FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BETHLEHEM

Traditional Worship Service
The Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

October 26, 2025

The Service for the Lord's Day

WE GATHER

PRELUDE Prelude No. 3 in G, Op. 105 — Charles V. Stanford

WELCOME AND COMMUNITY LIFE

*CALL TO WORSHIP

We come to hear the story of God's faithfulness to past generations.
But we also look to the future as well as the past.
The God who was with our ancestors is with us as well.
Then we can go forward in hope. Whatever else fails, God remains faithful.
Nothing can separate us from the love of God! Praise be to God!

Ruth C. Duck, *Flames of the Spirit* (New York: The Pilgrim Press, 1985)

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

*GATHERING HYMN — #307
Fight the Good Fight — DUKE STREET

WE CONFESS

CALL TO CONFESSON

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy One, we confess that too often we have fallen into fear and despair in stressful seasons of life. We have sought comfort over courage, we have run when You have called us to remain and stayed silent when You called us to speak. Empower us to rise above any and all trials. Grant us patience and courage to face adversity. Help us to trust Your timing. Turn our fear into faith, teaching us always to follow where you lead. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

WE LISTEN

*Please stand as you are able

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE
Psalm: Psalm 40:1-5 Judy Smullen
Epistle: James 1:12, Romans 5:1-5

Leader: The word of the Lord;
People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON Rev. Karen Kinney

"The Saint's Song: A Symphony of Perseverance"

WE RESPOND

MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION
Merriam-Webster defines perseverance as: *continued effort to do or achieve something despite difficulties, failure, or opposition*. Describe a time when you have persevered? Where did you see God in this time? How did this time strengthen your faith and trust in God?

*SERMON HYMN
Standing on the Promises of God (from *Glory to* God – see insert) PROMISES

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH
I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER
Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

MINUTE FOR STEWARDSHIP AND OFFERING
Call to Give
Offertory Arise, My Soul, Arise! Dale Wood
Chancel Choir

*Doxology #592

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow OLD HUNDREDTH

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

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*SENDING HYMN #442
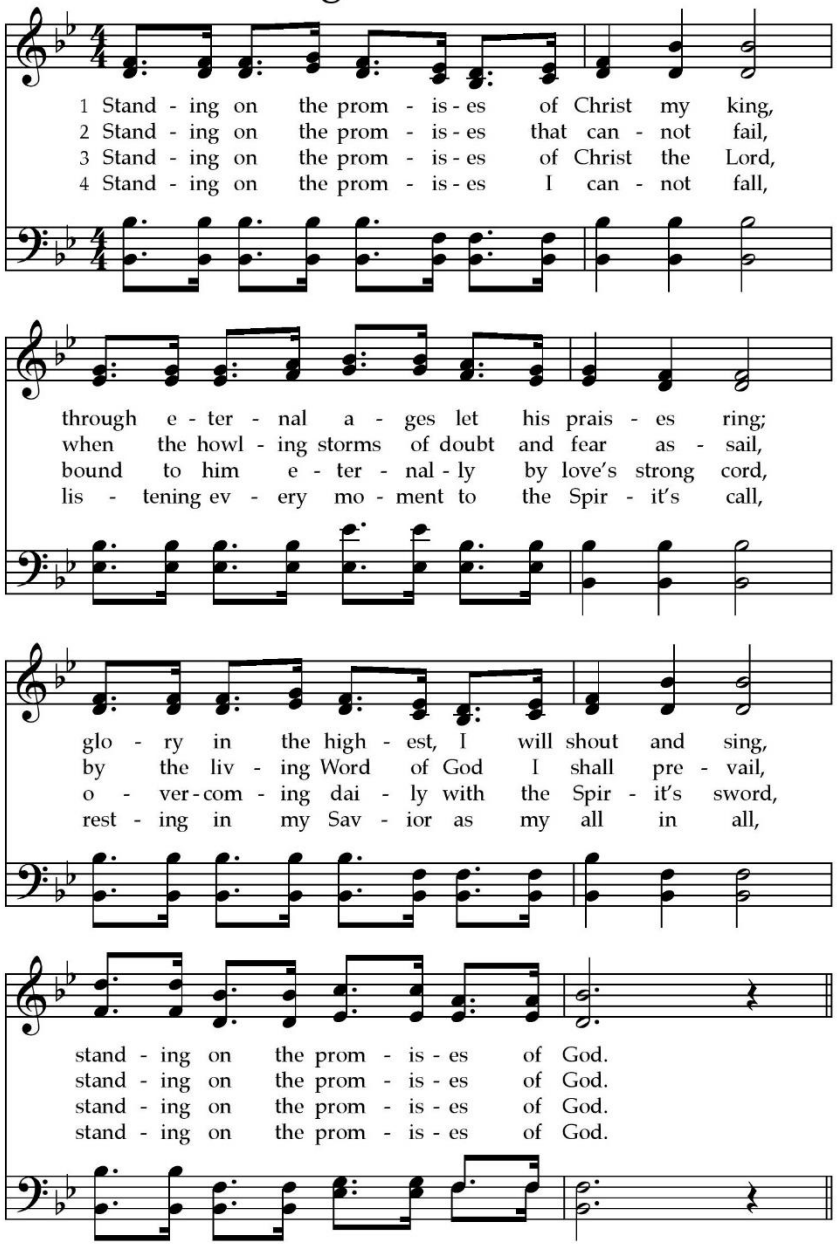
The Church's One Foundation AURELIA

*BENEDICTION
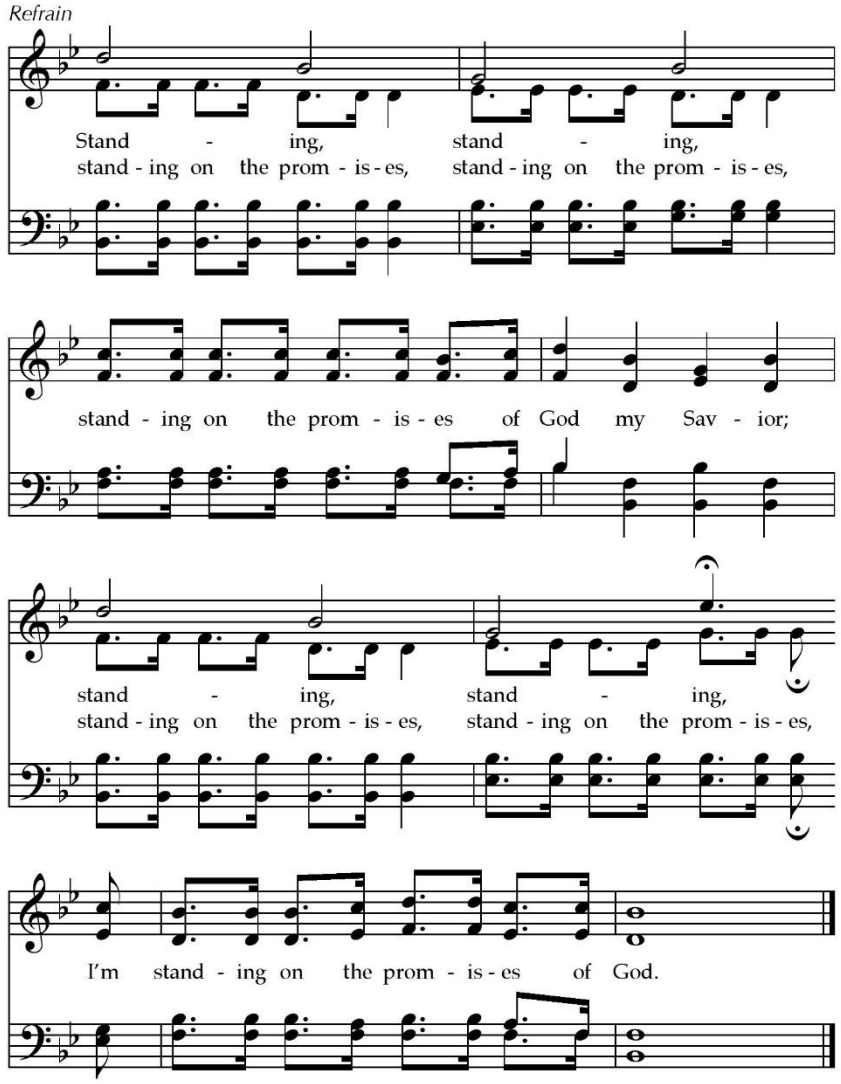
POSTLUDE Postlude No. 5 in G Op. 101 Charles V. Stanford

You're welcome to stay and enjoy the Postlude or to depart while the music is played.
Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!

838 Standing on the Promises



Perhaps because this hymn is so well known, its language sounds vaguely scriptural; but while there are various biblical uses of "stand" and "promise(s)," the two words are never combined. The confidence here is similar to that of "My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less" (see no. 353).



TEXT and MUSIC: R. Kelso Carter, 1886

PROMISES
11.11.11.9 with refrain