Sunday, November 8, 2026
Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Welcome to The Beloved Community at The Trees, an Episcopal faith community exploring together what a life of faith "outside of a church" may be. Through our faith in Jesus Christ, we believe that all people are God's beloved and all are welcome, regardless of race, gender identity, sexual identity, ability, faith background, or belief.

In our Baptismal Covenant, we affirm that we will strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being. To remember our baptismal promises, that all are God's beloved, and that we are all one in Christ, we begin each worship gathering with the "Blessing of the Water."

Blessing of the Water

Adapted from The Anglican Church of Australia

Reader We give you thanks that at the beginning of creation your Holy Spirit moved upon the waters to bring forth light and life. With water you cleanse and replenish the earth; you nourish and sustain all living things.

Through the waters of the Red Sea you led your people out of slavery into freedom, and brought them through the river Jordan to new life in the land of promise.

We give you thanks for your Son Jesus Christ: for his baptism by John, for his anointing with the Holy Spirit. Through the deep waters of death Jesus delivered us from our sins and was raised to new life in triumph.

We give you thanks for the grace of the Holy Spirit who forms us in the likeness of Christ and leads us to proclaim your kingdom.

And now we give you thanks that you have called us to a new birth in your Church through the waters of baptism.

Celebrant Pour out your Holy Spirit in blessing and sanctify this water so that those who are baptised in it may be made one with Christ in his death and resurrection. May they die to sin, rise to newness of life, and continue forever in Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we give you praise and honour in the unity of the Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Holy Eucharist

Rite 4

Opening Acclamation

Celebrant Blessed be God! —
The One, the Word, and the lifegiving Spirit.

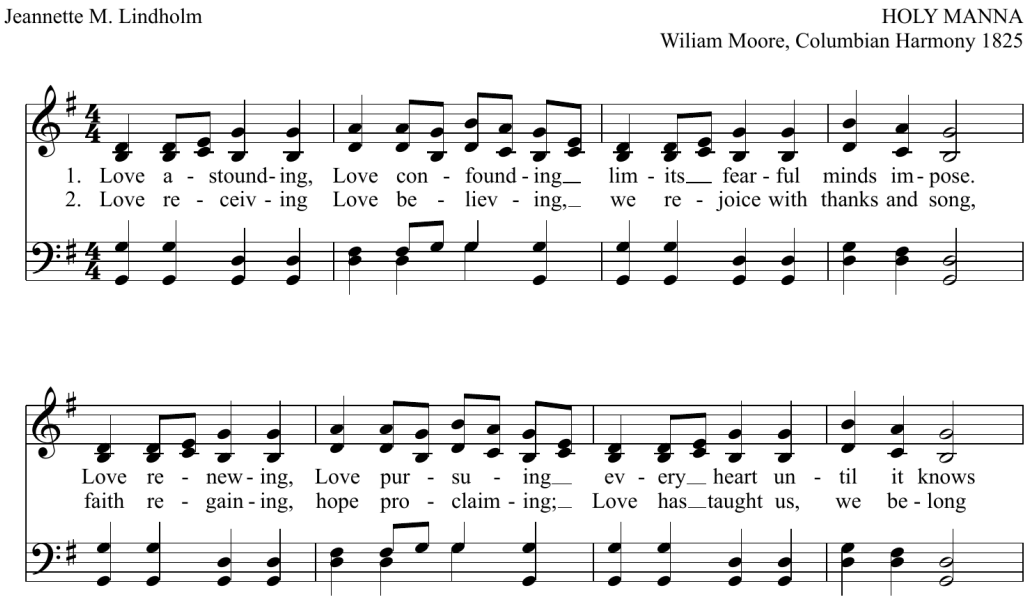
All **And blessed be God's presence, now and forever.**

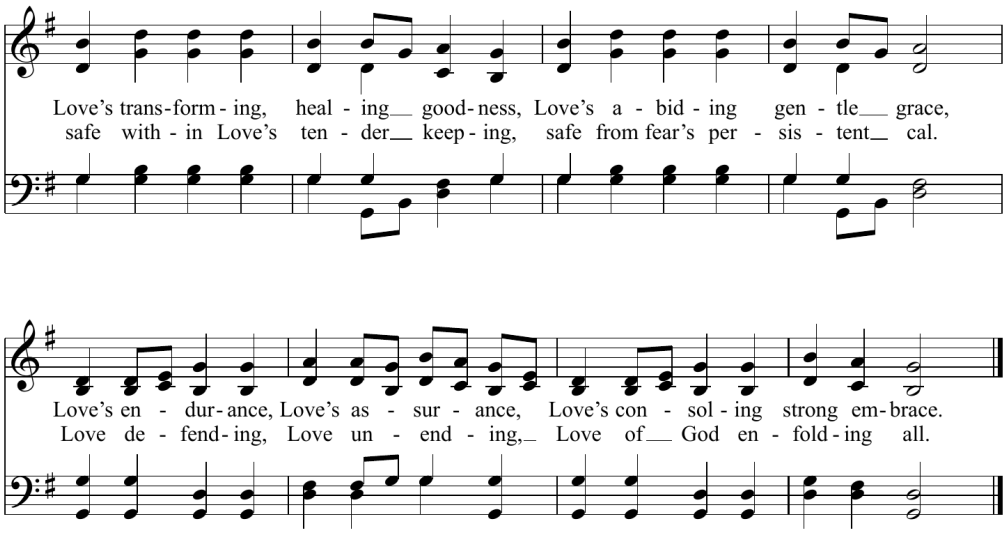
Collect for Purity

Celebrant Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Opening Song

Love Astounding *Songs for the Holy Other, p. 42*





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The Collect of the Day

Celebrant God be with you.

People **And within you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Healing God, you healed your servant Naaman of his affliction when he came to you, through Elisha, for help. Heal our afflictions, and make us faithful servants. We pray these things in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. ***Amen.***

Narrative Lectionary Theme ~ Elisha Heals Naaman

The First Lesson

2 Kings 5:1-15a *~ NRSVUE*

Reader A reading from 2 Kings.

Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Aram, was a great man and in high favor with his master because by him the LORD had given victory to Aram. The man, though a mighty warrior, suffered from a skin disease. Now the Arameans on one of their raids had taken a young girl captive from the land of Israel, and she served Naaman's wife. She said to her mistress, "If only my lord were with the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his skin disease." So Naaman went in and told his lord just what the girl from the land of Israel had said. And the king of Aram said, "Go, then, and I will send along a letter to the king of Israel."

He went, taking with him ten talents of silver, six thousand shekels of gold, and ten sets of garments. He brought the letter to the king of Israel, which read, "When this letter reaches you, know that I have sent to you my servant

Naaman, that you may cure him of his skin disease." When the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his clothes and said, "Am I God, to give death or life, that this man sends word to me to cure a man of his skin disease? Just look and see how he is trying to pick a quarrel with me."

But when Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his clothes, he sent a message to the king, "Why have you torn your clothes? Let him come to me, that he may learn that there is a prophet in Israel." So Naaman came with his horses and chariots and halted at the entrance of Elisha's house. Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, "Go, wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored, and you shall be clean." But Naaman became angry and went away, saying, "I thought that for me he would surely come out and stand and call on the name of the LORD his God and would wave his hand over the spot and cure the skin disease! Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them and be clean?" He turned and went away in a rage. But his servants approached and said to him, "Father, if the prophet had commanded you to do something difficult, would you not have done it? How much more, when all he said to you was, 'Wash, and be clean'?" So he went down and immersed himself seven times in the Jordan, according to the word of the man of God; his flesh was restored like the flesh of a young boy, and he was clean.

Then he returned to the man of God, he and all his company; he came and stood before him and said, "Now I know that there is no God in all the earth except in Israel; please accept a present from your servant."

Reader The words of holy scripture.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Quiet Reflection on the Reading

The Psalm

Psalm 30 *~ NRSVUE*

I will extol you, O LORD, for you have drawn me up
and did not let my foes rejoice over me.
O LORD my God, I cried to you for help,
and you have healed me.
O LORD, you brought up my soul from Sheol,
restored me to life from among those gone down to the Pit.

Sing praises to the LORD, O you his faithful ones,
and give thanks to his holy name.
For his anger is but for a moment;
his favor is for a lifetime.
Weeping may linger for the night,
but joy comes with the morning.

As for me, I said in my prosperity,
"I shall never be moved."
By your favor, O LORD,
you had established me as a strong mountain;
you hid your face;
I was dismayed.

To you, O LORD, I cried,
and to the LORD I made supplication:
"What profit is there in my death,
if I go down to the Pit?
Will the dust praise you?
Will it tell of your faithfulness?
Hear, O LORD, and be gracious to me!
O LORD, be my helper!"

You have turned my mourning into dancing;
you have taken off my sackcloth
and clothed me with joy,
so that my soul may praise you and not be silent.
O LORD my God, I will give thanks to you forever.

Quiet Reflection on the Reading

The Gospel Lesson

Matthew 8:2-3 *~ NRSVUE*

Deacon The holy gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Matthew.
People **Glory to you, O Lord.**

And there was a man with a skin disease who came to him and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean." He stretched out his hand and touched him, saying, "I am willing. Be made clean!" Immediately his skin disease was cleansed.

Deacon The good news of our Savior.
People **Praise be to Christ.**

Quiet Reflection on the Reading

Lectionary Discussion

What did the Holy Spirit bring to your attention? What good news did you hear?
During this time you are invited to share your thoughts, questions, or insights about our readings.

The Nicene Creed

All **We believe—**

In *the* One God:
**　　*Source of all*,**
**　　ruler of all,**
**　　maker of heaven and earth:**
of all *things* seen or unseen.

And in one Lord:
**　　Jesus *of Nazareth*,**
**　　Christ *the Messiah*,**
**　　the only-born *Word* of God;**
eternally issued of *that of* the *One*:
**　　*God of God*, light of light, true God *of* true God;**
**　　issued, not made:**
**　　*the* same being as the *One*;**
***and* through whom all *things* are made;**

That for us *mortals*
**　　and for our salvation**
**　　came down from heaven;**
and was made flesh
**　　of *the* Holy Spirit**
**　　and the Virgin Mary;**
and became human;

Was also crucified, for our sake,
under *the reign of* Pontius Pilate:
and suffered, and was buried;
and arose *on* the third day,
in accordance with the scriptures,
and went back up into heaven;
and sits *in power beside* the *One*:
and shall come again, in glory,
to judge *those* living and dead;
***and* whose *presence* shall have no end.**

And *we believe* in the Spirit:
the Holy,
the Lord,
***and* the lifegiving;**
that pours forth of *that of* the *One*:
that with *One* and *Word* together
we* worship and glorify *as God;
that speaks in the prophets.

In one holy, universal, and missionary church:
we accept one baptism for *the* forgiveness of sins;
we await *the* raising of *the* dead,
and *the* life of the age soon to come.

Amen.

Prayers of the People

Celebrant In peace and in faith, let us offer our prayers to God. We remember those among us and those we love in our prayers; especially Alayna, Anthony, Billy, Bob, Eileen, Gregory, Kerry, Marie, Maureen, Nikki, September, and Susan.

You are invited to share your prayers aloud or silently in your heart. After each prayer is shared aloud, the following response is said. You are also invited to share your prayers on a prayer card and place it in the offering basket next to the baptismal font. Someone from The Beloved Community will take your card home and pray for you over the coming week.

This is my prayer.
This is our prayer.

After all prayers have been shared.

Celebrant God of peace, let us your people know, that at the heart of turbulence there is an inner calm that comes from faith in you. Keep us from being content with things as they are, that from this central peace there may come a creative compassion, a thirst for justice, and a willingness to give of ourselves in the spirit of Christ.

All **Amen.**

Confession of Sin

Deacon Therefore let us confess our sins to almighty God.

A moment of silent reflection and prayer.

All
Almighty and most merciful God;
maker of all, judge of all:
We confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are deeply sorry and we earnestly repent.
Have mercy upon us, most merciful Lord,
for the sake of our Savior Jesus Christ:
Forgive us our sins.
And grant that we may ever hereafter
serve and please you in newness of life;
to delight in your will, and walk in your ways,
to the honor and glory of your name. Amen.

Celebrant
May almighty God have mercy upon you,
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in eternal life;
through Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

The Peace

Celebrant May the peace of God be ever with you!

People **And within you!**

Announcements
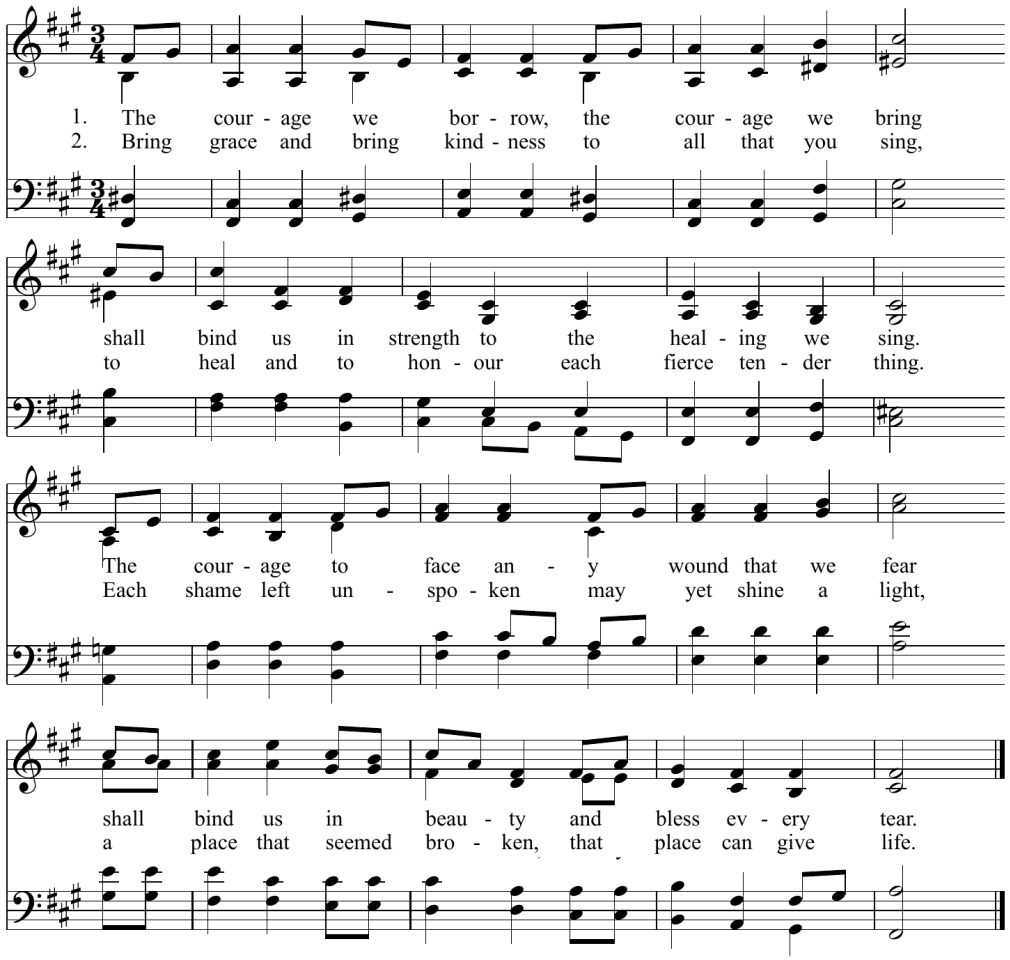
During this time we will share announcements for The Beloved Community at The Trees and others.

Music for Preparation

Alchemy of Healing (verses 1–2) *Songs for the Holy Other, p. 6*

Gilo

COLUMCILLE
Irish Melody, arr. John Bell



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The Holy Communion

Eucharistic Prayer H

Celebrant God be with you.
People **And within you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts!
People **We lift them up to the Lord!**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is good and right that we do so.**

Celebrant It is very good, right, and our joyful task, always and everywhere to lift thanks up to you, O Lord, our holy Creator, almighty, everlasting God.

For you alone are the one God, the font of all being and the form of all good,
resting beyond time and forever.

That through Christ your eternal Word brings all things into being:
sun, moon and stars; earth, wind and waters; and every living thing.
That makes all that is made, and breathes life into the earth.

Celebrant And so raising our voices with angels and archangels and all the chorus of heaven who forever exalt your glory, we praise you rejoicing as we say:

All **Holy, holy, holy,**
Lord God of all power and might:
Heaven and earth are full of your glory;
Hosanna in the highest!
Blessed the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest!

Celebrant Most holy and gracious God, in your infinite love you made us in your own image.

And when we fell into sin and met with evil and death, you did not abandon us. For you are the Lord our God. You called your people as a light to the nations. You led them out of bondage and into a new land. You handed down the law, and spoke in the prophets.

And then, in the fullness of time, you in your mercy sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Word, to be born for our sake: to live and die as one of us; to reconcile us to you. Born of a woman, of our very nature, Jesus taught the law, healed the sick, and fed the poor.

And when the time had come, Jesus stretched out arms upon the cross, and died for our salvation. Almighty God, in Christ you bring us out of error into truth, out of sin into grace, out of death into life.

For in the night before God died for us, Jesus took bread; and after giving thanks, our Lord broke it, and gave it to the disciples, saying, "Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

Likewise after supper, Jesus took the cup, and after giving thanks, the Lord gave it to them, saying, "Drink of this, all of you: for this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and the many for the forgiveness of sins. As often as you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore O God our heavenly Maker, offering to you your own from your own, we here celebrate the sacrament of faith:

All **Christ has died.**
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

Celebrant And we beg you, most merciful God, to hear us,
and of your almighty goodness to pour out your Holy Spirit upon us,
to bless and sanctify these your creations of bread and wine:
that they may be to us the body and blood of your only-born Word,
our Savior Jesus Christ;
and that we receiving them may share in that most blessed presence;
so that we, and all those who share in your holy communion,
may be filled with your grace and heavenly blessing,
and in pure love and charity be made one body with Christ our Savior:
that Christ may live in us, and we in Christ.

By whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, our almighty Creator, without end. **Amen!**

And now as our Savior has taught us, let us pray:

All **Our Lord that is in heaven:**
blessed be your name.
Your dominion come:
your will be done
on earth, as it is in heaven.
Give us today our next day's bread:
and forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
And leave us not prey to temptation:
but deliver us from evil.

The Breaking of the Bread And The Communion
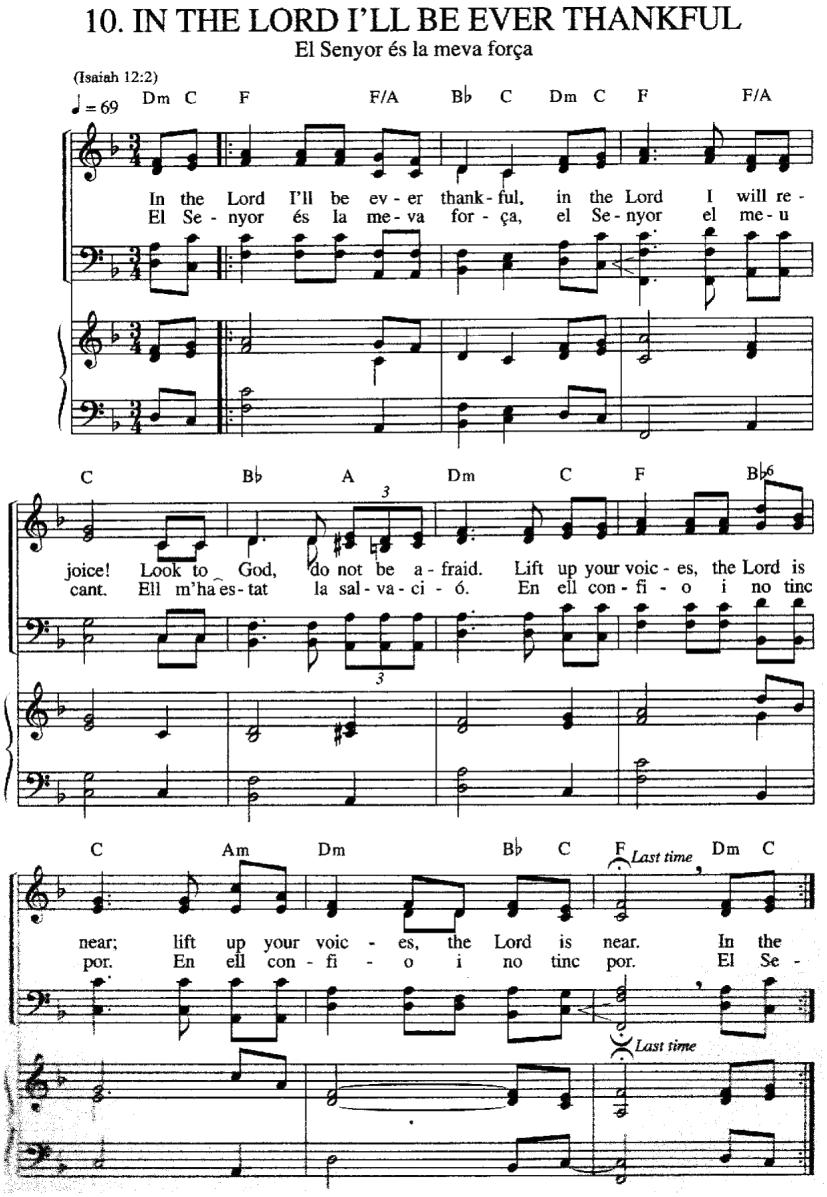
A period of silence is kept.

Celebrant Alleluia! The bread of life!
People **Alleluia!**

Celebrant The gifts of God for the people of God!
Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you,
and feed on God in your heart by faith, with thanksgiving.

We will observe a few moments of quiet for personal prayer and reflection following the Eucharist. You are invited to pray where you are or move about the space. Deacon Dan is available for healing prayers and anointing during this time.

Taizé & Contemplation



Post Communion Prayer

Celebrant Let us pray.

All **Almighty and everliving God,**
we earnestly thank you for feeding us, in this holy sacrament,
with the spiritual food of the most blessed presence of our Savior Jesus Christ;
and for assuring us thereby of your favor and goodness towards us;
and that we are living members in the body of Christ,
the blessed assembly of all faithful people;
and may also share, through hope, in your everlasting reign.
And we humbly ask you, our heavenly Maker,
so to assist us with your grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship,
and do all such good works as you have prepared for us to walk in;
through Christ our Savior, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory, time without end. Amen.

The Blessing

Celebrant Beloved, remember, you are one in whom Christ delights and dwells.
You live in the strong and unshakeable kingdom of God.
The kingdom is not in trouble, and neither are you.
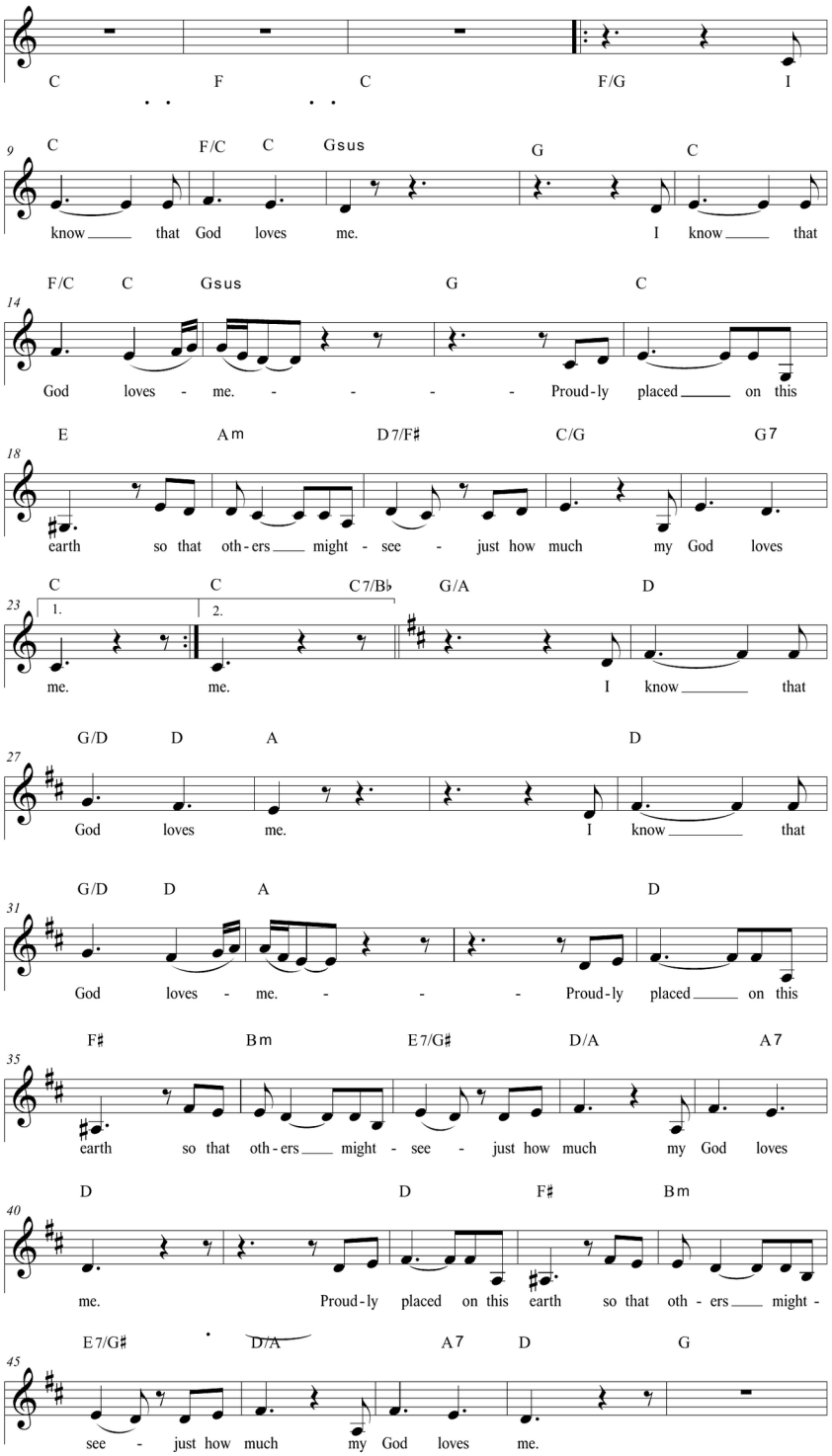
And the blessing of God almighty,
our most holy, glorious and undivided Trinity,
be among you this day, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Prayer for Our Shared Meal

Deacon Bless the food that you have made, and human hands have prepared. May it satisfy our hunger, and in sharing it together may we come closer to one another. **Amen.**

Closing Song

I Know That God Loves Me *Songs for the Holy Other, p. 32*



Dismissal

Deacon Let us go forth in peace to love and serve the Lord!

People **Thanks be to God.**

You are invited to join our community for a shared meal of soup/salad and bread immediately following our worship service.

We are grateful for our sending parish, The Church of the Nativity, Raleigh, who supported The Beloved Community with their presence, prayer, and resources for our first year.

We are grateful for the use of The Trees, graciously provided to us at no cost by St. Philip's Episcopal Church, Durham. We also give thanks to St. Philip's for the gift of flowers and printing. Each Sunday, St. Philip's shares their flowers with The Beloved Community so that we too may enjoy the beauty of God's creation.

We acknowledge that we are gathering on the ancestral territory of the Eno, the Tuscarora, the Occaneechi, and others.

We are grateful that you are with us. Your presence is a gift to The Beloved Community at the Trees, and that is enough. If you would like to support our community financially, you can do so by leaving your offering in the basket.

The Beloved Community at The Trees
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