



Everyone is welcome here

UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BINGHAMTON

ACT JUSTLY • PRACTICE KINDNESS • WALK HUMBLY WITH GOD



Sunday, September 14, 2025 • 10:00am

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

📺 Our worship service is livestreaming on our YouTube Channel: [upcbgm.org/youtube](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCpCbGm)

Join via phone call on Zoom: (+1) 646-558-8656, Meeting ID 865 274 8433

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Welcome to the Celebration!

September 14, 2025 • 10:00am

Last Sunday, we heard about a king in Israel who did not lead the people to love and serve God. This week we are hearing a story about a new king in Judah, who was determined to turn things around for his people. He started by working to restore the temple to its former glory. The people who were working on the temple found a scroll containing the words of the covenant between God and God's people. He called together the whole community and read the words to them; the people of Judah recommitted themselves to the covenant relationship and disaster was averted for a little while. Today we are giving Bibles to our second graders and installing new officers during our service, so it is a good time to think about what it means to have a loving covenant relationship with our God.

We Gather as a Community of Faith

OPENING BELL *The bell tolls to center our hearts and minds for worship.*

GATHERING MUSIC "Jesu, Jesu"

Refrain: Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love, show us how to serve the neighbors we have from you.

Kneels at the feet of his friends, silently washes their feet, Master who acts as a slave to them. [*Refrain*]

Neighbors are wealthy and poor, varied in color and race, neighbors are near us and far away. [*Refrain*]

These are the ones we should serve, these are the ones we should love,
all these are neighbors to us and you. [*Refrain*]

Loving puts us on our knees, silently washing their feet, this is the way we should live with you. [*Refrain*]

Words: Tom Colvin. Music: CHEREPONI, Ghanaian folk song; adapt. Tom Colvin; arr. Charles H. Webb.

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WORDS OF WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP (*responsive*)

based on a prayer by Joan Stott, based on Psalm 22:1–15

One: With reverent awe, we gather to worship the God of our ancestors.

**All: We come with humble thanks,
for our God is as real to us as God was to our forebears.**

One: We come, too, with our needs and concerns,
as life has become so complicated.

All: Come to us God, with your breath of new life.

Breath of Life, you have traveled with us through all our life's journey. (*continued*)

* = Please rise in body or in spirit.

One: Within the shelter of your guiding and blessedness,
and despite our fears and doubts;

**All: we praise and thank our Life-giving God
who has never left us or forsaken us.
All praise be to our Trustworthy God. Amen!**

***SONG OF GATHERING** “God Has Spoken by the Prophets” (see insert)

GATHERING PRAYER (*together*)

adapted from a prayer by Francis McNab

**O God, we have been too long and too much
with our eyes on the wrong things,
even though we believe them to be right.**

**Lift our eyes to a bigger better dimension,
to be participants in your broadening good presence.**

**We know the pains and the prejudices of life...
Help us to open our eyes and our minds to your grace
that flows from the very heart of the universe.
Amen!**

We Tell and Hear the Word

TIME FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART

FOCUS LESSON 2 Kings 22:1–13; 23:1–3, CEB

22 1 Josiah was eight years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem thirty-one years. His mother’s name was Jedidah daughter of Adaiah; she was from Bozkath. ² He did what was right in the eyes of the LORD and followed completely the ways of his father David, not turning aside to the right or to the left.

³ In the eighteenth year of his reign, King Josiah sent the secretary, Shaphan son of Azaliah, the son of Meshullam, to the temple of the LORD. He said: ⁴ “Go up to Hilkiah the high priest and have him get ready the money that has been brought into the temple of the LORD, which the doorkeepers have collected from the people. ⁵ Have them entrust it to the men appointed to supervise the work on the temple. And have these men pay the workers who repair the temple of the LORD — ⁶ the carpenters, the builders and the masons. Also have them purchase timber and dressed stone to repair the temple. ⁷ But they need not account for the money entrusted to them, because they are honest in their dealings.”

⁸ Hilkiah the high priest said to Shaphan the secretary, “I have found the Book of the Law in the temple of the LORD.” He gave it to Shaphan, who read it. ⁹ Then Shaphan the secretary went to the king and reported to him: “Your officials have paid out the money that was in the temple of the LORD and have entrusted it to the workers and supervisors at the temple.” ¹⁰ Then Shaphan the secretary informed the king, “Hilkiah the priest has given me a book.” And Shaphan read from it in the presence of the king.

¹¹ When the king heard the words of the Book of the Law, he tore his robes. ¹² He gave these orders to Hilkiah the priest, Ahikam son of Shaphan, Akbor son of Micaiah, Shaphan the secretary, and Asaiah the king's attendant: ¹³ "Go and inquire of the LORD for me and for the people and for all Judah about what is written in this book that has been found. Great is the LORD's anger that burns against us because those who have gone before us have not obeyed the words of this book; they have not acted in accordance with all that is written there concerning us."

23 ¹ Then the king called together all the elders of Judah and Jerusalem. ² He went up to the temple of the LORD with the people of Judah, the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the priests and the prophets — all the people from the least to the greatest. He read in their hearing all the words of the Book of the Covenant, which had been found in the temple of the LORD. ³ The king stood by the pillar and renewed the covenant in the presence of the LORD — to follow the LORD and keep his commands, statutes, and decrees with all his heart and all his soul, thus confirming the words of the covenant written in this book. Then all the people pledged themselves to the covenant.

REFLECTIONS "The Gift of Scripture and the Return to the Covenant"

Rev. Kimberly P Chastain

We Respond to the Word

***SONG OF RESPONSE** "God's Holy Ways Are Just and True" (see page 5)

WE SAY WHAT WE BELIEVE (*responsive*) "Litany of Covenant Renewal" *by Christine Sobania Johnson*

One: Every day we journey on this earth is a day in which we make choices:
left or right, up or down, in or out, yes or no?

All: Some choices are simple, and some are very complex,

One: but one choice informs all the others:
Who will be our God?

All: Who will we trust to see us through this journey?

One: Who has been with us from before the beginning,
bringing us into existence?

All: Who has loved us and blessed us and sent us on our way?

One: Who has pointed us toward the path
and posted the signs we need to find our way?

**All: Who has been at our side when the road has been smooth
and gently curving?**

One: Who has kept with us through hairpin turns
and construction zones and potholes and detours?

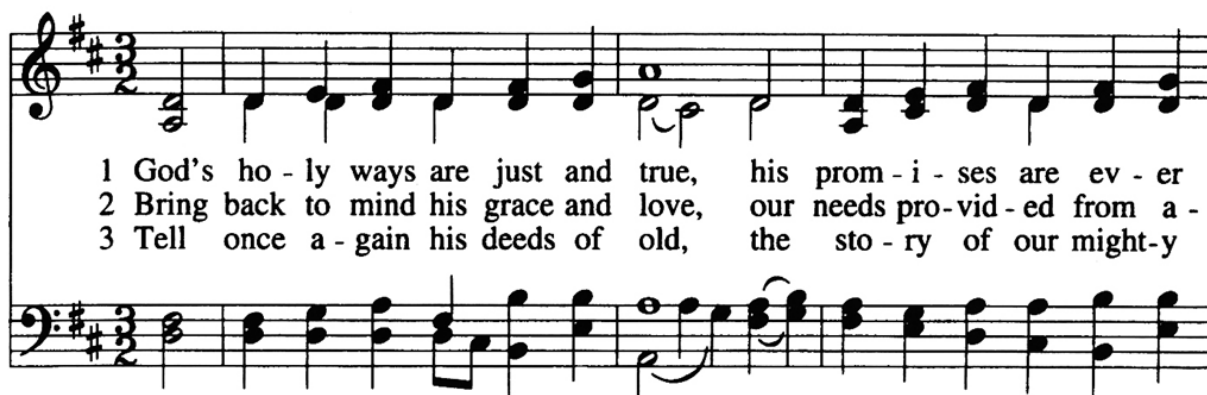
**All: Who will celebrate with us when we complete our course
and seek the comfort of eternity?**

One: Only One. The One and Only.

All: Holy One. The One and Holy.

(continued on page 6)

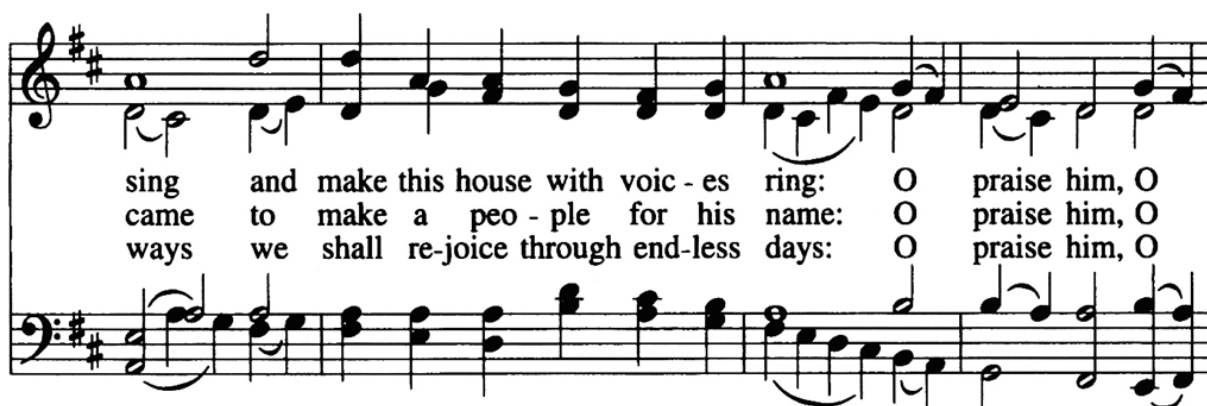
God's Holy Ways Are Just and True 663



1 God's ho - ly ways are just and true, his prom - i - ses are ev - er
 2 Bring back to mind his grace and love, our needs pro - vid - ed from a -
 3 Tell once a - gain his deeds of old, the sto - ry of our might - y



new: O praise him, al - le - lu - ia! Let ev - ery heart with prais - es
 above: O praise him, al - le - lu - ia! He kept his word and Je - sus
 God: O praise him, al - le - lu - ia! For all his glo - rious works and



sing and make this house with voic - es ring: O praise him, O
 came to make a peo - ple for his name: O praise him, O
 ways we shall re - joice through end - less days: O praise him, O



praise him! Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 praise him! Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 praise him! Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

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One: Will you choose this day to stay faithful to the One who is faithful to us?

All: Count us in.

One: Will you choose this day to place your whole trust
in the One who is trustworthy?

All: Count us in.

One: Will you choose this day to commit your talents and your resources
to the One who first endowed them?

All: Count us in.

One: Will you choose this day to love the One who loved us first?

All: Count us in.

One: And we pray together:

**All: We devote ourselves to you by renewing the covenant —
the promise you made to humanity so long ago.**

Because you are our God, we will be your people.

**Enlarge our faithfulness, our trust, our commitment, and our love
so that we may graciously uphold our side of the deal.**

**Help us always to recognize your presence and your blessings
throughout our journey.**

Keep us in your care.

Amen!

MINUTE FOR MISSION *PC(USA) Peace & Global Witness special offering*

WE OFFER OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS TO GOD

*You are invited to support the ministry of this congregation through online giving
at upcbgm.org/give, or by sending a check to the church office or putting
an offering in the plates by the door.*



*You can contribute to the PC(USA)'s Peace & Global Witness special offering
online at pcusa.org/peace-global or text PCUSAPEACE to 41444, or use one
of the Special Offering envelopes located near the plates by the doors, or send
a check to the church office marked with "special offering" in the memo line.*



MUSICAL OFFERING "Finale" from op. 65, Sonata no. 6 (MWV W 61)

Rebecca Mebert, *organ*

Music: Felix Mendelssohn; ed. Marcel Dupré, © 1948 S. Bornemann. All rights reserved.

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS (*responsive*)

As each petition is concluded, the prayer leader and congregation respond:

One: Lord, in your loving kindness,

All: hear our prayer.

PRAYER OF OFFERING (*together*)

by Thandiwe Dale-Ferguson

Holy God,
Grant us a heart full of grace,
and a soul generated by love,
that we may serve you and your world.
Thank you for all those who have shown us the way
and all those who are showing us the way. Amen!

THE LORD'S PRAYER (*together*)

One: For we pray in the name of Jesus the Christ, who taught us when we pray to say...

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!

We Go Forth in Gratitude to Serve

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND INVITATIONS

*SONG OF SENDING "God of Our Life, Through All the Circling Years" (see page 8)

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

SENTENCES OF SCRIPTURE

1 Corinthians 12:4-7, 27

The moderator or minister begins:

One: There are varieties of gifts, but it is the same Spirit who gives them.

All: There are different ways of serving God, but it is the same Lord who is served.

One: God works through each person in a unique way, but it is God's purpose that is accomplished.

All: To each is given a gift of the Spirit to be used for the common good.

One: Together we are the body of Christ, and individually members of it.

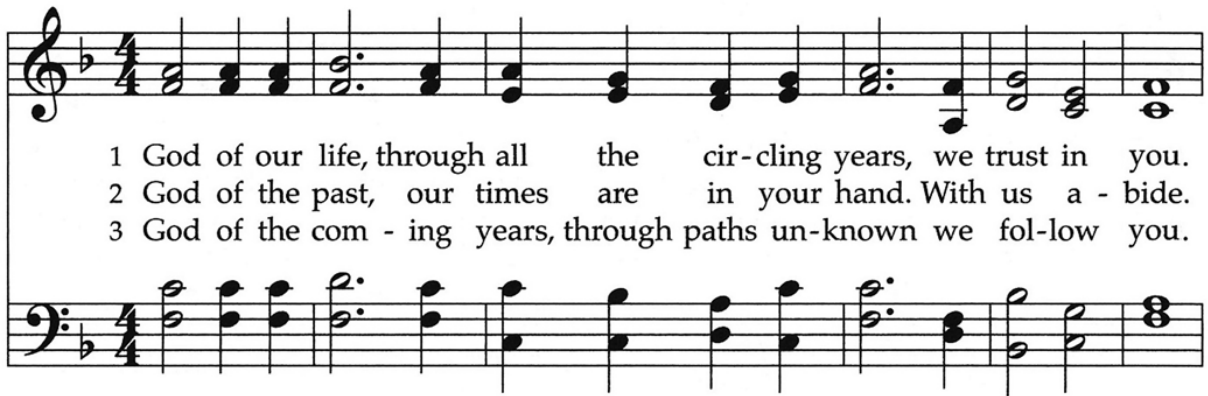
STATEMENT ON ORDERED MINISTRY

We are all called into the church of Jesus Christ by baptism,
and marked as Christ's own by the Holy Spirit.

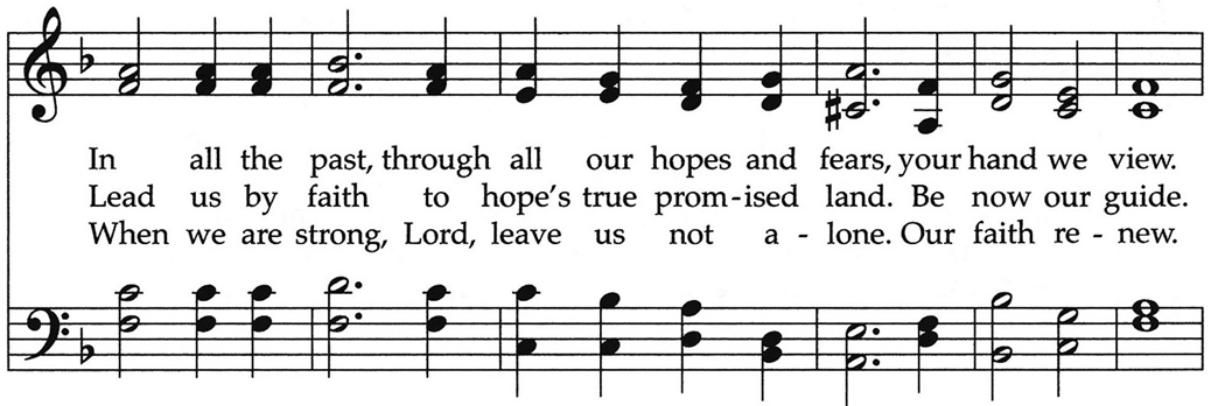
This is our common calling, to be disciples and servants of our servant Lord.

Within the community of the church, some are called to particular service
as teaching elders, as ruling elders, and as deacons.

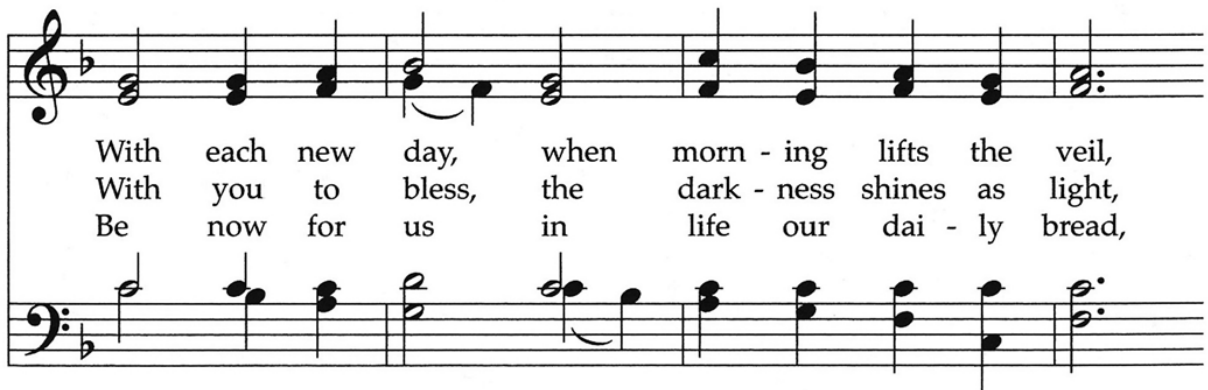
Ordination is Christ's gift to the church, assuring that his ministry continues among us,
providing for ministries of caring and compassion in the world, ordering the governance
of the church, and preaching the word and administering the sacraments.



1 God of our life, through all the cir-cling years, we trust in you.
 2 God of the past, our times are in your hand. With us a - bide.
 3 God of the com - ing years, through paths un-known we fol-low you.



In all the past, through all our hopes and fears, your hand we view.
 Lead us by faith to hope's true prom-ised land. Be now our guide.
 When we are strong, Lord, leave us not a - lone. Our faith re - new.



With each new day, when morn - ing lifts the veil,
 With you to bless, the dark - ness shines as light,
 Be now for us in life our dai - ly bread,



we own your mer - cies, Lord, which nev - er fail.
 and faith's fair vi - sion chang - es in - to sight.
 our heart's true home when all our years have sped.

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A ruling elder of the church continues:

Representing the one, holy catholic, and apostolic church, the session of United Presbyterian Church now installs Margaret Davis, Sally Hunt, Matt Johnson, and Lou McKeage to active service on the Session.

CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS

Book of Order, W-4.0404

The moderator or minister addresses those who are to be installed:

Do you trust in Jesus Christ your Savior, acknowledge him Lord of all and Head of the Church, and through him believe in one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit? **I do.**

Do you accept the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be, by the Holy Spirit, the unique and authoritative witness to Jesus Christ in the Church universal, and God's Word to you? **I do.**

Do you sincerely receive and adopt the essential tenets of the Reformed faith as expressed in the confessions of our church as authentic and reliable expositions of what Scripture leads us to believe and do, and will you be instructed and led by those confessions as you lead the people of God? **I do and I will.**

Will you fulfill your ministry in obedience to Jesus Christ, under the authority of Scripture, and be continually guided by our confessions? **I will.**

Will you be governed by our church's polity, and will you abide by its discipline? Will you be a friend among your colleagues in ministry, working with them, subject to the ordering of God's Word and Spirit? **I will.**

Will you in your own life seek to follow the Lord Jesus Christ, love your neighbors, and work for the reconciliation of the world? **I will.**

Do you promise to further the peace, unity, and purity of the church? **I do.**

Will you pray for and seek to serve the people with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love? **I will.**

Will you be a faithful ruling elder, watching over the people, providing for their worship, nurture, and service? Will you share in government and discipline, serving in councils of the church, and in your ministry will you try to show the love and justice of Jesus Christ? **I will.**

A ruling elder of the church addresses the congregation:

Do we, the members of the church, accept Lou, Matt, Margaret, and Sally as ruling elders, chosen by God through the voice of this congregation to lead us in the way of Jesus Christ? **We do.**

Do we agree to pray for them, to encourage them, to respect their decisions, and to follow as they guide us, serving Jesus Christ, who alone is Head of the Church? **We will.**

PRAYER OF INSTALLATION

The following prayers are said by the moderator or minister:

Eternal God, we give you thanks for your steadfast faithfulness to us.
In every age you have called forth leaders to serve you and equipped them with your gifts.
Among your people Israel, you anointed prophets, priests, and rulers.
You called pastors and teachers, bishops, elders, and deacons to build up your church.
With Moses, the seventy elders bore the burdens of your people,
ministering in the power of your Spirit.
Alongside the apostles, deacons cared for all in need and guarded the community's peace.
In the church, deacons, elders, and pastors serve together,
so that your whole people might be equipped for ministry,
and built up into the full unity of Christ.
For your servants in every age, O God, and for the church of Jesus Christ,
we give you all thanks and praise.

God of grace, pour out your Holy Spirit on Sally and Margaret and Lou and Matt
that they may be your faithful elders in the church.
Give them prudence and sound judgment, wisdom and courage
to order the life of the church in obedience to your Word.
Nourish them in the life of the Holy Spirit,
that they may exercise the ministry of discipline with humility and compassion.
Guide them in governance, on this session and in every court of the church,
that they may be servant leaders, following Christ who came not to be served but to serve,
and to give his life to set others free. Give them joy in their walk of faith and a sure sense
of your abiding presence for their work of ministry.

ALL PRAY TOGETHER:

**Gracious God, through the waters of baptism,
you have claimed us as your own and called us to share in Christ's ministry.
Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us, that we may discern the gifts you have given,
calling them forth from one another, and together use these gifts for the good of all.
In obedience to Christ, and in the unity of his Spirit,
may we proclaim good news, make disciples, be light and leaven,
share our bread, offer a cup of cold water, wash one another's feet.
Make us strong in Christ to live as your people
and show forth your saving love in the world,
by the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

DECLARATION OF INSTALLATION

A ruling elder of the church addresses those who are newly installed:

You are ruling elders in the church of Jesus Christ
and are now installed to service in this congregation.

BLESSING

Be faithful and true in your ministry
so that your whole life will bear witness
to the crucified and risen Christ. Amen!

SHARING OF CHRIST'S PEACE

One: And may the peace that passes all understanding keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God and of God's Son, Jesus Christ, and the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be with you and abide with you, today and always.

Peace be with you!

All: And also with you.

SENDING MUSIC (together) "Blest Be the Tie That Binds" verse 1

1 Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Chris-tian love;
the fel-low-ship of kin-dred minds is like to that a-bove.

Words: John Fawcett, alt. Music: Johann G. Nægeli (DENNIS); arr. Lowell Mason. Public Domain.

(Please exchange a greeting of peace with those around you as our worship concludes.)

*After the service, everyone is invited to join us for a time of fellowship and refreshments
as we celebrate all the birthdays in the month of September.*

On **Saturday, September 20 at 11:00**, we will gather in the sanctuary to celebrate and remember the life of Ann Cobb, who completed her baptism on July 30. Ann requested that everyone dress in bright colors and remember her faith and love with joy. It would be good to have you with us.

Children in Worship: “Let the little children come to me...” —Matthew 19:14

We are glad that your children are here today, and we hope that you know that they are welcome and encouraged to be in worship with you. We truly believe that a community of faith is made up of people of ALL ages. There is a PrayGround space with coloring sheets and quiet toys in the front of the sanctuary to use there or can be taken to another pew, if that suits your family’s needs.



There is a nursery for infants through age four staffed with two nursery attendants, if that is a better choice for your family. The nursery is at the end of the hall past the bathrooms. Nursery staff are on duty from 9:00am to 12:00pm. Parents are welcome to stay in the room and listen to the service over the speaker, or to return to the sanctuary to worship. Please let us know if you have questions.

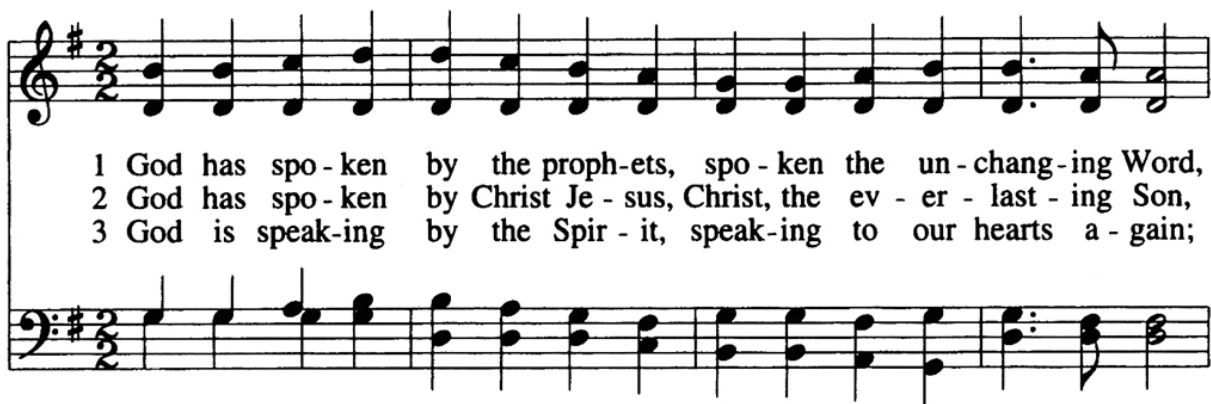
PRAYER CREDITS: **Call to Worship** based on a prayer by Joan Stott, based on Psalm 22:1–15. © 2012 Joan Stott, “The Timeless Psalms” RCL Psalm Year B, used with permission. **Gathering Prayer** adapted from a prayer by Francis McNab in *A Fine Wind Is Blowing: Psalms of the Bible in Words That Blow You Away*, Spectrum Publications, © 2006. **We Say What We Believe:** “Litany of Covenant Renewal” by Christine Sobania Johnson, posted on Freshly Squeezed Liturgy, reposted on re:Worship, re-worship.blogspot.com. **Prayer of Offering** by Thandiwe Dale-Ferguson, posted on Worship Words, worshipwords.co.uk.

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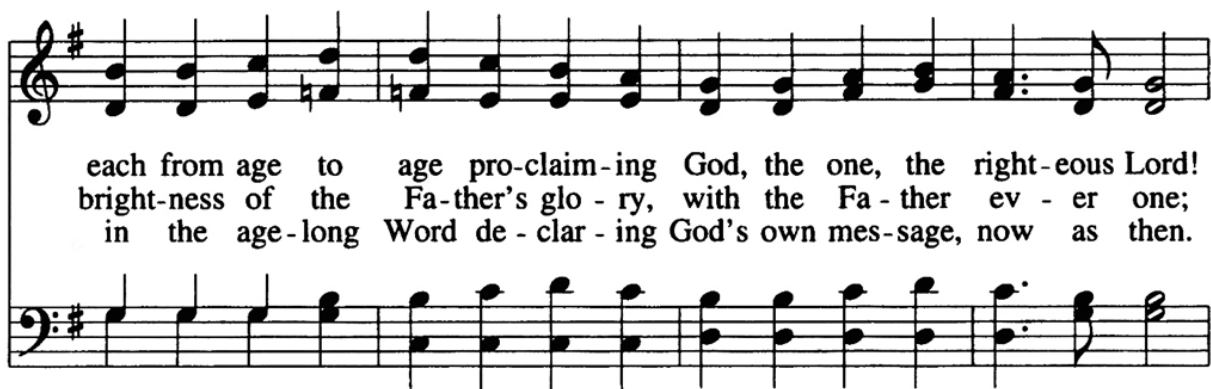
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Pastors Rev. Kimberly P Chastain and Rev. Becky Kindig ~ **Reader** Suzie Northrop Raboy
Musicians Aimée Backus, *Music Coordinator*; Rebecca Mebert, *accompanist*;
Austin Shadduck, *United Ringers director*; Andrea Gilebart, Starletta Noll-Long
Technicians Chris Burger, Scott Kindig, Sara Lieberman, Ken Mebert

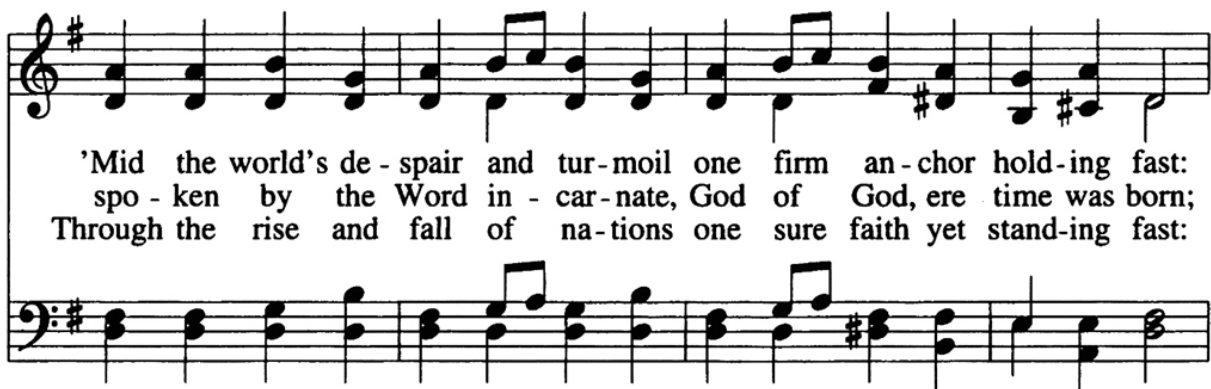
667 God Has Spoken by the Prophets



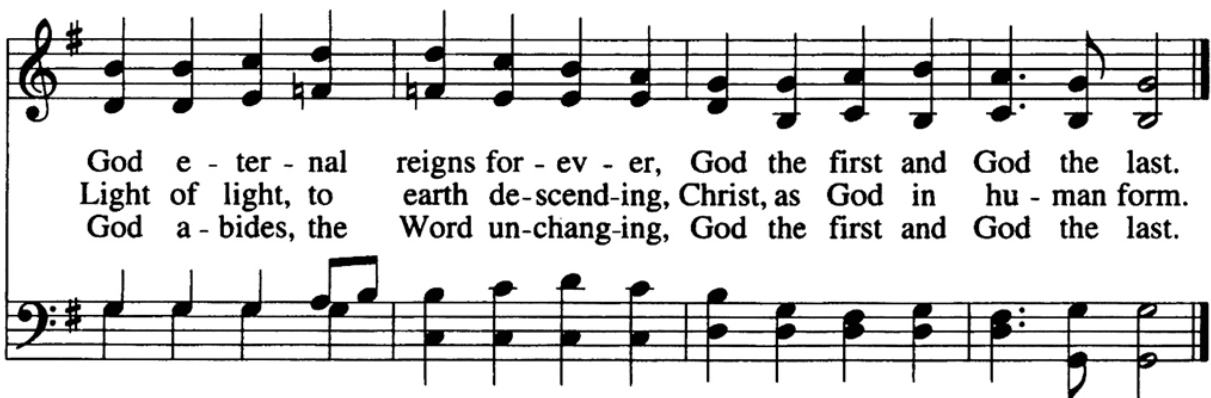
1 God has spo - ken by the proph-ets, spo - ken the un - chang - ing Word,
2 God has spo - ken by Christ Je - sus, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Son,
3 God is speak - ing by the Spir - it, speak - ing to our hearts a - gain;



each from age to age pro - claim - ing God, the one, the right - eous Lord!
bright - ness of the Fa - ther's glo - ry, with the Fa - ther ev - er one;
in the age - long Word de - clar - ing God's own mes - sage, now as then.



'Mid the world's de - spair and tur - moil one firm an - chor hold - ing fast:
spo - ken by the Word in - car - nate, God of God, ere time was born;
Through the rise and fall of na - tions one sure faith yet stand - ing fast:



God e - ter - nal reigns for - ev - er, God the first and God the last.
Light of light, to earth de - scend - ing, Christ, as God in hu - man form.
God a - bides, the Word un - chang - ing, God the first and God the last.

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