

WELCOME!

Asbury United Methodist Church

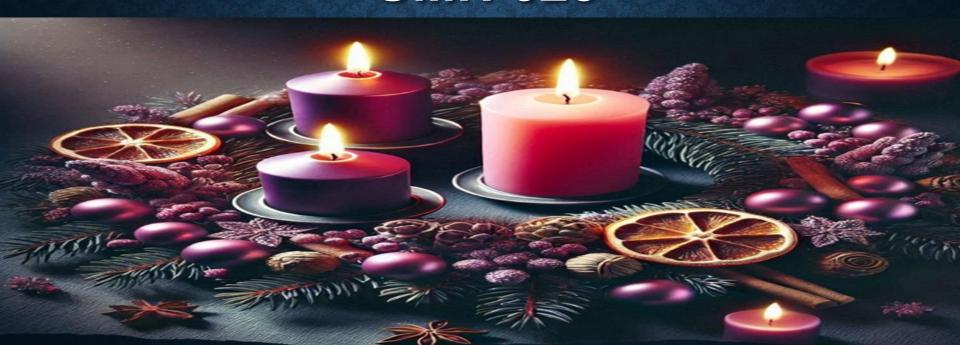
Open Doors with Loving Hearts

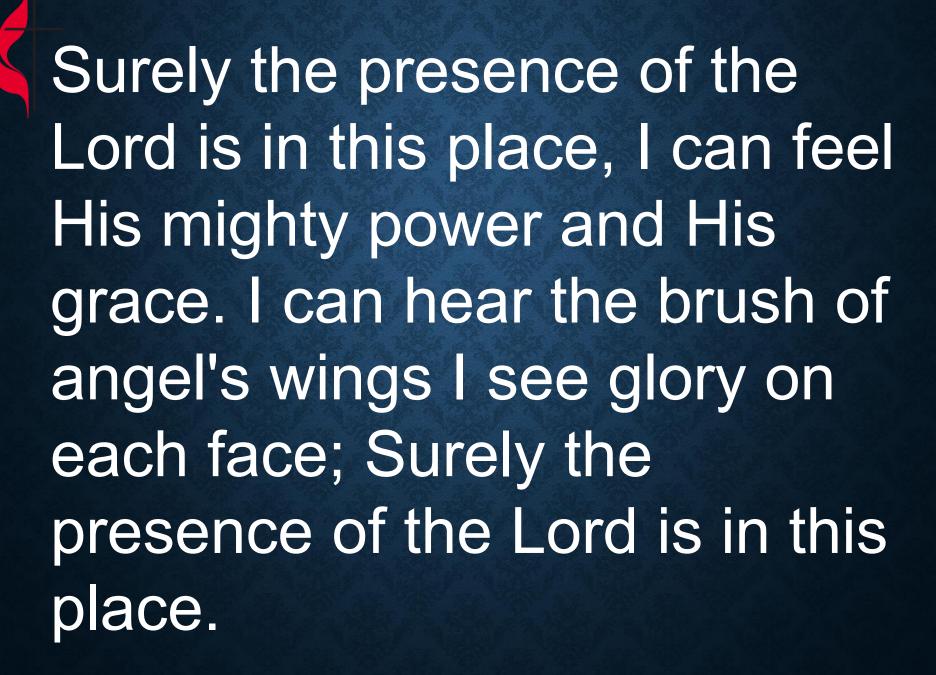
December 7, 2025

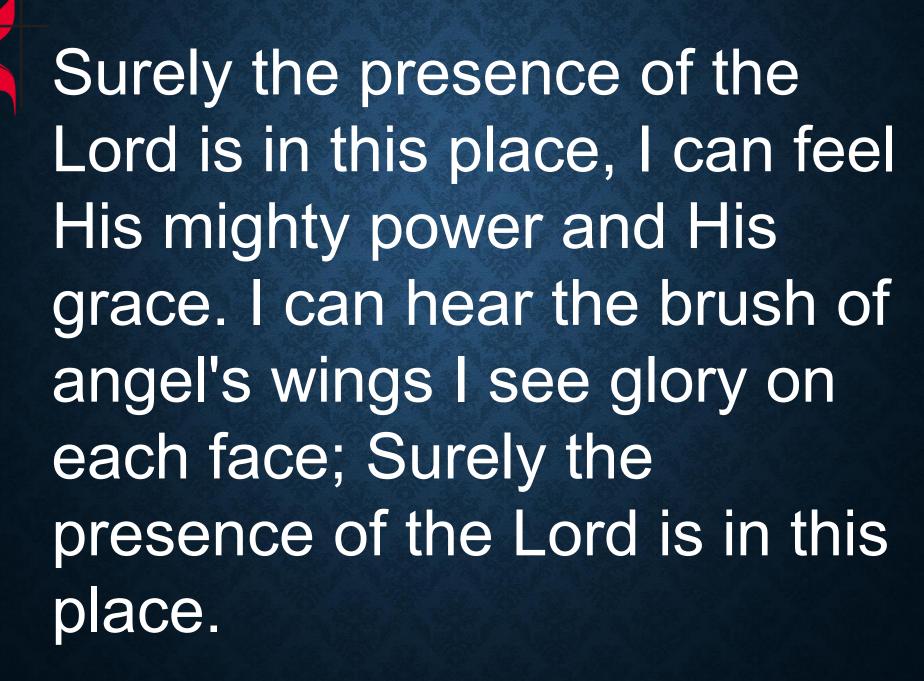
CENTERING SONG

"SURELY THE PRESENCE THE LORD"

UMH 328





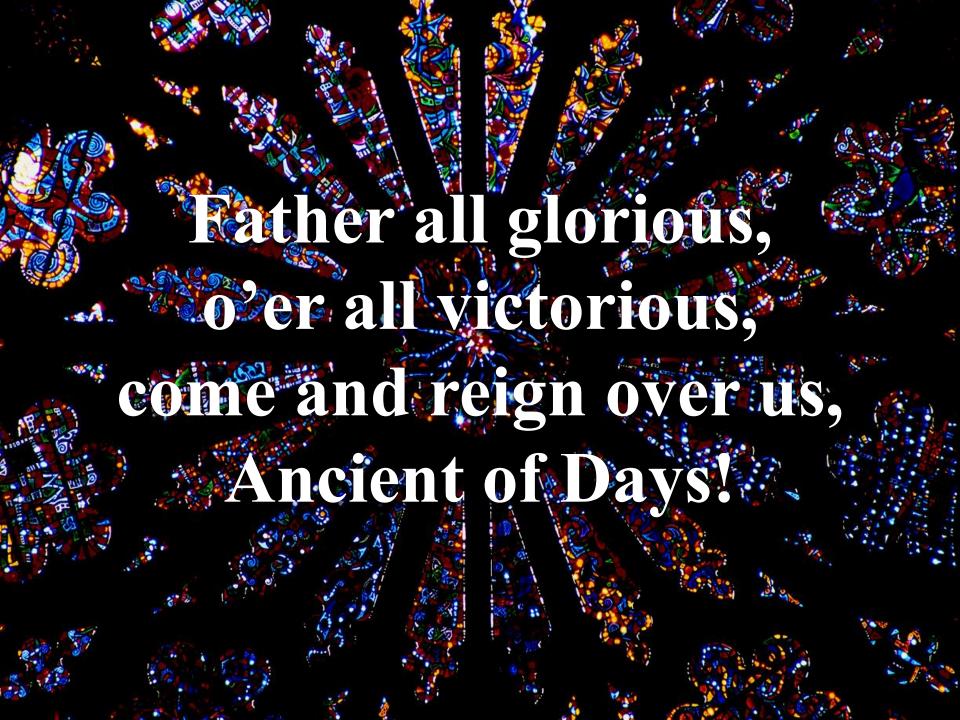


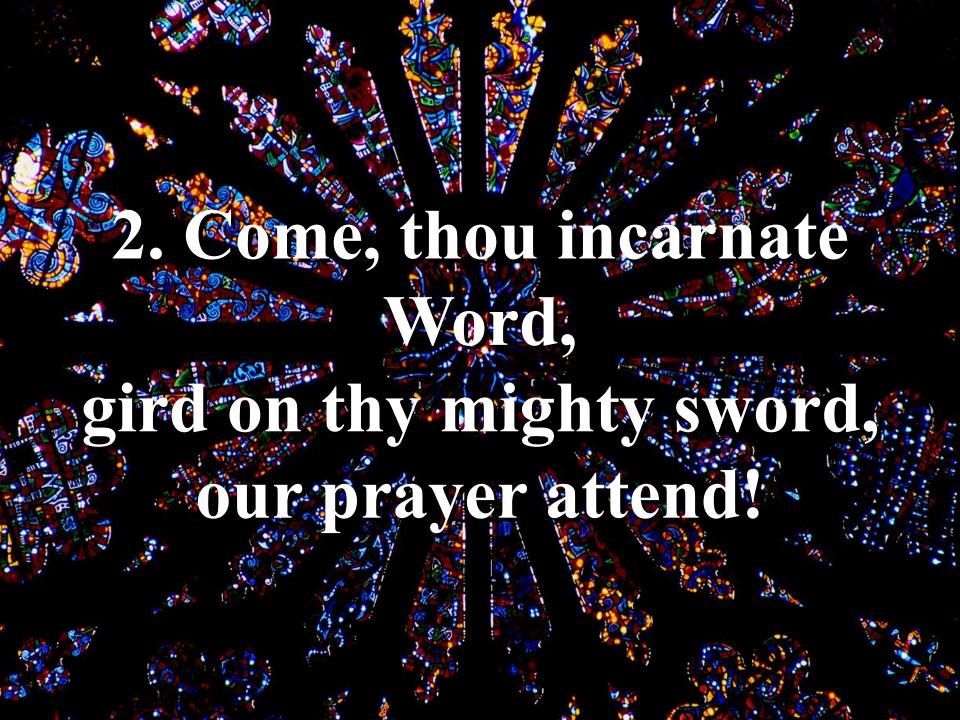


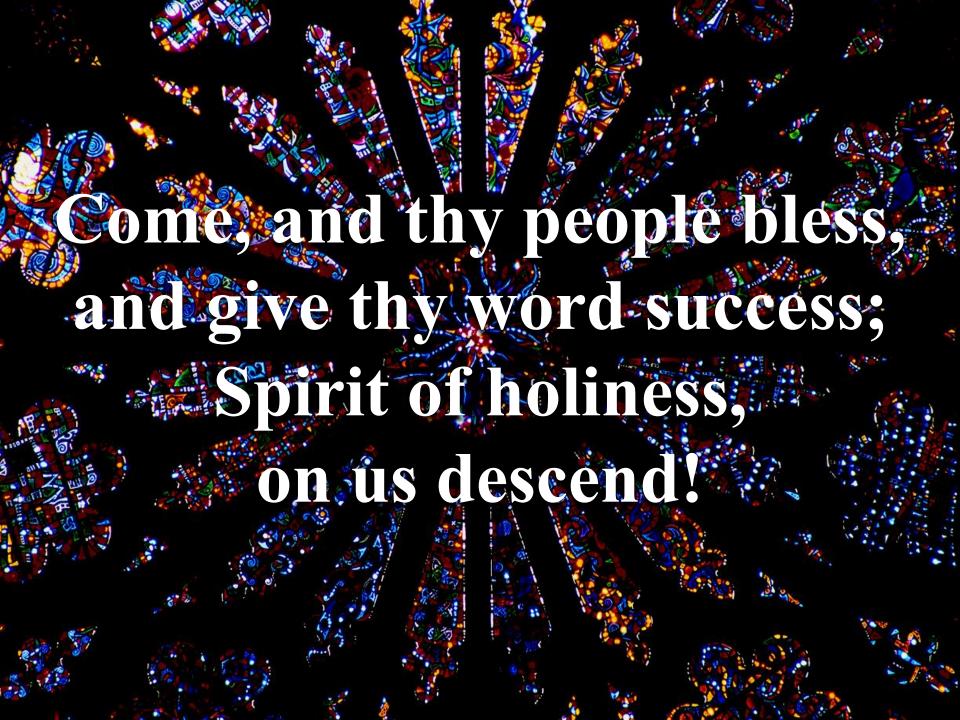
GATHERING SONG

"COME, THOU ALMIGHTY KING"



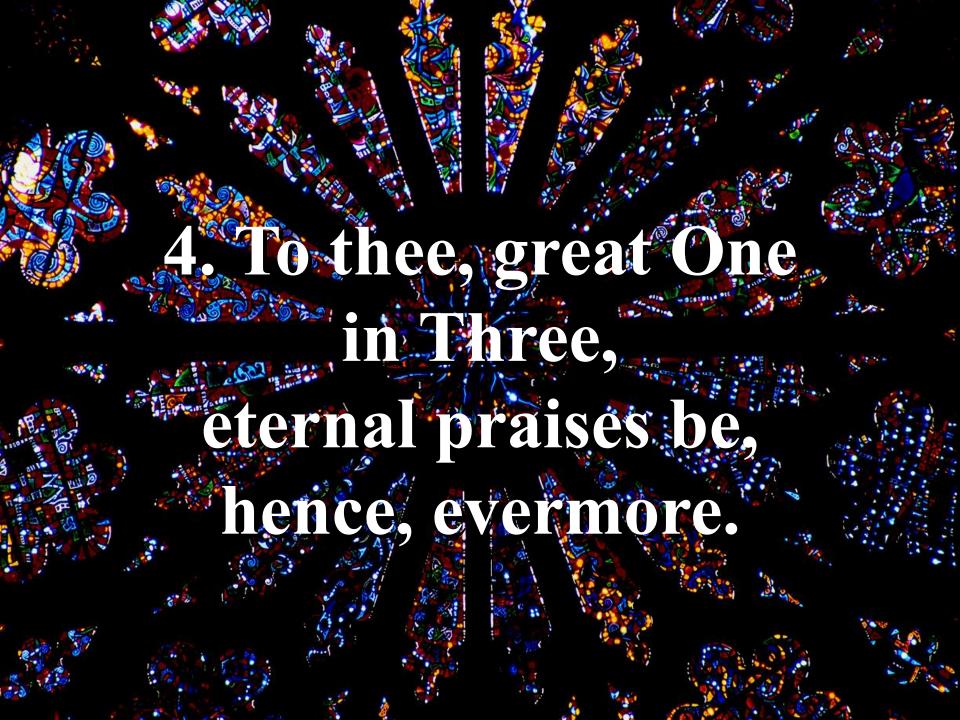




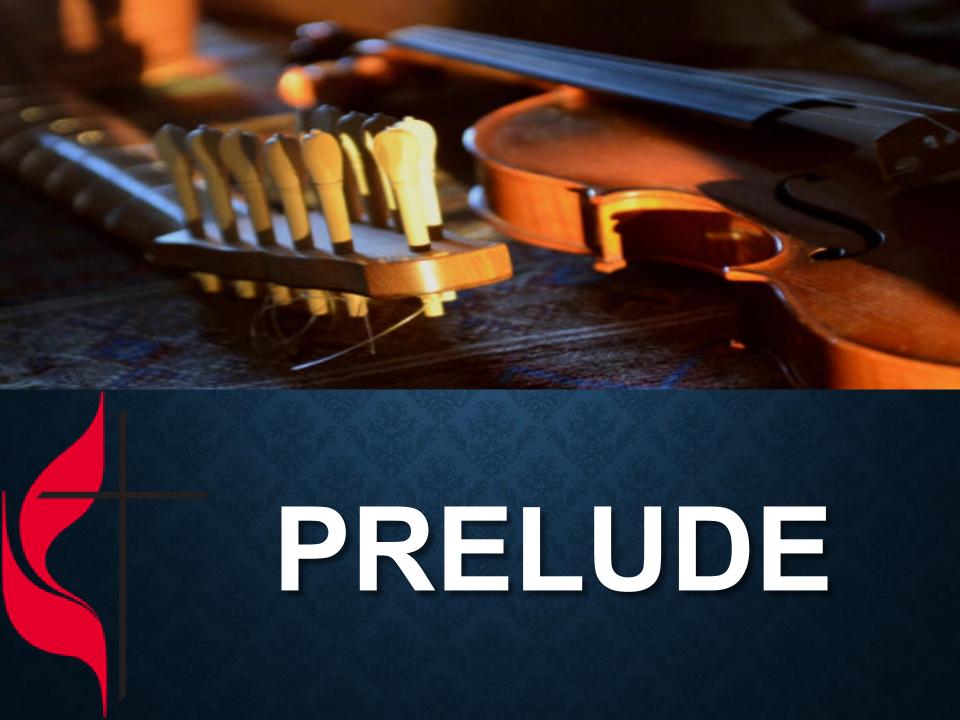














WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS



Reader 1: Advent reminds us that we are people who share a story, the story of Jesus, who enacts peace by judging in favor of the poor and deciding with equity for the meek of the earth. We long for the day when "the wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion will feed together, and a little child shall lead them" (Isaiah 11:6).

Congregation: Today, we choose to live the story of peace, believing that true peace comes when we seek the flourishing of all God's creation.



Reader 2: We light this candle of peace as a sign of our commitment to bring Light to the places the world seeks to hide until that day when all creation lives together in harmony and abundance.





CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: People of God, Christ has invited us here!

People: We gather to praise God, who brings justice and righteousness to all.

Leader: We gather to give thanks to God for hope and peace.

People: Blessed be the Lord, who has done marvelous things.

All: Let us praise God together!



OPENING SONG

"WE'VE A STORY TO TELL TO THE NATIONS"



We've a Story to Tell to the Nations

WORDS: H. Ernest Nichol, 1896

1. We've a story to tell to the nations, that shall turn their hearts to the right,

a story of truth and mercy, a story of peace and light, a story of peace and light.

Refrain

For the darkness shall turn to dawning, and the dawning to noonday bright;

and Christ's great kingdom shall come on earth, the kingdom of love and light.

2. We've a song to be sung to the nations, that shall lift their hearts to the Lord,

a song that shall conquer evil and shatter the spear and sword, and shatter the spear and sword.

Refrain

For the darkness shall turn to dawning, and the dawning to noonday bright;

and Christ's great kingdom shall come on earth, the kingdom of love and light.

3. We've a message to give to the nations, that the Lord who reigneth above

hath sent us his Son to save us, and show us that God is love, and show us that God is love.

Refrain

For the darkness shall turn to dawning, and the dawning to noonday bright;

and Christ's great kingdom shall come on earth, the kingdom of love and light.

4. We've a Savior to show to the nations, who the path of sorrow hath trod,

that all of the world's great peoples might come to the truth of God, might come to the truth of God.

Refrain

For the darkness shall turn to dawning, and the dawning to noonday bright;

and Christ's great kingdom shall come on earth, the kingdom of love and light.

OPENING PRAYER

God of hope and peace, as we worship you this day, may we catch a glimpse of your peace; may we open ourselves to receive your grace; may we welcome one another, as you have welcomed us; may we

prepare hearts and our lives, for Christ to be born in us once again. And when our worship is done, may we be renewed in body and spirit, prepared to bring your righteousness and justice to the world. In the name of Christ, we pray. Amen.

ANTHEM "HEREIAM LORD"



WORDS: Dan Schutte, 1981 (Is. 6:8)

1. I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry. All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.

© 1981, 1983, 1989 Daniel L. Schutte and NALR

I who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright. Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?

Refrain

Here I am, Lord.
Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you
calling in the night.

I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold
your people in my heart.

2. I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain. I have wept for love of them. They turn away.

I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone. I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?

Refrain

Here I am, Lord.
Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.

I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold
your people in my heart.

3. I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame, I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.

Finest bread I will provide till their hearts are satisfied.
I will give my life to them.
Whom shall I send?

Refrain

Here I am, Lord.
Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.

I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold
your people in my heart.



PRAISING GOD WITH OUR GIFTS

OPEN DOORS WITH LOVING HEARTS



Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;

Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost! Amen.



"CHILDREN'S MESSAGE"



PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that as the scriptures are read and your Word proclaimed, we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen.



"ISAIAH 11:1-11"



1 A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. 2 The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him—the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the Lord—3 and he will delight in the fear of the Lord. He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes, or decide

by what he hears with his ears; 4 but with righteousness he will judge the needy, with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth. He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth; with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked. 5 Righteousness will be his belt and faithfulness the sash around his waist. 6 The wolf will live with the

lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them. 7 The cow will feed with the bear, their young will lie down together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox. 8 The infant will play near the cobra's den, the young child will put its hand into the viper's nest. 9 They will neither harm nor

destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. 10 In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples; the nations will rally to him, and his resting place will be glorious. 11 In that day the Lord will reach out his hand a second time to reclaim the surviving remnant of his

people from Assyria, from Lower Egypt, from Upper Egypt, from Cush, from Elam, from Babylonia, from Hamath and from the islands of the Mediterranean.





SERMON

"This Ain't No Ordinary Tree!"



HOLY COMMUNION

SERVICE OF WORD AND TABLE II

Christ the Lord invites to his table all who love him, who earnestly repent of their sin and seek to live in peace with one another.

Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

CONFESSION AND PARDON

Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church.

We have not done your will, we have broken your law, we have rebelled against your love, we have not loved our neighbors, and we have not heard the cry of the needy.

Forgive us, we pray.
Free us for joyful obedience,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Hear the good news:
Christ died for us while
we were yet sinners;
that proves God's love
toward us.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

Glory to God. Amen.

THANKSGIVING AND COMMUNION

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks, and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth. And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ.

By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples and said:

"Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:

"Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.

Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us,

as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again. Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine.

Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world,

until Christ comes in final victory and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever. Amen.





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

day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass 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.



"CHANGE MY HEART, O GOD"

Change My Heart, O God 2152

Eddie Espinosa (Isa. 64:8)

Change my heart, O God, make it ever true.

Change my heart, O God, may I be like you.

You are the Potter, I am the clay. Mold me and make me, this is what I pray.

Change my heart, O God, make it ever true.Change my heart, O God, may I be like you.

BENEDICTION

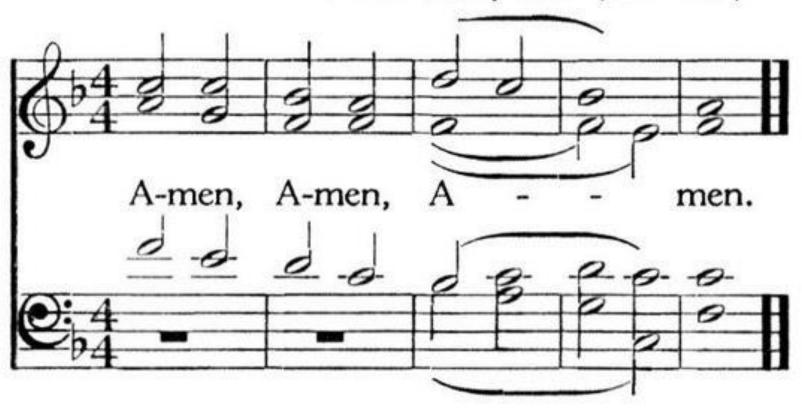


May the God of love fill you with joy and peace. May the peace of Christ be with you, now and forevermore. And may the Holy Spirit fill your days with hope. Amen.



564 Threefold Amen

Walter Henry Hall (1862-1935)



CARRYING OUR LIGHT INTO THE WORLD!

