



PAXTON
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



September 13, 2026 | 10:30am

WORSHIP FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 13, 2026

10:30 a.m.

PRELUDE

WORSHIP PREPARATION

"O Christ, the Healer, We Have Come"

"There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"

"Morning Has Broken"

arr. R. Powell

arr. O. Young

arr. R. Lau

**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 worshipping 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!

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

"Christians, We Have Met to Worship"

arr. M. Hayes

THE WORD GATHERS US

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Doors open. Hearts ready. God beckons.

***All who are looking for a center point to life,
for a union of all the scattered and torn edges,***

May your soul find communion here.

All who are searching for honest, for a truth spoken in love,

May your faith be challenged here.

All who are looking for a place to offer your time and talents,

May your spirit enrich this community.

All who are searching for joy to blossom and hope to grow,

May our songs reach the heavens, touch our hearts and spread love into the world.

* HYMN – 65

"Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah"

*OPENING PRAYER

***Dear God, help us to worship you today. May we listen carefully, pray honestly, and sing joyfully.
Send your Holy Spirit so that our words will bring you glory. Help us remember that when we
worship you, we are part of your family; we join everyone who loves you around the world and
throughout history. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.***

*PROMISE OF FORGIVENESS

*OUR RECOGNITION OF BROKENNESS

***O God of shalom, we have built up walls to protect ourselves from our enemies, but those walls
also shut us off from receiving your love. Break down those walls. Help us to see that the way
to your heart is through the reconciliation of our own hearts with our enemies. Bless them and
us, that we may come to grow in love for each other and for you, through Jesus Christ. 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 AND BACKPACK BLESSING

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

READING FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES Exodus 14:19-29 (OT 76)

ANTHEM "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah" arr. D. Williams

READING FROM THE GOSPELS Matthew 18:21-35 (NT 24)

SERMON "On Clean Slates"

HYMN – 435 "There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"

THE WORD INVITES US

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 "Savior, Like a Shepard, Lead Us"

SCAN HERE
TO GIVE
VIRTUALLY



arr. G. Martin

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

(Traditional p.35)

THE WORD SENDS US

*HYMN – 694 "Great God of Every Blessing"

*INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

*SENDING FORTH AND BLESSING

*POSTLUDE "Come, Christians, Join to Sing" arr. C. Hamlin

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

CCLI#2707192

Directing our worship today: Preacher, Margaret Poteet;
Worship Assistant, Nancy Lengler; Conversation with Our Children, Nancy Bingaman
Director of Music, Sue Beckley; Organist, Jeanne Bruce; Soloist, Tara Frank

BACKPACK BLESSING

God of wisdom and new beginnings, another school year is starting. New classrooms, new teachers, new friends, new challenges, and new opportunities are before us.

God, walk with us into this new beginning.

God this morning, we bring ourselves, our big feelings, and our backpacks to you. We pray for our children, youth and college students who are excited about school, and for those who are worried or uncertain.

Give them courage and remind them they are never alone.

Bless these backpacks and our children who carry them. May these bags hold not only books and supplies, but also curiosity, creativity, courage, and kindness.

God, bless these backpacks.

We also ask you to bless teachers, administrators, aides, bus drivers, cafeteria workers, counselors, and all who care for our students.

Give them patience, wisdom, energy, and joy.

We lift up parents, grandparents, guardians, and families.

Give them strength and help them encourage the young people in their care.

When we are faced with something difficult,

Help us remember that we can ask for help.

When someone feels lonely or left out,

Help us be the friend who notices and reaches out.

When we make a mistake,

Remind us that mistakes can become opportunities to learn and grow.

When we succeed,

Help us be grateful and remember to celebrate one another.

Loving God, a new church year is also beginning. We gather again as a community of faith — to worship, to learn, to serve, and to grow together.

God, guide us as we begin again.

For this Paxton Church family, as we begin another year of ministry,

Give us open hearts, willing hands, and a spirit of welcome.

And wherever this new year takes us; in classrooms, on playgrounds, at desks, on buses, at sports practices, around dinner tables, and here at Paxton Church,

May we carry God's love with us wherever we go.

NEWS OF OUR COMMON LIFE

FLOWERS IN THE CHANCEL today are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of my husband, Tom Grogan and daughter, Julie Sullivan, by Nancy Grogan.

1776 – PAXTANG On September 22 at 6:30 the Paxtang Historical Society and Paxton Church's Historical Commission will be presenting stories and tales of life in Paxtang during the 18th century. A brief meeting of the Paxtang Historical Society will be followed by the presentations. Come experience where we came from and how we became who we are today. Experience these tales in the Paxton Presbyterian Church, built in 1740.

CHANCEL FLOWER ORDERS Flower forms are available outside of the office. Please turn in your form when you sign up. Unless your form says otherwise, all orders are placed with the church's preferred florist before the first Sunday of the month.

PW is always looking for flannel, old flannel bed sheets, bath sheets, thin blankets, and cotton fabric.

DO YOU LIKE TO SEW? Would you like to bring comfort to a child who lives in poverty, in crisis, or in a shelter? The PW Sewing Circle has an idea for you! We are looking for sewers who will take a packet, and sew a quilt back using three large pieces of flannel. All you have to do is straighten the long sides, sew together and press! If you're interested, please take a packet from the box in the Gathering Room at church.

NURSERY SCHOOL DONATIONS PPNS is gearing up for the next school year, and is seeking donations for their classrooms. Please scan the QR code to access their Amazon Wishlist or contact Nicole for more information. Thank you so much for your support of the nursery school!



CHURCH WORLDWIDE COMMUNION As our bulletin insert shows, our Churchwide World Communion special offering begins today. Please use the included envelope to make your gift between September 13 and October 4.

COMING UP FROM THE CHRISTIAN EDUCATION MINISTRY Fall kick-off to Sunday School began today at 9am in Agape Park. We look forward to a new church year! Mark your calendar now for the Fall Fest on Saturday Oct 3 from 4-6pm. Sign up for the Trunk or Treat outside the office!

GET INVOLVED Sue Beckley here asking if you enjoy singing and lifting your voice to the Lord? If your answer is yes, I'm inviting you to visit the choir from 7:30-8:30 PM any Thursday night beginning September 17 in the choir room.

Do you have to be able to read music? **NO**

Do you have to have previous choral experience? **NO**

Do you have to have good sight-reading skills? **NO**

Does your voice have to be in perfect shape? **NO**

You are welcome to come and sing or just observe to see what it's all about. If you have questions, please call, text, or pull me aside! The choir would be thrilled to welcome you!

PENCILS AND TOOTHBRUSHES- These are two very important items in every Operation Christmas Child shoebox! To support Shippensburg Presbyterian Women's Assn., Paxton PW is collecting pencils and individually wrapped toothbrushes through the month of September! They assemble their boxes in early October. Look for the drop-off box in the Gathering Room—and *THANKS!*

NURSERY Our church nursery needs a few caring people to join our Nursery Ministry Team! Come be a part of something little that makes a BIG difference. You would be helping create a safe, loving first experience for some of our youngest members and giving parents and Christian Education Members the opportunity to worship in the sanctuary. Sign up for one or two Sundays a year -that's all. No expertise needed, just a caring heart, a little patience, and a willingness to serve. Give it a try, whether you're a parent, grandparent, college student, empty nester, or simply someone who thinks tiny humans are wonderful. A sign-up sheet is outside the church nursery.

CONFIRMATION KICK-OFF Brunch items needed for an upcoming confirmation kick-off on Sept. 20th. If you would like to bless our new confirmation class and contribute a breakfast or lunch item, please see Michelle or sign up outside the office.

SUNDAY SCHOOL Share time with our children and youth this Fall during Sunday School. Did you enjoy VBS and adore our Paxton children? Come join them one Sunday a month or one Sunday a quarter. Be an aid to assist in lessons or a craft or come connect with our tween and teens. You will be well equipped with all you need in these rewarding ministry roles. Let Michelle know if you are interested.

THANK YOU Have you noticed the courtyard and the large flower pots by the Boyd Room door lately? A special thank you to our "secret gardener," Brenda Vinton, for faithfully maintaining the flowers and shrubs planted there. She keeps them watered, cared for, and beautifully cleaned up. The next time you pass by, be sure to stop and admire this lovely area of our church property. We are grateful to Brenda for helping to make it such a beautiful and welcoming space.

SEEKER'S ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS As another program year begins, please consider attending our adult Sunday school class for a welcoming, inspiring video-based presentation of "Why? Making Sense of God's Will." The first session deals with the troubling questions *Where is God when the Innocent Suffer?* Subsequent lessons will deal with other deep questions.

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

arr. David H. Williams

Guide Me, O Thou great Jehovah, Pilgrim through this barren land; I am weak, but Thou art mighty; Hold me with Thy powerful hand; bread of heaven, feed me till I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain, whence the healing stream doth flow; let the fire and cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through; Deliverer, strong Deliverer, be Thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside; death of death and Hell's destruction, land me safe on Canaan's side; Songs of praises I will ever give to Thee.

September 13 - 20

Sunday, September 13 Kick-Off Sunday	9:00 AM	Sunday School	Agape Park
	10:30 AM	Worship	Sanctuary
	11:30 AM	Church Picnic	Fellowship Hall
	1:00 PM	Nepali Worship	Great Room
Monday, September 14	9:00 AM	PPNS Classes	PPNS
	6:30 PM	Voices of the Valley	Great Room
Tuesday, September 15	9:00 AM	PPNS Classes	PPNS
Wednesday, September 16	9:00 AM	PPNS Classes	PPNS
	9:30 AM	Sewing Circle	Fellowship Hall
	11:45 AM	Church Staff Meeting	Room 201
	7:00 PM	Session	Room 101
Thursday, September 17	9:00 AM	PPNS Classes	PPNS
	6:15 PM	Bell Choir	Sanctuary
	7:30 PM	Choir	Choir Room
Friday, September 18	9:00 AM	PPNS Classes	PPNS
	6:00 PM	Nepali Youth Group	Great Room
Sunday, September 20	9:00 AM	Sunday School	Agape Park
	10:30 AM	Worship	Sanctuary
	11:30 AM	Confirmation Brunch	Fellowship Hall
	1:00 PM	Nepali Worship	Great Room

Prayer Square

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

Members

Jim Brillinger, Brenda and Ron Brinkley, Fran Gilchrist, Nancy Hutchison, Jo Jacoby,
Penny Knight, Family of Joanne Miller,
Marla Mullinax, Donna Powers, Elsie Williams, Kathie Zimmerman

Friends

Dr. and Mrs. Kent Groff, John Howard, Sue Kilmoyer, Gary Kunder, Robin Neidig,
Donna and Darrel Park, Kris Scott, Chad Strausburgh, Jeff Turner, Scooter Ziebell

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

Paxton Presbyterian Church

Phone Number: 717 - 561 - 0510

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
Property Manager		Jerry Bingaman	propertymgr@paxtonchurch.org
Custodian		Mary Bowers	

Board of Deacons

Sally Appleby '28*	Sue McLain '26
Jim Bruce '26	Merideth Staudenmaier '28*, Secretary
Linette Burd '26, Moderator	Diana Robertson '28*, Financial Liaison
Judy Frankford '27	Deb Trephan '27
Cheryl Holtzman '26	Brenda Vinton '27
Rich Lengler '28*	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
Nancy Bingaman '28*		Christian Education
Cindy Cavanaugh '28*		Evangelism and Outreach
Nancy Lengler '26*		Budget and Finance
Judy Schmidt '27*		Mission
Gary Myers '26*		Nominating
Jay Kealey '26*	Gary Myers	Personnel
Nino Giambrone '27*	Bob Frank '28	Property Management
Craig Staudenmaier '28*	Geoffrey Vinton '27*	Stewardship
Sharon Webb '26*		Technology
Anita Laughery '27*	Bob Frank	Worship and Music

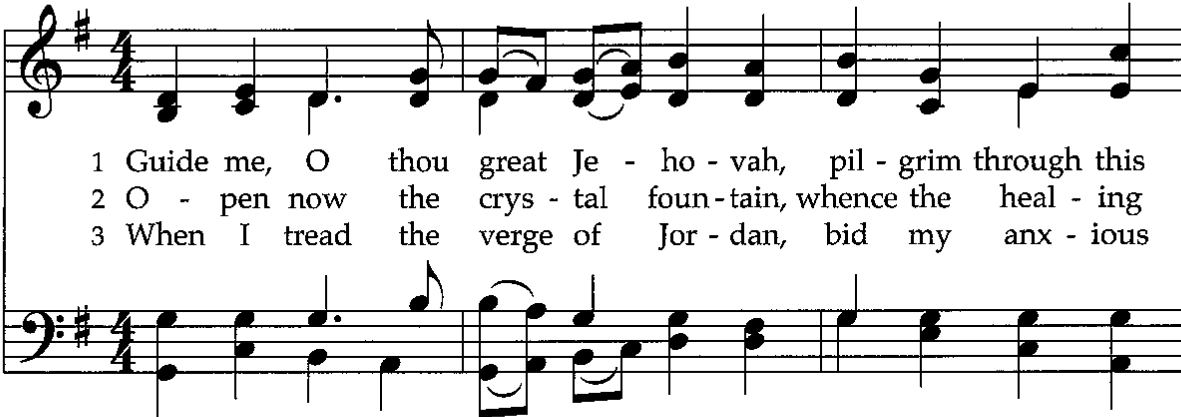
At Paxton Presbyterian Church, we believe that every person is a beloved child of God, made in God's image and worthy of love, dignity, and belonging. Rooted in the grace of Jesus Christ and guided by the Holy Spirit, we seek to be a welcoming and affirming community for all people - no matter their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



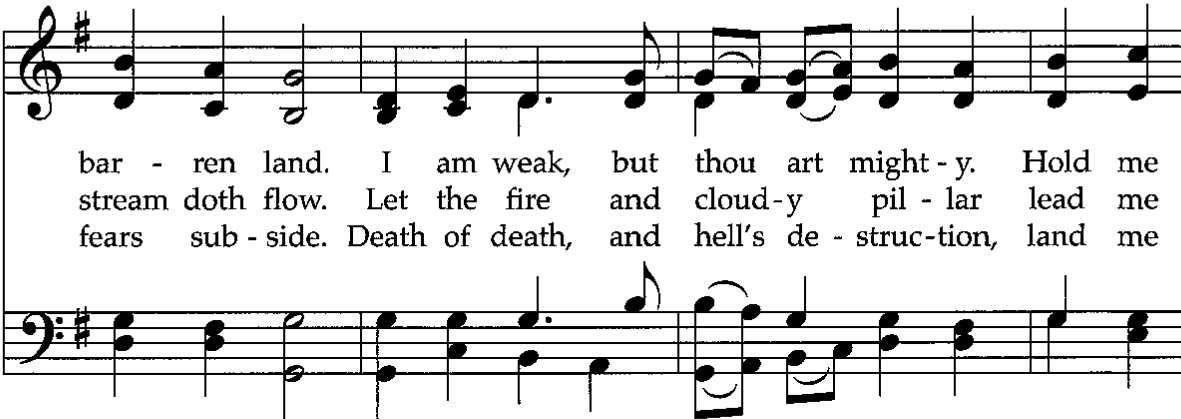
CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

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

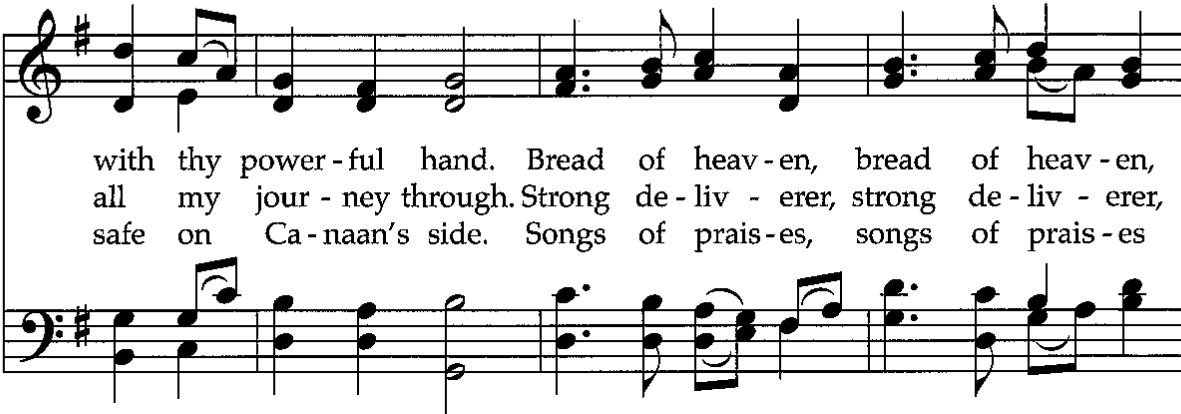
Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah 65



1 Guide me, O thou great Je - ho - vah, pil - grim through this
 2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain, whence the heal - ing
 3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious



bar - ren land. I am weak, but thou art might - y. Hold me
 stream doth flow. Let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar lead me
 fears sub - side. Death of death, and hell's de - struc - tion, land me



with thy power - ful hand. Bread of heav - en, bread of heav - en,
 all my jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - erer, strong de - liv - erer,
 safe on Ca - naan's side. Songs of prais - es, songs of prais - es



feed me till I want no more; feed me till I want no more.
 be thou still my strength and shield; be thou still my strength and shield.
 I will ev - er give to thee; I will ev - er give to thee.

435 There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

1 There's a wide - ness in God's mer - cy, like the wide - ness
 2 For the love of God is broad - er than the mea - sures

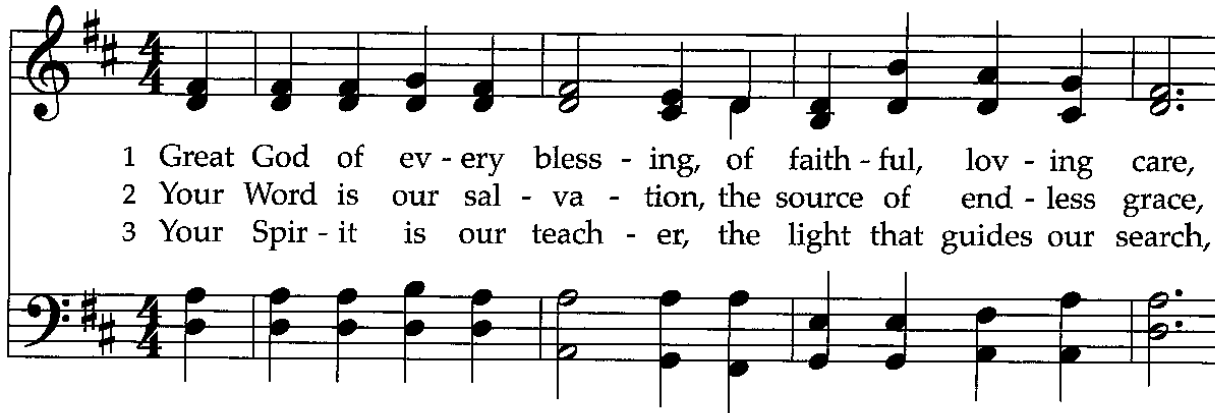
of the sea. There's a kind - ness in God's jus - tice,
 of the mind. And the heart of the E - ter - nal

which is more than lib - er - ty. There is no place where earth's
 is most won - der - ful - ly kind. If our love were but more

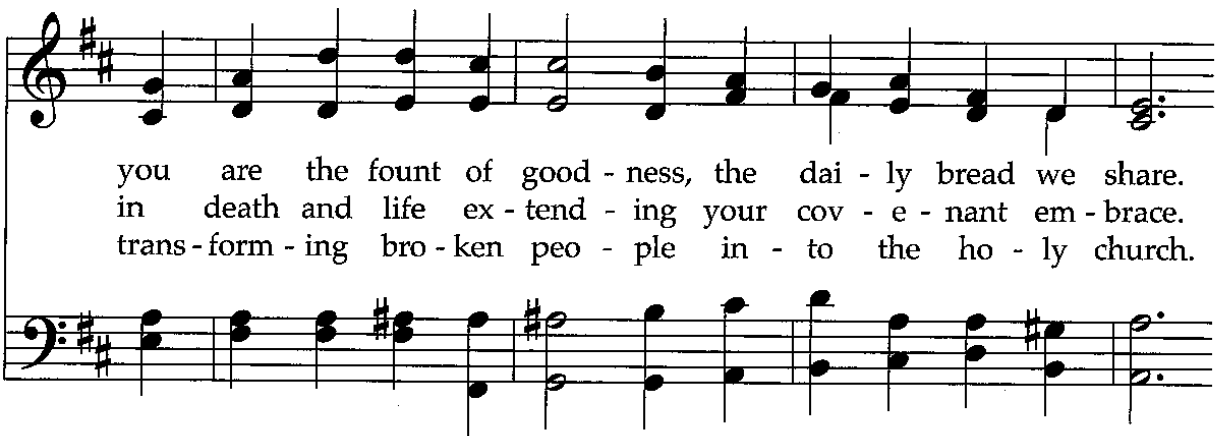
sor - rows are more felt than up in heaven. There is no place
 faith - ful, we would glad - ly trust God's Word, and our lives re -

where earth's fail - ings have such kind - ly judg - ment given.
 flect thanks - giv - ing for the good - ness of our Lord.

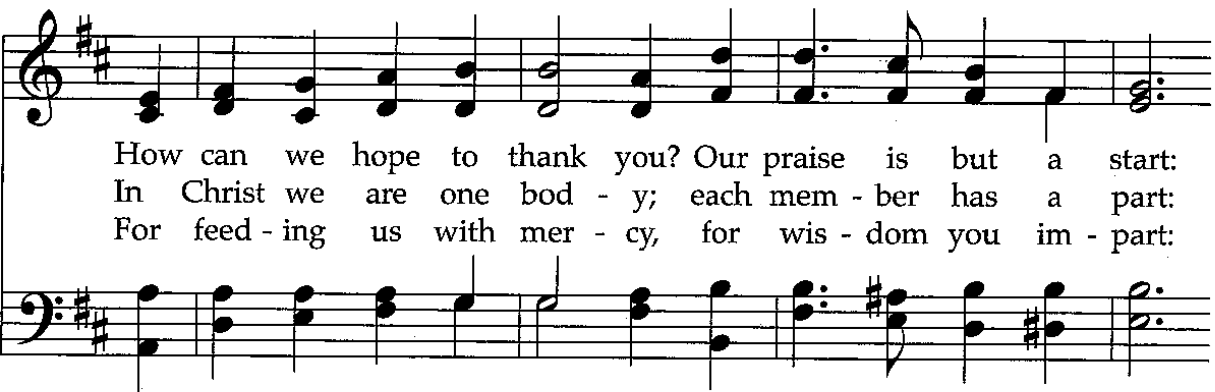
694 Great God of Every Blessing



1 Great God of ev - ery bless - ing, of faith - ful, lov - ing care,
 2 Your Word is our sal - va - tion, the source of end - less grace,
 3 Your Spir - it is our teach - er, the light that guides our search,



you are the fount of good - ness, the dai - ly bread we share.
 in death and life ex - tend - ing your cov - e - nant em - brace.
 trans - form - ing bro - ken peo - ple in - to the ho - ly church.



How can we hope to thank you? Our praise is but a start:
 In Christ we are one bod - y; each mem - ber has a part:
 For feed - ing us with mer - cy, for wis - dom you im - part:



sin - cere - ly and com - plete - ly I of - fer you my heart.