

The First Presbyterian Church

300 South Main Street

Greensburg, Pennsylvania

The Twenty-third Sunday After Pentecost – October 27, 2024 – 10 a.m.

Simulcast Service

THE GATHERING

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Festival Jubilate

Ronald Kauffman

CALL TO WORSHIP (*responsive*)

People of God, worship the living God today!

We remember that out of nothing God created the heavens and earth. We remember that God raised Jesus from the powerlessness of death to the power of his right hand.

Behold your God, who reigns now and forever!

✠HYMN 612

We Praise You, O God

KREMSER

✠PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)

Eternal God, you do not change. You have revealed yourself to us in your Word. You call us to worship you in spirit and truth. But we confess that we often worship not your true self but who we wish you to be. We too often ask you to bless what we do rather than seeking to do what you bless. Forgive us for seeking concessions when we should be seeking guidance. Forgive us when our worship shapes you into what we want instead of shaping us into what you want. Help us to meet you here, that we might bow before your majesty and so live for you now and ever, in Christ. Amen.

✠ASSURANCE OF PARDON AND THE PEACE

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

✠CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me (Hymn 582)

Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me, and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me, and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be Amen. World without end, without end. Amen. World without end, without end. Amen. World without end, without end. Amen. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be Amen.

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING

Job 42:1-6

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Children are invited to the chancel steps for the children's sermon and then be dismissed to Sunday School.

ANTHEM

For All Who Craft Their Words with Skill David Bjorlin/Karen Marroli

For all who craft their words with skill to make your story heard, for those who study, write, and preach: we thank you, Christ our Word. And we rejoice in those whose speech extends the Spirit's breath to build a shelter for the lost and summon life from death. For all who host the holy meals to keep the faithful fed, for those who bless and break and share: we thank you, Christ our Bread. We rejoice in those whose feasts defy each fence and wall, where hunger is the only fee and room is made for all. For all who lead your hymns of praise to make weak voices strong, for those who practice, tune and sing: we thank you Christ our Song. And we rejoice in those whose ears are trained by love and care to help all find their note of hope in seasons of despair. For all who live the words they preach, and practice what they sing, for all whose lives are raised to you, a living offering. For all who hear your holy call and will not be deterred, we thank you Christ, the source of life: our Song, our Bread, our Word. For all who hear your holy call and will not be deterred, we thank you Christ, the source of life: our Song, our Bread, our Word.

SECOND READING

Matthew 6:19-21

SERMON

Rev. Dr. Martin R. Ankrum

THE RESPONSE

✠HYMN 716

God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending

BEACH SPRING

✠AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: THE APOSTLES' CREED *(unison)*

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 Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE - THE LORD'S PRAYER *(unison)*

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.

OUR JOYFUL RESPONSE - TITHES & OFFERINGS

-COMMITMENT SUNDAY MINUTE – Mr. Jeff Hite

OFFERTORY

Amazing Grace

Robert Hieber

✠RESPONSE

Doxology (*hymnal p. 607*)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Christ, all people here below; praise Holy Spirit evermore; praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.

✂PRAYER OF DEDICATION

✂HYMN 712

As Those of Old Their Firstfruits Brought

FOREST GREEN

TIME OF COMMITMENT

✂POSTLUDE

Processional

Douglas E. Wagner

✂ *Those who are able to stand comfortably may do so*

WORSHIP LEADERSHIP THIS MORNING:

Rev. Dr. Martin R. Ankrum, Pastor/Head of Staff; Dr. Jeffrey Jones, Minister of Music / Organist; Mr. Jeff Hite, Lector; Chancel Choir; Kirk Ringers; Mrs. Hazel Braun, Piano; Mrs. Jaci Runco, Flute; Mr. Michael Pascarella, Video Technician.

Music for this morning's service has been made possible, in part, by Edgar and Joanne Highberger and by gifts to the Dr. Edgar S. Highberger Music Fund.

Music reprinted, podcast, and streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-713544. All rights reserved.

FIRST NEWS: The News of FPC

PRAYER LIST: Roger Austin, Bob Bark, Tonna Bogac, Lisa Bulger, Roy Clemens, Wayne Clemens, Sandy Cole, Dan & Ginger Collier, Beverly & William Courtney, Edna Mary Cox, Gloria Christofano, Bob Dittman, Karen Dubosky, Michael Felice, Duffy Greba, Edgar and Joanne Highberger, Gretchen Highberger, Lucas James, Lee Jamison, Brett Johnson, Weston Johnson, Heather Jones, Don Kemerer, Jim L., Marge Machesney, George Maser, Joanne McIlhattan, Judith Morrow, Melanie Murphy, family of Daphne Murray, John Noel, Dan P., Nancy Pallitta, Kathleen Piekut, Victoria Piekut, Gerry Pricer, Judy Rugh, Marnie Abraham Russell, Nancy Skrot, Mary Smith, Jerry Sohick, Nancy Stahl, Eileen Stefl, Crystal Stone, Brooke Stutzman, Sonny & Jo Thomas, Lynda Turin, Linda & Tom Turin, Matt Washil, Doug Wessling, Don Whipkey.

VISITING IN WORSHIP TODAY? If you are visiting in worship today or have been for a while, please sign the Visitor Card found in the pew racks and place in the offering plate or hand to an usher. We would love to be able to contact you and answer any questions you may have about FPC. Please take a moment to greet Dr. Ankrum at the end of the service; he would love to get to know you and welcome you to our faith community.

NURSERY HOURS! –9 a.m. – 11 a.m. – Drop off care is available in the FPC nursery each Sunday morning for children Birth through Pre/K. Gali Clark is excited to welcome FPC's youngest members and friends for a time of play, music, fun, or a nap! For safety reasons, caregivers are asked to provide their own drinks and snacks for their child. Registration forms can be found in the nursery. See you there!

CHILDREN'S RESOURCE TOTES - First Presbyterian Church also provides a comfort room and age-appropriate worship resource totes for families with young children to use during the service. They are in the narthex, or by asking an usher for assistance. *Children's bulletins are available at Main Street and 3rd Street entrances.*

FIRST FRIDAYS: NEWS & UPDATES: If you haven't been receiving our First Fridays: News & Updates, please call Kim at the church office (724-832-0150) to verify and/or update your correct email address.

FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS: A DAILY DEVOTIONAL –Monday through Friday, Dr. Ankrum posts a new devotion on our church website. You can subscribe to an email service for this by notifying the church office.

HAVE YOU CONSIDERED SPONSORING A FELLOWSHIP HOUR? Provide 6 dozen baked goods **or** \$35 donation to cover the cost. Use the sign-up sheet on the Dining Room bulletin board. Hours are held on the first and third Sundays of every month in the Dining Room. Coffee is provided by the Millers of 19 Coffee.

FINANCIAL REPORT This is a new weekly feature for our bulletin reporting the current financial status of the 2024 Church Budget. Look here each Sunday for an updated version of our progress as a congregation in providing financial support to the work of Christ at FPC:

Year to Date Expenses	\$ 589,801
Year to Date Receipts	\$ 495,547
Year to Date Deficit	(\$ 94,254)

DO YOU WISH TO GIVE ONLINE?



To set up your own recurring donations, either visit the church website or scan the QR code with your smart phone, or contact the church office for help. *Starting August 31, 2024, the church will accrue a monthly fee for those who give by credit or debit card. The church currently also incurs a 2.84% fee plus 45 cents on every credit or debit card donation. These fees are not incurred for the church for donations routed through Vanco from a checking account.* Your support of Christ's church in this place is greatly appreciated!

COMMITMENT SUNDAY & CHILI AFTER CHURCH – TODAY! The Stewardship Committee cordially invites one and all to participate in our Commitment Sunday today. On this Sunday, the congregation will be asked to prayerfully consider their support for the ministries of our church and enjoy the food, fellowship and fun of our Chili-After-Church event in the Fletcher Room. In order to make this happen, we're counting on the delicious contributions of some of the great cooks of our congregation.

NEW MEMBERS CLASS SCHEDULED FOR SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10 – Are you interested in joining our congregation? Please prayerfully consider your participation in the life of Christ's church and God's call upon your life. The Membership & Evangelism Committee will be offering a New Members Class on Sunday, November 10 at 11:15 a.m. in the PW Lounge. Those who wish to join the church will be received into membership during the worship service on Sunday, November 17. If you are interested, or if you have questions, please contact Dr. Ankrum at the church office.

NEWS FROM PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE AND OUR MISSION COMMITTEE: Helene made landfall in Florida late evening on September 26th as a very dangerous category 4 hurricane. The impact of Helene has been felt across multiple states. With the storm surge, wind damage, and flooding, it is crucial to have the necessary resources to support the many communities that are affected. Helene caused devastating damage in Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, and Tennessee. Your generous gifts will bring hope and encouragement. PDA is in communication with all affected presbyteries and National VOAD (Voluntary Organizations Active In Disaster) to share information and coordinate resources as damage is assessed. PDA has deployed a National Response Team to Tampa Bay Presbytery, Presbytery of Western North Carolina, Northeast Georgia Presbytery and Holston Presbytery. We have approved several initial assistance grant requests and are anticipating additional requests from affected presbyteries to help respond to needs in their communities. Please join us in praying for everyone affected by Hurricane Helene.

The Mission Committee of FPC has allocated \$1,000 of aid to PDA's efforts in all the hurricane related areas. If you wish to add to our donation, please visit the link at: [Presbyterian Disaster Assistance \(pcusa.org\)](https://www.pcusa.org)

THRU THE BIBLE CLASS will meet Monday, October 28 at 7 p.m. in the Assembly Room of the church building. We have been working our way through the Bible from cover to cover and will be discussing the Epistle of James. The class lasts just an hour and is led by Dr. Ankrum. Please join us for a lively discussion!

THE LAST TUESDAY BOOK CLUB will meet October 29 at 7 p.m. in the PW Lounge on the first floor of the CE Wing. We will be reading short stories from *100 Great Short Stories: Dover Thrift Edition*, which can be obtained through Amazon. This month we will be discussing: Ford Madox Ford – Pink Flannel; Franz Kafka – A Country Doctor and Sherwood Anderson – The Egg.

HOLIDAY PARADE OPEN HOUSE ... Calling all cookie bakers! The CE Committee is hosting an open house at the church during the Greensburg Holiday Parade on **Saturday, November 23. The parade starts at 5 p.m. this year.** If you would like to help out by baking cookies, please sign up during the fellowship hours at church or by calling the church office. Bring your cookies to the church kitchen by noon Saturday, November 23. If you have any questions please contact Sarah Hines, the chair of the CE Committee.

THE CORNERSTONE GROUP INVITES YOU TO JOIN THEM ... Saturday, November 9 at 5:30 p.m. We will be dining at Sunset Italian Restaurant, 302 S. Urania Avenue, Greensburg. Please sign-up by November 6 by calling Sandy Beauregard (724-834-2247 or 724-331-3457), emailing her at sandbeau1@verizon.net or during Fellowship Hour, to reserve your spot.

THE GATHERING – TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 12: 11:30 A.M. – 1 P.M. THE BOULEVARD RESTAURANT – On the second Tuesday of each month, we reserve space at The Boulevard, a local restaurant and invite those who are available to join us for lunch, conversation and a bit of education. We'll hear from folks that you already know and folks that you haven't yet met. The topics will be informative and helpful to our faith and some will be just fun and allow us to learn a bit more about each other. Dr. Art Seaman, retired Presbyterian clergy and good friend of Dr. Ankrum, will be our speaker. Please call the church office by Monday, November 11 at 12 noon to reserve your spot!!

ABIGAIL CIRCLE MEETS WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13 @ 10:00 A.M. ... in the Refectory off the church dining room., The 2024-25 Horizons Bible Study is: **Let Justice Roll Down: God's Call to Care for Neighbors and All Creation** by Patricia K. Tull. Anyone wanting to order the study guide, please call Gretchen Lowry, 724-838-9726 or Karol Elmore, 724-771-6558. For more information about this study visit the PW website: <https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/product/sacred-encounters-english-edition>. All women are welcome.

MEN'S BREAKFAST BIBLE STUDY - EVERY WEDNESDAY MORNING AT 7:30 A.M.: This Bible study has many wonderful ingredients: warm fellowship, good friendships, open discussions, great breakfasts AND the opportunity to grow in faith together. We gather every Wednesday morning at 7:30 a.m. at Eat n' Park across from Westmoreland Mall. We are currently studying the Gospel of Mark.

ADULT FORUM ON SUNDAY MORNING. We meet **Sundays at 9 a.m.** in the PW Lounge on the first floor of the CE Wing. We are reading and discussing a wonderful book written by the late Rev. Peter Gomes: *The Good Book: Reading the Bible with Mind and Heart*. Gomes unpacks the scriptures for his reader, covering how the Bible is often misunderstood by Christians and others alike. The book helps to open up our hearts and minds to the profound words of scripture that give us comfort and challenges our faith as well.

YOUTH GROUP –TODAY, we'll meet after the Chili after Church and after the Youth Choir rehearsals!

YOUTH GROUP MEETING – Sunday, November 10 – Noon (after Youth Choir practice) Youth Room – Lunch will be provided.

GAMES WITH RICK, Sunday, November 17 from 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. The city of Drakkenheim was devastated by a meteor. A mysterious, magical, mutation-causing haze blankets the buildings and alleyways. Five factions vie for control of the ruins. Our heroes must navigate monsters and intrigue to restore the city and save the kingdom. We meet in the youth room.

YOUTH COOKIE BAKING – Thursday, November 21 at 5:00 p.m. Join us in the kitchen to bake cookies for First Presbyterian Church, Christian Education Committee, hosting an open house for the Greensburg Holiday Parade. Dinner will be provided.

LIVE NATIVITY, Saturday, November 23, 5:00 p.m. – Join us for cookies and hot chocolate as we present our Live Nativity. If you would like to be part of the Live Nativity, please attend our November 10 Youth Group Meeting. Anyone Interested in helping during the parade should arrive at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday.

Daylight Saving Time Ends: SUNDAY, Nove. 3! Remember to “Fall” Back One Hour!!!

CHURCH CALENDAR

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27 COMMITMENT SUNDAY

9:00 a.m. Adult and Youth Sunday School

10:00 a.m. Worship and Children’s Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Chili After Church – Fletcher Room

11:15 a.m. Children & Youth Choir

11:45 a.m. Youth Group meeting – Youth Room

MONDAY, OCTOBER 28

9:00 a.m. Sewing – Fletcher Room

7:00 p.m. Thru the Bible – Assembly Room

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 29

7:00 p.m. Last Tuesday Book Club – P W Lounge

7:30 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous – Fletcher Room

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 30

7:30 a.m. Men’s Breakfast Bible Study – Eat n’ Park

12:00 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous – Fletcher Room

1:30 p.m. Staff Meeting – Assembly Room

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31

6:30 p.m. Kirk Ringers Practice – Bell Room

7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice – Choir Room

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3 COMMUNION SUNDAY

9:00 a.m. Adult and Youth Sunday School

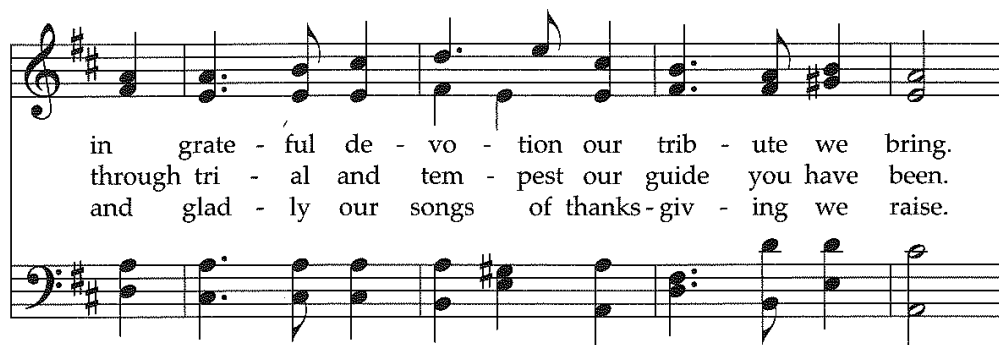
10:00 a.m. Worship and Children’s Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Fellowship Hour – Dining Room

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.

God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending 716

Capo 3: (D) (Bm) (G)
 F Dm B^b

1 God, whose giv - ing knows no end - ing, from your rich and
 2 Skills and time are ours for press - ing toward the goals of
 3 Trea - sure, too, you have en - trust - ed, gain through powers your

(D) (Bm)
 F Dm

end - less store, na - ture's won - der, Je - sus' wis - dom, cost - ly
 Christ, your Son: all at peace in health and free - dom, rac - es
 grace con - ferred: ours to use for home and kin - dred, and to

(G) (D) (A)
 B^b F C

cross, grave's shat - tered door: gift - ed by you, we turn
 joined, the church made one. Now di - rect our dai - ly
 spread the gos - pel word. O - pen wide our hands in

(Bm) (F#m) (Bm) (G) (A) (D)
 Dm Am Dm B^b C F

to you, of - fering up our - selves in praise; thank - ful song shall
 la - bor, lest we strive for self a - lone. Born with tal - ents,
 shar - ing, as we heed Christ's age - less call, heal - ing, teach - ing,

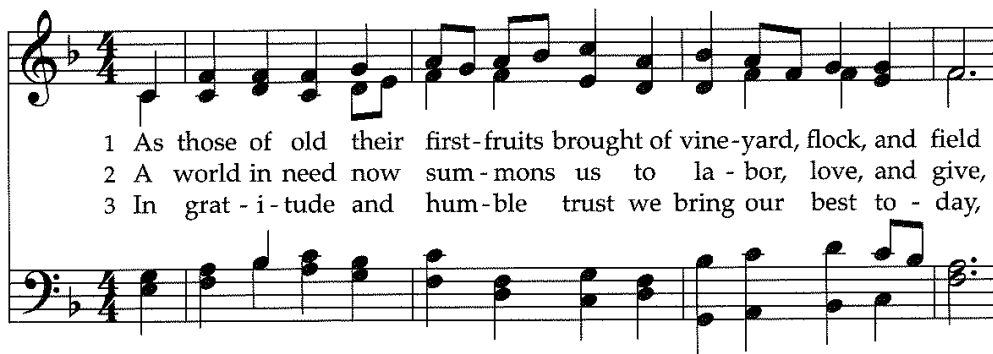
(Bm) (G) (D)
 Dm B^b F

rise for - ev - er, gra - cious do - nor of our days.
 make us ser - vants fit to an - swer at your throne.
 and re - claim - ing, serv - ing you by lov - ing all.

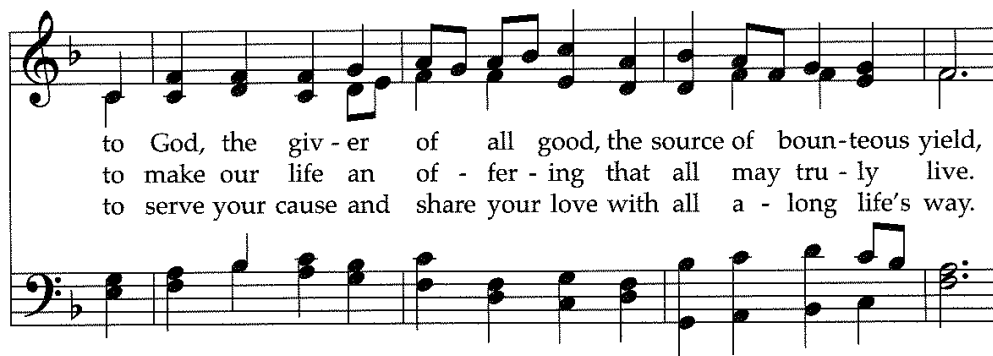
Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

This text on stewardship was one of about 450 submissions in a search for such hymns conducted by the Hymn Society of America in 1961. These words are well grounded by their musical setting, an early American shape note tune named for a Baptist church in Harris County, Georgia.

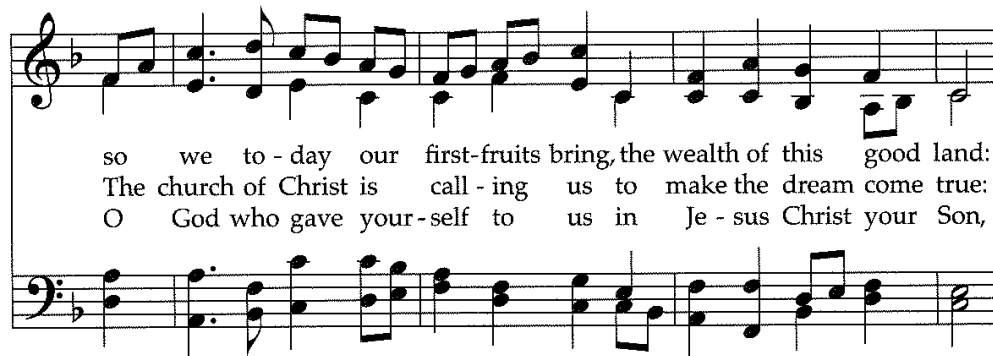
As Those of Old Their Firstfruits Brought 712



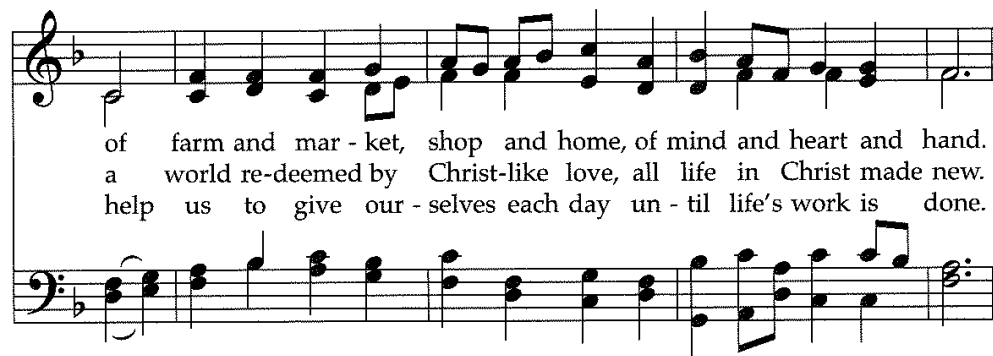
1 As those of old their first-fruits brought of vine-yard, flock, and field
 2 A world in need now sum-mons us to la-bor, love, and give,
 3 In grat-i-tude and hum-ble trust we bring our best to-day,



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.