



Summer Worship Service The Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

July 12, 2026

The Service for the Lord's Day

WE GATHER

PRELUDE God is Here

Israel Houghton

Contemporary Ensemble

WELCOME AND COMMUNITY LIFE

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Jesus says I am the bread of life

Come let us feast together

Jesus says whoever believes in me will never hunger nor thirst

Come let us gather and welcome one another to the meal

God is the reason we are here, let us gather in the name of God

Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

*GATHERING HYMN

#470

O Day of Radiant Gladness

ES FLOG EIN KLEINS

WE CONFESS

*EMBODIED CONFESSION

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (from *Glory to God* – see addendum)

Let Us Build a House – Verse 3 only

TWO OAKS

WE LISTEN

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Judy Smullens

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

*Please stand as you are able.

SCRIPTURE

Bob Hunsicker and Anna Hunsicker

John 6:30-35

Acts 2:42-47

Leader: The word of the Lord;

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Rev. Lindsey Altvater Clifton

“The Art of Gathering: Soul Food”

WE RESPOND

MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION

As you reflect on past experiences of authenticity and connection, what gatherings or groups come to mind? What about them helped facilitate your experience: the space, the people, the type of gathering, the activities, etc.? What made it memorable and meaningful?

*SERMON HYMN

Tune: #356

Look Who Gathers at Christ's Table! Sung to the tune NETTLETON (#356)

1 Look who gathers at Christ's table!
Hear the stories that they bring.
Some are weeping; some are laughing;
some have songs they want to sing.
Others ask why they're invited,
burdened by the wrong they've done.
Christ insists they all are welcome.
There is room for everyone.

2 Clouds of light surround the table;
ancient followers appear,
saints confessing how they wrestled
with their guilt, their doubt and fear.
Peter tells of his denying
Christ was ever in his sight;
Paul relates his fruitless efforts
to obliterate the light.

3 Their sad stories are repeated
in a thousand different ways,
but they share one thing in common:
they all end in thanks and praise
for the host who has invited
north and south and east and west
to converge around this table,
where all life is fed and blest.

4 Bring your joy and bring your sadness,
and prepare to be surprised
by the host whose hands are wounded,
who will open wide your eyes
when he blesses bread and breaks it—
truth and manna from above!—
and then passes wine that wakens
in your heart the taste of love.

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Diane Elliott and Larry Elliot

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Adapted from the *Confession of 1967*. 9.26)

New life in Christ takes shape in a community in which people know that God loves and accepts them in spite of what they are. They therefore accept themselves and love others, knowing that no one has any ground on which to stand, except God's grace.

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 In Christ Alone

Keith Getty

Contemporary Ensemble

*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

What is This Place (from *Glory to God* - see addendum)

KOMT NU MET

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Rondo-Fanfare

Jean-Joseph Mouret/ arr. Thomas Murray

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!

Let Us Build a House

VERSE 3 ONLY

All Are Welcome

Capo 3: (A7) (D) (A) (D) (G) (A) (Bm)
C7 F C F B^b C Dm



1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can
2 Let us build a house where proph - ets speak, and words are
3 Let us build a house where love is found in wa - ter,
4 Let us build a house where hands will reach be - yond the
5 Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and

(D) (A) (D) (Bm7) (Em) (A)
F C F Dm7 Gm C



safe - ly live, a place where saints and chil - dren tell
strong and true, where all God's chil - dren dare to seek
wine, and wheat; a ban - quet hall on ho - ly ground
wood and stone to heal and strength-en, serve and teach,
vi - sions heard and loved and trea-sured, taught and claimed

(Em) (A7) (G) (D) (F#m) (Bm)
Gm C7 B^b F Am Dm



how hearts learn to for - give. Built of hopes and dreams and
to dream God's reign a - new. Here the cross shall stand as
where peace and jus - tice meet. Here the love of God, through
and live the Word they've known. Here the out - cast and the
as words with - in the Word. Built of tears and cries and

(Em) (A) (D) (G)
Gm C F B^b



vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the
wit - ness and as sym - bol of God's grace; here as
Je - sus, is re - vealed in time and space; as we
strang - er bear the im - age of God's face; let us
laugh - ter, prayers of faith and songs of grace; let this

Refrain

(D) (G) (F#7) (Bm) (Em) (Bm)
F B^b A7 Dm Gm Dm



love of Christ shall end di - vi - sions:
one we claim the faith of Je - sus:
share in Christ the feast that frees us: all are wel - come;
bring an end to fear and dan - ger:
house pro-claim from floor to raf - ter:

(F#m) (Em) (D) (Em) (A7) (D) (G) (D) (A7)
Am Gm F Gm C7 F B^b F C7

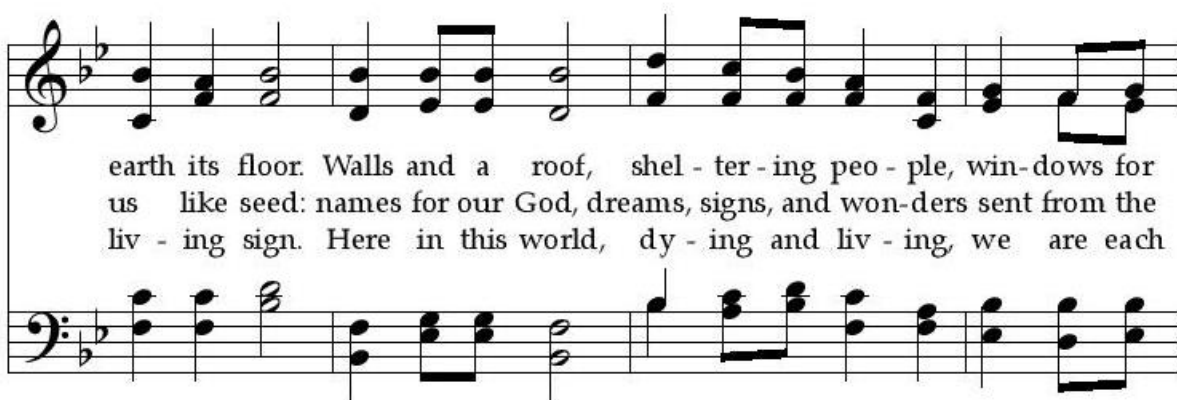


all are wel - come; all are wel - come in this place.

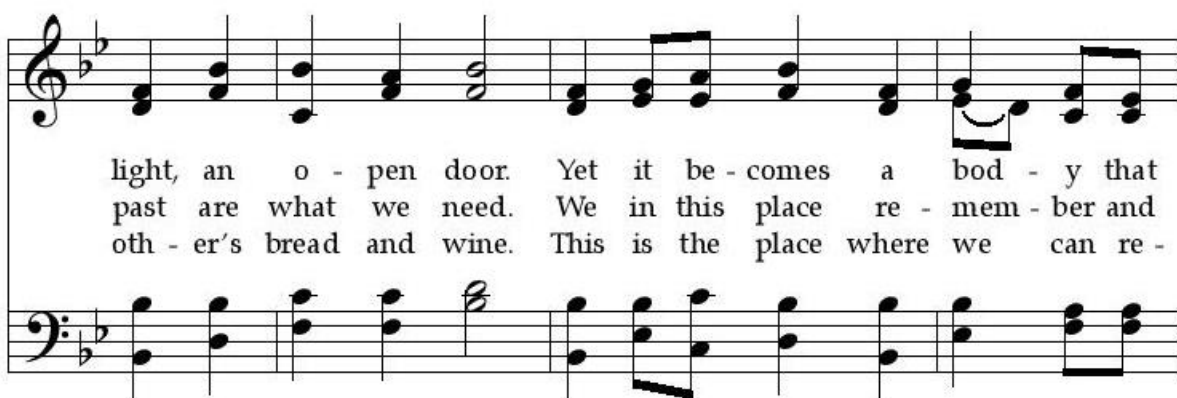
What Is This Place



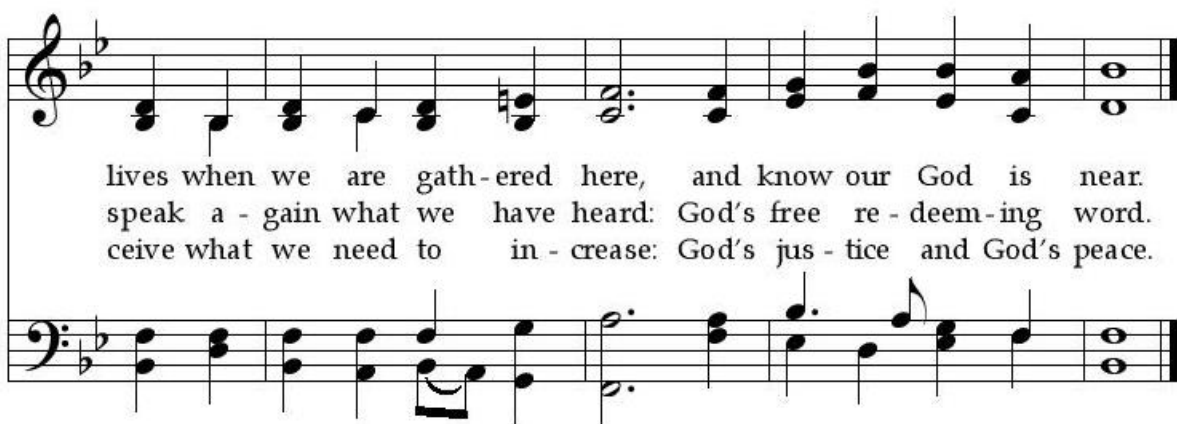
1 What is this place, where we are meet-ing? On - ly a house, the
 2 Words from a - far, stars that are fall - ing. Sparks that are sown in
 3 And we ac - cept bread at his ta - ble, bro - ken and shared, a



earth its floor. Walls and a roof, shel - ter - ing peo - ple, win - dows for
 us like seed: names for our God, dreams, signs, and won - ders sent from the
 liv - ing sign. Here in this world, dy - ing and liv - ing, we are each



light, an o - pen door. Yet it be - comes a bod - y that
 past are what we need. We in this place re - mem - ber and
 oth - er's bread and wine. This is the place where we can re -



lives when we are gath - ered here, and know our God is near.
 speak a - gain what we have heard: God's free re - deem - ing word.
 ceive what we need to in - crease: God's jus - tice and God's peace.

COMMUNITY LIFE – ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR JULY 12, 2026

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

For today: After our worship service, you have two opportunities to connect. We have tables set up in the Narthex for anyone who would like to **discuss the morning’s sermon** and service. You’re also invited to our **Lemonade on the Lawn** social time: we’ll meet on the West Lawn (otherwise in the North Link). Thank you to the Hunsicker family for hosting. If you’d like to host, you can sign up online (bit.ly/42TDejr) or on the paper form at the Narthex info table.

Here are your opportunities to participate in worship: you can **lead our children's sermons**, or serve as **lector** to share the scripture readings. The children’s sermon sign up is at volunteersignup.org/hj4yy and the lector sign up is at bit.ly/3PQRBlq. There are also paper sign-ups for each in the Narthex.

New! **“Sharing our Bounty”** – bring your extra harvest to share at a table at Lemonade on the Lawn. Available for others to take, no charge! Anything left over will be donated to New Bethany, along with other produce harvested from the COMMUNITY Garden located on our campus.

This month’s food/personal care items collection is for the four-county initiative for the month of July, **Summer Harvest Food Drive**. For more info: summerharvestfooddrive.com.

LEADING WORSHIP TODAY

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 our answering service at 610-778-7003.

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? Please call our answering service at 610-778-7003.

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER – STAY CONNECTED!

We send an email newsletter each Friday morning; it will be emailed to those who request it: contact us at info@fpc-bethlehem.org or 610-867-5865. You can also request a printed copy be mailed to you.

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.