



CHRIST
CHURCH

BENTONVILLE

WWW.CHRISTCHURCHBENTONVILLE.ORG

May 5, 2024

LOVING DEEPLY

&

LIVING FREELY

WELCOME TO
**CHRIST
CHURCH**
BENTONVILLE

To all who are spiritually weak and seek rest; to all who mourn and long for comfort;
to all who struggle and desire victory; to all who sin and need a Savior;
to all who are strangers and want fellowship;
to all who hunger and thirst after righteousness;
and to whosoever will come, this church opens wide her doors
and offers welcome in the name of the Lord Jesus.

TO OUR GUESTS: **First**, we are glad you could join us for worship! We would love to connect with you and answer any questions you may have about Christ Church. Please take a minute and scan the QR code with your phone camera and leave us your contact information. We will be in touch early in the week. **Second**, because what we are about to do may be a little different than what you are probably used to, we ask that you give us 6 weeks. Take 6 weeks to visit, become familiar with the form, ask questions, and get to know us. We believe you'll be glad you did. **Finally**, for an explanation of the content and order of worship, read the rubric along the left hand side of the bulletin as well as the section entitled "**The Liturgical Elements of Worship**" on page 8 of the bulletin.



**Preparation
for Worship**

This is a time to prepare for the worship of our holy God. Pray that God would meet His people as we gather.

**Call to
Worship**

It is the Lord who calls His people to worship Him in Spirit and in Truth.

We do not call ourselves. Worship is a reflexive and deliberate response to His gracious call.

Invocation

This prayer exalts the name of the Lord and invokes His presence and communion as we come to worship Him.

"What are you doing, my son? What are you doing, son of my womb? What are you doing, son of my vows? Do not give your strength to women, your ways to those who destroy kings. It is not for kings, O Lemuel, it is not for kings to drink wine, or for rulers to take strong drink, lest they drink and forget what has been decreed and pervert the rights of all the afflicted. Give strong drink to the one who is perishing, and wine to those in bitter distress; let them drink and forget their poverty and remember their misery no more. Open your mouth for the mute, for the rights of all who are destitute. Open your mouth, judge righteously, defend the rights of the poor and needy."

- Proverbs 31:2-9

Pastor: *Christ is risen!*

People: *He is risen indeed!*

Pastor: *Grace and peace to you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.*

Pastor: *Oh give thanks to the Lord; call upon his name; make known his deeds among the peoples! Sing to him, sing praises to him; tell of all his wondrous works! Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice!*

- Psalm 105:1-3

Hymn of Praise

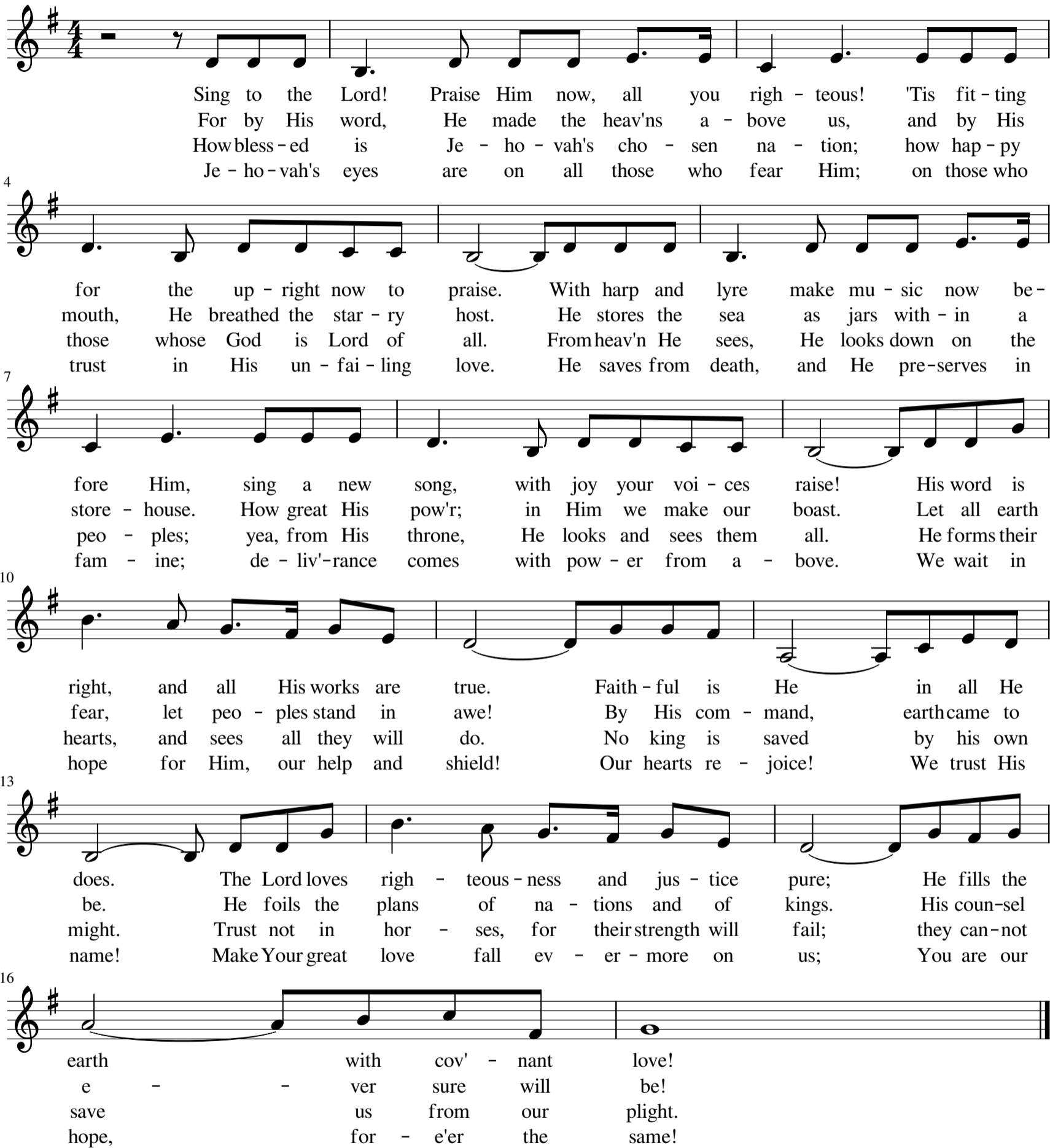
This hymn draws our hearts and minds to God acknowledging the reality and awe and wonder of who He is.

Psalm 33

To How Great Thou Art

A D Raines

Stuart K Hine



Sing to the Lord! Praise Him now, all you righ - teous! 'Tis fit - ting
For by His word, He made the heav'ns a - bove us, and by His
How bless - ed is Je - ho - vah's cho - sen na - tion; how hap - py
Je - ho - vah's eyes are on all those who fear Him; on those who
4
for the up - right now to praise. With harp and lyre make mu - sic now be -
mouth, He breathed the star - ry host. He stores the sea as jars with - in a
those whose God is Lord of all. From heav'n He sees, He looks down on the
7 trust in His un - fai - ling love. He saves from death, and He pre - serves in
fore Him, sing a new song, with joy your voi - ces raise! His word is
store - house. How great His pow'r; in Him we make our boast. Let all earth
10 peo - ples; yea, from His throne, He looks and sees them all. He forms their
fam - ine; de - liv' - rance comes with pow - er from a - bove. We wait in
right, and all His works are true. Faith - ful is He in all He
13 fear, let peo - ples stand in awe! By His com - mand, earth came to
hearts, and sees all they will do. No king is saved by his own
hope for Him, our help and shield! Our hearts re - joice! We trust His
does. The Lord loves righ - teous - ness and jus - tice pure; He fills the
be. He foils the plans of na - tions and of kings. His coun - sel
16 might. Trust not in hor - ses, for their strength will fail; they can - not
name! Make Your great love fall ev - er - more on us; You are our
earth with cov' - nant love!
e - - ver sure will be!
save us from our plight.
hope, for - e'er the same!

Corporate Confession of Sin

Having come into His presence, we are reminded that we are sinners in need of the deliverance from sin and its power. We both confess and lament sin as an act of worship and faith in the God Who promises to deliver His people from all their sin and sorrow. We encourage a posture of prayer (sitting or kneeling) that is most comfortable for you.

Elder: *Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgression*

All: *Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin!*

Elder: *For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.*

All: *Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment.*

Elder: *Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.*

All: *Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being, and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart.*

Elder: *Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.*

All: *Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have broken rejoice.*

Elder: *Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.*

All: *Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.*

Elder: *Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.*

All: *Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.*

- Psalm 51:1-12

Silently confess your sins to the Lord

JESUS, LOVER OF MY SOUL

Words by Charles Wesley
Music by Greg Thompson

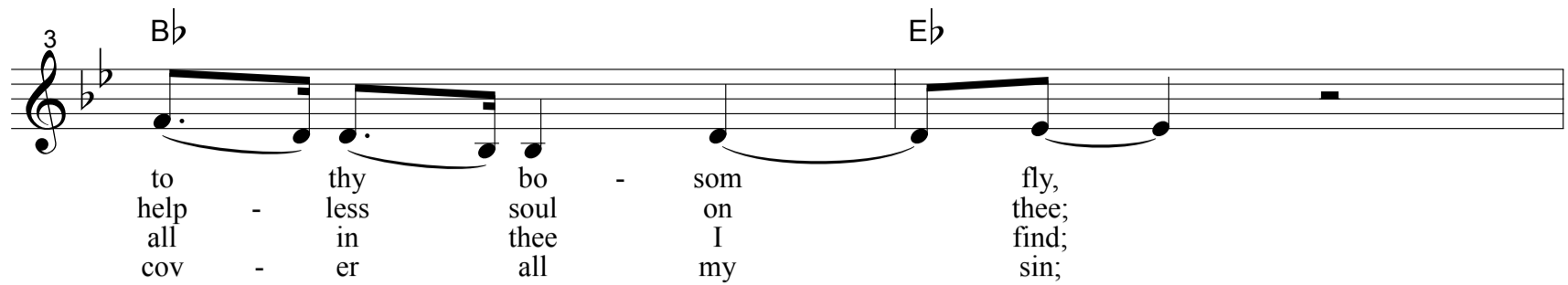
Hymn of Confession/ Lament

This hymn focuses on the acknowledgment of our sin, our need of forgiveness, and the only One in whom our forgiveness and restoration are found.

Real Key

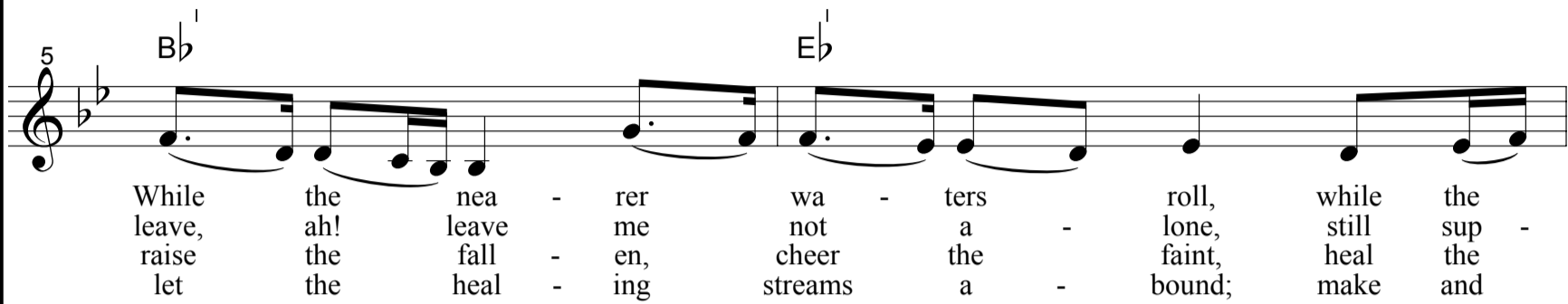
1. Je - sus, lo - ver of my soul, let me
 2. Oth - er ref - uge have I none, hangs my
 3. Thou, O Christ, art all I want; more than
 4. Plen - teous grace with thee is found, grace to

3 **B \flat** **E \flat**



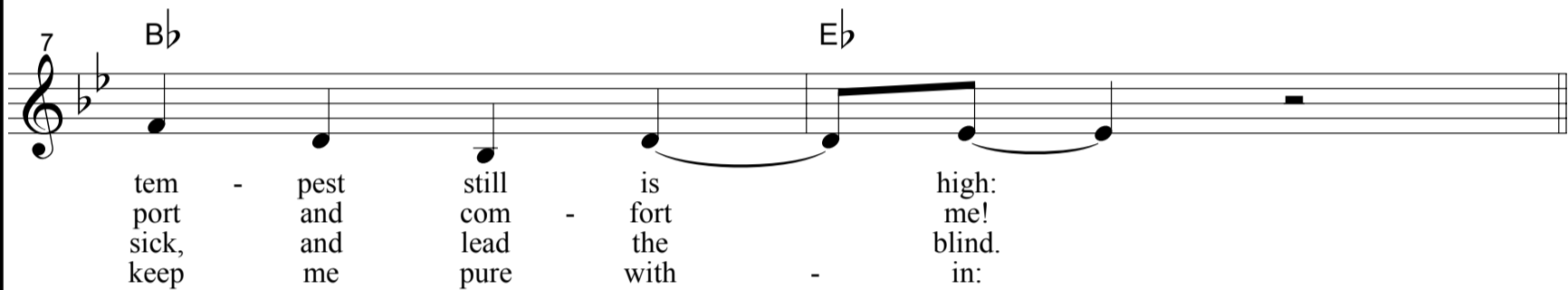
to help all cov thy less in er bo soul thee all som on I my fly, thee; find; sin;

5 **B \flat** **E \flat**



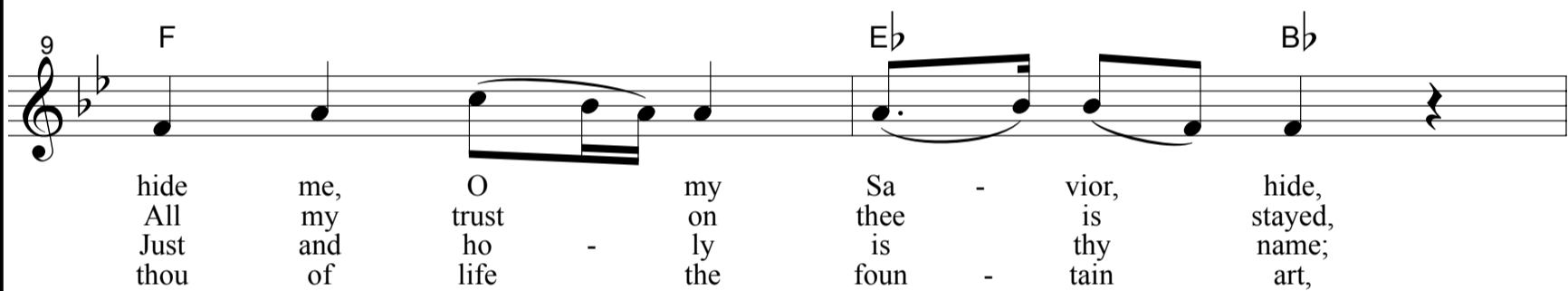
While leave, raise let the ah! the the nea leave fall heal rer me en, ing wa not cheer streams ters a the a roll, lone, faint, bound; while still heal make the sup the and

7 **B \flat** **E \flat**



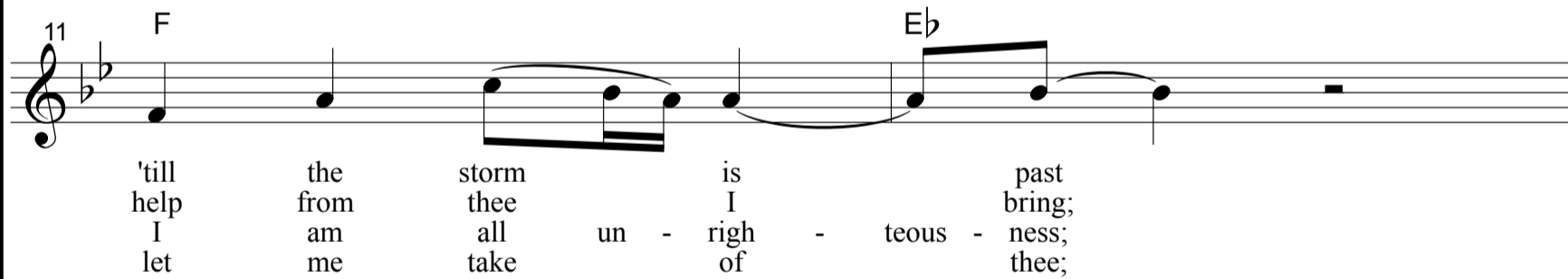
tem port sick, keep pest and and me still com lead pure is fort the with high: me! blind. in:

9 **F** **E \flat** **B \flat**



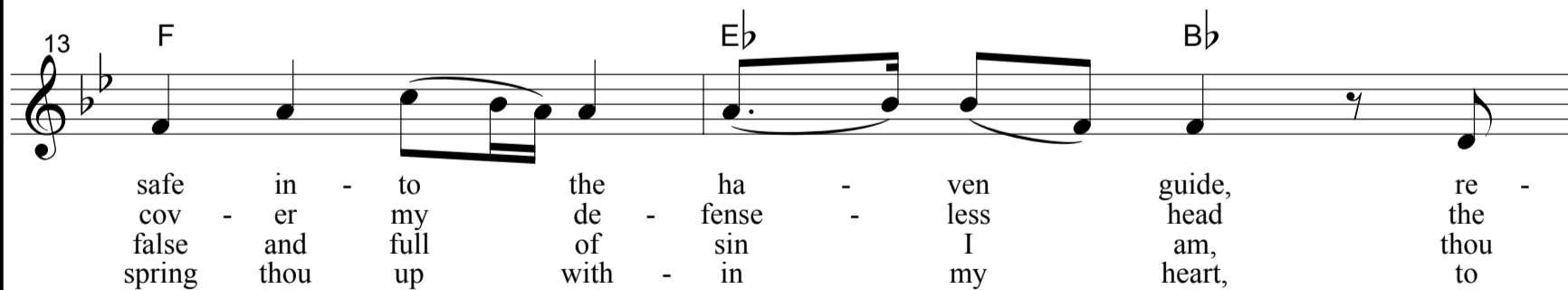
hide All Just thou me, my and of O trust ho life my on ly the Sa thee is foun vior, is thy tain hide, stayed, name, art,

11 **F** **E \flat**



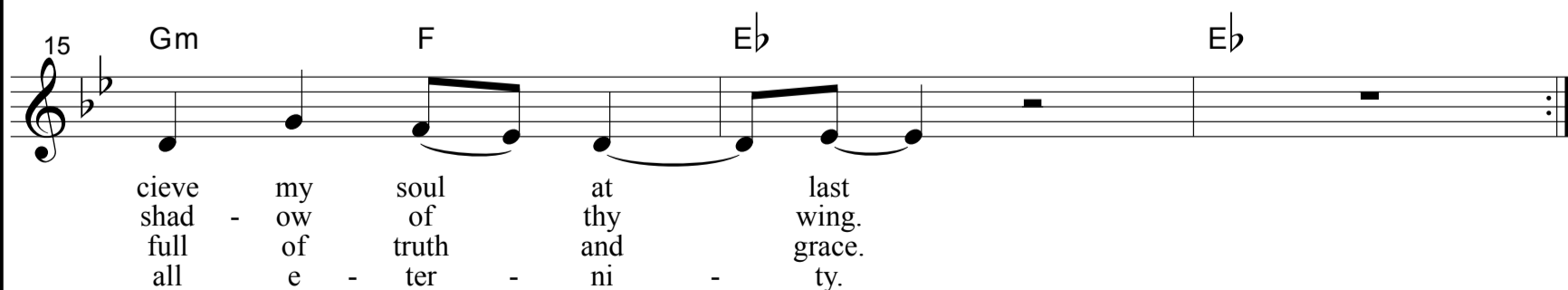
'till help I let the from am me storm thee all take un is I righ of teous past bring; ness; thee;

13 **F** **E \flat** **B \flat**



safe cov false spring in er and thou to my full up the de of with ha fense sin in ven less I my guide, head am, heart, re the thou to

15 **G \flat** **F** **E \flat** **E \flat**



cieve shad full all my ow of e soul of truth ter at thy and ni last wing. grace. ty.

Assurance of Salvation

Having confessed our sins, and raised our prayer for deliverance, we now hear of our salvation through the declaration of the Gospel.

Elder: *And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.* *- Hebrews 10:10*

Hymn of Faith

This hymn focuses either on God's faithfulness to us through the ages, on our responsibility to respond in faith, or the many reasons for our faith.

A Debtor To Mercy Alone

Augustus Toplady

Bob Kauflin

A musical score for the hymn 'A Debtor To Mercy Alone' by Augustus Toplady, arranged by Bob Kauflin. The score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a time signature of 6/8. The lyrics are printed below the musical notation, with line numbers 4, 6, 8, 11, 14, and 17 indicating the start of new lines of text. The score includes a double bar line with a '2' below it, indicating a repeat or a specific ending.

A deb - tor to mer - cy a - lone Of
The work which Your good - ness be - gan the
My name from the palm of Your hands e -

co - ve - nant mer - cy I - sing I
arm of Your strength will com - plete Your
ter - ni - ty can - not e - rase Im -

come with your righ - teous - ness on My
prom - ise is yes and a - men And
pressed on Your heart it re - mains in

hum - ble of - fring to bring The judg - ments of your ho - ly
ne - ver was for - fei - ted yet The fu - ture or things that are
marks of in - del - i - ble grace Yes, I to the end wil en -

law With me can have no - thing to do My
now no pow - er be - low or a - bove can
dure un - til I bow down at Your throne for -

Sav - ior's o - be - dience and blood hide all my trans - gre - ssions
make You Your pur - pose fore - go or se - ver my soul from
e - ver and al - ways se - cure, a deb - tor to mer - cy

from view
Your love
a - lone

New Testament - Ephesians 5:22-33

Old Testament - Esther 1

Elder: This is the Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God!

Scripture Reading

We read from both Old and New Testaments because they are not two different books but both are a part of God's unfolding plan of redemption.

Beyond the Stars (Psalm 8)

Hymn of Preparation

This hymn is gospel-focused and sermon-oriented and planned with the children in mind.



1. If I could see be-yond the stars, and pierce the dark - ness with my sight, and see Your glo - ry in the night be - yond the stars, If I could flow; that You may si - lence ev' - ry foe through mouths of babes. And how the king? Reig-ning o - ver ev' - ry - thing Your hands have made? The birds and

10 stand a - bove the sky, Your ev' - ry work be - neath my gaze, there'd be no lit - tle chil - dren laugh, oh, think how won - der - ful and odd, that You should beasts on land and sea and all that moves through day and night and all that

14 end - ing to my praise, O Lord, my God! O Lord, our Lord, how ma - jes - tic is Your crown as sons of God the sons of man seeks to see Your light be - yond the stars!

22 name in all the earth! How ma - jes - tic is Your name in all the earth! How ma - jes - tic is Your name in all the earth! How ma - jes - tic is Your name in all the earth!

29 jes - tic is Your name in all the earth! How ma - jes - tic is Your name in all the earth!

Sermon

The preaching of God's Word is a means by which God bestows grace on His people.

CONSPICUOUS ABSENCE

Esther 1

A note-taking guide is provided on the final page

Elder: Christian, what do you believe?

People: I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there He shall come to judge the living and the dead.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic* church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Apostles' Creed

***catholic meaning universal**

Confession of Faith

Being a part of the communion of saints, we take this time to confess the truth that has been embraced by the church throughout history.

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

The Word having been preached, the death of Christ is now showed forth through the sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

The worthy receivers are, not after a corporal and carnal manner, but by faith, made partakers of His body and blood, with all his benefits, to their spiritual nourishment and grace.

Pastoral Prayer

We are a needy people, and this prayer not only reflects that neediness but our dependence upon the Lord.

Offertory/Hymn of Response

Giving is an act of worship. We give of our tithes and offerings because all we are and all we have are gifts of God's grace. We sing in grateful response to God's grace granted to us in both Word and Sacrament.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the LORD.

The bread is gluten-free. Purple cups contain wine; clear cups contain grape juice. Come forward, pause to hear the words of institution, take a piece of bread and a cup, then return to your seats. Once everyone has been served, we will eat and drink together. After the service, please dispose of your used communion cup in the trash cans provided.

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!

Psalm 24

The Earth is the Lord's

David P. Regier

LYON

G D G C G D Em D/F#

The earth is the LORD's, And all it con - tains; The world, and all
 And who shall as - cend The hill of the LORD? Or who, then, shall
 This One shall from God His bless - ing re - ceive; And right - eous - ness
 O rise, an - cient doors! Be lift - ed, ye gates! Re - ceive now thy
 O lift up thy heads, Ye port - als of old! And wel - come thy

G C Dsus D G D A7/D D7 G/D D G/D

those Who dwell on its plains. Up - on the dark seas, its foun - da - tions are
 stand At rest in His ward: The One of clean hands and the Pur - est of
 be His gra - cious re - prieve. To all gen - er - a - tions who seek for His
 King; Pre - pare His es - tate! And who is this King, in His glo - ri - ous
 King; His glo - ry be - hold! And who can it be, this our glo - ri - ous

D7 C/E D/F# G C G/B Dsus D G

laid; And deep in the riv - ers, its moor - ings are stayed.
 heart; Who speaks not in vain; ne'er a false - hood im - part.
 face, Al - might - y Je - ho - vah shall pour out His grace.
 might? The LORD, firm in bat - tle and strong in the fight.
 King? The LORD God of hosts, whose great glo - ry we sing!

Doxology

We encourage a posture lifting holy hands to the Lord in thanksgiving.

Benediction

We leave with the assurance that God intends to bless His people as we serve him and our neighbors through our various vocations throughout the week.

Praise God from Whom all blessings flow; praise Him all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost! Amen!

Pastor: May grace and peace be multiplied to all of you who are in Christ.

- 1 Peter 1:2, 5:14

People: And also to you.

Information

CHILDCARE

It has been our desire to offer childcare as we have volunteers. We have intentionally refrained from constant pressure and from relying upon only a few to shoulder the responsibility. At the same time, as the number of little ones increases, we do want to keep the opportunity before you. If you are able and willing to help, please scan the QR code to the right and sign up today. The more the merrier.



THE LITURGICAL ELEMENTS OF OUR WORSHIP

Why do we do what we do during our corporate worship service on Sunday? To a visitor it could seem strange. We do more than just sing, which is usually what people associate with the word "worship". There are times of silence. Prayers are spoken. The Bible is read. A sermon on a particular passage of Scripture is heard. We eat a bite of bread and drink a small amount of wine or juice in celebration of Christ's death. Money is collected. Hands are raised in devotion. Why are these elements a part of what we do together? Why don't we just hang out in small groups and sip coffee? Why don't we just sit back and watch an hour long video on being better people? All of these elements are a part of our worship because we believe they show honor to God in the way he wants to be honored. These aren't just made up elements. They are pieces in a story that is told each Sunday, with each piece either commanded or exemplified in scripture.

WHY OUR PASTORS WEAR ROBES

Wearing a robe **hides the man** - No matter what the pastor wears, whether it be an expensive suit, an inexpensive suit, business casual or holey jeans with his shirt untucked, people are always prone to put too much stock in whatever style he prefers. The black Geneva robe is designed to remove this distraction and allow us to focus on the One whom he represents. That leads to the second point. It also **emphasizes his office**. Just as a judge wears a robe when in the courtroom, a fireman wears a uniform when on duty, or a military officer wears his dress greens or blues to a formal event to announce that they are acting in an official capacity, our pastors wear robes during the worship service to signify that they are acting in their official capacity as men who have been called by God to proclaim His word to His people. The robe reminds the congregation (and the minister!) that he is in the pulpit as an ambassador of Christ, and thus is not to speak his own thoughts, give mere advice or share worldly wisdom, but only the Word of God.

CHILDREN IN WORSHIP

We believe children are a blessing from the Lord, and that they should be included in the worship of God with the people of God. That means at times there will be noise in the worship service. **God put the wiggle in children and that wiggle is welcome in His house!** If you are not used to it, it may take a little time. We understand. Bearing with one another in love is our calling.

Our aim is to help parents in the training of their children in the “pew”. We do this in two ways:

1. Sunday evening worship.

Every Sunday, we plan our worship services taking both children and parents into consideration. First, the Hymn of Preparation is chosen with our children in mind. We want it to be a song that they know or at least can learn quickly. Second, we offer childcare for those 0-3 during the sermon. But please know, we enjoy having children in worship! They are not distractions! Keeping them with us in worship is one of the best gifts we can give them as they will learn the blessing of worship and grow in ways we cannot imagine. Feel free to sit up front where it is easier for children to see and hear what is happening.

2. Weekly family worship.

To facilitate learning throughout the week, the following ideas are provided for families to use during their own times of worship. We incorporate the hymns, confession of faith and sermon passage for familiarity and repetition purposes.

Weekly Catechism: WSC Q&A 26

Q: How does Christ execute the office of a king?

A: Christ executes the office of a king, in subduing us to himself, in ruling and defending us, and in restraining and conquering all his and our enemies.

Wednesday

Sing “A Debtor to Mercy Alone”.
Read Esther 1:13-18, 1 Kings 12:1-15, and WSC 26.

What was the concern the king’s adviser’s had? How was this ironic? How did Memucan appeal to the king’s pride? What is flattery? Why is it important that those in authority have wise counselors that do not flatter them?

Monday

Sing Psalm 33.

Read Esther 1:1-9, Psalm 146, and WSC 26.

Why was King Ahasuerus showing off his wealth? How is the palace and feast described? How does this set the stage for the rest of the narrative of Esther? What does it show about where worldly confidence is placed? How is that counter to what Psalm 146 teaches?

Thursday

Sing Psalm 8.

Read Esther 1:19-22, Ephesians 5:22-33, and WSC 26.

What advice does Memucan give the king? What is ironic about what he suggests to be done? How is the author of Esther poking fun at Ahasuerus and his kingdom? According to Paul, whose responsibility is it to ensure that wives respect their husbands? Do you think the edict brought about the desired result? Why/why not? How does it set the stage for the rest of the book?

Tuesday

Sing “Jesus, Lover of my Soul”.
Read Esther 1:10-12, Proverbs 31:1-9, and WSC 26.

How did Ahasuerus’s actions show he was unwise? How were they opposite to King Lemuel’s mother’s teachings? What kind of king was Ahasuerus? How does that set the stage for the remaining narrative of Esther?

Friday

Sing Psalm 24.

Read Esther 1, Luke 22:24-30, and WSC 26.

How does Jesus say Gentile rulers act toward their subjects? How does Ahasuerus fit that description? How are Christian leaders supposed to be different? How is Jesus a different kind of King?

SMALL GROUPS

Adams - Bentonville

1st and 3rd Wednesdays; 6 PM

The Adams House
Contact: Matt (913) 221-7065

Bean/Wieda/Tilley - Centerton

1st and 3rd Wednesdays; 6 PM

The Tilley House
Contact: Cody (903) 513-6719 or
Kenny (479) 616-7493

Demers - Rogers

1st and 3rd Wednesdays; 6 PM

The Demers House
Contact: Grant (254) 493-4067

Raines - West Bella Vista

1st and 3rd Thursdays; 6 PM

The Raines House
Contact: Aaron (479) 644-6148

Walker - Bentonville

1st and 3rd Wednesdays; 6 PM

The Walker House
Contact: Wes (479) 409-8831

Warren - East Bella Vista

1st and 3rd Thursdays; 6 PM

The Warren House
Contact: John (210) 317-3127

SERMON NOTES

CONSPICUOUS ABSENCE Esther 1

I. THE TRANSPARENCY OF EARTHLY POWER

II. THE TRANSCENDENCE OF GOD'S PROVIDENCE



**CHRIST
CHURCH**
BENTONVILLE

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**MEETING
SUNDAY
EVENINGS
AT
5:00 PM**

**BENTONVILLE COMMUNITY
CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE**

220 NW A ST, BENTONVILLE, ARKANSAS
