

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

Reformation and Dedication Sunday

October 25, 2020

A SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

(Click [here](#) to connect to today's live worship.)

GATHERING MUSIC *Adagio in E* Frank Bridge
Gordon Campbell, organ

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Mindy Douglas

MINUTE FOR STEWARDSHIP (video featuring the Day School)

PRELUDE *Song of Hope for Trumpet and Organ* Peter Meechan
Kent Foss, trumpet; Kathy Parkins, organ

CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 90:1-6) Mindy Douglas

Leader: Lord, you have been our dwelling place throughout all generations.

All: **In you, we come home –
to rest, to wrestle, to love, to be loved.
We dwell in you.**

Leader: Before the mountains were born, before you delivered the whole world,
from everlasting past to everlasting future, you are God.

All: **In you, we are home –
we dream, we flourish, we fade, we rejoice.
We dwell in you.**

HYMN No. 687 *Our God, Our Help in Ages Past* St. Anne
(Music can be found on page 10.)

***Our God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home.***

***Beneath the shadow of thy throne thy saints have dwelt secure;
sufficient is thine arm alone, and our defense is sure.***

***Before the hills in order stood, or earth received its frame,
from everlasting thou art God, to endless years the same.***

***A thousand ages in thy sight are like an evening gone,
short as the watch that ends the night before the rising sun.***

***Time, like an ever rolling stream, bears all our years away;
they fly forgotten, as a dream dies at the opening day.***

***Our God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
be thou our guard while life shall last, and our eternal home.***

CONFESSION OF SIN Mitzi Leshner-Thomas
Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession (in unison)

Your holiness, O God, commands that we confess:

**We have neither loved our neighbors as ourselves
nor honored ourselves as your beloved creation.**

**We have judged unjustly, regarded others ungenerously,
profited at the losses of those near and distant,
borne grudges, desired vengeance,
and kept silence in the face of wrongdoing.**

**We long to live in accord with your desire
that your way of compassion, kindness, and honesty
will govern our hearts and minds,
turning us toward lives of peace.**

Forgive us and lead us.

Silent Confession

Declaration of Forgiveness

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Gordon Campbell

Leader: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray.

All: **Guide us, O God, by your Word and Spirit,
that in your light we may see light,
in your truth find wisdom,
and in your will discover your peace,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

EPISTLE LESSON

1 Thessalonians 2:1-8

Gordon Campbell

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 22:34-40

Mindy Douglas

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

"The Challenge of Love"

Mindy Douglas

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*in unison*) (An Hispanic Creed)

Susan Dunlap

**We believe in the Church universal because it is a sign of God's reign,
whose faithfulness is shown in its many hues
where all the colors paint a single landscape,
where all tongues sing the same praise.**

**We believe in the reign of God – the day of the Great Fiesta
when all the colors of creation will form a harmonious rainbow,
when all people will join in joyful banquet,
when all tongues of the universe will sing the same song.**

And because we believe, we commit ourselves:
to believe for those who do not believe,
to love for those who do not love,
to dream for those who do not dream,
until the day when hope becomes a reality.

DEDICATION OF 2021 PLEDGES

Mindy Douglas

INVITATION TO GIVE AND DEDICATION OF THE OFFERING

(The Hunger for Change Offering is received today.)

Mindy Douglas

RESPONSE HYMN NO. 694

Great God of Every Blessing

Aurelia

(Music can be found on page 11.)

*Great God of every blessing, of faithful, loving care,
you are the fount of goodness, the daily bread we share.
How can we hope to thank you? Our praise is but a start:
Sincerely and completely I offer you my heart.*

*Your Word is our salvation, the source of endless grace,
in death and life extending your covenant embrace.
In Christ we are one body; each member has a part:
Sincerely and completely I offer you my heart.*

*Your Spirit is our teacher, the light that guides our search,
transforming broken people into the holy church.
For feeding us with mercy, for wisdom you impart:
Sincerely and completely I offer you my heart.*

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

John Weicher

CELEBRATIONS AND CONCERNS

John Weicher

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

John Weicher

(Prayers of thanksgiving and intercession)

**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.**

HYMN NO. 712

As Those of Old Their Firstfruits Brought

Forest Green

(Music can be found on page 12.)

*As those of old their firstfruits brought of vineyard, flock, and field
to God, the giver of all good, the source of bounteous yield,
so we today our firstfruits bring, the wealth of this good land:
of farm and market, shop and home, of mind and heart and hand.*

*A world in need now summons us to labor, love, and give,
to make our life an offering that all may truly live.
The church of Christ is calling us to make the dream come true:
a world redeemed by Christ-like love, all life in Christ made new.
In gratitude and humble trust we bring our best today,
to serve your cause and share your love with all along life's way.
O God who gave yourself to us in Jesus Christ your Son,
help us to give ourselves each day until life's work is done.*

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Mindy Douglas

POSTLUDE

Now Thank We All Our God

Robert Hobby

First Presbyterian Church welcomes all who worship with us. We honor and celebrate the human diversity and unity that God gives us in Christ. We welcome individuals of every age, race, nationality, gender, ability, sexual orientation, and economic circumstance to participate fully in the life of the church. On October 18, 100 households tuned in to the 11:00 a.m. live-streamed broadcast of worship.

The **flowers** in the sanctuary are given to the glory of God in honor of **Brent's** birthday from **Lesley, Sydney, and Graham Curtis**.

Notes on today's music:

- Thanks to **Doug Butler** for leading us in the singing of our hymns during worship today.
- Thanks to **Gordon Campbell** for providing the gathering music this week. His music was written by Frank Bridge, a noted English composer and a teacher of Benjamin Britten.
- Thanks to **Kent Foss** for his trumpet offering. This piece was done virtually. **Kathy Parkins** and Kent each recorded parts separately while alone in the sanctuary and Kent stitched it together digitally. The title "Song of Hope" seems particularly appropriate during this unsettling time.
- Today, in addition to our receiving pledges, we also note the Church's observation of the Reformation (October 31, 1517). The second hymn text "Great God of Every Blessing" was written by David Gambrell in 2009 upon the 500th anniversary of John Calvin's birth. Calvin was the French Protestant Reformer who is known for refining the tenets of Luther and the person who was most influential for Presbyterianism. The Postlude, "Now Thank We All Our God" is one of the great Reformation hymns and the tune was used hundreds of times in works for solo instrument, orchestra, choir, and organ. The hymn was written by a Lutheran pastor about 1637 at the height of a plague during which he is said to have performed 40-50 funerals daily.

Portions of **today's worship text** are taken from *Feasting on the Word* (Year A, volume 2).

Music and hymn texts are reprinted from *Glory to God* (PCUSA hymnal) under Onelicense.net: A.713926.

The **Hunger for Change Offering** is received on the fourth Sunday of each month. These funds are sent to the Presbytery of New Hope to combat hunger locally. The Presbytery disperses the funds to hunger relief programs based on a grant application process. Urban Ministries of

Durham, Presbyterian Urban Ministries, and Iglesia Emanuel are frequent recipients. In 2019 FPC's Walk-in Ministry received a grant which was used to purchase blessing bag supplies. Thank you for your offering today.

Many thanks to **Jody Maxwell**, **Pat Dillon**, and **Jay Klinck** for their "behind the scenes" technical assistance with our virtual worship live broadcasts each Sunday morning. We are also grateful to **Jennie Alwood** for the beautiful images she finds for our online worship.

~ Celebrations and Concerns ~

Online Memorial Service: Our former member **Len Pardue**, who died October 1 in Asheville, will be remembered in an online memorial service on Sunday evening, November 1, at 7:30. Anyone wishing to attend is asked to visit this [website](#) and click the Register button for more information.

Condolences: The love and concern of the congregation are extended to the following:

- **Mary Banner** on the death of **Chelsea Milbourne**. Chelsea was the wife of Mary's son **Jeff Milbourne** and the mother of young **Nora**. Jeff asks that those who knew Chelsea to please share any stories they might have of her. Contact the FPC office for information on how to share stories with Jeff.
- **Jim Seitzer** and family on the death of his brother and sister-in-law. Jim's last sibling, **Richard Seitzer** and his wife, **Ann Crooks Seitzer**, died within 10 days of each other in Melbourne Beach, Florida of Covid-19.

Concerns:

Gwendolyn King, sister of Sybil King

Jane Rourk

Carol Wills

All those impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic

Care Communities:

Brookdale Durham: **Julian Boswell**, **Becky Crockett**

Croasdaile Pavilion: **Bob Rankin**

Dubose Center at The Cedars, Chapel Hill: **Arthur Clark**

Durham Regent: **John Kerr**, **Ann Prospero**

Emerald Pond: **Paul Cornsweet**

Hillcrest Convalescent Center: **Margaret Sims**

Rose Vista Village /Kinston Assisted Living, Kinston NC: **Phillip Herndon**

The Forest at Duke: **Fran Bryant**

Family and Friends of the Congregation:

Brendan Bequette, family friend of Margaret & Miguel Rubiera

Peggy Boulden, mother of Dick Boulden

Brandon Burton, client of the Walk-in Ministry

Meg Courtney, daughter of Bob and Mary Clark, active friends of the congregation

Becky Evans, sister of Vernon Neece

Phil Goss, friend of the congregation

Shannon Putman, daughter of Mary Putman

Robert Reaves, husband of Floalice Reaves, an active friend of the congregation



Daylight saving time ends at 2:00 a.m. on Sunday, November 1. Remember to **set your clocks back one hour** before going to bed on Saturday evening, October 31.

Sign up to donate sanctuary flowers in 2021

To reserve a Sunday, click [here](#) or call the church office (919-682-5511). Guidelines for donating flowers for worship can be sent to you. The florist will take care of the delivery!

Robert Daye is Retiring

Our own Robert Daye will be retiring at the end of 2020 with over 43 years of service as sexton of our church. First, will those who wish to, offer a testimonial to your relationship with Robert? Do you have a story to tell? We will write it for you. Feel free to contact or email your story to [Celia Dickerson](#). We need your stories by November 1, 2020. Do you have a picture to share? Please scan and email it to Celia. We want as many visuals as we can collect. Later in the year, we will ask for a shower of cards to Robert, thanking him. The Session has also approved a Love Offering collection for Robert. Please send your donation to Tom Bloom at the church office by December 10th. Make check payable to FPC. Memo: Robert's Retirement. We are looking forward to our congregational thanks to Robert for his many years of service.

From the committee for Robert's retirement,
Celia Dickerson Beth Stringfield
Kate Busa Barbara Buckley



Election Day is November 3.

Meet Our New Associate Pastor

Mitzi Leshner-Thomas

[Here's the link to sign upgenius. Click here...](#)

We have put together several opportunities for people to meet our new associate pastor, Mitzi Leshner-Thomas, either in a small in-person group at the church or in a virtual Zoom meeting. To sign up, click on the link above and find an in-person or virtual time that works for you. These times are for gatherings during the weekday. If all of the available slots fill up, we will offer additional gathering times the week of November 2. Stay tuned!

FALL BOOK STUDY BEGINS!

Attendees, please purchase your own book.

Link:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83267907538?pwd=Y3hYSEtMNlcrTmwxL29UclM4TG9odz09>

[Click here to access the class.](#)

First Presbyterian
Adult Faith
Formation



As the election approaches, how does our faith inform our politics? Joe Harvard & Mac McCorkle will use the work of theologian Reinhold Niebuhr to explore the challenges and nuances of this political moment. Note: this class will occur at 4 pm on Sunday afternoons.

When Faith & Politics Meet: Niebuhr

Sundays, Oct. 11 - Nov. 8, 4 pm - Mac McCorkle & Joe Harvard

Love in the Heart of Durham

ALL ARE WELCOME!

A Sunday Afternoon Conversation on Faith and Politics

This Sunday, October 25, Jimmie Hawkins will lead a discussion on the influence of Howard Thurmond.

Join us via Zoom.

Meeting ID: 884 7958 3043

Passcode: 002609.

Dial by your location:

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago) or

+1 929 205 6099 US (NYC).

Sessions are being recorded. Contact [Mindy Douglas](#) if you would like access to the recorded sessions.

Gratitude Drive-thru

Sunday, November 15th, 2-3:30 p.m.

Please drive through the church parking lot to make your own links in our Gratitude paper chain. Our older elementary children will assemble the chain! All you have to do is drive through our church parking lot and write down your thanksgivings on paper strips.



FUN ACTIVITIES for the Holidays

THANKSGIVING CHAIN: Families with elementary school-aged children, let's make a Thanksgiving chain and display it at FPC! On November 15, you are invited to drive through the church parking lot and make a link in a paper chain about what you are thankful for. The chain will be assembled and hung in the church's courtyard as an expression of our thanks to God for all of God's good gifts. We will meet at 2:00 p.m. (masked and socially distant) at church. We will play a few games and assemble our church family's gratitude paper chain. We especially hope our 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders will be able to come and help assemble the chain.



CHRISTMAS PAGEANT: For this year's pageant, we need volunteers and volunteer families to take on the CHALLENGE of creating and then taking a photo of you/your family in a scene from the Nativity story (the birth of Jesus story) and share the photo via Google photos. EASY, right? You can begin by clicking ["I Want to HELP"](#) and filling out the survey and submitting the form!

Want more information on these activities?

Contact [Lenore Champion](#).

KEEP YOUR DONATIONS COMING!

Durham Congregations in Action (DCIA) has launched a hygiene drive to keep our partner pantries fully stocked with the supplies Durhamites need. They are seeking the following items:

CDC-approved disinfectant wipes or sprays (Lysol, Scrubbing Bubbles, Clorox)		
hand sanitizer	empty spray bottles	paper towels
toilet paper	feminine hygiene products	hand and body soap

Donations can be dropped off at any of these partner congregations:

- **First Presbyterian** - Mondays and Fridays, 9:00am-1:00pm - 305 E. Main St
- **Cole Mill Road Church of Christ** - Monday through Friday, 9:00am-4:00pm - 1617 Cole Mill Rd
- **Antioch Baptist** - Tuesday and Thursday, 9:00am-12:00pm - 1415 Holloway St
- **Pilgrim United Church of Christ** - Tuesday through Friday, 8:00am-12:00pm - 3011 Academy Rd
- **Christus Victor Lutheran** - Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, 9:00am–2:00pm - 1615 E. NC 54 Hwy

HELPING OUR NEIGHBORS . . . from the comfort of your own home —

Bag Rice and Beans for the Food Pantry at Iglesia Emanuel:

- Divide large bags of beans — black, pinto or red — or white rice into **quart-size, freezer strength Ziplock baggies**.
- Fill the bags until almost full, leaving just enough room to close securely.
- Large bags of beans or rice can be purchased at Costco, Sam’s Club, or El Camino, a Mexican food distributor located at 2314 Reichard St, Durham 27705.
- Deliver the bags to Iglesia Emanuel on Monday afternoons between 3:00pm and 5:00pm, or contact [Margaret Rubiera](#) for other options
- Sign up at this [link](#).

Do a little cooking for Urban Ministries:

- **Casseroles** for **breakfast, lunch or dinner** (baked ziti, tuna, mac n cheese, etc.)
- **Sandwiches** in individual Zip-lock bags — **no condiments**, so they keep fresh longer. If able, please label bags according to ingredients, such as “turkey & cheese, or T & C.”
- **Cookies or brownies** in individual baggies, to go in the lunch bags. Everyone loves a touch of sweetness!
- Encourage neighbors or friends to join your efforts and deliver all the food at one time
- Deliver to the main door of Urban Ministries, 410 Liberty St, between 9:30am - 5:30pm, Monday – Friday

Make phone calls to Meals on Wheels clients:

- Give a quick call to home-bound senior citizens or disabled adults on Wednesday or Friday mornings to check on them and offer a much needed warm, human connection
- Contact [Britt Barnes](#) to sign up

You can safely lend a hand in person —

Food Pantry at Iglesia Emanuel:

- Sign up for a 2-hour shift on Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday sorting and bagging food, unloading deliveries, loading boxes of food into cars
- Find your spot on the [SignUp Genius](#) and know you are making a huge difference in the lives of struggling families

Urban Ministries:

- FPC provides volunteers multiple times a month to help prepare and serve breakfast or prepare lunch bags for hungry members of our community
- Breakfast shifts are the 3rd and 5th Fridays of every month, from 7:00-9:00am
- Lunch bag shifts are every 3rd Monday and 4th Thursday, 9:30-10:30am
- Enjoy fellowship with your church friends while you serve our neighbors!
- Contact [Jen McGonigle](#) to sign up.

Deliver Meals on Wheels:

- Deliver boxes of nutritious frozen meals to home-bound seniors and handicapped adults every Monday
- Offer a friendly smile from behind your mask and encouraging words to brighten someone's day!
- Contact [Britt Barnes](#) to sign up

CHURCH STAFF

Tom Bloom, Business Administrator
Lenore Champion, Children's Ministry Director
Robert Daye, Sexton
Mindy Douglas, Pastor/Head of Staff
Susan Dunlap, Parish Associate



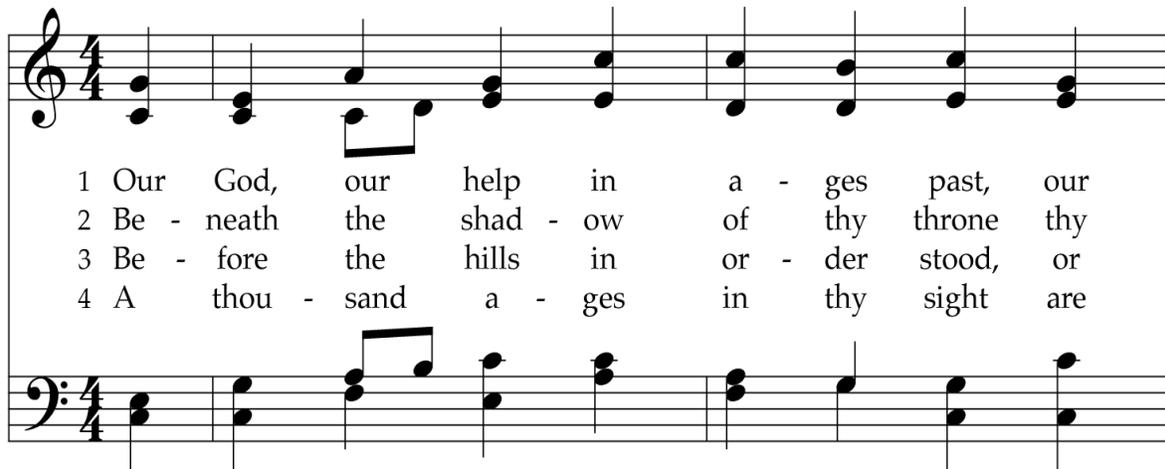
Sybil King, Administrative Assistant
Mitzi Lesher-Thomas, Associate Pastor
Valerie McMillian, Parish Administrator
Kathy Parkins, Minister of Music
John Weicher, Associate Pastor

**For more information about First Presbyterian Church, email the church office:
info@firstpres-durham.org or visit our website: <https://firstpres-durham.org>.**

305 EAST MAIN STREET DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA 27701 919.682.5511

687 Our God, Our Help in Ages Past

(Psalm 90)



1 Our God, our help in a - ges past, our
2 Be - neath the shad - ow of thy throne thy
3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood, or
4 A thou - sand a - ges in thy sight are



hope for years to come, our shel - ter from the
saints have dwelt se - cure; suf - fi - cient is thine
earth re - ceived its frame, from ev - er - last - ing
like an eve - ning gone, short as the watch that



storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home:
arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.
thou art God, to end - less years the same.
ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.

- 5 Time, like an ever rolling stream,
bears all our years away;
they fly forgotten, as a dream
dies at the opening day.
- 6 Our God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
be thou our guard while life shall last,
and our eternal home.

694 Great God of Every Blessing

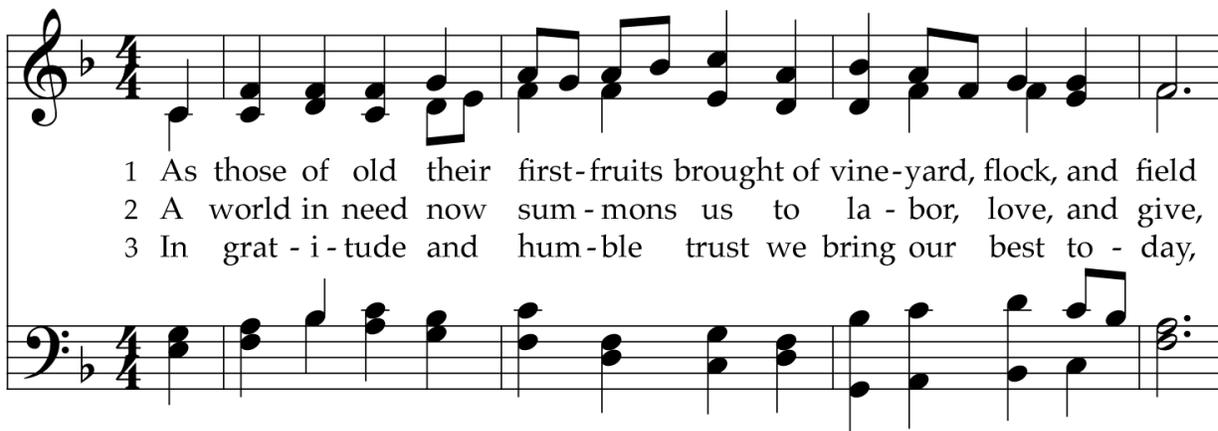
1 Great God of ev - ery bless - ing, of faith - ful, lov - ing care,
2 Your Word is our sal - va - tion, the source of end - less grace,
3 Your Spir - it is our teach - er, the light that guides our search,

you are the fount of good - ness, the dai - ly bread we share.
in death and life ex - tend - ing your cov - e - nant em - brace.
trans - form - ing bro - ken peo - ple in - to the ho - ly church.

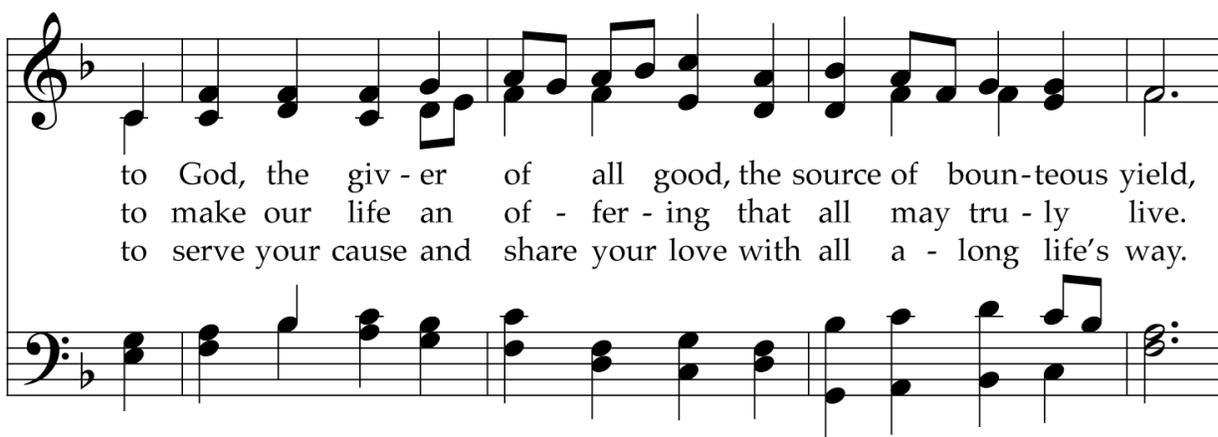
How can we hope to thank you? Our praise is but a start:
In Christ we are one bod - y; each mem - ber has a part:
For feed - ing us with mer - cy, for wis - dom you im - part:

sin - cere - ly and com - plete - ly I of - fer you my heart.

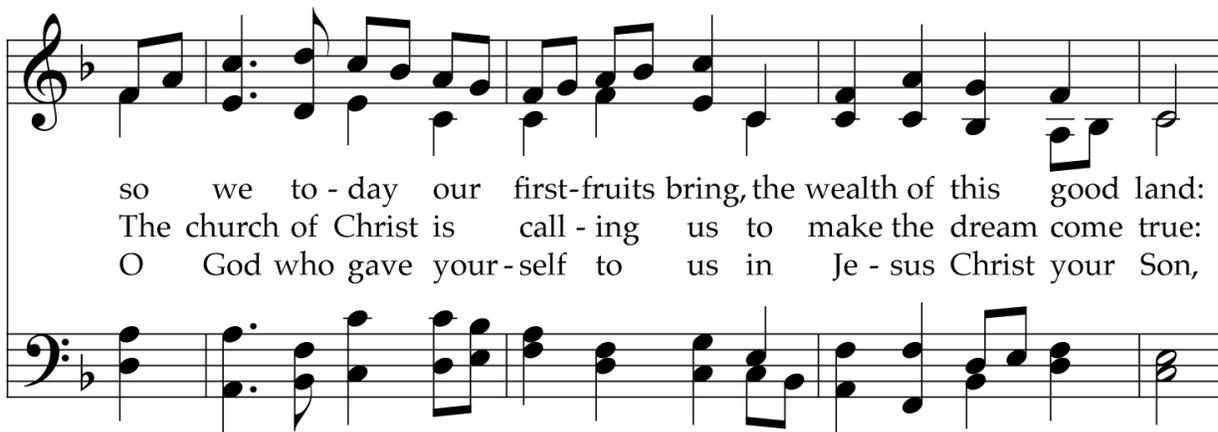
As Those of Old Their Firstfruits Brought 712



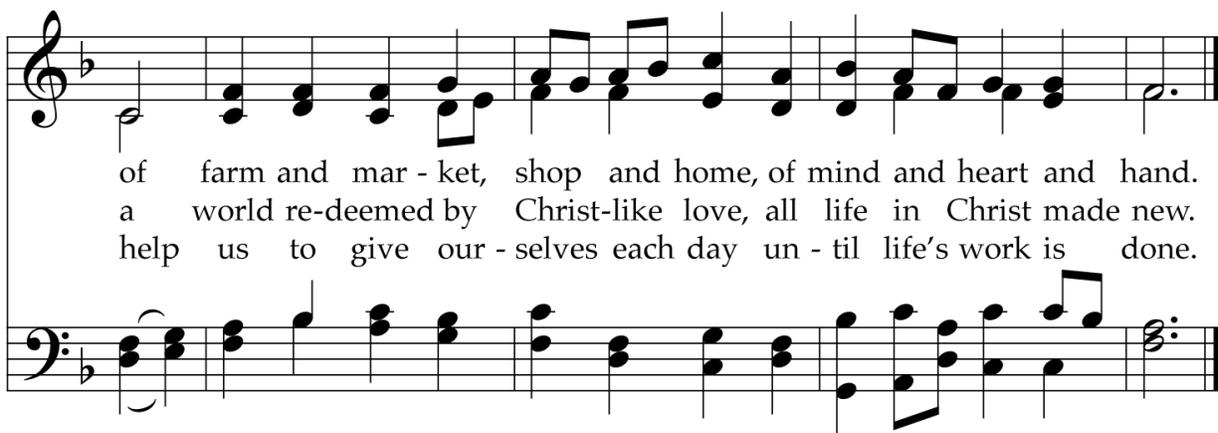
1 As those of old their first-fruits brought of vine-yard, flock, and field
2 A world in need now sum - mons us to la - bor, love, and give,
3 In grat - i - tude and hum - ble trust we bring our best to - day,



to God, the giv - er of all good, the source of boun-teous yield,
to make our life an of - fer - ing that all may tru - ly live.
to serve your cause and share your love with all a - long life's way.



so we to - day our first-fruits bring, the wealth of this good land:
The church of Christ is call - ing us to make the dream come true:
O God who gave your - self to us in Je - sus Christ your Son,



of farm and mar - ket, shop and home, of mind and heart and hand.
a world re-deemed by Christ-like love, all life in Christ made new.
help us to give our - selves each day un - til life's work is done.