first
presbyterian
church



Worshipping, serving and living with a fresh vision of God's vibrant energy, grace and love for all.

ORDER OF WORSHIP
November 8, 2026 // 10:00 am

CENTERING WORDS:
The Christian gospel is a summons to peace, calling for justice beyond anger,
mercy beyond justice, forgiveness beyond mercy, love beyond forgiveness.
~ Wendell Berry

ENTERING GOD'S PRESENCE

PRELUDE

RINGING THE BELL & LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

GREETING
One: The God of life be with you.
All: And also with you!

GATHERING SONG #664 *Morning Has Broken* Lauren Stouffer

***CALL TO WORSHIP** Erin Magennis
One: Where once there was nothing – something.
Where once there was silence – a voice.
People say, "Amen!"
All: Amen!
One: When once there was nowhere to stand,
God gave us earth.
When once there was no time,
God gave us day and night.
People say, "Amen!"
All: Amen!
One: When once we had no way of knowing,
God breathed wisdom.
When once we were formless and void,
God made us in the divine image:
Creators, redeemers, sustainers!
From generosity, for generosity:
Come, let us worship God!

***OPENING PRAYER**

***HYMN** *This Is God's Wondrous World* (Bulletin/Screen)

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION
One: Creating and restoring God,
you make a home for all creation
and invite us to build communities
that reflect your generous love.
All: Yet we confess that we too often resist your creative work.
We treat your world as fixed and finite,
protect what is comfortable for us,
and overlook the damage unfolding around us.
We fail to recognize your image in our neighbors
and neglect the patient work of mending what has been broken.
One: Forgive us for the ways we diminish the little worlds entrusted to our care—
our homes, churches, neighborhoods, and cities.
Forgive us when fear closes our doors,
indifference weakens our bonds,
and despair keeps us from joining your tenacious work of renewal.
All: Give us humble hearts,
courageous hands,
and generous spirits,
that we may repair what is torn,
welcome those who are excluded,
and help build communities of justice, mercy, and peace.
By your grace, make us faithful homemakers in your world. Amen.

* *You are welcome to rise in body or in spirit.*

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

***PASSING THE PEACE**

One: The peace of Christ be with you.
All: And also with you.

HEARING GOD'S WORD

TIME WITH CHILDREN *Come All You Children*

ANTHEM *From All That Dwell Below the Skies* arr. Cindy Berry

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING

Genesis 1:1 – 2: 4

One: The Word of God for the People of God.
All: Thanks be to God!

SERMON *And God Saw...* Rev. Cathy C. Hoop

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH FOR STEWARDSHIP SEASON**

One: We believe in God,
All: Creator of the universe,
Giver of every good gift,
Author of life itself.
One: We believe in Jesus Christ,
All: who reminded us of the coming of God's kin-dom,
who commanded us to care for those in need,
who taught us to store up treasures in heaven, not on earth,
and who gave us the example of self-giving love.
One: We believe in the Holy Spirit,
All: Our very communion with God,
in whom we live and move and have our being,
by whom all things are possible,
with whom we are co-creators with God.
One: We acknowledge that we are merely stewards
of all that is God's,
caretakers of God's home,
Grateful recipients of God's gifts.
All: We believe that faithful stewardship
is an act of worship,
a means of praising God,
a grateful response to the God of generosity.
Thanks be to God. Amen.

***HYMN** #713 *Touch the Earth Lightly*

RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE

LIFE AT FIRST

Please take this time to sign the red Friendship Pad found on the pew near you. If you have a prayer request, you are invited to fill out a prayer card (found in the pew-backs) and put it in the offering plate. The ushers will deliver it to the pastors.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

***DOXOLOGY** #606

All: Praise God whose image we all bear.
Praise Christ whose mercy we all share.
Praise Spirit making justice grow.
One God from whom all blessings flow. Amen.

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

One: Come, God, come!
You hovered over the waters at the beginning,
poised to make something new.
Do the same now! Hover over this unformed offering – all the coins and bills and checks and on line giving – and give it form!

All: **Hover over our gifts and make them into a home**
fit for everyone who needs it,
with safety and healing and food and warmth
and mercy and life and grace upon grace for all.
It's in Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

One: The realm of God is at hand – You proclaimed it, Jesus;
but it often feels like it's a million miles away.
You demonstrated its grace and showed its power,
but the signs often appear faded or absent in our world.
We need Your reality to come, God,
in all its fullness, in all its glory;
This waiting, this "now and not yet" experience of Your reign
is hard and frustrating.
And so we pray for Your vision to be revealed in our lives,
turning our sickness and sin, our brokenness and fear
into friendship and compassion, wholeness and joy.

All: **May Your realm come to us now.**

One: We pray for Your realm to be revealed in our neighborhoods,
turning our division and suspicion, our judgement and our competition
into fellowship and care, compassion and service.

All: **May Your realm come to us now.**

One: We pray for Your realm to be revealed in our world,
turning our war and our disparities, our consumption and our self-interest
into peace and collaboration, stewardship and reverence.

All: **May Your realm come to us now.**

One: Your reign is here, and it is coming, God.
Make us faithful heralds of its message
and tireless practitioners of its ways.
For Jesus sake. Amen.

Some choose to begin this prayer, "Our Creator," "Our Mother," or "Our Parent."

All: **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.

***HYMN** #23 *God, You Spin the Whirling Planets*

CARRYING GOD'S LOVE INTO THE WORLD

***BENEDICTION**

***SENDING SONG** #543 *God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me (*vs. 1, 3)

Worship Leaders: Rev. Cathy C. Hoop, Rev. Dr. Paul Van Kempen, Beth Magennis, Kayla Reed, FPC Choir, Rose Gifford, Erin Magennis, Lauren Stouffer**.**
Thanks to: Sound and Video, Jon McFayden and Tim Richardson, Greeter, Mary Bennett. Ushers Tom Ball and his team, Bus Drivers, Tim Staal and Corene D'Adonna. M&M Café Providers Michele Richardson, Chris Howell and Amy VanderMeer. Kiki Lemen and Sandy Peterson, Mary Blackall, Katie DeVries.
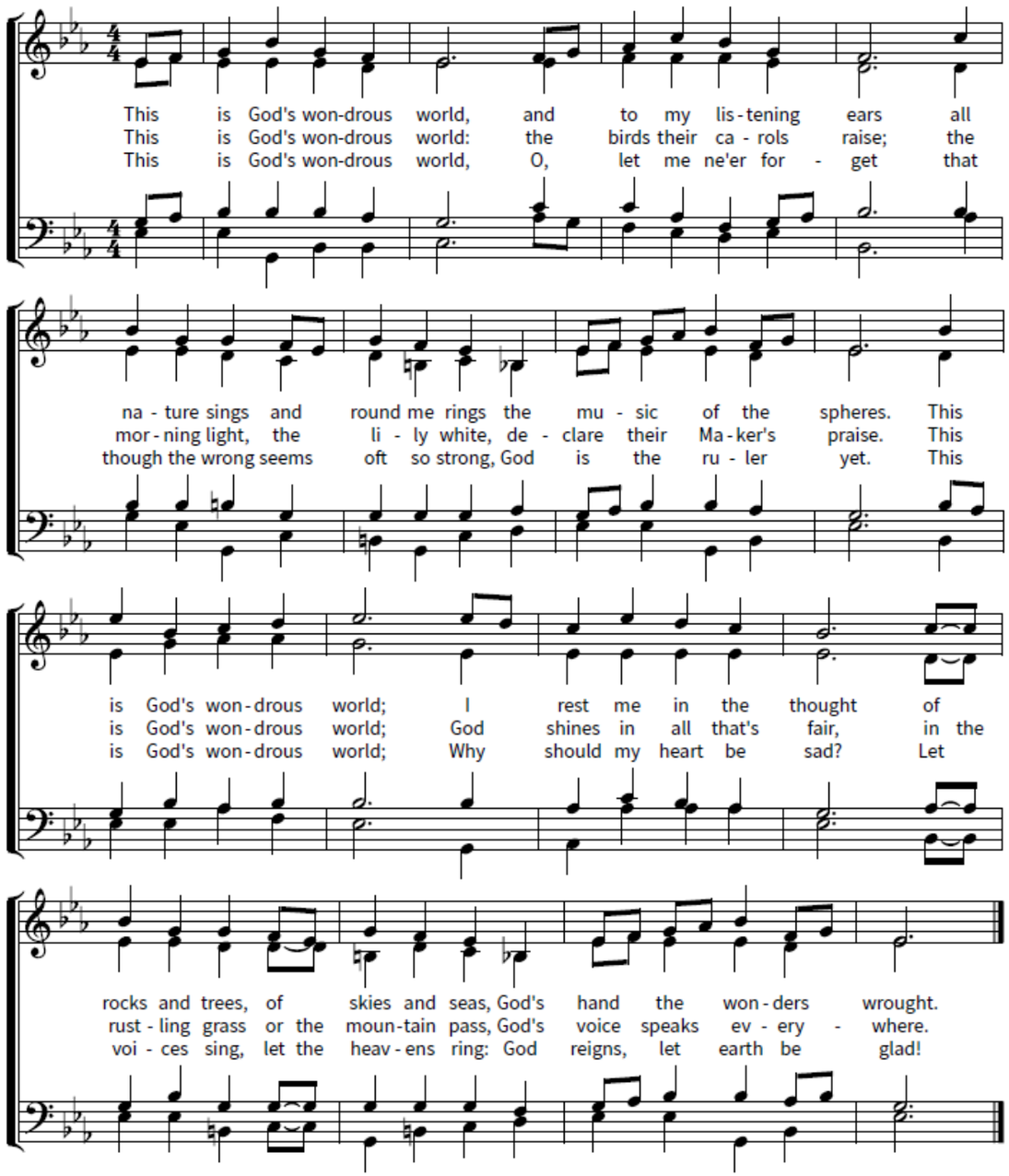
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Next Week: Ushers –Bob Gansen. Bus Drivers –Cassie Kregger and Chris Urbaniak. Liturgist- Liz Hoffswell. M & M Cafe Providers –Bob and Helen Teutsch, and Marti Disler and Libby Dickinson. Sound and video –Tim Richardson, Daphne and Nora Teutsch. Nursery Care Providers – Linda Bassett, Melanie and Marion Reynolds

*Worship resources: SALT Project Grace in Action, Affirmation of Faith: Allen & Sara Ewing-Merrill, 2004 (adapted for use at FPC), Prayers of the People: ~ written by John van de Laar***.**

This is God's Wondrous World

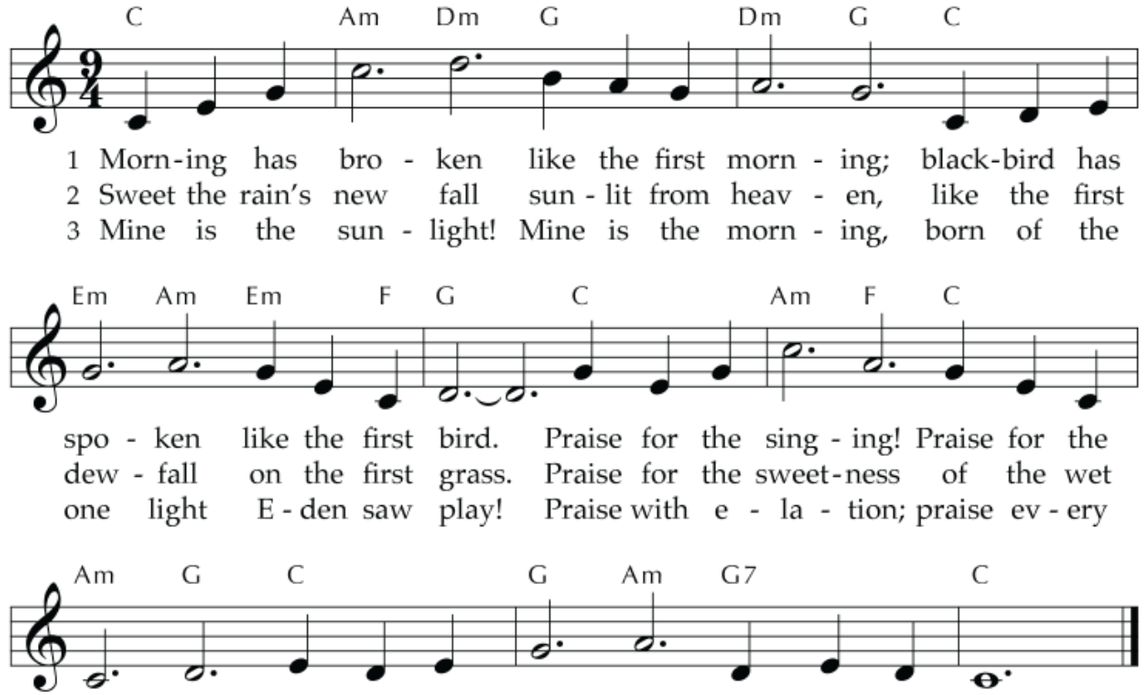
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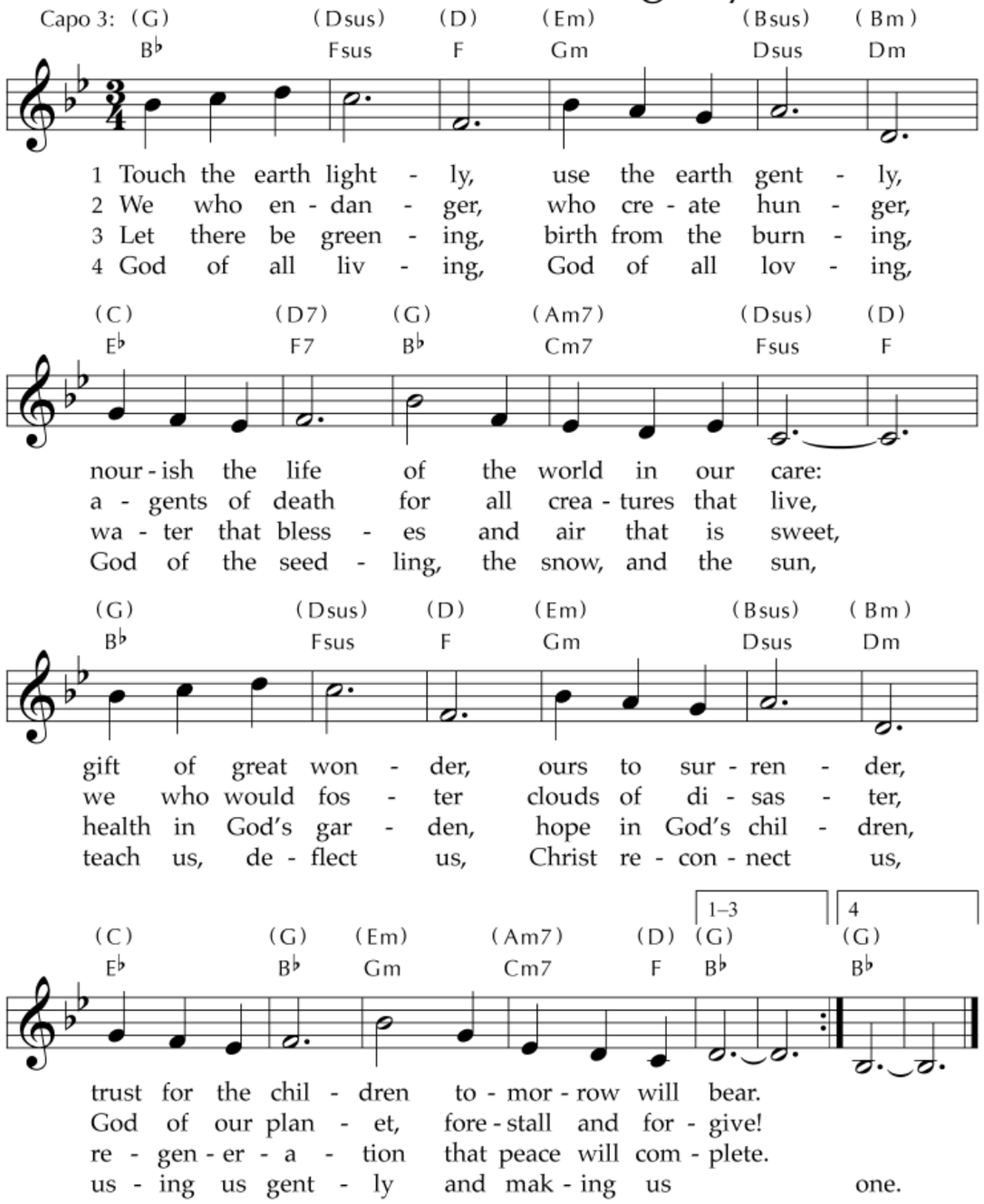


Morning Has Broken

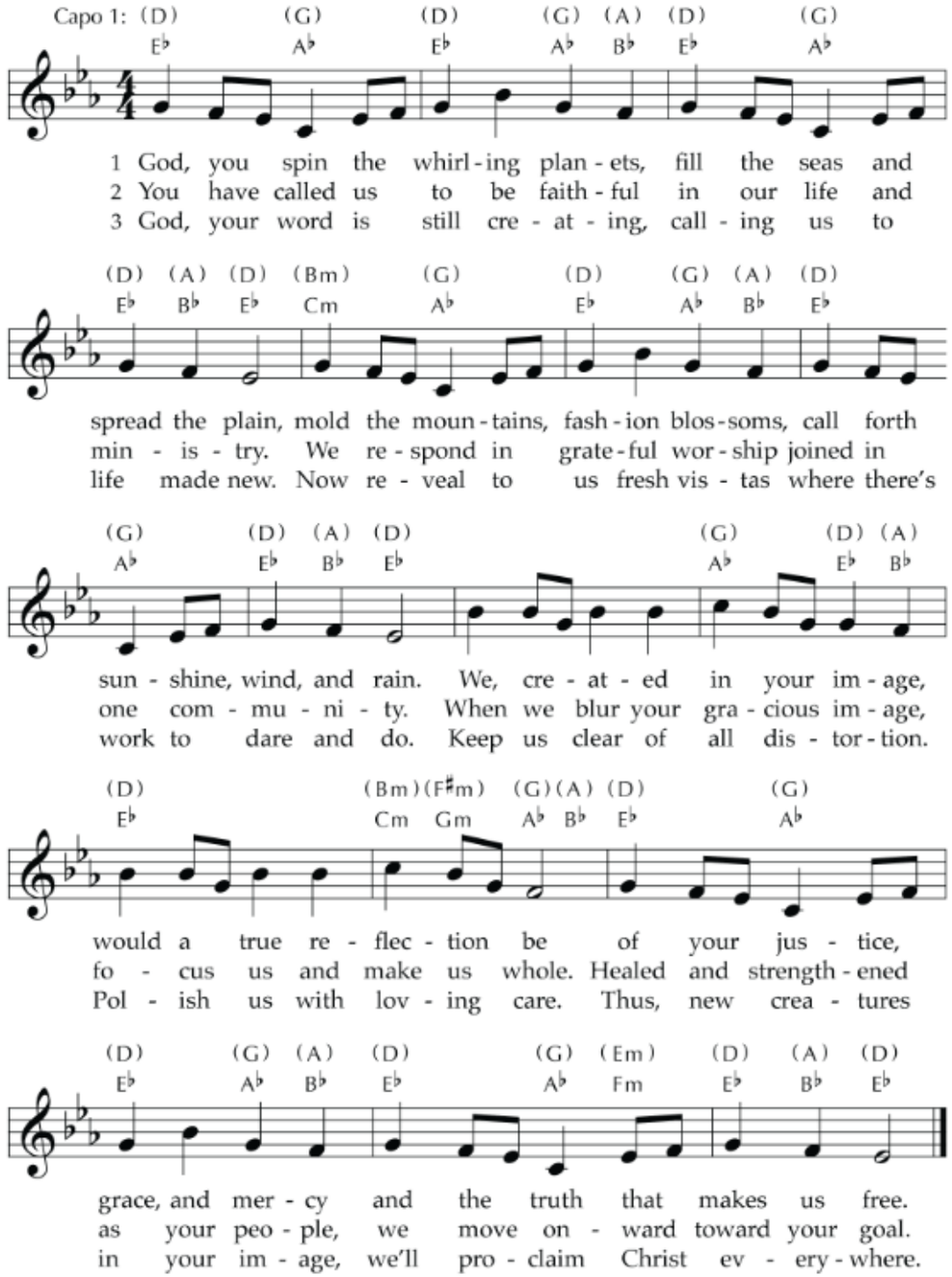
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713 Touch the Earth Lightly
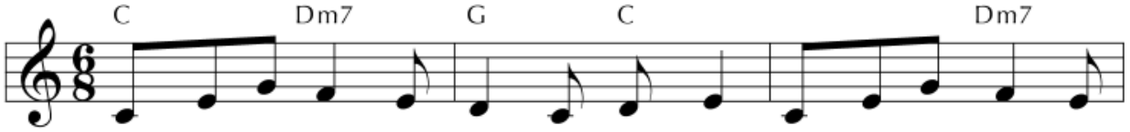


God, You Spin the Whirling Planets 23
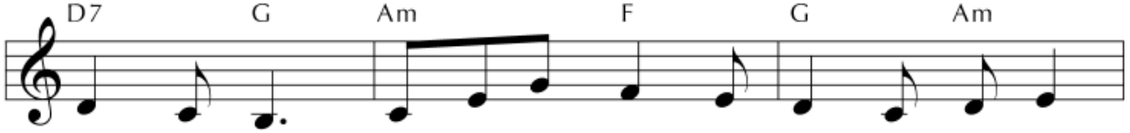


God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me

543
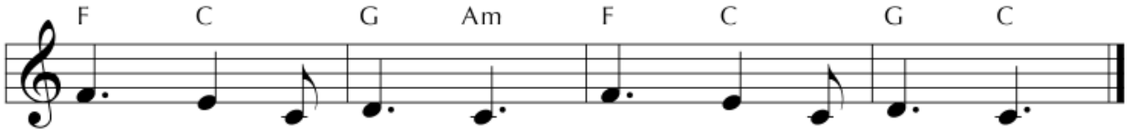
O Christ, Surround Me



1 God, be the love to search and keep me; God, be the prayer to
2 Bind to my-self the Name of Ho - ly, great cloud of wit - ness-
3 Bright-ness of sun and glow of moon-light, flash - ing of light-ning,
4 Walk - ing be-hind to hem my jour - ney, go - ing a - head to
5 Christ in the eyes of all who see me, Christ in the ears that



move my voice; God, be the strength to now up - hold me:
es en - fold; proph - ets, a - pos - tles, an - gels wit - ness:
strength of wind, depth of the sea to soil of plan - et:
light my way, and from be - neath, a - bove, and all ways:
hear my voice, Christ in the hearts of all who know me:



O Christ, sur-round me; O Christ, sur-round me.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Adult Education // The Wired Word, Adult Education takes place following worship at 11:15am. Each week we explore a current event through the lens of faith. The newspaper in one hand and the Bible in the other. *All are welcome.* If you would like to receive the lesson ahead of time, contact Cathy, cathy@fpcholland.org

Men's Book Club // We meet on the second Monday of the month at 2:30pm at FPC. Our next meeting is November 9 discussing, Words that Work by Frank Lutz. December's read is, The Fort Bragg Cartel by Seth Hart. Questions? Contact Don Cowie.

Presbyterian Women // The Circle Bible Study is next Wednesday, November 11 at 9:30am in the Michigan Room. Please read 1 Corinthians 5 & 6. All women of FPC are welcome - we'll get more chairs!

Grief Support Group // Due to Thanksgiving, our next meeting will be a week earlier on Thursday, November 18 at 2pm in the Superior room. We are a small group that gathers for grief support…we listen, we share, we pray. The group is open to all who need a safe space as they journey with grief. Contact Cathy with any questions. All are welcome.

Habitat for Humanity // Our next work date is November 19. We will not work in December. Please reach out to Bill Haines with any questions, wehaines@icloud.com

Justice Reads // Our next read will be, *We the Women* by Norah O'Donnell, a fresh look at American his-tory through the eyes of women. We will gather on November 19th at 7:00pm for conversation and discussion. Join us!

Advent Event // Save the date: Sunday, November 22 from 4 – 6pm. Join us for the intergenerational gathering. Enjoy fellowship and creativity as we join together to prepare for the Advent Season.

Holland Community Theatre // December 12 at 2pm at HCT to see "Just in the Nick of Time", a comedy fun for the whole family. Chris Urbaniak has all of the details.

Volunteers Needed // The deacons are in need of a pool of people to drive church members to doctor appointments, get groceries, and other errands around Holland. Please contact Mark Van Oostenburg at mjmf@sbcglobal.net or 616 392-8773. Your assistance is greatly appreciated

Escape Ministries Work Teams // Could you use a little help around the yard this fall? A team from Escape Ministries would love to help you out! Their schedule has openings in the next few weeks, perfect to get your job done. Contact 616-396-4481.

Children's Advocacy Center Holiday Advocates // It's that time of year! Children's Advocacy Center is again asking our help to bring holiday cheer to the children & families affected by child sexual abuse. Last year the agency was able to support over 80 children and we became advocates for 20. This year we are committed to 25 children. We are excited to take on an even larger challenge.

There are several ways you can get involved.

1. Sponsor one or more children by purchasing gifts. Children's wish lists will have items in four categories: wear, read, want, & need. You will pick items in each category with a suggested spending total of $150 per child.

2. Join with friends to sponsor a child. Either shop together or each purchase gifts from one or more areas and put your gifts together.

3. Donate any amount of money and we will find shoppers to purchase the gifts for a child.

4. Buy stocking stuffers. We will have a list of items. When caregivers come to pick up their child's gifts, they are offered the opportunity to 'shop' in CAC stocking store to fill a stocking for their child.

Here's the timeline;

Nov. 15 & 22 - Names with wish lists will be available in the Outreach Kiosk.

Nov. 29 to Dec. 6 - collect gifts at the church unwrapped but with wrapping supplies. You are also welcome to take gifts directly to CAC if you prefer, but be sure to let us know.

If you have questions or want to get a name, but won't be at church those Sundays, feel free to call or text Janet Hostetler 740-704-4822 or by email janethostetler@gmail.com

Can't wait to see our lobby full of Christmas cheer again. It's one of the things we do really well at FPC! Thank you!

STAFF

Cathy Caldwell-Hoop	Senior Pastor and Head of Staff	Cathy@fpcholland.org
Paul Van Kempen	Associate Pastor and Director of Music	Paul@fpcholland.org
Lori Lepard	Administrative Assistant	Office@fpcholland.org
Marlene Field	Bookkeeper	Marlene@fpcholland.org
Lori Klinesteker	Clerk of Session & Children's Ministry Leader	Lori@fpcholland.org
Jane Oosterhouse	Custodian	Jane@fpcholland.org
Thom Samuelson	Maintenance	Thom@fpcholland.org
Sue Stock	Communications	Sue@fpcholland.org

DEACONS:

Class of 2027: Kristin Goddard, Lloyd Helder, Michele Richardson, Leah Wallar

Class of 2028: Cathy Colten, Gail Hering, Fred Mc Conkey

Class of 2029: Carleen Bauer, Marti Disler, Mark Van Oostenburg

ELDERS:

Class of 2026: Luke Rund-Scott (Youth)

Class of 2027: Jen Laux Ludwig, Tom Salley, Tim Staal

Class of 2028: Jon Kreple, Lauren Stouffer, Chris Urbaniak

Class of 2029: Alana Cocanour, Paula Perkins

Children's Programming During Worship:

Children of all ages are encouraged and welcome to be with us during worship. If you prefer an alternative:

- Nursery: Newborn - 3 years of age. Available for the whole service.
- Celebration Time - 4 years of age through 1st grade. Available after Children's Time.

Education Offerings After Worship:

Education hour is from 11:15a -12:00p. *All are welcome to participate!*

- Adult Class - Michigan Room
- Youth - Youth Room
- Worship Center - PreK - 5th grade
- Nursery - Newborn through 3 years

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

659 State St., Holland, Michigan 49423 / Office: (616) 392-9022 / Email: office@fpcholland.org

FPC is a More Light congregation, celebrating the full inclusion of LGBTQIA+ individuals in life, ministry and witness of the PC (USA) and in society. You are welcome here, and you are loved. Learn more at MLP.org