FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH OF BETHLEHEM

Summer Worship Service
The Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

August 16, 2026

WE GATHER

PRELUDE All the Poor and Powerless — Leslie Jordan
Contemporary Ensemble

WELCOME AND COMMUNITY LIFE

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Through we live in a world that entices us with influence, power, and accolades,
we choose to press on with humility instead.
Though we live in a world of instant gratification and feel frustrated at limited progress,
we choose to press on, leaning on Christ as the source of our perseverance and hope.
Beloved, God calls us remember that we are both holy and ordinary people, set apart for Christ's work in the world.
So we choose to press on, embodying mercy and love on earth as it is in heaven.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

*GATHERING HYMN

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light (from *Glory to God* – see attachment) — HOUSTON

WE CONFESS

*EMBODIED CONFESSION

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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

Let Us Build a House – Verse 1 only — TWO OAKS

WE LISTEN

CHILDREN'S SERMON — Kate Arrington

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

*Please stand as you are able.

SCRIPTURE James Stahl

Philippians 3:4-14 (*The Message* paraphrase)

Leader: The word of the Lord;

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON Rev. Lindsey Altvater Clifton

"Pressing On: Right-Sized Living"

WE RESPOND

MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION

(Breathe in) **Help me press on,** *(breathe out)* **because I belong to Christ.**

*SERMON HYMN

Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us With Your Love CHEREPONI

*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 THE 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 He's Always Been Faithful Sarah Groves

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
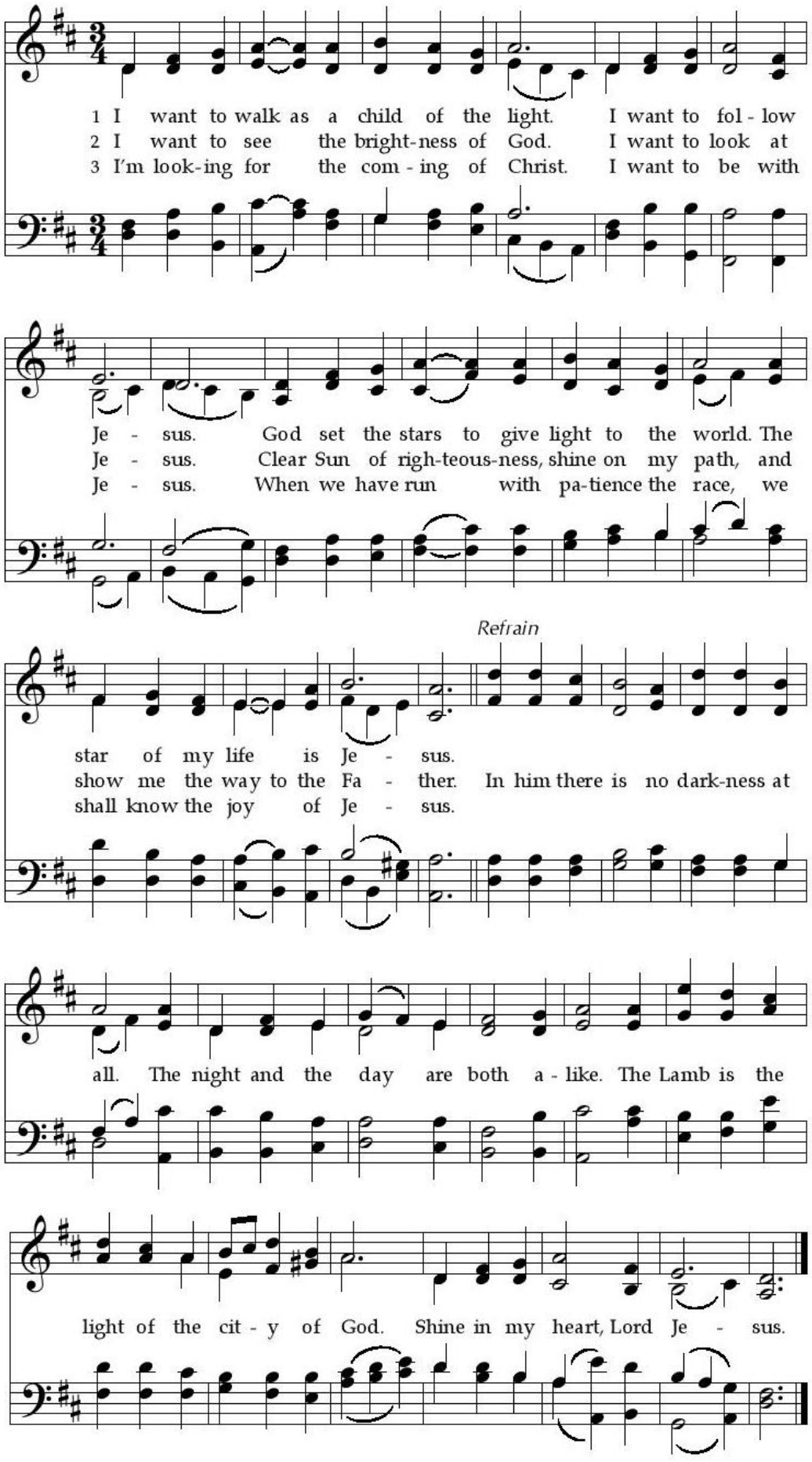
In Christ There is No East or West (from *Glory to God;* see addendum) MCKEE

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Fanfare Kenneth Leighton

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!

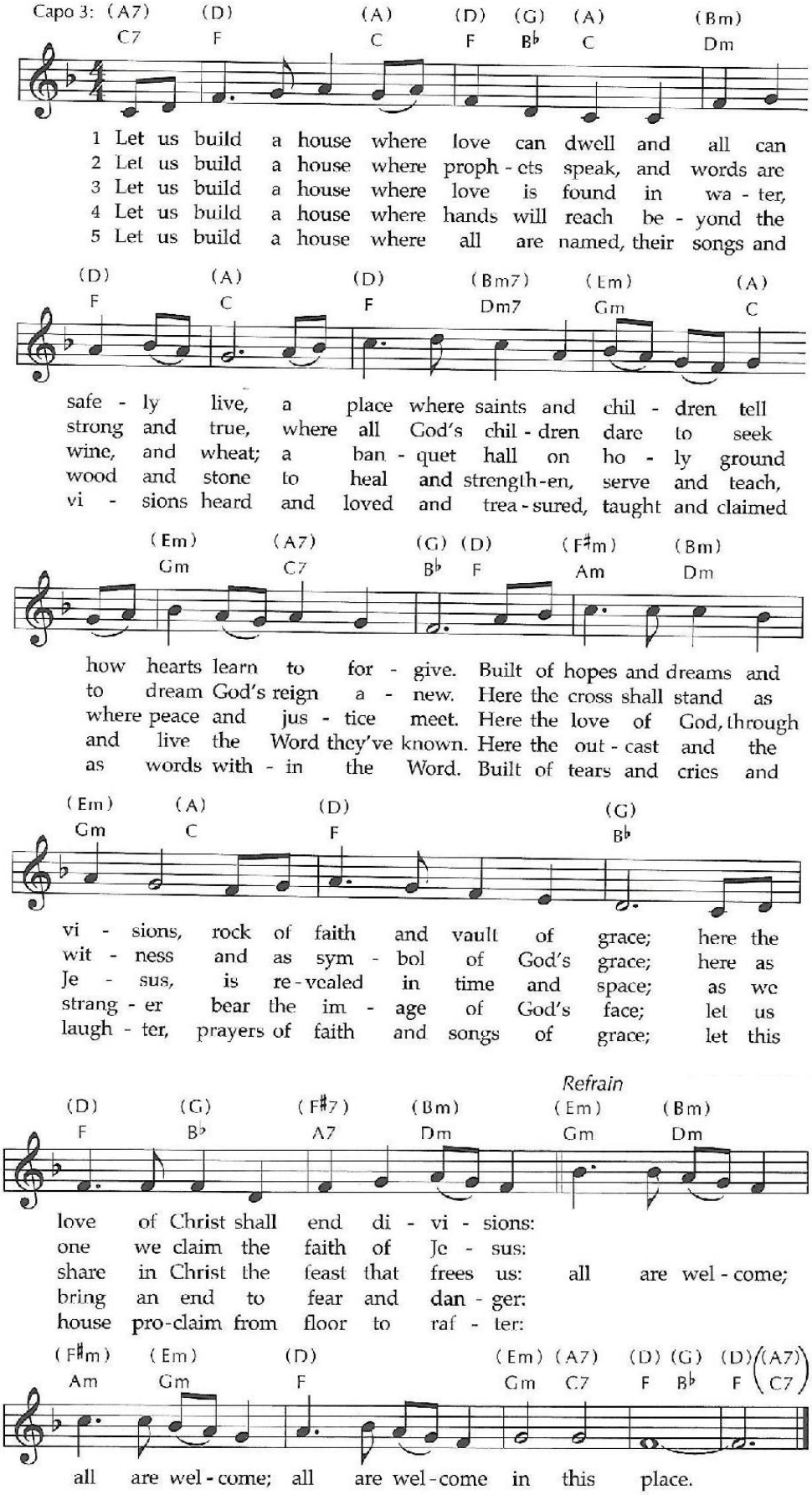
377 I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light



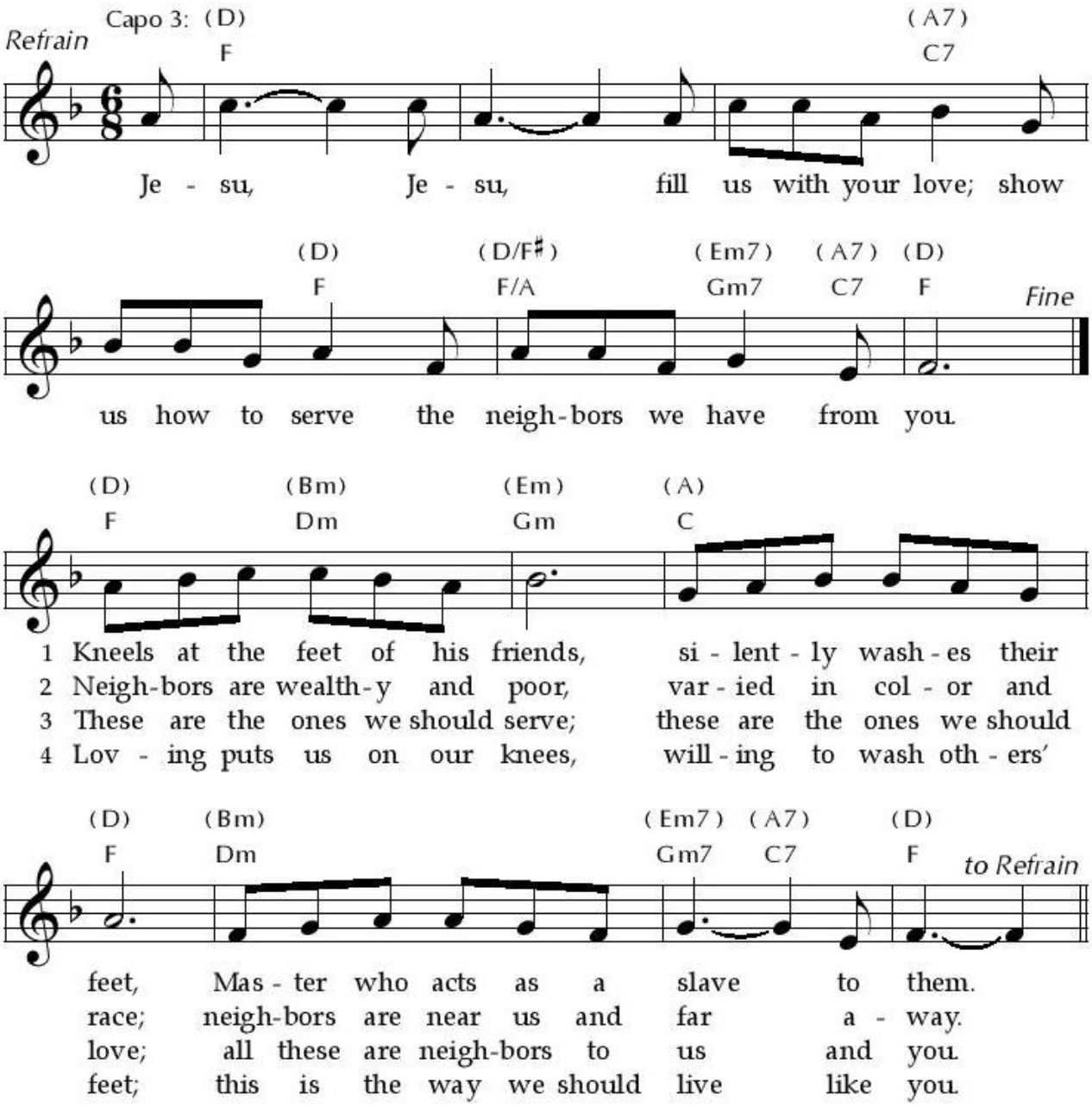
VERSE 1 ONLY

301 Let Us Build a House
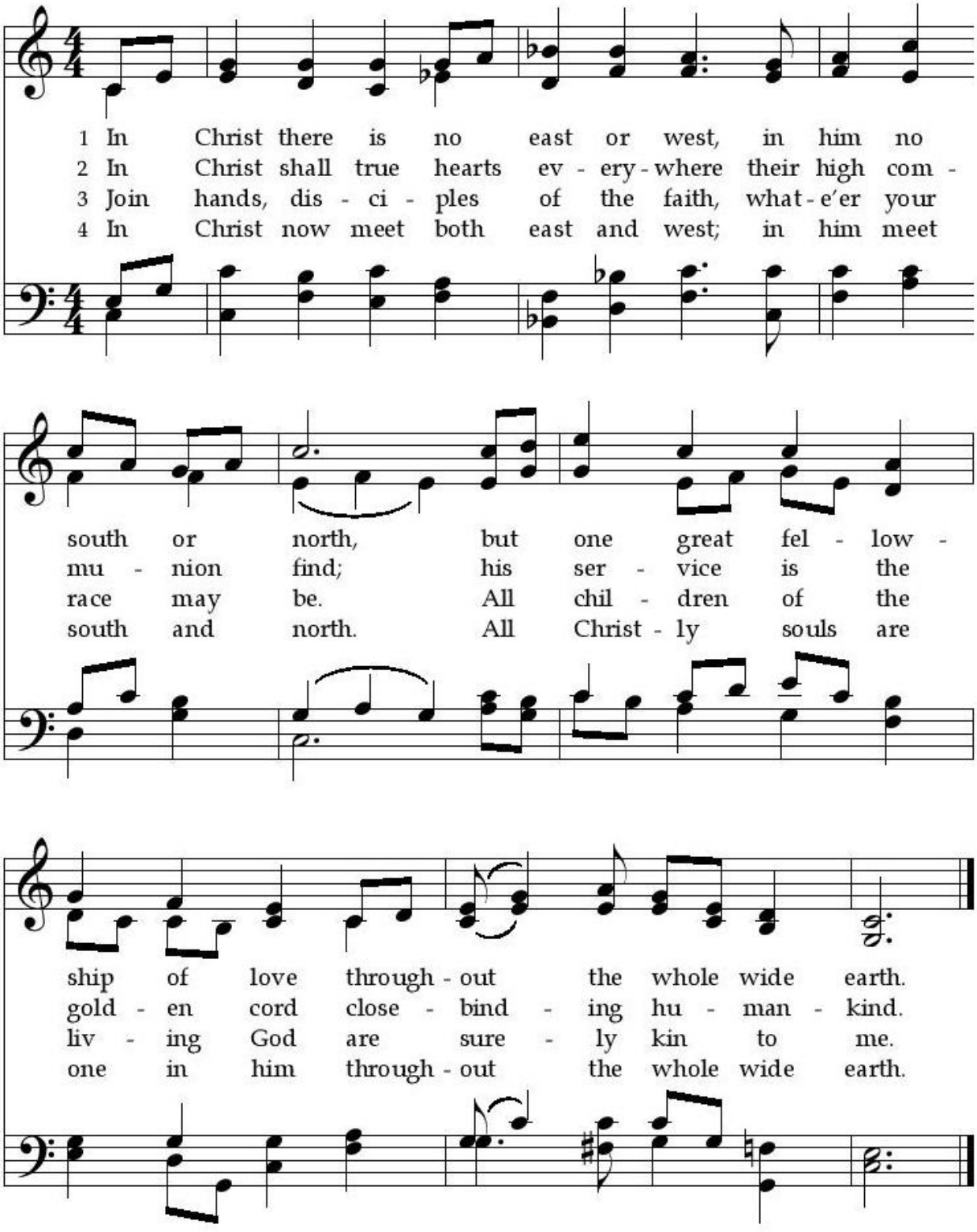
All Are Welcome



203 Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love



317 In Christ There Is No East or West



COMMUNITY LIFE – ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR AUG. 16, 2026

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

For today: After the worship service we will gather for a brief **Congregational Meeting** to elect the members of the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC). Following that meeting 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 Deacons 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 (we also appreciate donations of treats for future Sundays).

We are looking for volunteers to help staff our info booth at the **Lehigh Valley Pride Event** on Sunday, Aug. 30. There is a paper sign-up in the Narthex or visit https://volunteersignup.org/JFLL9.

For your calendar: **"Sitting with the Psalms"** is offered on the five Sundays in August; everyone is welcome to join the conversation from 9:00 – 9:45 a.m. in the Church Library.

For the month of August we are collecting **donations for the Animal Food Bank of the Lehigh Valley**: they have asked specifically for **dry** dog and cat food. Thanks for considering how you can help!

LEADING WORSHIP TODAY

Rev. Lindsey Altvater Clifton, Associate Pastor for Justice and Community Impact; lclifton@fpc-bethlehem.org
Rev. Karen Kinney, Transitional Pastor; kkinney@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.