GRACE COVENANT
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Service of Worship November 22, 2026 9:30am

Christ the King Sunday

Gathering

The prelude, the first act of worship, sets the tone for what is to follow.
So, we invite you as worshipers to gather, to transition from your busy lives
into a sacred place of communion with God and with each other. – Dr. Kimo Smith, adapted

PRELUDE "Voluntary on 'Kremser'" arr. Gordon Young
(Old Netherlands Melody, 1625)

In worship following reflective music, we are requesting a response of quiet or a contemplative "amen." Any music that elicits a response of applause is to the glory of God.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS Rev. Karen Wright

*CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: Come, let us worship Christ our King!

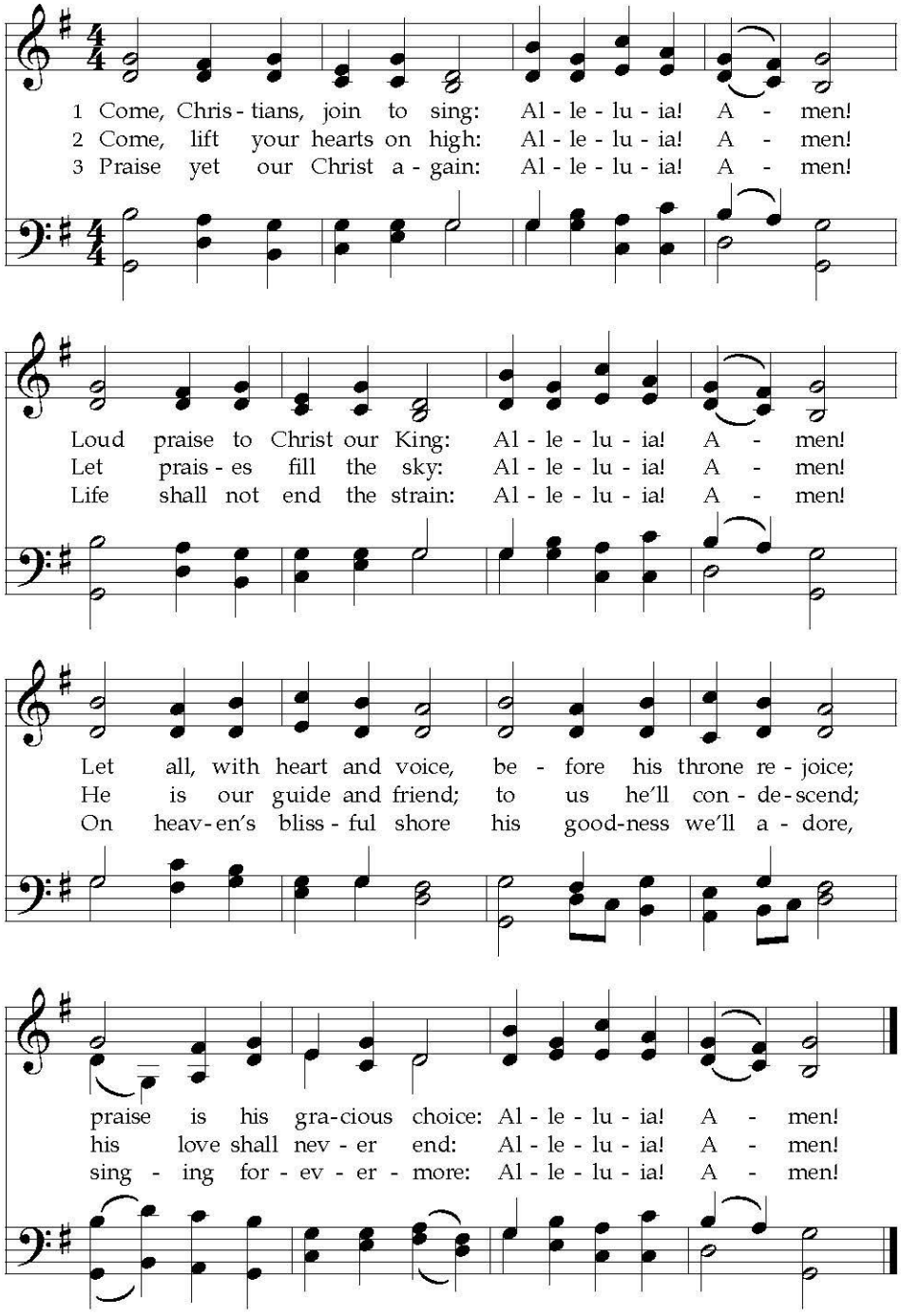
ALL: Not a king who rules with power and might, but a shepherd who seeks the lost and gathers the scattered.

ONE Come, let us worship the One who cares for the vulnerable, who feeds the hungry, welcomes the stranger, and tends the wounded.

ALL: For Christ is our shepherd and our sovereign, the One who leads us toward justice, mercy, and love. Let us open our hearts to the reign of Christ and join in worship of the King who serves.

*HYMN 267 "Come, Christians, Join to Sing" MADRID

267 Come, Christians, Join to Sing



Like many other hymns of praise, this text was originally addressed to children but has been embraced by adults as well. Although the tune's repetitive elements suggest folk origins (possibly with alternating groups of singers), no specific source has been identified.

TEXT: Christian Henry Bateman, 1843
MUSIC: Spanish folk melody; arr. Benjamin Carr, 1824; harm. David Evans, 1927
Music Harm. © 1927 Oxford University Press

MADRID
6.6.6.6.D

CALL TO CONFESSION Emily Nelson Dixon

Jesus reminds us that whenever we care for the hungry, the stranger, the sick, or the forgotten, we are serving him. We confess that it is not always easy to recognize Christ in those around us. Trusting in the mercy of our Shepherd-King, let us confess our sins before God.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(Together)*

Gracious God, our Shepherd and King, We confess that we do not always follow where you lead. We seek power instead of service, comfort instead of compassion, and recognition instead of humble faithfulness. Forgive us when we care more about protecting what is ours than sharing what we have. Open our eyes to see Christ in our neighbors, our hearts to respond with compassion, and our hands to serve with generosity. Gather us into your care, restore what is broken within us, and lead us in the ways of your kingdom. In the name of Christ, our Shepherd and King, we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

God is the shepherd who searches for the lost, brings back the straying, binds up the injured, and strengthens the weak. God's mercy is greater than our failures, and God's love is stronger than our shortcomings.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, restored, and welcomed into the life of God's kingdom.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

(Children ages 4 through 1st grade may go to Awakening to Worship, our child-friendly worship time. Greeters at the back of the Sanctuary will go with children to Room 12 downstairs where parents may pick up their children following worship. Our Nursery welcomes young children and our ushers can assist families to the nursery located in the children's wing. Worship bags are available for children who stay in worship.)

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

ONE: May the peace of Christ be with you.

ALL: And also with you and all others!

*RESPONSE 581 "Glory Be to the Father"

Equipping

SCRIPTURE LESSON Ezekiel 34:11–16, 20–24 Melanie Townsend

For thus says the Lord God: I myself will search for my sheep and will sort them out. As shepherds sort out their flocks when they are among scattered sheep, so I will sort out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries and bring them into their own land, and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord God. I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strays, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.

Therefore, thus says the Lord God to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. Because you pushed with flank and shoulder and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged, and I will judge between sheep and sheep.

I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them; he shall feed them and be their shepherd. And I the Lord will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I the Lord have spoken.

ANTHEM "Coming Home" arr. Mary McDonald

Chancel Choir
Linda Dover, accompanist

I've wandered far away from God, now I'm coming home.
The paths of sin too long I've trod, now I'm coming home.

Coming home, coming home, never more to roam.
Open wide the arms of thy true love. Lord, I'm coming home.

My soul is sick, my heart is sore, now I'm coming home.
My strength renew, my hope restore, Lord, I'm coming home.

SCRIPTURE LESSON Matthew 25:31–46

"When the Son of Man comes in his glory and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world, for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you or naked

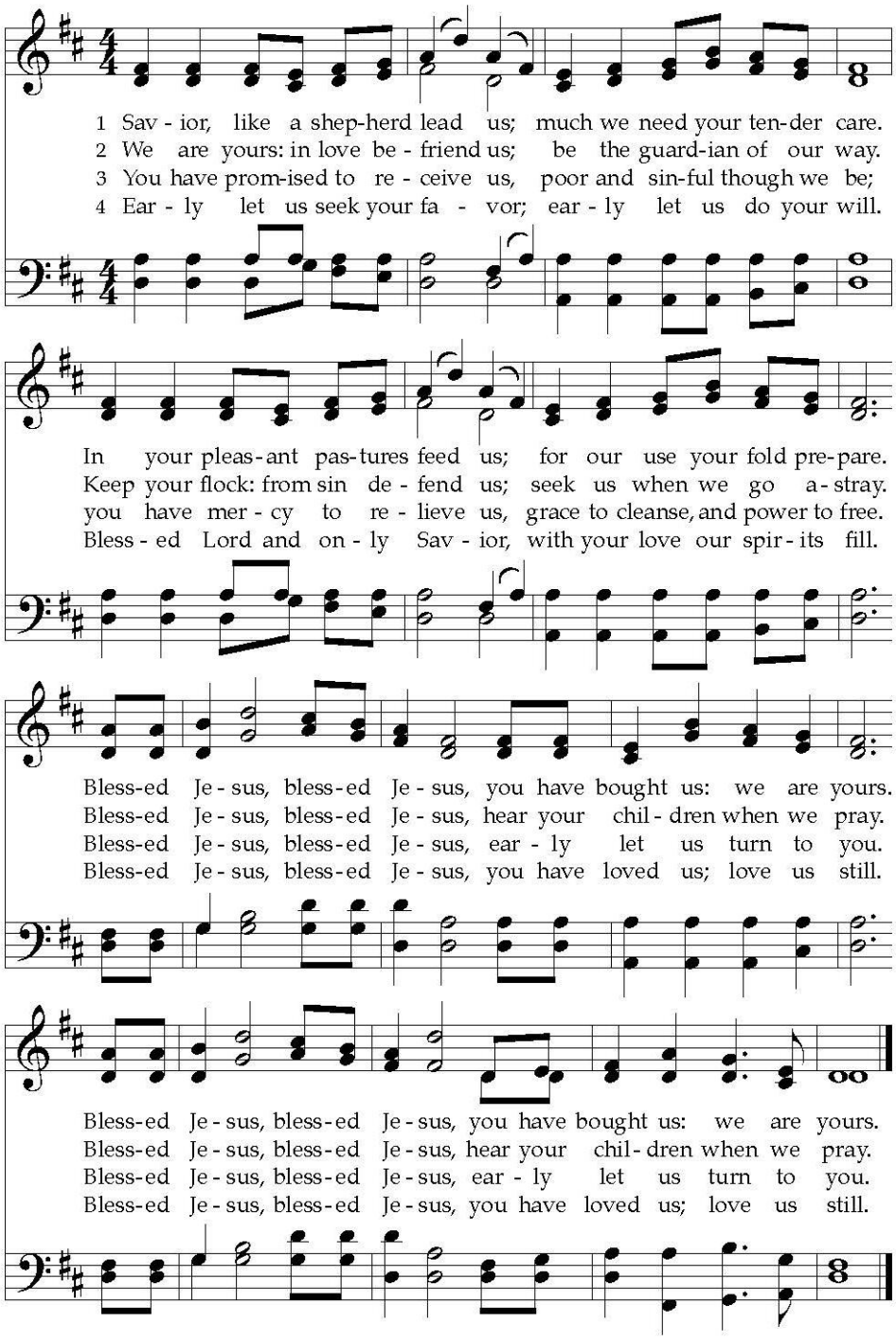
and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me.' Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'You who are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels, for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison and did not take care of you?' Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' And these will go away into eternal punishment but the righteous into eternal life."

Holy Wisdom, Holy Words

Thanks be to God!

SERMON	"Entrusted to Each Other"	Rev. Karen Wright
HYMN 187	"Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us"	BRADBURY

Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us 187



This unattributed hymn, like many that are now meaningful to adults, was written for children and develops shepherd imagery from Psalm 23 and John 10:1–18. The tune, composed for these words, was originally named for the text but has come to be known by the composer's name.

TEXT: Thrupp's *Hymns for the Young*, 1836, alt.
MUSIC: William Batchelder Bradbury, 1859, alt.

BRADBURY
8.7.8.7.D

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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 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.

A CALL TO STEWARDSHIP

OFFERING OF GIFTS AND MUSIC — Conrad Kocher

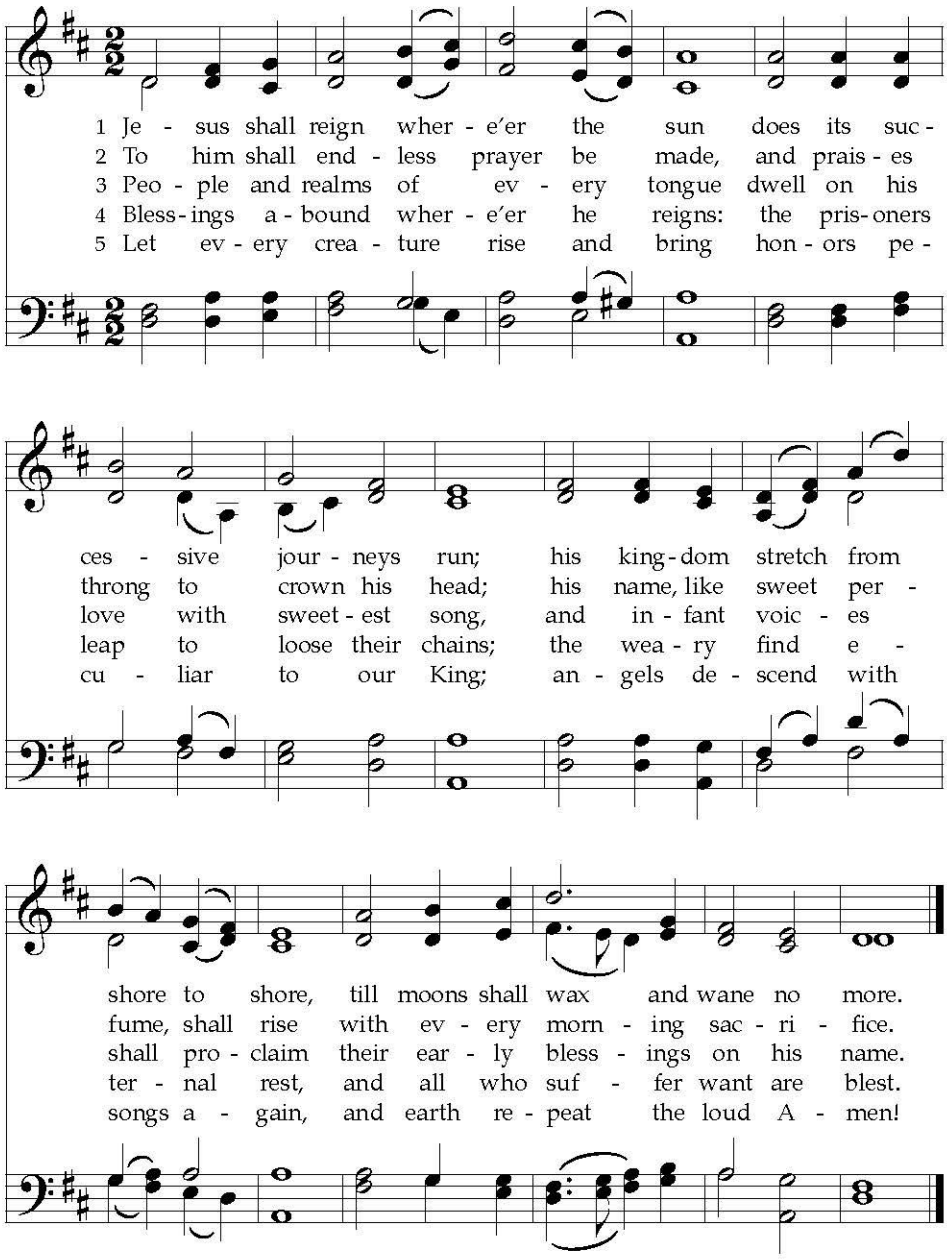
"For the Beauty of the Earth" (DIX) — arr. David Lowe

(DIX)

Sending

*HYMN 265 "Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun" DUKE STREET

265 Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun



This hymn is a classic example of how Isaac Watts Christianized the Psalms, in this case Psalm 72:5–19, by turning their messianic language to New Testament equivalents. The tune was at first nameless and anonymous, but is now called by the address of the supposed composer.

TEXT: Isaac Watts, 1719, alt.
MUSIC: Attr. John Hatton, c. 1793

DUKE STREET
LM

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "Now Thank We All Our God" arr. Wilbur Held
(NUN DUNKET ALLE GOTT)

**Stand in body or spirit*

GOD'S PEACE TO YOU

Music and/or lyrics are reprinted by permission of CCLI 1154643 and OneLicense A-705105.
Our Church Streaming & Podcast Licenses are CSPL 048834 through CCLI & included in OneLicense A-705105.
Any videos are shown by permission of CVLI #504397326.

RECORD YOUR ATTENDANCE AT TODAY'S WORSHIP SERVICE WITH OUR VIRTUAL ATTENDANCE PAD:
Click this link: https://bit.ly/GCPCattendance, or scan the QR Code below, and it will take you to the link.

GRACE COVENANT
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
11100 College Boulevard ♦ Overland Park, KS 66210
Phone (913) 345-1256 ♦ www.gcpc.org