

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST | SEPTEMBER 21, 2025

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

The prelude provides an opportunity to prepare our hearts and minds to worship God by being still and quiet.

Prelude *Chorale Prelude on '120th'* David Thorne
Dan Lawhon

Welcome Erica Cooper

Choral Introit *Sing Praise to God, You Heavens!* WIE LIEBLICH IST DER MAIEN

Processional Hymn No. 363 *Rejoice, the Lord Is King!* DARWALL'S 148TH
[Hymn sheet on page 3](#)

Call to Worship Angela Ferguson

One: This is none other than the house of God. This is nothing less than the gate of heaven.

All: Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.

One: God hems us in, behind and before, and lays hands of blessing upon us.

All: Such knowledge is too wonderful for us. It is so high we cannot attain it.

One: Rest in the majesty of our God. Give thanks and sing of God's glory.

All: Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.

Prayer of Invocation Patsy Brown

Hymn No. 487 *These Treasured Children* PUER NOBIS NASCITUR
[Hymn sheet on page 4](#)

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

Sermon on the Steps Bill Caughran

The Dedication of Jane Annette Shelton

The family and congregation will respond with **"We will with God's help."**

Hymn No. 188 *Jesus Love Me!* JESUS LOVES ME
[Hymn sheet on page 5](#)

Gospel Reading John 1:50-51 Jeremiah Davison

One: For the Word of God in Scripture, for the Word of God among us, for the Word of God within us,

All: Thanks be to God.

Choral Call to Prayer *Come, Holy Spirit, Heavenly Dove* ST. AGNES

Prayers of the People & Lord's Prayer Paxton Vaughn

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.

Reading from the Hebrew Bible

Genesis 28:10-17

Erica Cooper

One: For the Word of God for the people of God,

All: We give thanks to God.

Anthem

Gracious Spirit, Dwell with Me
Covenant Choir

K. Lee Scott

Gracious Spirit, dwell with me,
I would gracious be;
Help me now thy grace to see,
I would be like thee;
And, with words that help and heal,
Thy life would mine reveal;
And, with actions bold and meek
For Christ, my Savior, speak.
Truthful Spirit, dwell with me,
I would truthful be;
Help me now Thy truth to see,
I would be like Thee;

And, with wisdom kind and clear,
Thy life in mine appear;
And, with actions lovingly,
Speak Christ's sincerity.
Holy Spirit, dwell with me,
I would holy be;
Show thy mercy tenderly,
Make me more like Thee;
Separate from sin, I would
And cherish all things good,
And whatever I can be
Give Him who gave me Thee.

Mighty Spirit, dwell with me,
I would mighty be;
Help me now Thy power to see,
I would be like thee;
"Gainst all weapons hell can wield,
Be Thou my strength and shield;
Let Thy word my weapon be,
Lord, Thine the victory.
Gracious Spirit, dwell with me,
I would be like thee!

Sermon

The Best of Dreams

Erica Cooper

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Invitation to Christian Commitment

Erica Cooper

Hymn of Response No. 688

Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart
[Hymn sheet on page 6](#)

MORECAMBE

Words of Dedication

Eric Clark

Reception of the Offering

Ushers

Giving sacrificially of our money is one tangible expression of a wholehearted self-giving stewardship of all of life. Monetary offerings may be given online at baptistchurchofthecovenant.org/giving.

Offertory

Meditation on 'Houston'
Dan Lawhon

R. Groom te Velde

Offertory Response

Doxology

OLD 100TH

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise Christ, all people here below;

Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Triune God, whom we adore.

Life of the Church

Eric Clark

Benediction

Erica Cooper

Postlude

For the Beauty of the Earth
Dan Lawhon

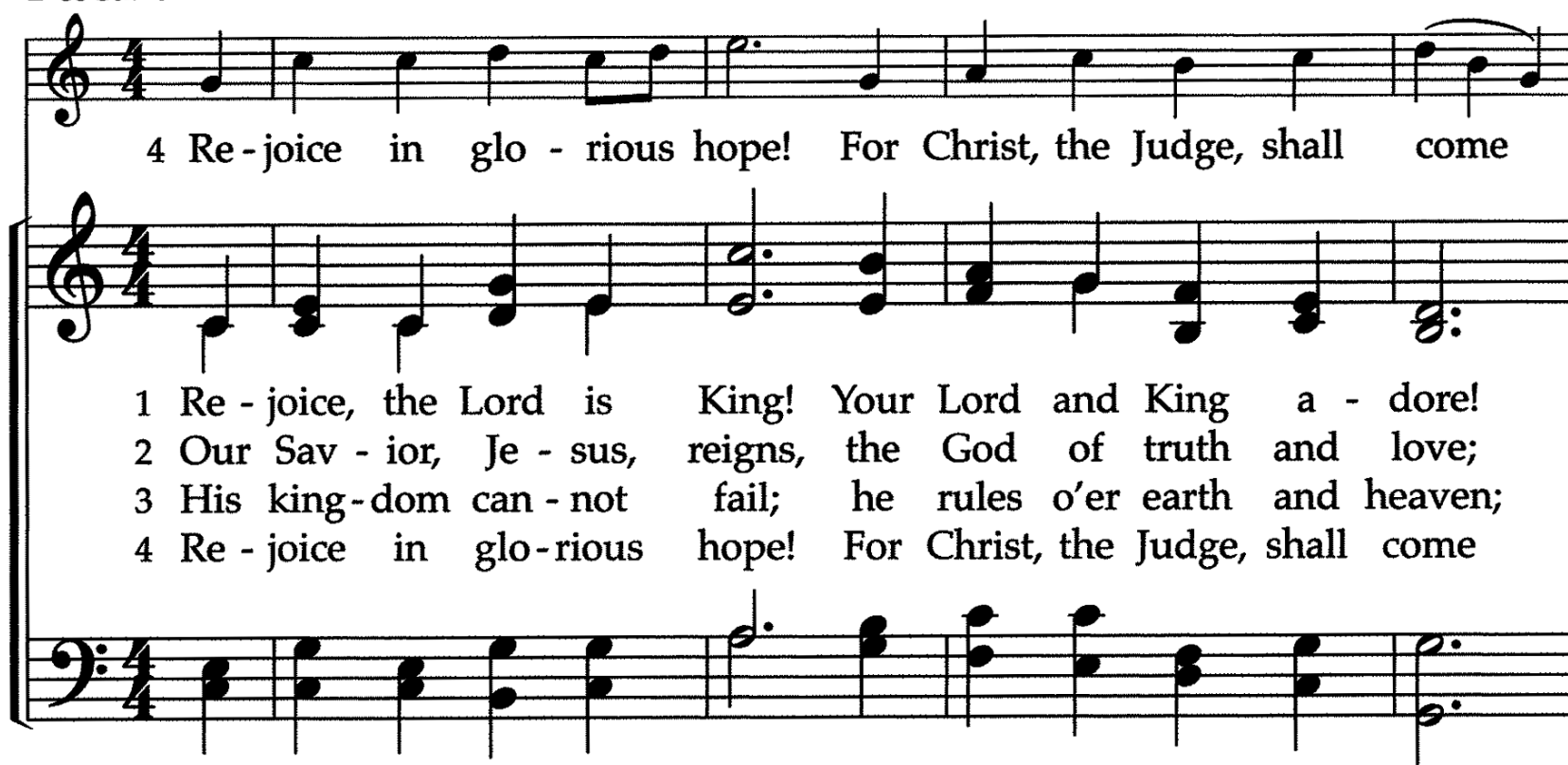
Craig Phillips

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Rejoice, the Lord Is King!

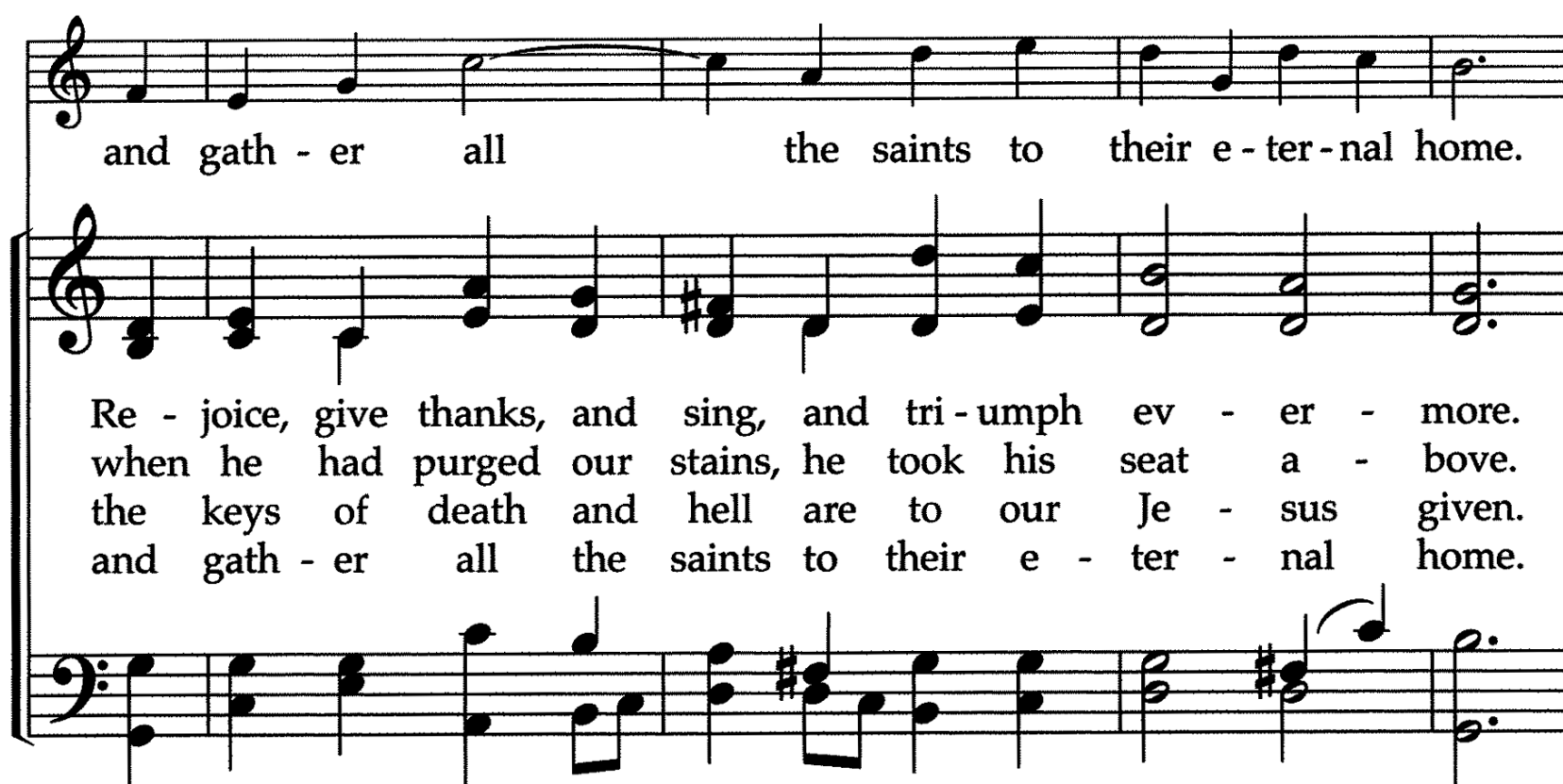
363

Descant



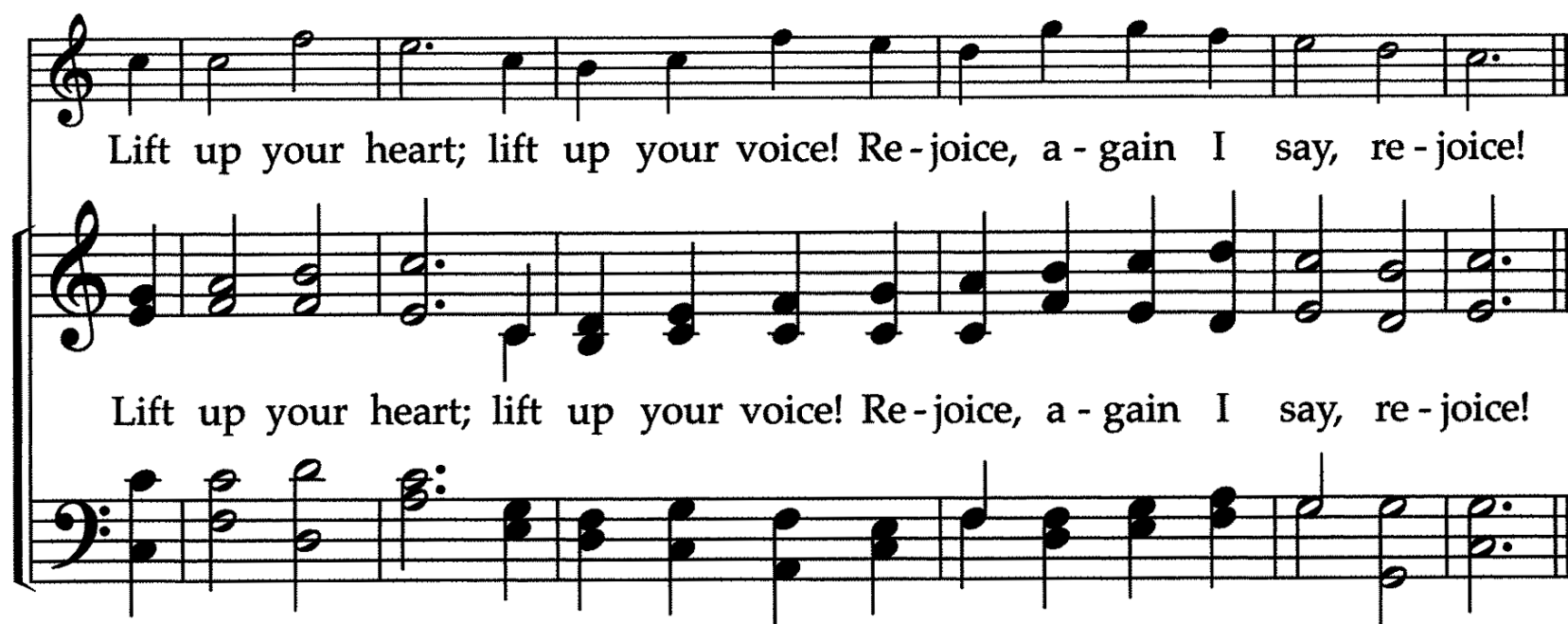
4 Re - joice in glo - rious hope! For Christ, the Judge, shall come

1 Re - joice, the Lord is King! Your Lord and King a - dore!
 2 Our Sav - ior, Je - sus, reigns, the God of truth and love;
 3 His king - dom can - not fail; he rules o'er earth and heaven;
 4 Re - joice in glo - rious hope! For Christ, the Judge, shall come



and gath - er all the saints to their e - ter - nal home.

Re - joice, give thanks, and sing, and tri - umph ev - er - more.
 when he had purged our stains, he took his seat a - bove.
 the keys of death and hell are to our Je - sus given.
 and gath - er all the saints to their e - ter - nal home.



Lift up your heart; lift up your voice! Re-joice, a - gain I say, re - joice!

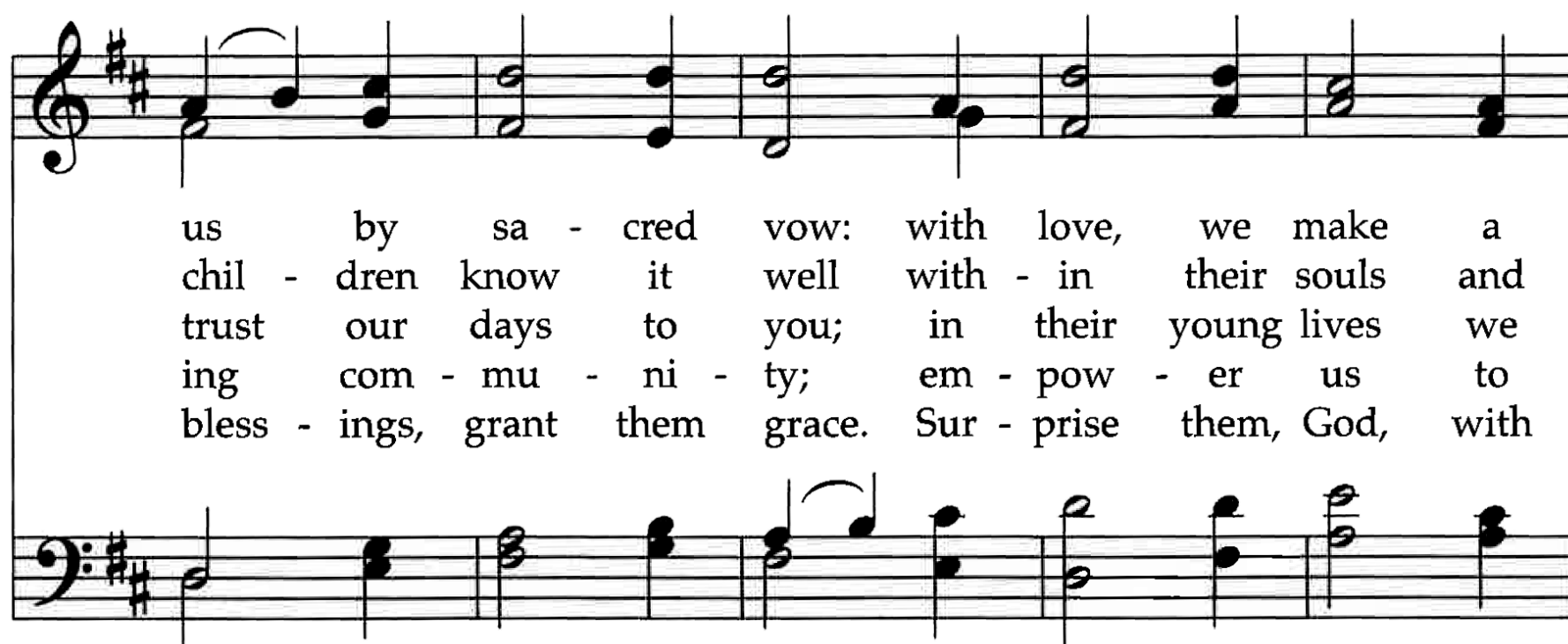
Lift up your heart; lift up your voice! Re-joice, a - gain I say, re - joice!

These Treasured Children

487



1 These trea - sured chil - dren pres - ent now are bound to
 2 Our an - cient sto - ry we shall tell, till these our
 3 We long to trust as chil - dren do and so en -
 4 Come, Ho - ly Spir - it, help us be a nur - tur -
 5 Then, ten - der God, each child em - brace; God give them



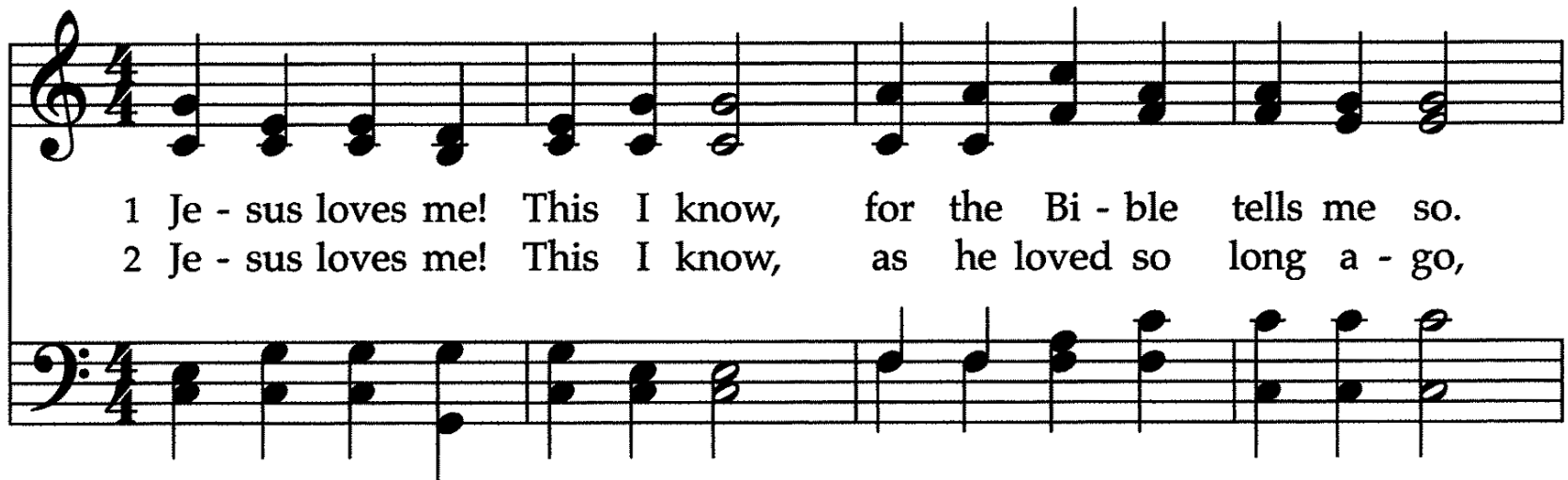
us by sa - cred vow: with love, we make a
 chil - dren know it well with - in their souls and
 trust our days to you; in their young lives we
 ing com - mu - ni - ty; em - pow - er us to
 bless - ings, grant them grace. Sur - prise them, God, with



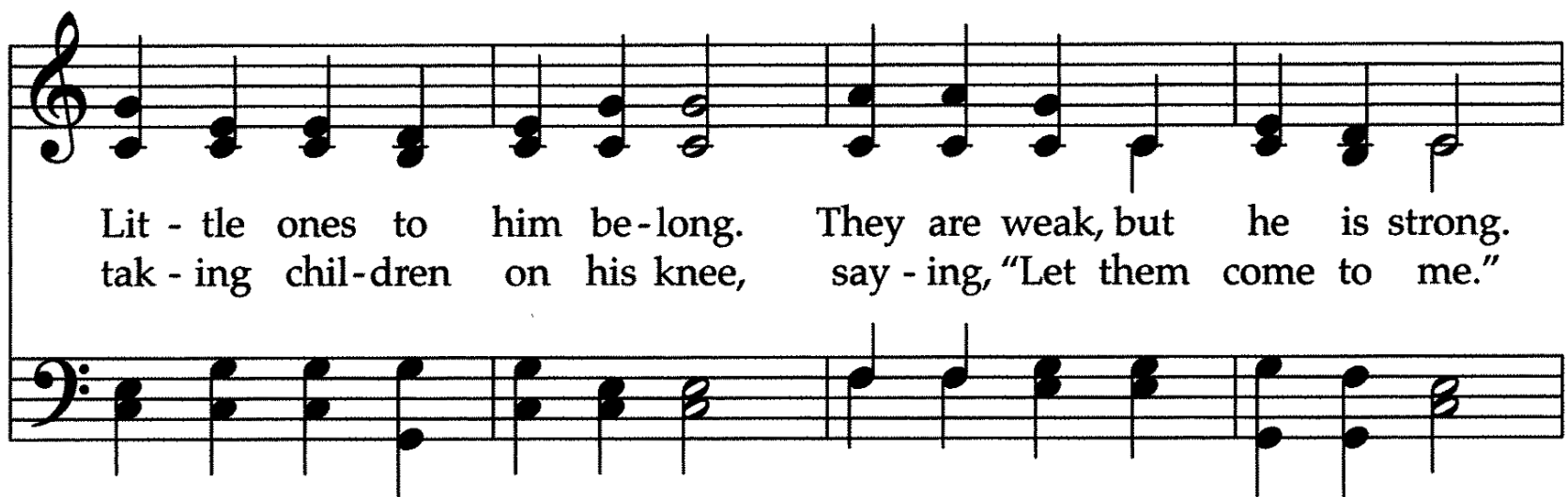
heart - felt claim to wel - come them in Je - sus' name.
 minds and hearts, for this is where their jour - ney starts.
 clear - ly see a les - son in hu - mil - i - ty.
 re - a - lize God's king - dom through our chil - dren's eyes.
 won - ders still, and gent - ly guide them to your will.

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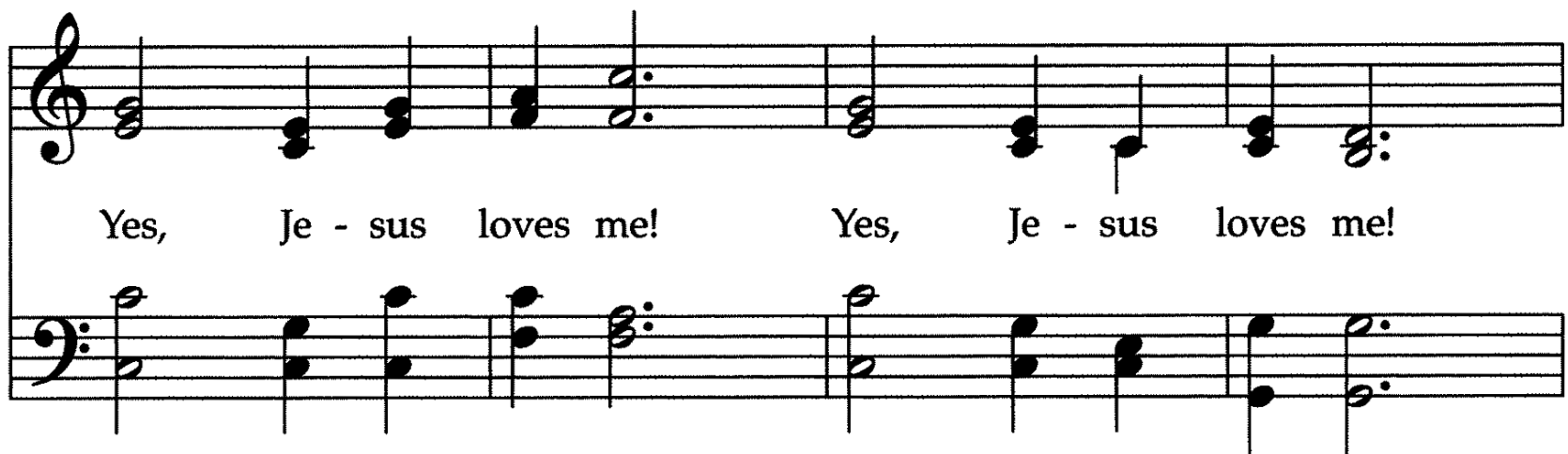
Jesus Loves Me!



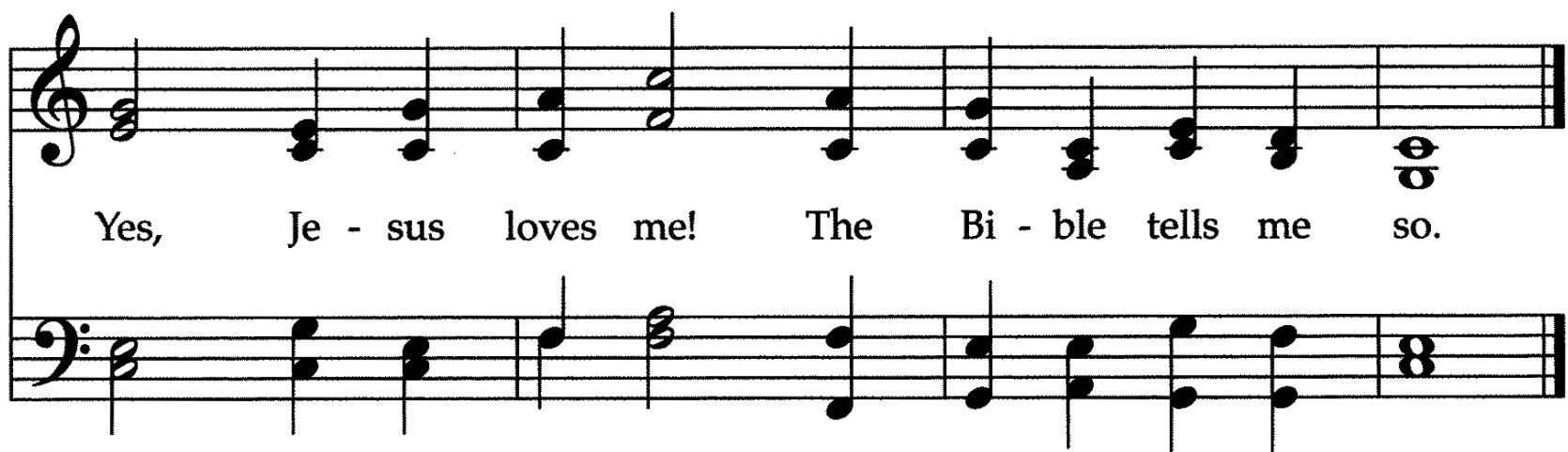
1 Je - sus loves me! This I know, for the Bi - ble tells me so.
2 Je - sus loves me! This I know, as he loved so long a - go,



Lit - tle ones to him be-long. They are weak, but he is strong.
tak - ing chil-dren on his knee, say - ing, "Let them come to me."

Refrain

Yes, Je - sus loves me! Yes, Je - sus loves me!



Yes, Je - sus loves me! The Bi - ble tells me so.

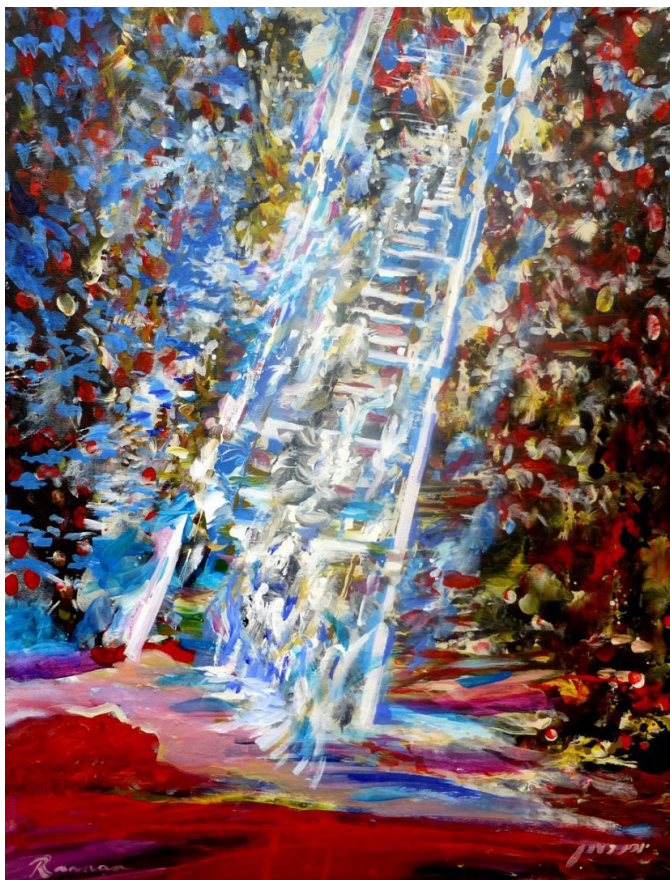
Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart 688

1 Spir - it of God, de - scend up - on my heart;
 2 I ask no dream, no proph - et ec - sta - sies,
 3 Hast thou not bid us love thee, God and King;
 4 Teach me to feel that thou art al - ways nigh.
 5 Teach me to love thee as thine an - gels love,

wean it from earth; through all its puls - es move;
 no sud - den rend - ing of the veil of clay,
 all, all thine own, soul, heart, and strength, and mind?
 Teach me the strug - gles of the soul to bear,
 one ho - ly pas - sion fill - ing all my frame;

stoop to my weak - ness, might - y as thou art,
 no an - gel vis - i - tant, no o - pening skies;
 I see thy cross; there teach my heart to cling.
 to check the ris - ing doubt, the reb - el sigh.
 the bap - tism of the heaven - de - scend - ed Dove,

and make me love thee as I ought to love.
 but take the dim - ness of my soul a - way.
 O let me seek thee, and O let me find!
 Teach me the pa - tience of un - an - swered prayer.
 my heart an al - tar, and thy love the flame.



Cover artwork: *Jacob's Ladder* (2022) by Yoram Raanan.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

3RD SUNDAY FOOD DRIVE **Sunday, September 21**

BCOC is having its monthly Food Drive for Greater Birmingham Ministries today! Pantry needs include non-perishable items like canned vegetables, beans, fruit, meat, and soup. Thank you for helping BCOC's ministry to fill the GBM pantry!

MEMORIAL CHORAL EVENSONG **September 21 at 5:15 pm**

Saint Andrew's Episcopal Church (1024 12th St. S) is offering a Choral Evensong offered in memory of the one year anniversary of the mass shooting in Five Points South this evening. Join the Parish Choir as they offer the timeless beauty of Choral Evensong – a service of scripture, music, and prayer – commending to God the souls of the departed and seeking peace for our community.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT FELLOWSHIP **September 24**

Rev. Ryan Cagle of Jubilee House, located in Walker County, will facilitate a discussion of environmental racial justice in Alabama.

Our mid-week fellowship meal is in the Fellowship Hall from 5:00 – 6:00 pm. You can make a reservation online. Reservations must be in by Monday at noon.

COMMON TABLE DONATIONS

Our Common Table ministry needs travel or hotel size hygiene items. Please leave any donations on a table in the Bock Mayse Ministry Center.

- Hand wipes
- Deoderant
- Hand sanitizer
- Shampoo
- Toothbrush and toothpaste
- Razors
- Shave cream
- Lotion