



PAXTON
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



The Good Gate

April 26, 2026 | 10:30 AM

WORSHIP FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 26, 2026

10:30 a.m.

PRELUDE

"The King of Love My Shepherd Is"
"Jesus, Tender Shepherd, Hear Me"
"My Shepherd will Supply My Need"

-arr. D. Wood
-arr. R. Powell
-arr. R. Hughes

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 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

Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed!

MINUTE FOR MINISTRY

Matt Spencer and Andrew Vinton

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

"Jesus Loves Me"

-arr. V. and J. Hostetler

THE WORD GATHERS US

* CALL TO WORSHIP *(adapted from a piece written by Lavon Bayler)*

Welcome to God's new day!

Everywhere we look we see new life!

In seeds and buds, in smiles and welcome, we discover God's energizing presence.

Death can never be the last word.

God has raised Jesus Christ from the dead. Christ is present among us today.

Praise God for new life within and among us this day!

* HYMN - 435

"Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

* OPENING PRAYER

Almighty God, you sent Jesus, our good shepherd, to gather us together. We praise and thank you for his tender care, for his loving guidance, and for this community of grace. May we not wander from his flock, but follow wherever he leads us, listening for his voice and staying near him, until we are safely in your fold, to live with you forever; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

* PROMISE OF FORGIVENESS

* OUR RECOGNITION OF BROKENNESS

Almighty and merciful God, we have erred and strayed from your ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done, and we have done those things which we ought not to have done. O Lord, have mercy on us. Grant us the openness of heart and willingness of spirit to follow you as our loving guide once again. (silent confession) **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

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Presentation of Charlie Herbert, son of Gregory and Ella Herbert

Do you, as members of the church of Jesus Christ, promise to guide and nurture Charlie by word and deed, with love and prayer? ***We do.***

Will you encourage him to know and follow Christ, and will you support his family in being faithful members of Christ's church? ***We will.***

Profession of Faith
The Baptism

The Apostles' Creed

(Hymnal p. 35)

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

READING FROM THE PSALMS

Psalm 23

(OT 617)

ANTHEM

"My Shepherd Will Supply My Need"

-arr. Virgil Thomson

READING FROM THE GOSPELS

John 10: 1-10

(NT 126)

SERMON

"The Good Gate"

HYMN – 803

"My Shepherd Will Supply My Need"

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.***

SCAN HERE
TO GIVE
VIRTUALLY



* Prayer of Dedication

OFFERTORY

"He Leadeth Me"

-arr. A. Jordan

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

(traditional p. 35)

THE WORD SENDS US

* HYMN – 546

"Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing"

* INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

* SENDING FORTH AND BLESSING

* POSTLUDE

"All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name"

-arr. G. Martin

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, Pastor Margaret Poteet; Worship Assistant, Anita Laughery, Conversation with Our Children, Margaret Poteet, Director of Music, Sue Beckley; Organist, Jeanne Bruce; Director of Youth Music, Andrew Vinton

Anthem

My Shepherd Will Supply My Need

arranged by 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 foes, doth still my table spread. My cup with blessings overflows, thine oil anoints my head.

The sure provision 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.

NEWS OF OUR COMMON LIFE

FLOWERS IN THE CHANCEL today are given to the Glory of God and in celebration of Charles (Charlie) Paul Herbert, on the 26th of April, 2026. May this holy occasion bring lots of joy and happy memories. All our blessings to Charlie on his special day. We welcome Charlie into the community of faith.

COINS FOR CARING April's Coins for Caring will be going towards One Great Hour of Sharing.

FAITHFUL FRIEND ADOPTION Vacation Bible School is July 13-16 and this year's theme, "Faithful Friends; Learning From God's Creatures" is going to be amazing! We will be studying God's word and learning about animals. Every evening we will have live animal presentations - Zoo America, Bunny Bonanza, Batz Farm and our own Paxton pets. To offset the cost of these groups, we are holding an Adopt A Friend fundraiser. Information can be found on the bulletin board outside the office.

50 YEAR/NEW MEMBER DINNER Invitations were sent for the 50 year/new member dinner on May 3, 2026. If you believe you should have received an invitation and did not, please call or email the church office. Please remember you may bring a guest with you.

WHEN DID PAXTON START? Like much from this early time, records have been lost over the years. While there is some tradition that the foundation of our congregation started with settlers in this area worshiping in their homes around 1716, certainly, by the early 1720's a group of people that became the basis of Paxton Church were meeting for worship. Rev. James Anderson became our first supply minister in 1726 preaching every fifth Sabbath. If that date is accurate (there is some disagreement), then this year marks the 300th anniversary of our congregation. Future milestones will be noted from now until 2040 in our monthly newsletter.

BIRTHDAY OFFERING Launched in 1922 to honor the 10th anniversary of the Woman's Auxiliary in the Presbyterian Church in the United States, the Birthday Offering is an annual tradition for givers and receivers around the world. Over the last 103 years, grants funded by Presbyterian Women have impacted the ministries of more than 200 organizations. Your gifts make a difference: please give to the PW Birthday Offering today! Yellow Birthday offering envelopes will be in the gathering room and in the pew racks. Make your checks payable to PW of Paxton. Place in the PW mailbox or in the offering plate.

SAVE THE DATE June 7 is the Deacon's Baseball outing. Check outside the office for a ticket form!

UNITY CIRCLE will meet Tuesday, May 5, at 12:00 noon in room 202. Please bring your packed lunch, lesson book, and small change for the Least Coin collection. If you would like to bring a greeting card for a homebound member, that would be welcome. Our hostess will be Jeanne Bruce. Dessert and beverages are provided. The Lesson of the day is Chapter 8, Mary of Bethany, and the lesson leader is Carol Himmelright. We hope to plan the summer picnic at this meeting also. Bring your suggestions.

CRAFT SUPPLIES The Christian Education Ministry is collecting square tissue boxes for an upcoming prayer craft. If you have an empty box to spare, would you bring it to Michelle's office? Thank you.

PILLOWS WITH A PURPOSE Join us May 12th from 6:30 to 8:00 PM for Pillows with a Purpose! We'll be making more pillows for breast cancer patients at UPMC and Penn State Health. Please reach out to Mary Myers or Nancy Bingaman with questions. Thank you!

Congregational Meeting Announcement

A congregational meeting is being called for Sunday May 17 at 10:30 am. The purpose is to vote to bestow the title of Pastor Emeritus on Paxton Presbyterian Church's former pastor, the Reverend John Wilson Green, in recognition of his years of good and faithful service to Paxton, its members and to God's mission in the Paxton community and beyond.

In October 2002 the Reverend John Wilson Green was installed as Pastor of Paxton Presbyterian Church. He served until his retirement in December 2021. For over nineteen years John served Paxton with love, enthusiasm and grace. He delivered outstanding heartfelt sermons and served his flock with humble devotion. The congregation of Paxton will always be grateful for John's time with us serving as our faith leader and friend. In appreciation we would like to recognize John with the honorary title of Pastor Emeritus.

A light reception featuring some of John's favorite snacks will follow service on May 17. Please R.S.V.P. to the church office by Wednesday, May 13 if you plan to attend.

PRAYER SQUARE

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

Members

Rick Bazdar, Jim Brillinger, Brenda and Ron Brinkley, Fran Gilchrist, Shirley Grunden, Nancy Hutchison, Jo Jacoby, Penny Knight, Rich Lengler, Nedra Maxwell, Joanne Miller, Donna Powers, Elsie Williams, Dave Wion, Kathie Zimmerman

Friends

David Altland, Atkins Family, Jim Bonawitz, the family of Betty Conte, Dr. and Mrs. Kent Groff, Kris Heimberger, Donna Hitz, Margaret Hoyt, Natalie Jerkovick, Mary Langley, Bob Marshall, Carol Poteet

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

ABOUT TODAY'S HYMN The hymn expresses trust in the faithfulness of God who cares for us as a shepherd faithfully cares for his sheep. Heidelberg Catechism says "He also watches over me in such a way that not a hair can fall from my head without the will of my Father in heaven; in fact all things must work together for my salvation."

GOAT SNUGLING The Christian Education Ministry is sponsoring goat snuggling again on Sunday, May 3rd from 1-3pm at Batz Farm in Grantville. Free to all (adults and children welcome!) but space is limited. More information and a sign-up sheet is outside the office.

VBS HELP Calling all painters, crafters, decorators and VBS supporters.... If you are interested in helping prepare our space and prep crafts for VBS, please let Michelle know. We also welcome all who are interested to stay after church on May 31 for a working craft/decoration prep time. (no skills required) We will meet in fellowship hall from 12-1:30.

BOOK STUDY The Christian Education Ministry invites the congregation to participate in a summer book club, reading Bruce Reyes-Chow's book, Everything Good About God is True. A synopsis of the book can be found in the newsletter. This is the perfect book to read as the church approaches a confirmation year this Fall and we explore again, what we believe. You are welcome to read this book on your own or read it and meet with us every other Sunday morning over the summer to discuss. Please email Michelle Sheppard to sign-up or for more information. Books are available now in the office for \$10.

VBS It's time to register for Paxton's Faithful Friends VBS where furry and faithful critters will help teach us every day about God's love and care. We can't wait! Use the QR code below to sign up! Volunteer opportunities will be coming soon.



April 26 – May 3

Sunday, April 26	9:00 AM	Sunday School	Agape Park
	10:30 AM	Worship	Sanctuary
	1:00 PM	Nepali Speaking Community Church	Great Room
Monday, April 27	9:00 AM	PPNS Classes	PPNS
	6:00 PM	Voices of the Valley	Great Room
	6:00PM	Penguin Project	Agape Park
Tuesday, April 28	9:00 AM	PPNS Classes	PPNS
	6:00PM	Penguin Project	Great Room
Wednesday, April 29	9:00 AM	PPNS Classes	PPNS
	9:30 AM	Sewing Circle	Fellowship Hall
	11:45 AM	Staff Meeting	Room 202
Thursday, April 30	9:00 AM	PPNS Classes	PPNS
	6:15 PM	Bell Choir	Sanctuary
	7:30 PM	Adult Choir	Sanctuary
Friday, May 1	9:00 AM	PPNS Classes	PPNS
	6:00 PM	Nepali Youth Group	Fellowship Hall
Saturday, May 2	All Day	Set Up for 50 Year Dinner	Fellowship Hall
	9:00 AM	Penguin Project	Agape Park
Sunday, May 3	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

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.

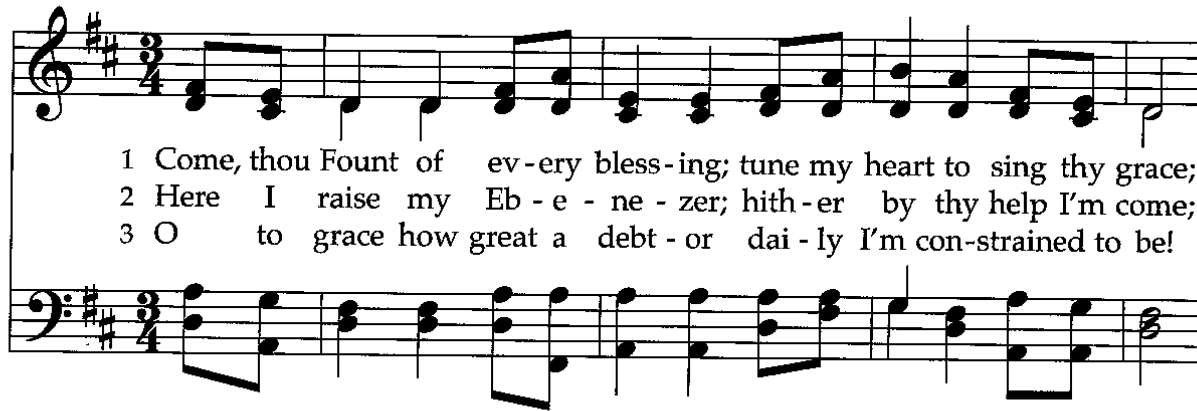
Session *Chair

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

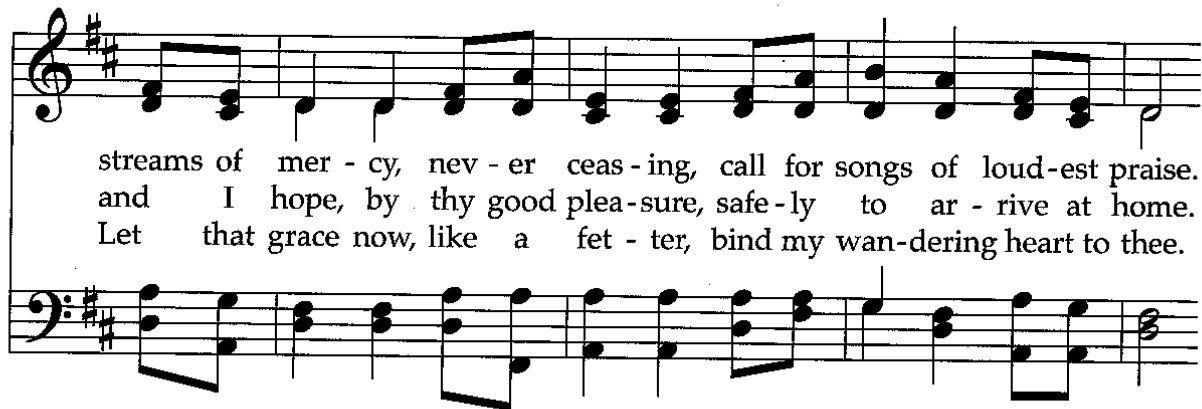
At Paxton Presbyterian Church, we believe that every person is a beloved child of God, made in God's image and worthy of love, dignity, and belonging. Rooted in the grace of Jesus Christ and guided by the Holy Spirit, we seek to be a welcoming and affirming community for all people - no matter their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



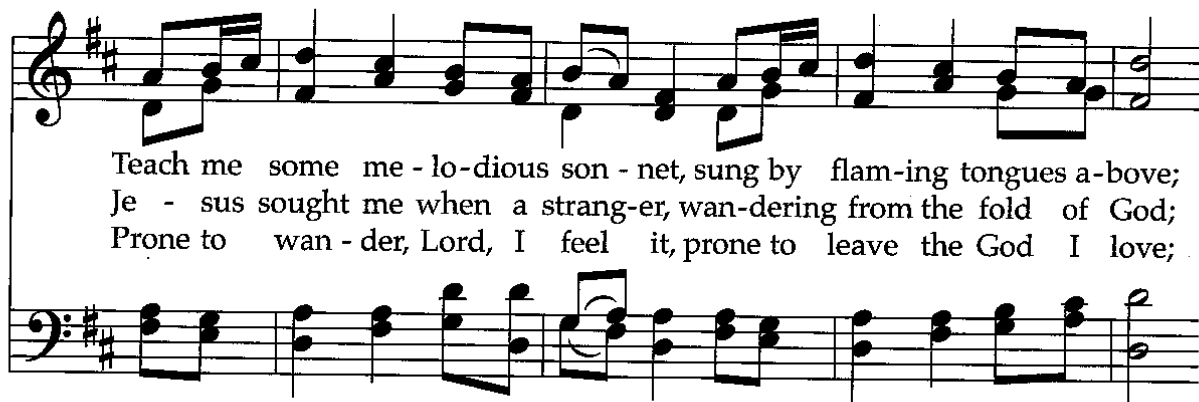
Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing 475



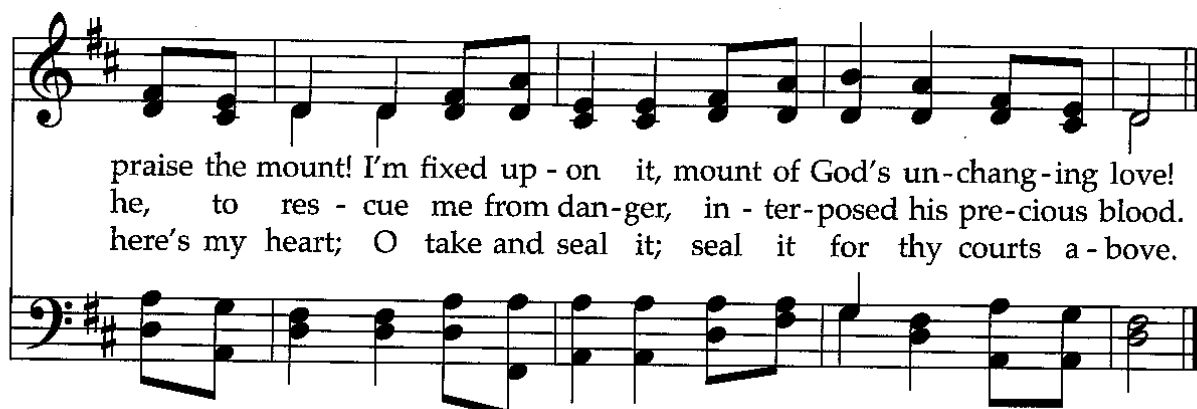
1 Come, thou Fount of ev-ery bless-ing; tune my heart to sing thy grace;
 2 Here I raise my Eb - e - ne - zer; hith-er by thy help I'm come;
 3 O to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con-strained to be!



streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, call for songs of loud-est praise.
 and I hope, by thy good plea-sure, safe-ly to ar - rive at home.
 Let that grace now, like a fet - ter, bind my wan-dering heart to thee.



Teach me some me - lo-dious son - net, sung by flam-ing tongues a-bove;
 Je - sus sought me when a strang-er, wan-dering from the fold of God;
 Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;



praise the mount! I'm fixed up - on it, mount of God's un-chang-ing love!
 he, to res - cue me from dan-ger, in - ter-posed his pre-cious blood.
 here's my heart; O take and seal it; seal it for thy courts a - bove.

My Shepherd Will Supply My Need 803

(Psalm 23)



1 My shep-herd will sup - ply my need; Je - ho - vah is his name.
2 When I walk through the shades of death your pres-ence is my stay;
3 The sure pro - vi - sions of my God at - tend me all my days;



In pas - tures fresh he makes me feed, be - side the liv - ing stream.
one word of your sup - port - ing breath drives all my fears a - way.
O may your house be my a - bode, and all my work be praise.



He brings my wan - dering spir - it back when I for - sake his ways,
Your hand, in sight of all my foes, does still my ta - ble spread;
There would I find a set - tled rest, while oth - ers go and come;



and leads me, for his mer - cy's sake, in paths of truth and grace.
my cup with bless - ings o - ver - flows; your oil a - noints my head.
no more a strang - er, or a guest, but like a child at home.



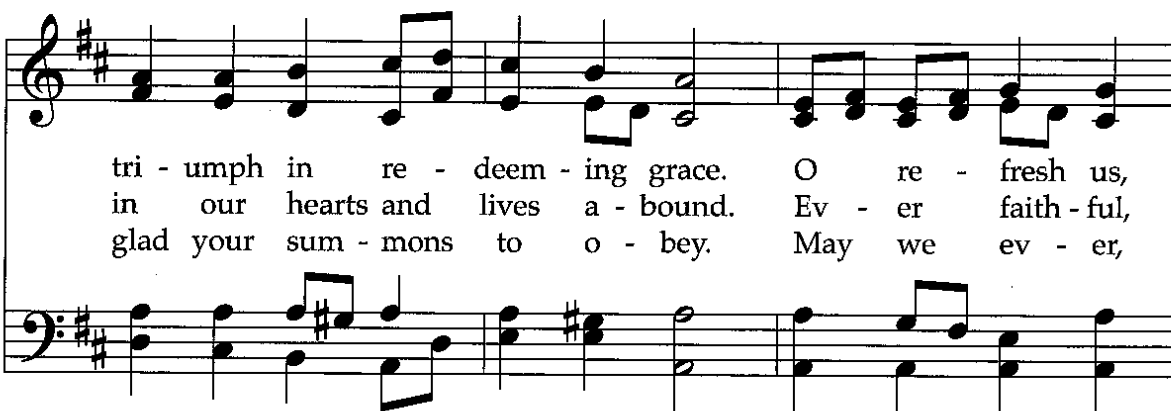
546 Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing



1 Lord, dis - miss us with your bless-ing; fill our hearts with
 2 Thanks we give and ad - o - ra - tion for your gos - pel's
 3 Sav - ior, when your love shall call us, from our strug - gling



joy and peace; let us each, your love pos - sess - ing,
 joy - ful sound; may the fruits of your sal - va - tion
 pil - grim way, let no fear of death ap - pall us,



tri - umph in re - deem - ing grace. O re - fresh us,
 in our hearts and lives a - bound. Ev - er faith - ful,
 glad your sum - mons to o - bey. May we ev - er,



O re - fresh us, trav - eling through this wil - der - ness.
 ev - er faith - ful to your truth may we be found.
 may we ev - er reign with you in end - less day.