

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

APRIL 27, 2025

11:00 a.m.

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER BAPTISM SUNDAY

WE ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

*Let us prepare our hearts and minds to worship God.
Please silence your cell phone as worship begins.*

VOLUNTARY: Rhythmic Rondelle..... Cynthia Dobrinski
Coventry Ringers

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS..... Jill Duffield

GIVING THANKS FOR THE MINISTRY OF DONNA CHASE

* CALL TO WORSHIP Newton Cowan

One: Come, all who have been filled with abundance and joy;

All: here we will find humility and gratitude.

One: Come, all who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens;

All: here we will find rest for our souls.

One: Come, all who are injured and have been weighed down
by yesterday;

All: here we will find hope.

One: For the mercy of God is sure,

All: and Christ's peace will fill our hearts forever.

One: The Lord is good.

All: His steadfast love endures forever!

* HYMN OF PRAISE: No. 475 – Come, Thou Fount of Every BlessingNETTLETON

* CALL TO CONFESSION *and* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of love and mercy, you know us better than we know ourselves. You see our needs when we are blind to them. You have made us to be yours, yet sometimes doubt and arrogance get the better of us. We worry small things out of proportion, and things like anger, pride, bitterness, and envy distort our vision. We forget who we are, and whose we are. So forgive us, Lord, and heal us. Help our faults fall from before your eyes, as you open ours. Illumine for us the path back to you and to your ways of mercy, grace, and truth. Amen.

A brief period of silence is observed for personal confession.

* ASSURANCE OF PARDON

* THE PEACE

Leader: Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another.
The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

* PASSING OF THE PEACE

* RESPONSE TO THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON: God of Great, God of Small
GOD OF GREAT AND SMALL

Credo and Cherub Choirs

God of great and God of small,
God of one and God of all,
God of weak and God of strong,
God to whom all things belong,
Alleluia, alleluia, praise be to your name.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

THE WORD READ: *Psalm 97* John Stroud

The LORD is king! Let the earth rejoice;
let the many coastlands be glad!

Clouds and thick darkness are all around him;
righteousness and justice are the foundation of his throne.
Fire goes before him
and consumes his adversaries on every side.
His lightnings light up the world;
the earth sees and trembles.
The mountains melt like wax before the Lord,
before the LORD of all the earth.

The heavens proclaim his righteousness,
and all the peoples behold his glory.
All servants of images are put to shame,
those who make their boast in worthless idols;
all gods bow down before him.

Zion hears and is glad,
and the towns of Judah rejoice
because of your judgments, O God.
For you, O LORD, are most high over all the earth;
you are exalted far above all gods.

You who love the LORD, hate evil;
he guards the lives of his faithful;
he rescues them from the hand of the wicked.

Light dawns for the righteous
and joy for the upright in heart.
Rejoice in the LORD, O you righteous,
and give thanks to his holy name!

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.
Congregation: Thanks be to God.

SERVICE OF BAPTISM FOR

GEORGE MORGAN HOLDERNESS, JACK BENNETT HOLDERNESS,
EVA CONNELLY SNEDECOR, ELEANOR LUCILLE THOMAS,
AND MARGARET WILLIS THOMAS Jill Duffield and Newton Cowan

PRESENTATION

PROFESSION OF FAITH

THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER

THE BAPTISM

PRAYER OVER THE BAPTIZED

ANTHEM: The Greatness of Your Love Tom Shelton
Canticle and Credo Choirs

*Commissioned for the Children's Choirs of First Presbyterian Church,
Greensboro, in honor of the church's bicentennial celebrations.
In memory of Irene and L.M. Murphy.*

Jesus said to the people: Let the little children come to me.
The Kingdom of God belongs to those who are like these little children.

Help me to be strong in spirit.
Give me the strength through your love.
Christ will live in my heart, because of my faith.
Help me to be strong in spirit.
Make me a model of peace.
Help me understand the greatness of your love.

I pray that God's great glory gives you the power to be strong.
God will give you strength if only you believe.

I pray your life will be strong, rooted in God's love.
Help me understand, the greatness of God's love.

Jesus said to the people: Let the little children come to me.
"I tell you the truth, you must change and become like little children."
-Mark 10:14, Ephesians 3:14-18, Matthew 18:3, Alt., T.S.

THE WORD READ: *John 21:1-19*

After these things Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias, and he showed himself in this way. Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples. Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We will go with you." They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach, but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to them, "Children, you have no fish, have you?" They answered him, "No." He said to them, "Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish. That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his outer garment, for he had taken it off, and jumped into the sea. But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off.

When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. Jesus said to them, “Bring some of the fish that you have just caught.” So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred fifty-three of them, and though there were so many, the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, “Come and have breakfast.” Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, “Who are you?” because they knew it was the Lord. Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them and did the same with the fish. This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my lambs.” A second time he said to him, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Tend my sheep.” He said to him the third time, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, “Do you love me?” And he said to him, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep. Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go.” (He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, “Follow me.”

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

THE WORD PROCLAIMED: An Invitation to Breakfast Grier Booker Richards

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

* HYMN OF RESPONSE: God the Good SowerSLANE

This hymn text, written by David Bjorlin, was commissioned by First Presbyterian Church, Greensboro, in honor of the church’s bicentennial celebration.

**God the good sower, you planted a seed,
deep in the ground of our neighborhood’s need.
Nurtured by you, that small seedling took root,
bursting in blossom and bearing good fruit.**

**Rooted in love a community grew
fed on the mission of following you,**

HYMN OF RESPONSE continues, over

**Through them, you realized more than they dreamed:
wrongs were dismantled and wreckage redeemed.**

**Rooted in love we confess we still fail—
living out mercy too frugal and frail.
Clearing out weeds of injustice within,
teach us the wisdom to learn from our sin.**

**Rooted in love that is deeper than hate,
stronger than sorrow, and longer than fate,
In all our efforts we work to exchange
evil for goodness as agents of change.**

**Rooted in love we do more than just stand,
using the depth of our roots to expand
past all the boundaries that empires maintain;
rooted and reaching, we widen your reign.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLEJill Duffield
concluding with 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.**

CALL FOR THE OFFERING

*You may also participate in the offering using the QR code on the back page
of this bulletin. Information for giving by other options, including
text, app, and regular mail, can be found there as well.*

OFFERTORY: Dorian Dance Michael Joy
Coventry Ringers

* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE: Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow
LASST UNS ERFREUEN

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Sing praises, Alleluia.
Praise God Creator, God the Son,
Praise God the Spirit three in one.
Sing praises, sing praises,
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

- * PRAYER OF DEDICATION..... Jill Duffield
- * CHARGE AND BENEDICTION Grier Booker Richards
- * SONG OF SENDING: No. 757 – Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples..... KINGSFOLD

TODAY’S WORSHIP LEADERS

Grier Booker Richards, *Associate Pastor for Discipleship and Adult Faith Formation, White Memorial Presbyterian Church, Raleigh, N.C.*

Jill Duffield, *Senior Pastor*

Newton Cowan, *Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care*

Elizabeth Bostian, *FPC Elder*

John Stroud, *Lay Reader*

John Alexander, *Director of Music and Principal Organist*

Will Edwards, *Director of Music for Rejoice!*

Rejoice Ensemble

Coventry Ringers

Canticle, Credo and Cherub Choirs

* Let us rise in body or spirit.

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WE WELCOME YOU to the worship of God and to our community of faith.

Rooted and reaching in Christ’s love, we seek to serve God as Spirit-led changemakers for good. Our vision is to be a caring, compassionate, and inclusive faith community welcoming those who seek an abundant relationship with Jesus Christ, meaningful worship, authentic connections, lifelong learning, and transformative service. We are continually growing and evolving, even as we remain strongly rooted in the Greensboro community and the Presbyterian tradition.

Come as you are and prepare to be transformed by God’s love.

2024-2025 COMMITTEE CHAIRS, VICE CHAIRS: *Adult Formation:* Margee Jones, John Sullivan. *Youth Formation:* Leigh Abraham, Layne King. *Children’s Formation:* Sally King, Lorie Jones. *Church Officer Development:* Tim Cook, Graham Farless. *Communications:* Rich Prigge, John Vanderwerff. *Discipleship:* Lauren Martin, Nancy Courts. *Finance:* Rob Peddrick, Dave Thompson. *Hospitality:* Caroline Showers, Bet Vanderwerff. *Human Resources:* Ralph Davison, Lisa Cook. *Outreach:* Margaret Arbuckle, Rhonda Wakefield. *Pastoral Care:* Tamara Slaughter, Sheri Evans. *Property:* Brian Pierce, Sam Simpson. *Stewardship:* Dan Goley, Tom Gillespie. *Technology:* Sam Bostian. *Worship:* Chip Bristol, Morgan Hood. *Nominating:* Nancy Moore, Ross Harris. *Appointments:* Randy Jackson, Leigh Jones.



TAKING ATTENDANCE: The QR code, left, directs you to an online form; just open your smartphone camera, hold it over the code, and follow the prompts. If you do not have a smartphone, you can pick up a physical copy of an attendance card as you enter the Life Center or

Sanctuary. If using the paper form, place it in the offering at the end of the service. On the back of the card is a prayer request form. Your submitted prayers will be prayed for by staff members and kept in strict confidence.

NURSERY CARE IS PROVIDED for infants through age 4 on the first floor of Mullin Life Center. Our Child Protection Policy helps ensure our care is safe, loving and appropriate.

WHAT TO DO – UNWELLNESS AND MEDICAL

EMERGENCIES: If during the service you or someone near you begins to feel unwell, or is having a medical emergency please contact the closest usher.



PARKING MINISTRY: This ministry helps members with mobility issues get from their cars to the sanctuary for the 11 am service on Sundays. Two volunteers work on Greene Street 10:30-11:15 am. Passengers may be dropped off at the Greene Street door and will be escorted into the sanctuary. Drivers will be directed to a reserved space as needed. One volunteer is needed after the service until 12:15 pm. *Want to help?* Choose a Sunday at fpcgreensboro.org/signup.

THE LITURGICAL COLOR *WHITE* seen through the parament on the lectern and the pastors' stoles signifies the redemptive work of Jesus Christ.

FOR MORE INFO ON CHURCH SCHOOL, UPCOMING SERVICES, AND OTHER EVENTS • Check out the "Coming Up" insert in your bulletin • Subscribe to our e-news and Sunday preview emails at fpcgreensboro.org/connect • Visit fpcgreensboro.org/events.

PASTOR ON CALL: When church offices are closed and you have an emergency, call 336.908.8615. Leave a message with your phone number and the pastor on call will be in touch with you.

FLOWER DATES AVAILABLE – Honor or remember a friend or family member by donating flowers for our Sanctuary service. Flowers are accompanied by a bulletin note explaining their significance. *Dates available: July 13; August 3 & 31; and September 7 & 14.* Contact Carolyn Yow, cypow@fpcgreensboro.org or 336-478-4768.

WAYS TO GIVE: In addition to the in-person offering, you may give by mail, web, app, or text. Scan the QR code (*right*) to give online. Go to fpcgreensboro.org/give/web-app-text to download the FellowshipOne Giving mobile app (Apple  or Android )

and for instructions for giving via text. Mail your gift to the church at 617 N. Elm St., Greensboro, NC 27401.



SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM: The Sacrament of Baptism will be administered today during the 11 a.m. Sanctuary service to George Morgan Holderness and Jack Bennett Holderness, sons of Henry and Katherine Holderness; Eva Connelly Snedecor daughter of Wade and Caroline Snedecor; and Eleanor Lucille "Lucy" Thomas and Margaret Willis Thomas, daughters of David and Monica Thomas.

ABOUT TODAY'S FLOWERS: The chancel flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of Terry Brantley by the Brantley family.

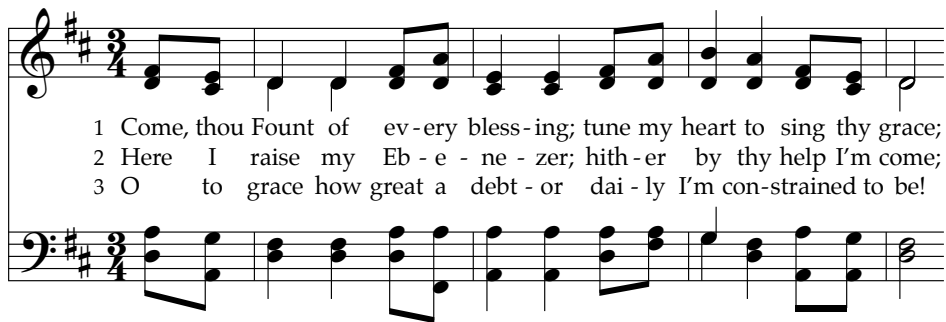
COLUMBARIUM REMINDER: When one has lost a loved one, it sometimes eases their grief to commemorate the life of the one that has passed. Especially around certain times of the year, people wish to place flowers or special trinkets beside the niche of their friend or family member. While there is no restriction for this, it is important for members to recognize that after an appropriate time (a week or so) they need to retrieve those items so that they do not decay, mold or become unsightly, or in the case of broken glass, which would compromise the beauty of the Columbarium for others to visit and enjoy. We do not have the staff to monitor and clean up, so we ask that those who choose to place items in the Columbarium retrieve them and clean the area in a timely manner.

200TH ANNIVERSARY SCOTLAND PILGRIMAGE: We invite you to pray for 28 pilgrims from our church and the Greensboro area who journey to Scotland from April 29 through May 10. This pilgrimage is rooted in reformed tradition and includes Presbyterian history.

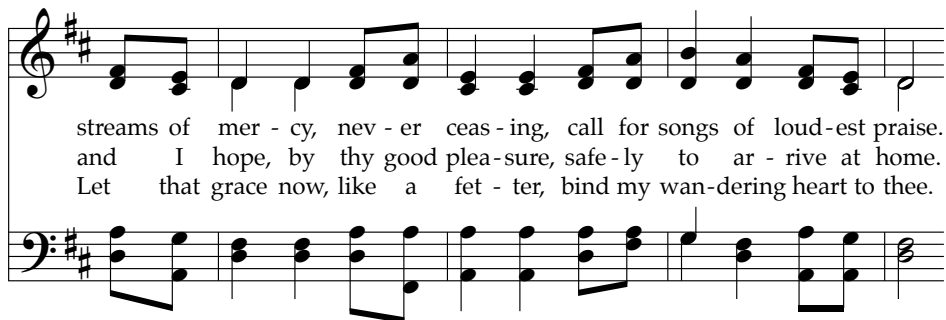
IN MEMORIAM

Ann Yates Kunkel
April 18, 2025

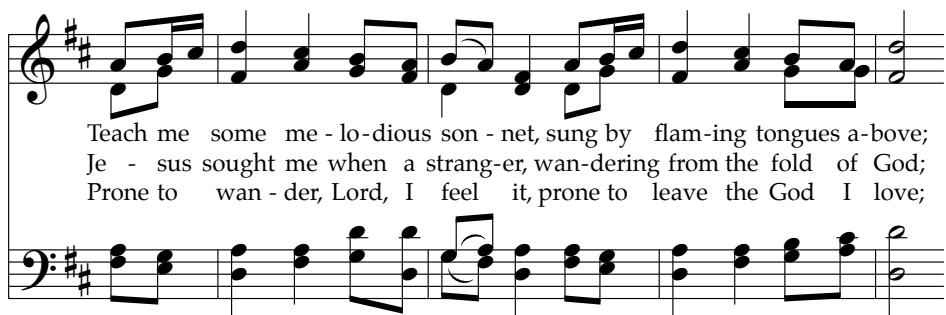
Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing 475



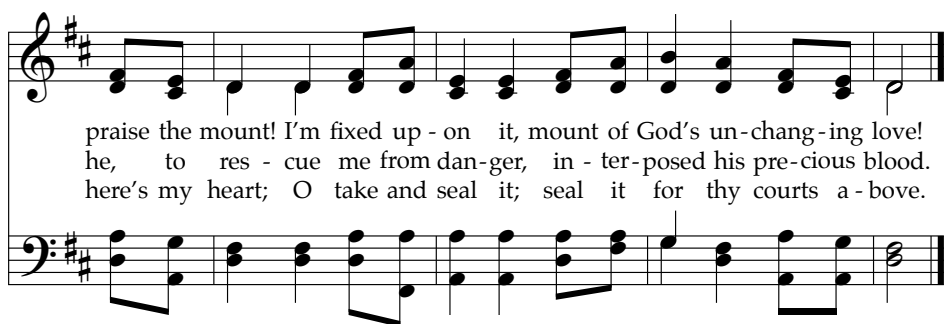
1 Come, thou Fount of ev-ery bless-ing; tune my heart to sing thy grace;
2 Here I raise my Eb - e - ne - zer; hith - er by thy help I'm come;
3 O to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con-strained to be!



streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, call for songs of loud-est praise.
and I hope, by thy good plea-sure, safe-ly to ar - rive at home.
Let that grace now, like a fet - ter, bind my wan-dering heart to thee.



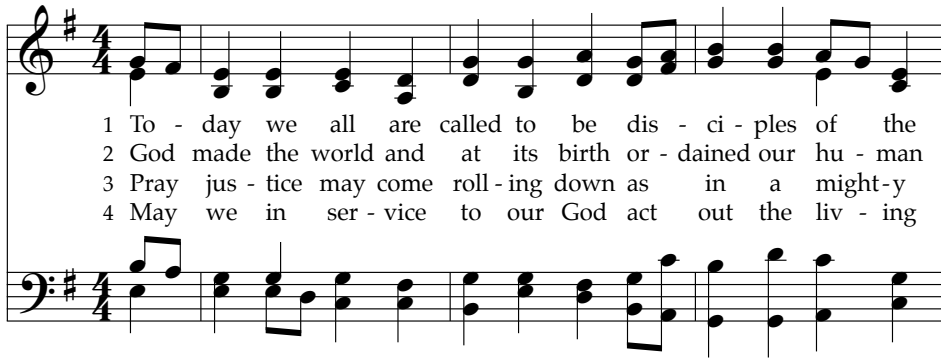
Teach me some me - lo-dious son - net, sung by flam-ing tongues a-bove;
Je - sus sought me when a strang-er, wan-dering from the fold of God;
Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;



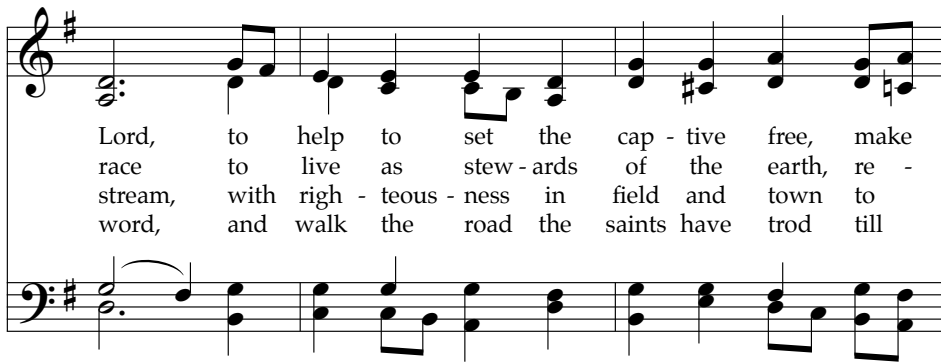
praise the mount! I'm fixed up - on it, mount of God's un-chang-ing love!
he, to res - cue me from dan-ger, in - ter-posed his pre-cious blood.
here's my heart; O take and seal it; seal it for thy courts a - bove.

Written for Pentecost by a British Baptist pastor, this text is full of biblical terms like "Ebenezer" (1 Samuel 7:12), Hebrew for "a stone of help" set up to give thanks for God's assistance. The tune name honors hymnal compiler Asahel Nettleton, who probably did not compose it.

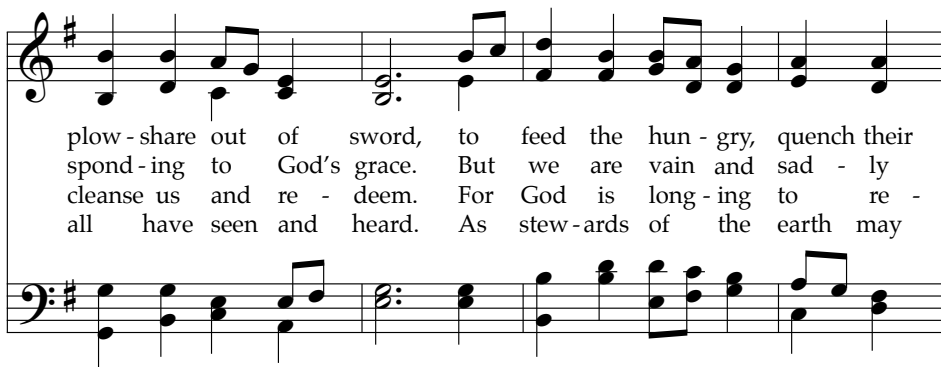
757 Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples



1 To - day we all are called to be dis - ci - ples of the
2 God made the world and at its birth or - dained our hu - man
3 Pray jus - tice may come roll - ing down as in a might - y
4 May we in ser - vice to our God act out the liv - ing



Lord, to help to set the cap - tive free, make
race to live as stew - ards of the earth, re -
stream, with righ - teous - ness in field and town to
word, and walk the road the saints have trod till



plow - share out of sword, to feed the hun - gry, quench their
spend - ing to God's grace. But we are vain and sad - ly
cleanse us and re - deem. For God is long - ing to re -
all have seen and heard. As stew - ards of the earth may

This text placing stewardship in the context of faithful witness was written by a retired Presbyterian minister to be part of the 1986 stewardship campaign titled "Called to Be Disciples." The tune name recalls the Sussex village where the arranger first heard the melody.

thirst, make love and peace our fast, to serve the
proud; we sow not peace but strife. Our dis - cord
store an earth where con - flicts cease, a world that
we give thanks in one ac - cord to God who

poor and home - less first, our ease and com - fort last.
spreads a dead - ly cloud that threat - ens all of life.
was cre - at - ed for a har - mo - ny of peace.
calls us all to be dis - ci - ples of the Lord.