



July 20, 2025



***W**elcome to worship at Christ Church!*

Our aim is to enjoy the goodness of our triune God in fellowship within the community he has formed, lifting our hearts as an offering to the Lord using the varied and unique gifts of this local congregation. We await his transformative word in our lives.

We are glad that you have joined us.

Young children are an important part of our community as well. We are very happy to be part of this very significant stage in their lives — learning to worship together in the community of believers. You are welcome to keep your children with you throughout the service, or you may choose to use one of our nurseries for children ages 3 years and younger and Christ Kids Worship at the 8:30 service for 4- to 6-year olds during the sermon. Activity bags for children during the 11:15 service are available in the bulletin table in the foyer. If you have a baby and would like a quiet space, you are welcome to use the nursery or the library.

Assistive hearing devices are available in the sound booth, located in the back of the sanctuary. If you are experiencing sensory sensitivity, an usher can direct you to a quiet space.

Prelude *Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee* organ

arr. Emma Lou Diemer

Welcome

E and C
MTW Missionaries

Silent meditation

For all that I have lost: the green leaves shed
And stripped from me, my lovers and my friends
All torn away. Just emptiness and dread

Are my companions now. No one defends
Or speaks for me. Lord, I have cried to you
And you say nothing. Empty silence rends

My heart in pieces. There is no one who
Can find me now, for who could ever know

This agony unless they felt it too? –Malcolm Guite, Psalm 88, Domine Deus, David's Crown:
Sounding the Psalms

GOD CALLS US TO WORSHIP

Call to Worship Psalm 84 responsively

Elder Jerry Gortmaker

*Congregation, please read **bold** text.*

How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts! My soul longs, yes, faints for the courts of the Lord; my heart and flesh sing for joy to the living God. Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, at your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God.

Blessed are those who dwell in your house, ever singing your praise! Blessed are those whose strength is in you, in whose heart are the highways to Zion.

As they go through the Valley of Baca they make it a place of springs; the early rain also covers it with pools. They go from strength to strength; each one appears before God in Zion.

O Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer; give ear, O God of Jacob! Behold our shield, O God; look on the face of your anointed!

** Please rise in body and/or in spirit.*

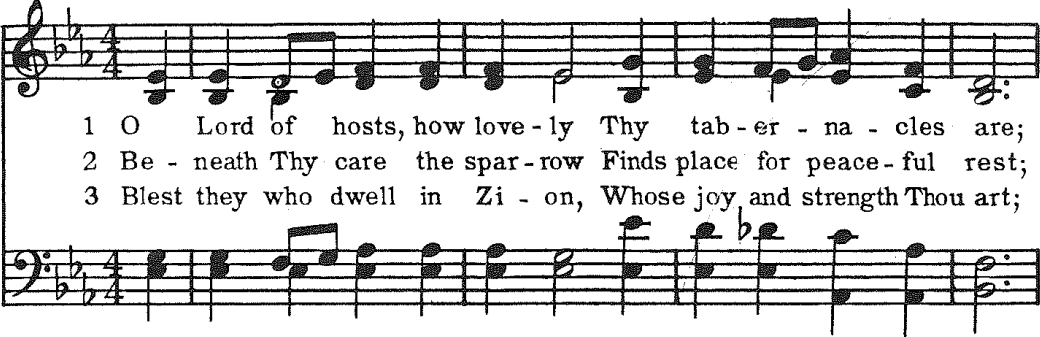
For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere. I would rather be a door-keeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of wickedness. For the Lord God is a sun and shield; the Lord bestows favor and honor. No good thing does he withhold from those who walk uprightly.

O Lord of hosts, blessed is the one who trusts in you!

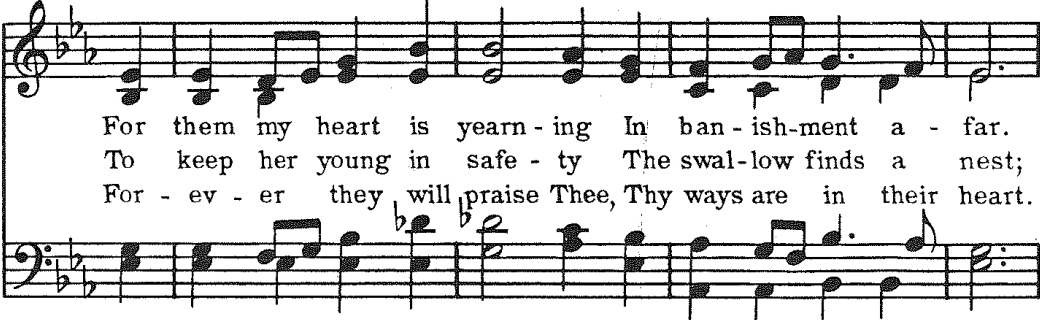
** O Lord of Hosts, How Lovely (based on Psalm 84)*

Justin H. Knecht, 1799 and

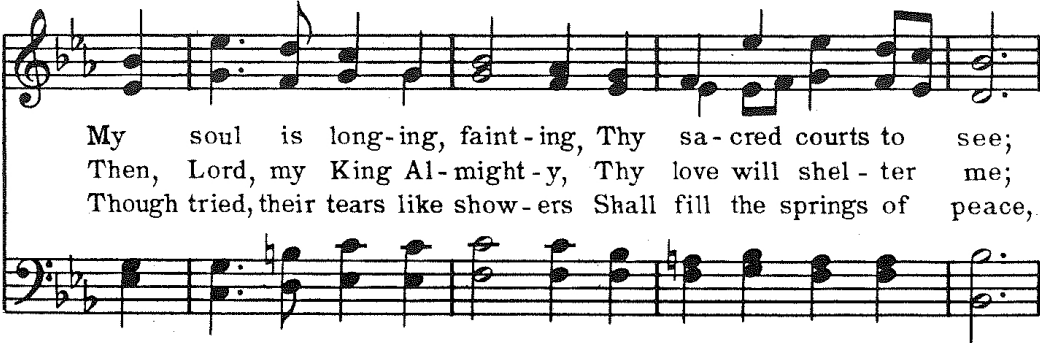
Edward Husband, 1971



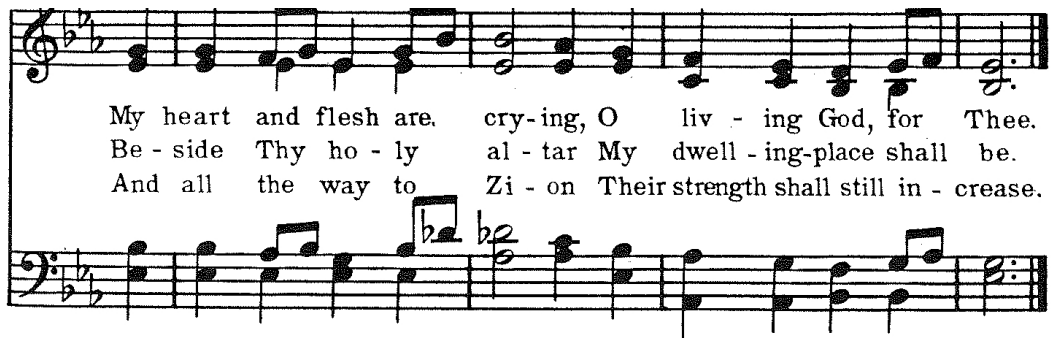
1 O Lord of hosts, how love-ly Thy tab-er-na-cles are;
2 Be-neath Thy care the spar-row Finds place for peace-ful rest;
3 Blest they who dwell in Zi-on, Whose joy and strength Thou art;



For them my heart is yearn-ing In ban-ish-ment a-far.
To keep her young in safe-ty The swal-low finds a nest;
For-ev-er they will praise Thee, Thy ways are in their heart.



My soul is long-ing, faint-ing, Thy sa-cred courts to see;
Then, Lord, my King Al-might-y, Thy love will shel-ter me;
Though tried, their tears like show-ers Shall fill the springs of peace,



My heart and flesh are cry-ing, O liv - ing God, for Thee.
Be - side Thy ho - ly al - tar My dwell - ing-place shall be.
And all the way to Zi - on Their strength shall still in - crease.

* Invocation

* *Christ Our Hope in Life and Death* congregation

Keith Getty, Matt Boswell, Jordan Kaufin
and Matthew Merker, Matt Papa



1. What is our hope in life and death? Christ a -
2. What truth can calm the trou - bled soul? God is
3. Un - to the grave, what will we sing? "Christ, he



lone, Christ a - lone. What is our on - ly con - fi - dence? That our
good, God is good. Where is his grace and good-ness known? In our
lives; Christ, he lives!" And what re - ward will heav - en bring? Ev - er -



souls to him be - long. Who holds our days with - in his
great Re-deem - er's blood. Who holds our faith when fears a -
last - ing life with Him. There we will rise to meet the



hand? What comes, a - part from his com - mand? And what will
rise? Who stands a - bove the storm - y trial? Who sends the
Lord; then sin and death will be de - stroyed, and we will



keep us to the end? The love of Christ, in which we stand.____
waves that bring us nigh un - to the shore, the rock of Christ?
feast in end - less joy, when Christ is ours for - ev - er - more.____



____ O sing hal - le - lu - jah! Our hope springs e - ter - nal; O sing ha - le -



lu - jah! Now and ev - er we con - fess Christ our hope in life and death.

GOD CALLS US TO RENEWAL

Call to confession Psalm 86:15-16

...you, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.
Turn to me and be gracious to me;
give your strength to your servant,
and save the son of your maidservant.

Prayer of confession followed by a time of silent confession

All Christ, our only hope in life and death, fan the flames of trust within us.... We have no one to turn to but You, Lord. And so we wait. —from Ryan Whitaker Smith & Dan Wilt, “Psalm 88,” *Sheltering Mercy: Prayers inspired by the Psalms*

Elder corporate prayer of confession

Declaration of Forgiveness Psalm 74:12, 15-16

Yet God my King is from of old,
working salvation in the midst of the earth.

...

You split open springs and brooks;
you dried up ever-flowing streams.

Yours is the day, yours also the night;
you have established the heavenly lights and the sun.

9:00 service: On the final verse of the song below, 4- to 6-year-olds are dismissed to the foyer for Christ Kids Worship and will return following the sermon.

11:00 service: Church bags for 4- to 6-year-olds are available in the foyer.

* Give Me Oil in My Lamp

1. Give me oil in my lamp, keep me burn-ing, give me
2. Give me peace in my heart, keep me rest-ing, give me
3. Give me truth as my guide, keep me seek-ing, give me

oil in my lamp, I pray; give me oil in my lamp, keep me
peace in my heart, I pray; give me peace in my heart, keep me
truth as my guide, I pray; give me truth as my guide, keep me

burn-ing, keep me burn-ing 'til the break of day.
rest-ing, keep me rest-ing 'til the break of day.
seek-ing, keep me seek-ing 'til the break of day.

Sing ho-san-na, sing ho-san-na, sing ho-san-na to the King of kings!

Sing ho-san-na, sing ho-san-na, sing ho-san-na to the King!

GOD'S WORD GIVEN TO US

* Scripture reading Psalm 88

A Song. A Psalm of the Sons of Korah. To the
choirmaster: according to Mahalath Leannoth.
A Maskil of Heman the Ezrahite.

O Lord, God of my salvation,
I cry out day and night before you.

² Let my prayer come before you;
incline your ear to my cry!

³ For my soul is full of troubles,
and my life draws near to Sheol.

⁴ I am counted among those who go down to the
pit;

I am a man who has no strength,
⁵ like one set loose among the dead,
like the slain that lie in the grave,
like those whom you remember no more,
for they are cut off from your hand.

⁶ You have put me in the depths of the pit,
in the regions dark and deep.

⁷ Your wrath lies heavy upon me,
and you overwhelm me with all your waves.
Selah

⁸ You have caused my companions to shun me;
you have made me a horror to them.

I am shut in so that I cannot escape;

⁹ my eye grows dim through sorrow.

Every day I call upon you, O Lord;

I spread out my hands to you.

¹⁰ Do you work wonders for the dead?

Do the departed rise up to praise you? *Selah*

¹¹ Is your steadfast love declared in the grave,
or your faithfulness in Abaddon?

¹² Are your wonders known in the darkness,
or your righteousness in the land of forgetful-
ness?

¹³ But I, O Lord, cry to you;

in the morning my prayer comes before you.

¹⁴ O Lord, why do you cast my soul away?

Why do you hide your face from me?

¹⁵ Afflicted and close to death from my youth up,
I suffer your terrors; I am helpless.

¹⁶ Your wrath has swept over me;
your dreadful assaults destroy me.

¹⁷ They surround me like a flood all day long;
they close in on me together.

¹⁸ You have caused my beloved and my friend to
shun me;

my companions have become darkness.

Elder: The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God!

* Prayer

Sermon Faith in the Dark

Pastor Michael Anderson

Crying out Consistently

Questioning God's Character

Continuing without Closure

Further discussion/questions? michaelanderson@christchurchgr.org
Sermons are available online at www.christchurchgr.org

DEDICATING OURSELVES TO GOD

* *In the Morning When I Rise*

Spiritual

1. In the morn - ing when I rise, in the
2. Dark_____ mid - night was my cry, dark_____
3. O_____ when I am a lone, O_____

morn-ing when I rise, in the morn-ing when I rise, give me Je -
mid - night was my cry, dark____ mid-night was my cry, give me Je -
when I am a lone, O_____ when I am - a - lone give me Je -

sus.
sus. Give me Je - - - sus, give me Je - - -
sus.

sus. You can have all this world, give me Je - sus.

The musical notation is written on a single staff in G major (one sharp) and common time. It consists of four lines of music. The first line contains three verses of lyrics. The second line continues the melody with lyrics. The third line has lyrics and a fermata over the final note. The fourth line concludes the piece with lyrics and a double bar line.

Reception of New Members

Javier and Lori Jiron (9:00 service)

Living out our faith announcements about the life of the church

Prayers of the People

*During the offertory please pass the red friendship pads found at the end of the rows.
Give online at christchurchgr.org or by texting (616) 208-2820*

Offertory: *Land of Rest* organ

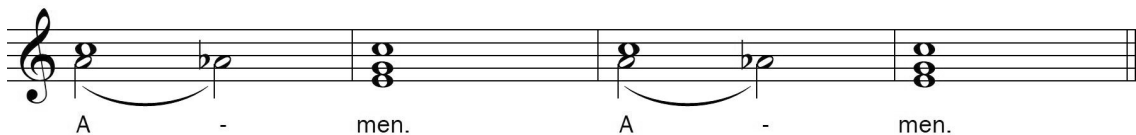
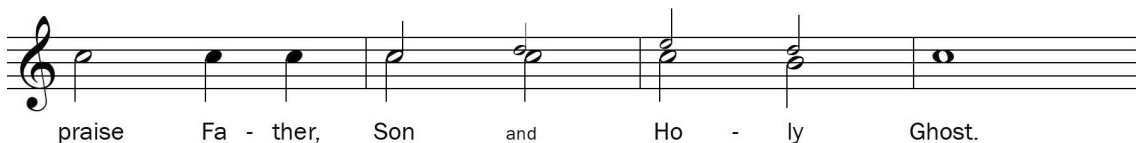
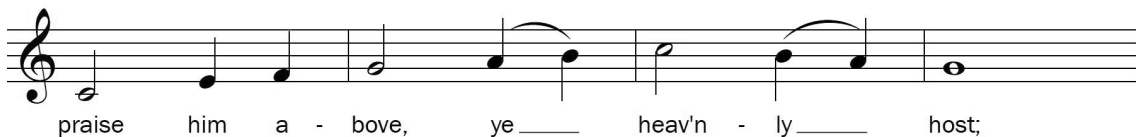
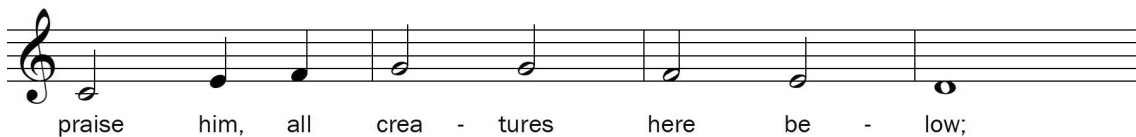
American folk hymn, arr. Wilbur Held

O land of rest, for thee I sigh,
When will the moment come,
When I shall lay my armor by,
And dwell at peace at home.

No tranquil joys on earth I know,
No peaceful shelt'ring dome;
This world's a wilderness of woe,
This world is not my home.

To Jesus Christ, I sought for rest,
He bid me cease to roam,
And fly for refuge to His breast,
And He'd conduct me home.

*** *New Doxology***



* Benediction

Kids and All: You are invited to come forward
and play rhythm instruments as we sing our closing Amen song.

* *And All the People Said Amen!*

And all the people said “Amen!”
Oh, and all the people said “Amen.”
Give thanks to the Lord for his love never ends.
And all the people said “Amen!”

* **Postlude** *All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name* (DIADEM)

arr. Robert Powell

Worship musicians

Grace Cheong, song leader
Theo Yasugi, cello (9:00)
Calebe Schützer Lasso, cello (11:00)
Jude Snyder, marimba (9:00)
Marian Wakeman, marimba (11:00)
Claudia Chang, piano
David Bading, organ & piano