

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST | OCTOBER 11, 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>Partita on "Lasst uns erfreuen"</i> <i>I. Entrada</i> <i>II. Chorale</i> Dan Lawhon	Charles Callahan
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Welcome		Erica Cooper
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Choral Introit	<i>From All that Dwell Below the Skies</i>	Gordon Young
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* Processional Hymn No. 10	<i>Sing Glory to the Name of God</i> Hymn sheet on page 5	LASST UNS ERFREUEN
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Call to Worship		Micaiah Damron Seruyange
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One: God our Creator, we call you Father, Mother, Author of Life:
All: Draw us closer to you, O God.
One: Christ our Savior, we call you the Son, the Messiah, the One who Saves:
All: Draw us closer to you, O God.
One: Holy Spirit, we call you the Advocate, the Inspirer, Breath and Wind of God:
All: Draw us closer to you, O God.
One: Draw us in, Spirit, Christ and Creator,
All: That we might journey with you more fully and deeply, in this life and beyond.

Prayer of Invocation		Steve Kilgore
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Hymn No. 688	<i>Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart</i> Hymn sheet on page 6	MORECAMBE
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PROCLAIMING THE WORD

Sermon on the Steps		Jackson Vaughan
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Hymn No. 440	<i>Jesus, Lover of My Soul</i> Hymn sheet on page 7	ABERYSTWYTH
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Gospel Reading	Matthew 5:14-16	Alisha Damron Seruyange
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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>Lord, Speak to Me, for I Am Yours</i>	PERRY
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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.

Epistle Reading

Philippians 4:1-8

Erica Cooper

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

All: We give thanks to God.**Anthem***My Shepherd Will Supply My Need*
Covenant Choir

Virgil Thompson

*My Shepherd will supply my need,
Jehovah is His name.
In pastures fresh he makes me feed
Beside the living stream.
He brings my wandering spirit back
When I forsake His ways.
He leads me for His mercy's sake
In paths of truth and grace.*

*When I walk through the shades of death,
Thy presence is my stay.
One word of Thy supporting breath
Drives all my fears away,
Thy hand, in sight of all my foes,
Doth still my table spread.
My cup with blessings overflows,
Thine oil anoints my head.*

*The sure provisions of my God
Attend me all my days,
O may Thy house be my abode
And all my work be praise.
There would I find a settled rest,
While others go and come,
No more a stranger or a guest,
But like a child at home.*

Sermon*Remembering Covenant*

Erica Cooper

*RESPONDING TO THE WORD***Invitation to Christian Commitment**

Erica Cooper

Hymn of Response No. 821*My Life Flows On*
[Hymn sheet on page 8](#)

HOW CAN I KEEP FROM SINGING

Words of Dedication

Micaiah Damron Seruyange

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

Partita on "Lasst uns erfreuen"
III. Duo
V. Reflection
Dan Lawhon

Charles Callahan

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

Paxton Vaughn

Words of Thanks

Lindsey Bloodworth, Glenda Elliott, Kim Looney, and Nathan Rankin

Blessing for Pastor Erica

Eric Clark

One: On October 18, 2020, Baptist Church of the Covenant called Erica Cooper to serve as its Pastor.

Erica: I thank you, the members and friends of Baptist Church of the Covenant, for the love, kindness, and support shown to me these last six years while I have ministered among you. I am grateful for the ways my leadership has been accepted. I ask forgiveness for the mistakes I have made. As I leave, I carry with me all that I have learned here.

All: We receive your thankfulness, offer forgiveness, and accept that you now leave for an intentional season of caring for your family and yourself. We, in turn, express our gratitude for your time among

us and ask your forgiveness for our mistakes. Your influence on our faith and faithfulness and your care for us in our joys and sorrows will not leave us at your departure.

Erica: I forgive you and accept your gratitude, trusting that our time together and our parting are pleasing to God.

All: As you take your leave, we bless your journey and the season of caring for your family and yourself that you are entering. We pray that God keeps you, wherever you are led.

Erica: I receive your blessing with a thankful heart and encourage you as one body to continue growing into the fullness of the love of Christ and the unity of the Holy Spirit.

Blessings for Cooper Family

Eric Clark

Presentation of Gifts

Jeff Davison, Mike Casey, and Bart Grooms

Vows of Release

Eric Clark

One: Do you, the members and friends of Baptist Church of the Covenant, release Pastor Erica from the duties of Pastor and the covenant of shared ministry that she entered with this congregation?

All: We do, with the help of God.

One: Do you offer your encouragement for her ministry as it unfolds in new ways?

All: We do, with the help of God.

One: Do you, Pastor Erica, release this church from turning to you and depending on you?

Erica: I do, with the help of God.

One: Do you offer your encouragement for the continued ministry of this church and for its relationship with another who will come to serve?

Erica: I do, with the help of God.

Pastoral Prayer

Eric Clark

Litany of Gratitude

Eric Clark

One: Thank you, Pastor Erica, for your six years of ministry among us,

All: For accepting our call during a time of great uncertainty, grief, and unrest in our world.

One: Thank you for the tender care and wise counsel with which you blessed us,

All: For meeting us with compassion when we were vulnerable, in pain, or perplexed.

One: Thank you for your integrity and trustworthiness as a practitioner of spiritual care,

All: For listening to our hearts and holding our burdens in sacred confidence.

One: Thank you for accompanying us in our grief,

All: For remembering the loved ones we have lost, with words that let their lives shine.

One: Thank you for serving as a model of progress in the life of faith,

All: For your growth in openness and self-awareness and for not pretending to have it all figured out.

One: Thank you for celebrating with us our joys and life passages,

All: For blessing the births of our children, the beginnings of our marriages, and the hopeful turns in our lives.

One: Thank you for proclaiming the Word with boldness, creativity, and care,

All: For helping us see ourselves in the story of God and the story of God in us.

One: Thank you for helping us grow as a congregation,

All: For rooting new members among us, helping us move forward on things we had neglected, and making us a safer and more welcoming place for all.

One: Thank you for accompanying those of us who were discerning calls to various kinds of ministry,

All: For calling forth our gifts and enriching our congregation's shared witness.

One: God has been present in you and your ministry here,

All: And we are a better congregation for having had you as our pastor.

One: Go now in peace.

All: May you and your family carry with you our love and gratitude.

Benediction

Erica Cooper

Postlude

Partita on "Lasst uns erfreuen"

VI. Toccata

Dan Lawhon

Charles Callahan

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Sing Glory to the Name of God

(Psalm 29)

Unison



1 Sing glo - ry to the name of God, whose ho - ly splen - dor shines a -
 2 The name of God is full of might: re - sound - ing thun - der, flash - ing
 3 The name of God is wild and free, a - whirl in ho - ly mys - ter -
 4 May God for - ev - er be our peace; may hymns of glo - ry nev - er



Harmony *Unison*



broad. light. y. cease: Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! En - throned a - bove the The wil - der - ness can - A se - cret wrapped in Let all the faith - ful




crash - ing waves, the God of grace and glo - ry saves.
 not con - tain the ech - oes of the great re - frain:
 smoke and fire, still chant - ed by the tem - ple choir:
 peo - ple come; sing praise to God, the Three - in - One:



Harmony



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



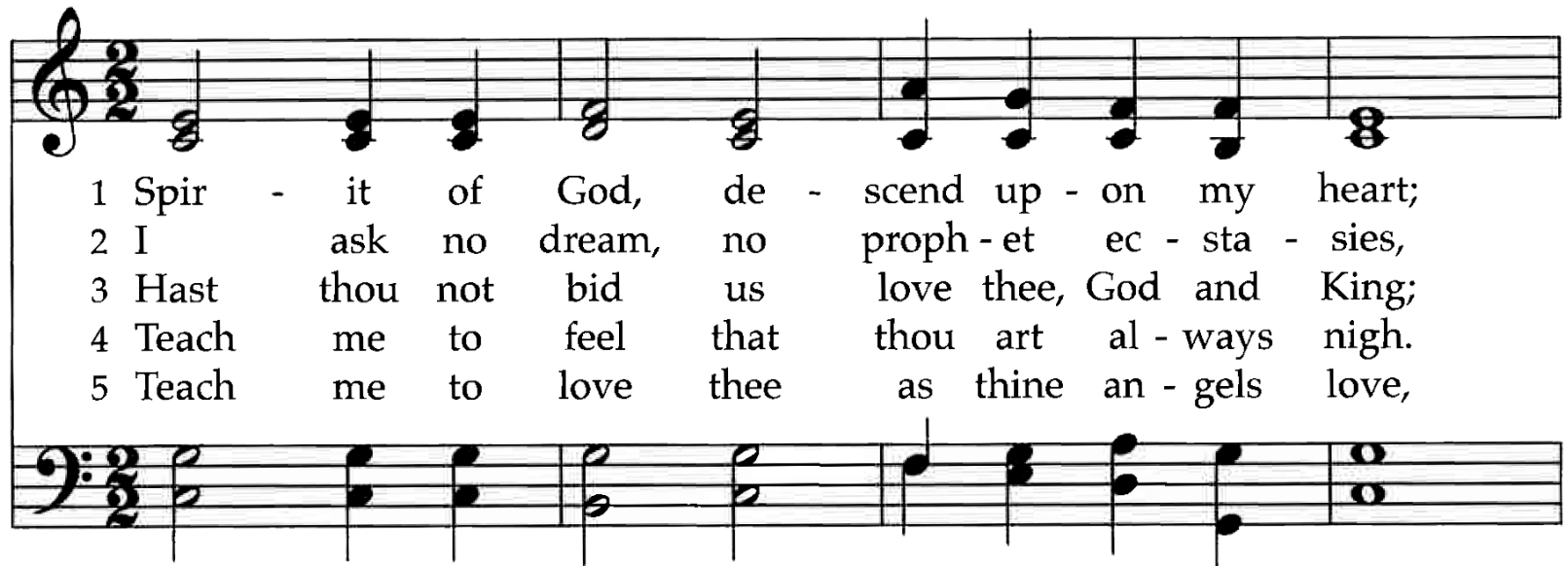
Unison



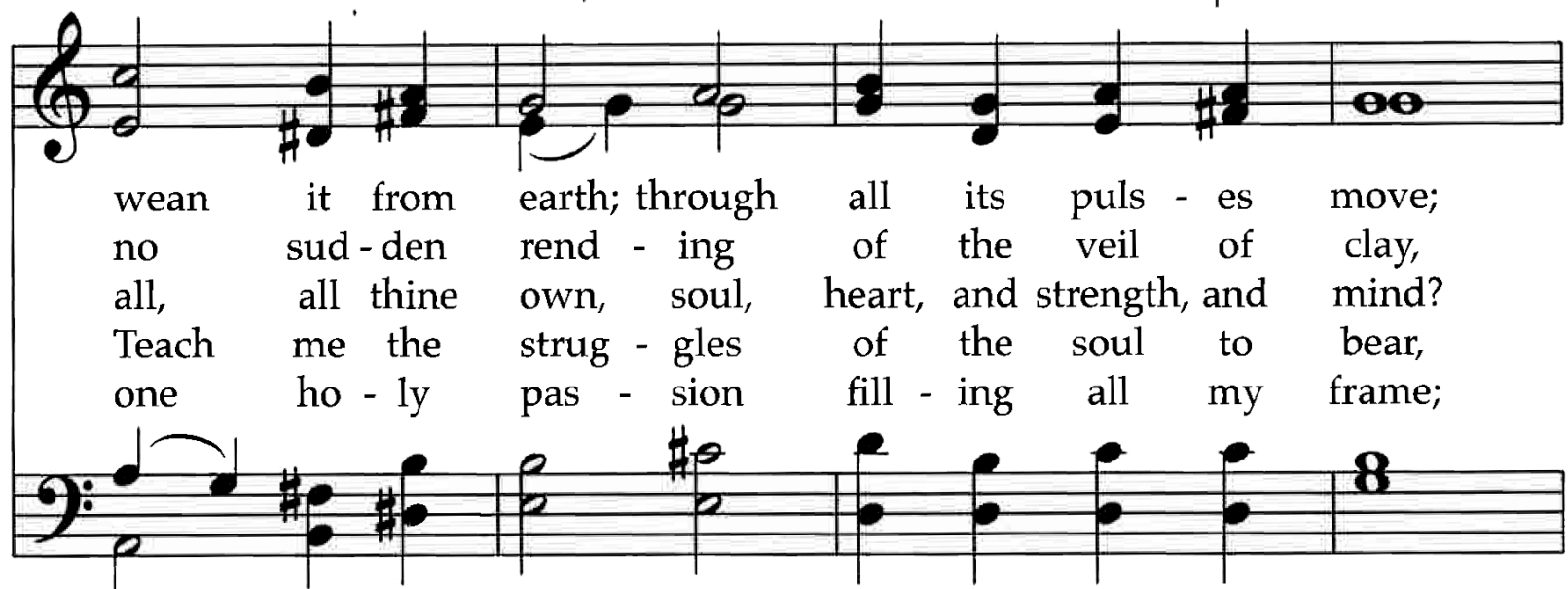
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!



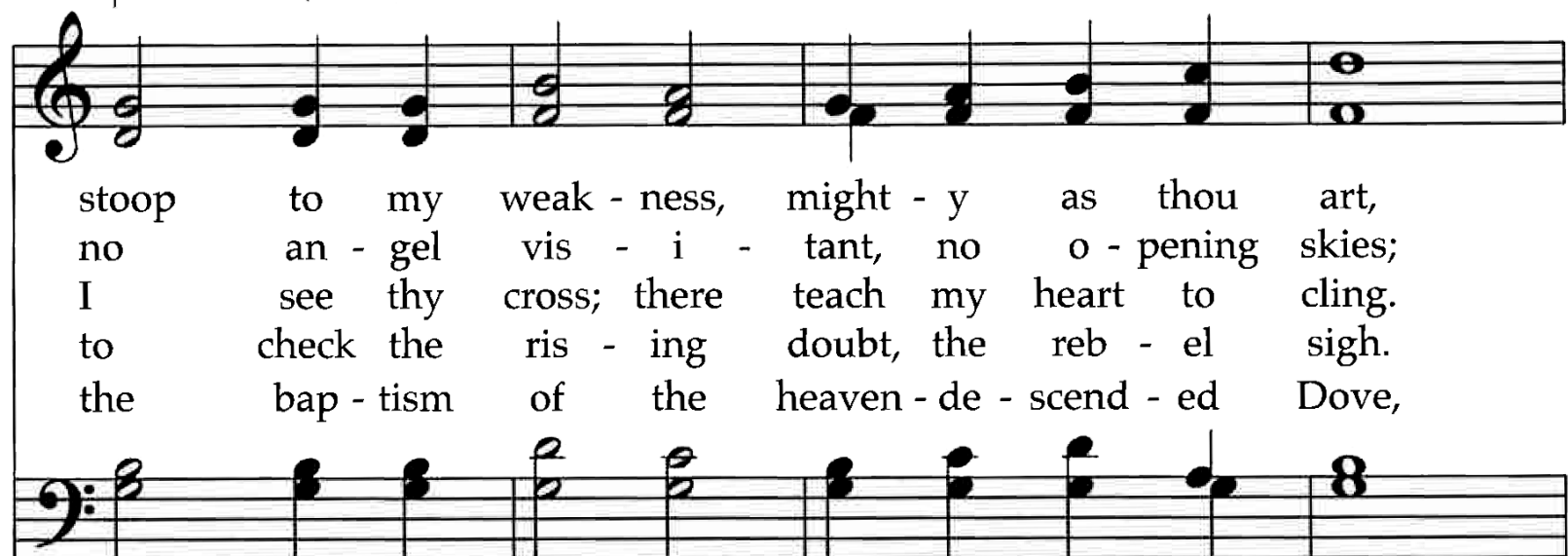
Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart 688



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,

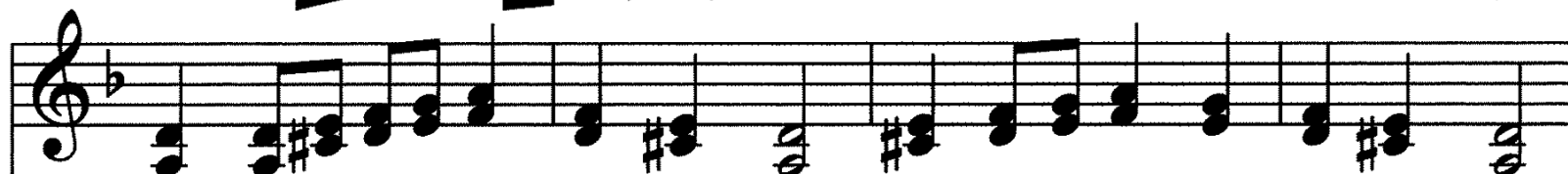


and make me love thee as I ought to love.
 but take the dim - ness of my soul a - way.
 O let me seek thee, and O let me find!
 Teach me the pa - tience of un - an - swered prayer.
 my heart an al - tar, and thy love the flame.

440 Jesus, Lover of My Soul



1 Je - sus, lov - er of my soul, let me to thy bos - om fly,
 2 Oth - er ref - uge have I none; hangs my help-less soul on thee.
 3 Thou, O Christ, art all I want; more than all in thee I find.
 4 Plen - teous grace with thee is found, grace to cov - er all my sin.



while the near - er wa - ters roll, while the temp - est still is high.
 Leave, ah! leave me not a - lone; still sup - port and com - fort me.
 Raise the fall - en, cheer the faint, heal the sick, and lead the blind.
 Let the heal - ing streams a - bound; make and keep me pure with - in.



Hide me, O my Sav - ior, hide, till the storm of life is past.
 All my trust on thee is stayed; all my help from thee I bring.
 Just and ho - ly is thy name; I am all un - righ - teous - ness.
 Thou of life the foun - tain art; free - ly let me take of thee.



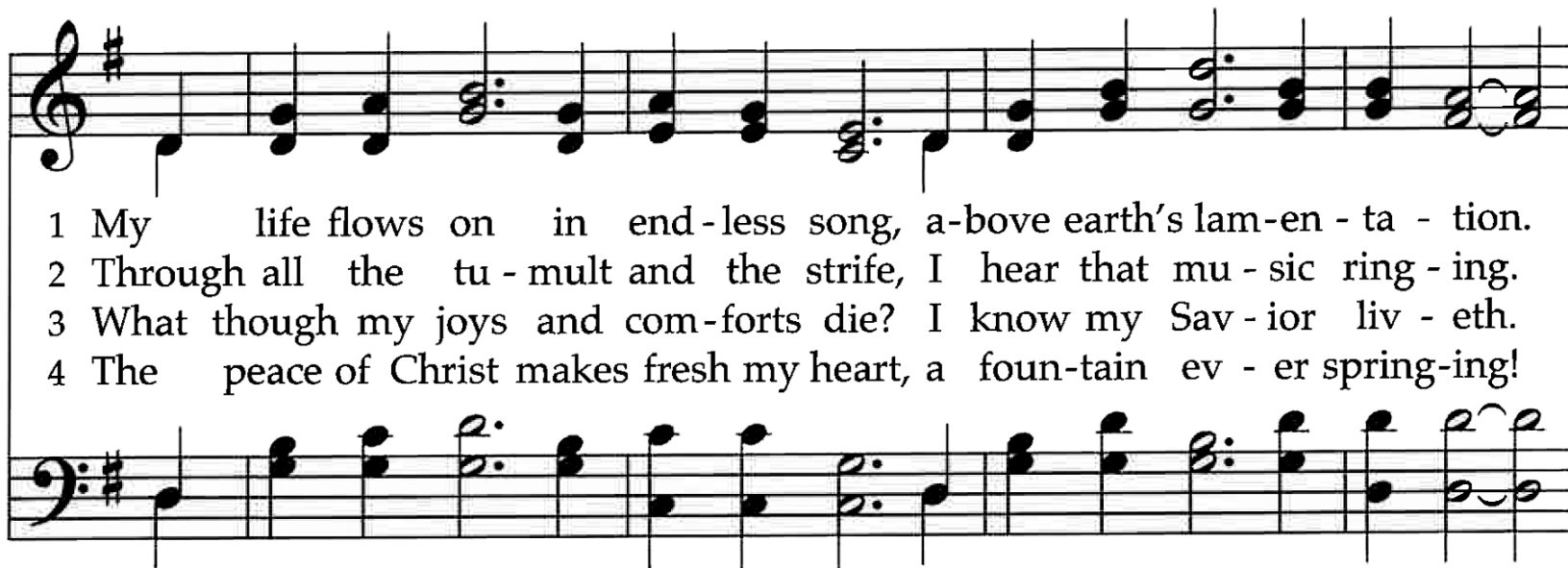
Safe in - to the ha - ven guide. O re - ceive my soul at last!
 Cov - er my de - fense - less head with the shad - ow of thy wing.
 False and full of sin I am; thou art full of truth and grace.
 Spring thou up with - in my heart. Rise to all e - ter - ni - ty.



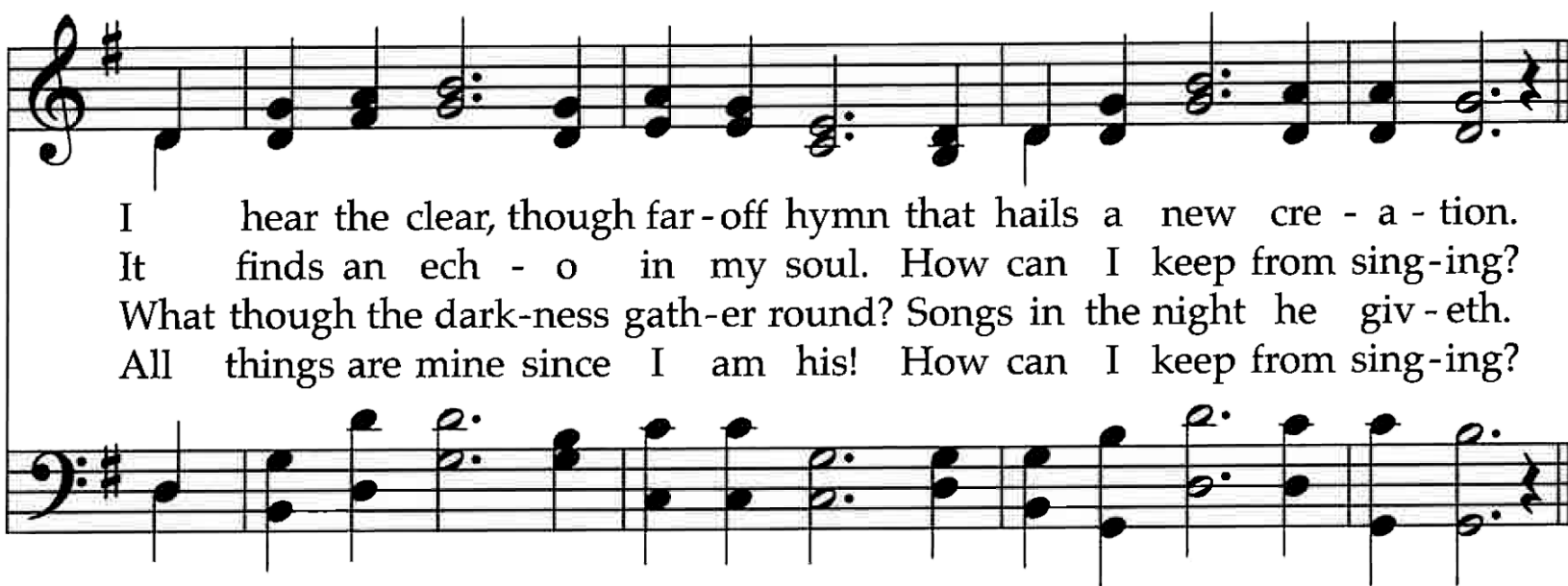
821

My Life Flows On

How Can I Keep from Singing?

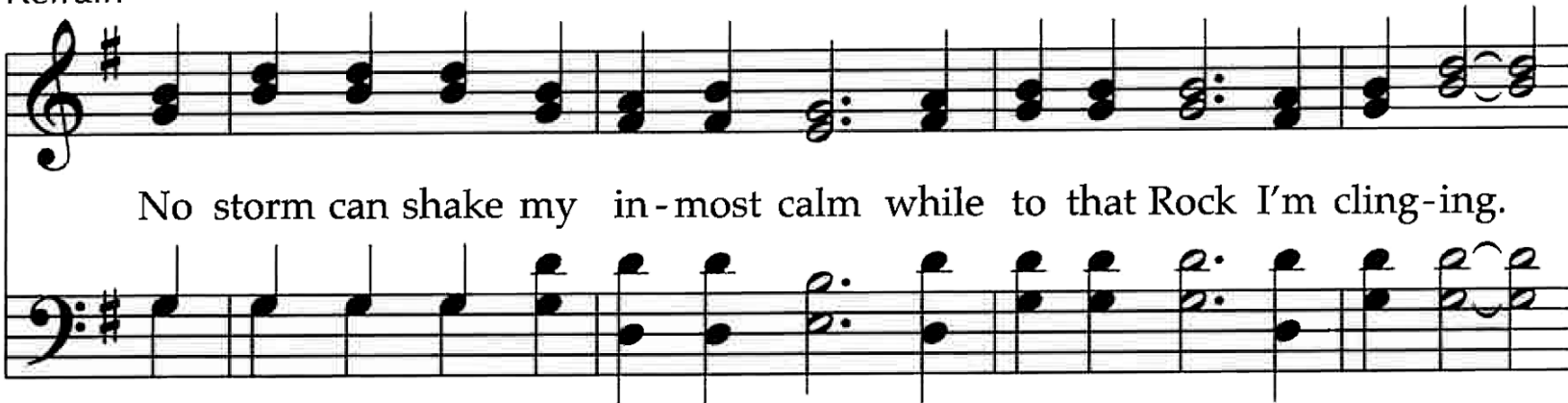


1 My life flows on in end-less song, a-bove earth's lam-en - ta - tion.
 2 Through all the tu - mult and the strife, I hear that mu - sic ring - ing.
 3 What though my joys and com-forts die? I know my Sav - ior liv - eth.
 4 The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a foun-tain ev - er spring-ing!



I hear the clear, though far-off hymn that hails a new cre - a - tion.
 It finds an ech - o in my soul. How can I keep from sing-ing?
 What though the dark-ness gath-er round? Songs in the night he giv - eth.
 All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from sing-ing?

Refrain



No storm can shake my in-most calm while to that Rock I'm cling-ing.



Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from sing-ing?



The picture on the cover of the bulletin was taken by David Hoefelman during the Labor Day Beach Retreat this year.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RECEPTION FOR PASTOR ERICA **During Coffee Fellowship**

Join us in the Fellowship Hall after worship for a reception honoring Pastor Erica. There is a gift available for everyone to sign. We will also share a blessing from Pastor Corita Blanco during the reception.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT FELLOWSHIP **October 14 at 6:00 pm**

Join us on October 14 as we hear some of the stories that make up BCOC from Scott Looney, Andrew Reed, and Jane Walker.

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.

OCTOBER COAT DRIVE **Accepting Donations!**

Every year BCOC provides more than 200 coats to our neighbors through the winter. In 2025 we held our first October coat drive, and you donated more than 100 coats and funds to purchase more! Next week, we will begin our second annual drive. Please bring new or gently used adult warm coats or hoodies and hang them on the rack in the Fellowship Hall. The goal is 120 coats and/or hoodies, and we can exceed that! If you can't shop, feel free to donate to the designated clothing account; someone will shop for you. Thank you in advance for your generosity!

We especially need both men's and women's sizes medium through XXL.

3RD SUNDAY FOOD DRIVE **Sunday, October 18**

BCOC is having its monthly Food Drive for Greater Birmingham Ministries next week! 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!