

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST | SEPTEMBER 13, 2026

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	<i>Basse de Trompette</i> Dan Lawhon	Pierre DuMage
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Welcome		Erica Cooper
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Choral Introit	<i>Come, Christians, Join to Sing</i>	MADRID
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* Processional Hymn No. 610	<i>O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing</i> Hymn sheet on page 3	AZMON
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Call to Worship		Michael Finn
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One: God the Creator is in this place.

All: The love of God is with us.

One: Jesus our Redeemer is in this place.

All: The grace of our Lord is with us.

One: The Holy Spirit is in this place.

All: The communion of the Spirit is with us.

One: We welcome the fullness of God's presence.

All: God the Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer be with us.

Prayer of Invocation		Paxton Vaughn
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Hymn No. 49	<i>The God of Abraham Praise</i> Hymn sheet on page 4	LEONI
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PROCLAIMING THE WORD

Sermon on the Steps		Cindy Ponder
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Hymn No. 757	<i>Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples</i> Hymn sheet on page 5	KINGSFOLD
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Gospel Reading	Matthew 28:19-20	Eric Clark
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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	<i>Come Down, O Love Divine</i>	DOWN AMPNEY
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Prayers of the People & Lord's Prayer		Paxton Vaughn
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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 12:1-9

Erica Cooper

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

All: We give thanks to God.

Anthem

Salvation Is Created
Covenant Choir

Paul Tschesnokoff

Salvation is created for all nations;
So now we praise Thee, Lord God almighty,
Lord God almighty, O Lord over all;
Lord, God, O our Lord, God.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia,
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia,
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Sermon

Into the Unknown

Erica Cooper

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Invitation to Christian Commitment

Erica Cooper

Hymn of Response No. 722

Lord, Speak to Me That I May Speak
[Hymn sheet on page 6](#)

CANONBURY

Words of Dedication

Lily Berthiaume

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

Duo
Dan Lawhon

Pierre DuMage

Offertory Response

Doxology

OLD 100TH

Pastoral Transition Update

Bill Caughran and Patrick Chappell

Life of the Church

Eric Clark

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

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

Benediction

Erica Cooper

Postlude

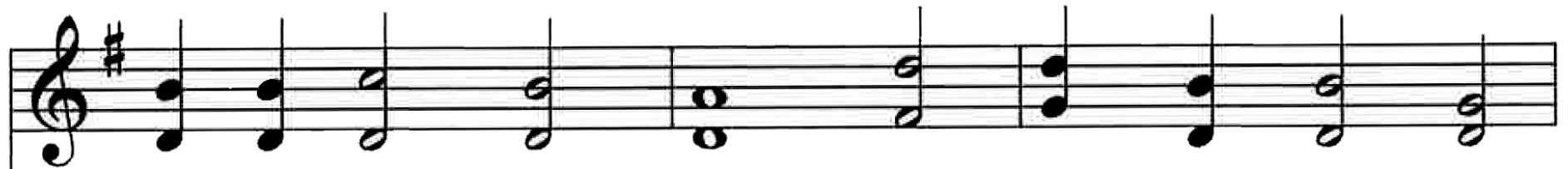
Grand jeu
Dan Lawhon

Pierre DuMage

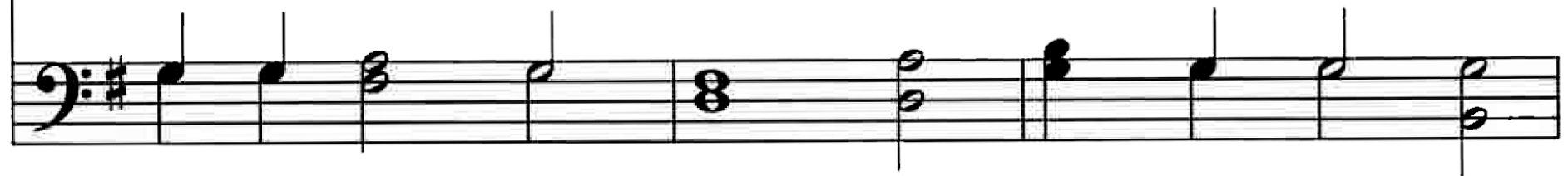
O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing 610



1 O for a thou - sand tongues to sing my
 2 The name of Je - sus charms our fears, and
 3 Christ speaks, and lis - tening to his voice new
 4 My gra - cious Mas - ter and my God, as -
 5 To God all glo - ry, praise, and love be



dear Re - deem - er's praise, the glo - ries of my
 bids our sor - rows cease, sings mu - sic in the
 life the dead re - ceive; the mourn - ful wak - en
 sist me to pro - claim, to spread through all the
 now and ev - er given by saints be - low and



God and King, the tri - umphs of God's grace!
 sin - ner's ears, brings life, and health, and peace.
 to re - joice; the poor in heart be - lieve.
 earth a - broad the hon - ors of thy name.
 saints a - bove, the church in earth and heaven.



49 The God of Abraham Praise



1 The God of A-braham praise, who reigns en-throned a - bove,
 2 Your spir - it still flows free, high surg - ing where it will.
 3 Your good - ly land we seek, with peace and plen - ty blest,
 4 You have e - ter - nal life im - plant - ed in the soul;



the An - cient of E - ter - nal Days, the God of love!
 In proph-et's word you spoke of old and you speak still.
 a land of sa - cred lib - er - ty and Sab - bath rest.
 your love shall be our strength and stay, while a - ges roll.



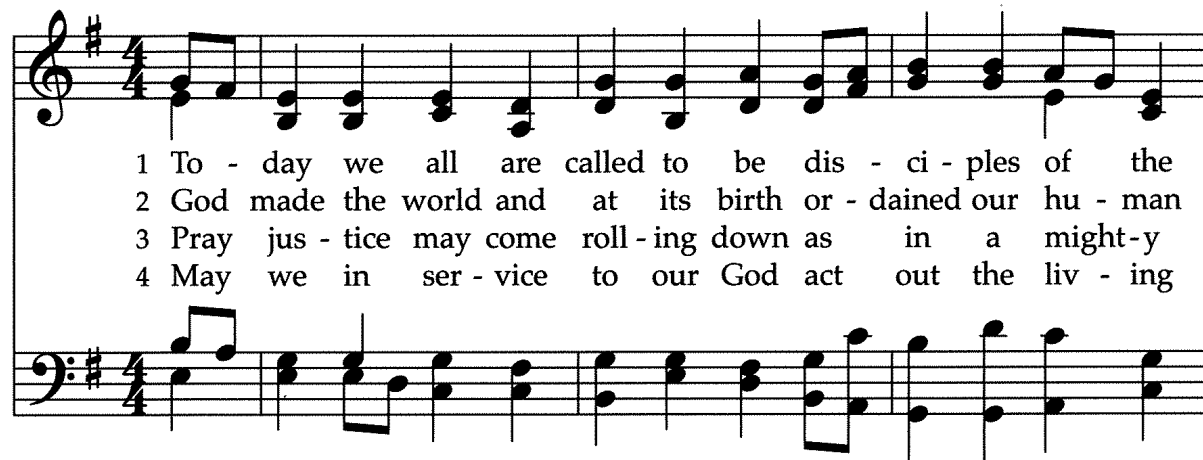
The Lord, the great I AM, by earth and heaven con-fessed,
 Es - tab-lished is your law, and change-less it shall stand,
 There milk and hon - ey flow, and oil and wine a - bound,
 We praise you, liv - ing God! We praise your ho - ly name:



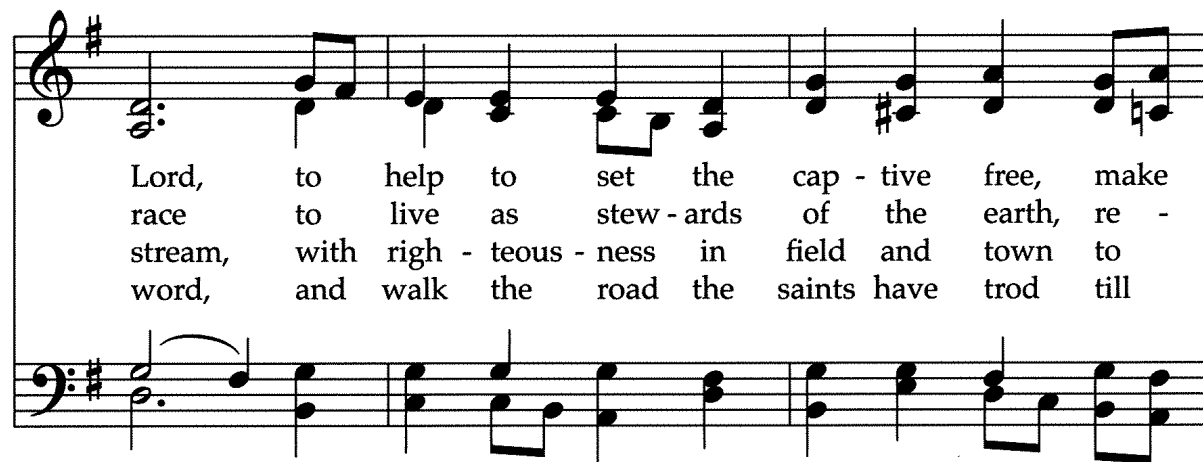
we bow be - fore your ho - ly name, for - ev - er blest.
 deep writ up - on the hu - man heart by your strong hand.
 and trees of life for - ev - er grow with mer - cy crowned.
 the first, the last, be - yond all thought, and still the same!



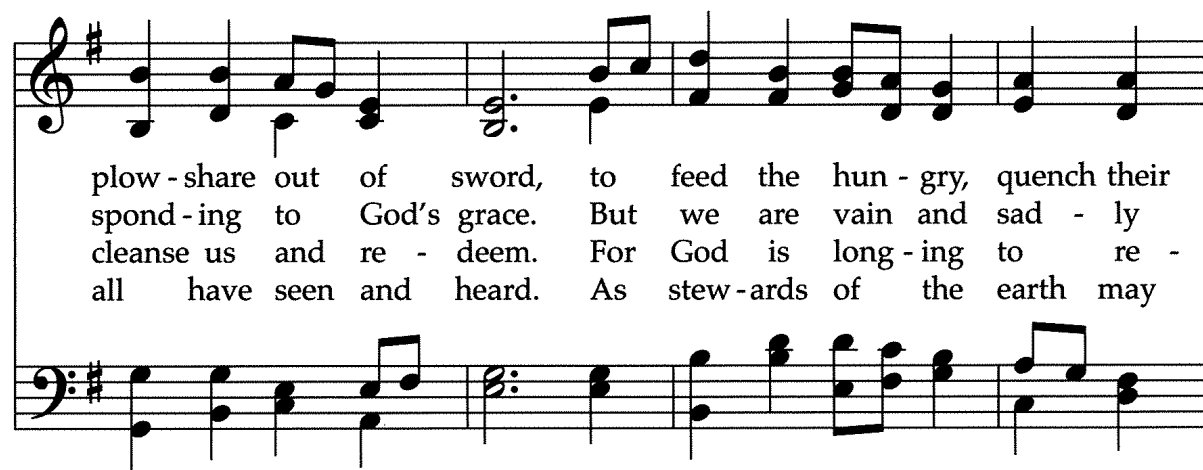
757 Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples



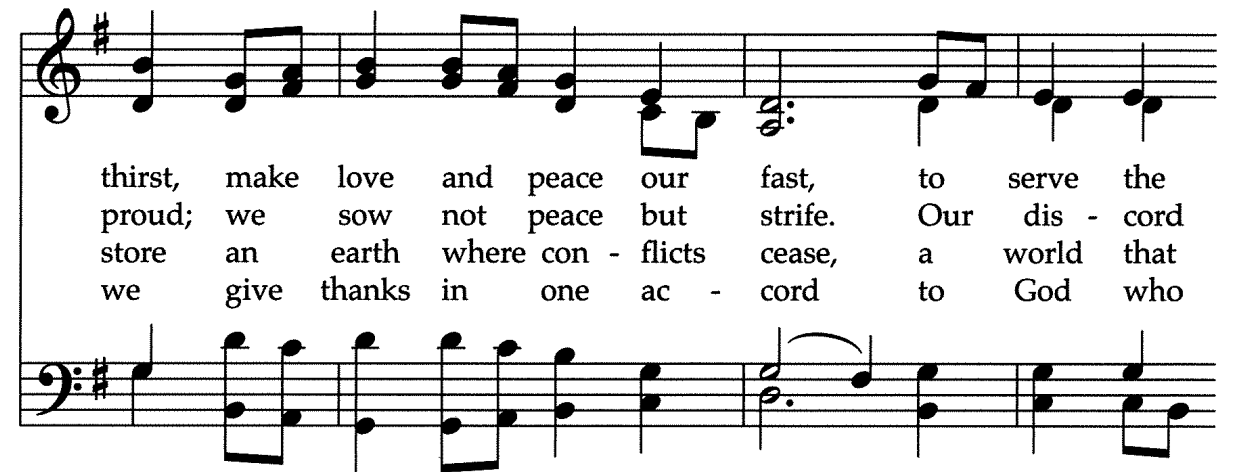
1 To - day we all are called to be dis - ci - ples of the
 2 God made the world and at its birth or - dained our hu - man
 3 Pray jus - tice may come roll - ing down as in a might - y
 4 May we in ser - vice to our God act out the liv - ing



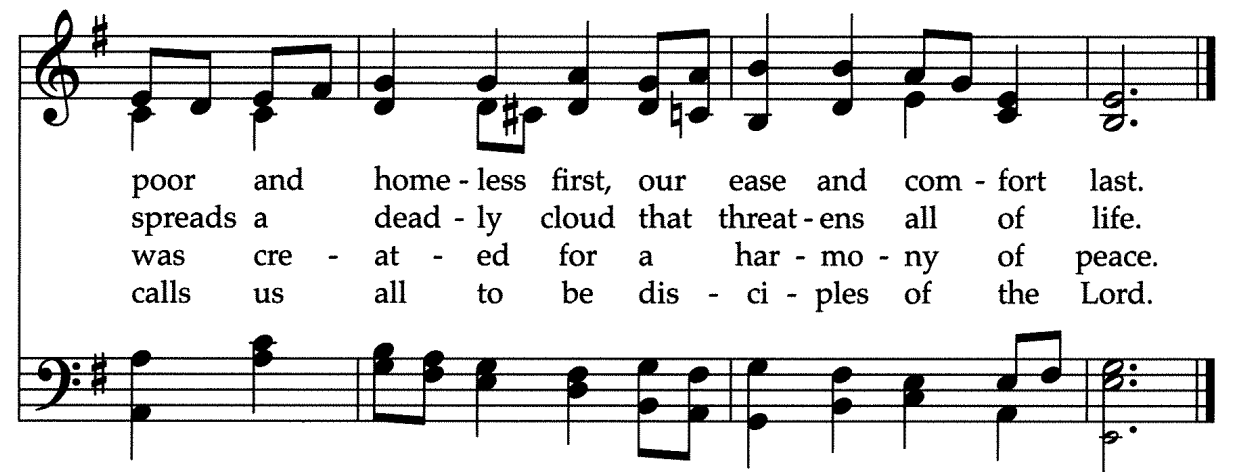
Lord, to help to set the cap - tive free, make
 race to live as stew - ards of the earth, re -
 stream, with righ - teous - ness in field and town to
 word, and walk the road the saints have trod till



plow - share out of sword, to feed the hun - gry, quench their
 spond - ing to God's grace. But we are vain and sad - ly
 cleanse us and re - deem. For God is long - ing to re -
 all have seen and heard. As stew - ards of the earth may



thirst, make love and peace our fast, to serve the
 proud; we sow not peace but strife. Our dis - cord
 store an earth where con - flicts cease, a world that
 we give thanks in one ac - cord to God who

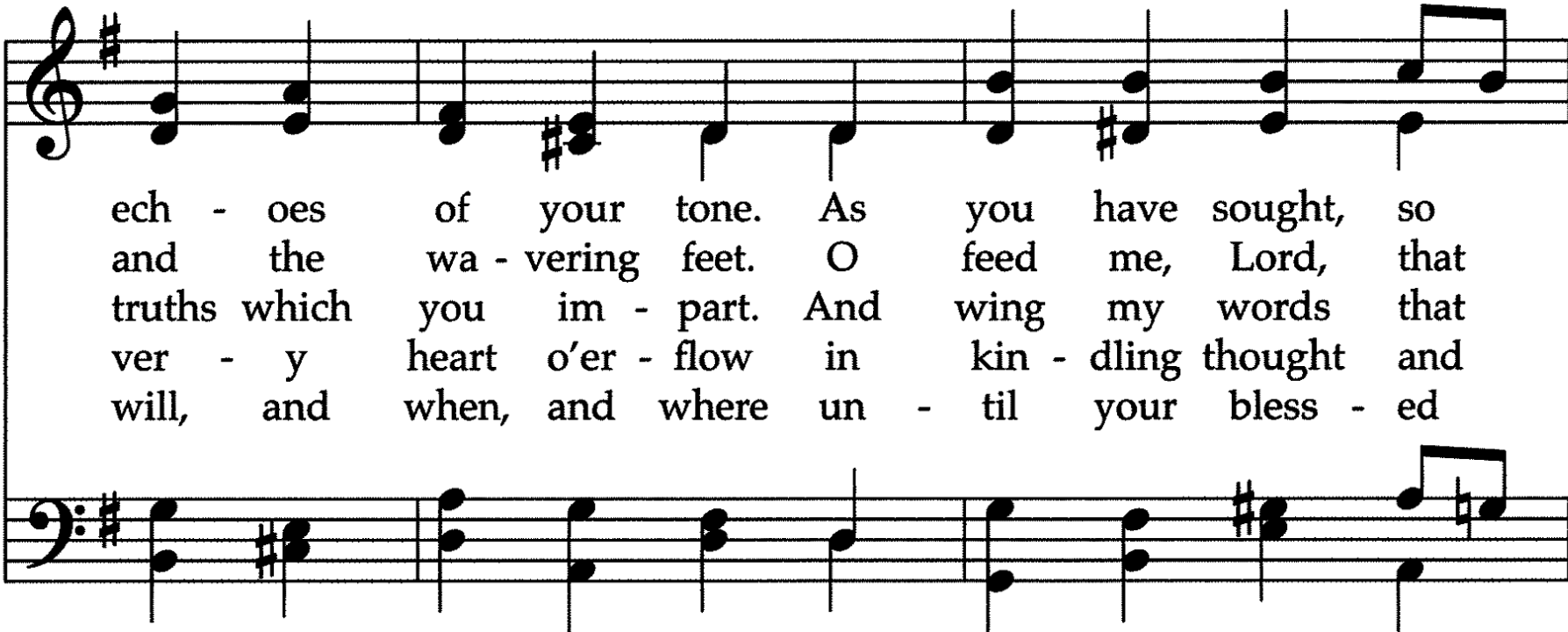


poor and home - less first, our ease and com - fort last.
 spreads a dead - ly cloud that threat - ens all of life.
 was cre - at - ed for a har - mo - ny of peace.
 calls us all to be dis - ci - ples of the Lord.

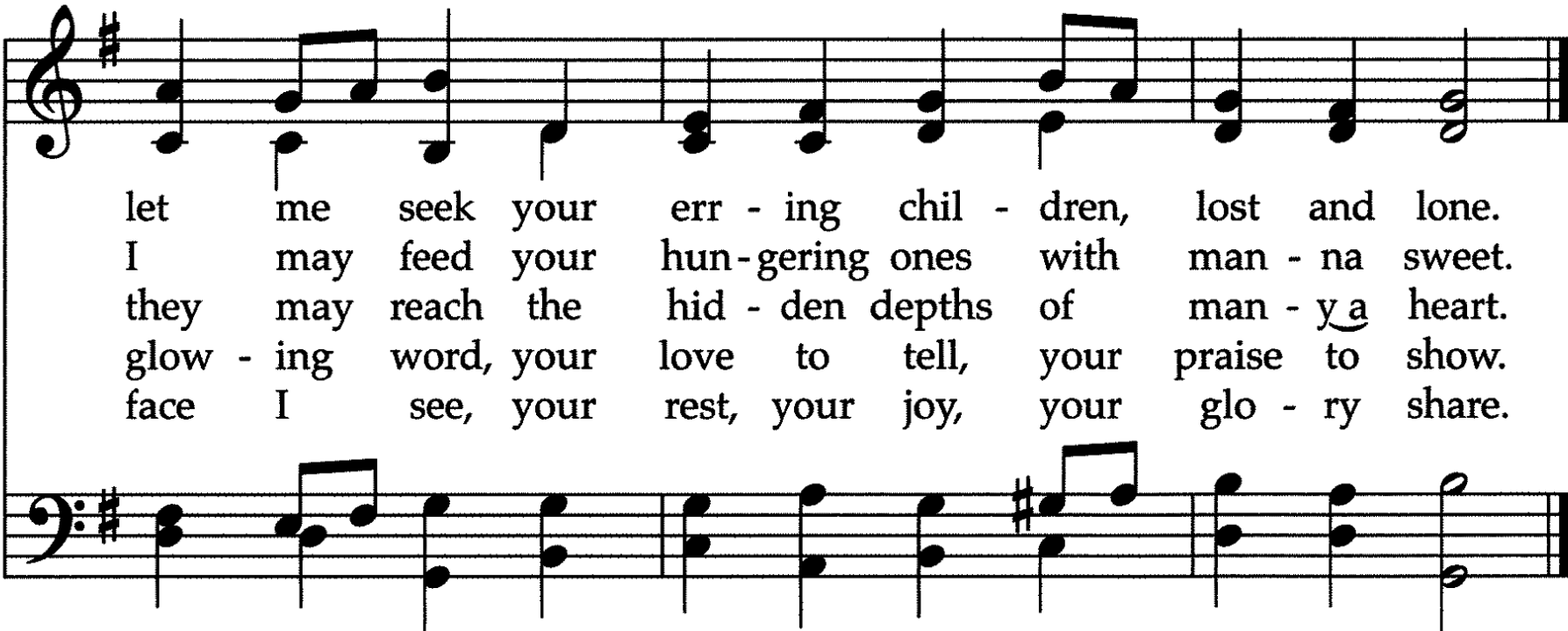
722 Lord, Speak to Me That I May Speak



1 Lord, speak to me that I may speak in liv - ing
 2 O lead me, Lord, that I may lead the wan - dering
 3 O teach me, Lord, that I may teach the pre - cious
 4 O fill me with your full - ness, Lord, un - til my
 5 O use me, Lord, use e - ven me, just as you



ech - oes of your tone. As you have sought, so
 and the wa - vering feet. O feed me, Lord, that
 truths which you im - part. And wing my words that
 ver - y heart o'er - flow in kin - dling thought and
 will, and when, and where un - til your bless - ed



let me seek your err - ing chil - dren, lost and lone.
 I may feed your hun - gering ones with man - na sweet.
 they may reach the hid - den depths of man - y a heart.
 glow - ing word, your love to tell, your praise to show.
 face I see, your rest, your joy, your glo - ry share.



Cover art: *Living as a Pilgrim* (2019) by Shai Azoulay

ANNOUNCEMENTS

3RD SUNDAY FOOD DRIVE **Sunday, September 20**

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!

SPECIAL CALLED BUSINESS MEETING **Wednesday, September 30**

Join us for a Special Called Business meeting on Wednesday, September 30 at 5:45 pm. The church will vote to approve the Staff Committee's candidate for Interim Pastor. The church will also elect members of a Pastor Search Committee. COM Chair Patrick Chappell will send a letter to the church this week regarding specifics about the selection of the Pastor Search Committee.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT FELLOWSHIP **September 23**

Discover how our everyday life experiences shape the way we see God through a two-part look at the rich history and heart of the Latino Christian church. Designed for everyone, this series explores how faith, justice, and community come together to give us a bigger, more beautiful picture of following Jesus today.

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.

2026 SOUTHERN EXPOSURE FILMS **Friday, September 25**

The Creation Care Team hopes you will join us again on Friday, September 25 at the Altamont School Theatre for the premiere of the 2026 Southern Exposure Films. A Mix & Mingle with environmentally-conscious vendors, food, and drink will begin at 5:00 pm. The films will begin at 6:30 pm with a Q&A to follow.