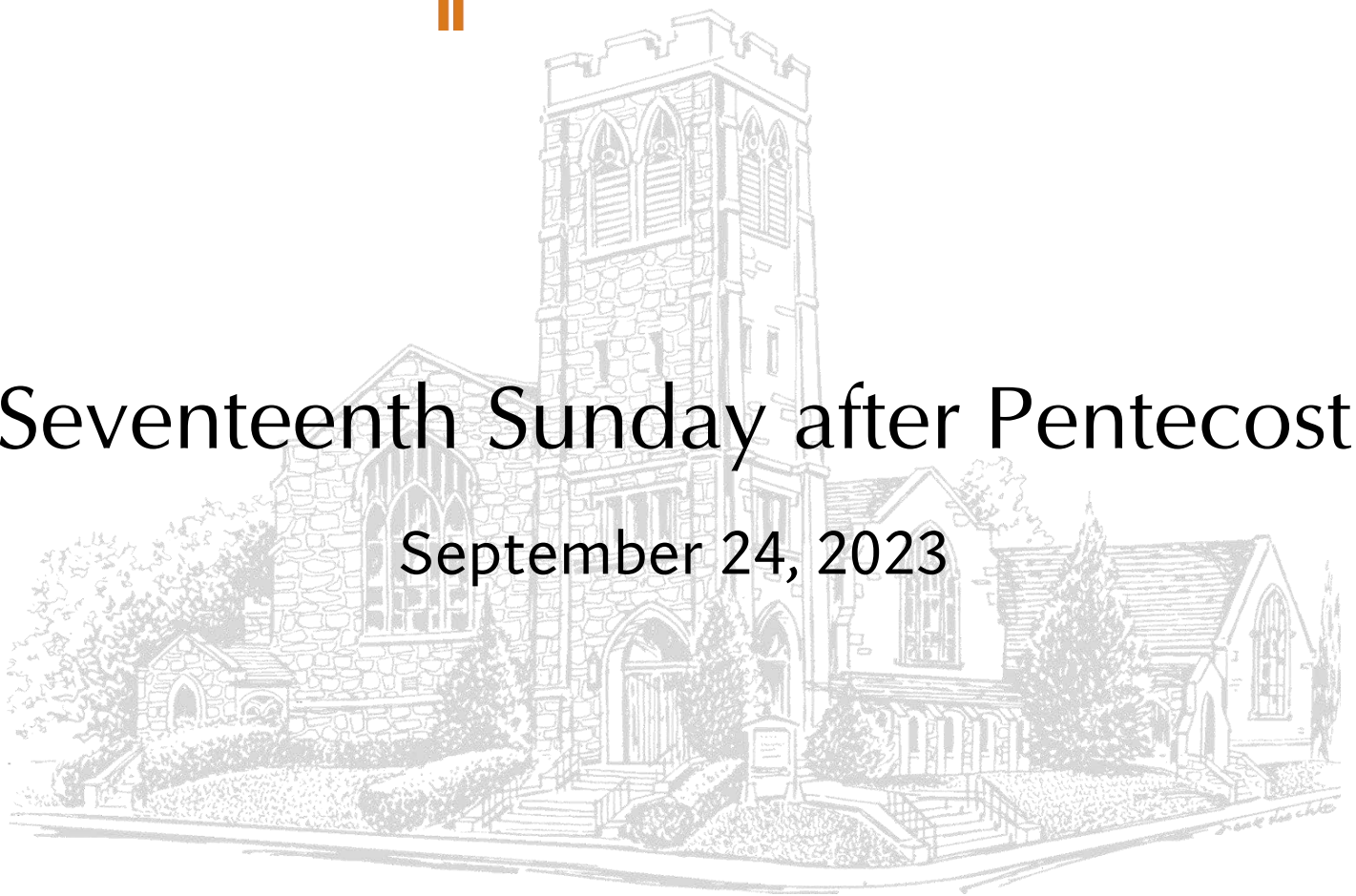




WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 24, 2023



Westminster Presbyterian Church extends an enthusiastic welcome, in Christ's name, to all who worship here or join us in fellowship. Our church family seeks to embody God's boundless love by embracing, liberating and empowering people – whoever they are and wherever they may be on their faith journeys – to realize the transforming power of Christ in our congregation, community, and the world beyond.



A Covenant Network Congregation of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

An Earth Care Congregation of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

A Matthew 25 Church of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

A Stephen Ministry Congregation

TODAY AT WESTMINSTER

8:45 – 12:15 p.m. **Nursery Care** for infants and toddlers in Preschool Suite D

9:00 – 9:55 a.m. **Worship** in the Sanctuary

Time with Our Children (approximately 9:15 a.m.)

The young and young-at-heart are invited to join the worship leader at the front of the sanctuary. Following the TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN, young ones through grade 5 may be escorted for Children's Programming or they are welcome to remain in worship.

Children's Programming (9:20 – 10:00 a.m.)

- Preschool Sunday School: Ages 3 and 4 in the Preschool Suite Room C
- Joyful Noise Choir: Kindergarten–Grade 5 in the Youth Music Room

10:00 – 10:45 a.m. **Holy Toast Café** in Walton Community Hall
Enjoy free coffee, tea, and fellowship. Breakfast items are available for one dollar.

10:10 – 11:00 a.m. **Children and Youth Programming**

- Nursery Care: Age 4 and under in Preschool Suite D
- Kids Zone Sunday School: Kindergarten–Grade 5 in Classroom 1
- Middle School Zone: Grades 6–8 in Classroom 3
- High School: Grades 9–12
 - Confirmation Class in Classroom 7 (open to all youth)
 - Small Groups in the Ruth Christie Room (for already confirmed youth)

Adult Education classes (see page 6)

11:15 – 12:00 p.m. **Living Mosaics worship** on the side lawn (Sacred Grounds)
Rain location: Rodney Chapel

5:00 – 7:00 p.m. **180° Youth Group** in Classroom 6 and Walton Community Hall

For descriptions of our programs for children and youth, visit wpc.org/children-youth.

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FAITH!



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[@wpcdelaware](https://www.instagram.com/wpcdelaware)

The Music: The Westminster Choir is looking for a few more women, men, and youth in high school+. Weekly rehearsals are on Wednesdays from 7–9 p.m. and on Sundays at 8 a.m. For more information or to participate, contact TonyThurman@wpc.org.

The sanctuary flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Teddy Bedrossian by Ned Bedrossian and family. Consider giving the flowers for Sunday worship to remember or honor loved ones or to celebrate an event. Please contact Linda Watson at (302) 571-6719 or lwatson@ycst.com. Dates available are October 1, 8, and 29.

Recently hospitalized: Rick Zumsteg

Westminster's Prayer Team prays for the needs of our community. Submit your prayer request to wpcprayerlist@gmail.com or online at wpc.org/care-support.

You can make a contribution to Westminster Presbyterian Church by visiting our website at wpc.org and clicking the "Donate" button or scan this QR code on your smart phone. → We accept donations by bank withdrawal, credit card, and debit card.



ORDER OF WORSHIP

~ Passages in **bold** print may be spoken by all. At the asterisk (*), please stand in body or rise in spirit. ~

TOWER CHIME

Sara Gavenonis

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

MINUTE FOR MISSION

The Rev. Dr. Elmarie Parker

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

PRELUDE

For the Fruit of All Creation

Jane Holstein

CALL TO WORSHIP

God's Spirit fills our house of worship.

We will open our hearts and minds to God's word.

God's Spirit implores us to love one another.

May we be filled with God's life-giving Spirit.

*HYMN NO. 5

God the Sculptor of the Mountains

JENNINGS-HOUSTON

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

**Gracious God, we give thanks for our community of faith
where you assure us of your immeasurable love for us
and provide opportunities to share your love with others.
Through words of Scripture and your Spirit whispering in our soul,
may we discover the work that is ours to do,
and summon the courage to carry it out.
Embolden us to resist evil, injustice, and violence;
and inspire us to speak the truth, to show respect, and to live generously.
In your holy name, we pray. Amen.**

TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN

(See "Today at Westminster" on page 2 for more information.)

Sudie Niesen Thompson

SCRIPTURE LESSON

1 Timothy 6:6-10, 17-19

New Testament, page 186

SERMON

Gregory Knox Jones

*HYMN NO. 714

God of the Fertile Fields

ITALIAN HYMN

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

The Beauty of This Sacred Place

James and Marilyn Biery

Westminster Choir:

The beauty of this sacred place inspires our hearts and minds to grow.
We sing with love, bestowed by grace; from God all richest blessings flow.
The meal, the word, the art, the song, are but a glimmer of the whole;
With joyful hearts sing all day long, God's blessings satisfy the soul.
We look into each person's eyes and see such longing hunger there.
Respond with love to others' cries; our neighbors' burdens gladly bear.
So many struggle and despair, we hear their silent voices plead;
Our actions show how much we care, extending help to those in need.

Congregation stands and joins on final refrain:



The beau - ty of this sa - cred place
in - spires our hearts and minds to grow.
We sing with love, be - stowed by grace;
from God all rich - est bless - ings flow.
We sing with love, be - stowed by grace;
from God all rich - est bless - ings flow.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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.**

*HYMN No. 708

We Give Thee but Thine Own

SCHUMANN

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Westminster Carillon

Carson Cooman

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New to Westminster? Welcome! We're so glad you're here. If you are joining us for the first time, please introduce yourself via our contact form on the [I'm New](#) page of our website or scan this QR code to get there from your mobile device. We look forward to getting to know you.



• FALL BACK INTO MUSIC •

The **Westminster Choir** is looking for a few more women and men and youth in high school+. No audition required. Must be able to carry a tune. Handel provided.
Rehearsals: Wednesdays, 7-9 p.m. | Sundays, 8 a.m.

The **Westminster Handbell Choir** will ring in the Christmas season. How many bells will we ring? Three octaves with 10 players; five octaves with 12.
Rehearsals: Wednesdays, 5:30-6:30 p.m. beginning October 4.

The **Westminster Tower Chime** is our voice in the community on Sundays and national holidays. Beginners welcome. Instruction provided. Skip the gym and get your workout in our Chime Room!

For more information and to participate, contact TonyThurman@wpc.org.



ADULT EDUCATION

TODAY, SEPTEMBER 24



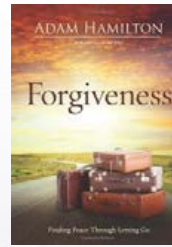
Work Produced by Faith, Labor Prompted by Love, Endurance Inspired by Hope

*Presenter: The Rev. Dr. Elmarie
Parker, PC(USA) Regional Liaison
to Lebanon, Syria, and Iraq*

10:10 a.m. | Classroom 6 and Zoom

Zoom link: bit.ly/wpc-adult-ed-zoom

Come and hear updates about conditions on the ground in both Lebanon and Syria and stories of our partners' transformative work in the midst of these conditions.



Forgiveness: Finding Peace through Letting Go

*Video series by Adam Hamilton
Facilitator: Westminster
member Margo Reign*

10:10 a.m. | Classroom 5

Forgiveness is hard. Methodist pastor Adam Hamilton provides the participants a path on how to receive the freedom that comes with forgiving – even if the person needing forgiveness is ourselves.

NEXT SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1

The Poetry of Conflict

Presenter: Westminster member Bob Cox

10:10 a.m. | Classroom 6 and Zoom

Zoom link: bit.ly/wpc-adult-ed-zoom

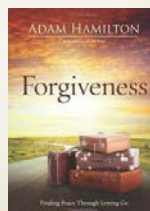
Poets often act as the public conscience. Their verses express truths that reporters and historians can't openly share. Join us as we explore how conflict is expressed through poetry and how the poetic perspective transcends ideology.

Forgiveness: Finding Peace through Letting Go (Session 2)

*Video series by Adam Hamilton
Facilitator: Westminster member Margo Reign*

10:10 a.m. | Classroom 5

Forgiveness is hard. Methodist pastor Adam Hamilton provides the participants a path on how to receive the freedom that comes with forgiving – even if the person needing forgiveness is ourselves. You do not need to attend all the sessions.



ONGOING/WEEKLY

Online Bible Studies

Midweek Manna Bible Study

Wednesdays | 12 p.m. | Zoom

Facilitator: The Rev. Sudie Niesen Thompson

Contact: sniesenthompson@wpc.org

Thursday Evening Bible Study

Thursdays | 6–7 p.m. | Zoom

*Facilitators: Randy Williamson
and Mary Anne Peters*

Contact: randywilliamson1@comcast.net

Peace and Justice Thursday Evening Education Event

Advancing Justice in Delaware for 100 Years

September 28 | 7 p.m. | Zoom

bit.ly/peace-justice-zoom

*With Dave Bever, Executive Director,
Delaware Center for Justice*

Hosted by our Peace & Justice Work Group.

zoom.us/join | Meeting ID: 860 2752 1655

For full descriptions of our programs and more adult education and small group opportunities, visit WPC.ORG/ADULTS or check our events calendar at WPC.ORG/EVENTS. Select adult education programs are available as a livestream/recording on our [YouTube channel](#).

MORE UPCOMING EVENTS

Ice Cream & Ice Breakers

Fellowship, Games, Music, and More!

For Parents and Children Kindergarten to Grade 7

Connect with our new:

Director of Music for Children and Youth: EMILY HAAS

Children and Youth Choral Assistant: COLE WALKER

Saturday, September 30, 4-5 p.m.

Woodside Farm Creamery

378 North Star Road

Newark, DE 19711

R.S.V.P. so we know you are coming!

TonyThurman@wpc.org

Peace Week Delaware 2023 (October 7–15) kicks off with our **FIRST FRIDAY WALK FOR JUSTICE & PEACE**

Friday, October 6 | 5:15–6:00 p.m. (rain or shine)

Start: The Episcopal Church of Saints Andrew and Matthew (SsAM), 719 N. Shipley Street

End: Rodney Square



Join us for this peaceful, prayerful walk through the center of Wilmington to promote an end to racial and social injustice and to reduce gun violence in our city. We gather in the SsAM parking lot with people from various faith communities to share in this active, visible commitment to justice and peace. We walk in silence, ending at Rodney Square. Please join us – and share this invitation with people you know who are dedicated to these goals.

PASTORAL STAFF

The Rev. Dr. Gregory Knox Jones, Head of Staff
The Rev. Sudie Niesen Thompson, Associate Pastor
The Rev. Jill Getty, Pastoral Care Assistant

MUSIC STAFF

Dr. F. Anthony Thurman, Director of Music/Organist
Rebecca Hughes; Margaret Mezzacappa; Teddy Austin; Jerry Polman, Section Leaders
Emily Haas, Director of Music for Children and Youth
Cole Walker, Choral Assistant for Children and Youth

VIDEOGRAPHERS

Tanner Freeman (lead videographer), Rich Albert, Drew Holmes, Chip Pfleegor,
Roger Reinicker, Aaron Wemhoff and Sophia Wolff

COMMUNION STEWARDS

Dan Weintraub and Jenn Barrington

CHILDREN AND YOUTH MINISTRIES STAFF

Kathleen Kennan, Director of Christian Education and Youth Ministry
Sydney Walker, Associate Director of Youth Ministry
Stephanie Burris-White, Director of Preschool Ministries and Beatrice Taylor, Nursery

SUPPORT STAFF

Susan Alexander, Reception Area Supervisor
Mary Clark, Administrative Assistant
Paul Crothamel, Director of Facilities and Security
Colleen Falasco, Director of Financial Operations
Doug Gerdt, Manager of Accounting and Reporting
Nicole Hughes, Director of Marketing and Communications
Cathy Lang, Administrative Assistant
Robert King; Daniel Steele; Joan Truitt; John Young, Sextons

SESSION

Taryn Albert, Adam Blackford, Michelle Butler, Clark Collins, Bob Cox, Sara Dubberly, Rob Gooderham,
Laura Holmes, Dick Jolly, Carla Krupanski, KC Morrison, Dave McBride,
Susan McPheeters, Jan Patrick, Chip Pfleegor, Todd Piercy, Carrie Saathoff, Laura Scanlan,
Kent Smith, Janet Steinwedel, Karissa Thacker, Gill Timon, Dan Weintraub

BOARD OF DEACONS

Liz Bacon, Lisa Bianchi, Jennifer Blackford, Heather Brooks, Russ Butler, Kyle Carrick,
Beatty Chadwick, Diane Chandler, Jack Coleman, Joe Daley, Tammy Daley, Kendra Gallagher,
Sara Gavenonis, Jamie Hickey, Drew Holmes, Barbara Jobe, Sheran Kegerise, Elaine Lunardi, Blair McConnel,
Sarah Mentzer, Robert Moore, Gathoni Murugi-Jenkins, Dan McAllister, Debbie McCullough, Lynne Perkins,
Emily Pfaff, Paula Piercy, Rachel Psaros, Patti Ridout, Robin Rosser, Evie Saathoff, Carol Tatnall,
Lois Underhill, Ginger Ward, Sandie Reinicker, Sue Weissinger, Sandra Wermus, Kathy Wissner

TRUSTEES

Rich Albert, Tom Brooks, Nancy Fleming, John Gavenonis, Lou Hering,
Bobbe Hoy, Brock Jobe, Sue Linderman, Robert Love, Tom Preston, Kris Qualls, Stan Stevenson

PARTNERS IN WORLDWIDE MINISTRY

DR Congo – PC(USA) Mission Co-workers: Jeff and Christi Boyd, Larry and Inge Sthreshley;
Kananga Presbytery and Members of Kamulumba-Ditalala Parish
Iran, Iraq, Syria, and Lebanon – PC(USA) Mission Co-worker the Rev. Dr. Elmarie Parker
Fellowship of Middle East Evangelical Churches,
Israel/Palestine – Peace Drums Steel Band
Guatemala - CEDEPCA, AJPU, the Association of Mam Christian Women for Development,
PC(USA) Mission Co-workers Betsey and Eric Moe

God the Sculptor of the Mountains 5



1 God the sculp - tor of the moun - tains, God the
 2 God the nui - sance of the Pha - raoh, God the
 3 God the dress - er of the vine - yard, God the
 4 God the un - ex - pect - ed in - fant, God the



mill - er of the sand, God the jewel - er of the
 cleav - er of the sea, God the pil - lar in the
 plant - er of the wheat, God the reap - er of the
 calm, de - ter - mined youth, God the ta - ble - turn - ing



heav - ens, God the pot - ter of the land:
 dark - ness, God the bea - con of the free:
 har - vest, God the source of all we eat:
 proph - et, God the res - ur - rect - ed truth:



you are womb of all cre - a - tion;
 you are fount of all de - liv - erance;
 you are host at ev - ery ta - ble;
 you are pres - ent ev - ery mo - ment;



we are form - less; shape us now.
 we are aim - less; lead us now.
 we are hun - gry; feed us now.
 we are search - ing; meet us now.

Despite the great sweep of these stanzas, each one ends by describing how our human condition needs God's help: formless, aimless, hungry, searching. Each of these adjectives is followed by a related three-syllable petition: shape us now, lead us now, feed us now, meet us now.

God of the Fertile Fields

714

1 God of the fer - tile fields, shap - er of
 2 We would be stew - ards true, hold - ing in
 3 As grows the hid - den seed to fruit that
 4 God of the coun - try - side, dear to the

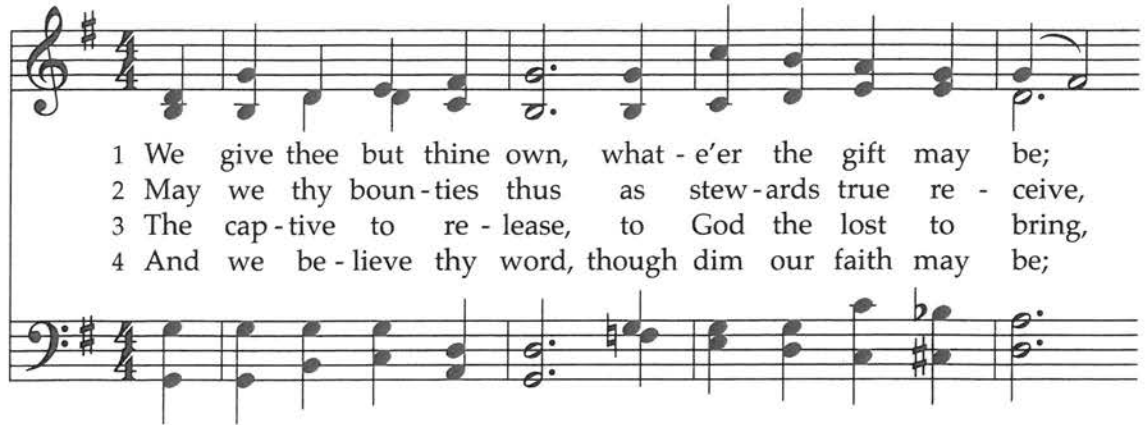
earth that yields our dai - ly bread: forth from your
 trust from you all that you give; help us in
 serves our need, so your reign grows. Let all our
 Christ who died to make us one: we pledge our

boun - teous hand come gifts your love has planned,
 love to share, teach us like you to care
 toil be used, no gift of yours a - bus - ed,
 lives a - new in faith - ful love to you.

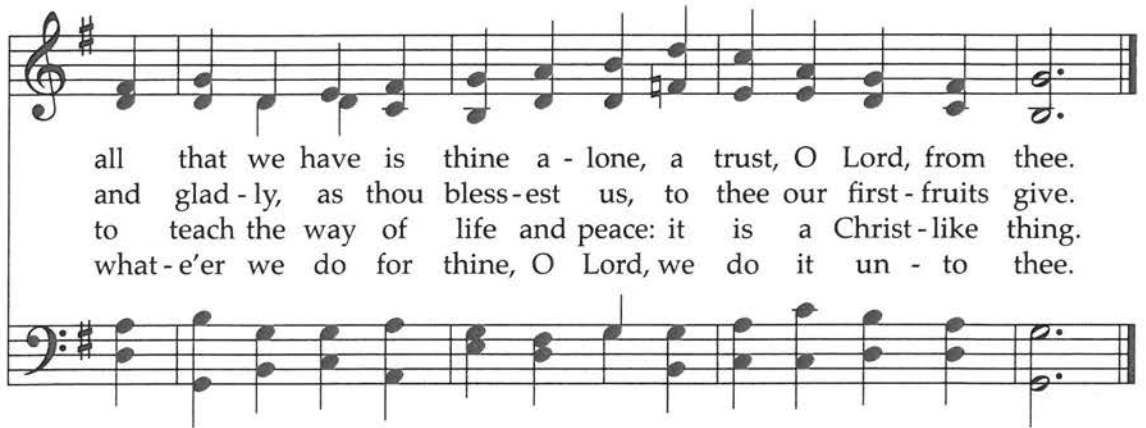
that all in ev - ery land be clothed and fed.
 for peo - ple ev - ery - where, that all may live.
 no hum - ble task re - fused your love be - stows.
 Guide all we say and do. Your will be done.

Greater awareness has enlarged Christian stewardship to develop new dimensions of concern for people in all parts of the world. Because we believe that it is God's will that the gifts we have received should be shared, this hymn concludes with that phrase from the Lord's Prayer.

We Give Thee but Thine Own 708



1 We give thee but thine own, what - e'er the gift may be;
 2 May we thy boun-ties thus as stew-ards true re - ceive,
 3 The cap-tive to re - lease, to God the lost to bring,
 4 And we be - lieve thy word, though dim our faith may be;



all that we have is thine a - lone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.
 and glad - ly, as thou bless - est us, to thee our first - fruits give.
 to teach the way of life and peace: it is a Christ - like thing.
 what - e'er we do for thine, O Lord, we do it un - to thee.

Each successive stanza here expands the implications of the familiar affirmation of the first one. Much more than a concern with money, stewardship shapes our relationship with God and with other people. Despite this tune's name, no source has been found in Schumann's works.