

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

5th Sunday after Epiphany

February 7, 2021

A SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD WITH THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

(Click [here](#) to connect to today's live worship.)



In preparation for celebrating communion where you are, **please have your own bread and cup available at the beginning of worship** so that we might partake of the elements at the same time during today's worship.

GATHERING MUSIC	<i>Hymn Improvisation</i> Cameron Morgan, Saxophone	Cameron Morgan
WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, CELEBRATIONS, AND CONCERNS		Mindy Douglas
PRELUDE	<i>Hymn Improvisation</i> Cameron Morgan, Piano	Cameron Morgan
CALL TO WORSHIP (from Isaiah 40)		Mindy Douglas
Leader: Don't you know? Haven't you heard?		
All: God created all things and summons everyone by name.		
Leader: Don't you know? Haven't you heard?		
All: No one – nothing – can compare to God's glory.		
Leader: Don't you know? Haven't you heard?		
All: The Lord is the everlasting God, the creator of the ends of the earth, and never grows tired or weary.		
Leader: Don't you know? Haven't you heard?		
All: Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength forever and ever. Let us worship God.		
HYMN No. 32	<i>I Sing the Mighty Power of God</i>	<i>Ellacombe</i>
	<i>I sing the mighty power of God that made the mountains rise, that spread the flowing seas abroad and built the lofty skies. I sing the wisdom that ordained the sun to rule the day. The moon shines full at God's command, and all the stars obey. I sing the goodness of the Lord who filled the earth with food. God formed the creatures through the Word, and then pronounced them good. Lord, how thy wonders are displayed, where'er I turn my eye, if I survey the ground I tread, or gaze upon the sky! There's not a plant or flower below but makes thy glories known. And clouds arise, and tempests blow, by order from thy throne, while all that borrows life from thee is ever in thy care, and everywhere that we can be, thou, God, art present there.</i>	

CONFESSION OF SIN

Mitzi Leshner-Thomas

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession (in unison)

**Everlasting God, we know how easy it is
to forget your presence and power in our lives.
Focused on our daily schedules,
we do not pay attention
to the night sky and the stars that glitter.
Surrounded by the sounds of anger, violence, and hate,
we have trouble listening to your whispers of hope and grace.
Thinking that Scripture is filled only with stories,
we cannot understand your truth which can change lives.
Forgive us.
There is no one who can hold a candle to you
when it comes to mercy and hope.
Lift us to our feet so we may walk with you;
fill us with your strength so we may serve your people;
touch us with your healing
so we may proclaim to everyone the Good News
that has come in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.**

Silent Confession

Declaration of Forgiveness

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Jane Wettach

Leader: The Lord be with you.
All: **And also with you.**
Leader: Let us pray.
All: **God of our deepest strength,
as we breathe in the words of ancient poets and prophets,
as we inhale the words of first century storytellers,
refresh our hearts and minds
so we might hear these words in new ways...
so we might struggle with these words long enough to understand them...
so we might be renewed to go and be and do.
Amen.**

GOSPEL READING

Mark 1:29-39

Jane Wettach

Leader: The Word of the Lord.
All: **Thanks be to God!**

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON

Isaiah 40:21-31

Mindy Douglas

Leader: The Word of the Lord.
All: **Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

"Memory, Hope, and Gospel"

Mindy Douglas

HYMN No. 657 (verses 1-2)

Sing to God, with Joy and Gladness
Mackenzie Lesher-Thomas, percussion

Glendon

Refrain: ***Sing to God, with joy and gladness, hymns and psalms of gratitude;
with the voice of praise discover that to worship God is good.***

***God unites the scattered people, gathers those who wandered far,
heals the hurt and broken spirits, tending every wound and scar.*** (Refrain)

***Such is God's great power and wisdom, none can calculate or tell;
keen is God to ground the wicked and with humble folk to dwell.*** (Refrain)

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(from *A Brief Statement of Faith*)

John Weicher

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.

INVITATION TO GIVE AND DEDICATION OF THE OFFERING

John Weicher

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

John Weicher

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Susan Dunlap

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Mindy Douglas

Leader: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

All: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
All: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**
Leader: Holy, holy, holy Lord –

We praise you for your love:
bringing life into dust,
leading captives into freedom,
calling wandering children home,
giving bread to the hungry,
giving drink to the thirsty,
raising the dead to life.

All (sung):

Sanctus

Hymn No. 572

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
pow - er and might, heav - en and earth are
full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the
Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Leader: Thank you, Lord –
We thank you for Jesus:
Word made flesh,
light of the world,
living water,
shepherd and gate,
way and truth,
bread and heaven,
cup of salvation,
resurrection and life.

Take this bread and cup, O God – a feast of grace;
Take our hearts and lives – an offering of praise.

Leader: Great is the mystery of faith:

All (sung):

Hymn No. 573



Christ has died; Christ is ris - en; Christ will come a - gain.

Leader: Spirit, come—

Come and live in us:

in this bread,

in this cup,

in your people,

one in the body,

one in the blood;

one with Christ,

one in ministry,

in this place,

in every place;

in this world,

in the world to come.

(Prayers of intercession and thanksgiving)

Leader: Blessing and glory

wisdom and thanksgiving,

honor and power,

forever and ever!

All (sung):



A - men, a - men, a - men.

THE LORD'S PRAYER (in 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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Susan Dunlap

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Mitzi Leshner-Thomas

Leader: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray.

All: **Holy and eternal God,
you are as far away as the distant stars
and as close as our breath.
You meet us at this table
and we discover our hearts burning within us.
Go with us as we leave this place,
so that your light and your life
may shine brightly for all to see. Amen.**

HYMN No. 657 (verses 3-4) *Sing to God, with Joy and Gladness* *Glendon*
Mackenzie Lesher-Thomas, percussion

Refrain: ***Sing to God, with joy and gladness, hymns and psalms of gratitude;
with the voice of praise discover that to worship God is good.***

***God with clouds the sky has curtained, thus ensuring rain shall fall;
earth, responding, grows to order food for creatures great and small.*** (Refrain)

***God's discernment never favors strength or speed to lift or move;
God delights in those who worship, trusting in God's steadfast love.*** (Refrain)

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION Mindy Douglas

POSTLUDE *Hymn Improvisation* Cameron Morgan

First Presbyterian Church welcomes all who worship with us. We honor and celebrate the human diversity and unity that God gives us in Christ. We welcome individuals of every age, race, nationality, gender, ability, sexual orientation, and economic circumstance to participate fully in the life of the church. On January 31, 133 households tuned in to the 11:00 a.m. live-streamed broadcast of worship.

Today's worship flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of **Malvern F. King, Sr.** and **Margareid McDonald King** by **Malvern F. King, Jr.**

Music Notes:

Cameron Morgan is a native of Charlotte, NC, who came to Durham to study in the jazz program at North Carolina Central University (NCCU). At NCCU Cam was a student of international jazz greats Branford Marsalis and Joey Calderazzo. Cam has remained in Durham and has been the music director for a variety of theater productions at NCCU and Hillside High School, and he has opened for many artists, including Patti LaBelle, The Whispers, and Branford Marsalis. In addition to being a member of several local jazz groups, Cam serves as the music director at No Greater Love Christian Church in Durham. We are particularly pleased to welcome Cam to FPC this morning and grateful for his contribution to our worship.

Special thanks to Mackenzie Lesher-Thomas for providing percussion accompaniment during today's worship. Mackenzie is the daughter of Mitzi and Troy Lesher-Thomas. She is a freshman at Western Carolina University, where she is a member of the marching band.

Many thanks to John Fricks, Jody Maxwell, Pat Dillon, Keith Rokoske, and Jay Klinck, for their "behind the scenes" technical assistance with our live broadcasts of worship on Sunday mornings. We are also grateful to **Jennie Alwood** for the powerful images accompanying our online services.

Portions of today's worship text are taken from *Book of Common Worship* (2018). The Prayer for Illumination is written by **Rev. Scott Cervas** of Meadowthorpe Presbyterian Church, Lexington, KY. **Hymn texts and music** are reprinted from *Glory to God* under Onelicense.net: A.713926.

~ Our Concerns ~

Condolences:

The love and concern of the congregation are extended to the following:

- **Peggy Hammond and family** on the sudden passing of her husband and FPC member **Dr. Charles B. Hammond**. Charles died February 1 at Duke Hospital. The family held a small celebration of life and witness to the resurrection service on yesterday at FPC;
- **Marilyn (Mickey) Velkey and family** on the death of her brother-in-law, **Dr. Frederick K. McCune** (Fritz). He joined the church triumphant on February 2 in Virginia Beach, VA.

Concerns:

Added: **Margaret Nelson**, sister of Charlotte Nelson, hospitalized in Asheville

- **Tom Bloom**, recovering from spine surgery
- **Catherine Dumas**, recovering from hip replacement surgery
- **Dub Gulley**
- **Kerry Holbrook**
- **Robin Morey**
- **Kathy Parkins**
- **Margaret Sims**, undergoing treatment for cancer
- **Carol Wills**
- Our nation during this season of leadership transition and unrest
- The many households impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic

Care Communities:

Brookdale Durham: **Julian Boswell**

Croasdaile Pavilion: **Bob Rankin**

Dubose Center at The Cedars, Chapel Hill: **Arthur Clark**

Durham Regent: **John Kerr, Ann Prospero**

Durham Ridge Assisted Living: **Phillip Herndon**

Emerald Pond: **Paul Cornsweet**

Hillcrest Convalescent Center: **Walter Chambliss**, father of Will Chambliss

The Forest at Duke: **Fran Bryant**

Family and Friends of the Congregation:

Brendan Bequette, family friend of Margaret & Miguel Rubiera

Peggy Boulden, mother of Dick Boulden

Linda Capers, friend of Li-Chen Chin

Flora Estrella, family of Beth Stringfield and Cris Rivera

Phil Goss, friend of the congregation

Roberta Kessler, mother of Kristen Brigman

Peggy Mordecai, mother of Beth Eisenson

Ade and Sowande, sons of Tolokun Omokunde, pastor of Timothy Darling PC in Oxford

Shannon Putman, daughter of Mary Putman

Rev. Mark Stevens of Phillips Chapel Methodist Church, friend of Al and Judy Arrowood

Nellie, sister of Hendrika Vande Kemp



Cultivating our Faith



get seeds

FEB. 14

2:30 -
3:30

get your pot



get your peat



Get your devotional
materials



Get your chocolate



Service: Bring cereal for
Iglesia Emanuel



Plants, animals, people -- we all need a little tending to help us grow. What happens if we approach our faith with the tender care and watchfulness of a gardener nurturing a seed?

More than simply being a long time to give up things like soda or chocolate, Lent can be a time to nurture our faith by taking on life-giving practices like time with family, reading, prayer, and caring for others.

As we prepare for Lent, on **Sunday, February 14 from 2:30 - 3:30 p.m.**, you're invited to drive thru the church parking lot and receive an ash cross marked on paper; devotional resources and instructions for all ages, as well as your own small seed to tend.

Please bring donations of boxed cereal for the food ministry at Iglesia Emanuel for our 'donation station.' Join us as we prepare for a season of cultivating and letting go. For more information contact [Mitzi Lesher-Thomas](#) or [Lenore Champion](#).



Sunday, February 21

The FPC Session has called an annual meeting of the congregation to hear a report from the Finance Committee, to vote on changes to terms of call for the pastors, and to elect church officers and persons to serve at-large on the Nominating Committee. The meeting will take place as a Zoom meeting following worship (approx. 12 noon). The link for that meeting will require registration and will be shared in advance of the meeting.

Save the
Date:

Sunday,
Feb. 28,
9:30 am



Macky Alston
McPherson Lecturer

Documentary Filmmaker & Child of FPC
First Presbyterian Church, Durham

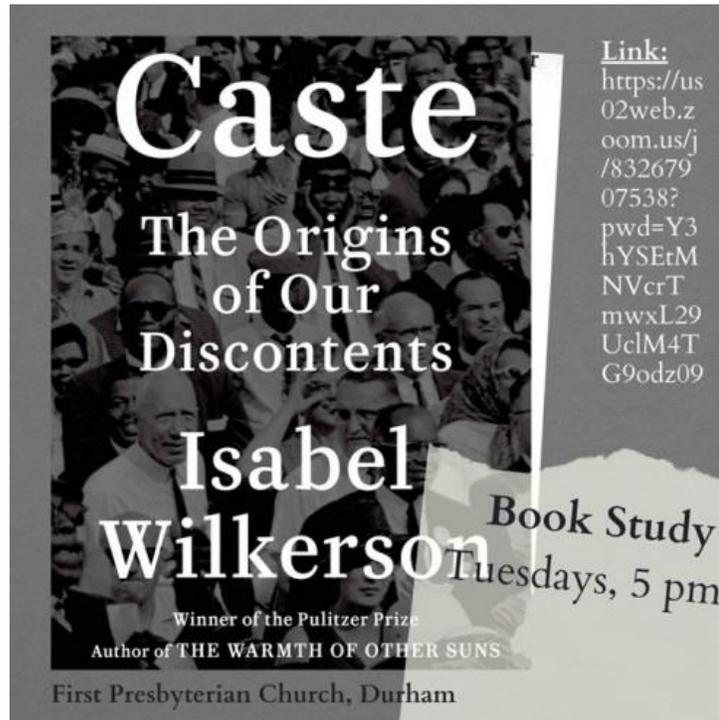
COMING SOON . . . CHURCH PICTORIAL DIRECTORY



Need help remembering what people look like without masks? Longing for a church picture directory? You know, the kind where the corners get crinkled and you write notes in the margins. Help us make it happen! We'll use photos from the online directory to create our print version so we need your help. We want to see your smiling faces, so please take a moment and upload those photos!

If you haven't already uploaded a picture to our online directory now's your chance and here are the directions! The instructions to install the ChurchLife app on your smart device are [here](#). The instructions for uploading your picture to the online directory are

[here](#). If you would like to replace your existing photo, you must delete it first; then upload the new photo. For more information on using the ChurchLife app, or deleting and uploading photos, contact [Tom Bloom](#) or [Sybil King](#). **Deadline extended: Please upload your photo(s) by February 12, 2021. Thank you.**



Link:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83267907538?pwd=Y3hYSEtMNVcrTmwXL29UclM4TG9odz09>

Book study is led by Mindy Douglas

Join via Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89516889156?pwd=dXZ1YXITZlozUXVmRTh6WndabDBwUT09>

Meeting ID: 895 1688 9156

Passcode: 270847



Growing thru Grief offers year-round support for those who are grieving the loss of a loved one. We meet each Tuesday from 4-6, for now on zoom. Those who attend need to have both audio and video available. Each meeting begins with a short presentation about a part of the grief journey, and then we break into small groups for sharing and conversation. Here are our speakers for February:

February 9: Blaise Mercadante, To be announced

February 16: Amy Onstad, "Anger: Ally or Enemy?"

February 23: Mike McCleod, "What Is the Condition of Our Hearts: How Do We Heal?"

Growing thru Grief meets each Tuesday from 4:00 to 6:00 pm. To register for one of these zoom meetings, please contact admin@growingthrugrief.org by 8:00 am on the Monday before the meeting.

SHARING *God's* LOVE THROUGH HELPING THOSE IN NEED!

Support the Day School using Amazon Wish List

The First Presbyterian Day School has a pressing need for personal protective equipment and other supplies for which it does not have current funding. Like so many other organizations in our community, the Day School has been seriously impacted by the pandemic, and was forced to close in mid-March. After reopening at the end of June to meet the needs of children of essential workers, the Day School has seen its enrollment remain at around 25, or half of normal capacity. Through heroic efforts by the faculty and staff, the school has not experienced any cases of COVID-19, has maintained its 5-Star status, and has kept all faculty and staff on board. At her presentation to the Service and Mission Committee earlier this month, **Executive Director Michele Miller-Cox** noted that the school is doing well and providing a vital service to the community, but it has a need for supplies that are beyond its current capacity to purchase. Rather than asking for donations of supplies, the Day School has set up an Amazon site that lists the supplies needed. Those wishing to contribute can go to the site, purchase items of your choosing, and the supplies will be sent directly to the school. The link for the site is https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2QNXF2NAUV1TB?ref=wl_share. Thank you for your support.

Iglesia Emanuel still needs our support . . .

1. **Bag rice or beans from home.** For instructions and to sign up, contact Margaret Rubiera. Put on music, sing, and have fun while you fill those bags!
2. To help in person at Iglesia Emanuel, grab your trusty mask, and come join others in a safe environment to help organize donated food, fill bags and boxes in preparation for the Wednesday food pantry. You will work hard but leave after your 2-hour shift knowing you have made a big difference in the lives of many families. For more information, and to sign up, click here: [***Iglesia Emanuel COVID-19 Food Bank Signup Genius***](#)
3. **Your financial support** is always welcome, and will help us purchase more food. Online: [***emanueldurham.org***](http://emanueldurham.org), or mail your check to Iglesia Presbiteriana Emanuel, 2504 N Roxboro, Durham NC 27704. Thank you so much! - ***Margaret and Miguel Rubiera***

Tom Bloom, Business Administrator
Lenore Champion, Children's Ministry Director
Mindy Douglas, Pastor/Head of Staff
Susan Dunlap, Parish Associate
Sybil King, Administrative Assistant

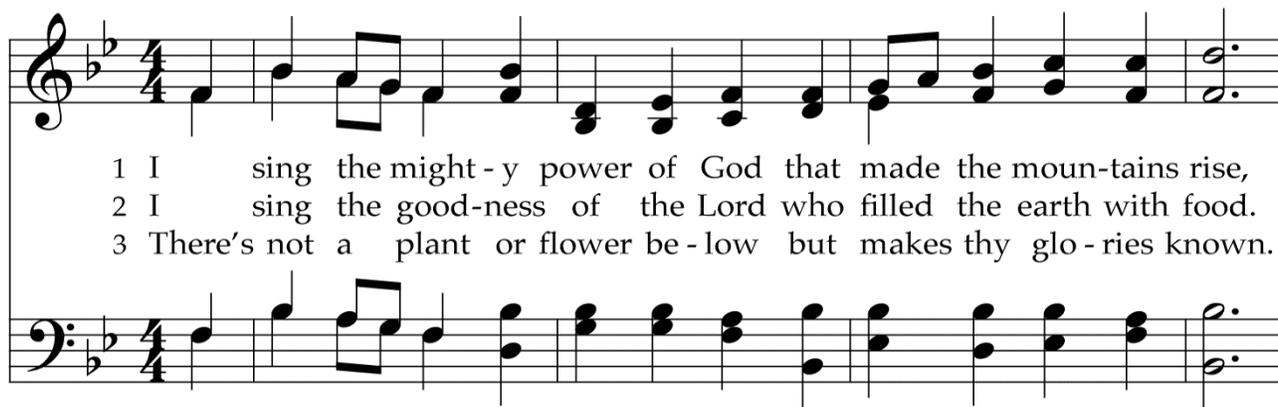


Mitzi Leshner-Thomas, Associate Pastor
Valerie McMillian, Parish Administrator
Kathy Parkins, Minister of Music
John Weicher, Associate Pastor

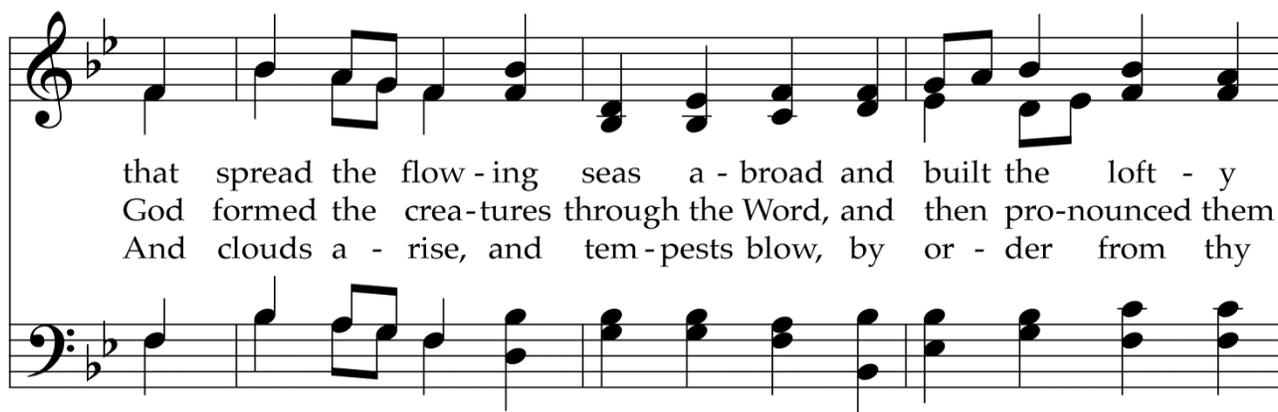
**For more information about First Presbyterian Church, email the church office:
info@firstpres-durham.org or visit our website: <https://firstpres-durham.org>.**

305 EAST MAIN STREET DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA 27701 919.682.5511

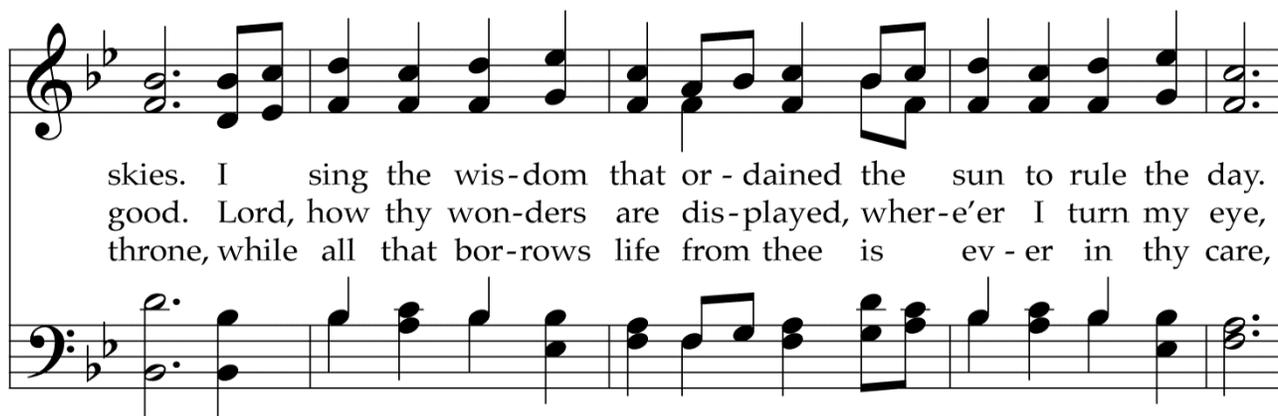
32 I Sing the Mighty Power of God



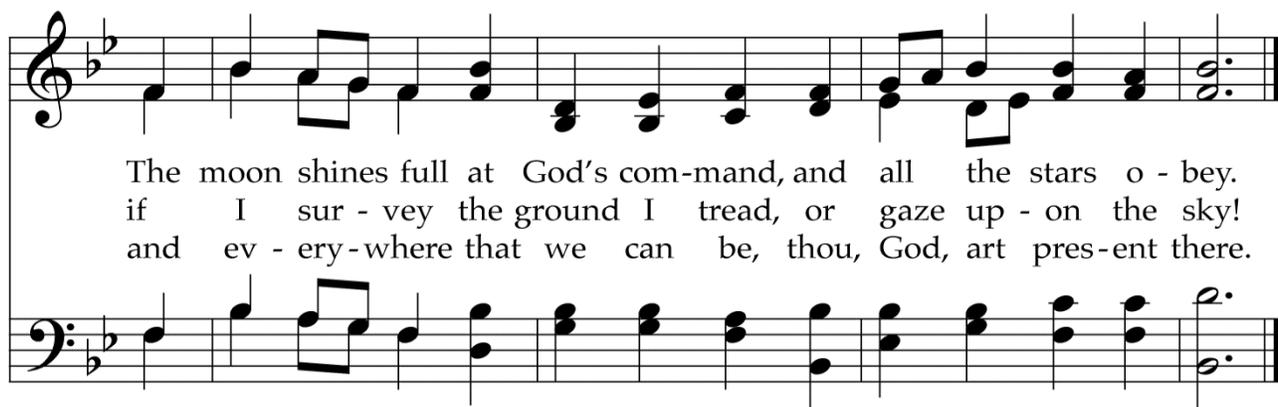
1 I sing the might-y power of God that made the moun-tains rise,
2 I sing the good-ness of the Lord who filled the earth with food.
3 There's not a plant or flower be-low but makes thy glo-ries known.



that spread the flow-ing seas a-broad and built the loft-y
God formed the crea-tures through the Word, and then pro-nounced them
And clouds a-rise, and tem-pests blow, by or-der from thy



skies. I sing the wis-dom that or-dained the sun to rule the day.
good. Lord, how thy won-ders are dis-played, wher-e'er I turn my eye,
throne, while all that bor-rows life from thee is ev-er in thy care,



The moon shines full at God's com-mand, and all the stars o-bey.
if I sur-vey the ground I tread, or gaze up-on the sky!
and ev-ery-where that we can be, thou, God, art pres-ent there.

657 Sing to God, with Joy and Gladness

(Psalm 147)

Capo 3: (D) (Bm) (Em7) (A) (D)
 Refrain F Dm Gm7 C F

Sing to God, with joy and glad - ness, hymns and

(Bm) (Em7) (D) (Bm) (Em7)
 Dm Gm7 F Dm Gm7

psalms of grat - i - tude; with the voice of praise

(A) (D) (Bm) (Em7) (D)
 C F Dm Gm7 F *Fine*

dis - cov - er that to wor - ship God is good.

(Bm) (Em7) (A) (F#) (G)
 Dm Gm7 C A Bb

1 God u - nites the scat - tered peo - ple, gath - ers
 2 Such is God's great power and wis - dom, none can
 3 God with clouds the sky has cur - tained, thus en -
 4 God's dis - cern - ment nev - er fa - vors strength or

(Em) (F#) (F#7) (Bm) (Em7) (A)
 Gm A A7 Dm Gm7 C

those who wan - dered far, heals the hurt and bro - ken
 cal - cu - late or tell; keen is God to ground the
 sur - ing rain shall fall; earth, re - spond - ing, grows to
 speed to lift or move; God de - lights in those who

(D) (G) (Em7) (A) *to Refrain*
 F Bb Gm7 C (D)
 F

spir - its, tend - ing ev - ery wound and scar.
 wick - ed and with hum - ble folk to dwell.
 or - der food for crea - tures great and small.
 wor - ship, trust - ing in God's stead - fast love.