

**November 19, 2023**  
**25th Sunday after Pentecost**



Leading Worship Today:

**Pastor:** Brian Entz

**Lay Leader:** Larry Janski

**Accompanist:** Ralph Johansen

*Please read along with all **Bold** text*  
*All are invited to stand when there is an \**

**Larger Print Hymns:** Please see an usher if you would like a copy of larger print hymns.

**Children's Bulletins:** Please see an usher if you are interested in a children's bulletin.

## PRELUDE

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### SILENT PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

*Grace is not opposed to effort {which is action}, but to earning {which is attitude}.*

*-Dallas Willard*

### GATHERING

#### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Shout triumphantly to the LORD, all the earth!

Serve the LORD with celebration!

**Come before God with shouts of joy!**

Know that the LORD is God—

The Holy One made us; we belong to God.

**We are God's people,**

**the sheep of God's own pasture.**

Enter God's gates with thanks;

**enter God's courtyards with praise!**

**Thank God! Bless the name of the Lord!**

Because the LORD is good,

God's loyal love lasts forever;

**God's faithfulness lasts generation after generation.**

#### \*OPENING HYMN

**#611 Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee**

#### \*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Bringing our whole selves before God and trusting in God's abundant mercies, let us confess our sin.

**For love, O God, you created us and all things. For love you came, incarnate in Jesus, to save us and show us the way. For love you have poured out your Spirit to call us to you. Forgive us when we do not receive your gracious love. Forgive us when we do not meet you, in return, with love, but rather with fear, disdain, and disbelief. Forgive us when we do not reach out in love to neighbors near and far, but rather meet them with fear, hate, prejudice, and apathy. Renew in us a knowledge of your mercies, O God, that we would risk to trust your love and return it with a generosity matching your own. In Jesus Christ we pray, Amen.**

*As water is poured into the font remember your baptism and that in these waters you are named as one of God's beloved and joined to Christ forever.*

#### **\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

From the foundation of the world, God has called us beloved and in Jesus Christ sought us out with mercy and grace. Friends, believe the good news, in Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

**Alleluia, Amen!**

#### **\*RESPONSE**

***The Gloria Patri #581***

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost.**

**As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.**

**Amen. Amen.**

#### **\*PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Leader: Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another.

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

**People: And also with you.**

*The people may exchange with their immediate neighbors, by words or gesture, signs of peace and reconciliation.*

### **WORD**

#### **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Bless, O God, our reading and receiving, our understanding and meditating, upon your word for us today. In Christ's name, Amen.

#### **OLD TESTAMENT READING**

**Judges 4:1-7 (NRSV)**

1The Israelites again did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, after Ehud died. 2So the LORD sold them into the hand of King Jabin of Canaan, who reigned in Hazor; the commander of his army was Sisera, who lived in Harosheth-ha-goiim. 3Then the Israelites cried out to the LORD for help; for he had nine hundred chariots of iron, and had oppressed the Israelites cruelly twenty years.

4At that time Deborah, a prophetess, wife of Lappidoth, was judging Israel. 5She used to sit under the palm of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim; and the Israelites came up to her for judgment. 6She sent and summoned Barak son of Abinoam from Kedesh in

Naphtali, and said to him, “The LORD, the God of Israel, commands you, ‘Go, take position at Mount Tabor, bringing ten thousand from the tribe of Naphtali and the tribe of Zebulun. 7I will draw out Sisera, the general of Jabin’s army, to meet you by the Wadi Kishon with his chariots and his troops; and I will give him into your hand.’”

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word.

**Thanks be to God.**

## NEW TESTAMENT READING

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 (NRSV)

1Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. 2For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. 3When they say, “There is peace and security,” then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! 4But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; 5for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. 6So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; 7for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. 8But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. 9For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, 10who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. 11Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

The Word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

## HYMN

**#716 God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending**

## GOSPEL READING

Matthew 25:14-30 (NRSV)

14“For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; 15to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. 16The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. 17In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. 18But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. 19After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. 20Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying ‘Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.’ 21His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ 22And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.’ 23His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ 24Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; 25so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’ 26But his master replied, ‘You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? 27Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. 28So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. 29For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will

be taken away. 30As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

MESSAGE

The Rev. Brian Entz

### RESPONDING TO THE WORD

#### OFFERTORY

*“Let us present ourselves to God as those  
who have been delivered from death to life”.  
To give online, please scan the QR code.*



#### \*DOXOLOGY

#### **#606 Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow**

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

#### \*OFFERING PRAYER

#### \*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

from The Confession of Belhar

**We believe in the triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, who gathers, protects and cares for the church through Word and Spirit. This, God has done since the beginning of the world and will do to the end.**

**We believe in one holy, universal Christian church, the communion of saints called from the entire human family.**

**We believe**

**•that Christ’s work of reconciliation is made manifest in the church as the community of believers who have been reconciled with God and with one another; that unity is, therefore, both a gift and an obligation for the church of Jesus Christ; that through the working of God’s Spirit it is a binding force, yet simultaneously a reality which must be earnestly pursued and sought: one which the people of God must continually be built up to attain;**

#### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Holy One our God, we praise you this day for your great goodness, for your deep mercy, for your boundless grace, and for your unending love. For all that is good and true, beautiful and loving in our lives we give you thanks, because you are the source from which all these flow.

Hear now our prayers for your Church and your world.

For your Church around the world, in all its diversity and traditions, we pray. Keep all who bear the name of Jesus faithful in all things, hopeful in all situations, and loving towards all people. For this congregation and all the congregations of Buffalo make us aware of the needs and gifts of our community and keep us humble and generous in our mutual pursuit of your Kingdom. **O God, hear our prayer.**

For the whole of your creation, the peoples and creatures of this world, we pray. For people and places devastated by disaster, warfare, violence, and pollution, bring safety, healing, and peace. Especially we pray for those places in the midst of conflict, large scale destruction, and death; for Palestine and Israel, for Ukraine, for South Sudan, and for Yemen we pray. **O God, hear our prayer.**

For this nation and our shared life together we pray. May our leaders in all levels of government govern with wisdom, humility, justice, and peace. In an election year may we remember to listen to one another and see in all people your image and likeness. In all things help us to seek the common good and the good of those most in need around us. **O God, hear our prayer.**

For those in our midst, in our hearts, and around this world in need of your healing and comfort we pray. For those who struggle with issues of health and wellness, whether in body, mind, or spirit bring healing and bring peace, O God. Especially we pray for...

For those who are in the throes of grief and in the midst of loss, we pray. For the many who have lost and continue to lose family, friend, and neighbor in Gaza, among the 11,180 + who have been killed, including over 4,000 children. **Have mercy, O God.**

For those Israelis who have lost family, friend, and neighbor among the 1,400 + killed. **Have mercy, O God.**

For those who have lost family, friends, and neighbors in conflicts the world over that don't appear on our newsfeeds or in our newspapers. **Have mercy, O God.**

For those who will observe tomorrow Transgender Day of Remembrance and those who have lost family, friend, or neighbor to fatal violence, in this country and around the world, because they were transgender. **Have mercy, O God.**

For all who grieve and mourn the death of a loved one, either human or animal, and for those who have experienced the loss of a relationship, family, or community. **Have mercy, O God.**

For those who are in the midst of a spiritual crisis, search, or transition, may they find in you the grace, mercy, and love made known in Jesus Christ. **O God, hear our prayer.**

For all those people, situations, and intentions that rest in the quiet of our hearts or are known only to you we pray in silence.

Hear, O God, these our prayers and answer them with the love and wisdom only you can offer. Keep us ever faithful in our discipleship to Jesus, until that day when the new heaven and the new earth have come. In his name we join our voices, using whatever words we know, to pray...

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

**People: 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

\*CLOSING HYMN

**#700 I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me**

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*Loving all People, Living our Faith, and Following Jesus*

## WORSHIP NOTES

The Call to Worship is Psalm 100.

All other liturgy comes/is adapted from the Book of Common Worship (2018) or is written in house.

## MUSIC LICENSES

**#611 Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee** | TEXT: Henry van Dyke, 1907, alt. | MUSIC: Ludwig van Beethoven, 1824; adapt. Edward Hodges, 1842, alt. | Public domain | This well-known melody was created to provide a choral setting for J. C. F. von Schiller's poem, "An die Freude" (To Joy), as the final movement of the composer's Ninth Symphony. The author, a prominent Presbyterian pastor and author, wrote the words with this tune in mind.

**#716 God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending** | TEXT: Robert L. Edwards, 1961, alt. | MUSIC: The Sacred Harp, 1844; harm. James H. Wood, 1958 | Text © 1961, ren. 1989 The Hymn Society (admin. Hope Publishing Company) Music Harm. © 1958, ren. 1986 Broadman Press (admin. Music Services) | This text on stewardship was one of about 450 submissions in a search for such hymns conducted by the Hymn Society of America in 1961. These words are well grounded by their musical setting, an early American shape note tune named for a Baptist church in Harris County, Georgia.

**#700 I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me** | TEXT: African American spiritual | MUSIC: African American spiritual; arr. Wendell P. Whalum, 1984 | Music Arr. © Estate of Wendell P. Whalum | This African American spiritual has more depth than may at first appear: for people who are bound in slavery to sing about dedicating themselves to God's use shows a profound awareness of God-given self-worth despite circumstances that would deny their human or spiritual value.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### MISSION

**Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Hygiene Kits:** The Faith Formation Committee is putting together Hygiene Kits for the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. We are asking for people to help sponsor kits by donating money towards the purchase of supplies and shipping. Each kit costs about \$17. We will be assembling kits during CCC time on Dec 3<sup>rd</sup> and hope you can join us. Please put PDA in the memo line for any donations made. The deadline for these donations is **November 19th**. For more information about PDA visit <https://pda.pcusa.org/>

**Rivers of Hope Holiday Program Gift Card Drive:** Donated gift cards will be given to families and youth experiencing domestic violence during the holiday season. Gift cards in any amount are welcome and popular options include Target, Walmart, and gas stations. Please drop these into the BPC Office Drop Box by **December 3rd**.

### EVENTS

**Community Thanksgiving Service:** Please join us on **November 22nd at 7:30pm at Zion** Lutheran Church. We are still looking for 6-8 ushers for this service. Please sign up outside the office if you are interested.

**SPOT:** Our last Spiritual Practices of Today of 2023 will be on **Saturday Dec. 2nd at 10am**. We'll focus on some common Advent spiritual practices that can be done individually or as a household/group. Join us as we begin preparing for the celebration of Christ's birth!

**Special Congregational Meeting:** The PC(USA) Book of Order states that the church's congregation must annually review the adequacy of the staff's compensation, approve the minister's term of call, and have the opportunity to comment on the church's annual (2024) budget. The Session's practice has been to take up those three items at a special congregational meeting each December. Based on actions at the meeting the Session will be able to approve a final budget in December. This year's meeting will be **Sunday, December 3, at 10:30 am** following worship.

**Generations of Sweetness Bake Off:** Youth and adults will be paired up to bake a batch of cookies on **December 9th at 10am**. These cookies will be judged by the congregation on **December 10th during CCC**. Please sign up outside the office if you are interested in participating.

### OTHER

**Classes, Coffee, & Conversations:** Please join us today for *Conversations-To-Go*. Next week, join us to *Deck the Halls*.

**Member Directory:** Please watch your emails for a copy of what has been created for the BPC Member Directory. Double check for any spelling errors or inaccurate information. And please respond to the email either way if there are any changes that have to be made or if it looks right. Thank you!

**Christmas Banner:** Each family in the congregation is asked to take a square of material to use as the background for your "artwork" that will symbolize the Christmas season. Please find the squares and information in narthex. Bring your finished square to church by **Wednesday, November 22**.

**Poinsettia Order:** Please fill out an order form and turn in your money by **November 28th**. Order forms are available outside the office.

**How can we pray for you?** Along with the blue prayer request cards found in the pews you can also submit prayer requests on the BPC website. Scan this QR Code with your smartphone to be taken directly to the prayer request form. All prayer requests go directly to Pastor Brian.



**BPC Prayer List:**

Al DeBellis  
Daniel Elliot  
Erva Hance  
Barb and Tom Stone  
Jan Brown, early morning Women of Faith  
Jake, a friend of Pastor Brian  
Dennis Dietz, Virginia's friend  
Rochelle Tandrian, Angela's daughter  
Arv Klemz  
Jimm and Jodie Underwood, Lanny & Shirley's son-in-law and daughter  
Amy Grittman  
Brittany Daniels  
John and Charlotte Collins  
Janice Sorby  
Mark Lawlor  
For all people and places recovering from disasters both natural and human caused.  
For peace in Ukraine, Israel/Palestine, Sudan, and around the world.  
For our neighbor congregations in Buffalo and for the congregations of our presbytery.

**Upcoming This Week**

***Today***

8:30a 150th Planning Meeting  
9:30a Worship  
10:30a Classes, Coffee & Conversations-  
Conversations-To-Go  
11:30a Called Session Meeting

***Monday***

7:00p AA

***Tuesday***

9:00a Crafty Ladies  
9:00a Men's Breakfast at Forget Me Not Cafe  
6:30p Session

***Wednesday***

7:30p Community Thanksgiving Service at  
Zion Lutheran

***Thursday***

Happy Thanksgiving!

***Friday***

***Saturday***

***Sunday***

9:30a Worship  
10:30a Classes, Coffee & Conversations-  
Deck the Halls

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**Buffalo Presbyterian Church**

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ADORATION

# 611 Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

1 Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!  
 2 All thy works with joy sur-round thee; earth and heaven re-lect thy rays;  
 3 Mor-tals, join the hap-py cho-rus which the morn-ing stars be-gan.

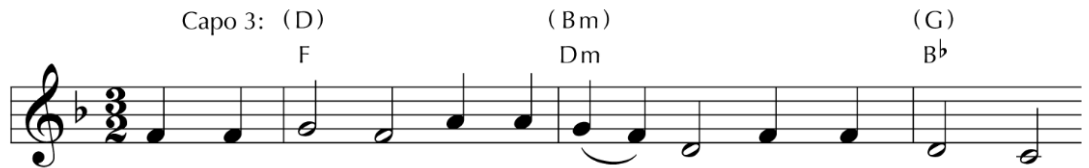
Hearts un-fold like flowers be-fore thee, o-pening to the sun a - bove.  
 stars and an-gels sing a-round thee, cen-ter of un-bro-ken praise.  
 Love di-vine is reign-ing o'er us, join-ing all in heav-en's plan.

Melt the clouds of sin and sad-ness; drive the dark of doubt a - way.  
 Field and for-est, vale and moun-tain, flower-y mead-ow, flash-ing sea,  
 Ev - er sing-ing, march we on-ward, vic - tors in the midst of strife.

Giv - er of im - mor-tal glad-ness, fill us with the light of day.  
 chant-ing bird and flow-ing foun-tain, call us to re-joice in thee.  
 Joy - ful mu-sic leads us sun-ward in the tri-umph song of life.

This well-known melody was created to provide a choral setting for J. C. F. von Schiller's poem, "An die Freude" (To Joy), as the final movement of the composer's *Ninth Symphony*. The author, a prominent Presbyterian pastor and author, wrote the words with this tune in mind.

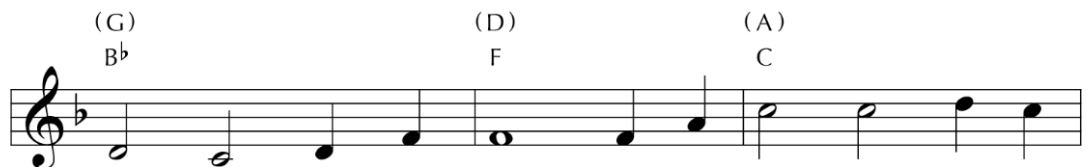
# God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending 716



1 God, whose giv - ing knows no end - ing, from your rich and  
 2 Skills and time are ours for press - ing toward the goals of  
 3 Trea - sure, too, you have en - trust - ed, gain through powers your



end - less store, na - ture's won - der, Je - sus' wis - dom, cost - ly  
 Christ, your Son: all at peace in health and free - dom, rac - es  
 grace con - ferred: ours to use for home and kin - dred, and to



cross, grave's shat - tered door: gift - ed by you, we turn  
 joined, the church made one. Now di - rect our dai - ly  
 spread the gos - pel word. O - pen wide our hands in



to you, of - fer - ing up our - selves in praise; thank - ful song shall  
 la - bor, lest we strive for self a - lone. Born with tal - ents,  
 shar - ing, as we heed Christ's age - less call, heal - ing, teach - ing,



rise for - ev - er, gra - cious do - nor of our days.  
 make us ser - vants fit to an - swer at your throne.  
 and re - claim - ing, serv - ing you by lov - ing all.

*Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.*

This text on stewardship was one of about 450 submissions in a search for such hymns conducted by the Hymn Society of America in 1961. These words are well grounded by their musical setting, an early American shape note tune named for a Baptist church in Harris County, Georgia.

# 700 I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me

1 I'm gon-na live so (live so)  
 2 I'm gon-na work so (work so)  
 3 I'm gon-na pray so (pray so)  
 4 I'm gon-na sing so (sing so)

God can use me an - y -

where, Lord, an - y - time!  
 (an - y - time!) I'm gon-na  
 I'm gon-na  
 I'm gon-na  
 I'm gon-na

live so (live so)  
 work so (work so)  
 pray so (pray so)  
 sing so (sing so)

God can use me an - y -

where, Lord, (my Lord,) an - y - time!  
 (an - y - time!)

This African American spiritual has more depth than may at first appear: for people who are bound in slavery to sing about dedicating themselves to God's use shows a profound awareness of God-given self-worth despite circumstances that would deny their human or spiritual value.