



Transfiguration Sunday

Sunday, February 11, 2024 — Transfiguration Sunday

The First Church in Albany (Reformed Church in America)

Founded in 1642; Continuing in Ministry Today.

In response to God's unconditional love for all people made known to us in Jesus Christ, we are called to be a welcoming and affirming community. The First Church in Albany includes young and old, families, couples and singles, rich and poor, persons of various races, ethnicities, backgrounds, sexual orientation and gender identities, differing physical and mental abilities, believers and seekers. We welcome into the full life of the church all those whom God sends us. Centered in Christ, we commit ourselves to breaking down dividing walls and building a community where we are loved.

Prelude Reflection *a haiku for today's worship service.*

Glory on the mount,
Jesus transfigures in light,
It's good to be here.

Prelude

Prelude in Classic Style

Gordon Young

Tolling of Bell *Bell tolled by children of First Church*

Welcome, Announcements, & Blessing *Based on 2 John 1:3*

Grace, mercy, and peace to you in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. **Amen!**

Call to Worship *Adapted from the “Worship Sourcebook” of the Christian Reformed Church in North America*

Votum: Our help is in the name of the Lord who made heaven and earth.
Amen.

Leader: Jesus, today we celebrate your transfiguration.

People: You remind us that you are powerful and holy.

Leader: We know that we cannot completely understand you,

People: but you do teach us that you are our God and you love us.

Leader: And so, we praise you, holy Lord!

People: We glorify you, almighty Divine One!

Leader: We exalt you as the Son of God!

People: Thank you for showing us who you are.

Leader: Let us worship this One of divine glory whose presence is among us as the Spirit!

***Opening Hymn** *“Come, O Spirit, Dwell Among Us”* (see insert)

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, we confess of our struggle to fully grasp the significance of your presence. Forgive us of all the times we aren’t paying attention and miss you in our midst. Help us appreciate sacred moments, and those moments when we need your sacred presence. Help us become people who regularly can say with Peter, “It is good for us to be here.” Amen.

Time of silence

Assurance of Pardon & Fulfillment of the Law

Friends of Jesus Christ, hear the good news: We are forgiven for those many moments of inattention because we live surrounded by God’s constant presence, and God’s presence is freedom. As the Apostle Paul says, “The Lord is the Spirit who gives them life, and where he is, there is freedom.” So, live a life awakened to the glorious and transforming presence of God, and, in so doing, be set free.

***Passing the Peace**

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us spend a few moments greeting one another.

Children's Message & Blessing *We Change*

Prayer for Illumination

**Lord, as you revealed your glory on the mount, illuminate our hearts.
Give us the spiritual wherewithal to know your transforming presence in
our lives. Amen.**

Scripture Reading Daniel 7:13-14

As I watched in the night visions, I saw one like a human being coming with the clouds of heaven. And he came to the Ancient One and was presented before him. To him was given dominion and glory and kingship, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that shall not pass away, and his kingship is one that shall never be destroyed.

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon Text Mark 9:2-9

After six days Jesus took Peter, James and John with him and led them up a high mountain, where they were all alone. There he was transfigured before them. His clothes became dazzling white, whiter than anyone in the world could bleach them. And there appeared before them Elijah and Moses, who were talking with Jesus.

Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here. Let us put up three shelters—one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah." (He did not know what to say, they were so frightened.)

Then a cloud appeared and covered them, and a voice came from the cloud: "This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him!"

Suddenly, when they looked around, they no longer saw anyone with them except Jesus.

As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus gave them orders not to tell anyone what they had seen until the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, O Christ!

Sermon

"It is good for us to be here."

A Prayer of Blessing on the Word

***Hymn of Response** *"Open My Eyes, That I May See"* (see insert)

Profession of Faith First section of *Article 10: The Deity of Christ of the Belgic Confession*

We believe that Jesus Christ, according to his divine nature, is the only Son of God—eternally begotten, not made or created, for then he would be a creature. He is one in essence with the Father; coeternal; the exact image of the person of the Father and the “reflection of God’s glory.”

Tithes & Offerings *If you would like to connect more with the life and mission of First Church, please fill out a Welcome Card found in your pew and place it in the offering as it goes by.*

Offertory *"Andante Cantabile"* Gordon Young

***Doxology**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly hosts:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

Prayers of the People

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.**

***Sending Hymn** *"In the Midst of New Dimensions"* (see insert)

***Charge & Blessing**

Postlude *"Carillon"* Gordon Young

Note: Please join Rev. Trey for a Second Hour teaching about the new liturgical elements we will be using in worship for the season of Lent.

*CCLI License
#463379;
One License
#A-700689*

Preacher: Rev. Trey Tirpak
Liturgist: Rev. Dr. Mashona Walston
Organist: Gloria Norton
Audio/Visual: Joshua Bliss and Stephen Reohr



Lent begins this week with



in the Stephen James Chapel

Worship Service with the imposition of ashes

Lent 2024

Ash Wednesday
Feb. 14, 2024

Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday
12pm Worship in Chapel

Feb. 18, 2024

First Sunday in Lent

Lectionary Texts

Feb. 25, 2024

Second Sunday in Lent

Lectionary Texts

Mar. 3, 2024

Third Sunday in Lent

Women in the Bible: Naomi

Mar. 10, 2024

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Women in the Bible: Deborah

Mar. 17, 2024

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Women in the Bible: Esther

Mar. 24, 2024

Palm Sunday

We process with Palms like those
in Jerusalem to begin Holy Week.

Mar. 28, 2024

Maundy Thursday

Service at 7pm in Sanctuary

Mar. 29, 2024

Good Friday

Capital Area Council of Churches
Noon Service, Location TBD

Mar. 30, 2024

Holy Saturday

Details TBD

Mar. 31, 2024

Easter Sunrise Service

FOCUS Easter Sunrise Service at
West Capital Park at 6:30am

Mar. 31, 2024

Easter Sunday

10am; We receive new members

Prayers, Concerns & Joys

- Rose Hunsberger and family as they mourn the death of her father
- Joanne Farrell and John Patterson, for recovery
- Ned Monthie, recovering from surgery
- Michelle Williams, for recovery
- Matt, cousin of Barb Andrews with health issues
- Rev. Dr. Mashona as she continues her health journey
- Mia Westman
- Becky Gardner
- Requests for the Tirpak Family
 - Trey's uncle, with cancer, family friend, with cancer, and a family friend who is caring for a terminally ill child
- Ginny Giguere
- Donna Schultz
- Jeff Curry
- Family of Gillian Persons and for her sister Sylvia
- Carol LaBatte
- Sam, son of Barb and Dave Andrews, recovering
- Charnelle Jones
- Sam, cousin of Barb Andrews
- For Barb and Dave Andrews as they take on the role of caretakers
- Family of Norma Jean Ballou
- Ken Lucas, friend of Philip Labatte
- Kokese Ballou
- For Jennifer Recene Gallagher
- Alexis Parry, niece of Cheryl Gowie
- Gail Santimaw, friend of Judith Utley-Suess
- John Utley, brother of Judith Utley- Suess
- Judith Utley-Suess, for strength
- Harold Bushnel
- Alex Bliss
- Mary Weijola
- Cheryl Gowie
- Ralph McNeil, brother of Norma Jean Ballou
- Anthony, of the Brown Family
- Olivia Gaydushek
- Clergy, staff and leaders of the First Church in Albany as they plan Lent and Holy Week Events.
- Prayers for Ukraine, Israel and Palestine and all areas of conflict across the globe. May we all remember to lead with love.
- For an end to gun violence here in Albany, in the U.S., and around the world.

If you have a concern or joy you would like to share with our church family,
email office@firstchurchinalbany.org or call the office at 518-463-4449

February 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1  Potluck & First Thursday Night of Worship 		Albany Classis Meeting 9am Bethany Ref.
4 <i>G</i>  Communion Sunday  Focus Worship Delmar	5  Prayer Shawl Meeting	6  Elders' Meeting	7  AA	8  Choir Rehearsal	9	10
11 <i>T</i>  Communion Sunday	12 	13 	14  AA 	15  Castle Island (Bilingual Montessori) Play 6pm	16	17
18 <i>M</i>  Communion Sunday	19  Presidents Day Pantry & Office Closed	20 	21  AA 	22 	23	24
25 <i>T</i>  Communion Sunday	26 	27  Focus Board Mtg.	28  AA WMA Mtg.	29  Choir Rehearsal		

Key:



Indoor Worship
10am



Communion
Sunday



Coffee
Hour



Pantry
9am



Centering
Prayer 12pm



Book
Study



Soup &
PB&J
11:30am



Choir
Rehearsal



Weather vanes

Preacher: *M* Rev. Dr. Mashona Walston *T* Rev. Trey Tirpak *G* Guest



First Church in Albany

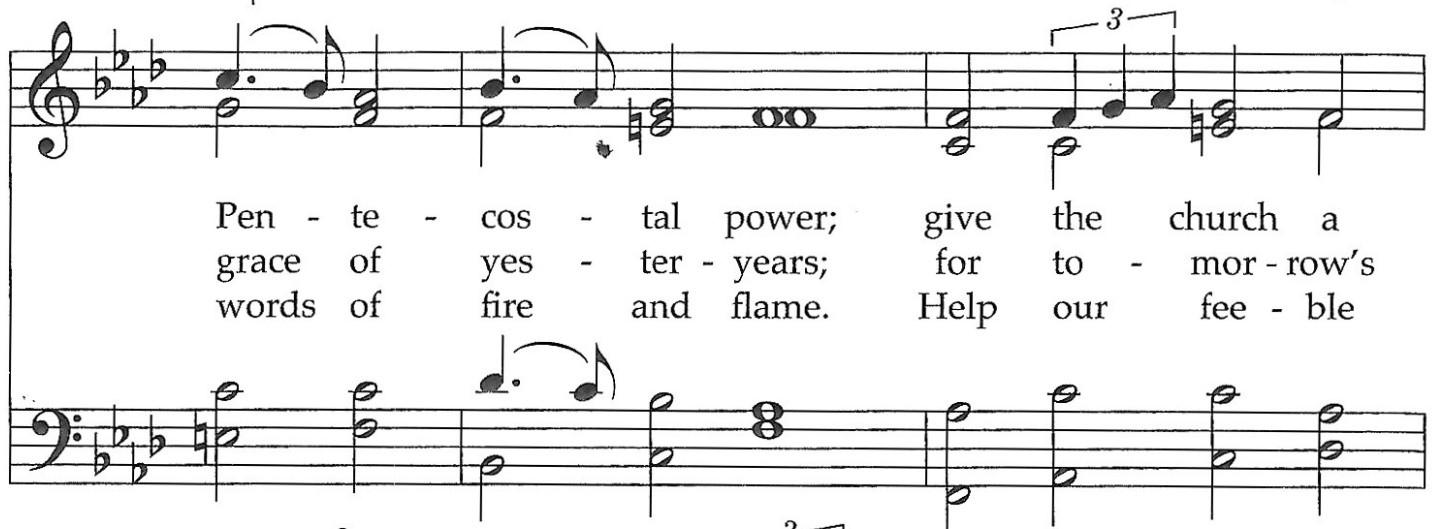
110 North Pearl St.
Albany NY 12207
518-463-4449

www.firstchurchinalbany.org

Come, O Spirit, Dwell Among Us




1 Come, O Spir - it, dwell a - mong us; come with
 2 We would raise our al - le - lu - ias for the
 3 Come, O Spir - it, dwell a - mong us; give us



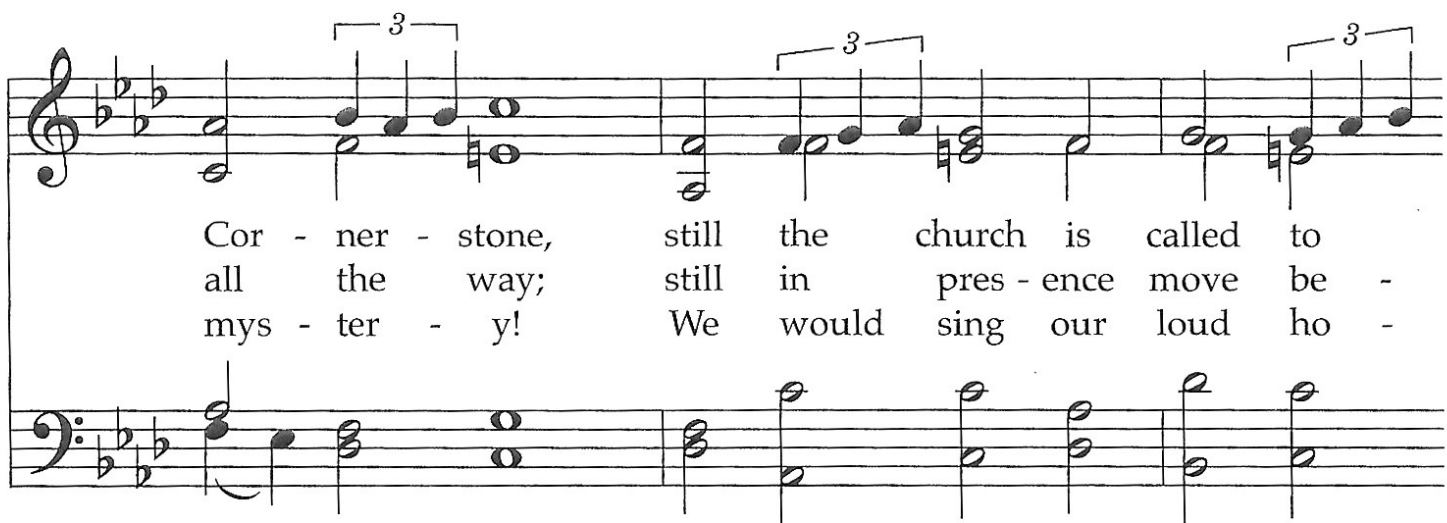
Pen - te - cos - tal power; give the church a
 grace of yes - ter - years; for to - mor - row's
 words of fire and flame. Help our fee - ble



strong - er vi - sion; help us face each cru - cial hour.
 un - known path - way, hear, O Lord, our hum - ble prayers.
 lips to praise you, glo - ri - fy your ho - ly name.



Built up - on a firm foun - da - tion, Je - sus Christ, the
In the church - 's pil - grim jour - ney you have led us
Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Spir - it, Three in One: what



Cor - ner - stone, still the church is called to
all the way; still in pres - ence move be -
mys - ter - y! We would sing our loud ho -



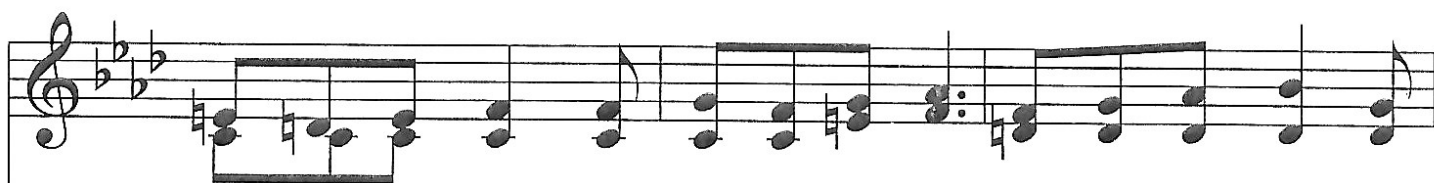
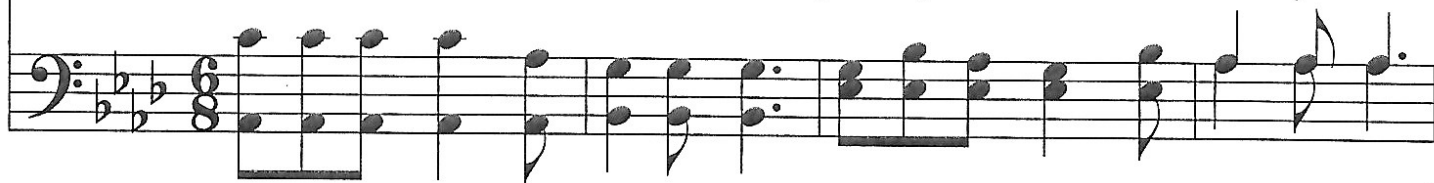
mis - sion that God's love shall be made known.
fore us, fire by night and cloud by day.
san - nas now and through e - ter - ni - ty.

This 20th-century text was written by a Presbyterian layperson and poet, who in her later years became interested in writing hymns for the seasons of the church year and prepared a collection of them for her congregation. It pairs effectively with this sturdy Welsh tune.

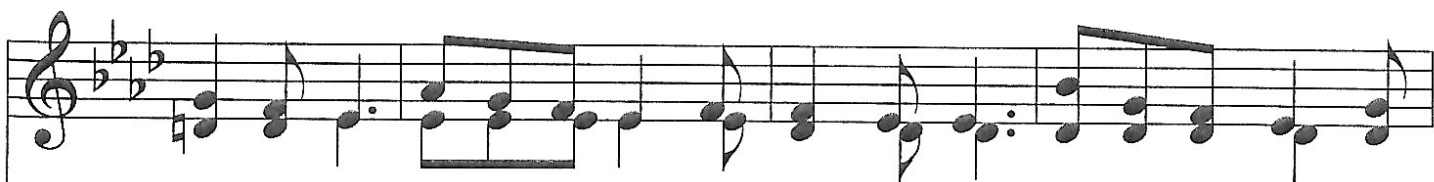
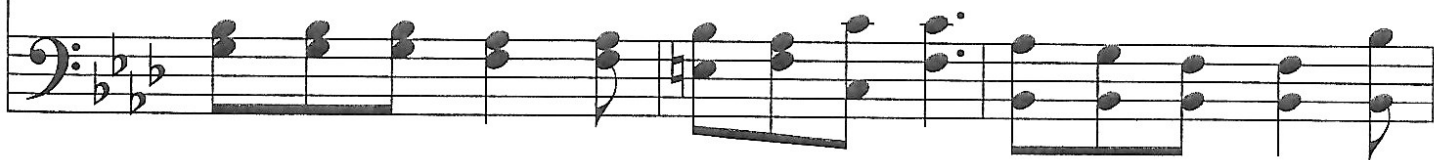
Open My Eyes, That I May See



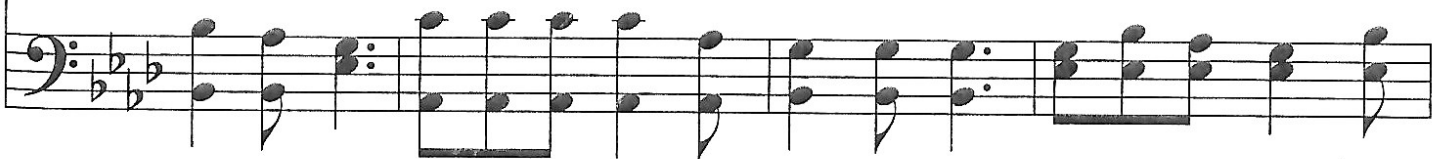
- 1 O-pen my eyes, that I may see glimps-es of truth thou hast for me.
2 O-pen my ears, that I may hear voic - es of truth thou send-est clear.
3 O-pen my mouth, and let me bear glad - ly the warm truth ev-ery-where.



Place in my hands the won-der-ful key that shall un - clasp and
And while the wave notes fall on my ear, ev - ery-thing false will
O - pen my heart, and let me pre-pare love with thy chil-dren



set me free. Si-lent-ly now I wait for thee, read-y, my God, thy
dis - ap-pear. Si-lent-ly now I wait for thee, read-y, my God, thy
thus to share. Si-lent-ly now I wait for thee, read-y, my God, thy





will to see. O - pen my eyes; il - lu - mine me, Spir - it di - vine!
 will to see. O - pen my ears; il - lu - mine me, Spir - it di - vine!
 will to see. O - pen my heart; il - lu - mine me, Spir - it di - vine!

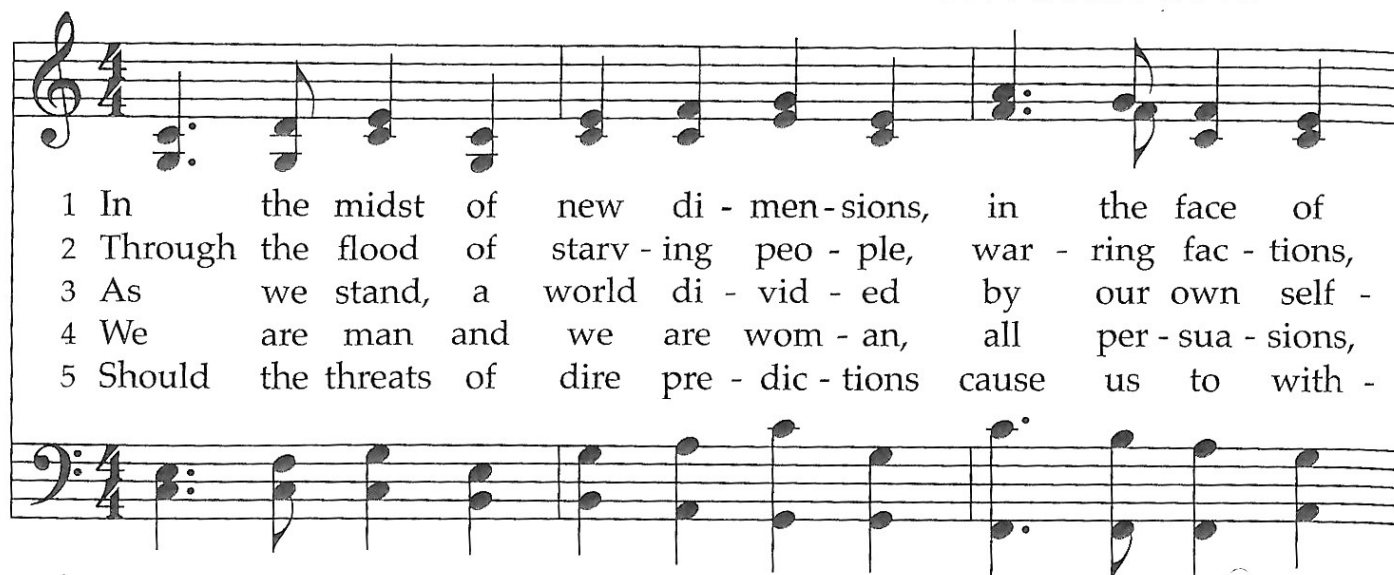
The first woman to publish a collection of her own anthems, this author/composer has created in this hymn a sung prayer for illumination. It not only asks God to help us understand Scripture but also prays for the strength and courage to make God's love known to others.

TEXT and MUSIC: Clara H. Scott, 1895

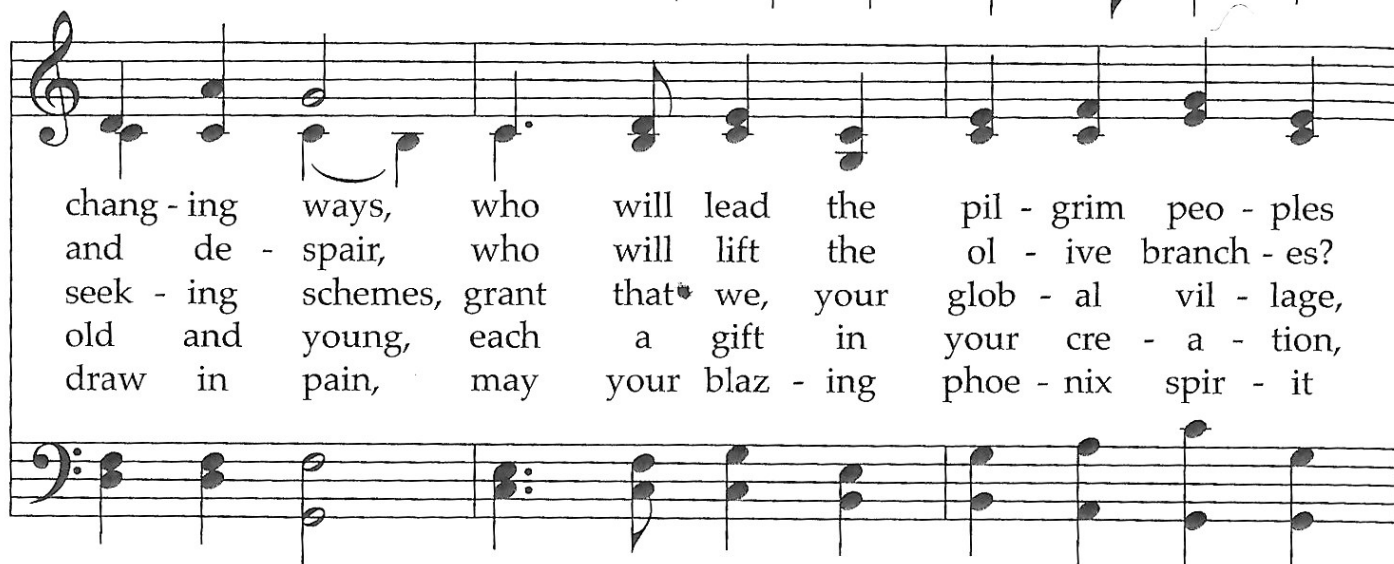
OPEN MY EYES
 8.8.9.8.8.8.4



In the Midst of New Dimensions

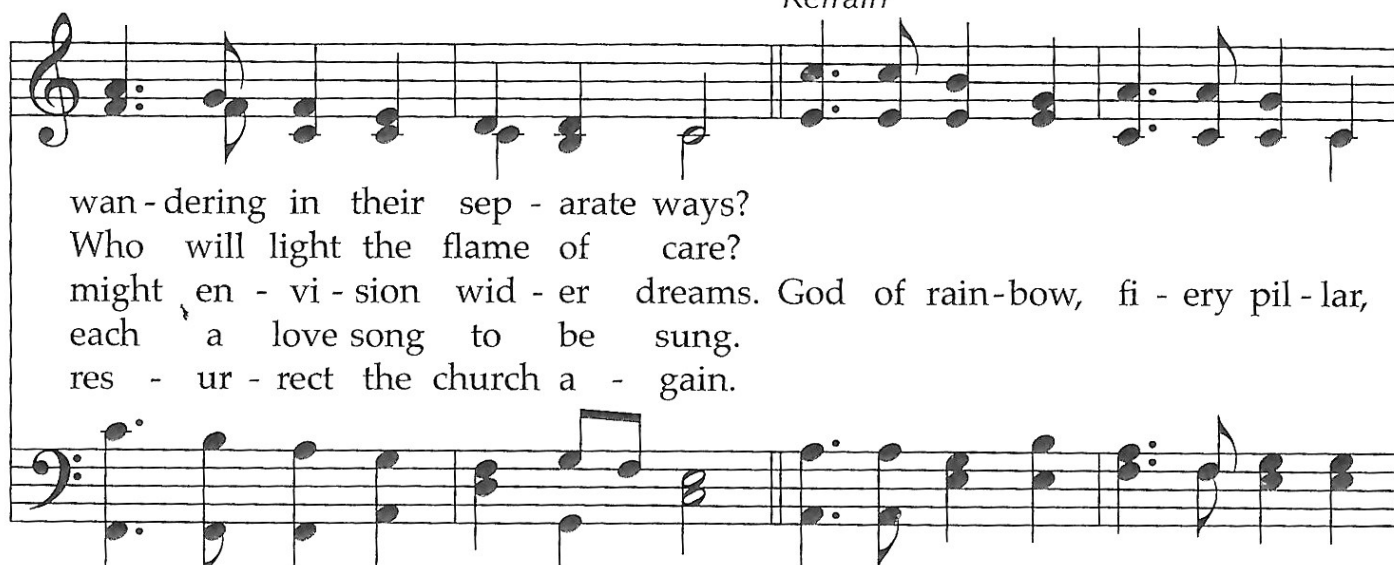


1 In the midst of new di - men - sions, in the face of
2 Through the flood of starv - ing peo - ple, war - ring fac - tions,
3 As we stand, a world di - vid - ed by our own self -
4 We are man and we are wom - an, all per - sua - sions,
5 Should the threats of dire pre - dic - tions cause us to with -



chang - ing ways, who will lead the pil - grim peo - ples
and de - spair, who will lift the ol - ive branch - es?
seek - ing schemes, grant that we, your glob - al vil - lage,
old and young, each a gift in your cre - a - tion,
draw in pain, may your blaz - ing phoe - nix spir - it

Refrain



wan - dering in their sep - arate ways?
Who will light the flame of care?
might, en - vi - sion wid - er dreams. God of rain - bow, fi - ery pil - lar,
each a love song to be sung.
res - ur - rect the church a - gain.

Refrain

wan - dering in their sep - arate ways?
 Who will light the flame of care?
 might, en - vi - sion wid - er dreams. God of rain-bow, fi - ery pil - lar,
 each a love song to be sung.
 res - ur - rect the church a - gain.

lead - ing where the ea - gles soar, we your peo - ple, ours the jour - ney

now and ev - er, now and ev - er, now and ev - er - more.

In this simultaneously created text and tune, the author/composer was seeking to incorporate imagery from both Native American and Hebrew spiritual traditions. Also included is the mythological phoenix, which had received a Christian interpretation as early as the first century.