their lack of faith.

This daughter of faith was but one person showing the power of faith. At the end of *Mark 6*, though, there are multitudes of people reaching out to touch the fringe of his cloak. There are multitudes of people with such a deep faith that they know they will experience healing by simply reaching out and touching his clothes. Imagine how much power must have been overflowing from Jesus at that point! If it was so significant for him to have felt it with one person doing so, imagine the multitudes doing so! For good reason we are usually given intimate accounts of healing in the scriptures. We are told the personal interest stories of individuals, getting to know them and thus having a vested interest in them. These stories have such power because we are able to connect with the characters sometimes even to see ourselves in them. The truth is, though, that these are but snapshots of the lives changed by the power of Christ. His impact was exponentially greater. There are multitudes of unnamed people who were healed. Although their stories are not individually told in the scriptures, you can bet that their stories became the stuff of local lore—passed on from neighbor to neighbor and from generation to generation. By reaching out in faith, these unnamed faithful created a surge of power that is breathtaking in its scope, in its magnitude!

As always, I invite us to think about what this means for us today, when we no longer have Jesus here in the flesh nor remnants of the clothes that he wore to touch. Is it possible for us to access the power of Christ without the physicality of Christ? That question brings us back to the profound love that I mentioned earlier. For, even though we may not be able to touch Jesus in the flesh, we can certainly still have a relationship with him. That is one of the blessed miracles of the Holy Spirit, the persistence of Jesus’ presence in the world and the persistence of Jesus’ presence within us. Last week we once again heard those most powerful of words when it comes to seeking inner peace: “Do not be afraid.” Elsewhere we hear the powerful words that put the meat on the bones of that assurance: “Remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” Of course that brings to mind the great Jesuit hymn: *Be not afraid, I go before you always. Come, follow me, and I will give you rest.*

In his love for all humanity, Jesus made a way to always be there for us and with us. This of course does not look the same as it did 2000 years ago in the land called Galilee, when and where he walked the earth. But it can certainly still take the form of overflowing power—the power to change lives, the power to transform the world. For, as *Mark 6* has made abundantly clear, when we have faith and show hospitality and cultivate inner peace we participate in making that power to overflow. For, again, power is made perfect in relationship. And Christ’s power is made perfect in our relationships with Christ.

Now, what exactly does it mean to have a relationship with Christ? Whoa, hold up now! I am sure that at this point some of you are wondering if you are still in a Presbyterian church. We frozen chosen types are not known for our “relationship with Jesus” talk. We tend to associate that with a highly individualized sort of religion that we often critique. Well, I’ve got good news for you! In this Presbyterian church we are totally immersed in relationship with Jesus. And it is not just a matter of individual religion to ensure our individual souls’ journeys to heaven. It is a communal phenomenon that empowers us to participate in building the Kingdom right here and now. For, having a relationship with Christ means listening to what Jesus calls us to and responding by following his example. And that call and example are all about cultivating community through love. And so, when we love each other in community we strengthen our relationship with Christ.

And oh, it gets even better! If I have a relationship with Jesus and Jesus’ power is amplified through that, and if I have a relationship with you and our collective power is amplified by that, and if the power of Christ in me meets the power of Christ in you meets the power of Christ in everybody here, that amplification becomes exponential! And we must remember that since Jesus is no longer here in the flesh, we the church are called to be his body. As a community of many body parts, we are his incarnation. And so, people should be able to reach out and access the power of Christ when they encounter our love. And how do they encounter that love? Well, God gives us a pretty good idea through the prophet Micah. People encounter that love when they



are impacted by our actions for justice, by our embodiment of kindness, and by our dispositions of humility. And God gives us a pretty good idea through *Mark 6*. People encounter that love when they witness our faith and experience our hospitality and feel our peace. And once they reach out for it, it just keeps overflowing and spreading! Wow! I hope that you can feel the power right now, everyone! And I hope that you know that it's always here, for Christ is always here! And the power of Christ is the power of love, and the power of love is a power that cannot help but multiply.

I close by repeating the prayer spoken for us in *Ephesians 3*:

*For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.*

# O Christ, the Healer

380

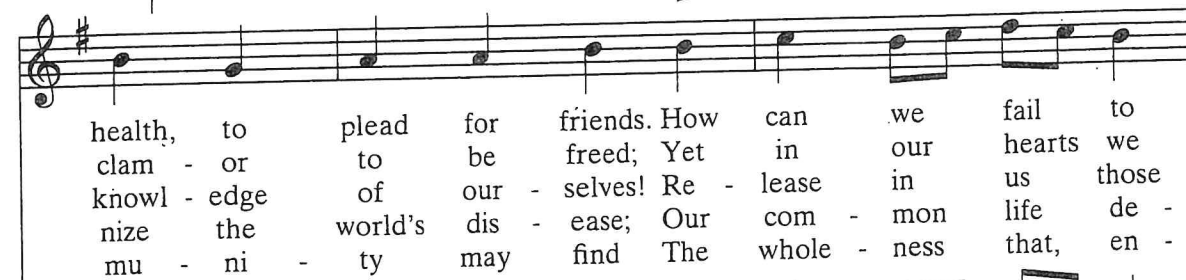
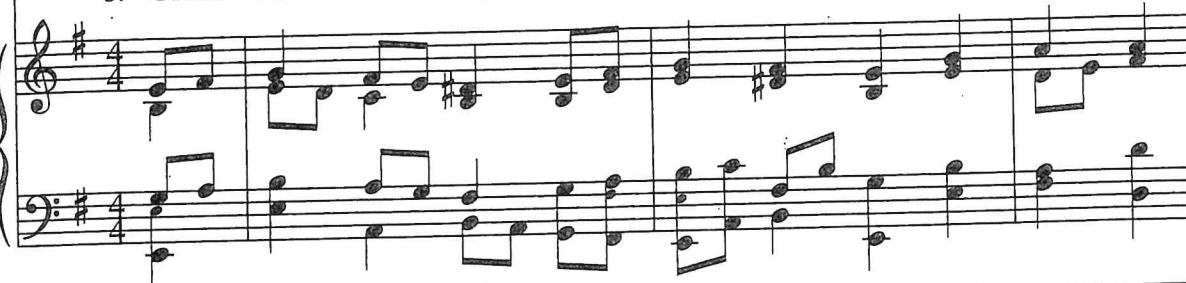
ERHALT UNS, HERR LM

Fred Pratt Green, 1969

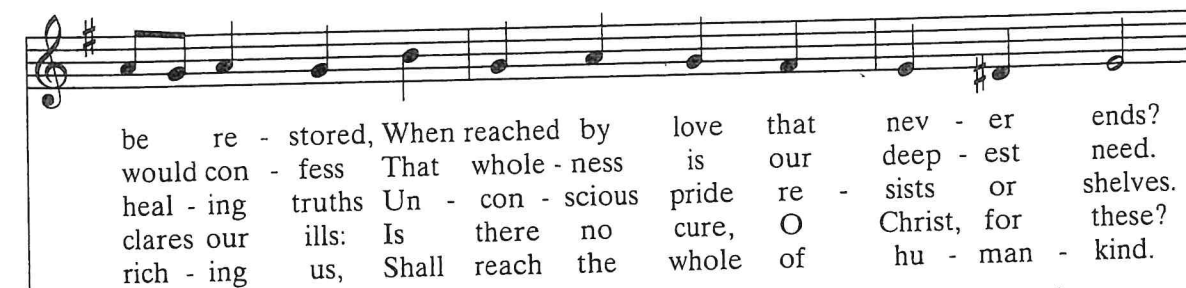
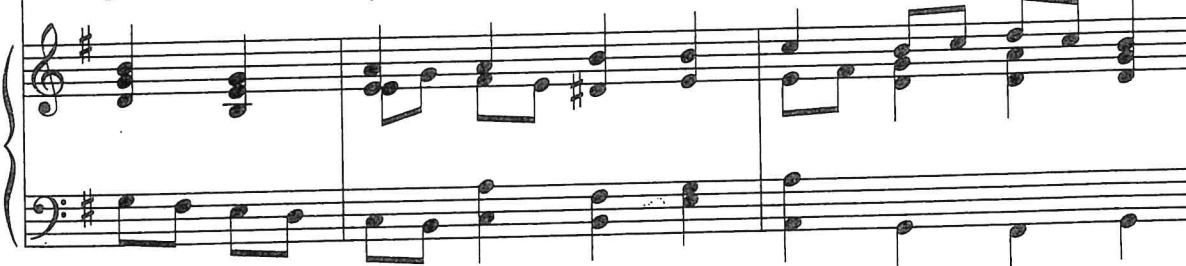
Klug's *Geistliche Lieder*, 1543  
Harm. Johann Sebastian Bach (1725)



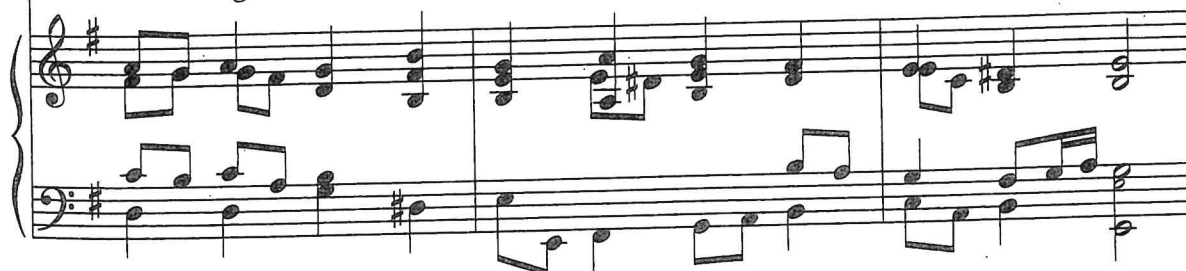
1. O Christ, the heal - er, we have come To pray for  
2. From ev - ery ail - ment flesh en - dures Our bod - ies  
3. How strong, O Lord, are our de - sires, How weak our  
4. In con - flicts that de - stroy our health We rec - og -  
5. Grant that we all, made one in faith, In Your com -



health, to plead for friends. How can we fail to  
clam - or to be freed; Yet in our hearts we  
knowl - edge of our - selves! Re - lease in us those  
nize the world's dis - ease; Our com - mon life de -  
mu - ni - ty may find The whole - ness that, en -



be re - stored, When reached by love that nev - er ends?  
would con - fess That whole - ness is our deep - est need.  
heal - ing truths Un - con - scious pride re - sists or shelves.  
clares our ills: Is there no cure, O Christ, for these?  
rich - ing us, Shall reach the whole of hu - man - kind.



## Take My Life

HENDON 7.7.7

Frances Ridley Havergal, 1874

H. A. César Malan, 1827

1. Take my life, and let it be Con-se - crat - ed, Lord, to Thee.  
 2. Take my hands, and let them move At the im - pulse of Thy love.  
 3. Take my voice, and let me sing, Al - ways, on - ly, for my King.  
 4. Take my sil - ver and my gold, Not a mite would I with-hold;

Take my mo - ments and my days; Let them flow in  
 Take my feet, and let them be Swift and beau - ti -  
 Take my lips, and let them be Filled with mes - sa -  
 Take my in - tel - lect, and use Ev - ery power as

cease - less praise, Let them flow in cease - less praise.  
 ful for Thee, Swift and beau - ti - ful for Thee.  
 ges from Thee, Filled with mes - sa - ges from Thee.  
 Thou shalt choose, Ev - ery power as Thou shalt choose.

5. Take my will, and make it Thine;  
 It shall be no longer mine.  
 Take my heart, it is Thine own;  
 It shall be Thy royal throne,  
 It shall be Thy royal throne.

6. Take my love; my Lord, I pour  
 At Thy feet its treasure store.  
 Take myself, and I will be  
 Ever, only, all for Thee,  
 Ever, only, all for Thee.