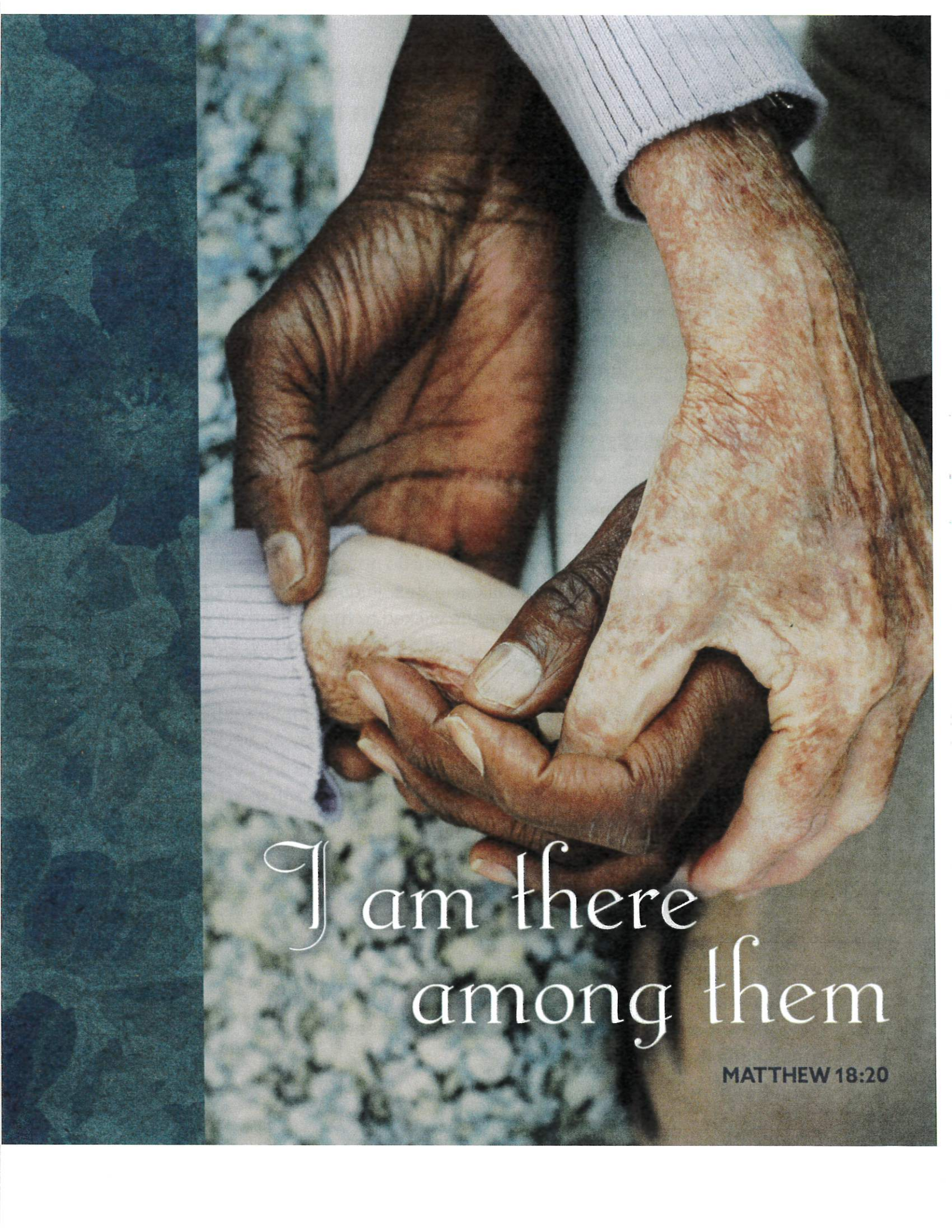




I am there
among them

MATTHEW 18:20



Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost Bulletin Insert

Saturday, September 5, 2026 ~ 5:00 pm
Sunday, September 6, 2026 ~ 9:00 am

GATHERING SONG

"As We Gather At Your Table"

ELW #522

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O Lord God, enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy. Without your help, we mortals will fail; remove far from us everything that is harmful, and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

First Reading: Ezekiel 33:7-11

A reading from Ezekiel.

⁷ So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. ⁸ If I say to the wicked, "O wicked ones, you shall surely die," and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. ⁹ But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life.

¹⁰ Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel: Thus you have said: "Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?" ¹¹ Say to them: As I live, says the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways, for why will you die, O house of Israel?

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 119:33-40

³³ Teach me, O LORD, the way of your statutes,
and I shall keep it to the end.

³⁴ **Give me understanding, and I shall keep your teaching;
I shall keep it with all my heart.**

³⁵ Lead me in the path of your commandments,
for that is my desire.

³⁶ **Incline my heart to your decrees
and not to unjust gain.**

³⁷ Turn my eyes from beholding falsehood;
give me life in your way.

³⁸ **Fulfill your promise to your servant,
which is for those who fear you.**

³⁹ Turn away the reproach that I dread,
because your judgments are good.

⁴⁰ **Behold, I long for your commandments;
by your righteousness enliven me.**

Second Reading: Romans 13:8-14

A reading from Romans.

⁸ Owe no one anything, except to love one another, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹ The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; you shall not murder; you shall not steal; you shall not covet," and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁰ Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

¹¹ Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹² the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³ let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴ Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel: Matthew 18:15-20

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁵ "If your brother or sister sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If you are listened to, you have

regained that one. ¹⁶ But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷ If that person refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church, and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸ Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹ Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

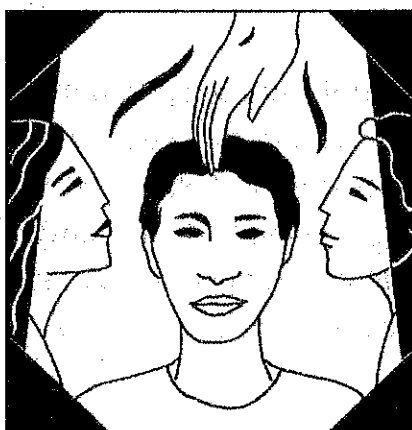
The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY "God, When Human Bonds Are Broken" ELW #603

HOLY BAPTISM (9:00 am) Hayes Lloyd Sawyer ELW pg 227

COMMUNION HYMNS "In the Singing" ELW #466
"Just a Closer Walk with Thee" ELW #697

SENDING SONG "Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee" ELW #836



Thank you to those who share in our worship services!

Ushers

Reader

Communion Assistants

Counters

Organist

Online Streaming Team: Craig Bloomingdale, Lucas Golinghorst, Scott La Plante & Kevin Zidarich

Saturday Evening Service

Dave & Linda Golinghorst

Paula Bryant

Kara Zidarich

Dave & Betty Griffin

Susan Becker

Sunday Morning Service

Nina Looney

Neal Becker

Not yet determined

Nina Looney & Joan Hennigan

FAITH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Senior Pastor Carrie La Plante Pastor Heather Geest

Worship: Saturday 5 pm Sunday 9 am

Telephone: (563) 285-4501 Email: faitheldridge@netins.net

www.faithlutheranelldridge.com

GRACE - GIFTED FAITH - LIFTED

CALLED TO SHARE, SEEK AND SERVE CHRIST.

WELCOME TO WORSHIP Today we gather to celebrate God's love and grace as revealed to us through Jesus Christ. For those that might be interested in knowing more about the ministries and activities of the congregation there are some printed materials available for you to take. The materials are located on the counter just inside the east entrance of this building. You can also find more information through the church website at faithlutheranelldridge.com.

CHILDREN are always welcome in worship. Special children's bulletins are available for their use.

VISITOR? CHANGE OF ADDRESS? INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES? HAVE A PRAYER REQUEST? Please feel free to complete the information card located in front of you next to the hymnals and place the card in the offering plate.



The flowers on the altar are from Myra Kreiter and family in loving memory of Jack.

If you are interested in providing altar flowers, please sign up on the bulletin board in the narthex, or by using the link on our web site.



Trusting that God hears our prayers, we keep these people
and all who are in need in our prayers.

Steve Mixdorf	Meyer Mixdorf	Judy Feller	Cindy	Jerry
Patty Denner	Cheryl Torey	Carla Whitlock	Thad	Kathy
Kathy Stoltz	June Mephram	Steve Eggert	Dave	Jeanne
Ron Arp	Rebecca Casson	Marilyn	Linda	
Jan Goettsch	Cherri Grimes	Kelly	Janet	
Barb Conklen	Judy Rigg	James	Paul	



Pastor Carrie and Pastor Heather are available for Pastoral Care, but we need your help to know when and where that is needed. Even though the medical facilities might ask about notifying your church, they do not actually contact us unless a situation is dire. Please contact us at the church office at (563) 285-4501. For after-hour emergencies, please contact Pastor Carrie at (641) 275-1326 or Pastor Heather at (563) 639-9606.



During the Sunday, September 6 worship service, we welcome to our Faith family through the waters of holy baptism, Hayes Lloyd Sawyer, son of Austin and Caitlin Sawyer. Hayes' sponsors are Evan and Nicole Salzer. *The rose on the altar is given in celebration of the baptism in loving memory of Mary House, Maddie Mess, and Jackie Snyder.*

WEEKLY *Sneak Peek*

Saturday, September 5

5:00 pm Worship In Sanctuary &
Online

Sunday, September 6

9:00 am Worship at Outdoor Chapel
10:15 am Fellowship

Monday, September 7 *Office Closed*

Tuesday, September 8

1:00 pm Bible Study
5:30 pm Food Pantry 6:30 pm

Wednesday, September 9

5:15 pm Confirmation Meal
5:45 pm Confirmation Conversations
7:00 pm High School Youth

Thursday September 10

Friday, September 11

9:30 am Food Pantry

Saturday, September 12

5:00 pm Worship In Sanctuary &
Online

Sunday, September 13 *Rally Day*

9:00 am Worship
10:15 am Congregational Breakfast
11:00 am God's Work Our Hands Service
Project
6:00 pm 4-H Meeting



Even though rehearsals have already started, it's definitely not too late to be a part of Faith's music ministry. Resounding Joy Chime Choir rehearses on Wednesday mornings at 10:45 am and People of Praise Choir rehearses on Wednesday evenings at 6:00 pm. All rehearsals are held in the sanctuary. (Please note that there will be no rehearsals on September 9 for either of these groups, but rehearsals will resume on September 16 at the times shown.) You're warmly invited to come join us as we offer our musical gifts to the Lord, our church, and each other. You may contact our Music Director, Susan Becker, if you have questions or would like additional information (susan.becker1995@gmail.com or 563-386-2896).



August 29 & 30 - 5:00 pm: 41, 9:00 am: 59, Online: 29, Total: 129



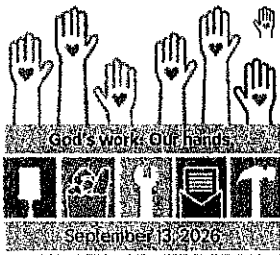
Sunday School Rally Day Sunday, September 13th

We will be registering Pré K through 6th Grade and will have schedules of the classes and special events planned for the upcoming school year. Hope to see you there!

Adults or teens interested in volunteering for Sunday School or being on the Education Team (one meeting a month) please contact Pastor Heather or Cindy Zabel (563 210 4169).



Join us on **Sunday, September 13**, for our monthly **Congregational Breakfast** following the 9 am worship service. It is our hope that these intergenerational congregational breakfasts will be an opportunity for us to grow in faith and in relationship with one another



Please join us on Rally Day (**Sept 13th**) after breakfast for our service project for God's Work Our Hands Day. We are planning a litter walk along the bike path south of Eldridge. All ages are welcome, with parent supervision for smaller children. Contact Joni Kuehl-Schneider to sign up (ilkstudios1965@gmail.com).

Thanks! ~ Service in the World Team

Check out the invitation to participate from Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry at on the ELCA Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/reel/27822740797394997>



SOLES4SOULS

Turning shoes and clothing into opportunity

The Eldridge Lions Club is collecting new and gently used shoes **August 10 through September 11, 2026**. The Soles4Souls program turns unwanted shoes into opportunity, in the United

States and around the world, by keeping them from going to waste and putting them to good use - providing relief, creating jobs, and empowering people to break the cycle of poverty. Here's an opportunity to clean out that closet and drop your gently used shoes in the Soles4Souls orange box. And just like that, you've made someone's life better.



Ushers and those interested in becoming Ushers... Usher training will be held on **Sunday, September 20 @10:15 am** in the Sanctuary. Please plan to attend! **Contact Tom Bauer at (563) 505-5776 for more information.**

Community Is Complicated

Navigating life with other humans is not always easy. We who call ourselves the church likely know this all too well. Perhaps you've witnessed church council meetings gone awry, frustrating conversations about the budget, or intense disagreements over worship styles. Maybe your faith community has had to navigate conflicting visions for mission and outreach, welcome and hospitality, or diversity and justice. Maybe the generational or political divides in your community feel like rifts too big to cross. As the church, we are called to wrestle with difficult questions about faith and life, but at times, even with the best of intentions, we leave one another feeling hurt, overlooked, or misunderstood.

Jesus knew a thing or two about life in community. He knew what it was like to be betrayed by the ones he loved. He shared meals with people of different backgrounds, people whose identities at times put them at odds with one another. Even his disciples never quite seemed to be on the same page! Yet Jesus knew that despite the complexity of these situations, faith is best practiced in community. Accompanying one another, sharing one another's burdens, encouraging one another, forgiving one another, and holding each other accountable are vital to the Christian life.

Therefore, managing conflict is not something to be taken lightly. Disagreements are not to be just swept under the rug, ignored until the next issue emerges. We are instead called to embrace truth-telling, courage, accountability, and compassion in our dealings with one another. The work of conflict resolution is not easy or glamorous. In fact, it can be awkward and downright painful. But it is holy work. And by God's grace, it can be an invitation to build a community that more truly reflects God's love poured out for the whole world.

As We Gather at Your Table



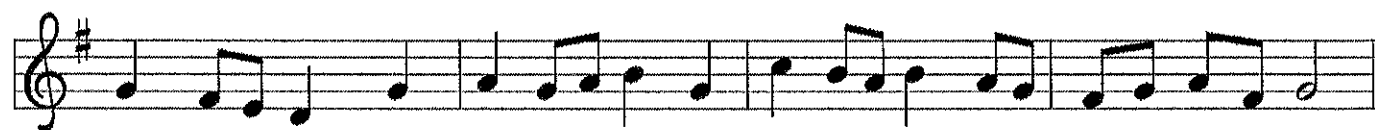
- 1 As we gath-er at your ta - ble, as we lis - ten to your word,
- 2 Turn our wor-ship in - to wit-ness in the sac - ra - ment of life;
- 3 Gra - cious Spir - it, help us sum-mon oth-er guests to share that feast



help us know, O God, your pres-ence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.
 send us forth to love and serve you, bring-ing peace where there is strife.
 where tri - um-phant Love will wel-come those who had been last and least.



Nour-ish us with sa - cred sto - ry till we claim it as our own;
 Give us, Christ, your great com-pas-sion to for - give as you for - gave;
 There no more will en - vy blind us nor will pride our peace de - stroy,



teach us through this ho - ly ban-quet how to make Love's vic - t'ry known.
 may we still be - hold your im - age in the world you died to save.
 as we join with saints and an - gels to re - peat the sound-ing joy.

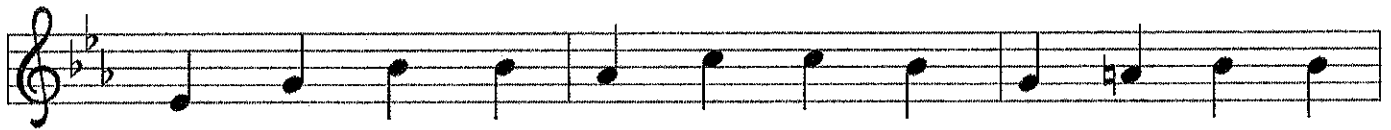
Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944

Music: IN BABILONE, *Oude en Nieuwe Hollandse Boerenliedes en Contradansen*, 1710

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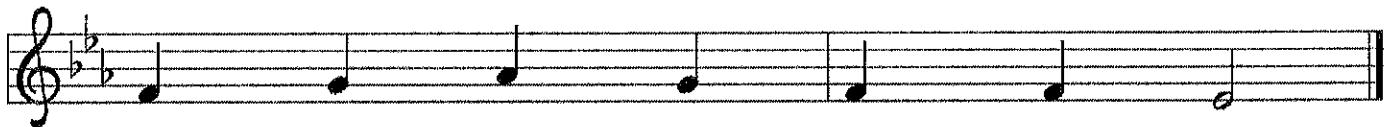
God, When Human Bonds Are Broken



1 God, when hu - man bonds are bro - ken and we lack the
 2 Through that still - ness, with your Spir - it come in - to our
 3 You in us are bruised and bro - ken: hear us as we
 4 Send us, God of new be - gin - nings, hum - bly hope - ful
 5 Give us faith to be more faith - ful, give us hope to



love or skill to re - store the hope of heal - ing,
 world of stress, for the sake of Christ for - giv - ing
 seek re - lease from the pain of ear - lier liv - ing;
 in - to life. Use us as a means of bless - ing:
 be more true, give us love to go on learn - ing:



give us grace and make us still.
 all the fail - ures we con - fess.
 set us free and grant us peace.
 make us stron - ger, give us faith.
 God, en - cour - age and re - new!

Text: Fred Kaan, b. 1929

Music: MERTON, William H. Monk, 1823-1889

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In the Singing



1 In the sing - ing, in the si - lence, in the hands ex - pect - ant, o - pen,
2 In the ques - tion, in the an - swer, in the mo - ment of ac - cept - ance,

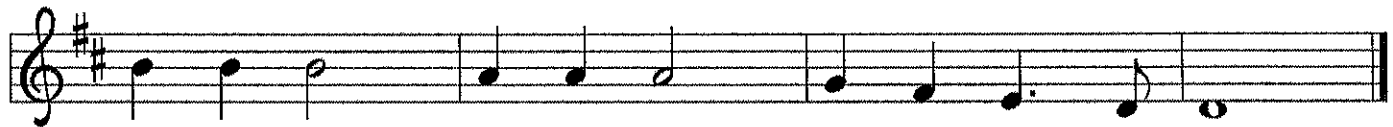


in the bless - ing, in the break - ing, in your pres - ence at this ta - ble,
in the heart's cry, in the heal - ing, in the cir - cle of your peo - ple,

Refrain



Je - sus Christ, Je - sus Christ, be the wine of grace;



Je - sus Christ, Je - sus Christ, be the bread of peace.

Text: Shirley Erena Murray, b. 1931

Music: BREAD OF PEACE, Carlton R. Young, b. 1926

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Just a Closer Walk with Thee



Refrain Just a clos - er walk with thee, grant it, Je - sus, is my plea;
1 I am weak but thou art strong: Je - sus, keep me from all wrong;
2 Through this world of toil and snares, if I fal - ter, Lord, who cares?
3 When my fee - ble life is o'er, time for me will be no more;



dai - ly walk - ing close to thee, let it be, dear Lord, let it be.
I'll be sat - is - fied as long as I walk, let me walk close to thee. *Ref.*
Who with me my bur - den shares? None but thee, dear Lord, none but thee. *Ref.*
guide me gent - ly, safe - ly o'er to thy king - dom shore, to thy shore. *Ref.*

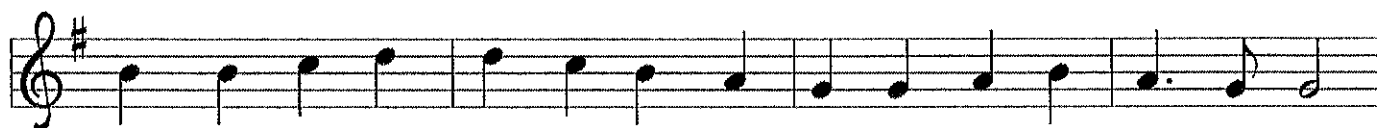


Text: North American traditional
Music: CLOSER WALK, North American traditional

Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee



- 1 Joy - ful, joy - ful we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!
- 2 All thy works with joy sur-round thee, earth and heav'n re - flect thy rays,
- 3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless-ing, ev - er blest,



Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore thee, prais-ing thee, their sun a - bove.
stars and an - gels sing a-round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
well-spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean-depth of hap - py rest!



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, drive the gloom of doubt a - way.
Field and for - est, vale and moun-tain, flow-'ry mead-ow, flash - ing sea,
Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our broth - er, all who live in love are thine;



Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad-ness, fill us with the light of day.
chant-ing bird, and flow - ing foun - tain call us to re - joice in thee.
teach us how to love each oth - er, lift us to the joy di - vine!

Text: Henry van Dyke, 1852–1922

Music: HYMN TO JOY, Ludwig van Beethoven, 1770–1827, adapt.