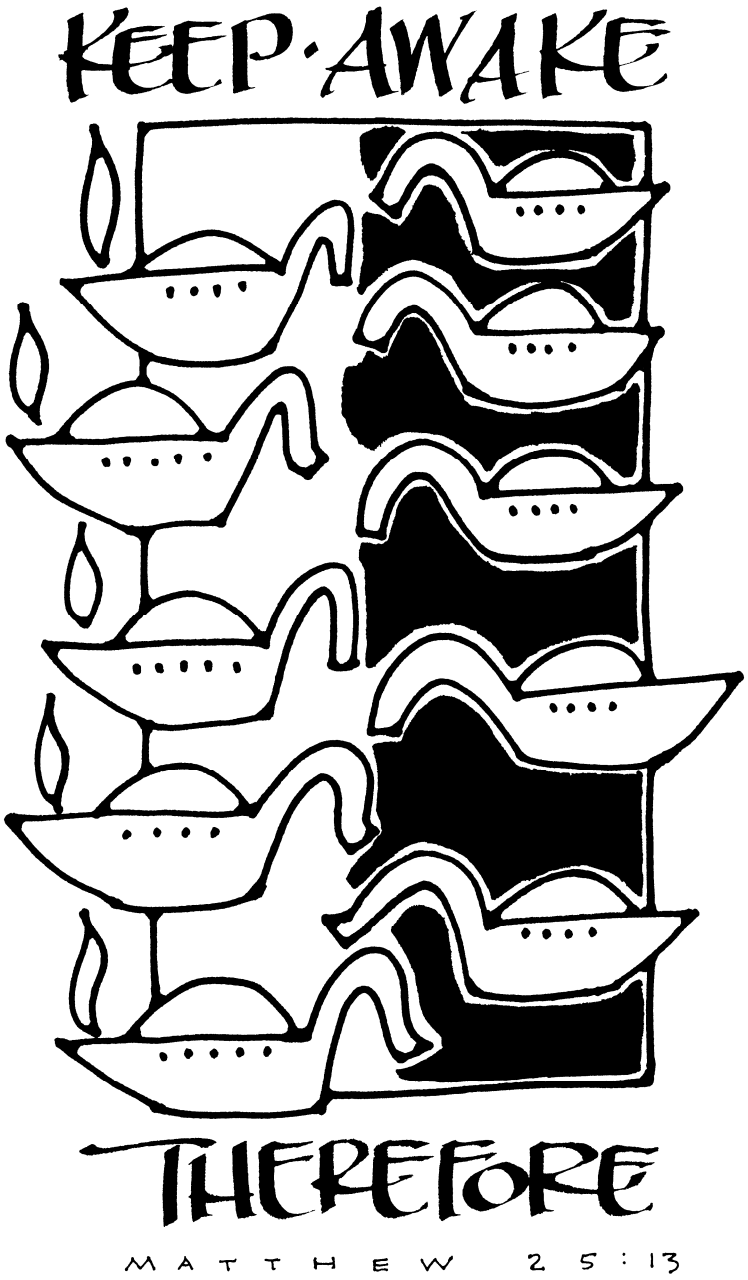
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Benton Harbor



What Are Ya' Doin'?
Amos 5:7, 11-15, 21-24 • Matthew 25:1-13 • Micah 6:6-8
November 8, 2026 • 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

We Are Welcomed

Welcome

Opening Prayer "Take Me to the Alley" by Gregory Porter

Prelude + Setting the Table for Worship

"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it." John 1:5

We light the Christ Candle each week as a reminder that Christ – the One who shines brightly in the darkness – is ever-present with us, not only here in worship, but in our every day life.

"…we were buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we also might walk in newness of life." Romans 6:4

We pour water into the font each week as a reminder of our own baptism – that moment when we connected with God's creative purpose, cleansing power, and redemptive promise.

We Are Gathered

The Call to Worship

Are you awake? Are you alert?
Christ is coming into our lives in a new way.

Are you watching the signs? Are you interpreting what is happening today?
Christ is coming into our lives in a new way.
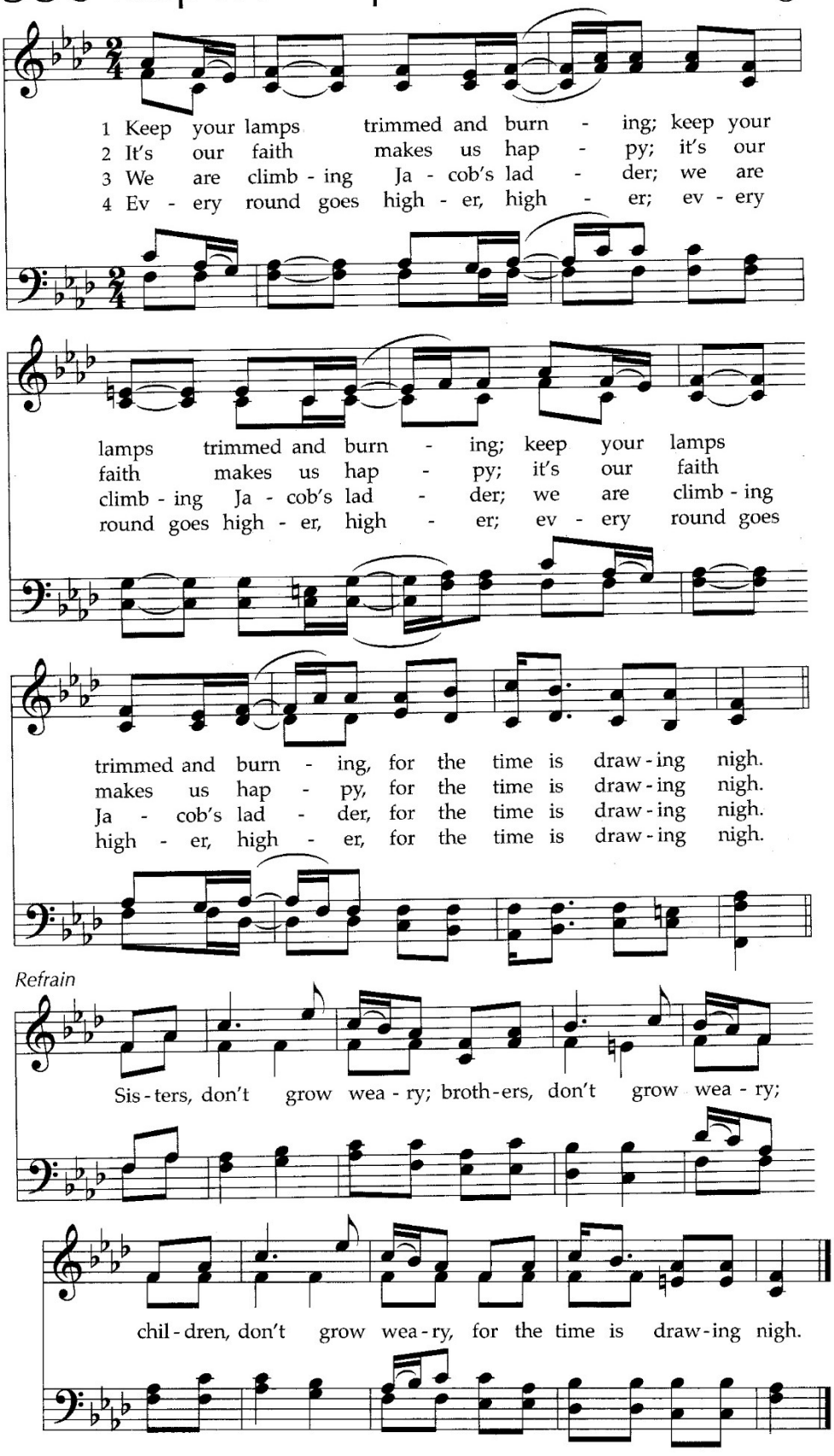
Do you see opportunities for ministry?
Do you see the poor, the homeless, the hungry, the needy?
Christ is coming into our lives in a new way.

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

Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning *Glory to God #350*

[see next page]

350 Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning



Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Have I made space to receive the still, small voice of God?
Lord, hear our prayer.

Have I spoken and acted with integrity, honesty, and love?
Lord, hear our prayer.

Have I faithfully weighed the impact my choices and decisions will have on others?
Lord, hear our prayer.

Have my economic habits, purchases, or investments supported or conflicted with peace and nonviolence?
Lord, hear our prayer.

Have I ignored "that of God" in others, especially those with whom I disagree or find difficult?
Lord, hear our prayer.

Have I contributed to truth, reconciliation, and care for the earth?
Lord, hear our prayer.

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 and receive one another into our peace.

We Hear God's Word

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading Amos 5:7, 11-15, 21-24 *New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition*

For thus says the Lord God: Ah, you who turn justice to wormwood, and bring righteousness to the ground: they hate the one who reproves in the gate, and they abhor the one who speaks the truth. Therefore, because you trample on the poor and take from them levies of grain, you have built houses of hewn stone, but you shall not live in them; you have planted pleasant vineyards, but you shall not drink their wine. For I know how many are your transgressions and how great are your sins – you who afflict the righteous, who take a bribe and push aside the needy in the gate. Therefore the prudent will keep silent in such a time; for it is an evil time.

Seek good and not evil, that you may live; and so the Lord, the God of hosts, will be with you just as you have said. Hate evil and love good, and establish justice in the gate; it may be that the lord, the God of hosts will be gracious to the remnant of Joseph.

I hate, I despise your festivals, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies. Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them, and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals I will not look upon. Take away from me the noise of your songs; I will not listen to the melody of your harps. But let justice roll down like water and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

The word of the Lord, the God of hosts.
Thanks be to God!

Scripture Reading Matthew 25:1-13 *The Message*

"God's kingdom is like ten young virgins who took oil lamps and went out to greet the bridegroom. Five were silly and five were smart. The silly virgins took lamps, but no extra oil. The smart virgins took jars of oil to feed their lamps. The bridegroom didn't show up when they expected him, and they all fell asleep.

"In the middle of the night someone yelled out, 'He's here! The bridegroom's here! Go out and greet him!'

"The ten virgins got up and got their lamps ready. The silly virgins said to the smart ones, 'Our lamps are going out; lend us some of your oil.'

"They answered, 'There might not be enough to go around; go buy your own.'

"They did, but while they were out buying oil, the bridegroom arrived. When everyone who was there to greet him had gone into the wedding feast, the door was locked.

"Much later, the other virgins, the silly ones, showed up and knocked on the door, saying, 'Master, we're here. Let us in.'

"He answered, 'Do I know you? I don't think I know you.'

"So stay alert. You have no idea when he might arrive.

For the Holy Word written and read, proclaimed and lived:
Thanks be to God!

A Time for Young People

Young people of any age are invited to the chancel to hear a special message. Children are welcomed and encouraged to remain in worship following the message. They may remain at the prayerground at the front of the sanctuary or they may return to their adults. Children under 5 years old may go to the nursery with our childcare provider.

Song of Preparation

Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers! *Glory to God #362*
[see next page]

Scripture Reading Micah 6:6-8 *New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition*

Thus says the prophet: 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? 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?

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?

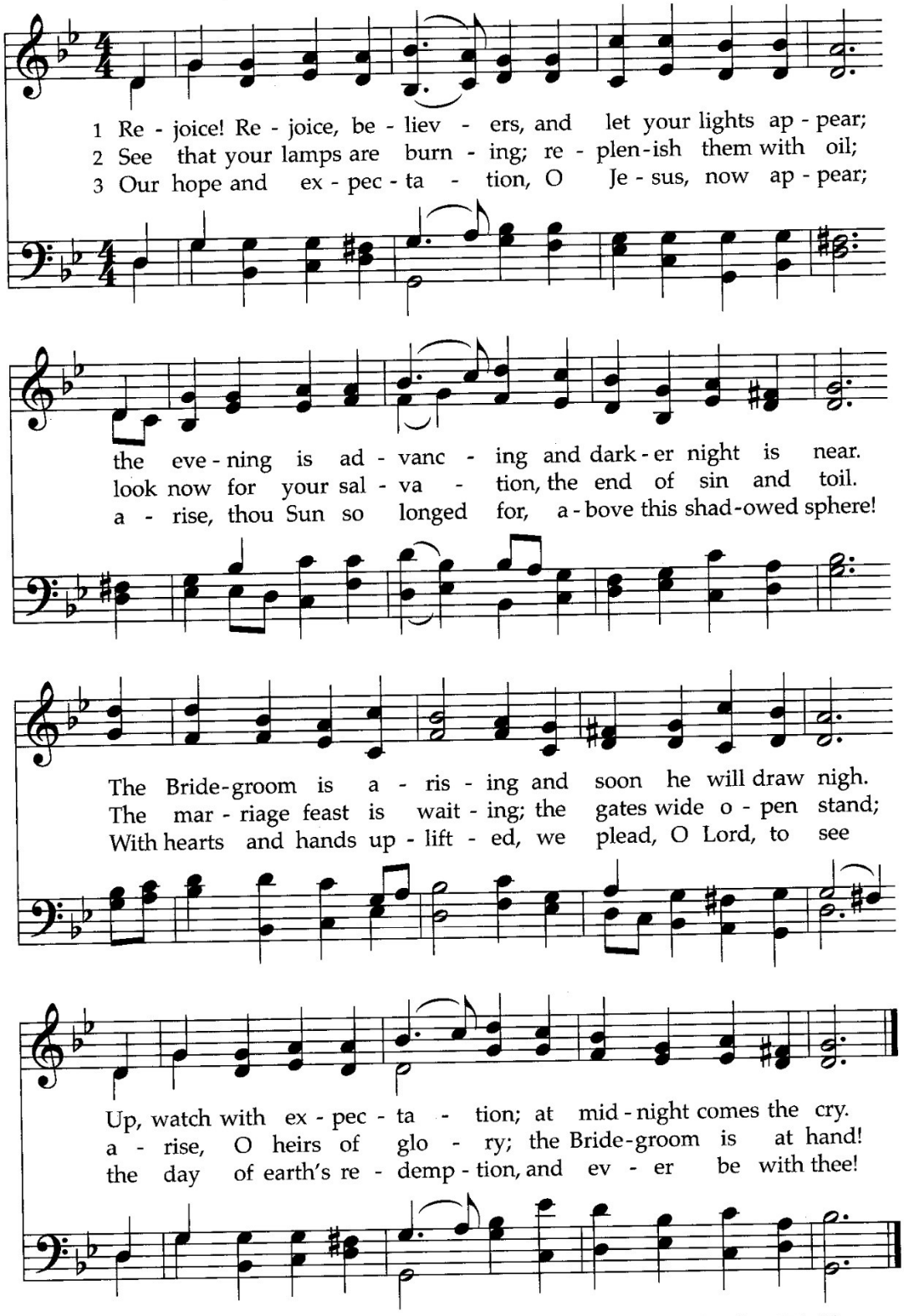
Holy wisdom, holy word.
Thanks be to God.

Proclamation of the Word

What Are You Doin'? Rev. Sheth LaRue

Moment of Meditation

362 Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers



The Latin original of this text based on the parable of the wise and foolish maidens (Matthew 25:1–13) consisted of ten stanzas, but this briefer version is more appropriate for its message of urgency. It is set to a spirited minor Welsh tune named for a Pembrokeshire village.

TEXT: Laurentius Laurenti, 1700; trans. Sarah Borthwick Findlater, 1854; alt. *The Hymnal 1982*
MUSIC: Welsh folk melody; *Llwybrau Moliant*, 1872; harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906

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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: Rising Kites Coffee

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

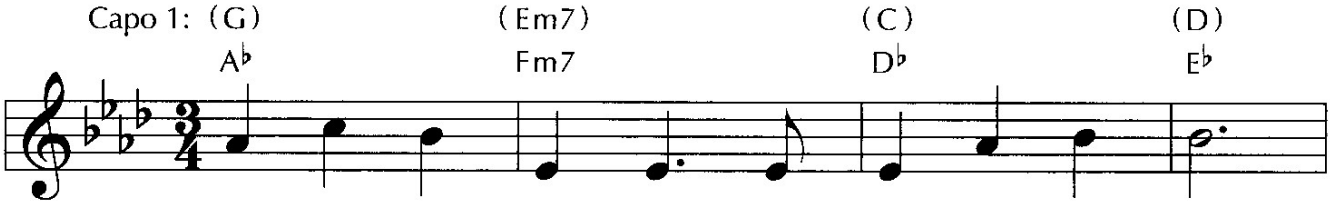
We Are Sent by God

Song of Sending *Please stand as you are able, in body or in spirit*
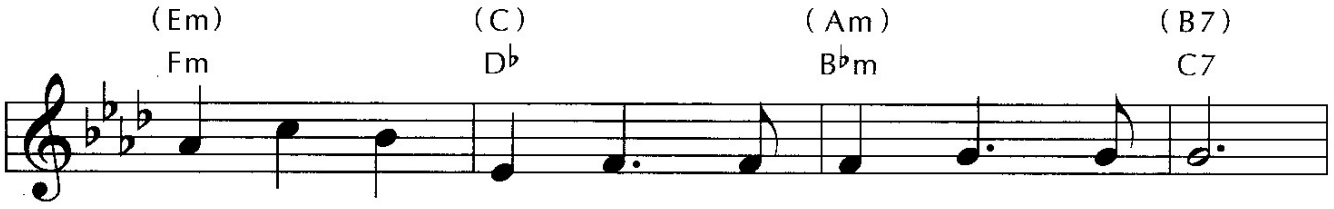
What is the World Like *Glory to God #771*

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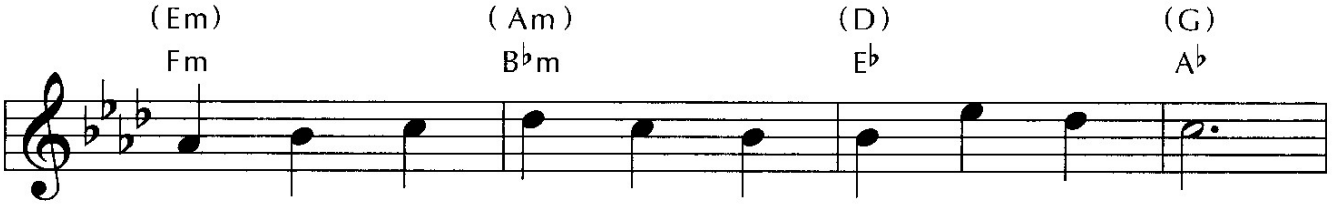
What Is the World Like 771
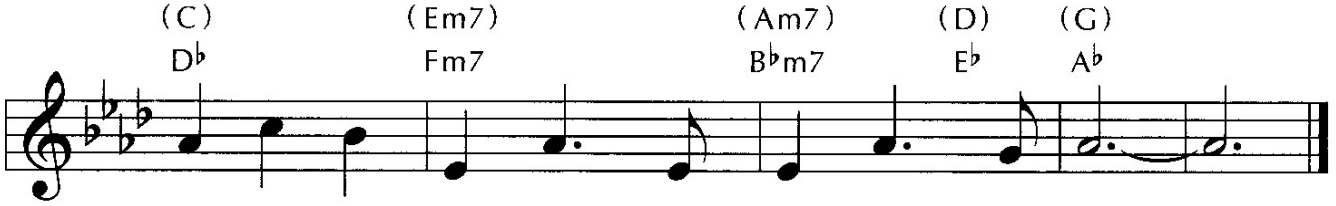


1 What is the world like when God's will is done?
2 What is the world like when God's will is done?
3 What is the world like when God's will is done?
4 What is the world like when God's will is done?
5 These are the sto - ries that Je - sus im - parts,



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.



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,



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.

Charge + Benediction

Postlude

Questions for Reflection

In our fast-paced world, daily encounters with delay are sometimes difficult to accept. How can we be intentional in practicing the presence of God, cultivating steadiness and peace in our lives and the world while extending God's hospitality and love? How can such spiritual attributes empower us to be better advocates in working to create a more just and equitable world?

Announcements

November's Book Club selection: *The Light Between Oceans* by M.L. Stedman In 1926, a lighthouse keeper and his wife on an isolated Australian island find a boat with a dead man and crying baby, leading to a life-altering decision with devastating consequences. Join us for a lively discussion on November 17 at 1130 am.

Community Dinner Thanksgiving and Worship Service - November 19 | Join us for our Thursday Night Community Thanksgiving Dinner (not on Thanksgiving day!) followed by a brief worship service at 715 in the sanctuary. All are invited!

Congregational Meeting and Luncheon November 22 in Goff Hall. The purpose of this meeting is to elect ruling Elders and approve the pastor's terms of call for 2027.

Advent Decorating: Saturday, November 28 – 10 am