FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BETHLEHEM

Traditional Worship Service
The Third Sunday of Lent

March 8, 2026

The Service for the Lord's Day

WE GATHER

PRELUDE 3. "Lento", from Six Short Preludes — Charles V. Stanford

WELCOME AND COMMUNITY LIFE

CALL TO WORSHIP

If you need good news,
settle into this space. We have good news to share.
If you need a word of hope,
then trust us when we say, *there is hope enough to go around.*
If you need a glimmer of joy,
then you're in luck! We have resilient joy abounding.
If you need to feel God's presence in your midst,
then know that this is God's house.
This is the good news of the gospel.
God is here. Love is real. Joy is on the move.
Let us worship our with-us God!

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

*GATHERING HYMN — #421
The Church of Christ — WAREHAM

WE CONFESS

CALL TO CONFESSON

*Please stand if you are able.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, with you the impossible is possible. 5,000 can be fed. The blind can see. The hopeless can find hope. With you the impossible is possible, but we are quick to forget that. We look at our hurting world and tell ourselves that nothing can be done. We forget that you empowered the disciples to feed the crowd. We forget that you are always with us. Forgive our small-minded ways. Forgive us for doubting that change could ever come. But even more so, forgive us when we refuse to be a part of it. With hope for a better tomorrow we pray, amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Family of faith, no matter how many mistakes the disciples made, Jesus still washed their feet. Jesus still fed them. Jesus still called them beloved. The same is true for you and me, so hear and believe this good news: **today is a new day, and once again, we belong to God. We are forgiven. We are called. We are not alone. What good, *good* news. Amen!**

WE LISTEN

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE — Phil Fair

Epistle: Ephesians 3:20-21
Gospel: Mark 6:32-44

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

SERMON — Rev. Karen Kinney

"Trusting God's Abundance"

WE RESPOND

MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION

How do you see God working within us to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine? Do you tend towards scarcity thinking or abundance thinking?

*SERMON HYMN

In My Life Lord be Glorified (from *Glory to God* – see insert) — LORD, BE GLORIFIED

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

I believe in the good news of Jesus Christ. It sounds like welcome and feels like home. It sounds like laughter and feels like mercy. It sounds like love and feels like a seat at the table,so I believe in the good news of Jesus Christ. I have seen it alive in the world. And even when my heart aches, even when wars rage, even when mercy feels out of reach, I remember the one who welcomed the children and led with nonviolence. I remember the one who cared for the vulnerable and inspired those around him. I remember that the good news really is good news, for I have seen it alive in the world. Thanks be to God! 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 MISSION AND OFFERING

Call to Give

Offertory Wondrous Love arr. Paul Christiansen

Chancel Choir

*Doxology #592

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow OLD HUNDREDTH

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*SENDING HYMN

Human Minds Just Can't Imagine (from *A Sanctified Art* – see insert) AUSTRIAN HYMN WM

*BENEDICTION

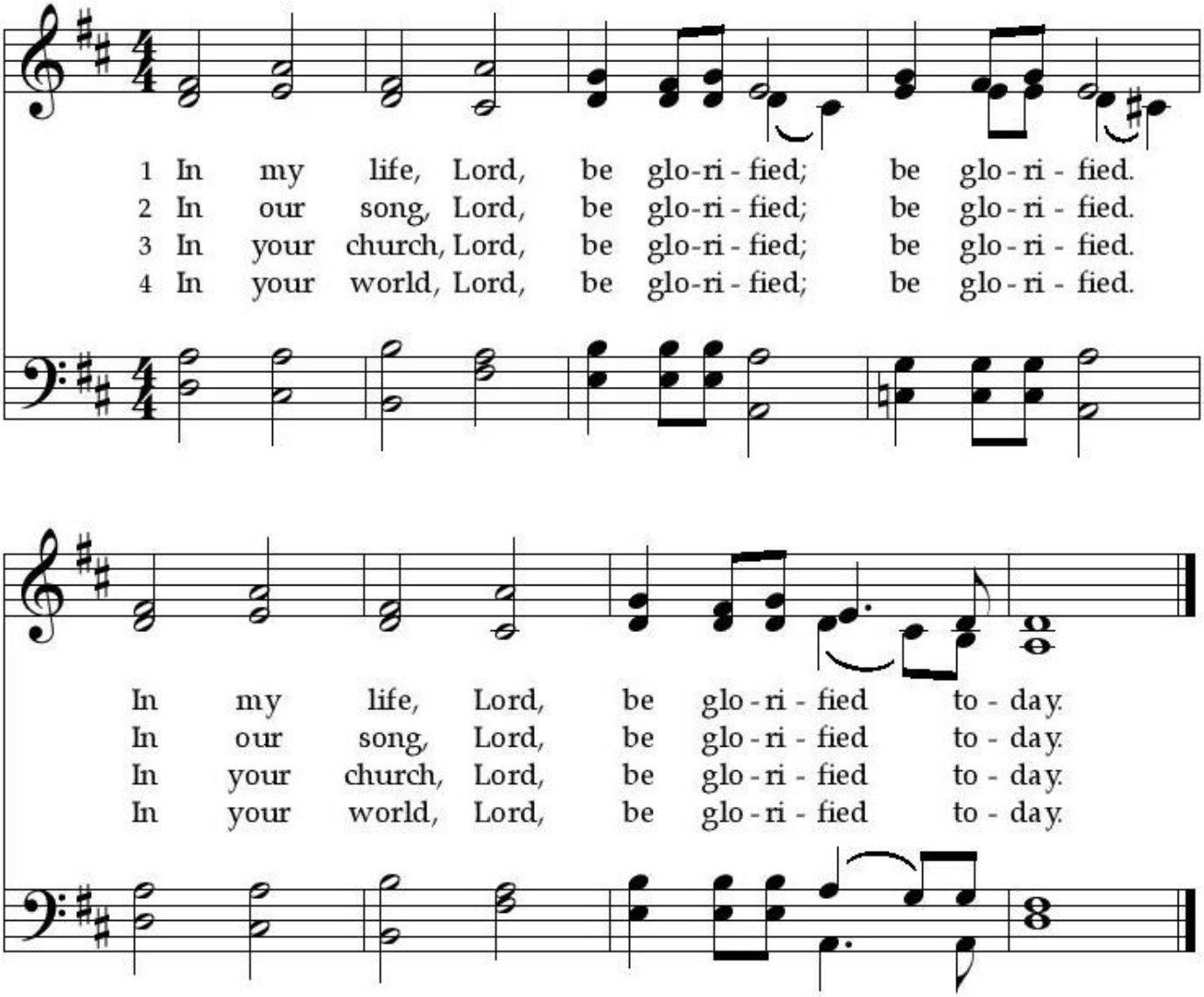
As you leave this place, when you meet anger, speak with love. When you meet fear, speak with hope. When you meet pain, speak with gentleness. But no matter what, speak this good news. For the good news of the gospel is love and justice for all. It is joy that surprises, and nonviolence that transforms. The good news of the gospel is alive in the world, so go forth speaking. For if you won't, then who will? Thanks be to God for this good, good news. Amen.

POSTLUDE Postlude in A Horatio Parker

Flowers given by Barbara Burger in memory of her huband Ted Burger

468 In My Life

Lord, Be Glorified



Human Minds Just Can’t Imagine

AUSTRIAN HYMN 8.7.8.7 D (“God Whose Giving Knows No Ending”)
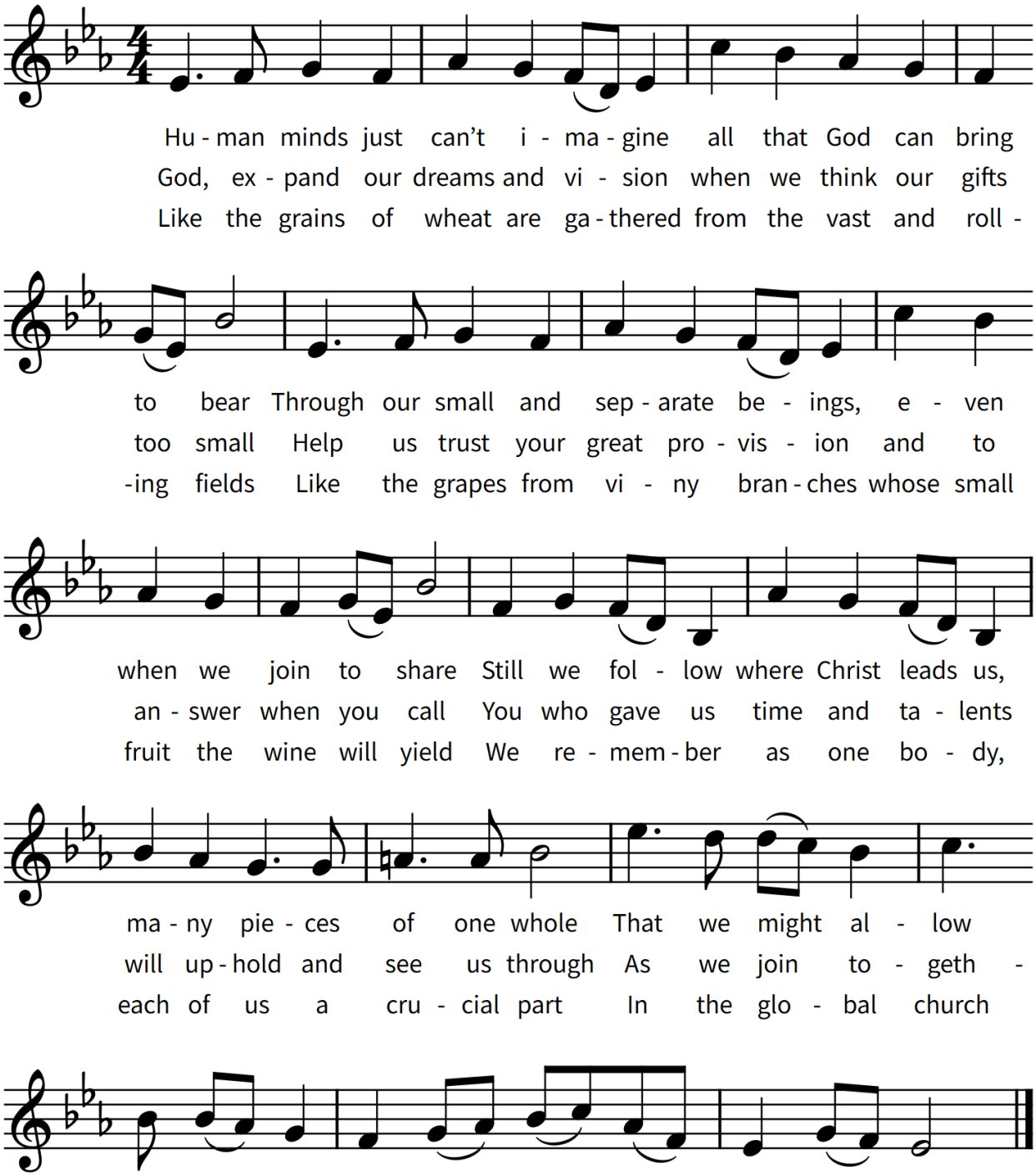
Words: Anna Strickland (2025) Music: Joseph Haydn (1797)

