PAXTON
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

King Tingz by Nicolette Faison| A Sanctified Art LLC

Fear Doesn't Stop Us

January 4, 2025

WORSHIP FOR THE LORD'S DAY
Fourth Sunday of Advent

January 4, 2025 10:30 a.m.

PRELUDE "O, How Beautiful the Sky" -arr. P. Manz
Improvisation on "We Three Kings" -D. Holden

WORSHIP PREPARATION

In preparing for our worship together please quiet yourself and allow God's Spirit to ready your heart, mind, and soul.

During this time, we invite you to sign the **guest book**, pass it down your row and back again and note friends and guests worshiping next to you. Please also complete a **prayer request card** at this time if you have a joy or concern for which you would like special prayers during the service. The ushers will collect them during the first hymn.

GREETINGS AND NEWS OF OUR COMMON LIFE
Praise the Lord!
The Lord's name be praised!

MINUTE FOR MINISTRY

MUSICAL INTERLUDE "Love Divine, All Excelling" -arr. V. Labenske

THE WORD GATHERS US

CALL TO WORSHIP (written by Mary Sue Gast)
Rejoice, for God has sent the Messiah
To bind up the brokenhearted,
To proclaim liberty to the captives,
To grant those who mourn a garland instead of ashes,
The mantle of praise, instead of a faith spirit.
Arise, shine, for our light has come

* HYMN – 132 "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"

* PRAYER OF PRAISE
God of revelation, we praise you for sharing your glory with us in Jesus Christ. Your presence illuminates the world with hope, peace, joy, and love. As the star led the magi to Jesus' feet, may we also see your guiding light leading us in your ways. May your love lead us closer to Jesus and then out into the world you so love. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

* GOD'S PROMISE OF FORGIVENESS

* OUR RECOGNITION OF BROKENNESS (written by Ruth C. Duck)
Sometimes, O God, your word is too much for us. You ask us to love our enemies, when we can scarcely love our friends as we should. You ask us to give when we want to take, and to forgive when we want to nurse bitterness. We thank you that you accept us as we are, and that you show us what we can be. Help us to believe that we can be loving, just, and holy like you; through the grace of Jesus Christ. Amen. (silent prayer) ***Amen.***

* GOD'S ASSURANCE OF RECONCILIATION

* OUR GRATEFUL RESPONSE – No. 581

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
World without end. Amen. Amen.

* PASSING THE PEACE
The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you. ***And also with you.***

THE WORD PROCLAIMS TO US

CONVERSATION WITH OUR CHILDREN

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

READING FROM THE PROPHETS	Isaiah 60:1-6	(OT 844)
ANTHEM	"How Bright Appears the Morning Star"	-Moravian Hymn
READING FROM THE GOSPELS	Matthew 2:1-12	(NT 2)
SERMON	"Led by the Light"	
HYMN – 150	"As With Gladness Men of Old"	

THE WORD INVITES US

SCAN HERE TO GIVE VIRTUALLY

OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS AND OURSELVES
Invitation for the Offering
* Response of Praise – No. 606

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

* Prayer of Dedication

OFFERTORY	"Venite Adoremus"	-arr. A. Jordan

THE WORD SEALS US

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER
Invitation to the Table
Great Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Lord's Prayer
The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.
Words of Institution
Prayer After Communion

THE WORD SENDS US

* HYMN – 366 "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

* INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP – RECEIVING STAR WORDS FOR 2026

* SENDING FORTH AND BLESSING

* POSTLUDE "In Dulci Jubilo" -arr. W. Held

*The (*) indicates that those who are able may stand.
The words printed in ***bold face italics type*** are said by all.

CCLI#2707192

Please use your phone's camera to scan the QR code to visit our online giving page.

Directing our worship today: *Preacher*, Pastor Margaret Poteet;
Worship Assistant, Nancy Lengler; *Conversation with Our Children,* Nancy Lengler;
Director of Music, Sue Beckley; *Organist*, Jeanne Bruce;
Director of Youth Music, Andrew Vinton

STAR WORDS

AS WE BEGIN THIS SEASON OF EPIPHANY, WE REMEMBER HOW THE MAGI FOLLOWED A STAR TO THEIR EPIPHANY--TO THE CHRIST CHILD IN BETHLEHEM. ALONG WITH MANY OTHER CHURCHES AROUND THE WORLD, WE TOO WILL BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR WHERE WE ENCOUNTER CHRIST IN THE COMING YEAR. STAR WORDS ARE A PRAYER TOOL TO HELP US DO JUST THAT. DURING WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY, YOU WILL BE INVITED TO SELECT A STAR WORD. CONSIDER THIS A GUIDING WORD FOR THE YEAR AHEAD. WE INVITE YOU TO REMEMBER YOUR STAR WORD OFTEN AS YOU ENGAGE WITH GOD IN PRAYER AND IN YOUR DAILY LIFE, SEEKING THE WAYS GOD MIGHT BE MOVING THROUGH THE MEANINGS AND DEFINITIONS THE WORD CONTAINS.

News of Our Common Life

FLOWERS IN THE CHANCEL today are given to the Glory of God and in celebration of Andrew's birthday by Geoffrey and Brenda Vinton.

2026 OFFERING ENVELOPES 2026 Offering Envelopes are available. They may be picked up after worship or from the church office during the week.

AED/CPR TRAINING The Safety and Security Committee is having an AED/CPR Training course on Saturday, January 17, 2026, at 9am in the Great Room. This will be open to members, staff, ushers, and teachers who have not been certified in the last two years. The cost per person will be $25.00, payable to Paxton Presbyterian Church due by January 5, 2026. Please RSVP with the church office and confirm that they have the correct email to contact you in case of inclement weather. Questions can be directed to Dave Elder at 717-979-1234.

COMMUNION SUNDAYS Starting this Sunday we will be moving communion to the FIRST Sunday of the month instead of the second Sunday of the month.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN are accepting dues during January and February. These dues support the ministries we contribute to and help fund PW activities in our church and community, including Santa Shop, Valentine's Day "Love Letters," and the Sewing Circle. If you are a woman, you are a member of PW. There is no set amount—please give what you are able. Checks should be made payable to PW of Paxton, with "PW dues" in the memo line. Cash donations may be placed in PW envelopes in the gathering room. Please include your name. Dues may be left in the PW mailbox.

UNITY CIRCLE will meet on Tuesday, January 6th, at noon. Please bring a packed lunch and change for the least coin offering. If you would like to participate in the Christmas Cookie exchange, please bring a dozen cookies to share. Jeanne Bruce will be the hostess, and Carol Himmelright will lead the lesson on Mary. All are welcome. Hope to see you there!

CHOCOLATE EASTER EGG SALE Forms will be available starting January 11 and will be due with payment by February 1. This year all proceeds will go toward the cost of the Rise Against Hunger event April.

SOUP SUNDAY Evangelism and Outreach will be hosting Soup Sunday on January 25 and February 22. Please come and enjoy some soup and fellowship following services on those dates. We provide 2 soups, including vegetarian and gluten free options, as well as mac and cheese for the children. If you are interested in making a soup for a crowd (you will be reimbursed) please contact Linette Burd (717-608-7845). See ya there!

COMMUNITY MEAL Join us for our next community and congregational meal. Dinner will be available from 5pm-6:30pm with takeout meals available if needed. All are welcome for food and fellowship! Contact Dawn Palmer, 717-877-9013 to volunteer or with questions.

FOOD PANTRY Due to the cold weather and school vacations we are currently very low on soups (especially the hardy ones that can serve as a meal, we have plenty of cream soups) and fruit especially kid favorites like applesauce. In another couple of weeks, we will be out of toilet paper. thank you for all the tuna and peanut butter that has been a big help.

ANTHEM

HOW BRIGHT APPEARS THE MORNING STAR -MORAVIAN HYMN

How bright appears the Morning Star with mercy beaming from afar; the host of heav'n rejoices; O righteous Branch, O Jesse's Rod, O Son of man, and Son of God, we too will lift our voices. Jesus, Jesus, holy, holy, yet most lowly, now draw near us; great Immanuel, kindly hear us.

Though circled by the hosts on high, he deigned to cast a loving eye upon his helpless creature; the whole creation's Head and Lord, by highest seraphim adored, assumed our very nature. Jesus grant us through your merit to inherit your salvation; hear O hear our supplication.

Rejoice, O heav'ns and earth reply; with praise, you sinners fill the sky, for this, his incarnation. Incarnate God, put forth your power, ride on, great Conqueror, till all know your salvation. Amen, amen! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Praise be given evermore by earth and heaven.

Prayer Square

Please keep the following church members and friends in your prayers.

Members

Jim Brillinger, Brenda Brinkley, Bruce Cavanaugh, Fran Gilchrist, Shirley Grunden, Don Hoopes, Nancy Hutchison, Larry and Annette Kilpatrick, Jim Knight, Penny Knight, Robert Martin, Nedra Maxwell, Joanne Miller, Donna Powers, Elsie Williams, Dave Wion, Kathie Zimmerman

Friends

Shelia Gorlhard, Will Green, Susan Grieco, Dr. and Mrs. Kent Groff, J Jackson, Joey Koch, Frank Sallusti, Cliff Stern, Bill W.

If you would like to add someone to the Prayer Square
please contact Janice at 717-418-1526 or momjakh@aol.com

January 4 - 11

Sunday, January 4	8:00 AM	Pancake Breakfast	*Fellowship Hall*
	10:30 AM	Worship	*Sanctuary*
	1:00 PM	Nepali Speaking Community Church	*Great Room*
Monday, January 5	9:00 AM	PPNS Classes	*PPNS*
	12:00 PM	Mission	*Library*
	6:00 PM	Christian Education	*Zoom*
Tuesday, January 6	9:00 AM	PPNS Classes	*PPNS*
	10:15 AM	PW Board Meeting	*Room 202*
	12:00 PM	Unity Circle	*Room 202*
Wednesday, January 7	9:00 AM	PPNS Classes	*PPNS*
	9:30 AM	Sewing Circle	*Fellowship Hall*
	11:00 AM	Property Management	*Room 101*
	6:00 PM	Worship and Music	*Room 202*
Thursday, January 8	9:00 AM	PPNS Classes	*PPNS*
	6:00 PM	Paxtang Lions	*Fellowship Hall*
Friday, January 9	9:00 AM	PPNS Classes	*PPNS*
	6:00 PM	Nepali Youth Group	*Great Room*
Sunday, January 11	9:00 AM	Sunday School	*Agape Park*
	10:30 AM	Worship	*Sanctuary*
	1:00 PM	Nepali Speaking Community Church	*Great Room*

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

The office is open to the public

9:00am – 1:00pm, Monday through Friday

If you need to visit the office or building at another time, please call the office.

Paxton Presbyterian Church Staff

Pastor	x105	Margaret Poteet	pastor@paxtonchurch.org
Director of Faith Formation	x104	Michelle Sheppard	michelle.sheppard@paxtonchurch.org
Director of Music		Susan Beckley	
Organist		Jeanne Bruce	
Director of Youth Music		Andrew Vinton	
Office Administrator	x101	Abby Spencer	office@paxtonchurch.org
Financial Office/Treasurer	x102	John Palmer	treasurer@paxtonchurch.org
Nursery School Director	x103	Nicole Evenhuis	nurseryschooldirector@paxtonchurch.org
Custodian		Mary Bowers	

Board of Deacons

Tara Frank '25 Moderator
Merideth Staudenmaier '25 Secretary

Sally Appleby '25
Jim Bruce '26
Linette Burd '26
Judy Frankford '27
Cheryl Holtzman '26
Rich Lengler '26
Diana Robertson '25
Deb Trephan '27
Brenda Vinton '27
Bev Ziebell '27

Stephen Ministry

Stephen Leaders	Gary Myers	Jane Sanford
Stephen Ministers	Karen Cirillo	Karen Herrold
	Cheryl Holtzman	Janice Hutchison
	Annette Kilpatrick	Nancy Lengler
	Steve Miller	Kathy Woodbridge

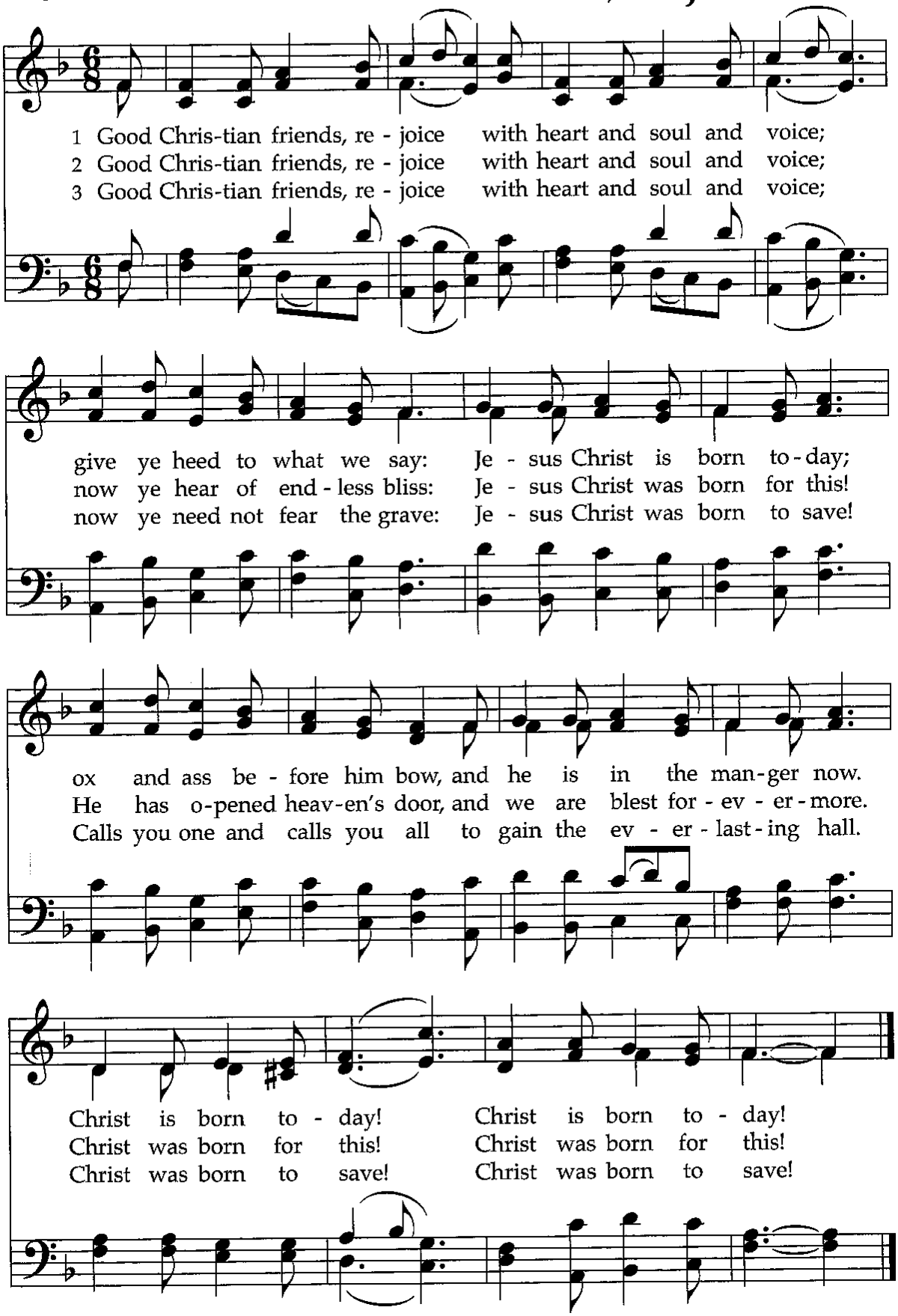
For a confidential referral please contact a Stephen Leader.

Session *Chair

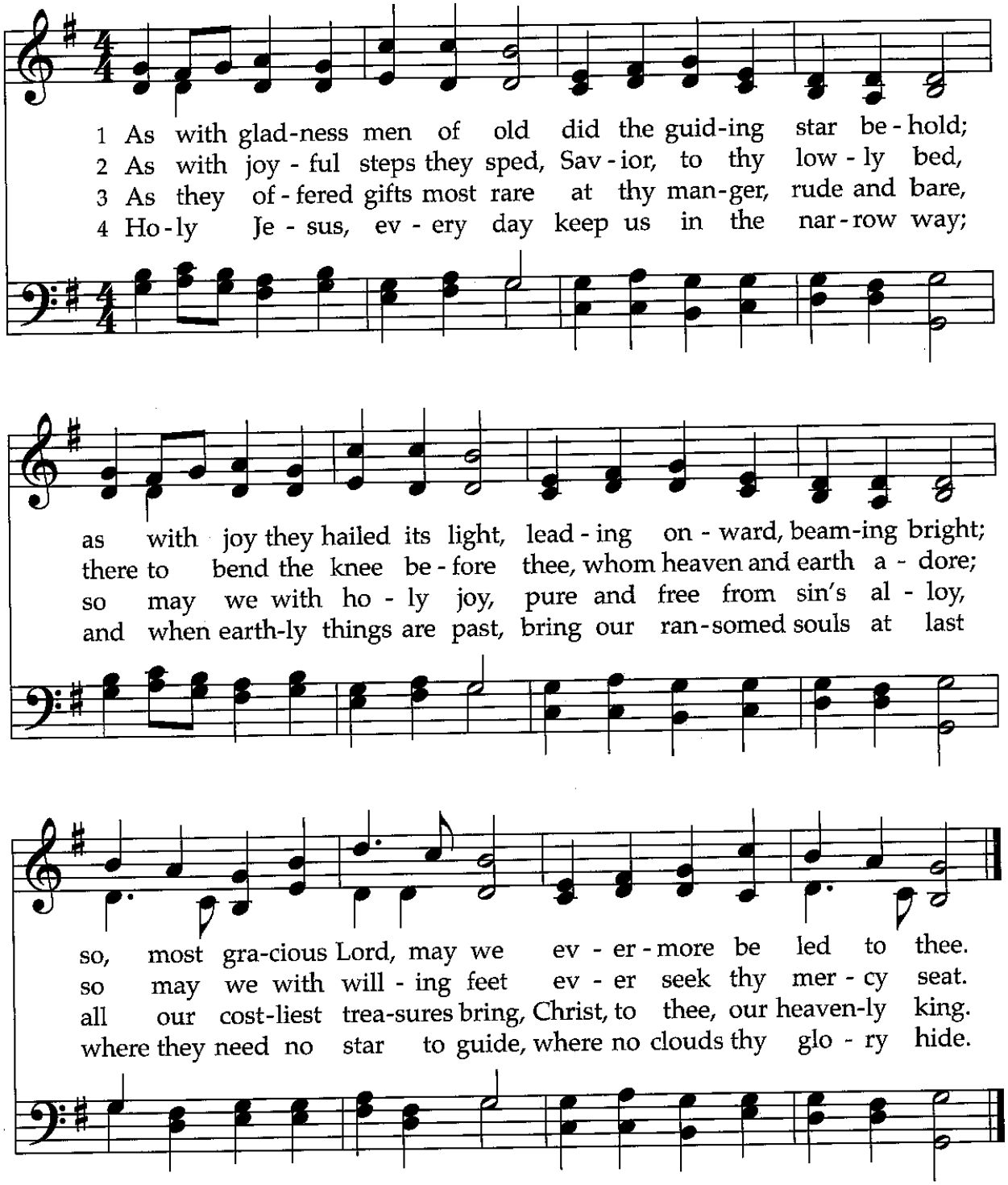
Margaret Poteet		Moderator
Kitti Taylor		Clerk of Session
Karen Herrold '25*		Christian Education
Janice Hutchison '25*		Evangelism and Outreach
Nancy Lengler '26*	Craig Staudenmaier	Budget and Finance
Judy Schmidt '27*	Jan Gough '25	Mission
Gary Myers '26*	Janice Hutchison	Nominating
Jay Kealey '26*	Gary Myers	Personnel
Nino Giambrone '27*	Geoffrey Vinton '27*	Property Management
Craig Staudenmaier '25*		Stewardship
Sharon Webb '26*		Technology
Anita Laughery '27*	Bob Frank '25	Worship and Music

At Paxton Presbyterian Church, we believe that every person is a beloved child of God, made in God's image and worthy of love, dignity, and belonging. Rooted in the grace of Jesus Christ and guided by the Holy Spirit, we seek to be a welcoming and affirming community for all people - no matter their race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, socioeconomic status, mental or physical ability, or religious background.

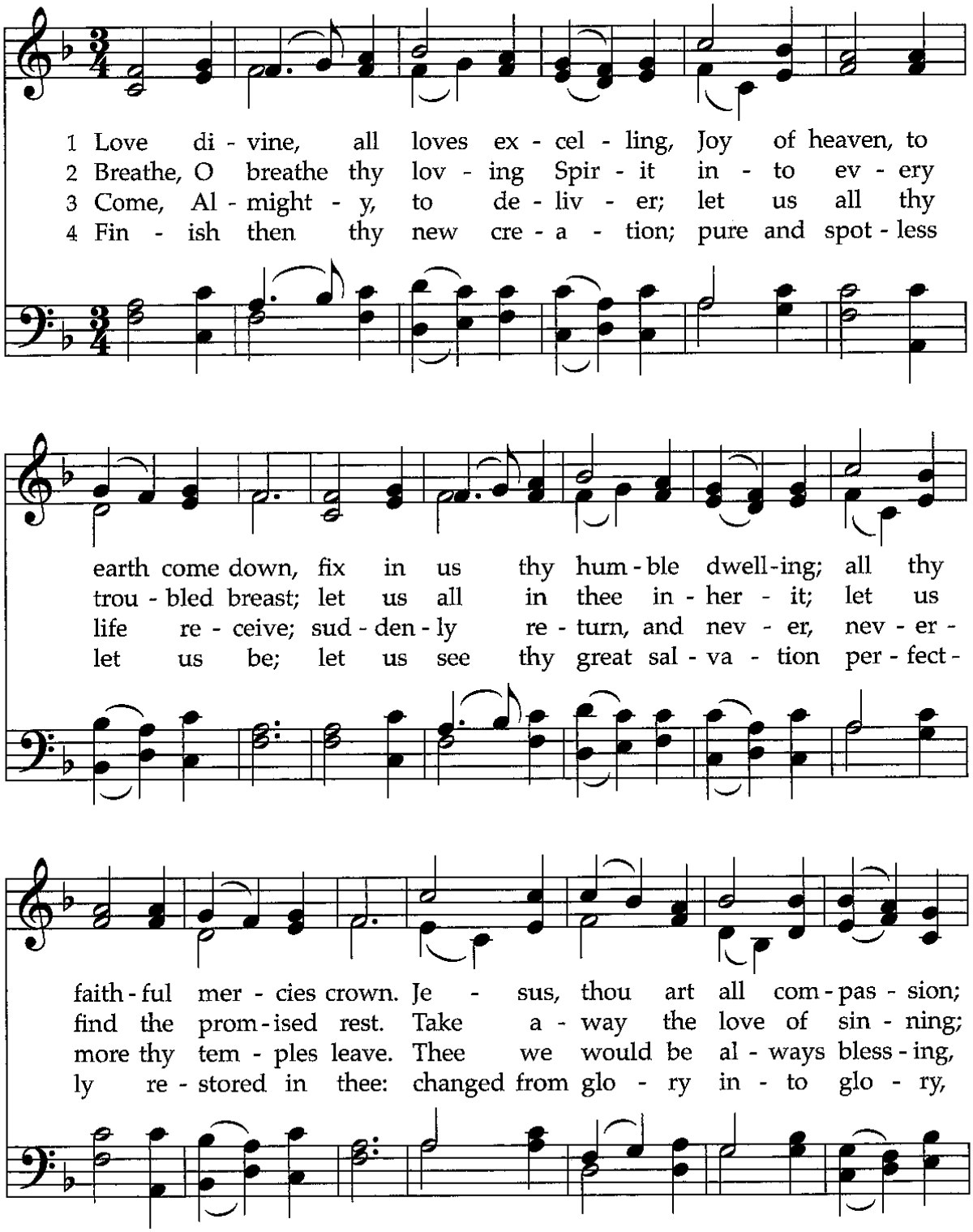
132 Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

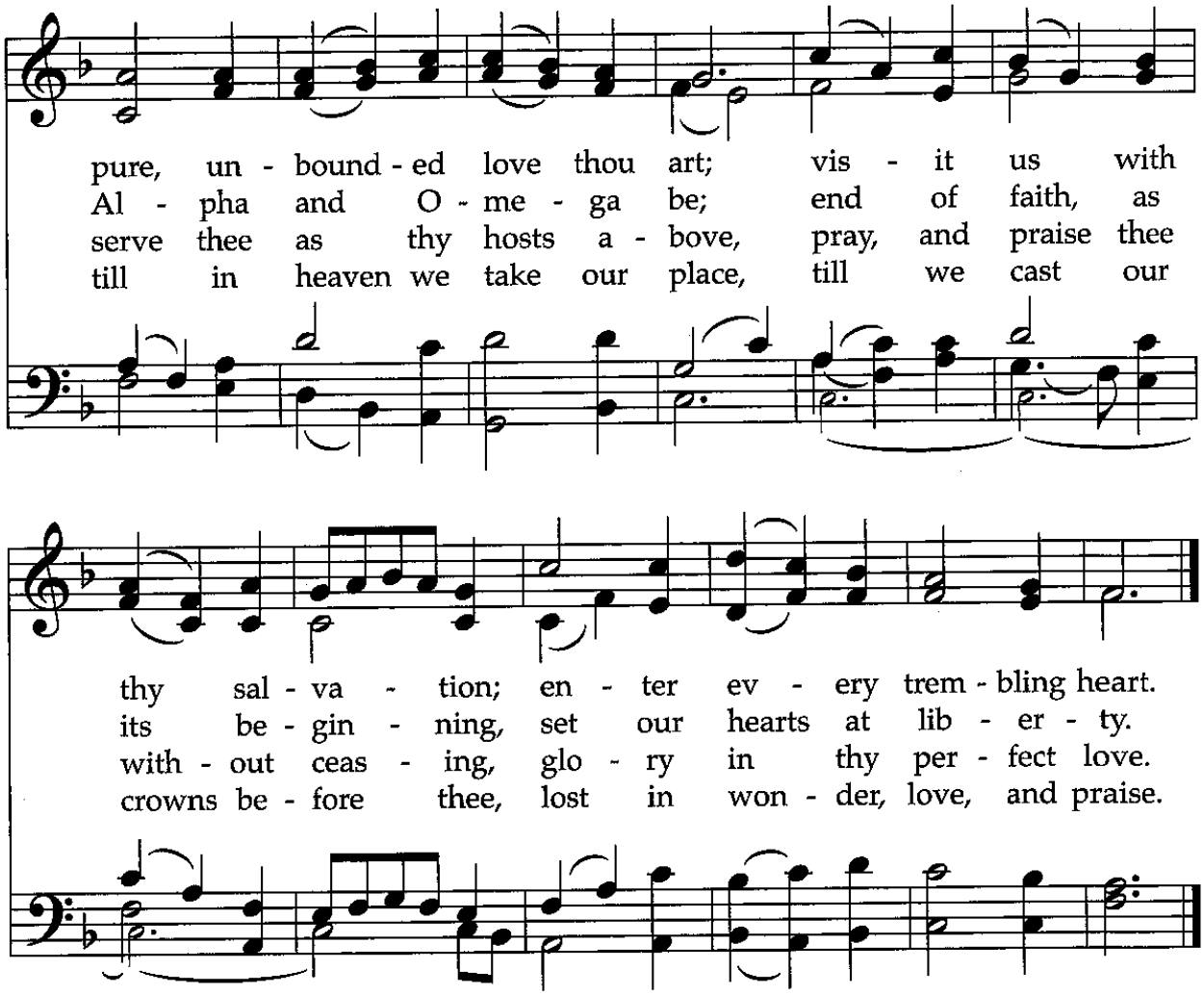


As with Gladness Men of Old 150



366 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling




pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with
Al - pha and O - me - ga be; end of faith, as
serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise thee
till in heaven we take our place, till we cast our
thy sal - va - tion; en - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart.
its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.
with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.
crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise.