FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

1201 JEFFERSON STREET
MUSKEGON, MICHIGAN 49441

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fccmuskegon.org

REV. DR. BECKY EMERSON + SENIOR MINISTER

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
NOVEMBER 15, 2026

WELCOME & COMMUNITY NEWS

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

PRELUDE

Prelude on 'Brother James's Air,' by Searle Wright

GATHERING PRAYER
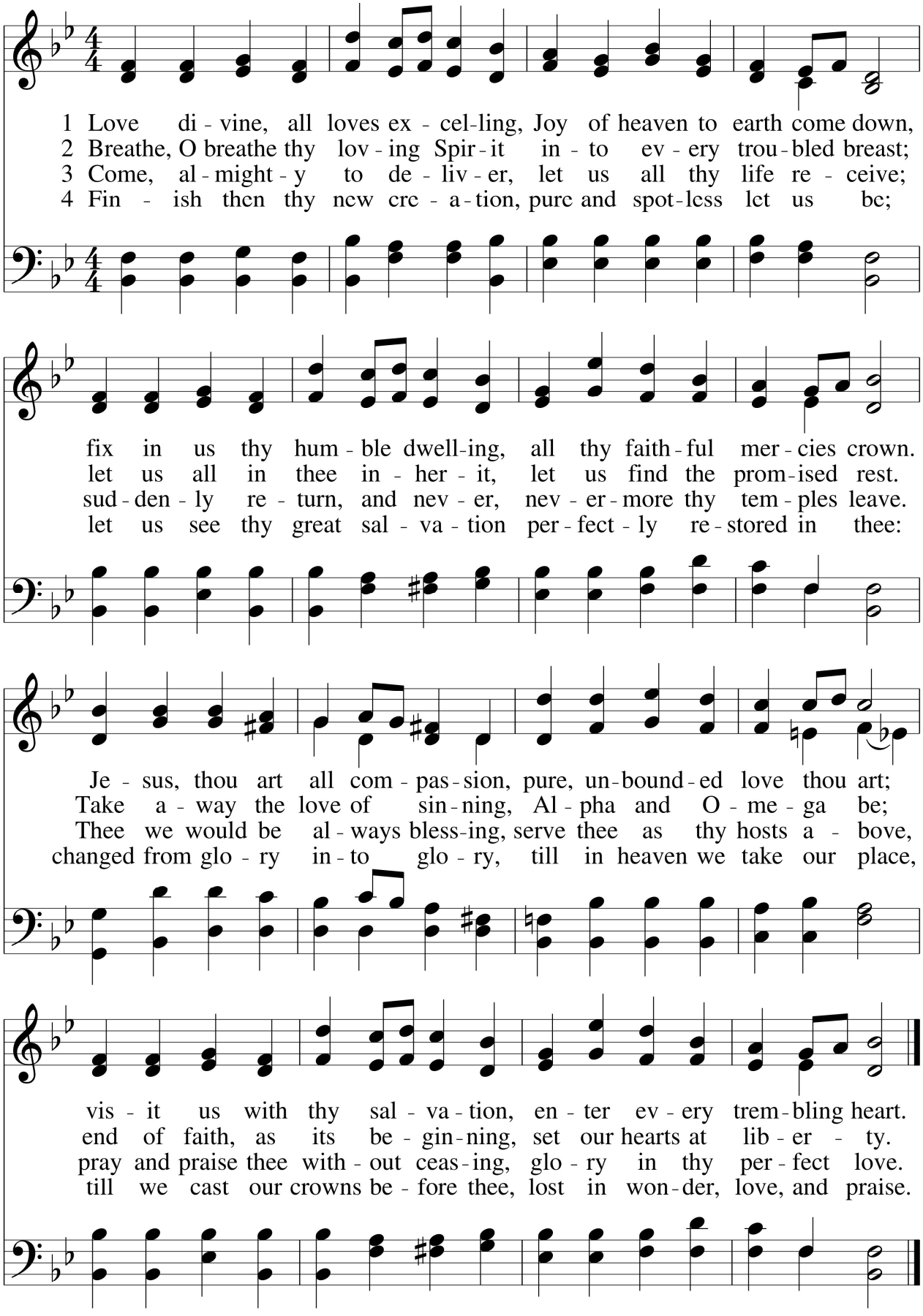
The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.
Let us pray:
Our God, we hear Your call to gather!
In this sacred space, we are aware of joining many others,
We join with the heart of the Psalmist,
And declare Your presence and peace.
In our hearts, among us, and among the nations.
"There is a river whose streams gladden the city of God,
The holy dwelling of the Most High.
God is in its midst; it will never fall—God will help it at daybreak.
Though nations are in turmoil and empires crumble,
God's voice resounds, and it melts the earth.
The LORD is with us—our stronghold is the LORD!
Come, see what the LORD has done—God makes the earth bountiful!
God has put an end to war, from one end of the earth to the other,
breaking bows, splintering spears, and setting chariots on fire."
Oh God, we have heard of Your works.
May we also see them in our times!
May we be still and know that You are God.
Give us peace and peace in our world. Amen!

Those who wish may stand

Those who wish may stand

OPENING HYMN

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling



WORDS: Charles Wesley (1707-1788)
MUSIC: John Zundel (1815-1882)

BEECHER
8.7.8.7.D.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Matthew 5: 9-10

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God."
"Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven".

Psalm 85: 8-13

Let me hear what God the Lord will speak, for he will speak peace to his people, to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts.
Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land. Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other. Faithfulness will spring up from the ground, and righteousness will look down from the sky. The Lord will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase. Righteousness will go before him and will make a path for his steps.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God!

CHORAL ANTHEM

It Is Well with My Soul, Arr. by John Ness Beck

When peace, like a river, attendeth my way,
When sorrows like sea billows roll—whatever my lot,
Thou has taught me to say, It is well, it is well with my soul.

My sin—O the joy of this glorious thought—My sin, not in part, but the whole
Is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more:
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul! It is well with my soul.

And, Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight,
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll:
The trumpet shall sound and the Lord shall descend,
"Even so"—it is well with my soul!

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MESSAGE
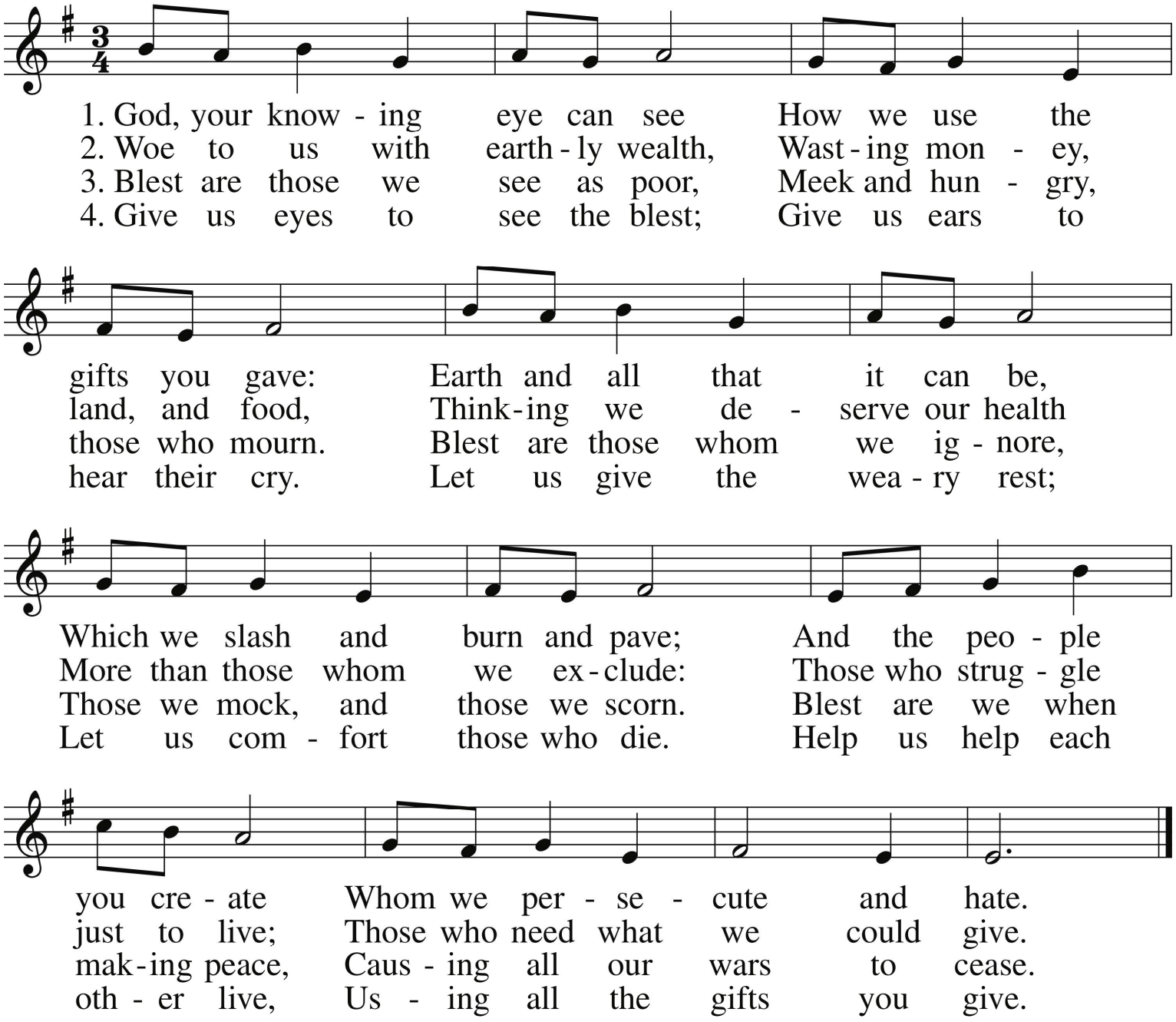
The Peacemaker/The Persecuted

Those who wish may stand

Those who wish may stand

HYMN OF REFLECTION

God, Your Knowing Eye Can See



Text: Adam M. L. Tice, b.1979, © 2009, GIA Publications, Inc.
Tune: CÂMARA, 7 7 7 7 77; Chris Ángel, b.1976, © 2009, GIA Publications, Inc.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

(ending with 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.

OFFERTORY INVITATION

OFFERTORY MUSIC

Grant Us Thy Peace, by Felix Mendelssohn

Grant us thy peace, Almighty God, thou source of every blessing.
Feeble and frail, trust we thy word; all things in thee possessing.
In thee is our hope and safety.

DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below,
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father (Creator)**, Son** (Christ), **and Holy Ghost. Amen.**
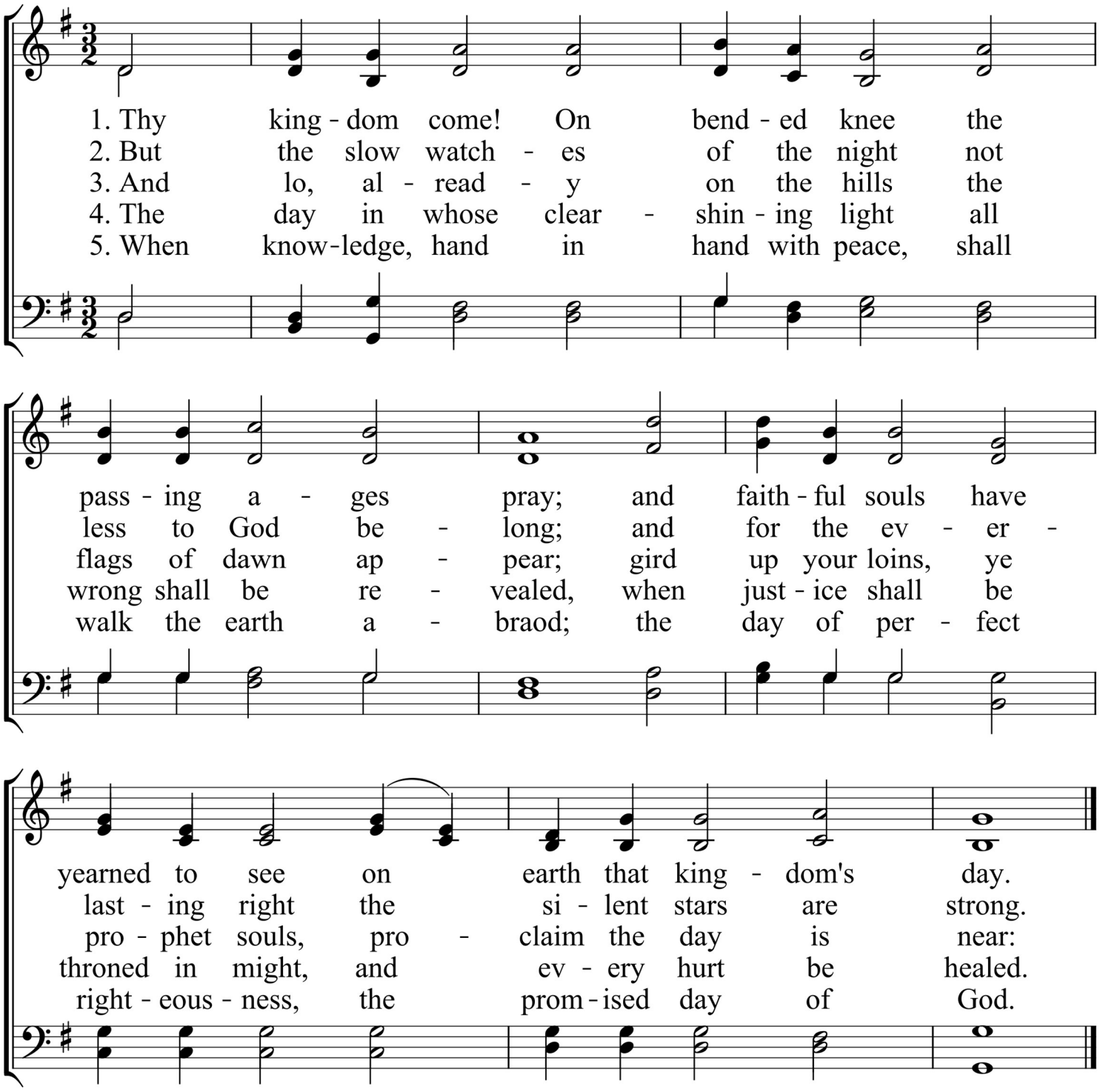
PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Those who wish may stand

CLOSING HYMN

Thy Kingdom Come! On Bended Knee

Those who wish may stand



Text: Frederick L. Hosmer (1891), Tune: AZMON, Carl G. Gläser, 1828

BLESSING AND SENDING

POSTLUDE

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise, Arr. by Michael Burkhardt

Today's Service

Rev. Dr. Becky Emerson	Senior Minister
Dr. Michael Match	Director of Music
John Mattson	Organist
The Motet Choir	Leaders of Song
Steve Chapman	Liturgist/Prayer
Blake D. Filius	Audio and Video

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Child Care is available on the second floor for infants & toddlers.

Cookies for Sunday Fellowship: Last names beginning with T-Z are asked to donate in November. Please provide descriptions to safely avoid any allergies.

Today's Life-long Learning session will meet in the library for the final session in our series about navigating transitions. We plan to end at 12:45, but sneak out earlier if you must.

Saturday Breakfast will be November 28, 2026 from 9-10:30 AM. Volunteers are appreciated. Tom (Cowboy) offers worship service in the Chapel at 10:45 AM. All are welcome.

Messy Paint Class will be held Wednesday, November 18 at 1 PM in the lower level. Please sign up and take a Materials List at the Welcome Center if you would like to join us. All are welcome.

New or gently used coats children - adult sizes are being collected through this month. (box in the lobby).

Directories are at the Welcome Center for members and longtime attendees. Sugg. Donation $10.

FCC's Candlelight Concert will be Sunday, December 6, 2026 at 4 PM. Come and be delighted by the sounds of our Motet Choir and Orchestra with the Canterbury Ringers!

FCC hosts the Muskegon Chamber Choir Concert on Sunday, December 13 at 3 PM.

Missions and Service 2026 Giving Tree will be for The Hope Project. To help the young women, victims of human trafficking, The Hope Project needs 30-40 pairs of warm, fuzzy socks, dish soap, shampoo and conditioner, toothpaste and toothbrush, hand cream, TIDE pods and dryer sheets, and yes, did we mention 30-40 warm, fuzzy socks? Anything you are able to contribute will be most welcome and a true blessing to the clients of The Hope Project. **Please bring the socks by Dec. 11 so they can be given at their Christmas Party.**

Meijer Simply Give donations will be tripled on Saturday, December 12 at the Holton Rd. Meijer in North Muskegon. More details at the Welcome Center.

Womens Single Group meets Tuesday, Dec. 1 at 1 PM at the Lake Bluff Grill located in Muskegon Country Club. (2801 Lakeshore Dr. Muskegon) Sign up at the Welcome Center or contact Judy D.

Thanksgiving Feast will be next Sunday after worship service. You may still pay for your meal at the Welcome Center or on our website. $28 per person or $55 for family 3+.

Missions & Service Donations for mission of the month (One Great Hour of Sharing) can be made to FCC with OGHS in the memo line of a check; online at FCC's website, or directly to the UCC November Mission of the Month.

FCC IS AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING COMMUNITY

"We, the people of First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, of Muskegon, care for the welfare of our community and welcome everyone, no matter who you are or where you are on life's journey. We welcome into our community people of every age, race, nationality, mental and physical ability, economic and social status, faith background, marital standing, family structure, gender identity and expression, and sexual orientation. We also invite you to share in the life, leadership, worship, fellowship, sacraments, responsibilities, blessings, and joys of our congregation as we seek to grow together in faith and love."

Adopted by congregational vote 10/17/21