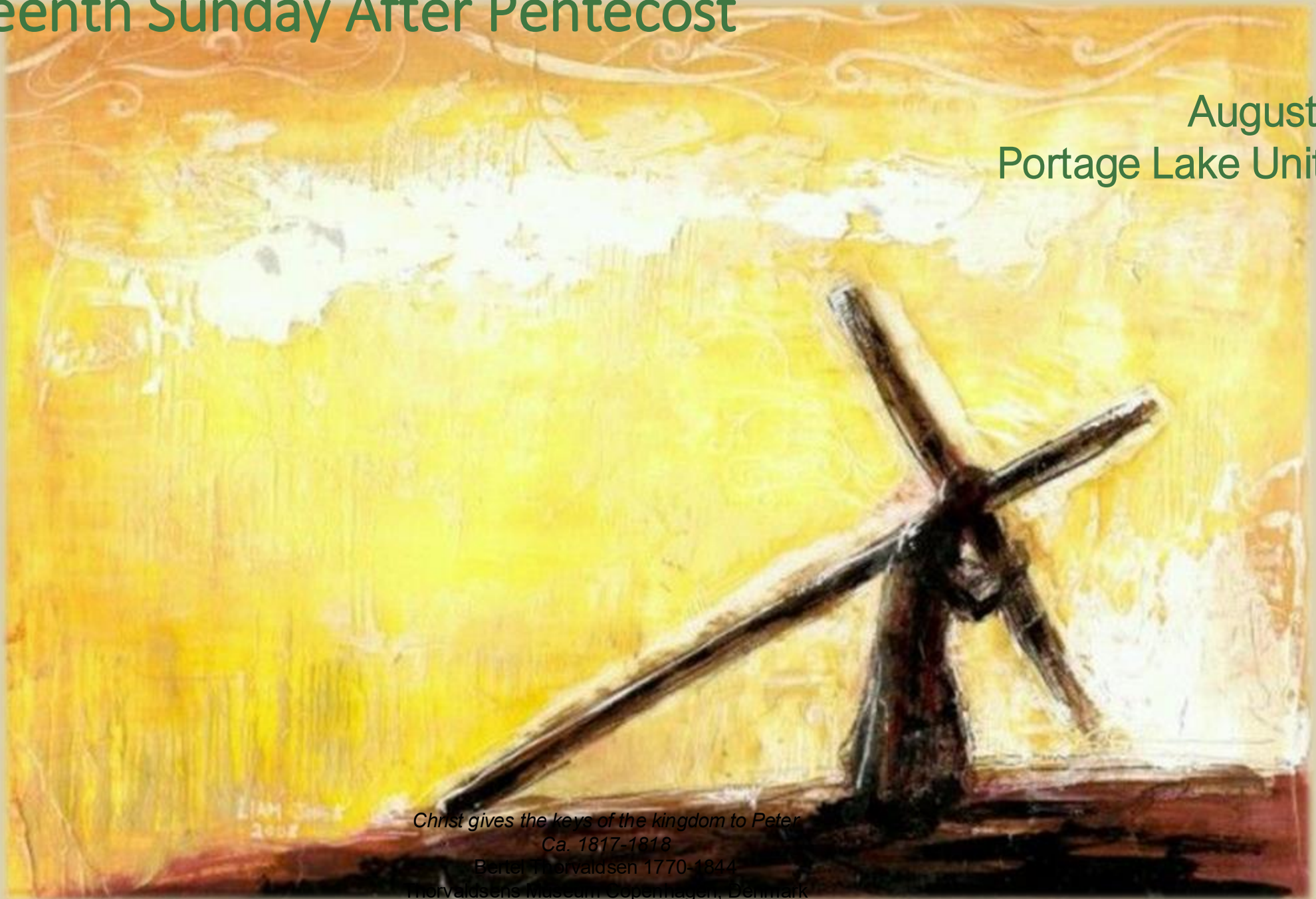


Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost

August 30th, 2026

Portage Lake United Church



Christ gives the keys of the kingdom to Peter
Ca. 1817-1818

Bertel Thorvaldsen 1770-1844
Thorvaldsens Museum Copenhagen, Denmark

Welcome and Announcements

*We gather in the name of the Holy Trinity, one God, source of all goodness and mercy.
No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.*

- The flowers in the sanctuary are a gift in honor of Gary Evans, whose memorial service was this past Thursday. Peace be to his memory.
- Next Sunday afternoon, September 6, there will be a memorial service for Judy Albee, visitation at 1 o'clock, service at 2, refreshments and fellowship following.
- There will be no regular coffee hour following the service next week, to allow setting up for the memorial service.
- The Angel Mission needs: Bath and Hand Soap.
- *Are there any other announcements?*



*Liturgical Color Green – Ordinary Time
Lectionary Year A*

Presider: Peter Norland
Musician: Susie Byykkonen
Greeters: Al Eckhart or Lois Jambekar
Reader: Christina Norland
Prayer Writer: Greg Campbell
Coffee: Ann Campbell

MEDITATION

When you finally surrender and stop
fighting the winds, you will be carried by
angels into the eye of God.

from Tree Full of Angels, by Macrina Wiederkehr

PRELUDE

As The Deer

Martin Nystrom/arr. Larry Shackley

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

✦ CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)

O give thanks to the Holy One, the I Am Who I Am,
who calls us together and makes their name known.

We glory in God's holy name!

Let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice and testify!

O give thanks to the Holy One, God of our ancestors,
who lives and reigns with all generations.

Sing praises to our God. Remember God's

wonderful works, saving acts, and redemptive deeds.

O give thanks to the Holy One, Mighty and Just God, who
lends strength in the struggle and leads in righteousness.

Let us seek the presence of the Holy One. Praise God!



Photo by Sherry Middlemis-Brown

"The God of Abraham Praise" #488 BLUE

1 The God of Abraham praise,
Who reigns enthroned above;
The ancient of eternal days,
The God of Love!
The Lord, the great I Am,
By earth and heaven confessed,
We bow before Your holy name,
Forever blest.

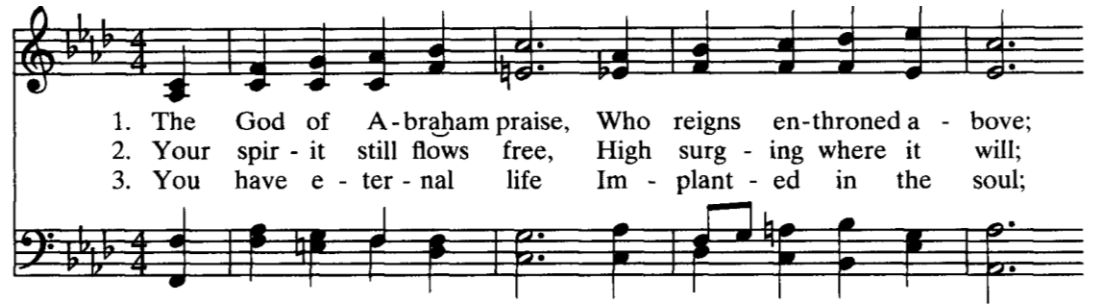
2 Your spirit still flows free,
High surging where it will;
In prophet's word You spoke of old
And You speak still.
Established is Your law,
And changeless it shall stand,
Deep writ upon the human heart,
On sea, or land.

3 You have eternal life
Implanted in the soul;
Your love shall be our strength and stay,
While ages roll.
We praise You, living God!
We praise Your holy name;
The first, the last, beyond all thought,
And still the same!

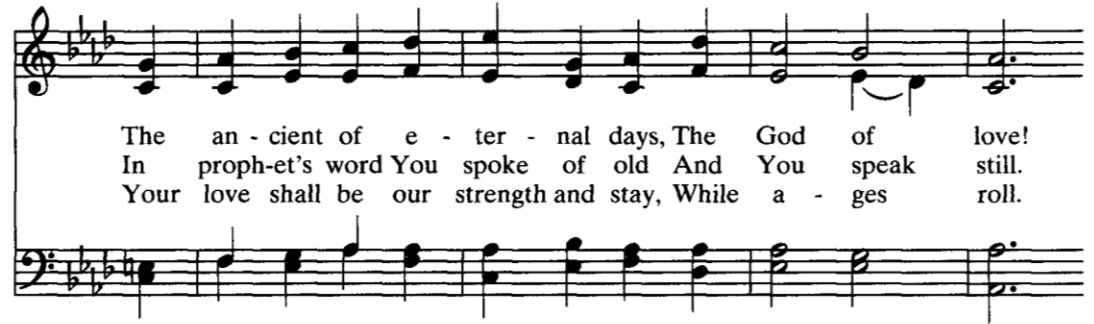
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Daniel ben Judah, 1404
Trans. Max Landsberg and Newton Mann, 1885; alt.

Hebrew melody
Adapt. Thomas Olivers
and Meyer Lyon, 1770



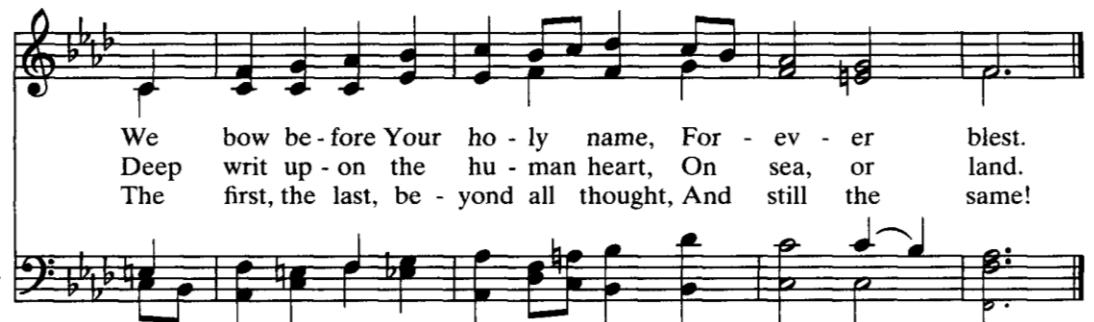
1. The God of A-brah-am praise, Who reigns en-throned a - bove;
2. Your spir - it still flows free, High surg - ing where it will;
3. You have e - ter - nal life Im - plant - ed in the soul;



The an - cient of e - ter - nal days, The God of love!
In proph-et's word You spoke of old And You speak still.
Your love shall be our strength and stay, While a - ges roll.



The Lord, the great I Am, By earth and heaven con - fessed,
Es - tab - lished is Your law, And change-less it shall stand,
We praise You, liv - ing God! We praise Your ho - ly name;



We bow be - fore Your ho - ly name, For - ev - er blest.
Deep writ up - on the hu - man heart, On sea, or land.
The first, the last, be - yond all thought, And still the same!

✚ PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, in the self-giving love of Christ you have revealed the path of salvation; give us courage to deny our selfish desire and bear the cross of discipleship, that we may live as those who have no fear of death and receive the joy of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

+ PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

**Sometimes it sounds too hard:
deny ourselves, take up our crosses, lose our lives?
Forgive us, Savior, but we'd rather you do it for us.
Forgive us, Christ,
but we are overwhelmed with what you ask of us.
We long to see you come in glory,
but fear the road we must take.
Have mercy on our weakness.
Be patient with our stumbling.
Do not leave us behind,
even when we are slow to follow,
and lead us in your ways of peace.**

*Hill of Crosses
Saiuilia, Lithuania*



+ DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS (Responsive)

Christ does not abandon us,
but died for us, was raised for us, and loves us still.
This is the good news that prevails!

In Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, we are forgiven!

✦ PASSING THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

Greet each other with a sign of God's peace.

Children of God, we are the body of Christ.

**By one spirit
we were baptized into one body.**

Keep the unity of the Spirit
in the bond of peace.

Amen! We are bound by the love of Christ.



WORD

*God speaks to us in scripture, reading,
preaching and song*



Saint Peter the Apostle of Andahuaylillas Peru

The 16th-century church is known as the Sistine Chapel of the Andes because of the beauty of its murals.

FIRST READING Exodus 3:1-15

¹ Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness and came to mount Horeb, the mountain of God. ² There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. ³ Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight and see why the bush is not burned up." ⁴ When the LORD saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." ⁵ Then he said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." ⁶ He said further, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God. ⁷ Then the LORD said, "I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, ⁸ and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and spacious land, to a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. ⁹ The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. ¹⁰ Now go, I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt." ¹¹ But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" ¹² He said, "I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain." ¹³ But Moses said to God, "If I come to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?" ¹⁴ God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." He said further, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'I AM has sent me to you.'" ¹⁵ God also said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'The LORD, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you': This is my name forever, and this my title for all generations.

Word of God. Word of Life. **Thanks be to God**

Footnotes: The Holy Bible: New Revised Standard Version. (1989). Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers.

Second Reading Romans 12:9-21

⁹ Let love be genuine; hate what is evil; hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰ love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹ Do not lag in zeal; be ardent in spirit; serve the Lord. ¹² Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; persevere in prayer. ¹³ Contribute to the needs of the saints; pursue hospitality to strangers.

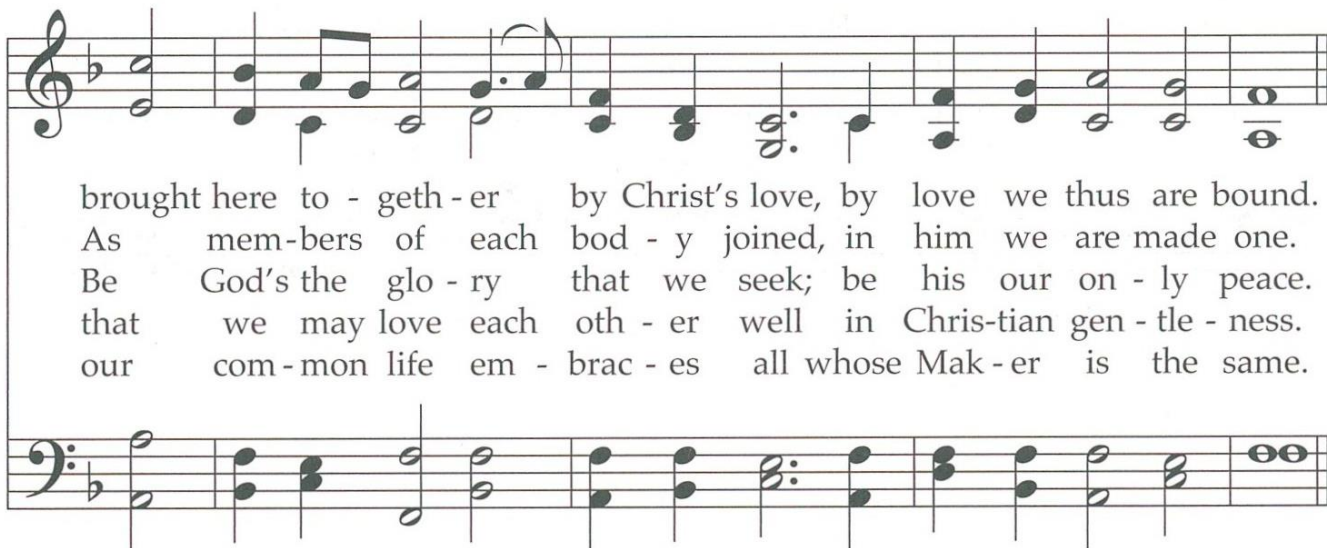
¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another; do not be arrogant, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. ¹⁷ Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. ¹⁸ If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹ Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is mine; I will repay, says the Lord.” ²⁰ Instead, “if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink, for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads.” ²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Word of God. Word of Life. **Thanks be to God**

Where Charity and Love Prevail 316



1 Where char-i - ty and love pre - vail, there God is ev - er found;
2 Let us re - call that in our midst dwells Christ, God's ho - ly Son.
3 Let strife a-mong us be un-known; let all con - ten-tions cease.
4 Let us for-give each oth-er's faults as we our own con - fess,
5 Love can ex-clude no race or creed if hon - ored be God's name;



brought here to - geth - er by Christ's love, by love we thus are bound.
As mem-bers of each bod - y joined, in him we are made one.
Be God's the glo - ry that we seek; be his our on - ly peace.
that we may love each oth - er well in Chris-tian gen - tle - ness.
our com - mon life em - brac - es all whose Mak - er is the same.

This English paraphrase is based on a longer Latin hymn traditionally associated with the footwashing ritual on Maundy Thursday, an enactment of Christ's "new commandment" that we should love one another (John 13:34). For a chant setting of the first line of the hymn see no. 205.

TEXT: Latin, 8th cent.; trans. Omer Westendorf, 1960, alt.
MUSIC: Lucius Chapin, 1812
Text © 1960, ren. 1988 World Library Publications

TWENTY-FOURTH
CM

+ GOSPEL READING Matthew 16:21-28

²¹ From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes and be killed and on the third day be raised. ²² And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.” ²³ But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me, for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

²⁴ Then Jesus told his disciples, “If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵ For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. ²⁶ For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?

²⁷ “For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. ²⁸ Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”

The Gospel of the Lord **Thanks be to God**

Sermon



Jesus Praying
ca. 2000
mural, Louisville, KY

✚ OFFERING AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)

God of Love, we offer our gifts,
and our lives to you in hope and love.
Use them to advance your reign of mercy and peace
in our community and the world.
And may we be for others
evidence of your abundant and generous creation.
Amen.

HYMN “We are an Offering” #230 GREEN

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230

We Are an Offering



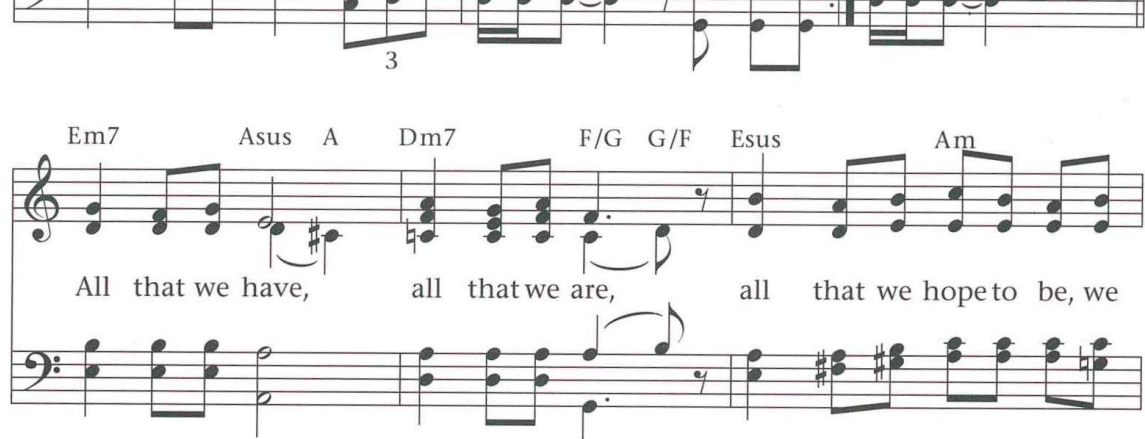
F/G C F2/D C2/E C/E

We lift our voic - es, we lift our hands, we lift our
voic - es, Lord, use our hands, Lord, use our



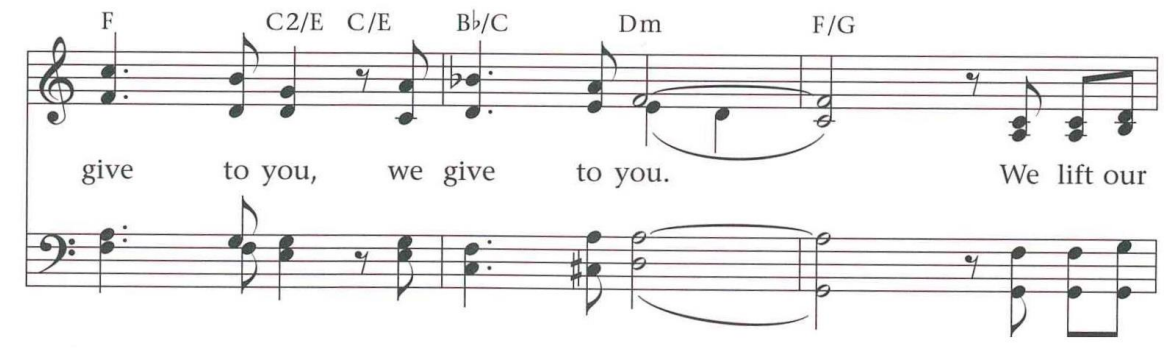
F C/E 3 1 Dm7 F/G 2 Dm7 F/G G/F

lives up to you; we are an of-fer-ing. Lord, use our
lives, they are yours; we are an of-fer-ing.



Em7 Asus A Dm7 F/G G/F Esus Am

All that we have, all that we are, all that we hope to be, we



F C2/E C/E Bb/C Dm F/G

give to you, we give to you. We lift our



C F2/D C2/E C/E F C2 3

voic-es, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you; we are an



Dm7 Dm7/G 3 C

of-fer-ing, we are an of-fer-ing.

Text and music: Dwight Liles (b. 1957)
© 1984, Word Music, Inc.

OFFERING

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION



PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR (ECUMENICAL)

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours now and forever.
Amen.



Photograph by Ren Spring 2023

SENDING

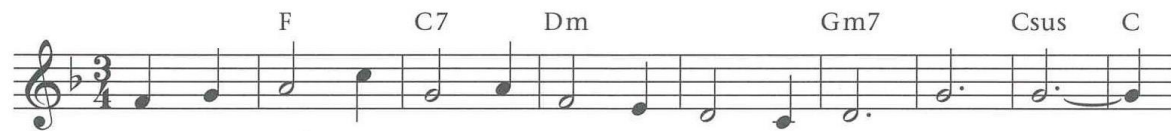
Sherry Middlemis-Brown



God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

Will You Come and Follow Me

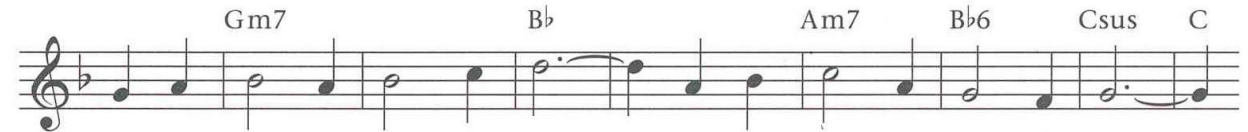
267



1 Will you come and fol - low me if I but call your name?
2 Will you leave your-self be-hind if I but call your name?
3 Will you let the blind-ed see if I but call your name?
4 Will you love the 'you' you hide if I but call your name?
5 Lord, your sum-mons ech - oes true when you but call my name.



Will you go where you don't know and nev - er be the same?
Will you care for cruel and kind and nev - er be the same?
Will you set the pris - oners free and nev - er be the same?
Will you quell the fear in - side and nev - er be the same?
Let me turn and fol - low you and nev - er be the same.



Will you let my love be shown, will you let my name be known,
Will you risk the hos - tile stare should your life at - tract or scare?
Will you kiss the lep - er clean, and do such as this un - seen,
Will you use the faith you've found to re - shape the world a - round,
In your com - pa - ny I'll go where your love and foot-steps show.



will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?
Will you let me an - swer prayer in you and you in me?
and ad - mit to what I mean in you and you in me?
through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

Text: The Iona Community
Music: Scottish traditional

Text © 1987, WGRG the Iona Community (Scotland), admin. GIA Publications, Inc.

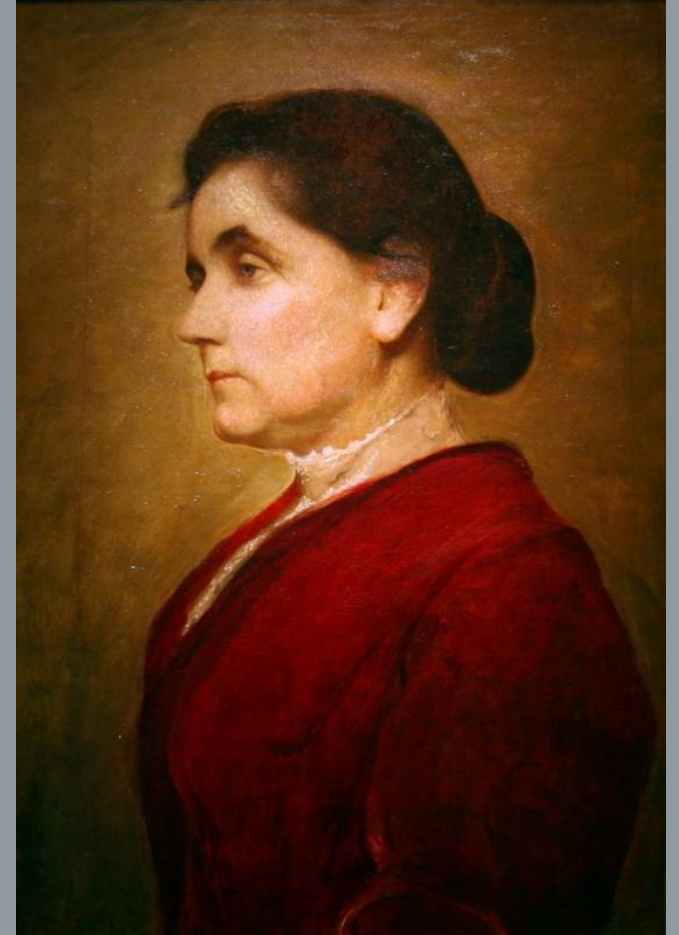
76 76 77 76
KELVINGROVE

CHARGE AND BLESSING (Responsive)

Hold fast to what is good;
repay no one evil for evil.

Rejoice in hope;
be patient in suffering;
persevere in prayer.

The blessing of God be with you,
the love of Jesus fill you,
and the power of the Holy Spirit sustain you,
now and forevermore.



Jane Adams
George de Forest Brush, 1855-1941

POSTLUDE AND QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION



Carrying the cross of Christ
Gabriel Loire, 1904-1996
St. Mary's Cathedral
Aberdeen, United Kingdom

What does it mean for me to take up my cross and follow Jesus?

How do I practice that in my daily life?

How is the cross I am asked to bear related to the cross of Jesus?

Thanks to:

Presider: Rev. Peter Norland
Musician: Susie Byykkonen
Greeters: Liz & Harold Evensen
Reader: Beth Smock
Prayer Writer: Carl Vilmann
Coffee: Mary Eckhart, Lois Jambekar
Children's Craft Time: Olivia Byykkonen

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Serving Next Week, September 10th, 2023

Greeters: Jon Koskiniemi, Brian Hirvela

Reader: Nancy Byers Sprague

Prayer Writer: Lois Jambekar

Coffee: Lou Ellyn Helman

Children's Church: TBD

Next Sunday's Scriptures:

Ezekial 33:7-11; Psalm 119:33-40; Romans 13:8-14; Matthew 18:15-20



Portage Lake United Church

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA) & UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

1400 East Houghton Avenue, Houghton Michigan 49931
www.PLUC.org office@pluc.org (906)482-5224

Rooted in the Trinity. Growing in God's Word.
Branching out to those in need. Nourished by many waters.