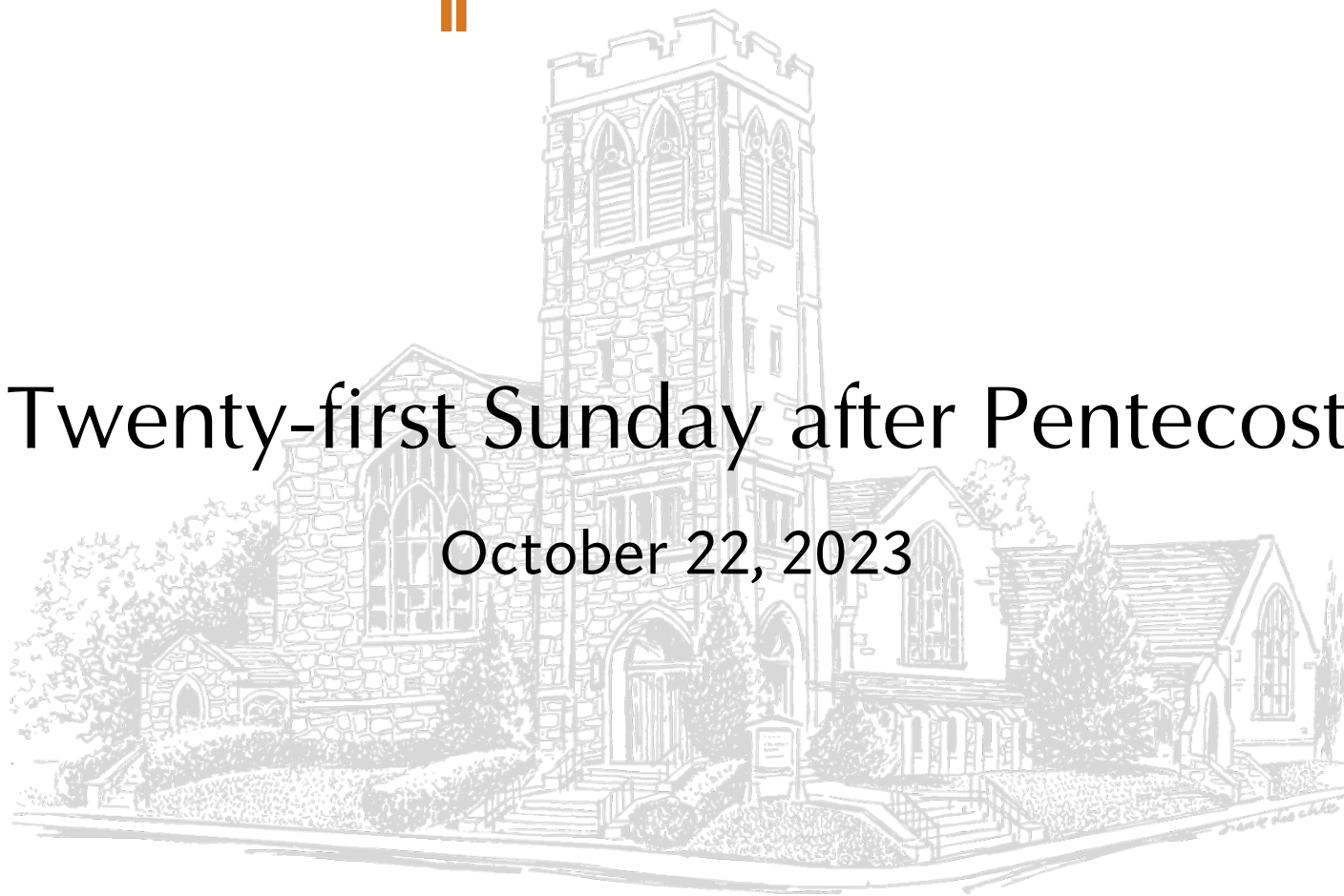




WESTMINSTER  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

# Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost

October 22, 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
  - Small Groups in the Library (for already confirmed youth)

**Membership Exploration Series** in Ruth Christie Room  
(see announcement on page 5)

**Adult Education** classes (see page 6)

**11:15 – 12:00 p.m.**      **Living Mosaics worship** in Rodney Chapel

**3:00 – 4:00 p.m.**      **Song Recital** in the Sanctuary (see announcement on page 7)

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

For descriptions of our programs for children and youth, visit [wpc.org/children-youth](http://wpc.org/children-youth).

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**The Music:** Today's anthem is Donna Butler's *In This Place*, which was commissioned by Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church, Overland Park, Kansas. Butler, an Oklahoma native, is an accomplished pianist, soloist, and composer of more than 100 works in print today. Members of the Westminster Choir and Westminster Handbell Choir are good stewards of their musical talents. If you have musical talent, please join us! We have one (1) position open in the handbell choir and welcome all voice types—soprano, alto, tenor, and bass—in the choir loft. For more information or to participate, email [TonyThurman@wpc.org](mailto:TonyThurman@wpc.org) or speak with him after the postlude.

**The sanctuary flowers** are given to the Glory of God by Heather Brooks in loving memory of her mother Nancy Dobsch and stepmother Sandi Dobsch. 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](mailto:lwatson@ycst.com).

**Westminster's Prayer Team** prays for the needs of our community. Submit your prayer request to [wpcprayerlist@gmail.com](mailto:wpcprayerlist@gmail.com) or online at [wpc.org/care-support](http://wpc.org/care-support).

**You can make a contribution** to Westminster Presbyterian Church by visiting our website at [wpc.org](http://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

Kathleen Kennan

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

\*PASSING OF THE PEACE

PRELUDE

*With Grateful Heart I Thank You, Lord*

Mary Kay Beall  
arr. John Carter

CALL TO WORSHIP

The Lord is our God, the Lord alone.

**We will love the Lord our God with all our heart,  
with all our soul and with all our might.**

Seek to be faithful in all things, great and small  
and recognize God's ownership of all you possess.

**We will strive to be generous with all that we have.**

\*HYMN NO. 612

*We Praise You, O God*

KREMSER

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

**God of creation,  
we give you thanks for this October day with all its color and crispness,  
and for the countless gifts you have showered upon us.  
At this very moment, we stop to focus on how grateful we are  
for your power that sustains the earth and brings new life,  
for your strength that gives us courage when life is threatening,  
for the wisdom you shine upon our path  
for the guidance you weave into our minds and souls,  
for your love that brings us joy and binds us together,  
and for your peace that washes away our fear and infuses us with hope.  
In your holy name, we pray. Amen.**

TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN (See "Today at Westminster" on page 2 for more information.)

Sudie Niesen Thompson

ANTHEM

*In This Place*  
Ted W. Barr, piano

Donna Butler

In this place we honor all the spirits  
who dreamed this sacred space,  
reaching out and reaching in  
to share the gift of faith.  
Ev'ry soul is welcome in this covenant of grace.  
Beloved child of God, join our table, take your place.  
It was only brick and stone  
when I first walked through the door,  
but something stirred my spirit here  
and now it's so much more.  
Our hearts and doors stand open,  
surely God is in this place.

May the light of loving kindness shine  
from each and ev'ry face in this place.  
In this place we gather to soar on hope and awe.  
With your wisdom, clear our vision,  
help us face our flaws.  
Equip us with a growing understanding of your grace.  
Then, send us out to those in need of your embrace.  
What is the future?  
What are we called to do?  
We're filled with possibility because we follow you.  
—Kathy Burdette

SERMON

Gregory Knox Jones

HYMN No. 707

*Take Thou Our Minds, Dear Lord (v. 1)*

HALL

TESTIMONY OF JERRY SPILECKI

HYMN No. 707

*Take Thou Our Minds, Dear Lord ( v. 2)*

HALL

TESTIMONY OF JESSICA FISCHER

Hymn No. 707

*Take Thou Our Minds, Dear Lord (v. 3)*

HALL

TESTIMONY OF DAN WEINTRAUB

HYMN No. 707

*Take Thou Our Minds, Dear Lord (v. 4)*

HALL

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

*Sing Praise*

arr. Helvey/Governor

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. 712

*As Those of Old Their Firstfruits Brought*

FOREST GREEN

\*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.



## MEMBERSHIP EXPLORATION SERIES

**Today | 10:10 a.m. | Ruth Christie Room**

*(access through Rodney Chapel or the Ruth Christie Hallway)*

Have you been considering membership at Westminster? Please join us to learn more about Westminster, discover ways to connect with others in the congregation, and explore ways to serve within and beyond our community. For those who wish to join the Westminster congregation, there will be an opportunity at the end of the second session. Our pastors and members of the church will share facets of Westminster.

*Questions? Contact the  
Rev. Sudie Niesen Thompson  
at [sniesenthompson@wpc.org](mailto:sniesenthompson@wpc.org).*



# ADULT EDUCATION

TODAY, OCTOBER 22

## Climate 101

*Presenters: Dustyn Thompson, Chapter Director, and Marissa McClenton, Environmental Justice Associate Organizer, Sierra Club Delaware Chapter*



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

Zoom link: [bit.ly/wpc-adult-ed-zoom](https://bit.ly/wpc-adult-ed-zoom)

Dustyn and Marissa will help us understand the climate changes Delaware is going to experience, environmental justice issues created and worsened by climate change, and how the State is addressing climate changes through legislation and regulation.

## Forgiveness: Finding Peace through Letting Go (Session 3)

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

**10:10 a.m. | Classroom 5**

Discover a path on how to receive the freedom that comes with forgiving – even if the person needing forgiveness is ourselves. Whether or not you attended the first or second session, you are welcome to participate in Session 3!

NEXT SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29



## Blessed be the Tie that Binds?

*Presenter:  
Heath W. Carter, Ph.D.*

**10:10 a.m. | Sanctuary**

*Watch live at:  
[wpc.org/watch](https://wpc.org/watch)*

We are living through a season of historic political polarization, one in which, with seemingly each passing day, more and more Americans view their neighbors as enemies. During this challenging season for church and nation alike, what can we learn from the witness of those who have gone before? What role might Presbyterian and other mainline Protestant churches play on the road ahead?

Dr. Heath W. Carter is an associate professor at Princeton Theological Seminary, where he teaches and writes about the intersection of Christianity and American public life.

ONGOING/WEEKLY

## Online Bible Studies

**Midweek Manna Bible Study**

**Wednesdays | 12 p.m. | Zoom**

*Facilitator: The Rev. Sudie Niesen Thompson*

Contact: [sniesenthompson@wpc.org](mailto:sniesenthompson@wpc.org)

**Thursday Evening Bible Study**

**Thursdays | 6–7 p.m. | Zoom**

*Facilitators: Randy Williamson*

*and Mary Anne Peters*

Contact: [randywilliamson1@comcast.net](mailto:randywilliamson1@comcast.net)

## Peace and Justice Thursday Evening Education Event

**YWCA Delaware Programs –  
How You Can Make a Difference!**

**October 26 | 7 p.m. | Zoom**

[bit.ly/peace-justice-zoom](https://bit.ly/peace-justice-zoom)

*With Becca Cotto, Director of Racial and  
Social Justice and Advocacy*

Hosted by our Peace & Justice Work Group.

[zoom.us/join](https://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](https://WPC.ORG/ADULTS) or check our events calendar at [WPC.ORG/EVENTS](https://WPC.ORG/EVENTS). Select adult education programs are available as a livestream/recording on our [YouTube channel](#).

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## *Among Friends: A SONG RECITAL*

**Today | 3 p.m. | Sanctuary**



The extraordinary and talented section leaders/soloists of the Westminster Choir will present a song recital today at 3 p.m. in the church sanctuary. Rebecca Hughes, soprano; Margaret Mezzacappa, mezzo soprano; Teddy Austin, tenor; and Jerry Polman, baritone, will perform Spirituals and works by Brahms, Schubert, and Vaughn Williams. Joining them will be Delaware Symphony Orchestra's Executive Director J.C. Barker, clarinet; DSO Principal Viola, Elias Goldstein; and Ted Barr and Tony Thurman, piano.

***Please join us in person or livestream on [YouTube!](#)***

*A free-will donation is requested.*

## *2023 Distinguished Speaker* **THE REV. DR. THOMAS G. LONG**

*Christian Funerals: What They Mean and How They Got into Trouble*

**Sunday, November 5, 2023 | 10:10 a.m. | Sanctuary**



In this presentation, we will take a brief look at how the Christian funeral service developed historically, what this service means in terms of our faith, and how it has come under stress in recent decades.

The Rev. Dr. Thomas G. Long is an ordained Presbyterian minister who spent most of his career teaching homiletics (preaching) at Candler School of Theology at Emory University and Princeton Seminary. In 1996, Tom was named one of the 12 most effective preachers in the English-speaking world by Baylor University, along with the likes of Fred Craddock, Billy Graham, James Forbes, Barbara Brown Taylor, and William Willimon. In 2018, Baylor came out with a new list of the 12 most effective preachers and Tom was one of only four from the original list to make the list again.

**Dr. Long will also preach at both worship services on November 5.**

### **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 Gerdts, 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

## We Praise You, O God

612



1 We praise you, O God, our Re - deem - er, Cre - a - tor;  
 2 We wor - ship you, God of our fa - thers and moth - ers;  
 3 With voic - es u - nit - ed our prais - es we of - fer



in grate - ful de - vo - tion our trib - ute we bring.  
 through tri - al and tem - pest our guide you have been.  
 and glad - ly our songs of thanks - giv - ing we raise.



We lay it be - fore you; we kneel and a - dore you;  
 When per - ils o'er - take us, you will not for - sake us,  
 With you, Lord, be - side us, your strong arm will guide us.



we bless your ho - ly name; glad prais - es we sing.  
 and with your help, O Lord, our strug - gles we win.  
 To you, our great Re - deem - er, for - ev - er be praise!

The author wrote this text when only nineteen years old in response to a request from the organist of the Brick Presbyterian Church in New York City, who wanted another Thanksgiving text to sing to this Dutch tune. He regarded the usual text (see no. 336) as too full of conflict.

## 707 Take Thou Our Minds, Dear Lord

1 Take thou our minds, dear Lord, we hum - bly pray;  
 2 Take thou our hearts, O Christ; they are thine own;  
 3 Take thou our wills, Most High! Hold thou full sway;  
 4 Take thou our - selves, O Lord, heart, mind, and will;

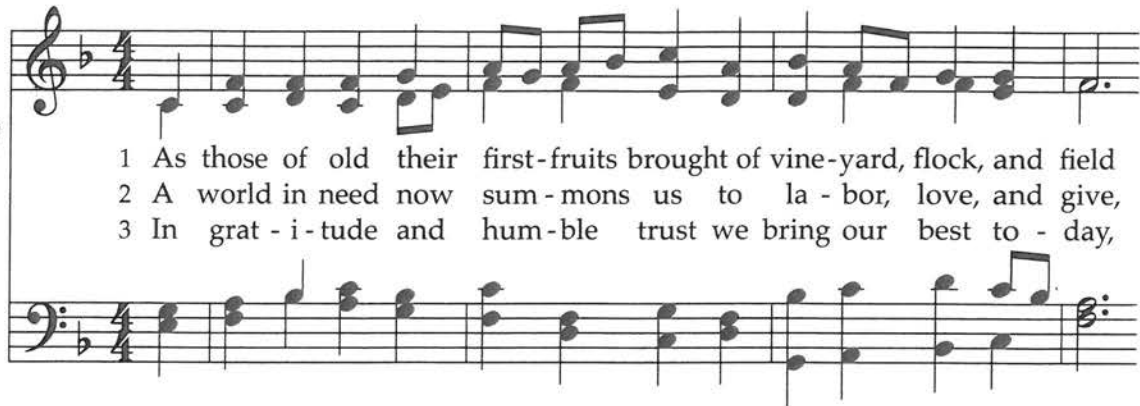
give us the mind of Christ each pass - ing day;  
 come thou with - in our souls and claim thy throne;  
 have in our in - most souls thy per - fect way;  
 through our sur - ren - dered souls thy plans ful - fill.

teach us to know the truth that sets us free;  
 help us to shed a - broad thy death - less love;  
 guard thou each sa - cred hour from self - ish ease;  
 We yield our - selves to thee: time, tal - ents, all;

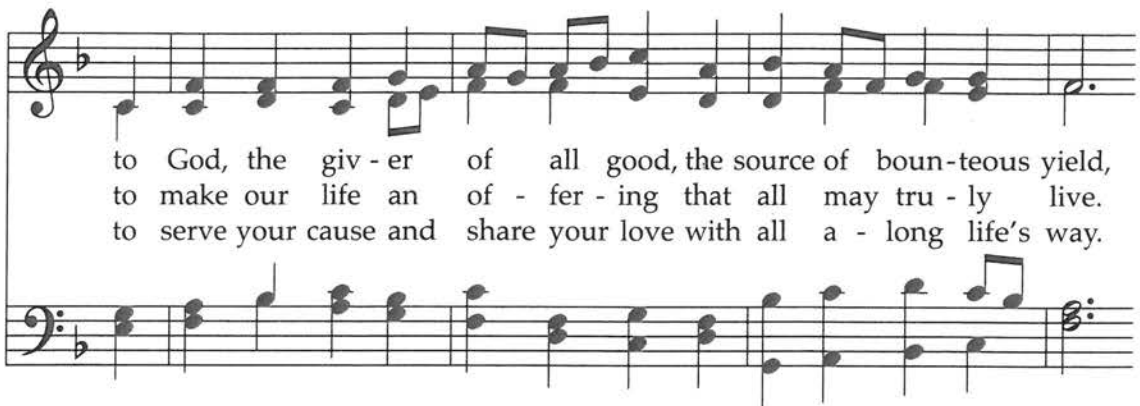
grant us in all our thoughts to hon - or thee.  
 use us to make the earth like heaven a - bove.  
 guide thou our or - dered lives as thou dost please.  
 we hear, and hence - forth heed, thy sov - ereign call.

This hymn began with the tune, which the composer hummed to the author with a request for a text that would challenge the hearts and minds of young people. The text of the first three stanzas was written that day, and the fourth stanza later emerged at a youth conference.

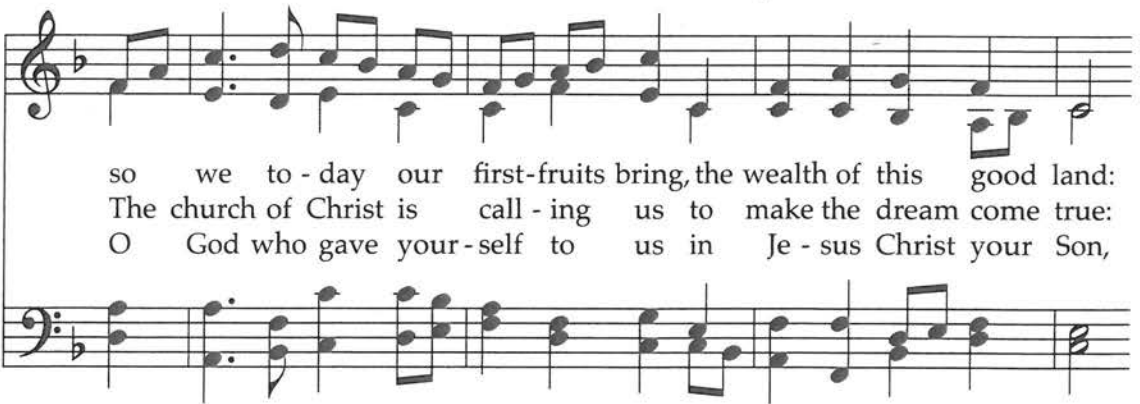
# As Those of Old Their Firstfruits Brought 712



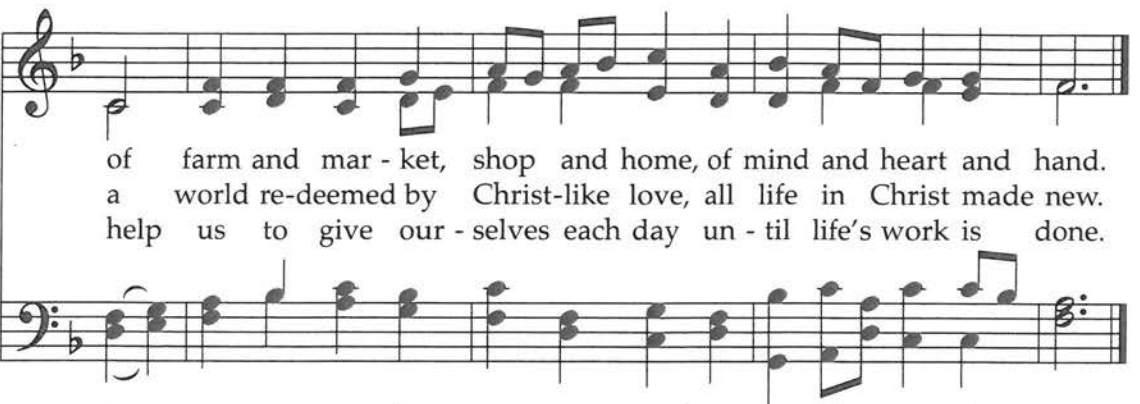
1 As those of old their first-fruits brought of vine-yard, flock, and field  
 2 A world in need now sum-mons us to la-bor, love, and give,  
 3 In grat-i-tude and hum-ble trust we bring our best to-day,



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.

This text by a Presbyterian pastor in California expresses the conviction that being a good steward is an essential part of the Christian life, for self-giving is God's own nature. The tune is named for the village in Surrey where the arranger collected this tune in 1903.