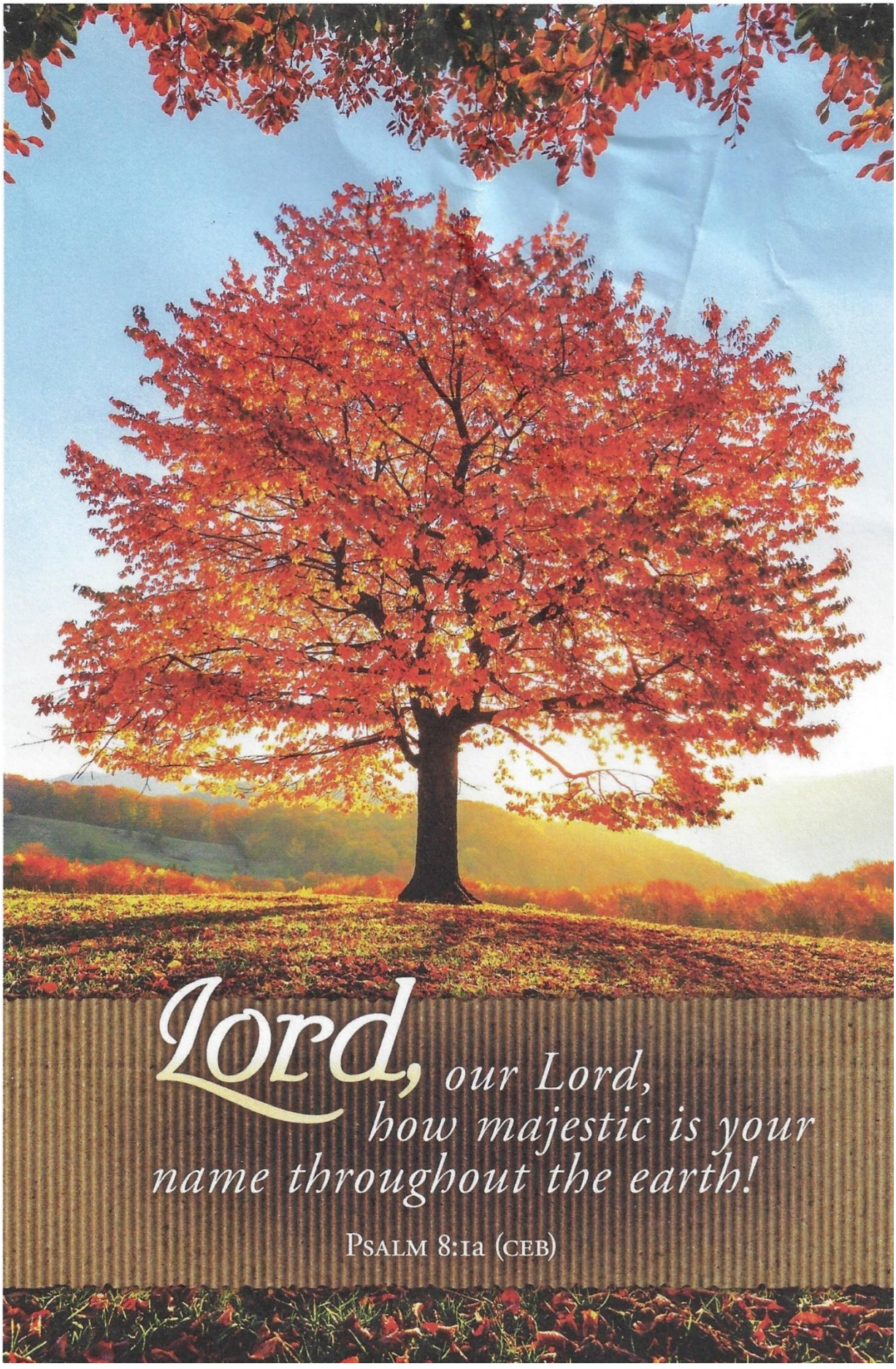

Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name throughout the earth!
Psalm 8:1a (CEB)

November 8, 2026 **24th Sunday after Pentecost**

LIVE AWESTRUCK! NOTICE THE SACRED AROUND YOU: SELF-GIVING

GATHERING MUSIC "Here I Am, Lord" (Schuttes)

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

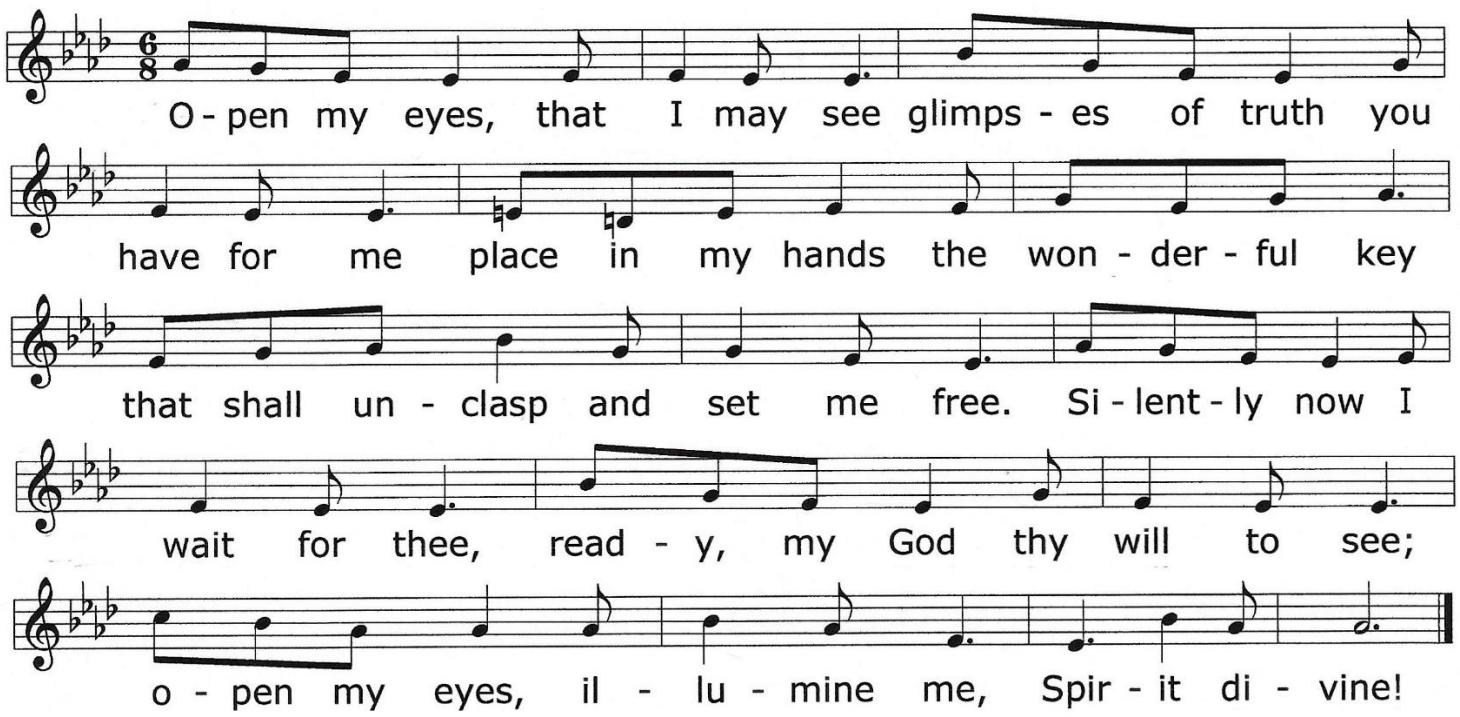
CENTERING MUSIC Brass

"With Thanks, Dear Lord, From All the Earth" (Knapp)

INTRODUCING TODAY'S THEME

Open My Eyes, That I May See

Clara H. Scott



Words & Music 1897

CALL TO WORSHIP Karen Harris

One: There are moments when the world takes our breath away. In the enchantment of creation, in the wonder of life, we catch glimpses of the sacred.

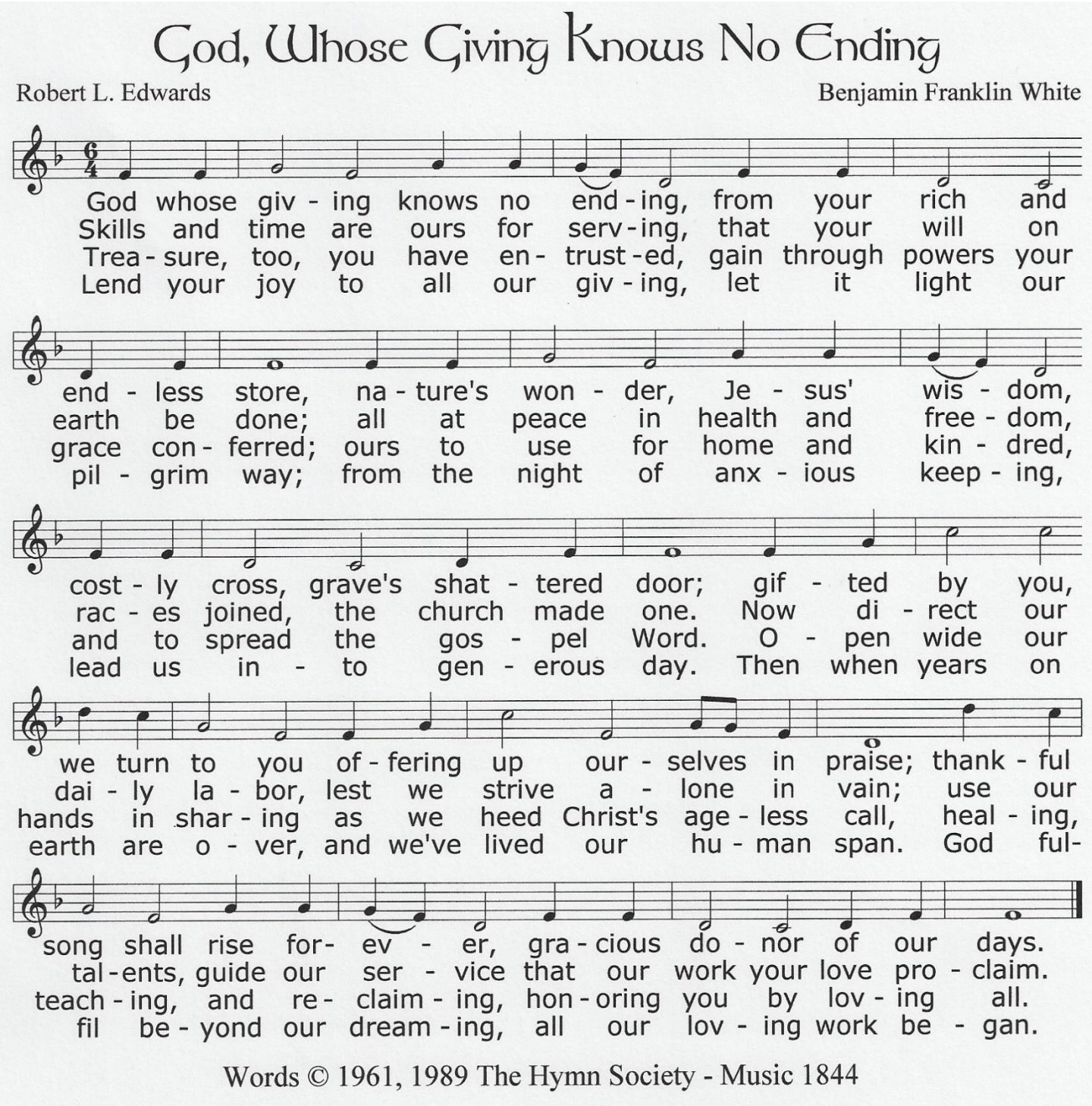
Many: And there are moments when human goodness leaves us equally awestruck – when someone stands up for justice, reaches out to a stranger, or gives generously without expecting anything in return. These are moments of moral beauty. These, too, are glimpses of the sacred that surrounds us.

One: When we witness such acts of moral beauty, something happens within us. Our hearts are stirred. Our spirits are awakened.

Many: Let us be moved and inspired to offer ourselves in service to a world in need.

All: May we live awestruck, and may our lives become expressions of self-giving love.

*HYMN



PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PASTORAL PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER *Please use words that are comfortable for you.*

Our Father/Mother/Creator, 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/debts/trespasses, as we forgive those who sin/trespass 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.
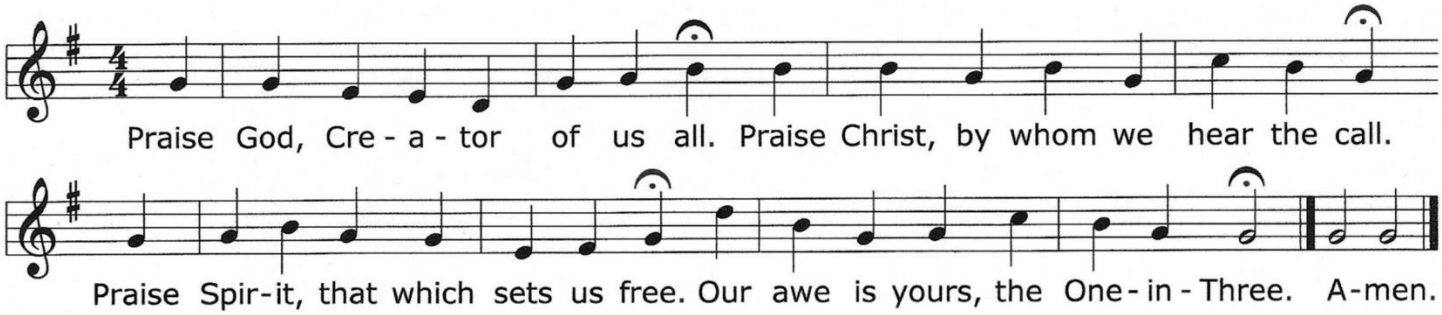
***AWESTRUCK CONVERSATION**

Who is someone whose generosity or selflessness has inspired you to become a better person?
What did they teach you?

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY "Going Home" (Dvorák) Brass

***DOXOLOGY**



Words © 2024 by Dr. Marcia McFee

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Generous God, we offer these gifts with gratitude for all the ways your love is made visible in the world. May they reach beyond these walls to bring comfort where there is suffering, opportunity where there are barriers, justice where there is inequality, and hope where it is needed most. Let the goodness we admire in others take root in us. May our generosity become an expression of our faith, and may our lives reflect the beauty of your Spirit that gives freely and serves humbly. Amen.

ANCIENT READINGS

Philippians 2: 3-7: Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit. Rather, in humility, regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. In your life together, think the way Christ Jesus thought. He was like God in every way, but he did not think that being equal with God was something to use for his own benefit. Instead, he gave up everything and accepted the role of a servant, appearing in human form.

Micah 6: 8: What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

CONTEMPORARY READINGS

Mahatma Gandhi: The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.

Winston Churchill: We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.

Adam Hoffman from the article "How Awe Makes Us Generous" in *Greater Good Magazine*: In a study, participants consistently reported that awe produced "a reduced sense of self-importance relative to something larger and more powerful that they felt connected to…" and subsequent analysis confirmed that this feeling of the "small self" was responsible for their ethical behavior…. Experiencing awe prompts people to help others.

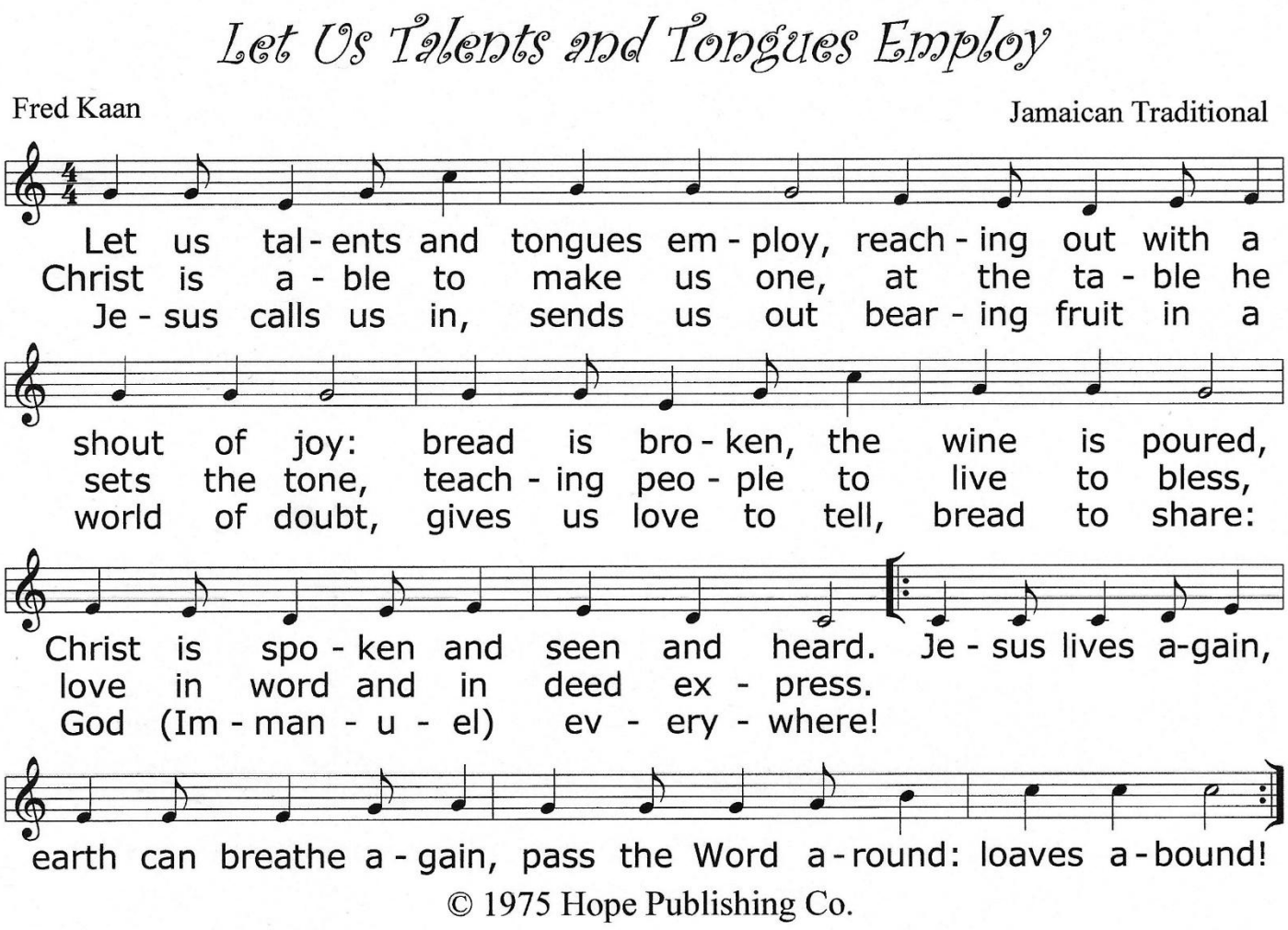
St. Francis of Assisi: O Divine Master, grant that I may not seek to be consoled, as to console. To be understood, as to understand. To be loved, as to love. For it is in giving that we receive. It is in pardoning that

we are pardoned. It is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

VIDEO MEDITATION "Self-Giving"

SERMON

***HYMN**



***FINAL BLESSING**

***SENDING MUSIC** "How Majestic Is Your Name" (Smith)



The steeple will be lit throughout the month of November by the Webster family in loving memory of their beloved mother, **Gloria Webster**, in honor of her birthday on November 26th. May her memory continue to shine brightly in the hearts of all who love her.

LIVE AWESTRUCK THIS WEEK
"SELF-GIVING"

Spiritual Practice for the Week:

Each day this week, look for an act of kindness, generosity, courage, compassion, or moral beauty. It might be something you witness, hear about, or experience personally. Don't overlook the small things. Then, pause and consider what it is about this act that touches you. What does it reveal about human goodness? What does it awaken in you? For each experience, offer a prayer of gratitude.

Reflections for the Week:
Spend a few minutes each day in prayerful reflection on these questions:

Monday: When have I witnessed an extraordinary act of kindness, courage, or generosity that left me awestruck? What was it about that moment that touched my soul?

Tuesday: Who has given something of themselves for me? Have I fully recognized or expressed my gratitude for the ways others have enriched my life?

Wednesday: When have I chosen compassion over convenience or courage over comfort? How did that experience change me?

Thursday: Where in my life am I being invited to give more of myself? Is there someone who needs my time, attention, encouragement, or support?

Friday: What is keeping me from giving more freely? Fear, busyness, uncertainty, self-interest? What might help me move beyond those barriers?

Saturday: If my life could inspire someone else to be more generous, courageous, or compassionate, what would I hope they would see? What kind of goodness do I want to leave behind?

You Won't Want to Miss These Upcoming Meetings and Events!

Sunday, November 8

11:45 AM Bells Rehearsal
6:30 PM Missions Meeting (via Zoom)
7:00 PM Diaconate Meeting (via Zoom)

Tuesday, November 10

6:00 PM Finance Meeting
7:00 PM Band Rehearsal

Thursday, November 12

7:00 PM Knitting Circle

Saturday, November 14

8:00 AM Men's Breakfast (Geysha's)

Sunday, November 15

9:30 AM Bells Rehearsal
10:30 AM Worship – Rev. Art McDonald
11:45 AM Bells Rehearsal

Thursday, November 19

7:00 PM Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service for Georgetown, Groveland, Boxford, and Rowley at the Second Congregational Church of West Boxford

Sunday, November 22

9:30 AM Band Rehearsal
10:30 AM Worship – Rev. Marie,
Bring Your Pledge Card
11:45 AM Bells Rehearsal

THANK YOU FOR WORSHIPPING WITH US!

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH is an engaging congregation rooted in Christian scripture and tradition, but open to new expressions. Here we care more about love, compassion, and service than adherence to rigid rules or a strict set of beliefs. Our faith may be 2,000 years old, but our thinking is not.

EXTRAVAGANT WELCOME

Our congregation is part of the United Church of Christ. Around here, we practice what the UCC calls being "Open and Affirming." Think of it like a massive, joyful dinner table. We don't just tolerate differences; we actively pull up extra chairs. Whether you are young, old, LGBTQ+, straight, single, married, partnered, or widowed, a lifelong believer or full of doubts, there is a place set for you. We don't expect anyone to change who they are to fit in; we change the size of our table to make sure you belong.

HOSPITALITY FOR ALL

- Snacks, smiles, and chit-chat downstairs after worship
- Large-print worship materials
- Hearing assistance devices
- Wheelchair and elevator accessibility
- All-gender restrooms
- Grape juice and gluten-free bread for Communion
- Livestreamed worship services (linked through our website)
- Events and updates through our e-newsletters, website, and social media: Instagram, Facebook, Linkedin, and YouTube. Follow us!

WE LOVE CHILDREN

We hope that children will feel inspired to experience our worship service by singing, clapping, wiggling, fidgeting, offering prayer requests, sharing a sign of peace, and receiving Communion. We also offer coloring books and other items at our welcome desk.

SUPPORT

Your prayers, presence, time, talents, and financial gifts sustain our ministries. Give online at fccgeorgetownma.org/giving or scan this QR code.