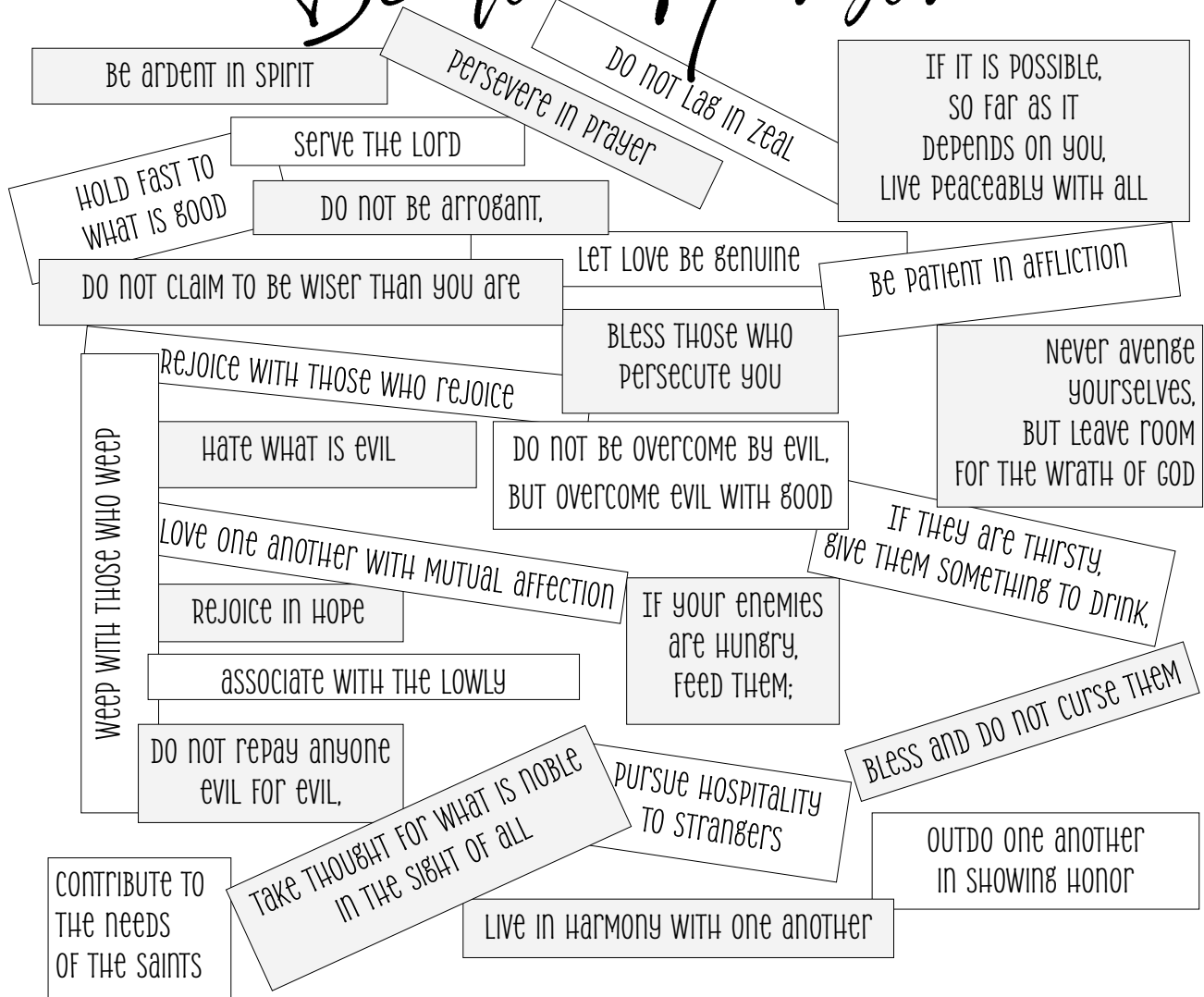


FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Benton Harbor



So Heavenly Minded, You're No Earthly Good

Romans 12:9-21 + Matthew 16:21-28

Standing Tall on Morton Hill for over 130 Years

August 30, 2026 • 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

We Are Welcomed

Welcome

Opening Prayer

“No Earthly Good” by John R. Cash

Come heed me, my brothers, come heed, one and all
Don't brag about standing or you'll surely fall
You're shining your light and shine it you should
But you're so heavenly minded, you're no earthly good

If you're holding heaven, then spread it around
There's hungry hands reaching up here from the ground
Move over and share the high ground where you stood
So heavenly minded, you're no earthly good

The gospel ain't gospel until it is spread
But how can you share it where you've got your head
There's hands that reach out for a hand if you would
So heavenly minded, you're no earthly good

If you're holding heaven, then spread it around
There's hungry hands reaching up here from the ground
Move over and share the high ground where you stood
So heavenly minded, you're no earthly good

Prelude + Setting the Table for Worship

We Are Gathered

The Call to Worship

To call on the Holy name,
to sing praises to God,
to remember God's wonderful works:

we gather in worship to give thanks to God.

We gather in worship seeking the Holy One.

We watch for signs of God's presence.

As our ancestors were led with the cloud by day and fire by night,
God guides us with the power of the Holy Spirit.

As they received abundant food in the wilderness and flowing water in the desert,
Let us be open to the miracles of God's provision in our lives.

Remember the holy promises!
Come, gather to worship with thanksgiving and praise!

Song of Praise *Please stand as you are able, in body or in spirit*
He Lives! *Songs of Zion #30 [see next page]*

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

**God of mercy,
we confess that, like the disciples,
we set our minds not on divine things but on human things.
Doubting your loving care, we grab for more than we need.
Doubting your loving purposes, we shrink
from living as your followers.
Doubting your loving plan, we become
stumbling blocks in your creation.
Forgive us that we may gain new life in you,
for it is in Jesus' forgiving name we pray. 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

A. H. A.

Alfred H. Ackley, 1887-1960



1. I serve a ris - en Sav - ior, He's in the world to - day;
2. In all the world a - round me I see His lov - ing care,
3. Re - joice, re - joice. O Chris - tian, lift up your voice and sing



I know that He is liv - ing, what - ev - er men* may say;
 And tho' my heart grows wea - ry I nev - er will de - spair;
 E - ter - nal hal - le - lu - jahs to Je - sus Christ, the King!



I see His hand of mer - cy, I hear His voice of cheer,
 I know that He is lead - ing through all the storm - y blast,
 The hope of all who seek Him, the help of all who find,



And just the time I need Him He's al - ways near.
 The day of His ap - pear - ing will come at last.
 None oth - er is so lov - ing, so good and kind.



*"oth-ers" may be substituted for "men may."

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Refrain

He lives, He lives, Christ Je - sus lives to - day!

He lives, He lives,

He walks with me and talks with me a - long life's nar - row way.

He lives, He lives, sal - va - tion to im - part!

He lives, He lives,

You ask me how I know He lives? He lives with-in my heart.

We Hear God's Word

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading

Romans 12:9-21 *New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition*

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 peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine; I will repay, says the Lord." Instead, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink, for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

The Word of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God!

Scripture Reading

Matthew 16:21-28

New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes and be killed and on the third day be raised. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me, for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life? "For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

Holy wisdom, holy word

Thanks be to God!

A Time for Young People

Song of Preparation

Savior, Lead Me, Lest I Stray

Songs of Zion #57

Proclamation of the Word

So Heavenly Minded, You're No Earthly Good Rev. Sheth LaRue

Moment of Meditation

We Respond to God's Word

The Offertory

As those who have been claimed and set free by Christ's grace, we respond with gratitude, offering him our lives, our spiritual gifts, and our material goods. The gifts we offer express our stewardship of creation, demonstrate our care for one another, support the ministries of the church, and provide for the needs of the poor. Offerings may be placed into any one of the plates in the sanctuary. At this time children may use one of the baskets found on the front pew to collect quarters for our quarter tube offerings, collected for specific missions and ministries of this church.

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

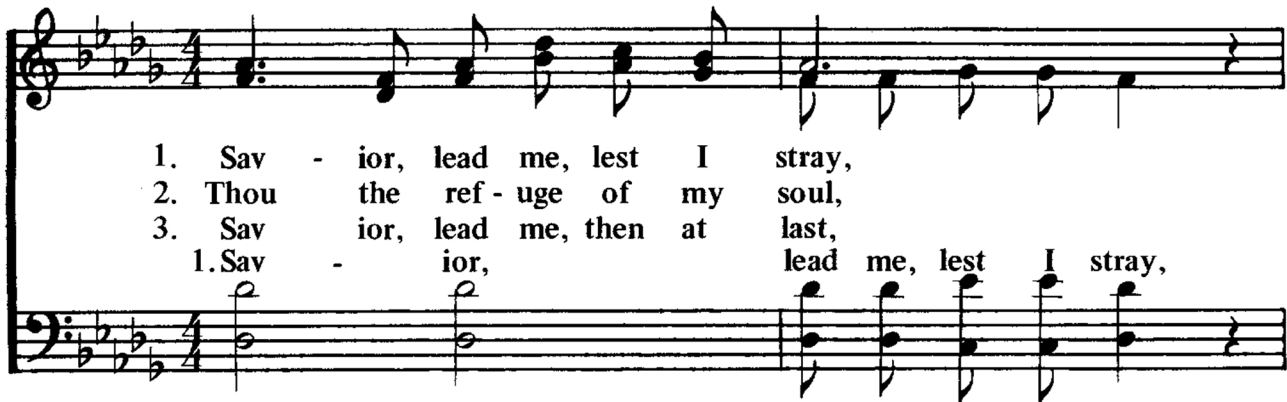
Amen

Glory to God #600

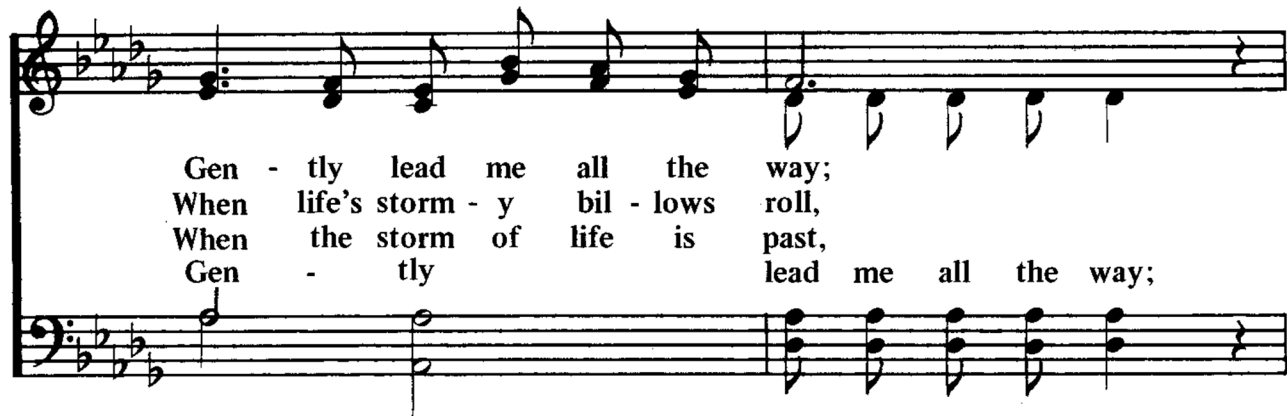
Announcements

F. M. D.

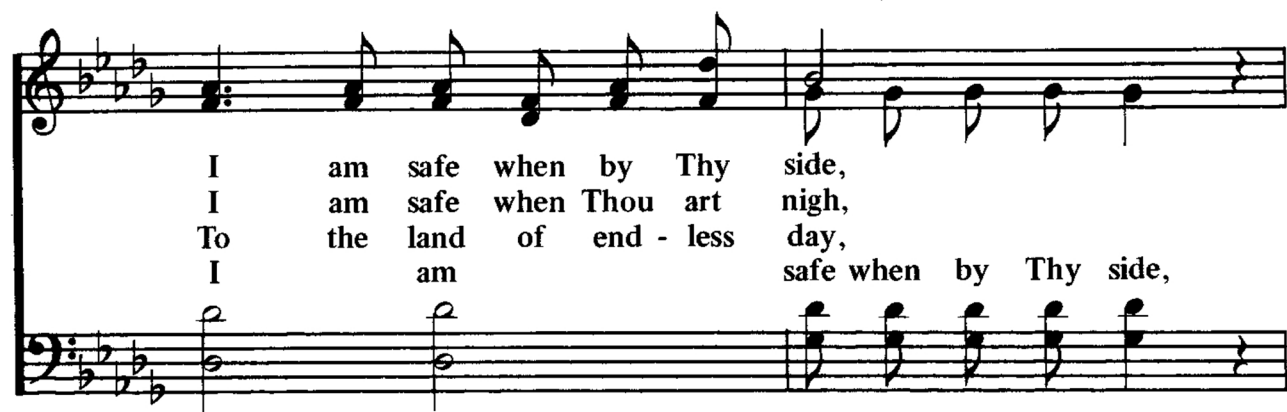
Frank M. Davis, 1839-1896



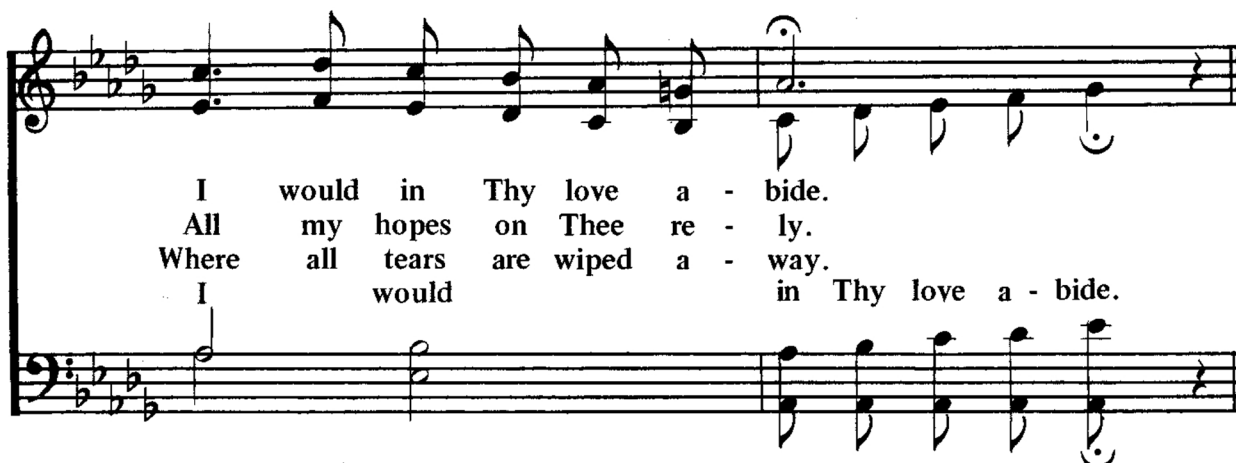
1. Sav - ior, lead me, lest I stray,
 2. Thou the ref - uge of my soul,
 3. Sav ior, lead me, then at last,
 1. Sav - ior, lead me, lest I stray,



Gen - tly lead me all the way;
 When life's storm - y bil - lows roll,
 When the storm of life is past,
 Gen - tly lead me all the way;



I am safe when by Thy side,
 I am safe when Thou art nigh,
 To the land of end - less day,
 I am safe when by Thy side,

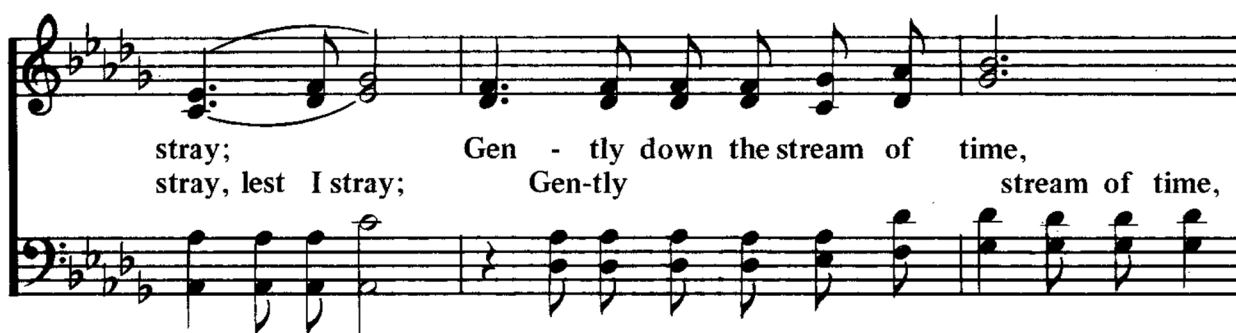


I would in Thy love a - bide.
 All my hopes on Thee re - ly.
 Where all tears are wiped a - way.
 I would in Thy love a - bide.

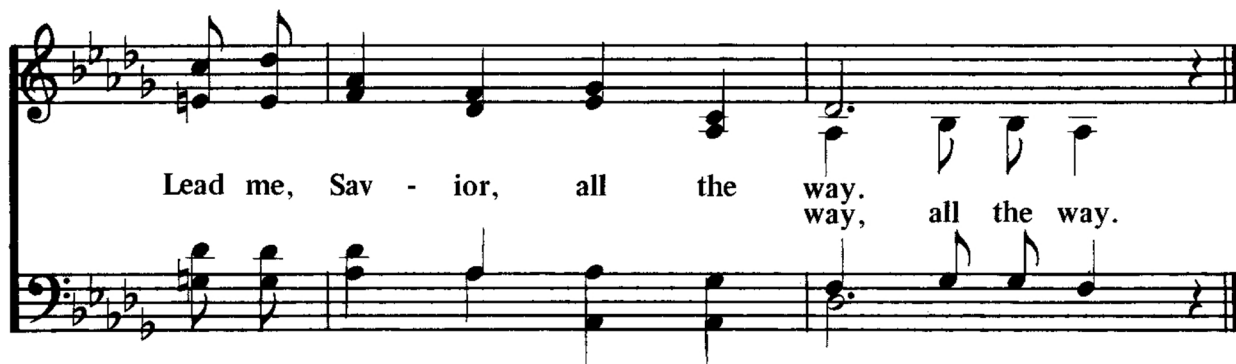
Refrain



Lead me, lead me, Sav - ior, lead me, lest I
 Sav - ior,



stray; Gen - tly down the stream of time,
 stray, lest I stray; Gen - tly stream of time,



Lead me, Sav - ior, all the way.
 way, all the way.

We Are Sent by God

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

More About Jesus

Songs of Zion #66

[see next page]

Charge + Benediction

Postlude

Questions for Reflection

What does it mean for me to take up my cross and follow Jesus? How do I practice that in my daily life? How is the cross I am asked to bear related to the cross of Jesus?

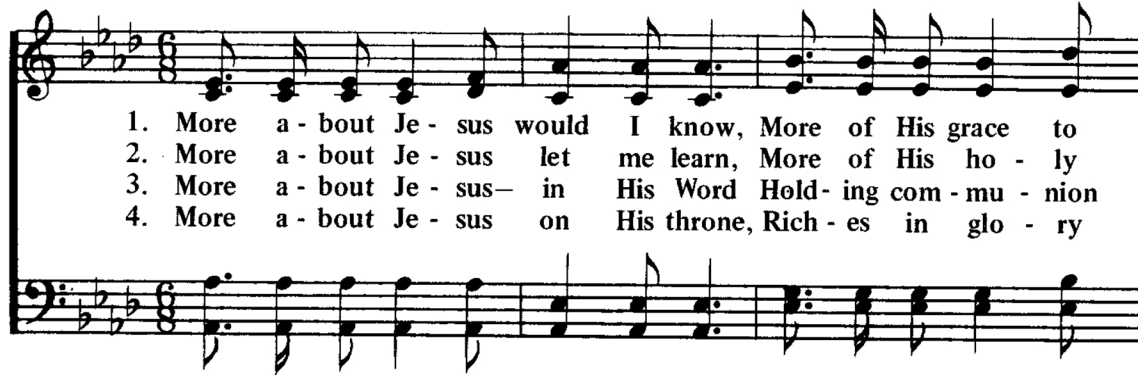
Lord Jesus, I do not know what crosses may arise before me, but give me courage to resist systems of injustice, strength to reject structures of oppression, and wisdom to unmask powers of evil, that I may live as a faithful disciple whose life belongs to you. Amen.

Announcements

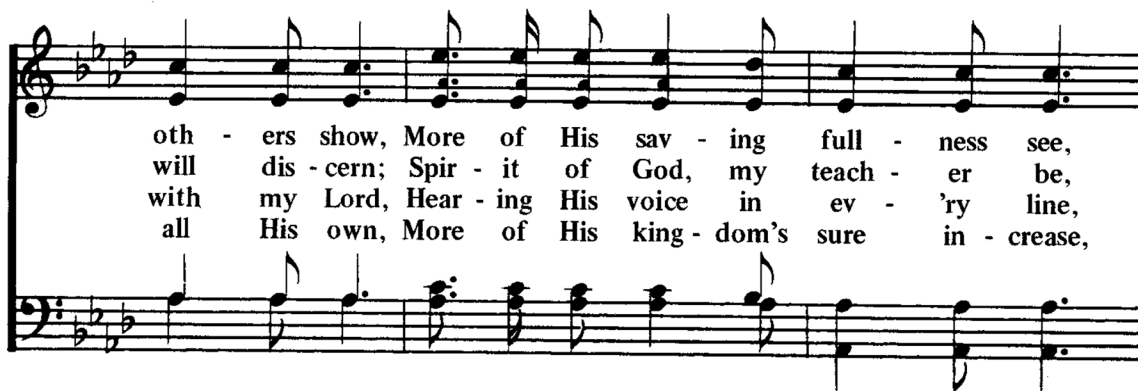
- Each year, Interfaith Action of Southwest Michigan celebrates the **Celebration of the Harvest and Harvesters**—an annual event honoring the invaluable contributions of migrant workers. This year's celebrations will be held on Sunday, October 4 at 3 pm at the Tabor Hill Estate Tent in Buchanan, Mich. In the lead-up to this event, we invite you to join in collecting much-needed items for our migrant neighbors. This year's requested items include: Dry pinto beans, dry black beans, bar soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, sunglasses, reusable water bottles, shampoo (no conditioner), Beanie Babies, sunscreen, men's t-shirts (size: S, M, L), socks, jeans (waist size: 30, 32, 34), athletic shoes (size: 8 and 9), men's long-sleeve shirts, hoodies, towels, blankets, baseball caps. Our collection table will be in the Gathering Space until October 4th. Questions? Contact Libby
- **The book club discussion** of *The Night Office*, by Doug Worgul, has been moved to September 15 at 11:30. The author, who is Jan Ackerson's brother, will join us on Zoom—we'd love to have you with us! See Jan for a copy of this book, which features barbecue, friendship, recovery from trauma, rediscovering faith, and large owls.

Eliza E. Hewitt, 1851-1920

John R. Sweney, 1837-1899

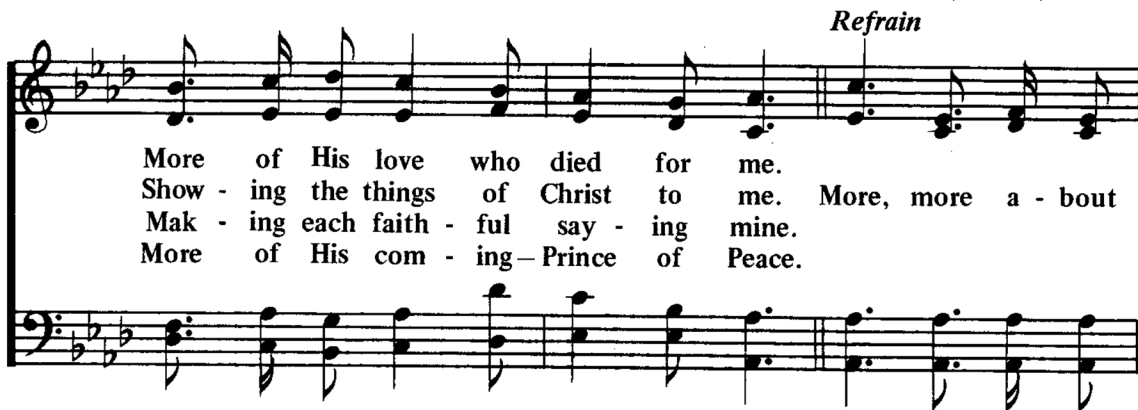


1. More a - bout Je - sus would I know, More of His grace to
 2. More a - bout Je - sus let me learn, More of His ho - ly
 3. More a - bout Je - sus— in His Word Hold - ing com - mu - nion
 4. More a - bout Je - sus on His throne, Rich - es in glo - ry

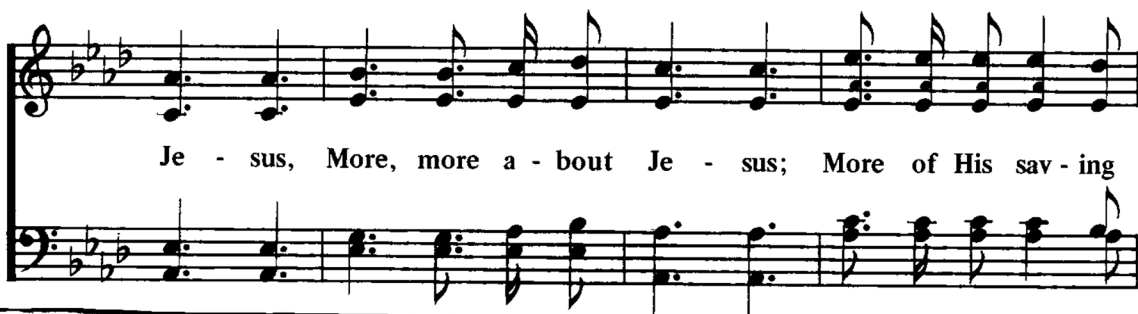


oth - ers show, More of His sav - ing full - ness see,
 will dis - cern; Spir - it of God, my teach - er be,
 with my Lord, Hear - ing His voice in ev - 'ry line,
 all His own, More of His king - dom's sure in - crease,

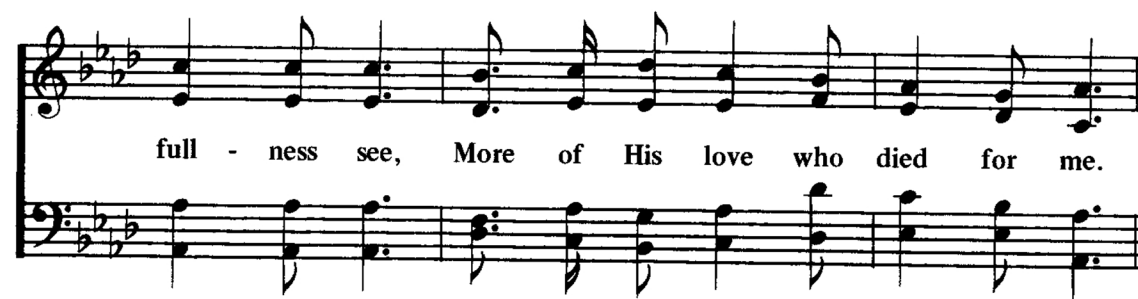
Refrain



More of His love who died for me.
 Show - ing the things of Christ to me. More, more a - bout
 Mak - ing each faith - ful say - ing mine.
 More of His com - ing— Prince of Peace.



Je - sus, More, more a - bout Je - sus; More of His sav - ing



full - ness see, More of His love who died for me.