



# First Presbyterian Church of Albany

BRINGING THE LIGHT OF FAITH TO ALL

**Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost • September 15, 2024 • 10:30am Worship**



# Welcome!

Whether you are worshipping with us for the first time or have grown up here at FPC,  
we are glad you are worshipping here this morning!

## The Gathering

*\*indicates when to rise in body or spirit*

### Prelude

*Tocatta and Adagio in C, BWV 564*

J.S. Bach

### Welcome & Announcements

### Minute for Mission

Renee Merges

### Ringing of the Bell

### Choral Introit

*Wisdom's Treasure*

Michael Lister

First Presbyterian Chancel Choir

Wisdom's highest, noblest treasure, is revealed O Christ, in you.  
May I find in you my pleasure; make my will and actions true,  
with humility and simplicity reigning,  
in paths of true wisdom my steps ever training.  
If I learn from Jesus this knowledge divine,  
the blessing of heavenly wisdom is mine.

### \*Call to Worship

One: We live in an age of information.

**All: Never has so much knowledge been so readily available as it is today.**

One: The internet is a place where we can have most any question answered and  
explore any corner of the world.

**All: There is a lot of information but not nearly enough wisdom.**

One: Being educated and learning how to be a responsible citizen is important.  
Doing degree work can be very rewarding and can open up many doors in  
life.

**All: Yet wisdom is indispensable.**

One: Knowing right from wrong, sensing what Jesus would have us do in any particular situation can bring deep peace and engender hope.

**All: Respect for God is the beginning of wisdom.**

One: Therefore, let us worship the living God.

**\*Hymn No. 24**

*God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens*

HOLY MANNA

**\*Prayer of Confession**

**Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done your will, we have broken your law, we have rebelled against your love. We have not loved our neighbors, and we have refused to hear the cry of the needy. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience; through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

*Silent prayers of personal confession may be offered.*

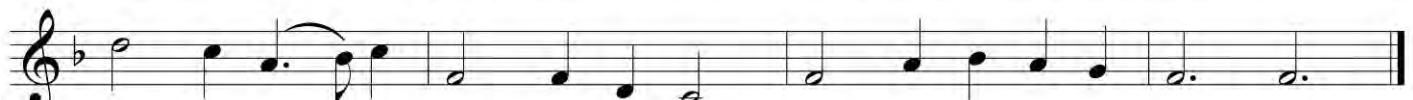
**\*Kyrie Eleison 551**

*Lord, Have Mercy*

LAND OF REST



Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.



Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

**\*Declaration of Forgiveness**

**\*The Welcome and Peace**

One: The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

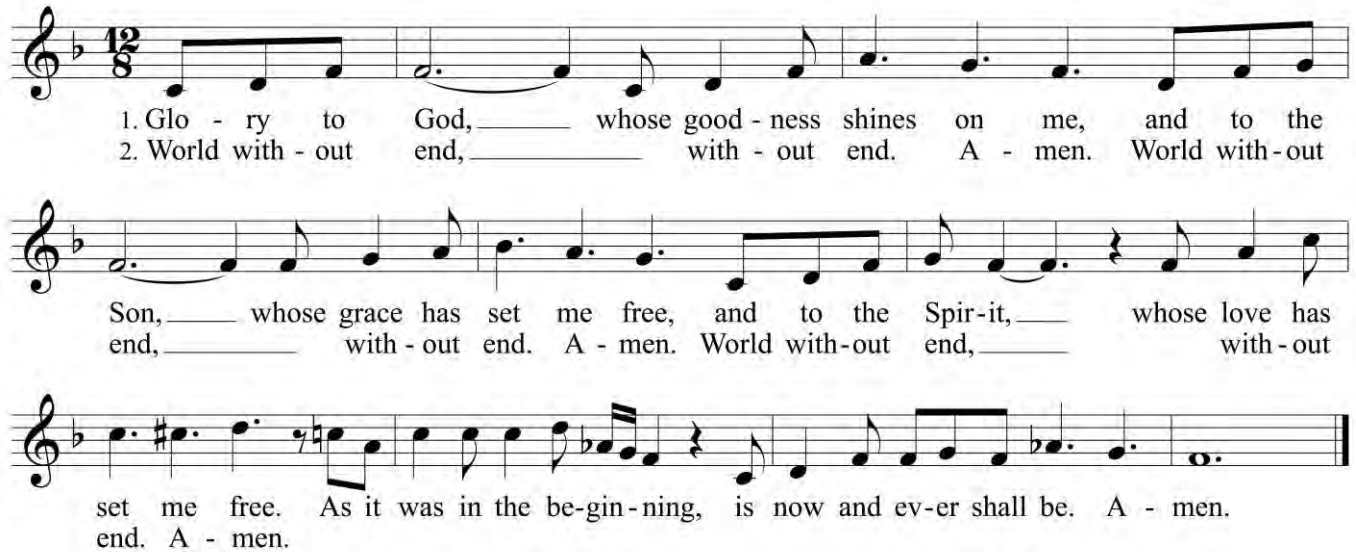
**All: And also with you.**

*The congregation greets one another with words and signs of peace.*

**\*Gloria Patri No. 582**

*Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me*

GLORY TO GOD(Vasile)



1. Glo - ry to God, \_\_\_\_\_ whose good - ness shines on me, and to the  
2. World with - out end, \_\_\_\_\_ with - out end. A - men. World with-out

Son, \_\_\_\_\_ whose grace has set me free, and to the Spir-it, \_\_\_\_\_ whose love has  
end, \_\_\_\_\_ with - out end. A - men. World with-out end, \_\_\_\_\_ with - out

set me free. As it was in the be-gin-ning, is now and ev-er shall be. A - men.  
end. A - men.

## The Word

### Gospel Lesson

Mark 8:27-38 (N.T., pp.43-44)

FPC Youth

One: The gospel of the Lord.

**All: Praise be to you, O Christ.**

### Psalm 19

Joshua Gurwitz, *tenor*

*(Cantor sings the refrain once then followed by the congregation)*



Heav - en and earth tell your glo - ry, al - might - y God.

The heavens proclaim your glory, O God, and the firmament shows forth the work of your hands. Day unto day takes up the story and night unto night makes known the message. No speech, no word, no voice is heard yet their span extends through all the earth, their words to the utmost bounds of the world. **(R)**

There you have placed a tent for the sun; it comes forth like a bridegroom coming from his tent, rejoices like a champion to run its course. At the end of the sky is the rising of the sun; to the furthest end of the sky is its course. There is nothing concealed from its burning heat. **(R)**

**Anthem***The Call of Wisdom*

Will Todd

## First Presbyterian Chancel Choir

Lord of wisdom, lord of truth, lord of justice, lord of mercy.  
Walk beside us down the years, 'till we see you in your glory.  
Striving to attain the heights. Turning in a new direction.  
Entering a lonely place. Welcoming a friend or stranger.  
I am here, I am with you. I have called, do you hear me?  
I am here, I am here. I am with you.

Silver is of passing worth, gold is not of constant value.  
Jewels sparkle for a while. What you long for is not lasting.  
I am here, I am with you. I have called, do you hear me?  
I am here, I am here. I am with you.

Rulers govern under me. With my insight and my wisdom.  
Those who know me know my love. Those who seek me find their answer.  
I am here, I am with you. I have called, do you hear me?  
I am here, I am here. I am with you.

God, the father and the son. Holy Spirit, coeternal.  
Glory, glory, be ascribed to you.  
Now and to the end, to the end of ages.  
I am here, I am with you. I have called, do you hear me?  
I am here, I am here. I am with you.

**Old Testament Lesson** Proverbs 1:20–33 (O.T., pp. 584–585)

One: The word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.****Sermon***A Good Mind*

Glenn D. Leupold

**Our Response****\*Hymn No. 26***Earth and All Stars!*

EARTH AND ALL STARS

**The Blessing of the Backpacks**

## Prayers of the People

Molly Dowell

There is a “Prayers of the People” book on the table in the back of the sanctuary. We encourage the congregation to write their concerns and thanksgivings in the book before the service so they can be included in the Prayers of the People. Several petitions are offered, each concluding with: O God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

## Offering of Ourselves and Our Gifts

Ushers will pass the offering plates to each pew. There are also offering receptacles located in the back of the sanctuary. You may place your offering in one on the way into worship or as you leave. You may also donate online at <https://firstpresalbany.org/give/> or scan the QR code to the right.



## Offertory

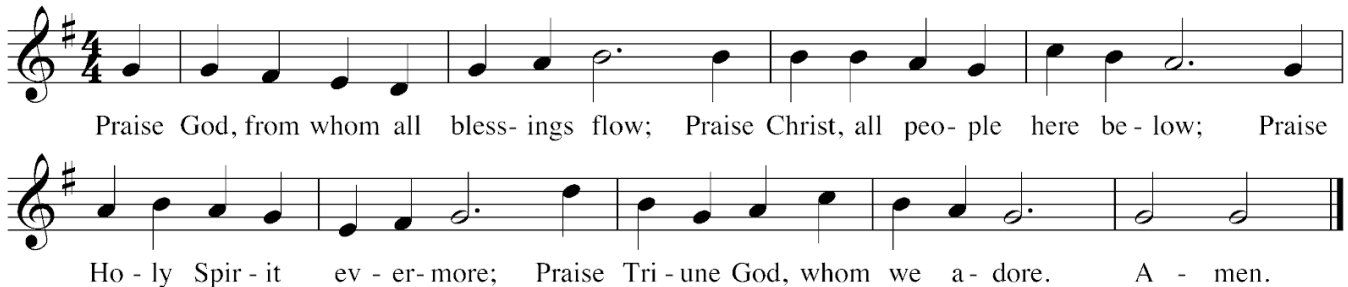
God Be In My Head

John Rutter

First Presbyterian Chancel Choir

God be in my head, and in my understanding;  
God be in mine eyes, and in my looking;  
God be in my mouth, and in my speaking;  
God be in mine heart, and in my thinking;  
God be at mine end, and at my departing.

## \*Doxology (sung in unison)



Praise God, from whom all bless- ings flow; Praise Christ, all peo- ple here be - low; Praise  
Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more; Praise Tri - une God, whom we a - dore. A - men.

## \*Prayer of Dedication

# The Eucharist (Thanksgiving)

## Invitation to the Lord's Supper

*All those, including children, who seek the way of Christ and desire fellowship in the church are invited to the Lord's Table to share in our common meal of Thanksgiving.*

## Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

One: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

One: Lift up your hearts.

**All: We lift them up to the Lord.**

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*(prayer continues)*

One: ...Hear us now as together we pray the prayer Jesus taught us to pray, saying:

**All: 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.**

## Breaking of the Bread and Communion of the People

*The congregation is served at the front of the sanctuary, coming forward by the center aisle and returning by the side aisles. Communion is by intinction – take a piece of bread from the loaf or a piece of pita from the plate, dip it into the cup of juice, and eat. When served, you may respond by saying “Amen,” “Thanks be to God,” or another response. You may choose a sealed prepackaged communion element from one of the baskets – the ones with “GF” are gluten-free. If you prefer to receive communion in the pew, you may remain in your seat and signal an usher. Servers will bring you the elements.*

## Communion Music

*Then Shall the Righteous Shine Forth*

*Mendelssohn's Elijah*

*Joshua Gurwitz, tenor*

Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in their heavenly Father's realm.  
Joy on their head shall be for everlasting,  
and all sorrow and mourning shall flee away forever.

## Prayer after Communion

**All: God our Savior, we give you thanks that you have prepared this feast for us— the rich feast of our redemption. By the nourishment of this holy meal, make us more ready for the day when you will wipe away all tears and swallow up death forever; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

## The Sending

**\*Hymn No. 749**

*Come! Live in the Light!*

WE ARE CALLED

### \*Charge and Blessing

**\*Response by the People (in unison) Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Amen.**

**\*Responsive Hymn 546v1**

*Lord, Dismiss Us With Your Blessing*

SICILIAN MARINERS



Lord, dis - miss us — with your bless - ing; fill our hearts with joy and peace;



let us each, your love pos - sess - ing, tri - umph in re - deem - ing grace.



O — re - fresh us, O — re - fresh us, travel - ing through this wil - der - ness.

## Postlude

*Trumpet Minuet*

Alfred Hollins

*You may be seated if you wish to listen to the postlude.*

*Please come to Assembly Hall for Fellowship Time.*

*For your convenience and as an aid to your worship experience, large print hymnals and Bibles are available on the table at the back of the sanctuary.*

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## **All are Welcome in this Place!**

New faces and voices are always welcome and add to the spirit of our worship, education, mission and fellowship. Let us know you worshipped with us by either filling in the yellow card in the pew in front of you or by scanning the QR code. Pastors Miriam & Glenn use email addresses to share congregational email and important announcements about the life of the church.



### **First Presbyterian Church**

is a community for all people where apprentices of Jesus seek to do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with God.

We are called by God to envision and work toward eradicating systemic poverty, eliminating structural racism and sharing the experience of the good news of God's love, peace and joy.

**We welcome children to our worship services.** Nursery care for children ages birth through kindergarten is provided on the second floor of the Christian Education Building. Nursery care is available from 8:45am to 12:15pm and is staffed by experienced childcare providers Morgan Rosekrans and Mary Margaret Cabuhat.

**Parking is available on Sunday mornings** in Washington Park. There is also a parking lot on Washington Avenue just west of Lark Street available during church services on Sunday mornings. The church parking lot on Sunday mornings is reserved for visitors and for those who, for physical reasons, need close access to the church. Please note the spaces reserved for those with disabilities, and please do not block other cars.

**We continue to livestream our Sunday worship services on Facebook.**

### **Christian Education on Sunday mornings**

9:15-10:15 Education Classes in the Education Building

*Godly Play* in the Preschool Class on 2<sup>nd</sup> floor (age 3 thru kindergarten)

*Godly Play* in The Upper Rooms on 3<sup>rd</sup> floor (Grades 1-5)

Youth Education in the Youth Room on 2<sup>nd</sup> floor (Grades 6-12)

Adult Education Class in the Rose Room on 1<sup>st</sup> floor and MS Teams

## Announcements

This Sunday in the **Adult Education Class** Glenn discussed the recent history of Israel and Palestine. Next Sunday, **September 22, at 9:15**, Rob Trawick, the General Presbyter of Albany Presbytery, will share his experience in Israel this past spring.

You are invited to the **Walls Temple/First Presbyterian Annual Church Picnic!** On Saturday, **September 28**, at Walls Temple, located at 27 Delaware Street in the South End, our two congregations will hold their second annual picnic from 12:00 pm – 4:00 pm. If you can, please bring a dish to share, but if you can't, don't let that stop you from coming along. There is a sign-up sheet in Assembly Hall to let us know what you might be bringing!

Each month the **FOCUS Food Pantry** requests items from its member churches. FPC's September donation is toothpaste. All items must be new and unopened. The **FOCUS Food Pantry** is also requesting one-pound bags of rice, as they are unable to get these from suppliers. Please leave donations in the box in Assembly Hall. Questions? Call Susan Sneeringer at 518-496-4793.

**VOTE!** The Anti Racism Committee and Walls Temple AME Zion Church are sponsoring a get-Out-the-Vote Postcard Writing Party on **Tuesday, Oct. 8<sup>th</sup>** at First Presbyterian Church. This begins at 6:00 pm with a light supper. Come and work as long as you would like!

The paraments (the cloth on the pulpit, lectern, and communion table) and the pastors' stoles (the cloth around their necks) are green, the liturgical color for **Ordinary Time** (Monday after Pentecost through Saturday before the First Sunday of Advent). Green is a sign of life in nature and as such represents growth, life and hope.

The **Festival Celebration Choir**, an ecumenical choral group of mixed voices, is seeking new members. Rehearsals begin Monday, Sept 9, 7:00 – 9:00pm at the First Pres and continue through Sunday, December 15, when the choir will present a concert, *A Season for Song*, jointly with Capital Community Voices, both directed by Julie Panke. For further info: Cenzi Brynolfson at [cenzi@nycap.rr.com](mailto:cenzi@nycap.rr.com); for registration: Kaila Harrienger at [kailaharrienger@gmail.com](mailto:kailaharrienger@gmail.com).

## September 2024 Fall Music Happenings

This fall is a great time to get involved in the music and art at First Presbyterian Church!

Beginning **Sunday, September 15, the Chancel Choir** will return to the worship service. Thursday night rehearsals begin at 7 pm, and all are welcome to join our choral community. If you are interested or would like to sit in on a rehearsal, feel free to stop by. **Chancel Bell Choir** will also resume rehearsals on Sundays after church services – please contact director Trevor Kahlbaugh ([trevoradam@gmail.com](mailto:trevoradam@gmail.com)) for details on this exciting ministry.

If you are a **singer or instrumentalist** who would like to share your musical gift with the congregation on a more occasional basis, we have been expanding these opportunities as well. We have opportunities for instrumentalists to play as a solo or small ensemble throughout the year, so if you play an instrument and would like to contribute special music in one of our services, we would love to have you share your talent this season as well.

One particular opportunity for you to participate in is our **December 6 First Friday Concert**, where we will perform the marvelous *Magnificat* by J.S. Bach. As we have done with these types of concert, we invite members of our community who would like to sing on this concert to join us by attending three Sunday rehearsals that take place immediately after Sunday service; these rehearsals are on September 22, October 20, and November 24. There will be a rehearsal on December 5 at 7 pm, where we will rehearse the music with our chamber ensemble (email me for information regarding our chamber instrumental ensembles).

**For inquiries** about any of these opportunities, please see me after service or contact me at [mlister@firstpresalbany.org](mailto:mlister@firstpresalbany.org). We would love to have you join us as part of the church music ministry!

Michael Lister  
Director of Music

# First Pres Community Partners Lunch & Learn Lecture Series

The Outreach & Mission Committee invites you to four special luncheon lectures in Fall 2024 and Spring 2025. Please sign up in Assembly Hall and indicate if you can bring a side dish or dessert (not required, but appreciated!) The O&M Committee will provide the main course, bread, and beverages.



Sunday, October 6, 2024  
*Understanding the Affordable Housing Crisis  
in the Capital Region*  
Speaker: Ms. Susan Cotner  
Executive Director  
Albany Community Land Trust

Sunday, November 17, 2024

*Mental Illness &  
Individuals Experiencing Homelessness:  
Best Practices for Community Response*  
Speaker: Ms. Janine Robitaille  
Chief Executive Officer  
Interfaith Partnership for the Homeless



Sunday, March 30, 2025  
*How Can Communities of Faith  
Support New Immigrants in Our Region?*  
Speaker: Mr. Daniel Butterworth  
Executive Director  
Refugee & Immigrant Support Services of Emmaus (RISSE)

Sunday, April 27, 2025

*Responding to Gun Violence in Our Community:  
Who, Where, & How?*  
Speaker: Mr. Andre Morris  
Division Leader of Alternatives to Incarceration  
Trinity Alliance of the Capital Region





## **New Books for Adults to Check Out!**

The Christian Education committee has purchased new books for adults to check out, on topics ranging from the Bible, faith and spiritual practices to poverty, racism and politics.

You'll find these and many other titles at our Library-on-a-Cart, located near the stage in Assembly Hall:

- *The Screwtape Letters*, C.S. Lewis
- *The Return of the Prodigal Son*, Henri Nouwen
- *Surprised by Hope*, N.T. Wright
- *Some Thoughts on Faith*, Ann Lamott
- *Short Stories by Jesus*, Amy-Jill Levine
- *Learning to Walk in the Dark*, Barbara Brown Taylor
- *Inspired: Slaying Giants, Walking on Water, and Loving the Bible Again*, Rachel Held Evans
- *Liturgy of the Ordinary: Sacred Practices in Everyday Life*, Tish Harrison Warren
- *Dancing in the Darkness: Spiritual Lessons for Thriving in Turbulent Times*, Rev. Otis Moss, III
- *Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City*, Mathew Desmond
- *Poverty, by America*, Mathew Desmond
- *White Poverty: How Exposing Myths About Race and Class Can Reconstruct American Democracy*, Rev. William Barber, II
- *The Sum of Us: What Racism Costs Everyone and How We Can Prosper Together*, Heather McGee
- *My Grandmother's Hands: Racialized Trauma and the Pathway to Mending Our Hearts and Bodies*, Resma Menakem
- *The False White Gospel: Rejecting Christian Nationalism, Reclaiming True Faith, and Refounding Democracy*, Jim Wallis
- *The Kingdom, the Power and the Glory: American Evangelicals in and Age of Extremism*, Tim Alberta

**September 19**

Come  
and  
walk



Monthly  
every  
3rd Thursday

**THE  
LABYRINTH**  
at First Presbyterian  
Church

11am-2pm  
& 5-7pm

**Inquirer Classes**

Interested in learning about  
becoming a member?  
Attend a class to find out more on  
September 29, October 6 or 13  
9:15-10:15am  
in the church Library.

Questions: contact Pastor Miriam at 518.449.7332  
or [mleupold@firstpresalbany.org](mailto:mleupold@firstpresalbany.org)

## **THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN**

- Today** 11:45am Fellowship Lunch for all
- Monday, 9/16** 7:00pm FCC Rehearsal
- Tuesday, 9/17** 7:00 pm Session Meeting
- Wednesday, 9/18** 10:00 am Women to Women Small Group
- Thursday, 9/19** 7:00 am Men's Bible Study  
11:00 am Labyrinth Monthly Walk  
5:00 pm Labyrinth Monthly Walk  
6:15 pm Octet Rehearsal  
7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal
- Next Sunday, 9/22** 9:15 am Adult Education  
9:15 am Children's Education (1<sup>st</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> grade)  
9:15 am Preschool Education  
9:15 am Youth Education  
9:30 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal  
10:30 am Worship Service in the sanctuary and livestreaming on Facebook  
11:45 am Fellowship Time

## **Serving you on Sunday, September 15**

Sanctuary Ushers/Greeters: FPC Youth, Molly Dowell, Lillie McLaughlin

Online Worship Assistant: Alison Stonbely

Scripture Reader: FPC Youth

Prayer Reader: Molly Dowell

Communion Servers: Betsy Hadden & Amy Robinson

Offering Counters: Amy Robinson & Ron Geuther

Audio Visual Specialist: Bruce Brynolfson

## **Serving you on Sunday, September 22**

Sanctuary Ushers/Greeters: Diane Cornell, Susan Haney, Lee Helsby, Harriet Seeley, Alison Stonbely

Online Worship Assistant: Fadia Ghobrial

Scripture Reader: John Minerbrook

Prayer Reader: Susan Haney

Communion Servers: Lillie McLaughlin & Marian Eaton

Offering Counters: Marc Boucher & Carol Green

Audio Visual Specialist: Kevin Fuscus



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[firstpresalbany.org](http://firstpresalbany.org)

*Glenn D. Leupold, Co-Pastor • Miriam Lawrence Leupold, Co-Pastor • Michael C. Lister, Director of Music  
Trevor Kahlbaugh, Organist • Molly Dowell, Youth Director • Fred Boehrer, FOCUS Executive Director*



Check out our socials!



# 24 God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens

Capo 3: (D) F (Bm) Dm (Em) Gm (Bm) Dm (F#m) Am

1 God, who stretched the span - gled heav - ens in - fi -  
 2 Proud - ly rise our mod - ern cit - ies, state - ly  
 3 We have ven - tured worlds un - dreamed of since the  
 4 As each far ho - ri - zon beck - ons, may it

(Em7) Gm7 (G) Bb (Bm) Dm (A) C (Bm) Dm (A) C

nite in time and place, flung the suns in burn - ing  
 build - ings row on row. Yet their win - dows, blank, un -  
 child - hood of our race; known the ec - sta - sy of  
 chal - lenge us a - new, chil - dren of cre - a - tive

(G) Bb (F#m) Am (G) Bb (A) C (D) F

ra - diance through the si - lent fields of space,  
 feel - ing, stare on can - yoned streets be - low,  
 wing - ing through un - trav - eled realms of space;  
 pur - pose, serv - ing oth - ers, hon - oring you.

(D) F (Bm7) Dm7 (G) Bb (Em7) Gm7 (G) Bb (F#m7) Am7

we, your chil - dren in your like - ness, share in - ven - tive  
 where the lone - ly drift un - no - ticed in the cit - y's  
 probed the se - crets of the at - om, yield - ing un - i -  
 May our dreams prove rich with prom - ise, each en - deav - or

The crux of this text comes in the second stanza: if we dare to claim God-given abilities, we need also to show God-like compassion for the human needs that confront us daily. The earthy shape note tune provides a further reminder that we must not lose our heads in the clouds.

26

Earth and All Stars!

1 Earth and all stars! Loud rush - ing plan - ets!  
 2 Trum - pet and pipes! Loud clash - ing cym - bals! Sing to the  
 3 En - gines and steel! Loud pound - ing ham - mers!  
 4 Knowl - edge and truth! Loud sound - ing wis - dom!

Lord a new song!  
 Hail, wind, and rain! Loud blow - ing  
 Harp, lute, and lyre! Loud hum - ming  
 Lime - stone and beams! Loud build - ing  
 Daugh - ter and son! Loud pray - ing

snow - storm!  
 cel - los! Sing to the Lord a new song! God has done  
 work - ers!  
 mem - bers!

mar - vel - ous things. We too sing prais - es with a new song!

This lively text was written for the 90th anniversary of St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota. Echoing Psalm 98, it is a prime example of a 20th-century hymn style based on phrases rather than complete sentences. The exuberant tune was created expressly for these words.

# 749

# Come! Live in the Light!

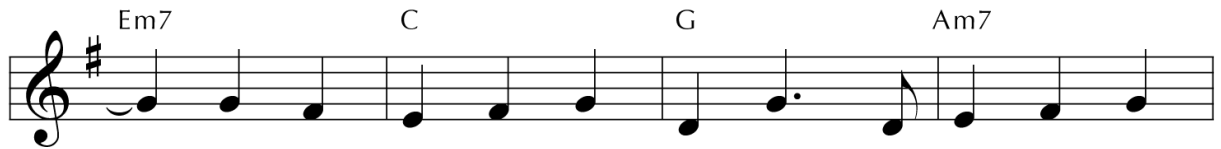
## We Are Called



1 Come! Live in the light! Shine with the  
 2 Come! O - pen your heart! Show your  
 3 Sing! Sing a new song! Sing of that



joy and the love of the Lord! We are called  
 mer - cy to all those in fear! We are called  
 great day when all will be one! God will reign,



to be light for the king - dom, to live in the  
 to be hope for the hope - less so ha - tred and  
 and we'll walk with each oth - er as sis - ters and



free - dom of the cit - y of God.  
 vio - lence will be no more.  
 broth - ers u - nit - ed in love.

*Refrain*



We are called to act with jus - tice; we are called to



love ten - der - ly; we are called to serve one an -



oth - er, to walk hum - bly with God.

The thematic and musical center of this hymn on the vocation of all believers is found in the refrain, which is based on the well-known challenge of Micah 6:8, "What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?"