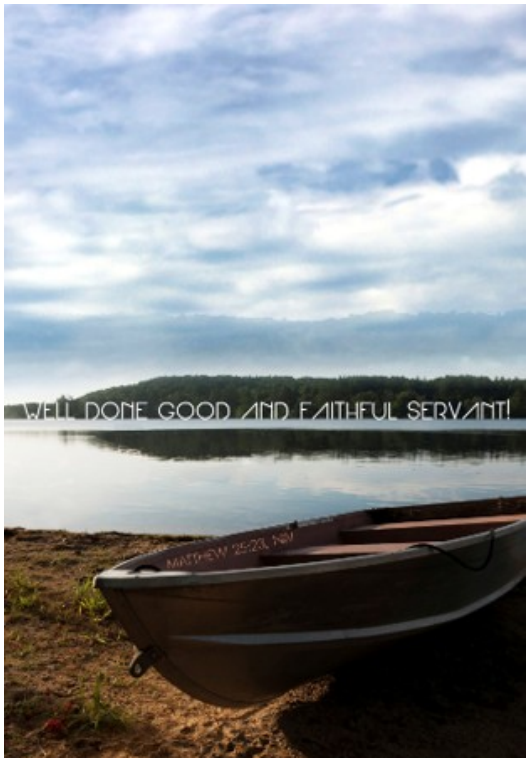
Peacham Congregational Church
56 Church St., Peacham, VT 05862
802-592-3330



Guest Speaker: Ed Nilson

We are an Open and Affirming Church

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey,
you are welcome here.

www.peachamchurch.org

Order of Worship
November 15, 2026

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude: "Firmator Sanct"

Centering Thought

"The parable of the talents is a classic reminder that we are stewards of the gifts of creation. We are not to hoard its goods, nor hurt or destroy the gifts we have been given. They are ours to return when the landowner comes back to settle accounts. What we have to give will depend upon how we care for what we have been given, how we multiplied the gifts, and how we sustained the yield. To be faithful even over 'a little,' is to be given responsibility over much." (When We Gather by James Kirk — adapted)

Responsive Call to Worship

God is the giver of all good things — and according to James, all good gifts come down from "the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow";

We come before God this morning with open hands and hopeful hearts — for how can we receive gifts from God unless we open our hands and hearts to the blessings that fall from Heaven, like warming sunshine on an autumn day;

Help us to remember, O God, that many of your gifts come with a sense of responsibility — we must care for the gift as we care for anything of value, worth, or anyone we love;

Help us to remember, O God, to be grateful for your many gifts over the course of our lifetimes — and to treasure the gifts and possibilities that come with each new day.

The "talents" God has given us concern far more than dollars, precious metals, or investment portfolios — truly, God has given us family, friends, neighbors, and strangers in distressing disguises to invest in and help along life's long, and at times, lonely journey.

May we give and be a blessing to others even as God blesses us with gifts above and beyond our imaginations. With St. Paul we gratefully proclaim, Now to God who can do infinitely more than all we can ask or imagine according to the power that is working among us... Thanks be to God!

Unison Invocation

The grace of God means something like: Here is your life. You might never have been, but you are because the party wouldn't have been complete without you. Here is the world. Beautiful and terrible things will happen. Don't be afraid. I am with you. Nothing can ever separate us. It's for you I created the

universe. I love you. There's only one catch. Like any other gift, the gift of grace can be yours only if you'll reach out and take it. Maybe being able to reach out and take it is a gift too. (Frederick Buechner)

Opening Hymn #444: “Lord of All Hopefulness”

Passing of the Peace

Leader: As Christ welcomed everyone, no matter what their background, no matter what their social status; as Christ welcomed enemies and friends, outcasts and leaders, foreigners and neighbors, let us open our hearts and homes and lives. Let us be Christ to everyone we meet. Peace be with you.

Congregation: **And also, with you.**

Leader: Now share the Peace of Christ with one another.

Anthem: "We Are Not Alone" Pepper Choplin

Joys and Concerns

Silent Prayer, Pastoral Prayer

Lord’s Prayer

Response

Hear our prayer O God. Hear our prayer O God.
Incline Your ear to us and grant us Your peace. Amen.

Offering & Mission

Doxology #45

Praise God for love we all may share.
Praise God for beauty everywhere.
Praise God for hope of good to be.
Praise God for truth that makes us free. Amen.

Unison Prayer of Dedication

Holy God, as we worship you through our giving, we dedicate these gifts to the work of your kingdom come and our hope that your will be done in our community and world. Amen.

Hymn #464: “Take My Life, and Let It Be Consecrated”

Scripture: Psalm 123
Matthew 25: 14-30

Message: “Where Are You Investing Your Life?” – Ed Nilson

Closing Hymn #454: “God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending”

Responsive Benediction

Go in peace my friends, love and care for one another in Christ's name;

May God bless us with the gifts we need, to do God's work in a tattered and broken world;

May God help us to have our hands and hearts open, to God's generosity and love;

May the Holy Spirit grant us a willingness to risk ourselves completely for the sake of the gospel;

And may the love, compassion, and the hope and faith of Jesus, dwell richly within us always;

With God's help, may we invest our talents in the families, friends, neighbors, and strangers that are in our lives for a lifetime — or for a passing moment.
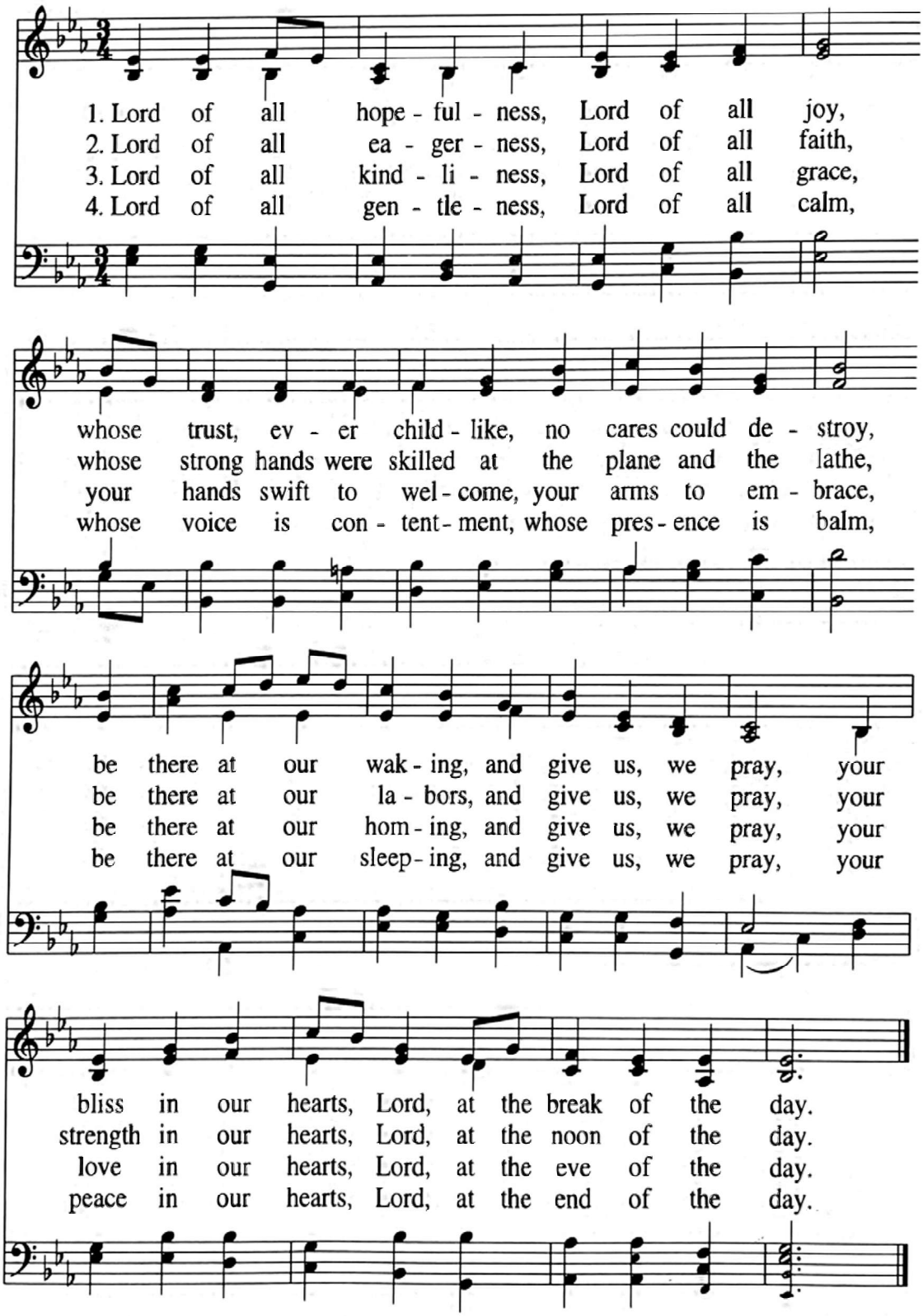
Our worship concludes; our service continues.

Thanks be to God!

Choral Response: "Children, Go Forth Now in Peace"

Postlude: “November” Michael Smith (1941 – 2009)

444 Lord of All Hopefulness



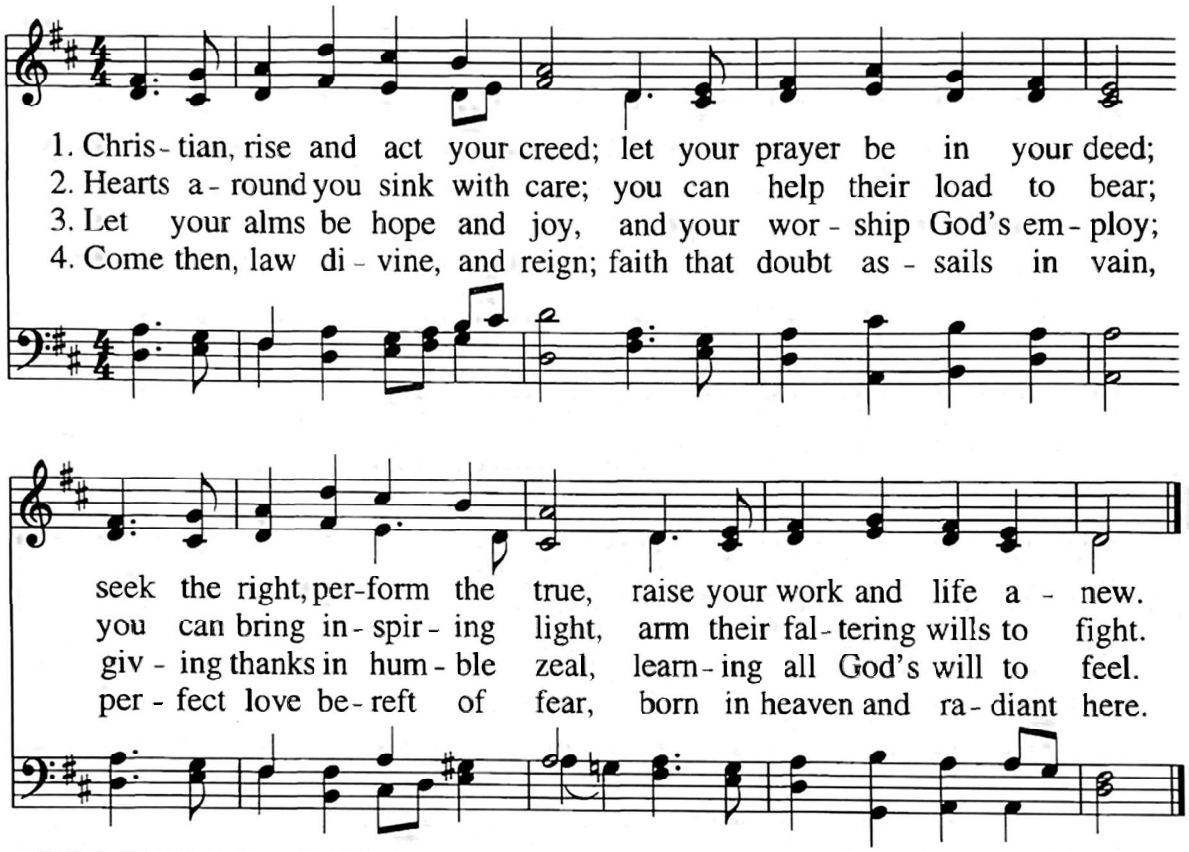
WORDS: Jan Struther, *Enlarged Songs of Praise*, 1931
MUSIC: Traditional Irish melody; harm. Jack Schrader, 1989, adapt.

SLANE
10 11.11 12

Jan Struther celebrates the 'round of each day.' This hymn first appeared in the milestone English Anglican hymnal *Enlarged Songs of Praise*, 1931.

Words © 1931, by permission of Oxford University Press
Harm. © 1989 Hope Publishing Co.

463 Christian, Rise and Act Your Creed
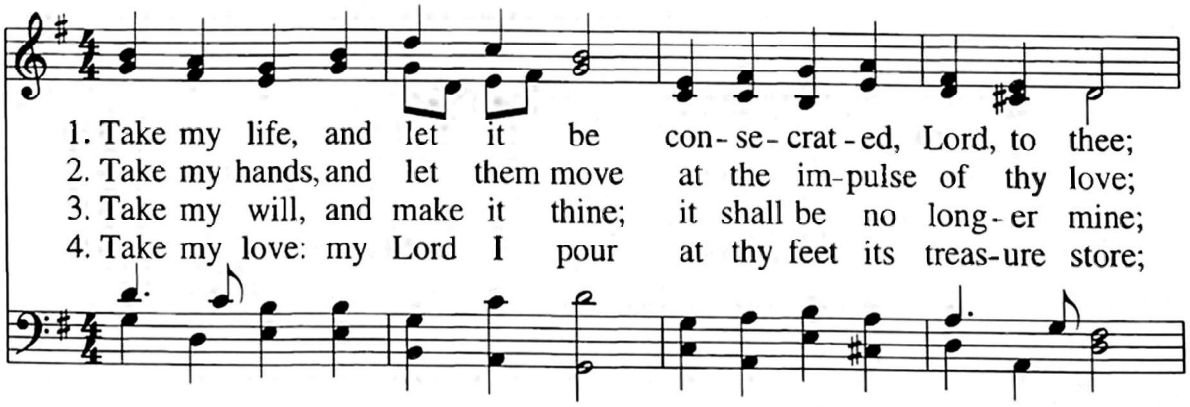


WORDS: F. A. Rollo Russell, 1893, alt.
MUSIC: *The Parish Choir,* 1850

INNOCENTS
77.77

Written by an English science writer, this hymn was first published in the 1904 *Pilgrim Hymnal.*
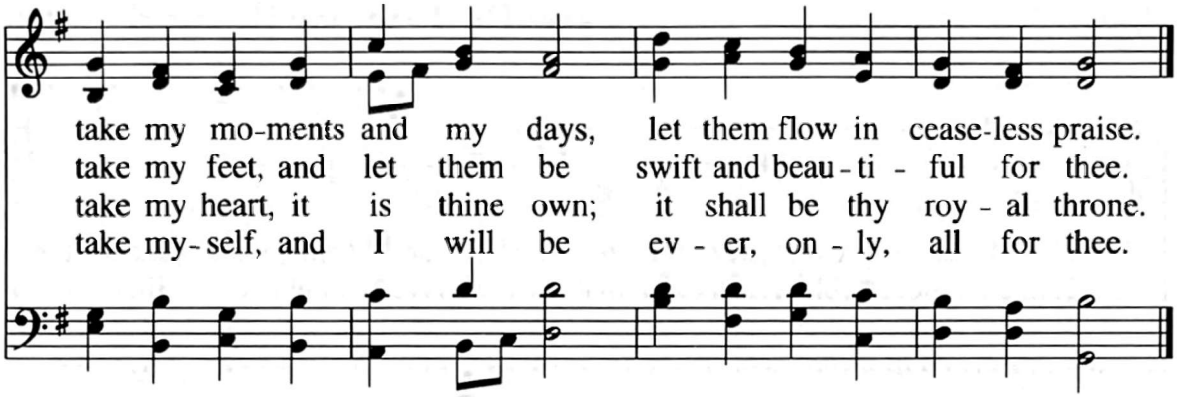
464 Take My Life, and Let It Be Consecrated
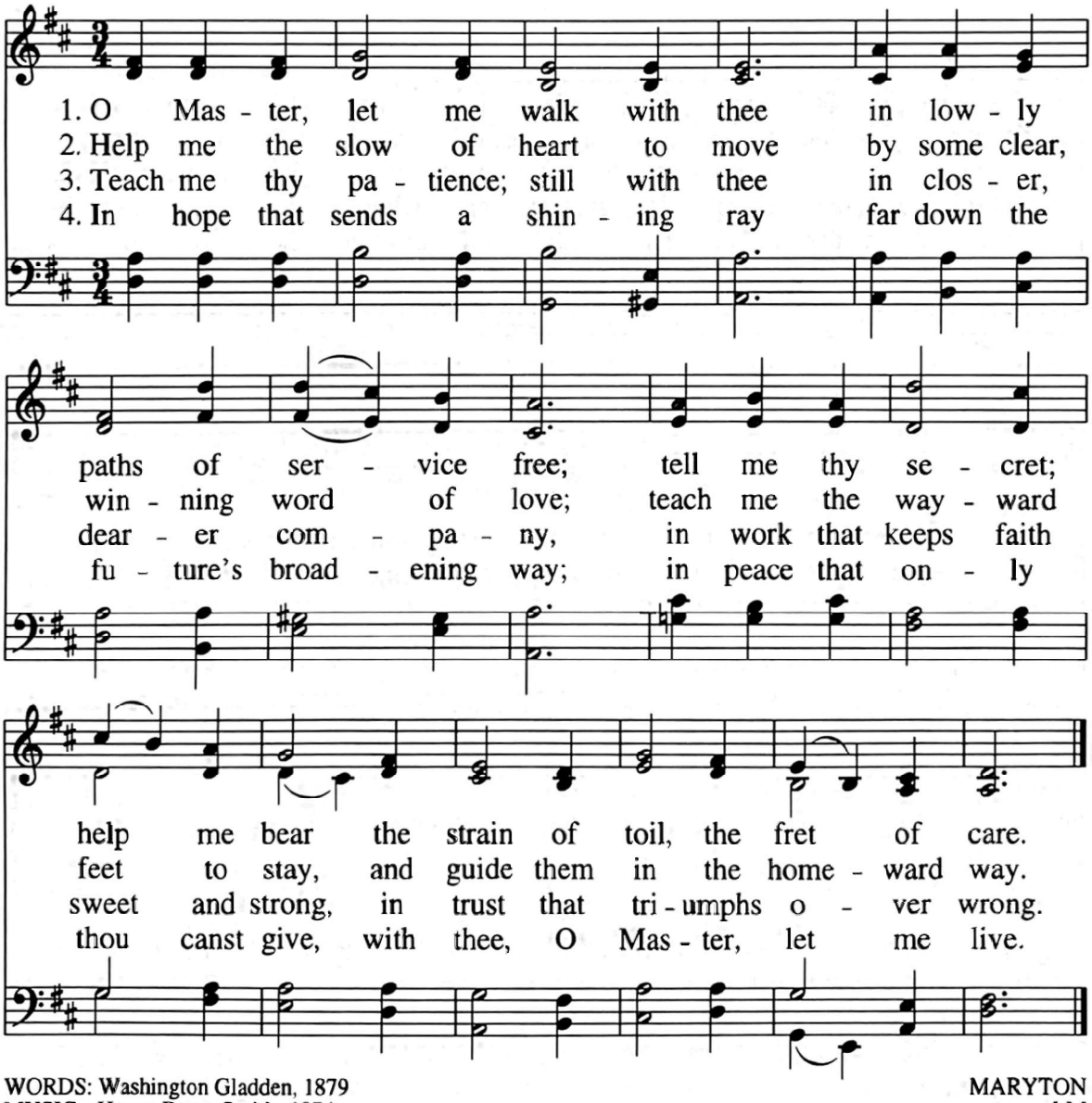


WORDS: Frances R. Havergal, 1874
MUSIC: Melody, Justin H. Knecht, 1797

VIENNA
77.77

In this hymn, Havergal expresses a commitment that rises above her own frail constitution.



O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee 465

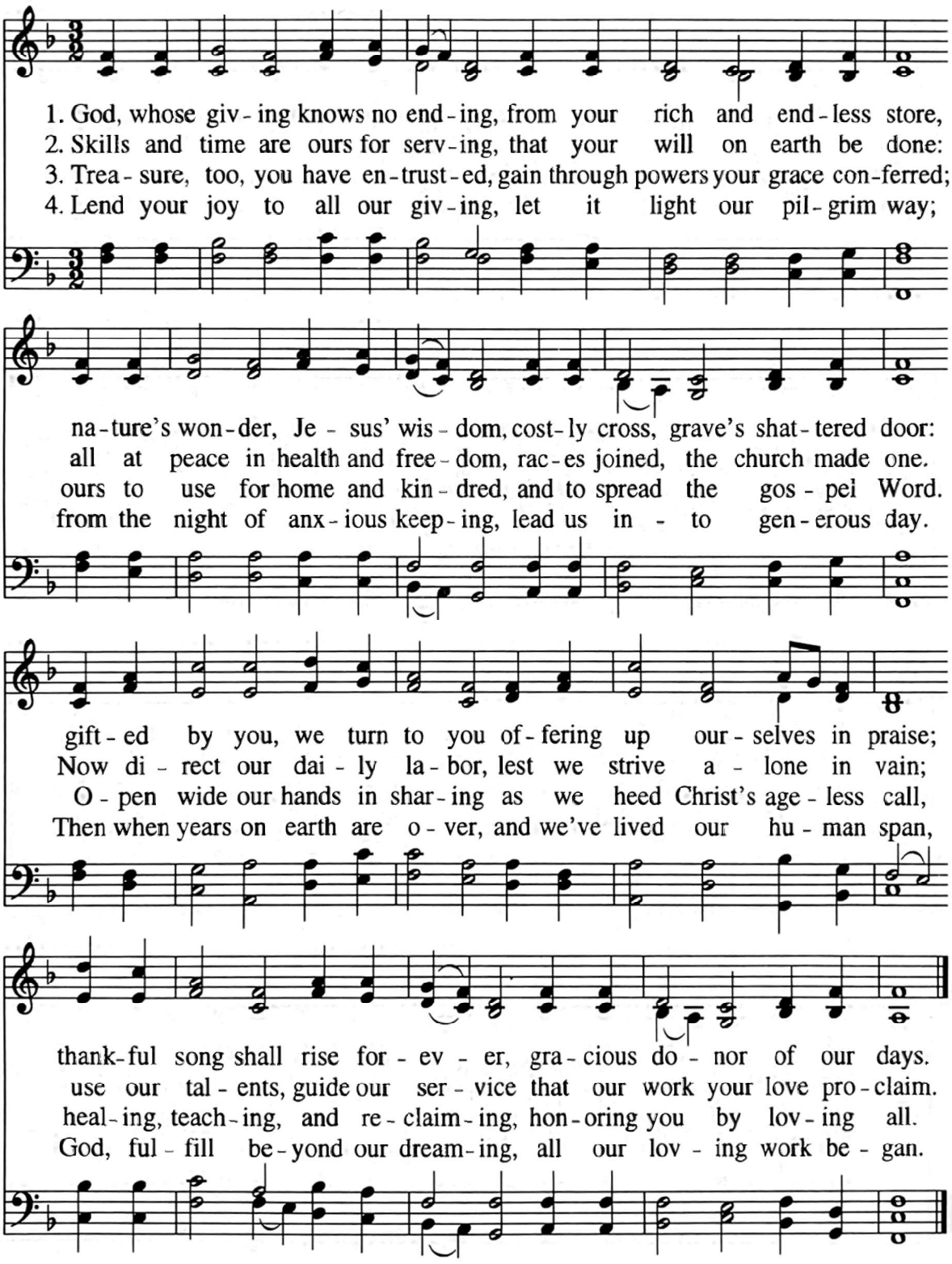


WORDS: Washington Gladden, 1879
MUSIC: Henry Percy Smith, 1874

MARYTON
LM

Gladden was a Congregational preacher and writer with a social conscience who helped shape the thinking of his generation. From 1904 to 1907 he was National Council of Congregational Churches Moderator.

God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending 454



WORDS: Robert L. Edwards, 1961, alt.
MUSIC: *The Sacred Harp,* 1844; harm. FCC, 1997

BEACH SPRING
87.87D

The Hymn Society of America sponsors annual competitions. Edwards, a UCC minister, won the 1961 prize for this stewardship hymn. The tune is attributed to Benjamin Franklin White, an editor of *The Sacred Harp* hymnal.

Words © 1961, 1989 The Hymn Society, admin. Hope Publishing Co.
Harm. © 1998 FCC, Houston TX

PEACHAM CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
& MEETINGHOUSE

ANNOUNCEMENTS & INFORMATION

November 15, 2026

Weekly Worship – Sunday @ 9:30 a.m.

Join us online at peachamchurch.org/watch-us-live-on-sunday

For general inquiries, email information@peachamchurch.org

Church Admin.....Patty Gardner
Collector.....Ann Goss
Sexton.....Nick Greyling
Treasurer.....Bruce Westcott
Accompanist .....Bruce Westcott
Web Ministry.....Jonathan R. Potter
Church Council President & Moderator .....John Marshall
Administrative Staff.....Meghan Hovey, Emma Kaplan

Deacons: Susan Chandler, Chris Danielson, Carolyn Deasy,
Patty Gardner, Anita Vann, Rick Witt, Bruce Maclean, Deacon Emeritus

Peacham Congregational Church is an open and affirming congregation, welcoming all who earnestly seek faith and fellowship in Christ to share in the life, leadership, ministry, membership, fellowship, worship, sacraments, responsibilities, blessings and joys of our church. We invite and welcome into our community persons of every age, race, ability, economic and social status, nationality, faith background, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, marital standing and family structure

How God is calling us to reach out to address the emerging challenges and opportunities of our community and congregation.
We believe that we must walk with all in our community, helping to bring it together at a time when divisiveness as well as economic, cultural and climate-related challenges are pulling us apart. Peacham is an exceptionally tight community, as the response to the July 2024 flood event showed, but many are lonely or shut-in, suffer from health conditions or feel excluded. We believe our Church has historically been and must continue to be a resource to promote community and reach out to those individuals in need of community support.

TODAY: Sunday, November 15, 2026 – 9:30 a.m. worship time, with Coffee Hour hosted by Anita Vann immediately following the service.

This morning we welcome Ed Nilson as our speaker.

The Annual Appeal is in full swing. Thank you to those who have already returned their pledge cards. We want to remind everyone that we would like to have them returned by **November 15th** so that the Business Committee can prepare next year's budget. Thank you!

MISSIONS

Our 4th quarter mission is **Church World Service.**

Following a natural disaster, CWS distributes kits with supplies like versatile blankets, cleaning agents, articles for hygiene, and other items immediately useful after a disaster

CWS helps refugees navigate the often unfriendly and confusing government "system" to help them settle and rebuild their lives in their new and unfamiliar country.

They teach farmers planting techniques that will make their crops less vulnerable to drought and floods.

FOOD COLLECTIONS

The Peacham Congregational Church collects food for the Danville Food Shelf every Sunday morning from 9-11 a.m. Food is collected in a basket at the back of the Sanctuary. During the week, donations of non-perishable food can be placed in the green bins on the covered walkway outside the kitchen door. Please note that the Food Shelf cannot use food that is beyond the expiration date or that has been opened.

The Danville Open Door Food Shelf is asking for the following weekly rotation of donations:

1st Sunday - Bread
2nd Sunday - Butter
3rd Sunday - Cheese (8oz. blocks)
4th Sunday - Eggs
[5th Sunday - Cheese]

Upcoming Worship Schedule of Leaders & Speakers for October:

November 22, 2026 – Susan Chandler (Historical Presentation)
November 29, 2026 – Nancy Fowler (First Sunday Advent)

Please Pray For:

Bill Blachly	Kiera	Cindy White
Brady Nally	Paul Clemons & Family	Q
Jenna Goguen	Anthony	Asylum Seekers
Robin	Larry	
Susan Chandler	Noyes Family	

Update from Jenna Goguen: Traveled safely last week to Texas for two back surgeries. She will return home on Monday and said she truly appreciated all the prayers. She will keep us updated on her progress.

If you would like to add a name to our prayer list, please reach out to Patty at peachamchurchinformation@gmail.com.

Attendance at Previous Church Services

November 1, 2026	29
November 8, 2026	20



Coffee Hour Hosts:
November 15: Anita Vann
November 22: Dart Thalman
November 29: Susan Chandler



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS
23rd – Julie Ann Morrison

"Uncomfortable Convictions: How Faith Moves the Work of Vermont Activism."

On three separate Thursday evenings, we will gather in our sanctuary to explore a central guiding question: *"How does your faith give you the courage to challenge systems of power and bring a divided community together?"*

Series Schedule (Thursdays at 7:00 PM):

- **December 10:** *Agencies for Social Change Panel* — Featuring representatives from Umbrella, Northeast Kingdom Asylum Seekers Network (NEKASAN), Indivisible St. Johnsbury, and The Open Door sharing how deep-seated values fuel community advocacy and care.
- **January 14:** *Keynote Address by Bill McKibben* — Author, environmental scholar, and founder of Third Act, speaking on solar energy, climate solutions, and intergenerational mobilization.
- All events are free and open to the public at 87 Hill Street in Danville, VT.