

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Benton Harbor



A Little Dab'll Do Ya

Romans 8:26-39 + Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52
Standing Tall on Morton Hill for over 130 Years
July 26, 2026 • 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

We Are Welcomed

Welcome

Opening Prayer

“Prayer of Detachment” by Blessed Peter Faber, SJ

Prelude + Setting the Table for Worship

We Are Gathered

The Call to Worship

O give thanks to the Lord, call on his name,
make known his deeds among the peoples.

**Sing to him, sing praises to him;
tell of all his wonderful works.**

Glory in his holy name;
let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.

**Seek the Lord and his strength;
seek his presence continually.**

Remember the wonderful works he has done,
his miracles, and the judgments he uttered,
O offspring of his servant Abraham,
children of Jacob, his chosen ones.

Song of Praise

Please stand as you are able, in body or in spirit

God of the Fertile Fields *Glory to God #714*

[see next page]

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

**God of mystery, God of life,
we imagine that we are capable judges
of power and wisdom and goodness.
We trust our own standards;
we separate and categorize;
we mark the performance of others.**

God of the Fertile Fields

714

1 God of the fer - tile fields, shap - er of
 2 We would be stew - ards true, hold - ing in
 3 As grows the hid - den seed to fruit that
 4 God of the coun - try - side, dear to the

earth that yields our dai - ly bread: forth from your
 trust from you all that you give; help us in
 serves our need, so your reign grows. Let all our
 Christ who died to make us one: we pledge our

boun - teous hand come gifts your love has planned,
 love to share, teach us like you to care
 toil be used, no gift of yours a - bused,
 lives a - new in faith - ful love to you.

that all in ev - ery land be clothed and fed.
 for peo - ple ev - ery - where, that all may live.
 no hum - ble task re - fused your love be - stows.
 Guide all we say and do. Your will be done.

Greater awareness has enlarged Christian stewardship to develop new dimensions of concern for people in all parts of the world. Because we believe that it is God's will that the gifts we have received should be

**We fail to trust your power, hidden in all things.
We fail to watch for you, working out your purposes.
Gracious God, hidden and manifest,
transform our withered imaginations
until we yield the judgments we trust
to a love we cannot control. Amen.**

Assurance of Forgiveness

Song of Gratitude

“Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me” *Glory to God #582*

Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, amen.

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

Passing of the Peace

As Christ has forgiven us and received us into peace, let us now forgive one another and receive one another into our peace. There are many ways to share signs of peace with one another while minimizing physical contact: We can wave and smile; we can give the ‘peace’ sign; or we can bring our hands together in the center of our chests and bow slightly toward one another saying, “Peace be with you.” Whichever way you choose to share, do so with respect and love for your neighbors! Let us share signs of peace.

We Hear God's Word

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading

Romans 8:26-39

New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with groanings too deep for words. And God, who searches hearts, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called, and those

whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified. What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son but gave him up for all of us, how will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ who died, or rather, who was raised, who is also at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will affliction or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or peril or sword? As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all day long;
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.”

No, in all these things we are more than victorious through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Scripture Reading Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52 *New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition*

He put before them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.”

He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.”

“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and reburied; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

“Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

A Time for Young People

Song of Preparation

In the Garden

Songs of Zion #44

[see next page]

Proclamation of the Word

A Little Dab'll Do Ya

Rev. Sheth LaRue

Moment of Meditation

We Respond to God's Word

The Offertory

Quarter Donations Recipient: Camp Greenwood

Doxology

Please stand as you are able, in body or in spirit

Praise God from whom all blessings flow

Praise Christ all creatures here below

Praise Holy Spirit evermore

Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.

The Prayer of Dedication

Joys + Concerns

Prayers of the People

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 sins as we forgive those who sin against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Song of Trust

Amen

Glory to God #600

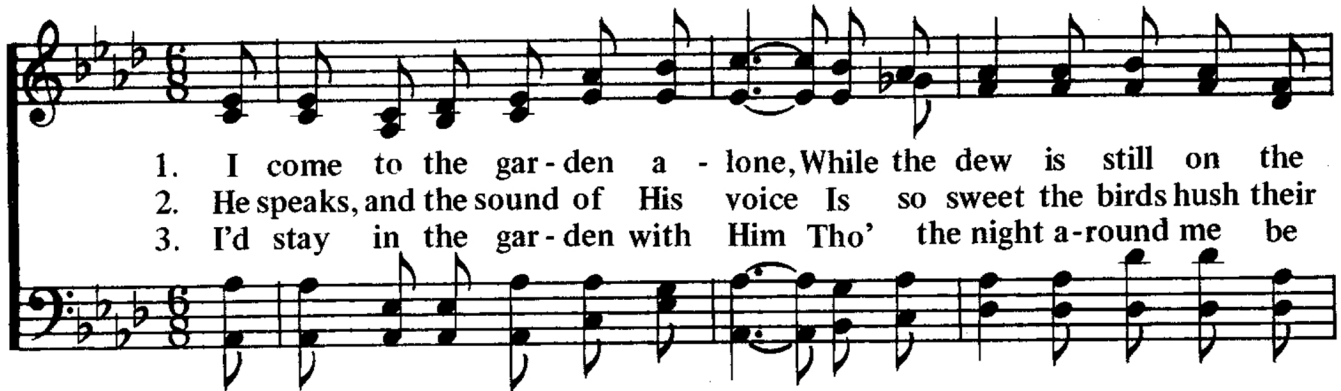
Announcements

In the Garden

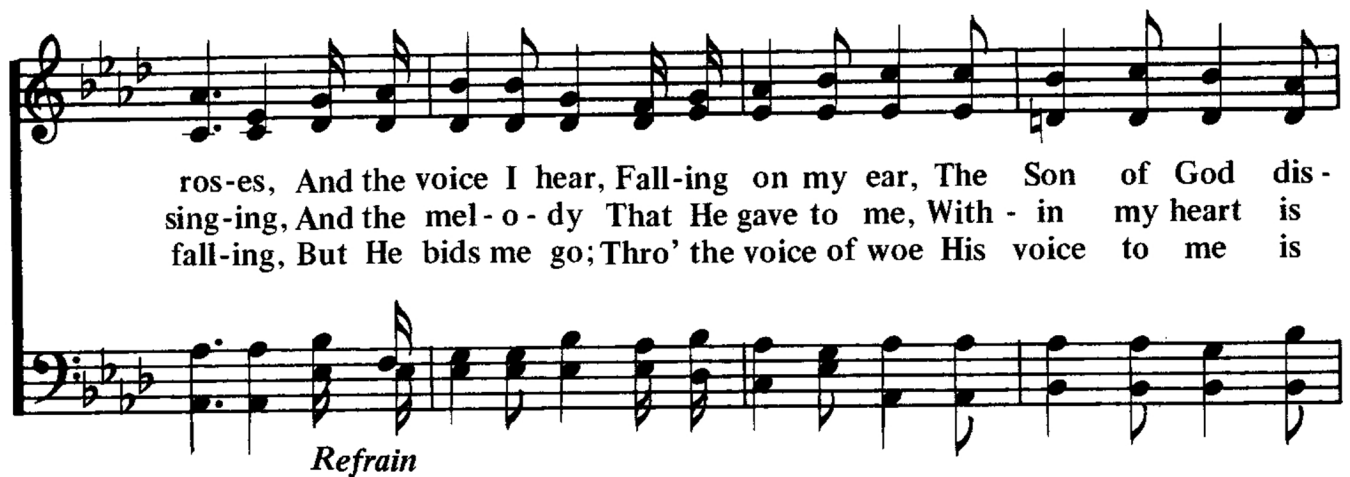
44

C. A. M.

C. Austin Miles, 1868-1955

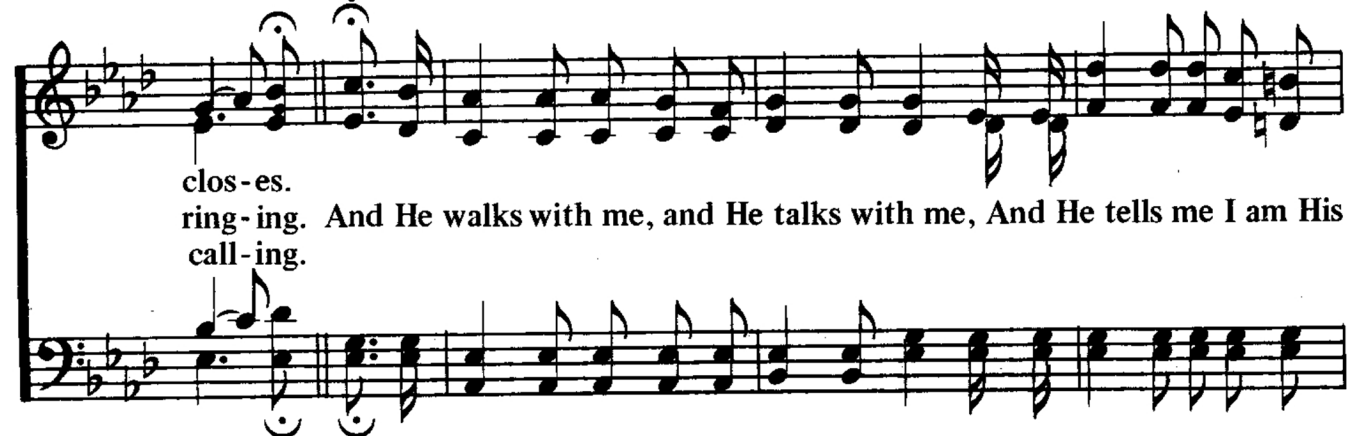


1. I come to the gar-den a-lone, While the dew is still on the
2. He speaks, and the sound of His voice Is so sweet the birds hush their
3. I'd stay in the gar-den with Him Tho' the night a-round me be

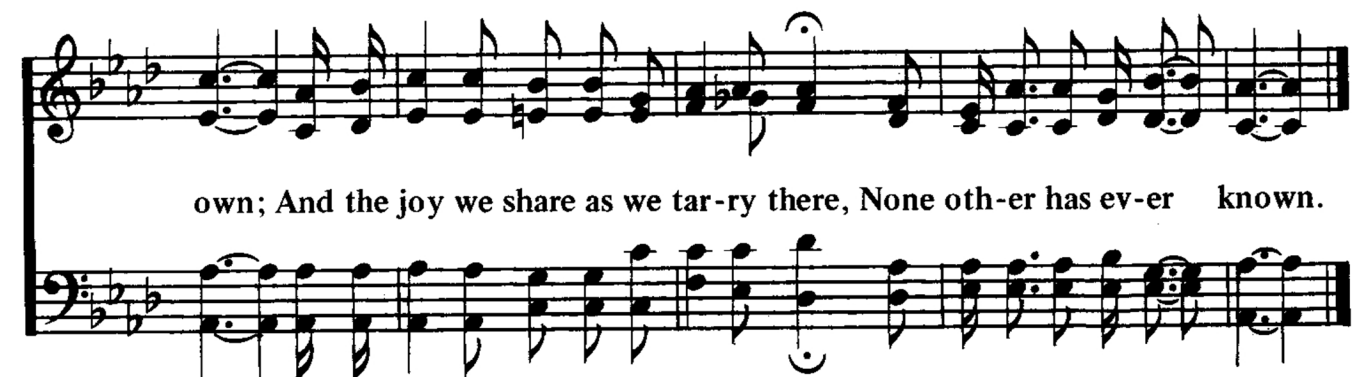


ros-es, And the voice I hear, Fall-ing on my ear, The Son of God dis-sing-ing, And the mel-o-dy That He gave to me, With-in my heart is fall-ing, But He bids me go; Thro' the voice of woe His voice to me is

Refrain



clos-es.
ring-ing. And He walks with me, and He talks with me, And He tells me I am His call-ing.



own; And the joy we share as we tar-ry there, None oth-er has ev-er known.

We Are Sent by God

Song of Sending *Please stand as you are able, in body or in spirit*

What is the World Like *Glory to God #771*

[see next page]

Charge + Benediction

Postlude

Questions for Reflection

Are there dilemmas or relationships in which you feel separated from the love of God? Can you imagine that God might be at work there, bringing life in unexpected ways? What would change if you were to claim the promise that nothing can separate you from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord?

What Is the World Like

771

Capo 1: (G)

(Em7)

(C)

(D)

A^b

Fm7

D^b

E^b



1 What is the world like when God's will is done?
 2 What is the world like when God's will is done?
 3 What is the world like when God's will is done?
 4 What is the world like when God's will is done?
 5 These are the sto - ries that Je - sus im - parts,

(Em)

(C)

(Am)

(B7)

Fm

D^b

B^bm

C7



Mus - tard seeds grow more than we can con - ceive:
 Wit - ness the wan - der - ing child com - ing home;
 No more is neigh - bor just al - ly or friend;
 Read - y for feast - ing, we watch through the night,
 filled with the Spir - it who joins us as one.

(Em)

(Am)

(D)

(G)

Fm

B^bm

E^b

A^b



roots thread the soil; branch - es reach for the sun.
 watch as the par - ent breaks in - to a run.
 peace thrives in plac - es where once there was none.
 tend - ing our lamps till the new day's be - gun.
 Born through our voic - es, our hands, and our hearts,

(C)

(Em7)

(Am7)

(D)

(G)

D^b

Fm7

B^bm7

E^b

A^b



This is how God moves us each to be - lieve.
 This is how God longs for us when we roam.
 This is how God works when ri - val - ries end.
 This is how God read - ies us for the light.
 this is a new world where God's will is done.

