



AND
IT WAS
GOOD

New Mexico sunset, photo by Marci Glass

September 7, 2025
HOMECOMING **SUNDAY**

JOIN US ON THE CORNER OF FILLMORE & JACKSON

[Click here to watch on our website](#)

[Click here to watch on YouTube](#)

WELCOME

Our mission is to nurture and inspire
our faith community to transform lives for Christ.

COMMUNITY GROWS HERE

Thank you for joining us in worship. Your presence matters here. Author Rachel Held Evans wrote, "Christianity isn't meant to simply be believed; it's meant to be lived, shared, eaten, spoken, and enacted in the presence of other people... Try as I may, I can't be a Christian on my own. I need a community. I need the church. Imagine if every church became a place where everyone is safe, but no one is comfortable. Imagine if every church became a place where we told one another the truth. We might just create sanctuary."

We need you. As we work to create transformational community on the corner of Fillmore and Jackson, your community needs your presence and your voice. It's been five years since our world was upended by Covid. And while much has changed since then, our need for each other and our need for community has not. Worship, at its root, is participatory. Your voice, in prayer and song, joins with the voices of others, as an offering to God. "Liturgy"—the words we say together in worship—means "the work of the people." Thankful for the privilege of doing the work together.



For early and non-readers, icons are included in the left margin throughout the bulletin.



***The asterisk indicates rising in body or spirit.**

Assisted listening devices are available at the Front Desk, and **large print hymnals** are located in the Narthex (Sanctuary entry).



DAILY LECTIONARY: SEPTEMBER 7–SEPTEMBER 14

Sunday: Genesis 1:1–2:4a; *God's Good Creation*
Monday: Genesis 2:7-9, 15, 18-25; *Creation of Adam and Eve*
Tuesday: Genesis 3:8-19; *Sin Enters God's Creation*
Wednesday: Genesis 12:1-9; *God Calls Abram*
Thursday: Genesis 15:1-6; *God Makes a Covenant*
Friday: Genesis 17:15-21; *Abram Becomes Abraham*
Saturday: Genesis 18:1-15; *God Promises a Child*

If you could use a new study Bible, we have some for sale. This is the updated version of the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) that we have in the pews. Available for \$25



Rev. Marcella Auld Glass Rev. Joann H. Lee

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Rev. Victor H. Floyd

Michael Conley

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PRAYER REQUESTS

Prayer boxes are located in the Narthex (Sanctuary entry) and at the Front Desk. The Deacons and Pastors honor confidentiality and pray for each request.

Calvary Deacons: Prayer, Essential Errands, Spiritual Support

Helen Huckleberry, Deacon Co-Moderator

Terry Milby, Deacon Co-Moderator

Rev. Victor Floyd, Minister of Spiritual Care



Notice of Filming: Most of Calvary's worship services are livestreamed on our Facebook page and YouTube channel. While most of the footage will feature worship leaders, video of the congregation may also appear. If you have concerns, please contact the church office.

♪ **PRELUDE** "Dawn" (1922)

Cyril Jenkins (1885–1978)

♪ **INTROIT** "Veni, Creator Spiritus"

Gregorian chant (12th century)

*Come, Spirit of Creation,
From thy bright heavenly throne,
Come take possession of our souls,
And make them all thy own.*

*Thou who art called the Paraclete,
Best gift of God above,
The living spring, the living fire,
Sweet unction and true love.*

*Thou who art sevenfold in thy grace,
Finger of God's right hand
God's promise teaching little ones
To speak and understand.*

*O guide our minds with thy blessed light,
With love our hearts inflame;
And with thy strength, which never decays
Confirm our mortal frame.*

*Far from us drive our deadly foe;
True peace unto us bring;
And through all perils lead us safe
Beneath thy sacred wing.*

*Through thee may we the Creator know,
Through thee the eternal Son,
And thee, the Spirit of them both,
Thrice-blessed Three in One.*

*All glory to the Maker be,
With their coequal Son;
The same to thee, great Paraclete,
While endless ages run.
Amen.*

👂 **WELCOME**

🔊 **CALL TO WORSHIP**

Breath by breath—it was so.
Word by word—it was so.

Piece by piece—it was so.

Day by day—it was so.

Blessing by blessing—it was so.

And God saw that it was good.

God saw that it was very good.

♪ ***HYMN 17** "Sing Praise to God, You Heavens!"

WIE LIEBLICH IST DER MAIEN

👂 ***CALL TO CONFESSION**

🕯 ***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Creator God, you call for light, and light shines.

You form all that is, straight from your imagination, into reality.

**You draw out the creative powers of the world you have made, so the earth and all that lives in it
continues the cycle of your blessing, creating and re-creating, generation to generation.**

**We confess that we have mis-used the powers you gave us, misrepresented your image in the world,
disrupted your cycle of blessing.**

We have tried to harness the earth's creativity for our own ends.

We have hoarded things meant to be shared.

We have acted like we are in charge here.

**And now the habitable space you created shrinks, the air and water hurt rather than feed,
the seasons shift and the whole system is off-kilter.**

Forgive us for dominating instead of co-existing.

Forgive us for abusing instead of nurturing.

Forgive us for taking your place instead of living faithfully in the place you made for us.

Restore the order of your creation, O God, and restore us within it, to live reflecting your image as you intend.

We ask in the name of Jesus the Christ, the Word through whom all is made. Amen.

👂 ***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

♪ ***GLORIA: HYMN 679** "Let the Whole Creation Cry"

SALZBURG


🕊 ***THE PEACE**

The Peace of Christ be with you!

And also with you!

The congregation is invited to share a sign of peace.

 **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**
Living Word, you still have many things to say to us. Speak, and we will try to hear them. Amen.

 **SCRIPTURE** Genesis 1:1—2:4a (page 1)
The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

 **CHILDREN'S MEDITATION & BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS**

Following Children's Meditation, children ages infant to 5th grade are invited to walk with their parents down to the Lower Level Sunday Studio and Childcare space. Children may also sit with their families during worship.

 **ANTHEM** "Benedicite, Omnia Opera"

Herbert Sumsion (1899–1995)

*O all ye Works of the Lord, bless ye the Lord;
Praise him and magnify him forever.
O ye Heavens, O ye Waters that be above
the Firmament, bless ye the Lord.
O all ye Powers of the Lord, O ye Sun and Moon,
O ye Stars of Heaven, bless ye the Lord;
Praise him, and magnify him forever.
O ye Showers and Dew, O ye Winds of God,
O ye Fire and Heat, O ye Winter and Summer,
O ye Dews and Frosts, O ye Frost and Cold,
O ye Ice and Snow, O ye Nights and Days,
O ye Light and Darkness, O ye Lightnings and Clouds,
Bless ye the Lord; praise him and magnify him forever.
O let the Earth bless the Lord;
yea, let it praise him, and magnify him forever.
O ye Mountains and Hills, bless ye the Lord;
Praise him and magnify him forever.
O all ye Green Things upon the Earth,
O ye Wells, O ye Seas and Floods,
O ye Whales, and all that move in the Waters,
O ye Fowls of the Air, O all ye Beasts and Cattle,
O ye Children of Men, bless ye the Lord:
Praise him and magnify him forever.
O let Israel bless the Lord; O ye Priests of the Lord,
Bless ye the Lord: O ye Servants of the Lord,
O ye Spirits and Souls of the Righteous,
O ye holy and humble Men of heart,
Ananias, Azarias, and Misael,
Bless ye the Lord: praise him and magnify him forever.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
World without end. Amen.*

— from "The Song of Three Children" (authorship unknown, likely from the first century BCE)

 **SERMON** "And it was Good"

 ***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** from "A Brief Statement of Faith"

**We trust in God,
whom Jesus called Abba, Father.
In sovereign love God created the world good
and makes everyone equally in God's image
male and female, of every race and people,
to live as one community.
But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator.
Ignoring God's commandments,
we violate the image of God in others and ourselves,
accept lies as truth,
exploit neighbor and nature,
and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care.
We deserve God's condemnation.
Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation.**

In everlasting love,
the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people
to bless all families of the earth.
Hearing their cry,
God delivered the children of Israel
from the house of bondage.
Loving us still,
God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant.
Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child,
like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home,
God is faithful still.
With believers in every time and place,
we rejoice that nothing in life or in death
can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.



OFFERING

The ushers will be walking down the aisles with offering plates if you'd like to pass your contribution toward either aisle as they walk by. You may also place your offering in the boxes at the back of the sanctuary.



OFFERTORY ANTHEM "Creation Sings"

Mitchell Covington

*To you, O God, Creation sings,
Beast of the field and bird on wing: alleluia!
The dawn awakens with a song,
And stars in heaven sing along: alleluia!
Oceans and rivers pure and clear
chant feely for their Lord to hear: alleluia!
All fish that swim, in praise rejoice,
Trees of the forest lift their voice: alleluia!
Oh let every thing that has breath their Creator bless.
Let us worship the Lord, our Maker with a song.
Heaven and earth send forth a joyful "Alleluia!"
And worship God in humbleness. Alleluia.
From all that dwell below the skies,
Let the Creator's praise arise: alleluia!
Let all creation's voices raise
anthems of joy and hymns of praise: alleluia!
Sing alleluia!*



SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

THE WORDS OF INVITATION

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

...who forever sing to the glory of your name:

SANCTUS 562 "Holy, Holy, Holy"

DEUTSCHE MESSE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & 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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

At Calvary, all are welcome at the Communion Table. Ushers will invite you to come forward for Communion. Please exit your pew from the right, proceed to the Communion station at the front of the sanctuary, receive Communion, and return to your pews. Those who are unable to come forward will be served in their pews by a pastor. Please indicate your desire to be served as the usher approaches. The Communion elements are all gluten-free and nut-free.

MEDITATION "Interludium" (2016)

Frederik Magle (1977-)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

♪ ***HYMN 36** "For the Fruit of All Creation"

AR HYD Y NOS

♪ ***BENEDICTION**

♪ ***CHORAL BLESSING** "Alleluia"

Jacques Berthier

♪ **POSTLUDE** "Fiat Lux" (Let There Be Light) (1893)

Théodore Dubois (1837–1924)

Acknowledgement:

Liturgy adapted from Teri Peterson for Bible Worm.

Leading Worship This Morning

Brian Bone

Rev. Marcella Auld Glass

Rev. Joann H. Lee

Rev. Victor H. Floyd

Michael Conley

John Walko

Natalie Ter Agapova

Gabrielle Goozée-Nichols

Nancy Hall

Joachim Luis

Ben Pattison

Michael Villarreal

Jefferson Packer

Calvary Chancel Choir

Liturgist

Preaching

Assisting

Assisting

Conductor

Organist/Pianist

Soloist

Soloist

Soloist

Soloist

Soloist

Soloist

Soloist

Soloist

Next Week in Worship: September 14 at 10am

Rev. Joann H. Lee: On the Altar of Religion

Genesis 21:1-3; 22:1-14 The horrifying story of the binding of Isaac by his father Abraham is rightfully troubling to modern readers. Perhaps back then and still today, it challenges us to ask: "What have we sacrificed on the altar of religion, believing it was the 'right thing to do?'" Join us on Sunday as we grapple with one of the most challenging stories in scripture.

The flowers this morning
are in celebration of
Homecoming Sunday!



2025 ANNUAL GIVING CAMPAIGN UPDATE

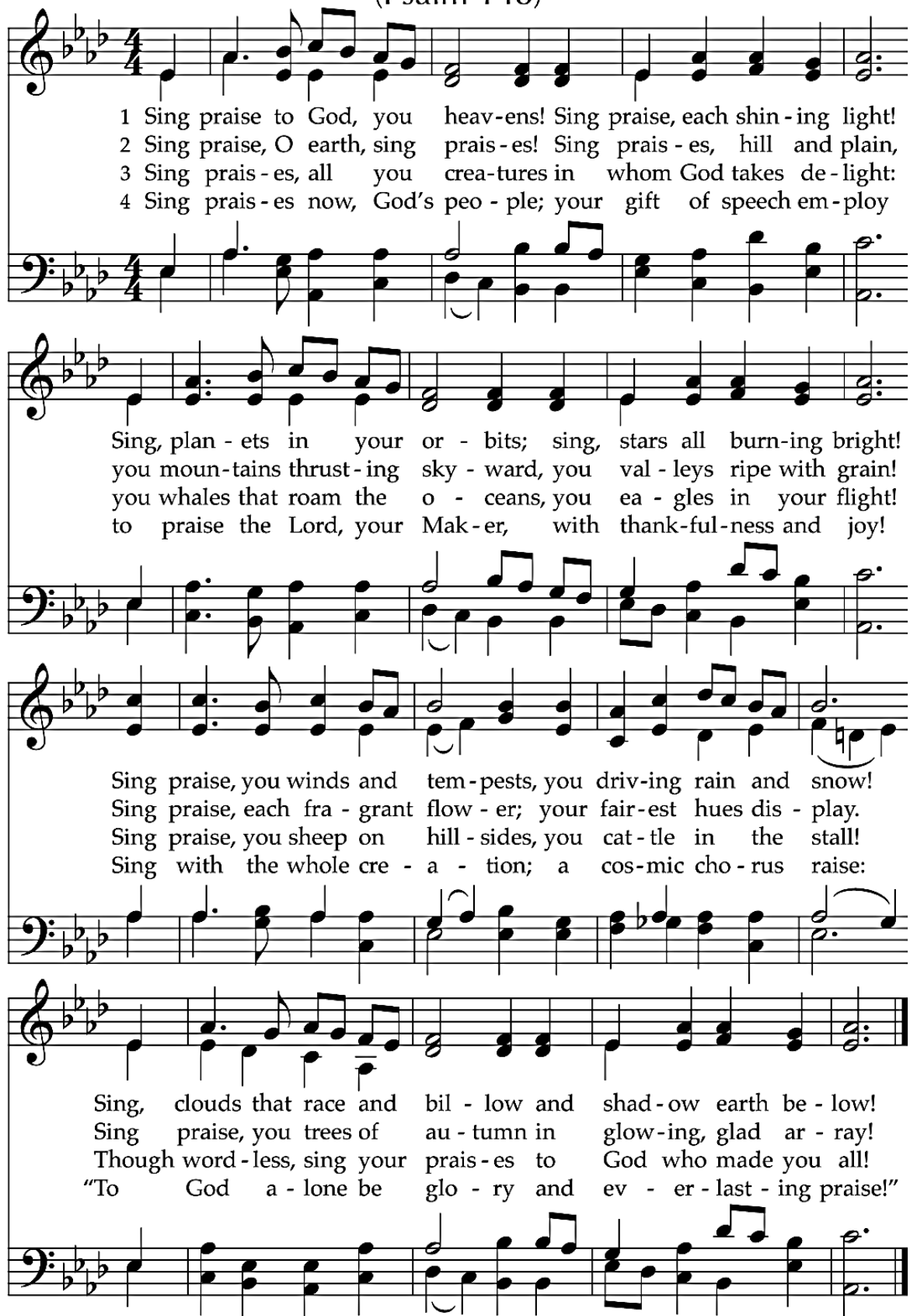
Friends, we give thanks for the generosity you have already shown in support of the 2025 Annual Giving Campaign. Calvary has received pledged commitments of \$1,257,926 (or 93% of our goal). This means just \$92,074 remains to meet our ministry and program plans for this year.

Isaiah reminds us, 'Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?' We believe God is doing something new here at Calvary, and every pledge—regardless of the amount—brings us closer to that vision.

We invite you to prayerfully consider how you might be part of this final step. Together, let's ensure Calvary continues to be a beacon of love, grace, peace, and transformation in our community.

To make a pledge for 2025, please visit calpres.org or pick up a pledge card at the Welcome Table in the Atrium.

(Psalm 148)



1 Sing praise to God, you heav-ens! Sing praise, each shin-ing light!
 2 Sing praise, O earth, sing prais-es! Sing prais-es, hill and plain,
 3 Sing prais-es, all you crea-tures in whom God takes de-light:
 4 Sing prais-es now, God's peo-ple; your gift of speech em-ploy

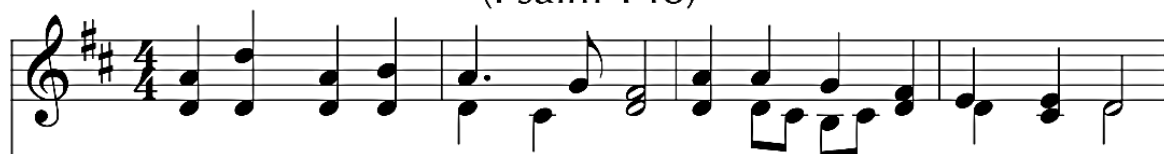
Sing, plan-ets in your or-bits; sing, stars all burn-ing bright!
 you moun-tains thrust-ing sky-ward, you val-leys ripe with grain!
 you whales that roam the o-ceans, you ea-gles in your flight!
 to praise the Lord, your Mak-er, with thank-ful-ness and joy!

Sing praise, you winds and tem-pests, you driv-ing rain and snow!
 Sing praise, each fra-grant flow-er; your fair-est hues dis-play.
 Sing praise, you sheep on hill-sides, you cat-tle in the stall!
 Sing with the whole cre-a-tion; a cos-mic cho-rus raise:


Sing, clouds that race and bil-low and shad-ow earth be-low!
 Sing praise, you trees of au-tumn in glow-ing, glad ar-ray!
 Though word-less, sing your prais-es to God who made you all!
 "To God a-lone be glo-ry and ev-er-last-ing praise!"

This paraphrase of Psalm 148 reflects the spirit of praise linking Psalms 146–150. Of the two great themes found in these final five psalms—creation and deliverance—this psalm focuses on the former. The opening praise "from the heavens" is matched by praise "from the earth."


(Psalm 148)




1 Let the whole cre - a - tion cry, "Glo - ry to the Lord on high."
2 Men and wom-en, young and old, raise the an-them loud and bold;



Heaven and earth, a - wake and sing, "Praise to our al - might-y King."
join with chil - dren's songs of praise; wor-ship God through length of days.



Praise God, an - gel hosts a - bove, ev - er bright and fair in love;
From the north to south-ern pole let the might-y cho-rus roll:



sun and moon, up - lift your voice; night and stars, in God re - joice!
"Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly One, glo - ry be to God a - lone!"

Originally this text was more than twice as long as the present version because it followed Psalm 148 in directing additional parts of the created order to praise God. This wide-ranging text is set here to a suitably expansive and well-crafted 17th-century chorale melody.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,

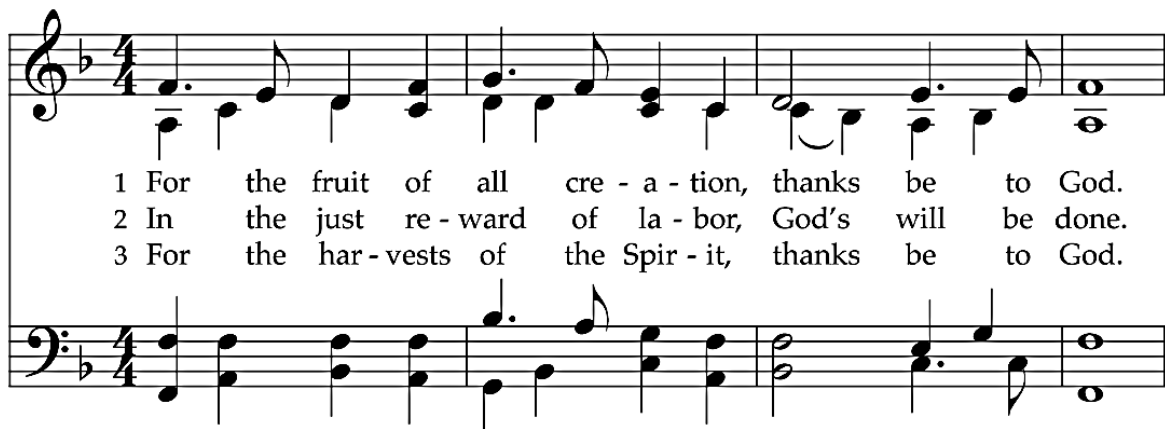
ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,

heav - en and earth are full, full of your glo - ry.

Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

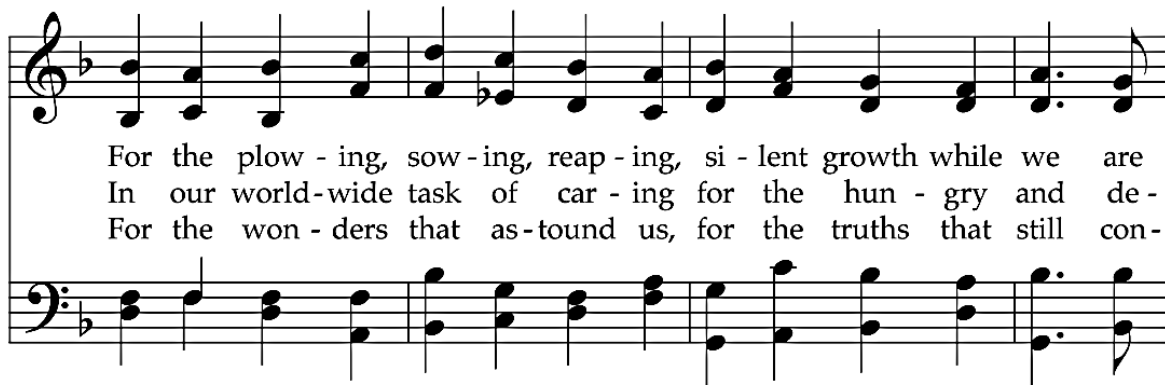
Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.



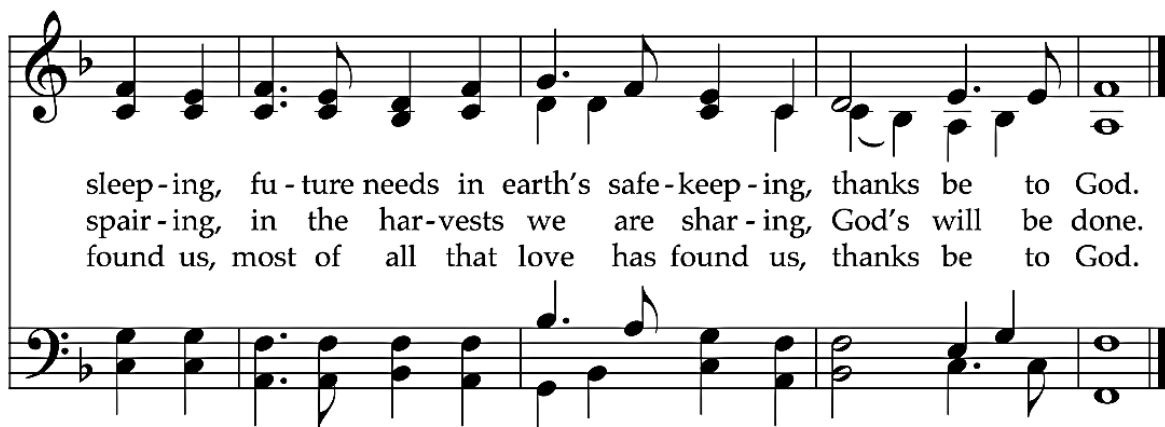
1 For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.
 2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will be done.
 3 For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God.



For the gifts to ev - ery na - tion, thanks be to God.
 In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will be done.
 For the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God.



For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are
 In our world - wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry and de -
 For the won - ders that as - tound us, for the truths that still con -



sleep - ing, fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.
 spair - ing, in the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will be done.
 found us, most of all that love has found us, thanks be to God.

Originally called "Harvest Hymn," this text is much more comprehensive than that title implies. It also deals with stewardship, thanksgiving, and God's endless gifts that continue to astound us. It is set to a familiar Welsh tune whose name means "throughout the night."

CALVARY WORSHIP, MUSIC, AND PROGRAM STAFF



The Rev. Marcella Auld Glass, Pastor & Head of Staff
The Rev. Joann H. Lee, Associate Pastor for Community Formation
The Rev. Victor H. Floyd, Minister of Spiritual Care
Michael Conley, Director of Music Ministries
John Walko, Organist
Alison Faison, Director of Children & Family Ministries
Robin Morjikian, Director of Development & Volunteer Ministries
Jeff Smith, Director of Youth Ministries