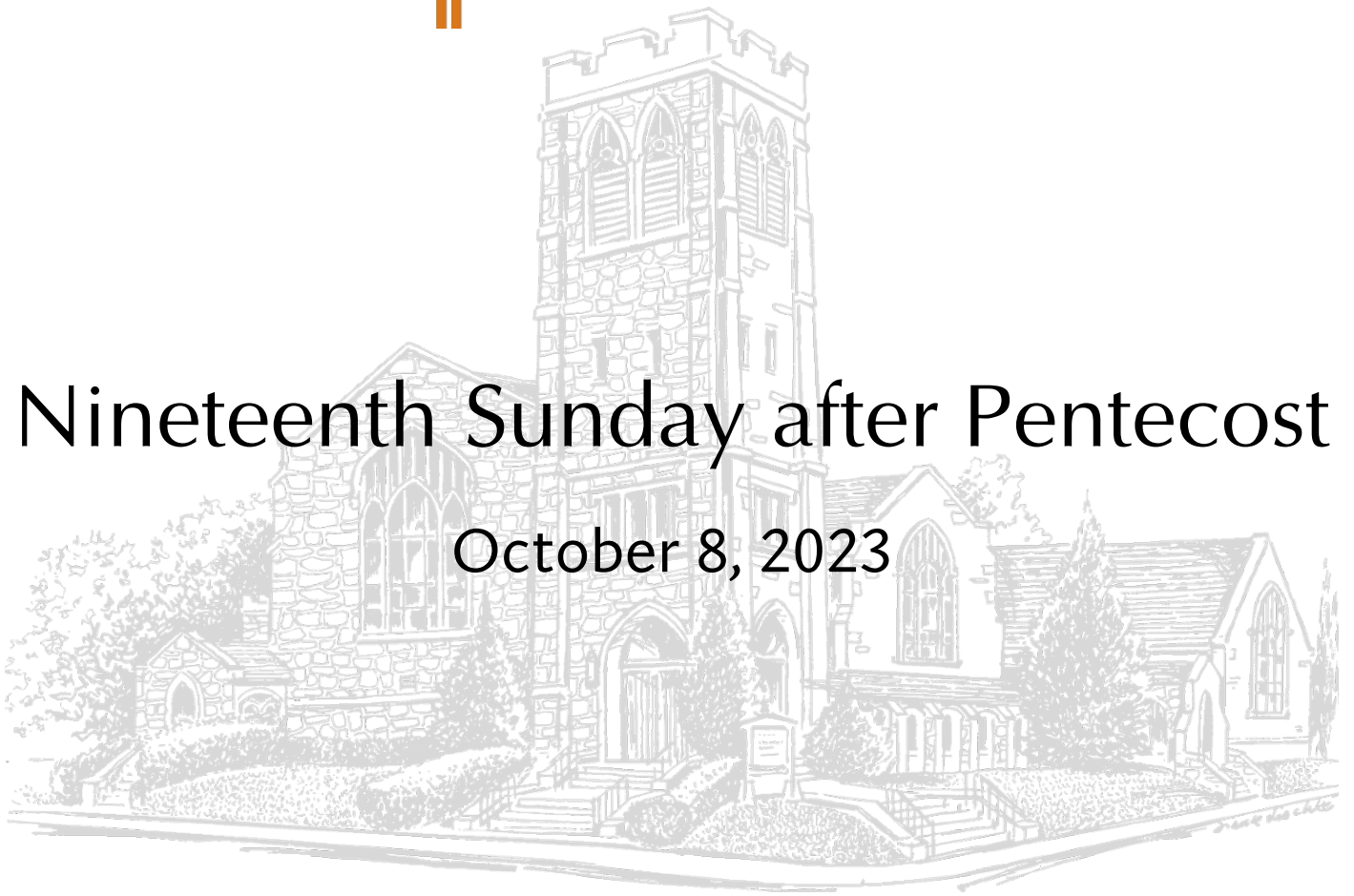




WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

October 8, 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)

10:10 – 11:00 a.m. **Membership Exploration Series** in Ruth Christie Room
(see announcement on page 7)

Adult Education classes (see page 6)

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

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.

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The Music: Framing the service today are organ voluntaries by Alfred Fedak. The New Jersey native is minister of music and arts at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Albany, N.Y., and was a member of the Presbyterian Committee on Congregational Song that produced *Glory to God*, The Presbyterian Hymnal. The Westminster Choir is looking for a few more women, men and youth, high school, and college. Weekly rehearsals are on Wednesdays from 7-9 p.m. and on Sundays at 8 a.m. The Westminster Handbell Choir rehearses on Wednesday from 5:30-6:30 p.m. For more information or to participate, contact TonyThurman@wpc.org.

The sanctuary flowers are given to the Glory of God and in memory of Sally Robinson whose memorial service was held yesterday. 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 December 3, 17, and 31.

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

Craig Checkel

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

PRELUDE

Like the First Bird

Alfred V. Fedak

CALL TO WORSHIP

Hear, O people: the Lord is our God, the Lord alone.

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

Keep these words that God has commanded you today in your heart.

**We shall recite them to our children
and talk about them when we are at home and when we are away,
when we lie down and when we rise.**

*HYMN NO. 15

All Creatures of Our God and King
(Vs. 1, 2, 4 & 6)

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God's law is perfect; it revives the soul.

Forgive us, O God, for failing to follow your commandments.

God's testimony is sure; it makes wise the simple.

Forgive us, O God, for placing status above service.

God's precepts are right; they make our hearts rejoice.

Forgive us, O God, for pursuing false gods.

God's commandments are trustworthy, they give direction to our lives.

Forgive us, O God, for neglecting those in need.

Mighty God, restore our vision and give us courage to live according to your ways
so that we may once again be your faithful people.

Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

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

The congregation is asked to please refrain from taking photographs or video recording during the worship service.

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Jordan Michael Gallagher
Son of Kendra and Dylan Gallagher

PRESENTATION OF THE PARENTS AND CHILD

Elder Susan McPheeters

OPENING WORDS

In the beginning, when the Creator formed the heavens and the earth,

God's Spirit swept over the face of the waters.

At the beginning of Jesus' ministry of teaching and healing,

God's Spirit rested upon him as he emerged from Jordan's waters.

We gather at the font to mark a new beginning —

By water and the Spirit, we welcome God's beloved into the family of faith.

PROMISES OF COMMITMENT

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER

ACT OF BAPTISM

PRAYER FOLLOWING BAPTISM

CHORAL RESPONSE

Child of Blessing, Child of Promise

Cole-Turner/Copes

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Deuteronomy 5:6-21

Old Testament, page 151

SERMON

Gregory Knox Jones

*HYMN NO. 64

I Long for Your Commandments

WOHL DENEN, DIE DA WANDELN

Vs. 1: Choir

Vs. 2-3: All

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Down in the River to Pray

Southern Gospel
arr. David L. Mennicke

As I went down in the river to pray,
Studyin' about that good ol' way
And who shall wear the robe and crown;
Good Lord, show me the way!

Oh, sisters, let's go down in the river to pray.
Oh, brothers, let's go down in the river to pray.
Oh, fathers, let's go down in the river to pray.
Oh, mothers, let's go down in the river to pray.
Oh, sinners, let's go down in the river to pray.
Oh, children, let's go down in the river to pray.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Sudie Niesen Thompson

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. 53

O God, Who Gives Us Life

NOEL

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

A Rejoicing

Fedak

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O God, Who Gives Us Life, Carl P. Daw Jr.

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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.



ADULT EDUCATION

TODAY, OCTOBER 8



Reach Riverside

Presenter: Logan Herring, CEO

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

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

Reach Riverside is a major undertaking to rebuild a long-neglected part of the city of Wilmington through affordable housing, a Warehouse for teens, and the Kingswood Community Center. Come and learn about developments in this massive, transformative effort, one of the mission projects of Westminster.

Feeling Good Again: Engaging One Another

Facilitator: Janet Steinwedel, Ph.D.

10:10 a.m. | Classroom 5

Our mental and physical health gets a boost from our positive interactions with others, and research suggests engaging with others promotes a longer and better life. Come join us to learn about and share best practices on how to be in healing conversations and add to our ability to feel good again.

SUNDAY, 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

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

Whether or not you attended the first or second session, you are welcome to participate in Session 3!

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

NO ZOOM PROGRAM ON OCTOBER 12

NEXT PROGRAM:

October 19 | 7 p.m. | Zoom

bit.ly/peace-justice-zoom

Topic to be announced.

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](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS

MEMBERSHIP EXPLORATION SERIES

Today and October 22 | 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 for this two-session series! Membership Exploration series are wonderful opportunities 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.



Blessing of the Animals



TODAY

During the 11:15 a.m.
Living Mosaics Worship Service

We will give thanks for the creatures of our planet during our 11:15 a.m. *Living Mosaics* service on the side lawn (Sacred Grounds) today. If you have a beloved pet, you are encouraged to bring it to the service!

FALL FESTIVAL

on the lawn*

Sunday, October 15

10 a.m. (following the 9 a.m. service)

GAMES

FOOD

CRAFTS

COSTUMES ARE ENCOURAGED!

Sponsored by the Westminster Deacons.

*Rain location: Walton Community Hall

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 Gerds, 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

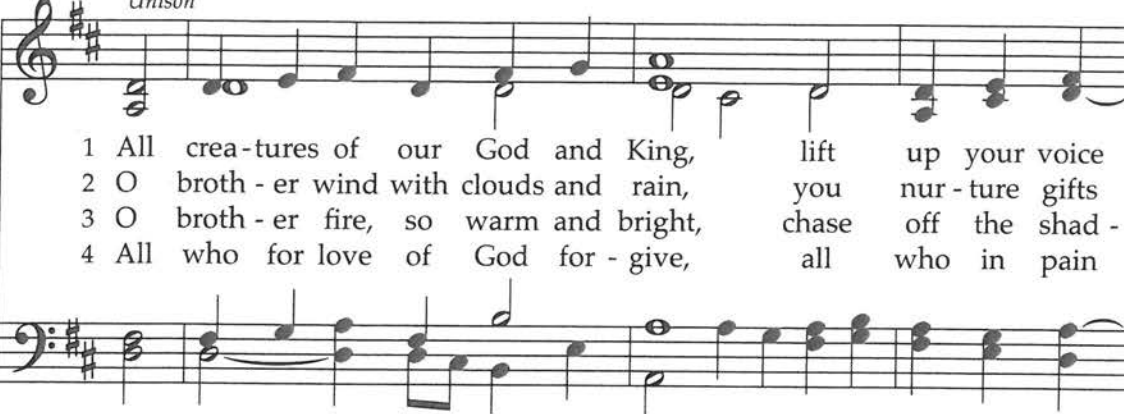
Rich Albert, Tom Brooks, Nancy Fleming, John Gavenonis, Lou Hering,
Bobbe Hoy, Brock Jobe, Sue Linderman, Robert Love, Tom Preston, Kris Qualls, Stan Stevenson

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


15 All Creatures of Our God and King

Unison



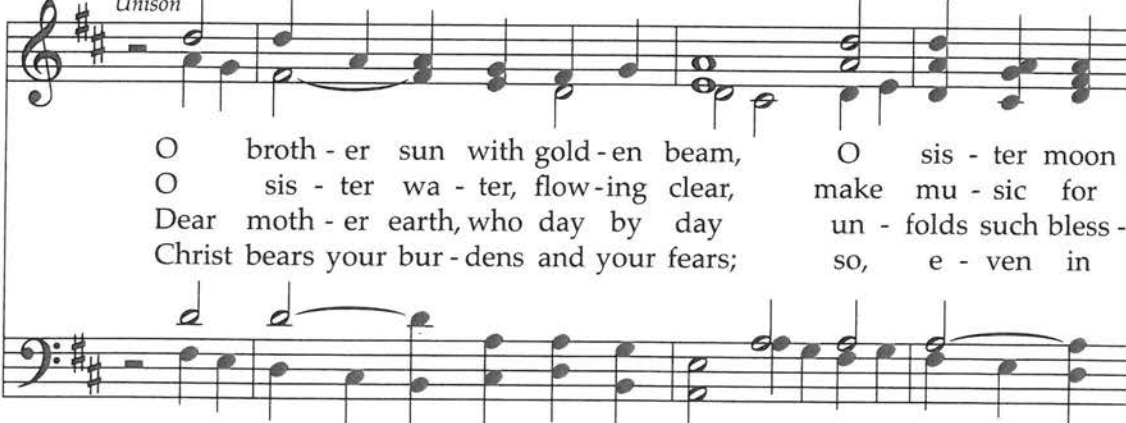
1 All crea-tures of our God and King, lift up your voice
 2 O broth-er wind with clouds and rain, you nur-ture gifts
 3 O broth-er fire, so warm and bright, chase off the shad-
 4 All who for love of God for-give, all who in pain

Harmony



and with us sing, Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!
 of fruit and grain. Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!
 ows of the night. Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!
 or sor-row grieve, Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!

Unison



O broth-er sun with gold-en beam, O sis-ter moon
 O sis-ter wa-ter, flow-ing clear, make mu-sic for
 Dear moth-er earth, who day by day un-folds such bless-
 Christ bears your bur-dens and your fears; so, e-ven in

Sometimes called "The Canticle of the Sun," this cosmic roll call allows human beings to give voice to all creation. One of the earliest religious poems in the Italian language, it is made even more expansive by this broad, repetitive melody with interspersed "Alleluias."

Harmony

with sil - ver gleam, sing prais - es! Al - le - lu - ia!
 your Lord to hear. Sing prais - es! Al - le - lu - ia!
 ings on our way, sing prais - es! Al - le - lu - ia!
 the midst of tears, sing prais - es! Al - le - lu - ia!

Unison

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

5 And you, most gentle sister death,
 waiting to hush our final breath:
 Alleluia! Alleluia!
 Since Christ our light has pierced your gloom,
 fair is the night that leads us home.
 Sing praises! Alleluia!
 Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

6 O sisters, brothers, take your part,
 and worship God with humble heart.
 Alleluia! Alleluia!
 All creatures, bless the Father, Son,
 and Holy Spirit, Three in One!
 Sing praises! Alleluia!
 Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

486 Child of Blessing, Child of Promise

1 Child of bless - ing, child of prom - ise, bap - tized
 2 Child of love, our love's ex - pres - sion, love's cre -
 3 Child of joy, our dear - est trea - sure, God's you
 4 Child of God, your lov - ing Par - ent, learn to

with the Spir - it's sign, with this wa - ter God has
 a - tion, loved in - deed! Fresh from God, re - fresh our
 are, from God you came. Back to God we hum - bly
 lis - ten for God's call. Grow to laugh and sing and

sealed you un - to love and grace di - vine.
 spir - its; in - to joy and laugh - ter lead.
 give you: live as one who bears Christ's name.
 wor - ship; trust and love God more than all.

This hymn addressed to a newly-baptized child begins each stanza with a facet of the child's identity, culminating in "child of God." By being directed to one person rather than the whole congregation, this text occupies a special category among the "songs of encouragement."

64 I Long for Your Commandments

(Psalm 119)

1 I long for your com - mand - ments; your judg - ments all are
 2 With - out your lamp to guide me I wan - der from the
 3 O God, I love your knowl - edge, more pre - cious than pure

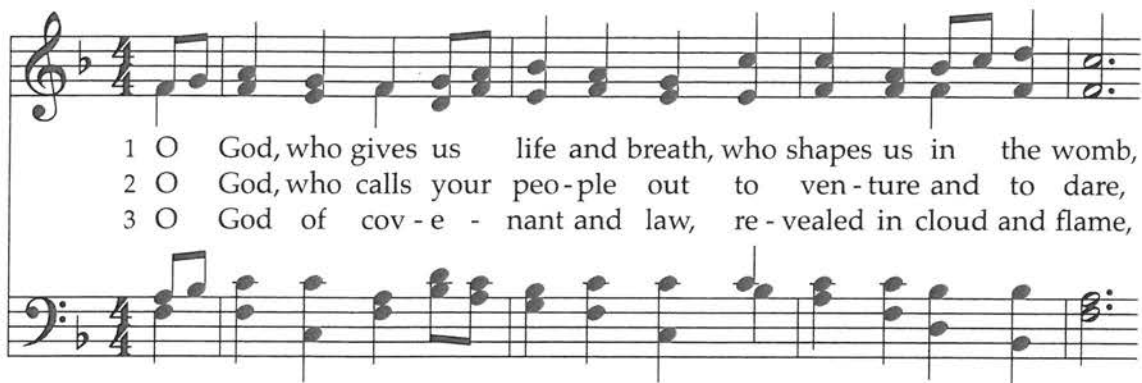
just. With - in your words is wis - dom, your teach - ings
 way. With - out your laws and pre - cepts I stum - ble
 gold. It sat - is - fies like hon - ey, a sweet - ness

un - der - stood are com - fort to my spir - it's need and
 in the dark. Your un - der - stand - ings are my hope that
 on my tongue. It leads me to sal - va - tion's door where

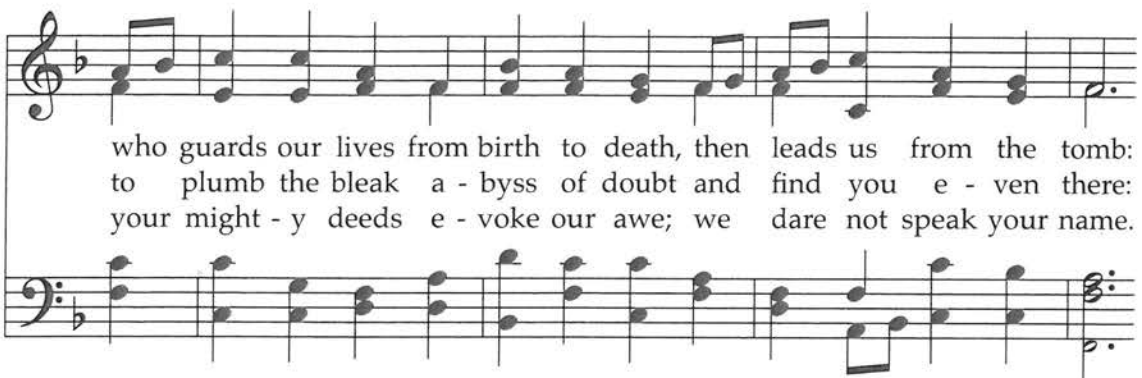
in the night my so - lace. Your stat - utes are my song.
 I may run in free - dom. Your ways are my re - lease.
 you have spread your ta - ble. O, lead me to your home.

Although this paraphrase is based on only a small part of Psalm 119, it incorporates many of the synonyms that weave through this extended acrostic psalm celebrating God's Law: commandments, judgments, words, teachings, wisdom, statutes, laws, precepts, understandings, ways.

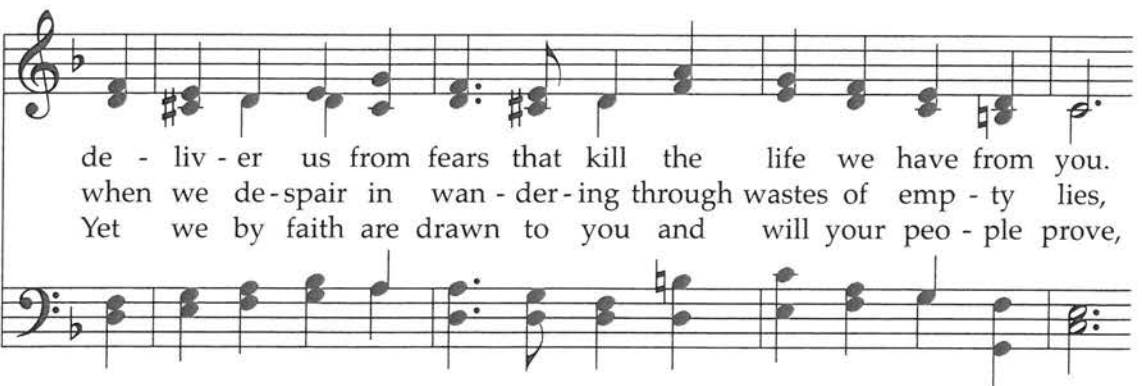
53 O God, Who Gives Us Life



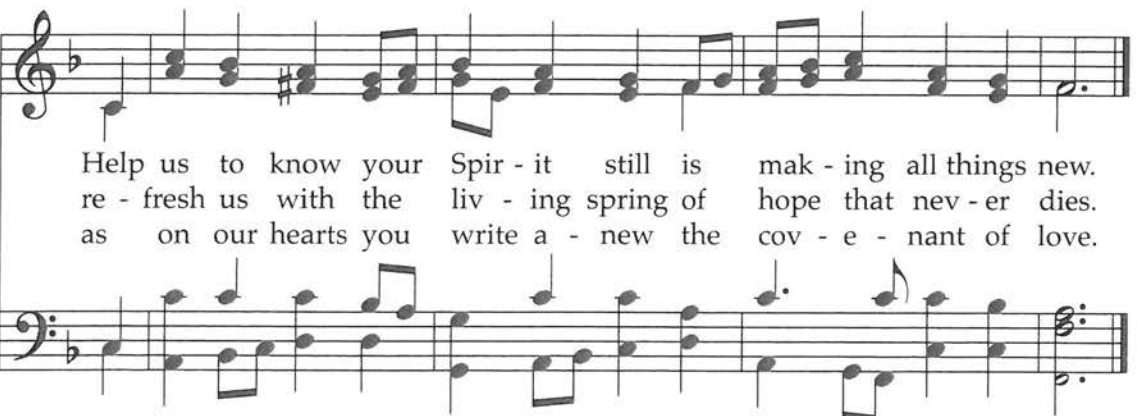
1 O God, who gives us life and breath, who shapes us in the womb,
 2 O God, who calls your peo-ple out to ven-ture and to dare,
 3 O God of cov-e - nant and law, re - vealed in cloud and flame,



who guards our lives from birth to death, then leads us from the tomb:
 to plumb the bleak a - byss of doubt and find you e - ven there:
 your might - y deeds e - voke our awe; we dare not speak your name.



de - liv - er us from fears that kill the life we have from you.
 when we de-spair in wan - der-ing through wastes of emp - ty lies,
 Yet we by faith are drawn to you and will your peo - ple prove,



Help us to know your Spir - it still is mak - ing all things new.
 re - fresh us with the liv - ing spring of hope that nev - er dies.
 as on our hearts you write a - new the cov - e - nant of love.

Christians often fail to appreciate how much we can learn about God from the Hebrew Scriptures. This text draws on a variety of passages that call attention to God's faithfulness toward the Chosen People and the promise of a new covenant written on the heart (Jeremiah 31:31-34).