FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BETHLEHEM

Traditional Worship Service
The Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost

November 8, 2026

The Service for the Lord's Day

WE GATHER

PRELUDE "Nimrod", from *Enigma Variations* Edward Elgar/arr. William H. Harris

WELCOME AND COMMUNITY LIFE

CALL TO WORSHIP

In the midst of difficulty, the Lord sets a table of rejoicing for us.
Though the world seems focused on turmoil, yet will we praise God!
Our lives should be witnesses to God's goodness and power.
Our hearts should encompass compassion and service to God's people.
Help us to be your workers and witnesses in today's world, O Lord.
Enable us to be faithful and strong for you. AMEN.
https://ministrymatters.com/2013-10-01_thanksgiving_sunday_yr_c/

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

*GATHERING HYMN #434
Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples KINGSFOLD

WE CONFESS

CALL TO CONFESSON

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy and Beloved God, it is easy for us to be overwhelmed, to feel like everything is just too much. You call to us, pulling us toward you with the charge of love, and yet, we resist, even knowing that you are willing to share our burdens and lighten the load. Forgive our resistance, and redeem us in your grace, that the energy we expend would be to the benefit of your Way in the world. Help us to see you, and to be renewed in your Spirit, just as shoots of new grass are renewed every Spring.

*Please stand as you are able.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

The grace of God pulls us always, like a wagon rolls downhill on a gentle slope. Let us put our trust in God's plan and path. **In God's mercy, our burdens are made light and our energy is renewed, as we are forgiven today and always. Amen**

WE LISTEN

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE — Barbara Hjorth

Epistle: 1 John 3:17-18
Gospel: Matthew 5:14-16

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

SERMON — Rev. Karen Kinney

"Illuminated by Love: Putting Faith Into Practice"

WE RESPOND

MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION

1 John 3:17 points out a contradiction: seeing someone in need and withholding compassion while claiming to love God. What are some modern, everyday "needs" around us that are easy to overlook or rationalize away? What is one specific, uncomfortable, or inconvenient way you feel called to show compassion to someone this week?

*SERMON HYMN — #366

Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me — ST. CATHERINE

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The life, death, resurrection, and promised coming of Jesus Christ has set the pattern for the church's mission. His human life involves the church in the common life of all people. His service to men and women commits the church to work for every form of human well-being. His suffering makes the church sensitive to all human suffering so that it sees the face of Christ in the faces of persons in every kind of need. His crucifixion discloses to the church God's judgment on the inhumanity that marks human relations, and the awful consequences of the church's own complicity in injustice. In the power of the risen Christ and the hope of his coming, the church sees the promise of God's renewal of human life in society and of God's victory over all wrong. The church follows this pattern in the form of its life and in the method of its action. So to live and serve is to confess Christ as Lord.

Adapted from the Confession of 1967, 9.32–33

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 — George Bickford and Diane Elliott

OFFERING

Call to Give

Offertory O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts — Carl Schalk

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

May the God of Hope Go With Us (from *Glory to God* – see insert) — DONNE SECOURS
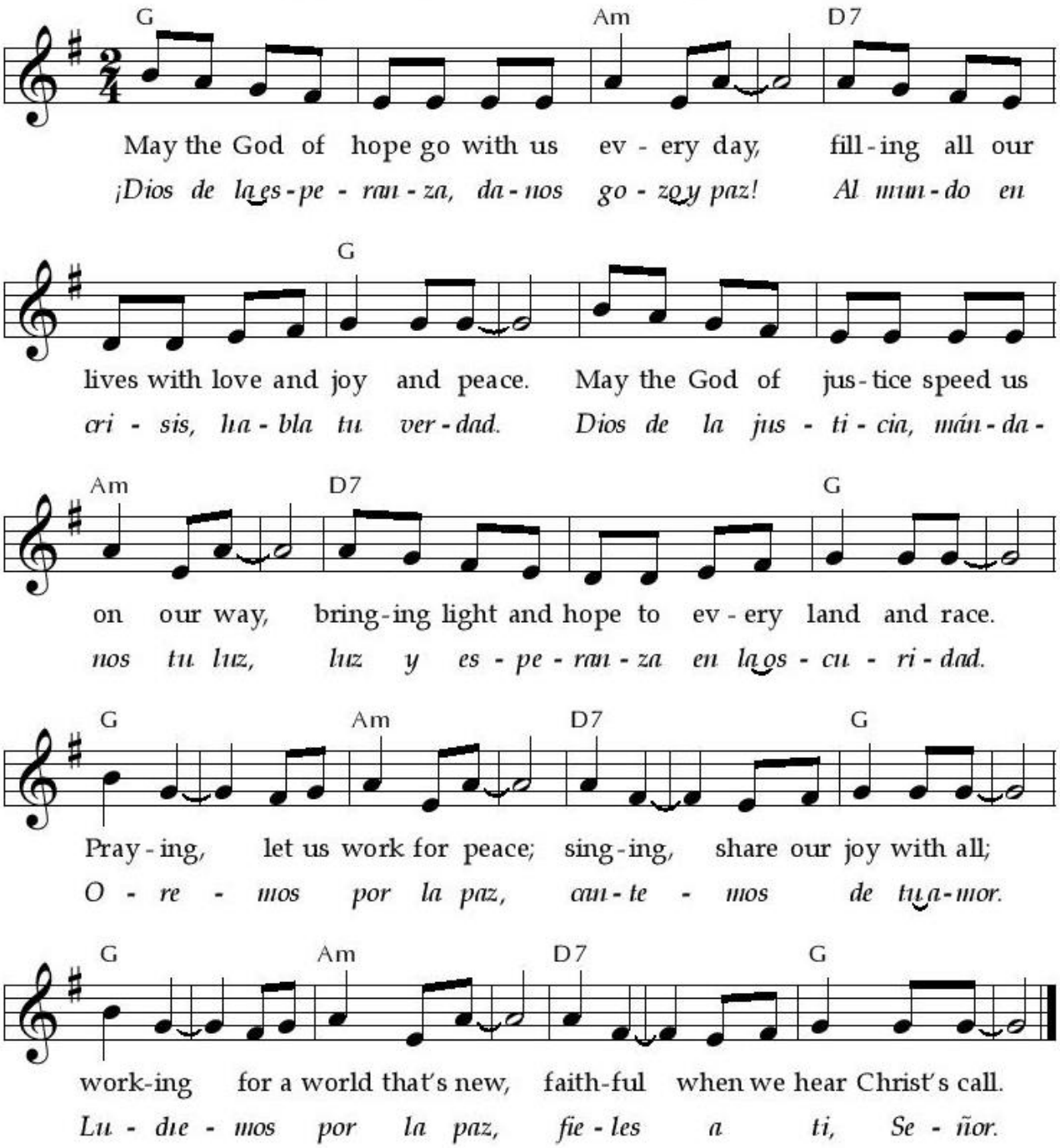
*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Postlude on "Alles is and Gottes Segen", Op. 65 — Sigfrid Kard-Elert

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!

May the God of Hope Go with Us 765

Song of Hope / *Canto de esperanza*



This Argentine folk melody sets Spanish and English words, both created by a PC(USA) missionary with much Latin American experience. The two versions complement each other: the Spanish text offering a prayer to God, and the English one providing inspiration for the singers.

TEXT: Alvin Schutmaat, 1984
MUSIC: Argentine folk melody

ARGENTINA
11.11.11.11 with refrain

COMMUNITY LIFE – ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR NOV. 8, 2026

If you are new to our church, welcome! Please complete a **"Connect Card,"** available in the Narthex.

FOR TODAY: We will **meet at our new location**, **Christ UCC Church**, 75 E. Market St. at 12:30 p.m. for fellowship with the UCC community, followed by a tour of their building. After that you are invited to **tour the soon-to-be-open Bethlehem Co-op Market** at 250 E. Broad St., of which First Pres is a founding member-owner.

FOR NEXT WEEK: We will have **one Combined service at 11:15 a.m.** in the Sanctuary, followed by a **catered luncheon** for all in Fellowship Hall. At 4 p.m. let's gather in the Sanctuary for ***Blessings & Memories: A Musical Celebration of Place,*** featuring reflections and musical selections with over 100 vocalists.

Our two classes will meet next week: **Hearts N Minds adult ed** will meet from 10-11 a.m. in the Library (Room 210). **Body N Soul intergenerational class** will meet from 10:10-11 a.m. in Room 216. All are welcome!

For tomorrow's **Hi Neighbors speakers program**: The social time begins at 9:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall, followed by the program at 10 a.m. Tom Repasch will share "**Coffee Talk: A Personal Look into the World's Favorite Pick-Me-Up."** After the program you are invited to stay for coffee, provided by Joe by Schmo, and light refreshments.

Bethlehem Interfaith Group (BIG) offers its **Thanksgiving service of gratitude** in our Sanctuary on Sunday, Nov. 22 at 2 p.m., followed by a time of fellowship after the service. All are welcome.

LEADING WORSHIP TODAY

Rev. Karen Kinney, Transitional Pastor; kkinney@fpc-bethlehem.org
Rev. Lindsey Altvater Clifton, Associate Pastor for Justice and Community Impact; lclifton@fpc-bethlehem.org
David Macbeth, Director of Music Ministries; dmacbeth@fpc-bethlehem.org

CARE CONCERNS

IF YOU ARE HOSPITALIZED: Please tell the hospital our church code is 724. Also, please call the church office at 610-867-5865 to let us know as the hospitals do not always collect this information. After hours, leave a message or call 610-674-0005 for emergency pastoral messages.

PRAYER REQUESTS: Send to prayer@fpc-bethlehem.org or call 610-867-5865 and leave a message.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Regular Church Office hours are Monday – Thursday, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Urgent pastoral need? Call 610-674-0005 for emergency pastoral messages (this is a new number).

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER – STAY CONNECTED!

If you would like to get our email or print newsletter: info@fpc-bethlehem.org or 610-867-5865.

First Presbyterian Church of Bethlehem
2344 Center Street, Bethlehem, PA 18017
610-867-5865 · fpc-bethlehem.org

Check our online calendar for all events and activities.

Your attendance at church events constitutes permission to use your image (photos and video) in church communications.
Questions about our policy: info@fpc-bethlehem.org

Use this code to donate through our secure website.