Westminster
Presbyterian Church
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330-263-2398 / wpcwooster@gmail.com

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
World Communion Sunday
October 1, 2023

Welcome and Announcements — **Rev. Dr. Enikö Ferenczy**

Let us open our hearts and minds to the rhythm of the gathering music as it centers us in God's presence for worship.

Prelude — **"To a Wild Rose"** — ***Edward MacDowell***

***Gathering Words** — **Dhanashree Lokesh and Joshua Amimo**

*The * in the liturgy indicates that you are invited to stand in body or in spirit.*

Sometimes we feel like asking God: are you paying attention?
And God asks us too: are we paying attention?
1: To the people right in front of us,
2: to the people who live with the consequences of our actions,
1: to the realities with which our neighbors live,
2: to the opportunities presented to us…
Are we paying attention?
God sees, God knows, and God calls us.
We will listen and look.
Empower us to join you, Holy One,
In your work of healing the world.

Opening Prayer — **Joshua Amimo**

Perplexing One, we do not always understand you or what you ask of us.
But in your presence, there is something that entices us.

That comforts us. That challenges us toward the world we desire.
You call us toward the risky and unfamiliar.
We praise you and pray: Help us go boldly!
May curiosity and openness be our practices of faith. Amen.

Opening Hymn No. 388 "Come All You People"** ***(sung multiple times) ***Uyai Mose***

Call to Confession **Dhanashree Lokesh**

Faced with God's goodness we recognize our failings.
In the knowledge of God's mercy,
we dare tell the truth about ourselves and our world.
In the confidence of God's children let us confess our sins.

Prayer of Confession **Dhanashree Lokesh**

**You are the giver of Abundant Life, O God,
and yet we so often choose the empire's side of death instead.
We confess that we often allow the perfect to become the enemy of the good,
and when we can't do everything or see immediate results from our efforts,
we allow despair to set in.**

**Forgive us, Holy One, for our apathy that keeps us from resisting in even the smallest ways.
Forgive us for overlooking opportunities to do justice because they don't fit our preconceived notions; for being so wrapped up in ourselves that we never even notice you calling.**

**As Moses paused long enough in his everyday routines to notice you doing a new thing,
turn us aside from those things that consume us
so we may be set ablaze by your call that brings life instead.
Amen.**

Silent Confession

Musical Response No. 591 **"Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!"** ***Halle, Halle***

Assurance of Forgiveness **Dhanashree Lokesh**

Beloveds,
God's promise to Moses, "Go, for I am with you," is still true for us:

**Here, face to face, we meet the One who has great compassion for us,
and who calls and blesses us into a new creation.
Thanks be to God. Amen.**

Musical Offering **"One Bread, One Body" (hymn #530)** ***John B. Foley***

We offer our gifts of money, talents, time, and energy—the gifts of our lives in gratitude for God's relentless love and grace for all. These gifts represent our commitment to heed God's call and join God in God's mission of healing and transforming our world.

Prayer of Illumination **Rev. Dr. Enikö Ferenczy**

Scripture Reading **Exodus 3:1-15 (CEB)** **Rev. Dr. Enikö Ferenczy**

3 Moses was taking care of the flock for his father-in-law Jethro, Midian's priest. He led his flock
out to the edge of the desert, and he came to God's mountain called Horeb. **2** The Lord's
messenger appeared to him in a flame of fire in the middle of a bush. Moses saw that the bush
was in flames, but it didn't burn up. **3** Then Moses said to himself, Let me check out this amazing
sight and find out why the bush isn't burning up.

4 When the Lord saw that he was coming to look, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses,
Moses!"

Moses said, "I'm here."

5 Then the Lord said, "Don't come any closer! Take off your sandals, because you are standing on
holy ground." **6** God continued, "I am the God of your father, Abraham's God, Isaac's God, and
Jacob's God." Moses hid his face because he was afraid to look at God.

7 Then the Lord said, “I’ve clearly seen my people oppressed in Egypt. I’ve heard their cry of
injustice because of their slave masters. I know about their pain. 8 I’ve come down to rescue
them from the Egyptians in order to take them out of that land and bring them to a good and
broad land, a land that’s full of milk and honey, a place where the Canaanites, the Hittites, the
Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites all live. 9 Now the Israelites’ cries of
injustice have reached me. I’ve seen just how much the Egyptians have oppressed them. 10 So
get going. I’m sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt.”

11 But Moses said to God, “Who am I to go to Pharaoh and to bring the Israelites out of Egypt?”
12 God said, “I’ll be with you. And this will show you that I’m the one who sent you. After you
bring the people out of Egypt, you will come back here and worship God on this mountain.”

13 But Moses said to God, “If I now come to the Israelites and say to them, ‘The God of your
ancestors has sent me to you,’ they are going to ask me, ‘What’s this God’s name?’ What am I
supposed to say to them?” 14 God said to Moses, “I Am Who I Am. So say to the Israelites, ‘I Am
has sent me to you.’” 15 God continued, “Say to the Israelites, ‘The Lord, the God of your
ancestors, Abraham’s God, Isaac’s God, and Jacob’s God, has sent me to you.’ This is my name
forever; this is how all generations will remember me.

Sermon **Pay Attention** **Rev. Dr. Enikö Ferenczy**

Communion Hymn No. 526** **“Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ”** ***Linstead

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving **Rev. Dr. Enikö Ferenczy**

Blessed are you, O God, creator and sustainer of the universe,
for you pay attention to this world you have made.
In the beginning you had your hands in the dirt and your breath in our faces,
and it was good.

In every time and place you have been faithful to your people,
leading Abraham and Sarah in the wilderness,
keeping watch over Hagar in the desert,
feeding your people through the ingenuity of Joseph,
saving them through the hands of Shiphrah and Puah,
making the way for a future through the quick thinking of Miriam…
in every generation you are at work,

revealing your care and your presence through the action of your faithful people.

We give you thanks, O God, for your voice that echoes through history in the prophets and the ordinary people, for your Word embodied in Jesus, for all who have carried your good news to every place.

We pray that *(at this table)* we might be re-made into your Body
ready to bear your message of hope and justice in this world, for the need is very great.

Today *(as we share the feast of your people around the world)*
we must turn our eyes to the reality you call us to see:

The families with no options, facing choices we do not want to imagine, who are desperate to save their children and will risk anything for it…
All who work for liberation behind the scenes, with no status and no resources beyond their own imagination…
The people whose privilege protects them and yet they use it to lift up others, in defiance of expectations…

Without them there would be no future for your people.

We lift to our attention, and yours,
those places where the everyday things we take for granted are an unimaginable dream,
where the neighbors you call us to love are abandoned to rising seas, famine, and war,
where the very people we celebrate at today's feast go hungry and ignored.

As we claim to celebrate with the whole world today,
do not let us forget them when we leave this place.
For you came among us, word made flesh,
to get as close as humanly possible,
and nothing escapes your attention.

As we bring thanks and praise,
(as we share bread and wine,)
send your Holy Spirit again to fill us
that together we might take up your call to truly be a world communion of your people,
your Body living and breathing and serving and transforming this world you.

Through the power of your Spirit and in the name of Jesus the Christ,
who taught us to pray, saying:

Our God in heaven, holy is your name.
Your kin-dom come,
Your will be done, on earth as is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kin-dom, the power and the glory are yours.
Now and forever. Amen.

Words of Institution
Communion of the People
Prayer after Communion

Closing Hymn No. 853 "We Are Marching in the Light of God" *Siyahamba

Benediction Rev. Dr. Enikö Ferenczy

Postlude "Cantad al Senor" *arr. Rachel Trelstad Po*

The service continues with fellowship.

*The Call to Confession, and Assurance of Forgiveness were written by Rev. Dr. Enikö Ferenczy. The Opening Prayer was adopted from *Enfleshed: Liturgy That Matters*. The Prayer of Confession and the Great Prayer of Thanksgiving were adapted from Rev. Teri Peterson.
*Hymns are from the Glory to God Hymnal.
*Music: Karolyn Rice
*Treats: Barbara Tartir

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To continue to assure the safety of all, the offering plate is located on a table in the back of the sanctuary. If you are moved to support our

ministry, we invite you to place your gifts in the plate.



You may also give online through our website by clicking on the "GIVE NOW" button at the bottom of the home page. Your generosity helps us to fulfill our calling to engage in God's transformative mission in our community.

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Upcoming Events

Sunday, Oct. 1

- Worship Service – 10 am – Mackey Hall
- Wooster Friends Meeting – 10.30 am – The Meeting Place
- Blessing of the Animals – 5.30 pm – Christmas Run Park

Monday, Oct. 2

- Troop 61 – 6 pm – The Meeting Place

Thursday, Oct. 5

- Dance and Exercise – 8.30 am – The Meeting Place

Sunday, Oct. 8

- Worship Service – 10 am – Mackey Hall
- Wooster Friends Meeting – 10.30 am – The Meeting Place
- Song & Salsa – 5 pm – Salem Mennonite Church, Kidron

Pastor Rev. Dr. Enikő Ferenczy
Minister of Music Rev. Dr. Thomas Shaw
Office Administrator Rev. Dr. James Henery
AV Assistant/Event Steward Tony Mendiola
Custodian Kara Akers

Office Hours: Monday through Friday, 10 a.m.-2.p.m.
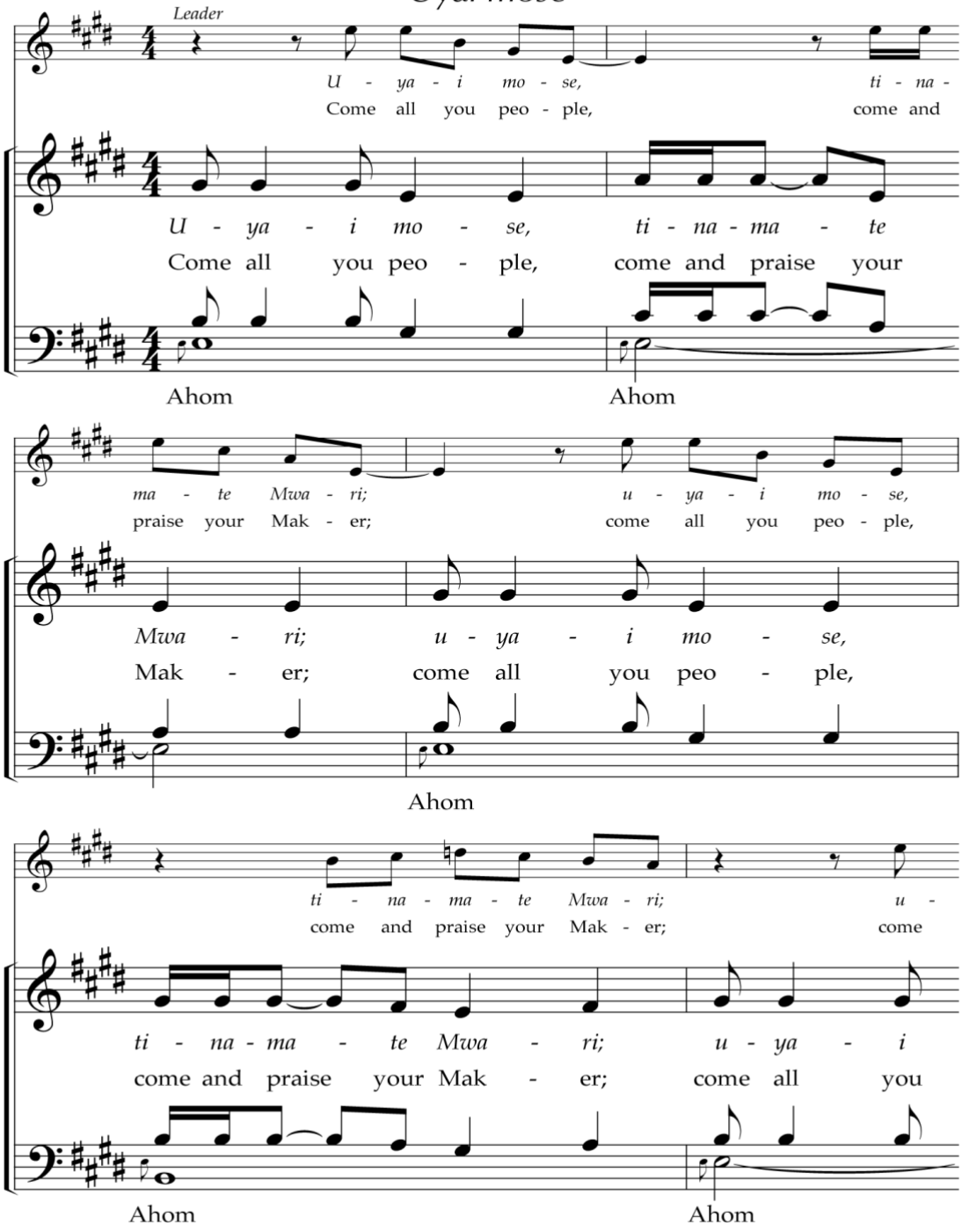
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Westminster Presbyterian Church strives to be a safe place for all people to worship regardless of ethnicity, creed, age, cultural background, gender identity, or sexual orientation.

GATHERING

388 Come All You People
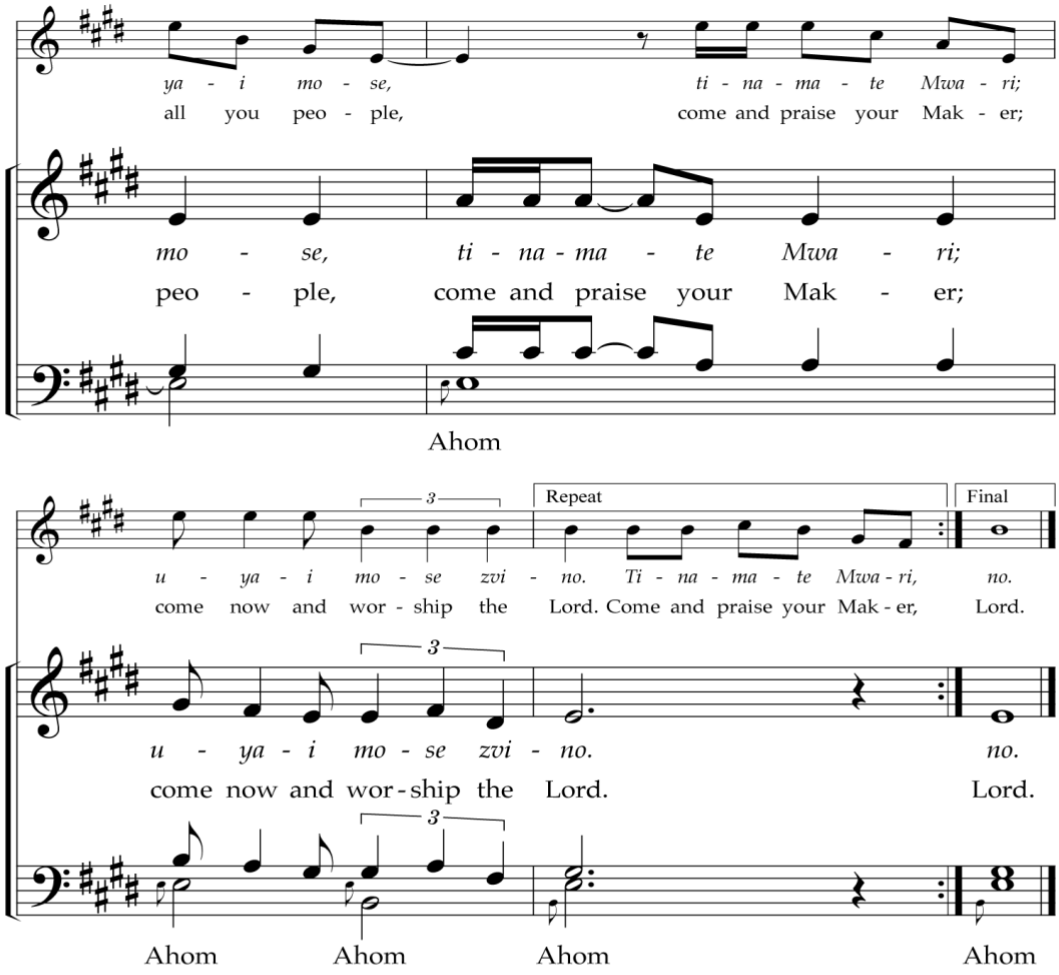
Uyai mose



This short gathering song (based on a text adapted from Psalm 95:6) is a great favorite among children in Zimbabwe, and it is frequently used as a processional song for worship. The choir enters singing, the congregation picks up their excitement, and soon all are singing.

TEXT: Alexander Gondo, 20th cent.; transcr. I-to Loh, 1986
MUSIC: Alexander Gondo, 20th cent.; arr. John L. Bell, 1994
Music Arr. © 1994 WGRG, Iona Community (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)
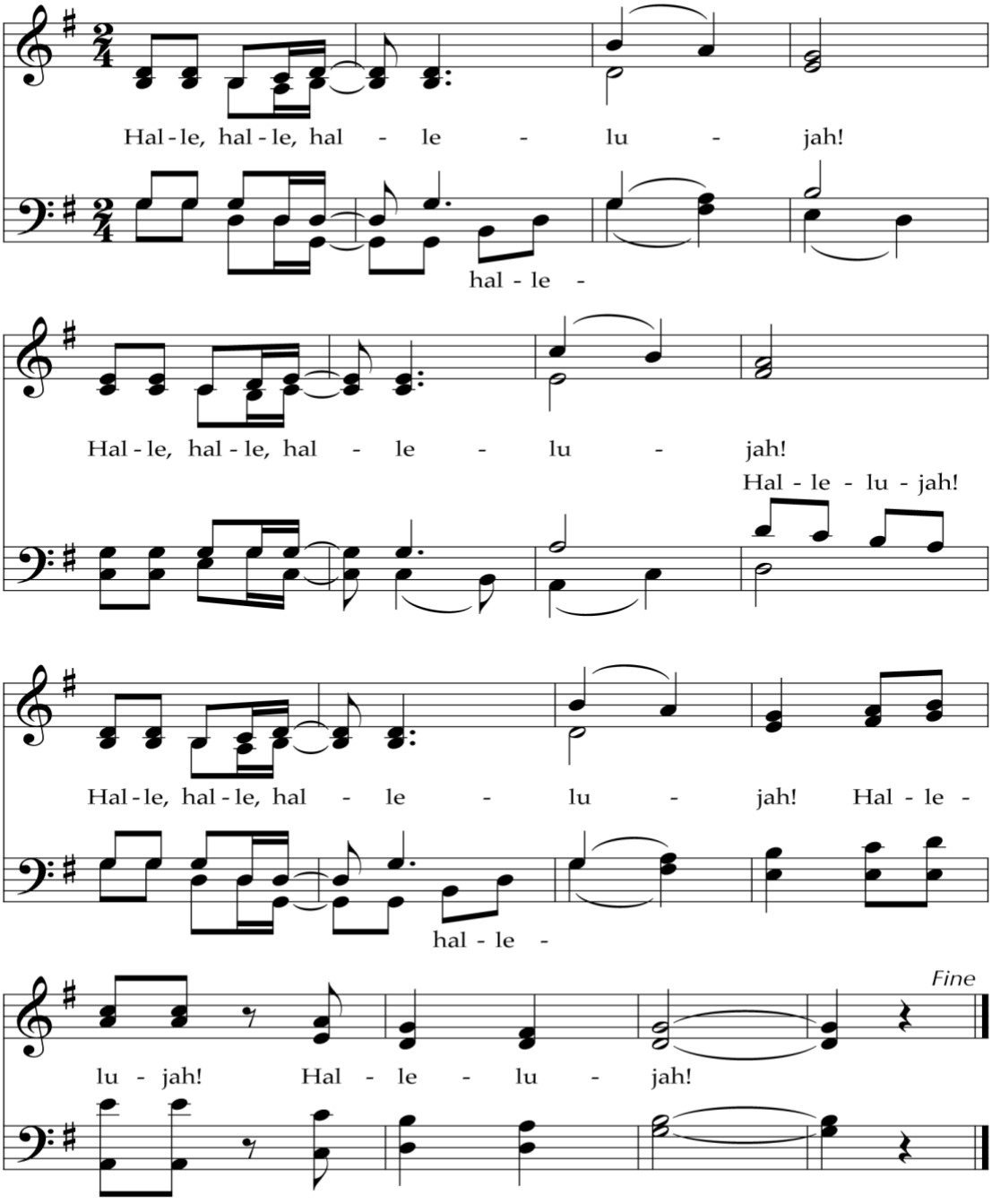
UYAI MOSE
5.6.5.6.5.6.7


ya - i mo - se, ti - na - ma - te Mwa - ri;
all you peo - ple, come and praise your Mak - er;
mo - se, ti - na - ma - te Mwa - ri;
peo - ple, come and praise your Mak - er;
Ahom
3
Repeat
Final
u - ya - i mo - se zvi - no. Ti - na - ma - te Mwa - ri, no.
come now and wor - ship the Lord. Come and praise your Mak - er, Lord.
u - ya - i mo - se zvi - no. no.
come now and wor - ship the Lord. Lord.
Ahom Ahom Ahom Ahom

SERVICE MUSIC
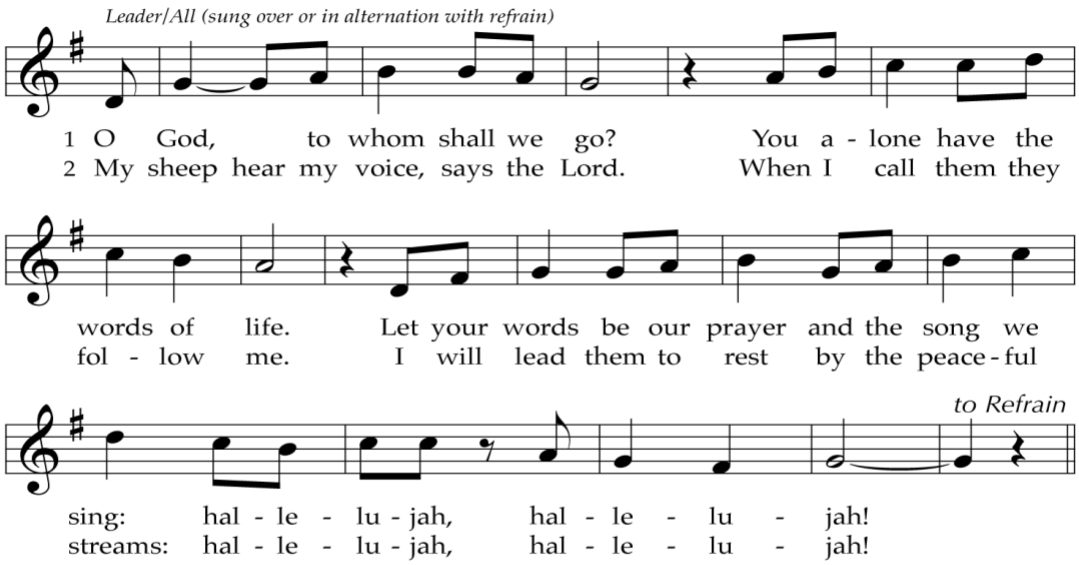
591 Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!

Refrain



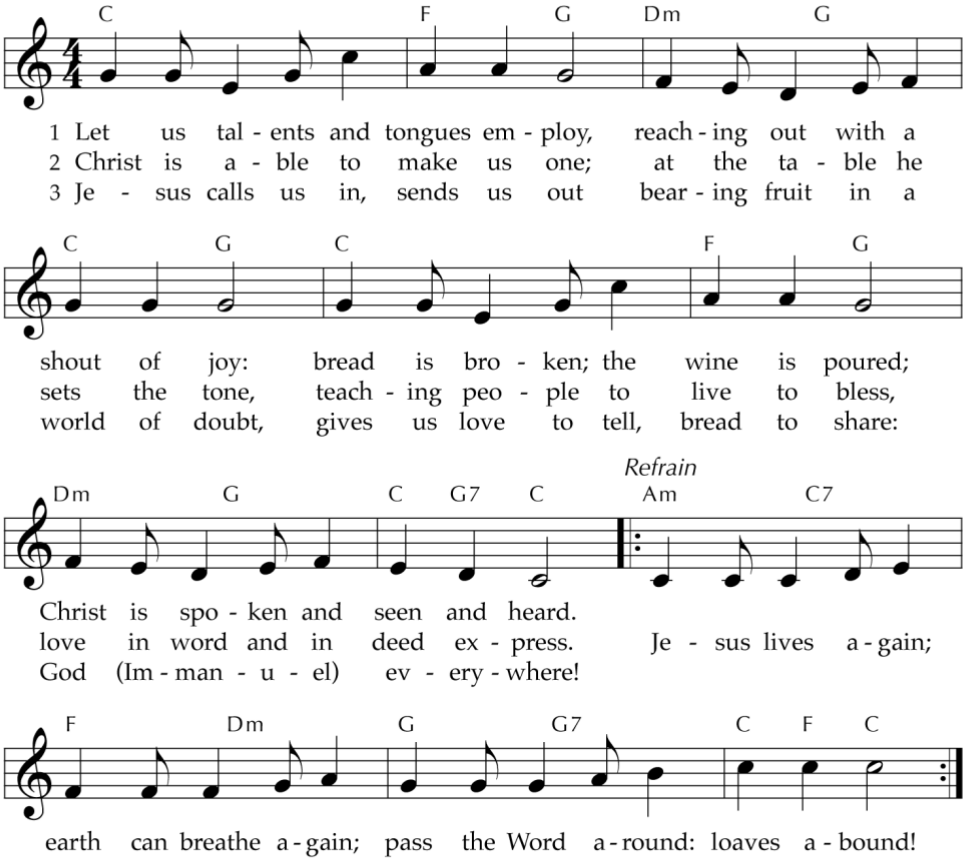
TEXT: Ref., trad. liturgical text; stanzas, Marty Haugen, 1990
MUSIC: Caribbean melody; arr. John L. Bell, 1990; stanzas, Marty Haugen, 1990
Text and Music © 1990 WGRG, Iona Community (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)
Music Arr. © 1993 GIA Publications, Inc.

HALLE, HALLE
Irregular


Leader/All (sung over or in alternation with refrain)
1 O God, to whom shall we go? You a - lone have the
2 My sheep hear my voice, says the Lord. When I call them they
words of life. Let your words be our prayer and the song we
fol - low me. I will lead them to rest by the peace - ful
to Refrain
sing: hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah!
streams: hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah!

LORD'S SUPPER

526 Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ



Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

Maracas and other rhythm instruments may be used.
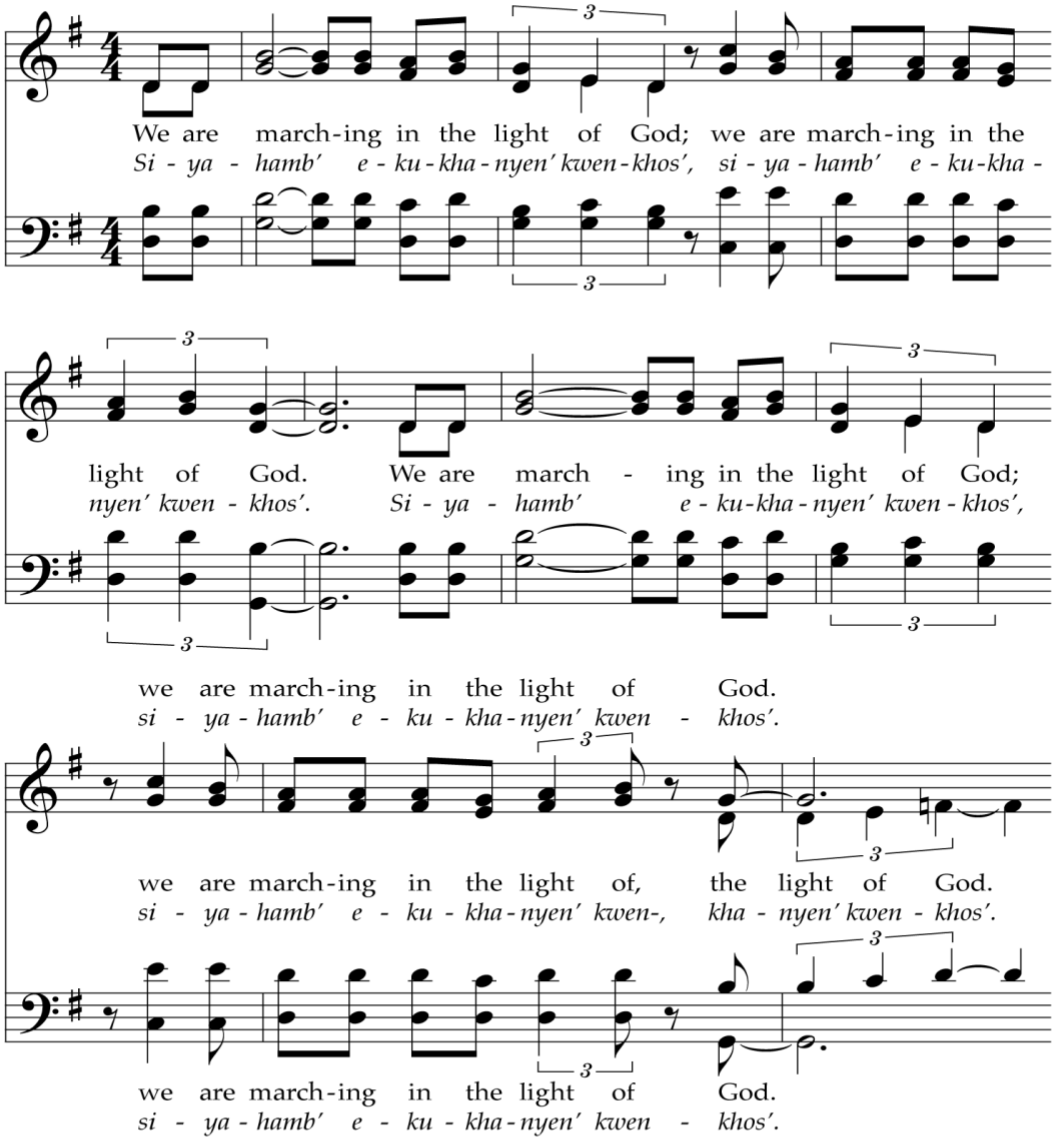
This "communion calypso" (as the author called it) affirms the continuing presence of Christ both in the sacramental meal and in the lives of Christians. Because this text was written to fit a pre-existing tune, it has a rather telegraphic style that encourages pondering.

TEXT: Fred Kaan, 1975
MUSIC: Jamaican folk melody; adapt. Doreen Potter, 1975
Text and Music © 1975 Hope Publishing Company

LINSTEAD
LM with refrain

853 We Are Marching in the Light of God
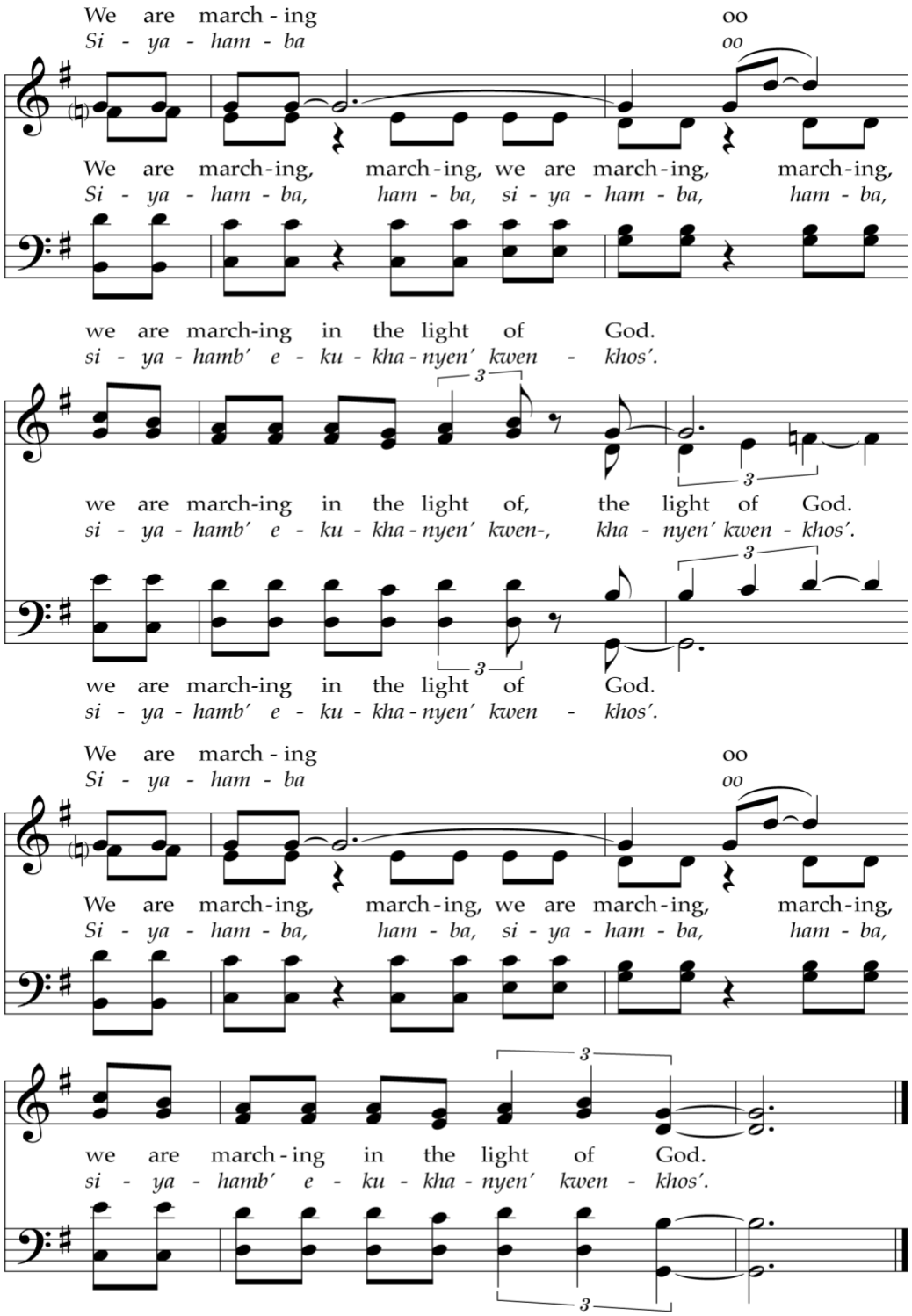
Siyahamba



This lively Zulu/Xhosa freedom song originated in a Methodist young men's group in South Africa and has gone on to become popular in many other languages around the globe. Some additional stanzas are suggested, but others may be improvised as appropriate to the occasion.

TEXT: South African; English trans. Gracia Grindal, 1984
MUSIC: South African; arr. *Freedom Is Coming,* 1984
English Trans. and Music Arr. © 1984 Utryck (admin. Walton Music Corp.)

SIYAHAMBA
Irregular



Additional stanzas ad lib.:
We are dancing…
We are praying…
We are singing…