PAXTON
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



The JOURNEY

TO GENEROSITY

COMMITMENT SUNDAY 2026

OCTOBER 18, 2026

WORSHIP FOR THE LORD'S DAY
Twenty First Sunday after Pentecost

October 18, 2026 10:30 a.m.

PRELUDE

WORSHIP PREPARATION "Holy Manna" arr. D. Wagner
"Father, We Thank Thee" arr. R. Powell
"Strengthen for Service, Lord " arr. D. Johnson

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 Stewardship

MUSICAL INTERLUDE "Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee" arr. M. Schubert

THE WORD GATHERS US

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Let us worship the eternal God,
the source of love and life, who creates us.
Let us worship Jesus Christ,
the risen one, who lives among us.
Let us worship the Spirit,
the holy fire, who renews us.
To the one true God be praise
in all times and places.
Let us worship!

* HYMN – 4 "Holy God, We Praise Your Name"

* OPENING PRAYER

We praise you, O God, for creating this world in all beauty, for redeeming the world through Christ, our Lord, and for sending us the gift of your Spirit to encourage, instruct, and sustain us. We long for your Spirit to work among us now, to inspire our praise, to challenge us with your truth, and to equip us for service in your world. Amen.

* PROMISE OF FORGIVENESS

* OUR RECOGNITION OF BROKENNESS

Almighty God, we confess how hard it is to be your people. You have called us to be the church, to continue the mission of Jesus Christ to our lonely and confused world. Yet we acknowledge that, too often, we are more apathetic than active, isolated than involved, callous than compassionate, obstinate than obedient, legalistic than loving. Gracious Lord, have mercy upon us and forgive our sins. Remove the obstacles preventing us from being your representatives to a broken world. Awaken our hearts to the promised gift of your indwelling Spirit. This we pray in Jesus' powerful name. 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 PSALMS	Psalm 1	(0T 602)
ANTHEM	*Jesus, Thou Joy of Loving Hearts*	arr. Benjamin Harlan
READING FROM THE GOSPELS	Matthew 22:34-46	(NT 30)
SERMON	"Journey to Generosity: A New Command"	
HYMN – 707	"Take Thou Our Minds, Dear Lord"	

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	"Praise the Lord! God's Glories Show"	arr. J. Payne
PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER		(Traditional P. 35)

THE WORD SENDS US

*HYMN – 203	"Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love"	
*INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP		
*SENDING FORTH AND BLESSING		
*POSTLUDE	"Christ Be My Leader"	arr. C. Ore

*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, Michelle Sheppard;
Director of Music, Sue Beckley; Organist, Jeanne Bruce

NEWS OF OUR COMMON LIFE

FLOWERS IN THE CHANCEL today are given to the Glory of God and in memory of Paul's mother, Lois Lackey, by Paul and Janet Lackey.

SOUP SALE Presbyterian Women's annual Soup Sale will be held Saturday, November 7 downstairs in Fellowship Hall from 9AM until 12PM. We need soup makers as well as soup buyers. Instructions for soup makers are in the October Newsletter. We also need some helpers on the day of the Soup Sale to get the soup from the freezer and help bag the soup for the customers. There will be a sign-up sheet for helpers on the PW bulletin board in October.

GET INVOLVED Paxton Church is looking for additional folks to serve as ushers from time to time. Ushering isn't complicated, and it's another way members can serve Paxton Church in a meaningful way. If you're uncomfortable with technology, we're happy to manage your signup for you! Just provide your name, email address and phone number on the sheet posted on the bulletin board outside the church office and a member of the Worship and Music Ministry will reach out to you to get you signed up for the date or dates that work for you.

PILLOWS WITH A PURPOSE Join the Stewardship committee for a "Pillows with a Purpose" stuffing party on Tuesday, October 27th from 6:30 – 8:00. We will once again be stuffing pillows for UPMC and Penn State Health breast cancer patients. The pillows are given to patients after a biopsy or surgery. No sewing skills are required, just come and help stuff the 8x12 inch pillows and enjoy the conversation with others! (If you can use a needle and thread, we may recruit you to sew up the hole.) Please join us and help make a difference for women who are going through breast cancer surgery. Please let Nancy Bingaman or Mary Myers if you plan to attend.

PILLOW PARTY UPDATE We will be holding the pillow party at Nancy Bingaman's house rather than at church on October 27th to avoid traffic from the Paxtang Halloween parade. Joins us from 6:30-8:00 at **2004 Bradley Dr, Harrisburg, PA 17110**. Thank you!

COMMITMENT SUNDAY We are getting closer to the culmination of our Journey to Generosity! We will consider God's call to be faithful stewards of all that God has given to us--money, time, and talent. We will make our giving commitments to the church for 2027 next Sunday, October 25. Following worship, we will enjoy a celebratory luncheon with entertainment from our members. In addition, displays from the church ministries highlighting the various programs and projects your pledges support will be available to view. Please submit your RSVP today or contact the church office by Monday. We look forward to celebrating together!

PAXTON CHURCHYARD ILLUMINATION and presentations about our veterans in the Sanctuary will be on November 7 at 6:30p. The lantern tour starts at 6p.

ABOUT TODAY'S ANTHEM Believe it or not this poem comes from about 900 years ago in the Middle Ages. It is usually attributed to St. Bernard of Clairvaux, an influential French monk, preacher and theologian. The central theme to the poem and the hymn is said to be, "Jesus is the true joy of the human heart, and all earthly pleasures ultimately leave us unsatisfied compared with Him."

Jesus, Thou Joy of Loving Hearts

Jesus, Thou joy of loving hearts, thou fount of life, thou light of all: from the best bliss that earth imparts we turned unfilled to Thee again.
Thy truth unchanged hath ever stood; Thou savest those that on Thee call; to those who seek Thee, Thou art good.
Our restless spirits yearn for thee, where-e'er our changeful lot is cast; glad when Thy gracious smile we see, blest, when our faith can hold Thee fast.
Jesus forever with us stay! Make all our moments calm and bright! Chase the dark night of sin away! Shed o're the world Thy holy light. Jesus, Thou joy of loving hearts, Thou light of all.

Benjamin Harlan

PW It's time for our Outies and Undies collection! PW collects useful items for the Family Co-Ordinator and nurses in the Harrisburg School District. Outies — new and used coats, jackets, hats and gloves Undies — new underwear and socks. Look for the donation box in the Gathering Room all through October!

SEWING PROJECTS Do you like to sew at home? PW has simple sewing kits available in the Gathering Room. You'll be an essential part of our lap quilt program!

FOOD PANTRY Thank you for your generous donations to the food pantry over the last couple of weeks. At this time we are in need of canned vegetables, fruit and applesauce. Thank you!

THE NEXT COMMUNITY CLOTHING DRIVE IS STARTING AGAIN. PLEASE DROP OFF ALL CLOTHING BY THE EVENING OF NOVEMBER 2ND. All men's, women's, and children's clothes for FALL AND WINTER are needed including pants, shirts, jackets, coats, shoes, underwear, socks, and dresses. Additionally, sheets, towels, and washcloths can be used. Please drop off the clothing at Norm Daniels' house (500 Bonnymead Avenue, Harrisburg, 17111). Questions? Call or text Norm at 717-712-7494.

SEEKERS' SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS is beginning an awe-inspiring video-based lesson series called *The Face: Jesus in Art*, beginning this Sunday. This PBS series traces the dramatically different ways in which Jesus has been represented in art by people throughout history and around the world and is an unprecedented travelogue of art and monuments from the early 3rd century to the present. It will take you from ancient Rome to 20th-century America and from Europe to the Middle East to illuminate the most beautiful and spectacular representations of Jesus and his stories. You do not have to be an art expert to be amazed! This Sunday's lesson begins with a short introduction and "The Gospel according to Giotto." Subsequent lessons are entitled "The Beginnings" which takes you to the catacombs of Rome, "The Search for the Authentic Image," and "The Suffering Christ." Depending upon future scheduling, there also will be five additional lessons.

COLLEGE STUDENTS It's time to share love with our college students. Our Paxton college students are hitting the hard part of their semesters. Would you help the Christian Education Ministry shower them with encouragement? We are collecting gift cards in $10 or $20 increments to their favorite places: Chipotle, Amazon or DoorDash. If you'd like, you can also write a note to a student. Names of college students are on the bulletin board outside the office. Gift cards and notes should be put in Michelle's mailbox by November 2.

Prayer Square

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

Members

Jim Brillinger, Brenda and Ron Brinkley, Family of Fran Gilchrist, Family of Nancy Hutchison, Jo Jacoby, Penny Knight, George McCall, Donna Powers, Kris Scott, Elsie Williams, Kathie Zimmerman,
and please pray for one of our church families during a difficult time.

Friends

Brenda Alwine, Warren Bolay, Dr. and Mrs. Kent Groff, Freddie Lee Hall, Carol Hoover, Gary Kunder, Bob Marshall, Robin Neidig, Jean Ort, Amy Sciotti, Scooter Ziebell

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

October 18 - 25

Sunday, October 18	9:00 AM	Sunday School	*Agape Park*
	10:30 AM	Worship	*Sanctuary*
	1:00 PM	Nepali Worship	*Great Room*
Monday, October 19	9:00 AM	PPNS Classes	*PPNS*
	6:30 PM	Voices of the Valley	*Great Room*
Tuesday, October 20	9:00 AM	PPNS Classes	*PPNS*
	6:30 PM	Cub Scouts	*Fellowship Hall*
Wednesday, October 21	9:00 AM	PPNS Classes	*PPNS*
	9:30 AM	Sewing Circle	*Fellowship Hall*
Thursday, October 22	9:00 AM	PPNS Classes	*PPNS*
	6:15 PM	Bell Choir	*Sanctuary*
	6:30 PM	Paxtang Lions	*Fellowship Hall*
	7:30 PM	Choir	*Choir Room*
Friday, October 23	9:00 AM	PPNS Classes	*PPNS*
	6:00 PM	Nepali Youth Group	*Great Room*
Sunday, October 25	9:00 AM	Sunday School	*Agape Park*
COMMITMENT SUNDAY	10:30 AM	Worship	*Sanctuary*
	11:30 AM	Luncheon	*Great Room*
	1:00 PM	Nepali Worship	*Fellowship Hall*

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*
Jim Bruce '26
Linette Burd '26, Moderator
Judy Frankford '27
Cheryl Holtzman '26
Rich Lengler '28*
Sue McLain '26
Merideth Staudenmaier '28*, Secretary
Diana Robertson '28*, Financial Liaison
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

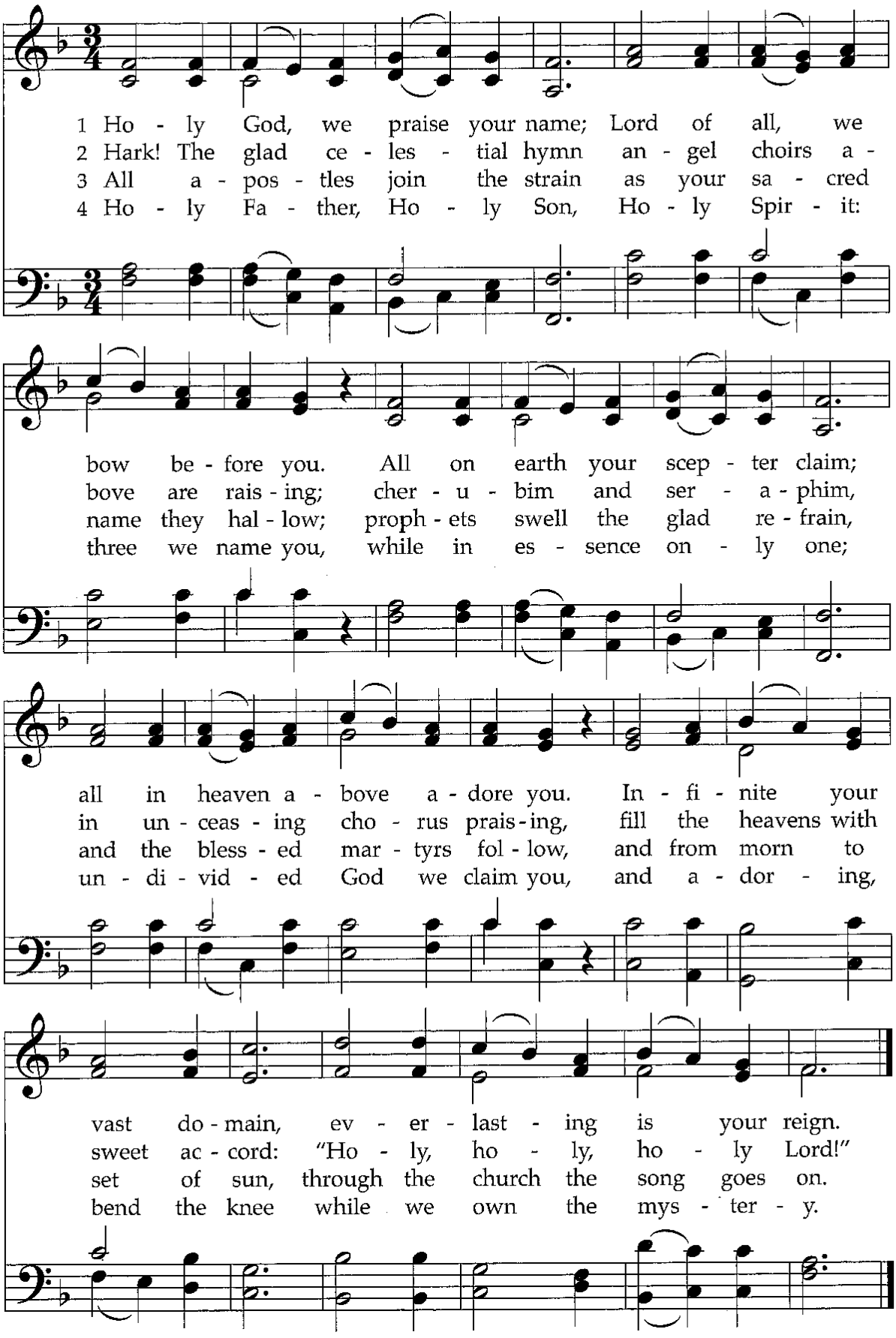
Margaret Poteet			Moderator
Kitti Taylor			Clerk of Session
Nancy Bingaman '28*			Christian Education
Cindy Cavanaugh '28*			Evangelism and Outreach
Nancy Lengler '26*			Budget and Finance
Judy Schmidt '27*			Mission
Gary Myers '26*			Nominating
Jay Kealey '26*	Gary Myers	Bob Frank '28	Personnel
Nino Giambrone '27*	Geoffrey Vinton '27*		Property Management
Craig Staudenmaier '28*			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.

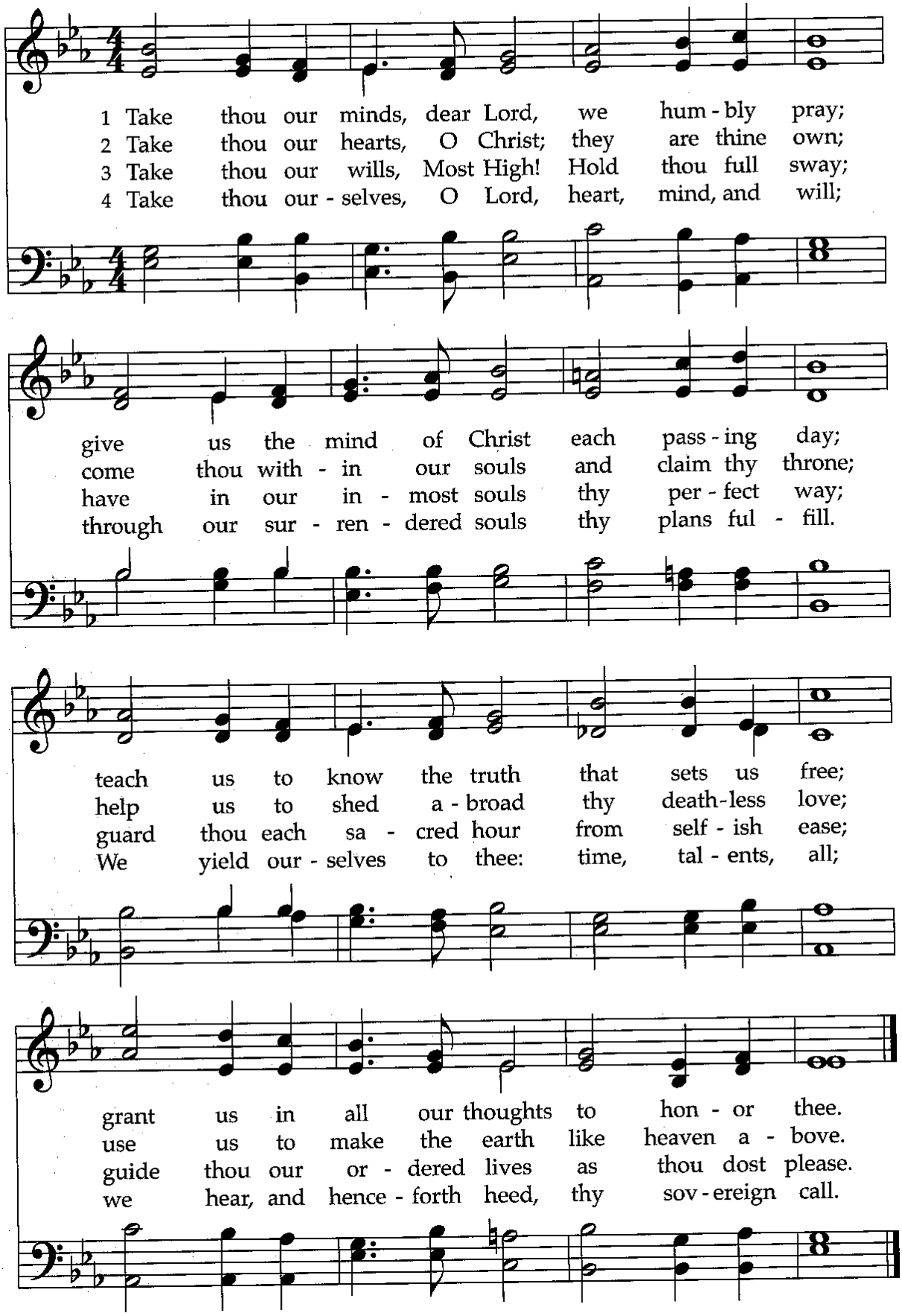
CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

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

4 Holy God, We Praise Your Name



707 Take Thou Our Minds, Dear Lord



203 Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love

