CELEBRATING 150 YEARS | FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BETHLEHEM

Faithful Past Hopeful Future

BUILT BY SAINTS, CALLED TO SERVE

Combined Worship Service
Pledge Dedication Sunday

November 9, 2025

The Service for the Lord's Day

WE GATHER

PRELUDE

III. Rhosymedre (Lovely), from *Three Prelude on Welsh Hymn Tunes* Ralph Vaughan Williams

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

Christ is the Cornerstone (see insert) DARWALL'S 148TH

WE CONFESS

CALL TO CONFESSON

*Please stand if you are able.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, help us to turn away from things that do not lead to life—from attitudes and actions that get in the way of our relationship with You and distract us from hearing Your voice and doing Your will. Open our eyes and ears to Your presence and Your call. Give us courage to take up our cross and follow where You lead, even if the path is uncertain or leads in unexpected directions. For You alone are God, and we are Your people. Take our lives, and use us to Your glory. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

WE LISTEN

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE
Matthew 16:24-26 Judy Smullen

Leader: The word of the Lord;

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON Rev. Sue Pizor Yoder

"Letting Go and Holding On"

WE RESPOND

MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION

Where is Jesus calling us to let go? Where are we being invited to hold on? What might we need to lose in order to find new life?

*SERMON HYMN

Will You Come and Follow Me (from *Glory to* God – see insert) KELVINGROVE

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (from the *Confessions of 1967)*

In Jesus of Nazareth true humanity was realized once for all. Jesus, a Palestinian Jew, lived among his own people and shared their needs, temptations, joys, and sorrows. He expressed the love of God in word and deed and became a brother to all. Jesus Christ is God with us. To be reconciled to God is to be sent into the world as God's reconciling community. Christ has called the church to this mission and given it the gift of the Holy Spirit. With an urgency born of this hope, the church applies itself to present tasks and strives for a better world. It does not identify limited progress with the kingdom of God on earth, nor does it despair in the face of disappointment and defeat. In steadfast hope, the church looks beyond all partial achievement to the final triumph of God.

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.

OFFERING AND PLEDGES

Call to Give

Offertory We Are Called — Becki Slagle Mayo

Tom Maher, Trumpet and 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 — #429

Lord, You Give the Great Commission (verses 1, 2, 4, 5) — AURELIA

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE
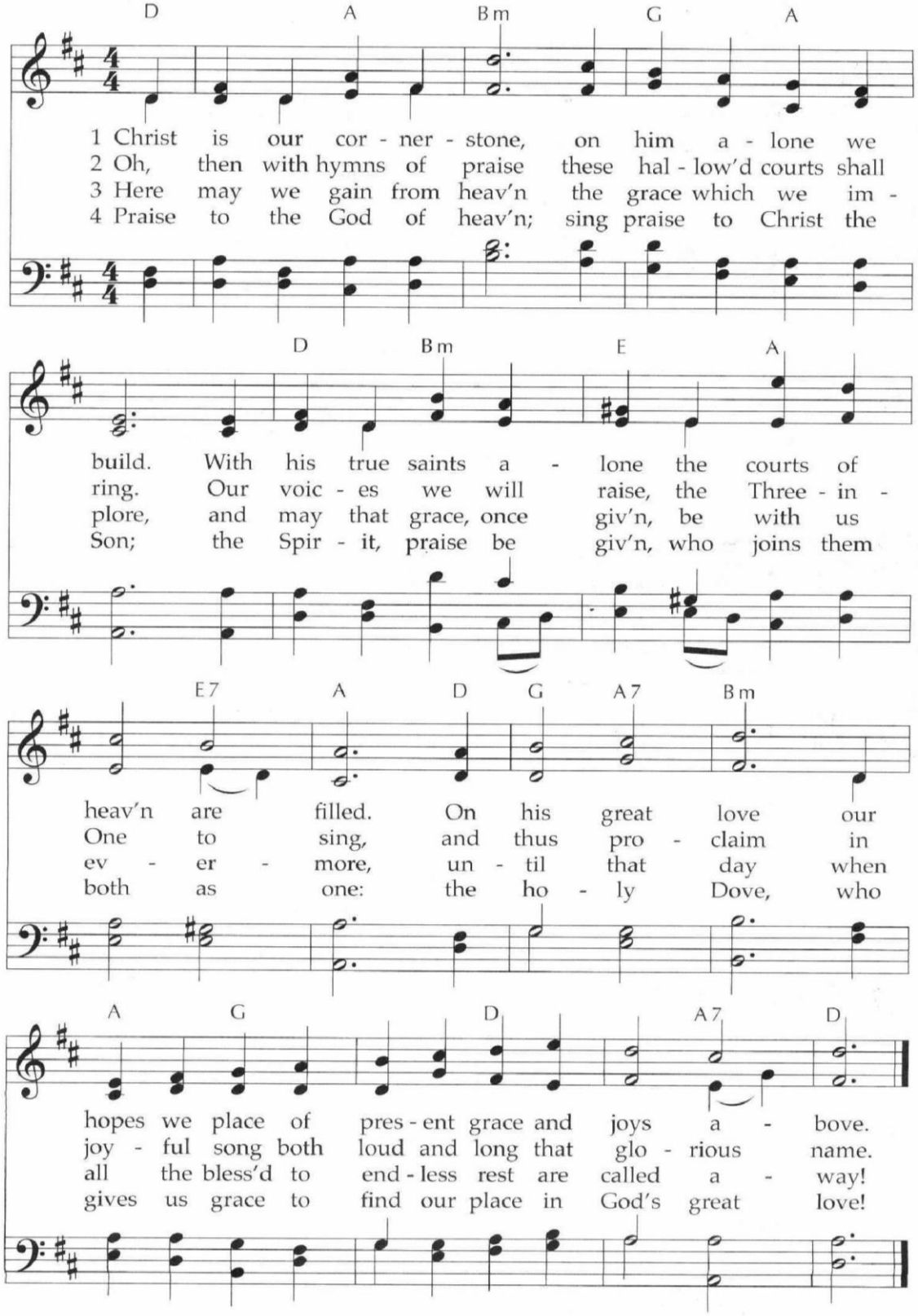
Now Thank We All Our God (March Triomphale), Op. 65 — Sigfrid Karg-Elert

Flowers given by Evelyn Kuserk in memory of her grandmother, Lillie Snead Hundley

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!

4 Christ Is Our Cornerstone

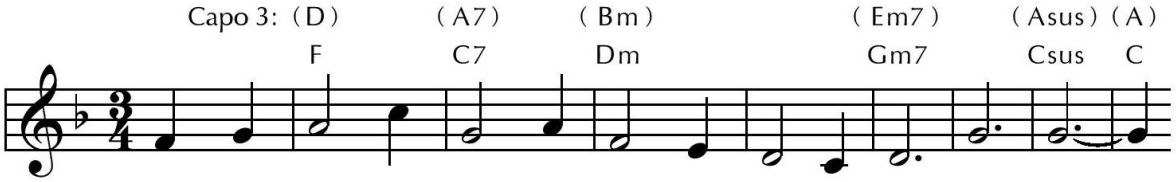
DARWALL'S 148th 6.6.6.6.8.8



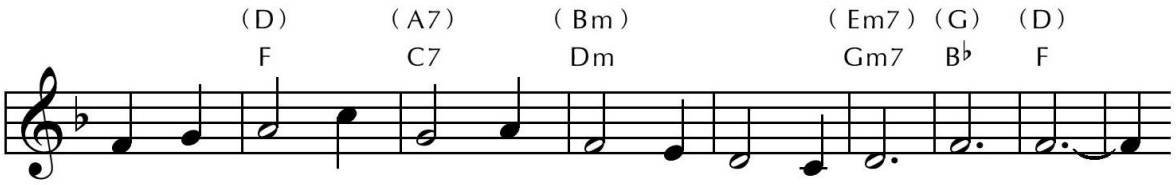
Text: "Angularis fundamentum lapis" (Rome), ca. 7th c.; trans. John Chandler (England), *Hymns of the Primitive Church*, 1837, alt.
Music: John Darwall (England), *New Universal Psalmodist*, 1770

726 Will You Come and Follow Me

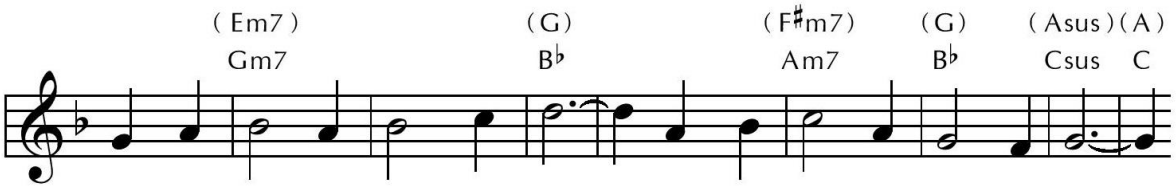
The Summons



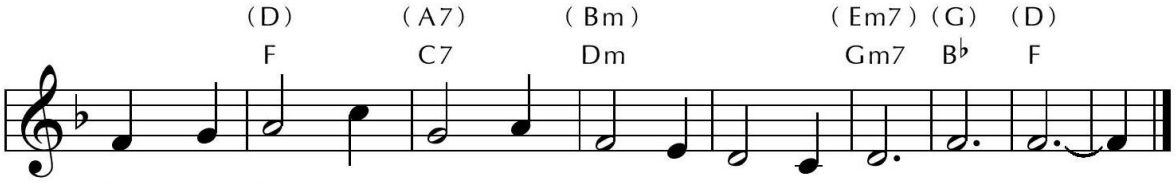
1 "Will you come and fol - low me if I but call your name?
2 "Will you leave your - self be - hind if I but call your name?
3 "Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call your name?
4 "Will you love the 'you' you hide if I but call your name?
5 Lord, your sum - mons ech - oes true when you but call my name.



Will you go where you don't know and nev - er be the same?
Will you care for cruel and kind and nev - er be the same?
Will you set the pris - oners free and nev - er be the same?
Will you quell the fear in - side and nev - er be the same?
Let me turn and fol - low you and nev - er be the same.



Will you let my love be shown; will you let my name be known;
Will you risk the hos - tile stare should your life at - tract or scare?
Will you kiss the lep - er clean, and do such as this un - seen,
Will you use the faith you've found to re-shape the world a - round,
In your com - pa - ny I'll go where your love and foot-steps show.



will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?"
Will you let me an - swer prayer in you and you in me?"
and ad - mit to what I mean in you and you in me?"
through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?"
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.