FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH OF BETHLEHEM

Traditional Worship Service
Second Sunday after Epiphany

January 18, 2026

The Service for the Lord's Day

WE GATHER

PRELUDE Adagio — Kenneth Leighton

WELCOME AND COMMUNITY LIFE

CALL TO WORSHIP

In the times of trouble,
when all seemed hopeless, I cried out to God.
And the Lord heard my pleas and answered me.
When I felt lost and alone, I looked for God.
And God found me and brought me home.
When my life was filled with joy and blessing,
I danced and praised God.
And God danced and rejoiced with me.
Let us worship with gratitude!

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

*GATHERING HYMN — #251
Your Faithfulness, O Lord, Is Sure — WINCHESTER NEW

WE CONFESS

CALL TO CONFESSON

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Patient One, you know how we are. We let the frustrations and worries of our lives overcome us. Our hearts seem to buckle under the weight of confusion and anger. And we turn away from you, sure that you can do nothing to alleviate our strife. How foolish we are! How faithless we are! Forgive us, God. Help us to learn that you are actively involved in our lives creating, co-conspiring, seeking healing and hope not only for each of us, but for the whole world. Make us more fully into disciples of Jesus, who shows us the way of peace and compassion.

*Please stand, as you are able

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

WE LISTEN

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE Phil Fair

Psalm 40

Corinthians 1:1-9

Leader: The word of the Lord;

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON Rev. Lindsey Altvater Clifton

"The Pits of Despair, The Power of Evil"

WE RESPOND

MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION

What cries are you lifting up to God? What refuge does your spirit most need in the Holy One's presence? How are you being called into partnership with Jesus?

*SERMON HYMN #361

How Firm a Foundation FOUNDATION

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS Bob Gisch and Ann Gisch

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

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.

MINUTE FOR MISSION AND OFFERING

Call to Give

Offertory Torches! Jean Joubert

Chancel Choir

Torches, torches, run with torches
All the way to Bethlehem!
Christ is born and now lies sleeping;
Come and sing your song to Him!

Torches, torches, run with torches
All the way to Bethlehem!
Christ is born and now lies sleeping;
Come and sing your song to Him!

Ah, Roro, Roro, my baby,
Ah, Roro, my love, Roro;
Sleep you well, my heart's own darling,
While we sing you our Rorro.

Sing, my friends, and make you merry,
Joy and mirth and joy again;
Lo, He lives, the King of heaven,
Now and evermore. Amen.

*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

Standing on the Promises (from *Glory to God,* see back page) PROMISES
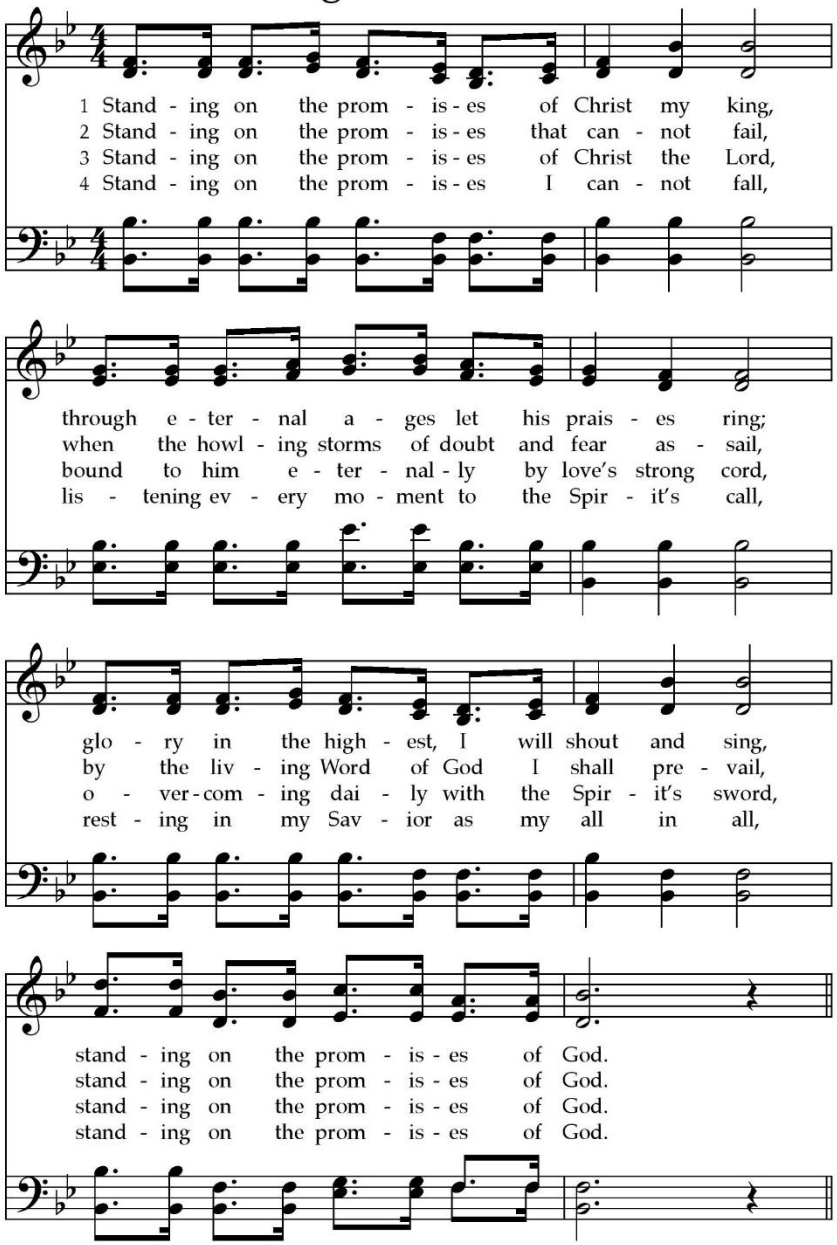
*BENEDICTION

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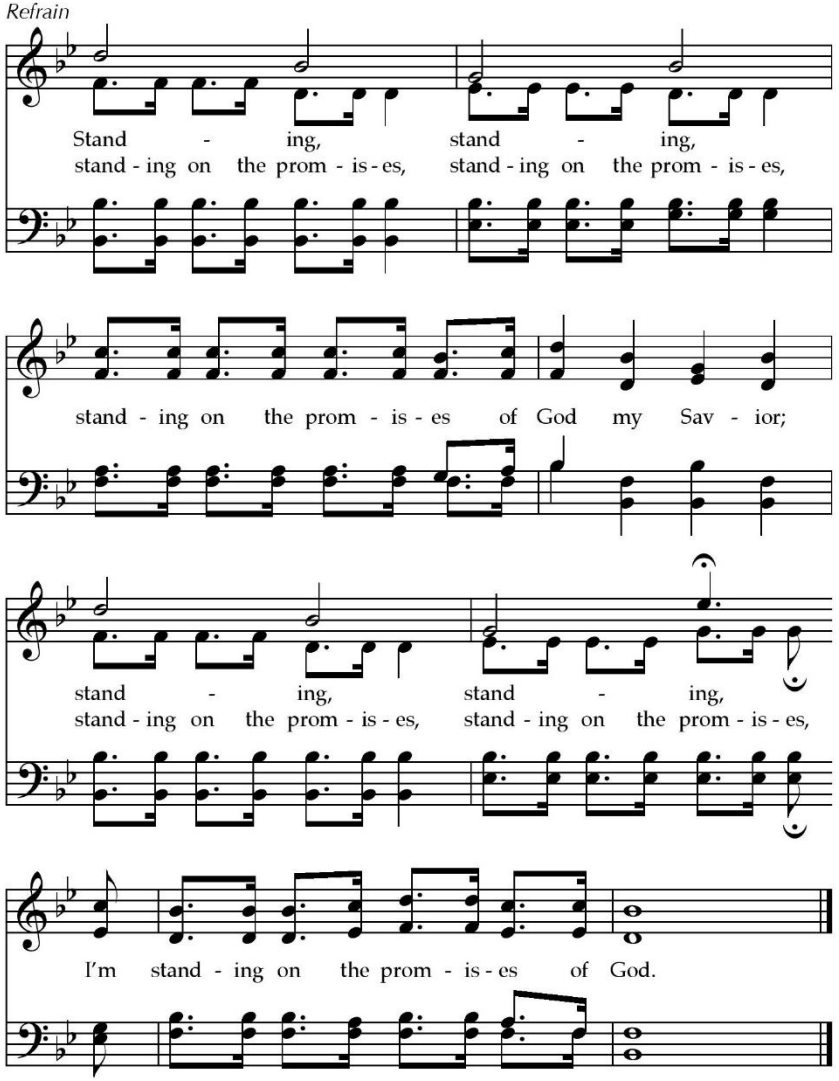
You're welcome to stay and enjoy the Postlude or to depart while the music is played.
Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!

Worship Note: The Call to Worship and Prayer of Confession are adapted from liturgy written by Nancy C. Townley, an ordained elder in the United Methodist Church, and shared on *Ministry Matters*

838 Standing on the Promises



Refrain



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