

First Congregational Church of Long Beach
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

November 8, 2026 • 10:00 a.m.
Twenty-Fourth Sunday After Pentecost

Our Mission:
to be a visible and prophetic presence in the church and in the world,
to steadfastly proclaim the radically inclusive love of God,
to be open to, and celebrate differences; to honor thinking for oneself,
to faithfully work for the inclusion of, and justice for all people, regardless of age, gender, disability, sexual orientation, marital status, race or national origin, or any particular element of a person's total humanity, and for all of God's creation.

Please join in where words are shown in bold type.
Please stand if you are able for items with an asterisk*.

Centering ourselves with the sound of the chime and the Land Acknowledgement

Prelude Etude in Ab major, Op. 35, No.1 "Aeolian Harp" Frédéric Chopin — Curtis Heard, piano

Invocation — The Rev. Petra Malleis-Sternberg

***Call to Celebration** — Rev. Malleis-Sternberg and The Rev. Katy Hyman

One: God in Love is able to do more than we could ask or imagine.
Many: Love goes beyond our doubt to give us faith.
One: Love is able to give more than we can understand.
Many: Love goes beyond our cruelty to give us kindness.
One: Love soars to reach our minds and hearts.
Many: Love goes beyond our anger to give us empowerment.
One: Love expands our possibilities.
Many: God in love goes beyond our injustice to give us hope.
One: Come, let us celebrate Love!

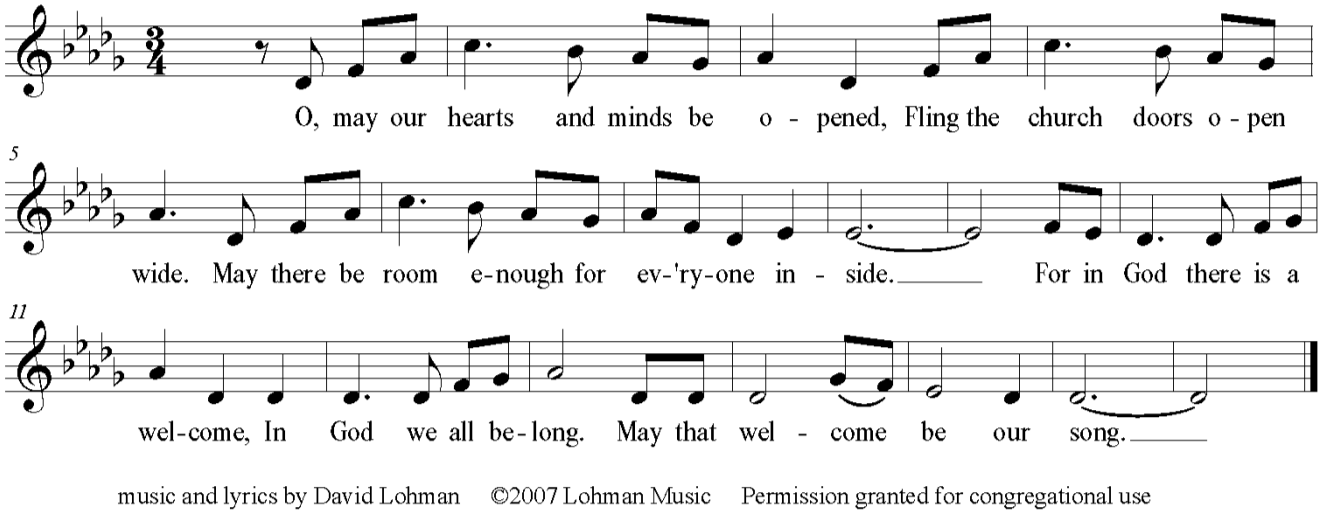
***Opening Hymn, No. 417** This is a Day of New Beginnings (Vs. 1-4)
Page 8

Welcome and Announcements Rev. Malleis-Sternberg

Passing of the Peace Rev. Hyman

Welcome Song

The children are invited to come forward during this song.



music and lyrics by David Lohman ©2007 Lohman Music Permission granted for congregational use

Time With Children Tracy Halter-Balin

Anthem Holy God, We Praise Your Name — Sanctuary Choir
Folk tune, arr. by Rene Clausen
adapted by Curtis Heard

The children and youth are invited to Sunday School.

Scripture Proverbs 3:1-12 — Jeff Ford
The Inclusive Bible

My children, don't ever forget these lessons,
and keep these principles in your heart;
they'll bring you length of days, years of life
and above all, peace and prosperity:

Never let love and faithfulness abandon you –
wear them like a necklace around your neck;
inscribe them on the tablet of your heart.
Then you'll enjoy kindness and a good reputation

from both God and people.

Trust Yahweh with all your heart,
and don't rely on your own understanding;
acknowledge God in everything you do,
and God will direct your paths.

Don't be wise in your own eyes;
revere Yahweh and avoid evil.
This will provide health for your body,
and enrichment to your bones.

Honor Yahweh with all that you have,
and with the first and best part of what you create;
then your silos will be filled with wheat
and your barrels filled with wine.

My children, don't despise God's reprimand
or let it discourage you,
for God's discipline is a sign of divine love.
The way a parent corrects a beloved child.

Contemporary Reading St. Teresa of Avila Jeff Ford

Christ has no body but yours,
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,
Yours are the eyes with which he looks
Compassion on this world,
Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good,
Yours are the hands, with which he blesses all the world.
Yours are the hands, yours are the feet,
Yours are the eyes, you are his body.
Christ has no body now but yours,
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,
Yours are the eyes with which Christ looks compassion on this world.
Christ has no body now on earth but yours.

Special Music I'm On My Way Lisa Bode Heard, vocalist
Rhiannon Giddens Ray Hedgpeth, banjo
Curtis Heard, piano

Sermon The Tablet of Your Heart Rev. Malleis-Sternberg

Hymn I Come to You
See Page 9

Prayers of the People Rev. Hyman

Our Common Prayer

Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be, Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven:
May the hallowing of your name echo through the universe!
The way of your justice be followed by the people of the earth!
With the bread we need today, feed us.
For the hurts we inflict on one another, forgive us.
In the time of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.
For your reign is in the glory of the power that is love,
now and forever.
Amen.

Offering

Invitation to Give Jeff Ford

Offertory Invention 14 in Bb-major Curtis Heard, piano
J. S. Bach

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or go to firstchurchlb.org/donate

***Doxology:** Old Hundredth (Hymn No. 780)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God with all the hosts above;
Praise God in wonder, joy and love.

***Prayer of Dedication** Rev. Hyman

***Closing Hymn** The Summons
See Page 10

***Benediction** Rev. Malleis-Sternberg

***Benediction Response** What Shall We Bring to Community?
Words by Tina Datsko de Sanchez, Music by Curtis Heard

Postlude Prelude in Bb-major, Op. 104, No. 1 Curtis Heard, piano
Felix Mendelssohn

One License: 706147-A *(in support of our livestream)*

First Church has both assistive listening devices and noise-blocking headphones available to borrow for services. Please see one of the Diaconate, ushering in the entry to the church, to borrow one of these assists or to ask any other questions about available accommodations. Thank you!

The sanctuary flowers this morning are provided by Jim Segura "to recognize those who continue to volunteer their time in their community that provides them with friendships and a sense of purpose."

Parish Concerns
Please remember in your prayers: Kevin O'Keefe, Jim Carhart (Megan O'Toole's husband), Kimel Conway and Joseph Ward, Jeanne Whitesell, Martin (Jane Hansen's brother), Cynde Soto, Logan Townsend, Adreana Langston, Laura McCrary, David McMillin, Dale Whitney, Michel Guy, Marion Hinze, Wayne Hester, Joanne Paine, and Aida Porteneuve.

Birthdays This Week – Happy Birthday!
09 – Fue Johnson
10 – Angie Esteves, Noah Gardner-Orr, Kelly Hoeger
11 – Elena Legeros, Shelby Legeros, David Malleis
13 – Anna Shimanek
14 – Donna Bell

This Week at First Church

Sunday, November 8 – Women's Retreat at Pilgrim Pines Day 3/3
8:45 AM Sunday Study – Pownall Room & Zoom
9:00 AM All Seasons Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room
9:30 AM Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room
Charming Chimes Rehearsal – Bell Room
10:00 AM Service of Celebration – Sanctuary & Youtube.com/1stChurch
Sunday School – Klar 1 & 3, Sacred Space & High School Room
11:15 AM Beloved Bells Rehearsal – Bell Room
11:30 AM BOCA Forum: Book Signing – Koinonia Room
1:30 PM UCO Drop-In Center – Patterson Hall

Monday, November 9
10:00 AM Archives Group – Ramsay Dining Room
7:00 PM DAYS Board Meeting - Zoom
Tuesday, November 10
10:00 AM Handmakers Small Group Meeting – Koinonia Room
6:00 PM Stewardship Pledge Campaign Meeting - Zoom
Wednesday, November 11 – Church Closed for Veterans Day
Thursday, November 12
5:00 PM DAYS Leaders LB – Ramsay Dining Room
Jubellance Rehearsal – Bell Room
6:00 PM Bellissimo Rehearsal – Bell Room
7:30 PM Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room
Friday, November 13
1:30 PM DAYS Grocery Program
Saturday, November 14
9:30 AM Golf Group – off-site at a local golf course
10:00 AM UCO Food Drive – Maple Way Alley
5:00 PM UCO Fundraising Event – Patterson Hall
Sunday, November 15
8:45 AM Sunday Study – Pownall Room & Zoom
9:00 AM All Seasons Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room
9:30 AM Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room
Charming Chimes Rehearsal – Bell Room
10:00 AM Service of Celebration – Sanctuary & Youtube.com/1stChurch
Sunday School – Klar 1 & 3, Sacred Space & High School Room
11:15 AM Beloved Bells Rehearsal – Bell Room
Stewardship Campaign Celebration – Koinonia
11:30 AM Women's Group – Pownall Room
Newcomers Lunch – Ramsay Dining Room
1:30 PM UCO Drop-In Center – Patterson Hall
4:00 PM BOCA: Book Event with David Zirin – Sanctuary



URBAN COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Presents:

Dance Giving



All Levels All Ages Dance Challenge

Saturday 11/14/2026 5-9pm

DJ Rick Dominguez
Dance instruction by Cindi Massengale



Join us on 11/14/26 for an all levels dance -athon to raise money for Urban Community Outreach. At first church 241 Cedar Ave LB CA 90802 . There will be food, drinks, dance instruction, raffles and prizes for the dancer who raises the most money Sign up with the QR code follow us on instagram for updates.

@dance_giving_uco @ucolbc

https://www.ucodic.org

https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/peer-to-peer/dance-giving-dance-till-you-drop



STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE CAMPAIGN 2027

THERE OUR HEARTS WILL BE

THERE OUR HEARTS WILL BE
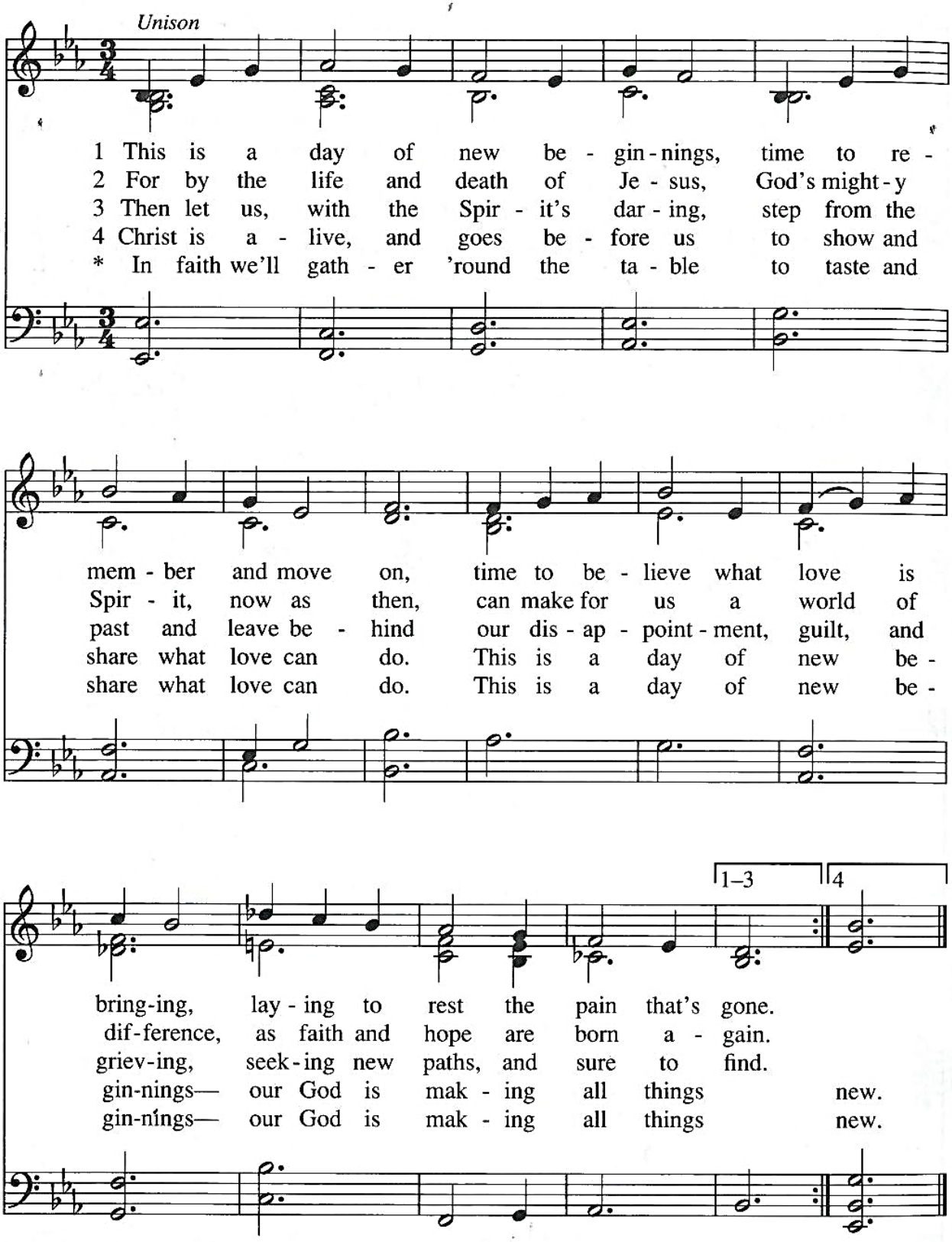
There Our Hearts Will Be invites us into a season of deep spiritual alignment—an honest, hopeful exploration of how our practices, priorities, and resources reveal what truly claims our hearts.

1. **Oct. 25, Kickoff of the Campaign, Halloween Sunday:** Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21
2. **Nov. 1, Dia de los Muertos/All Saints Sunday:** Deuteronomy 6:1-9
3. **Nov. 8,** Proverbs 3:1-12
4. **Nov. 15, Stewardship Pledge Commitment Sunday:** 2 Corinthians 4:5-12

417 This Is a Day of New Beginnings

2 Cor. 5:16–17
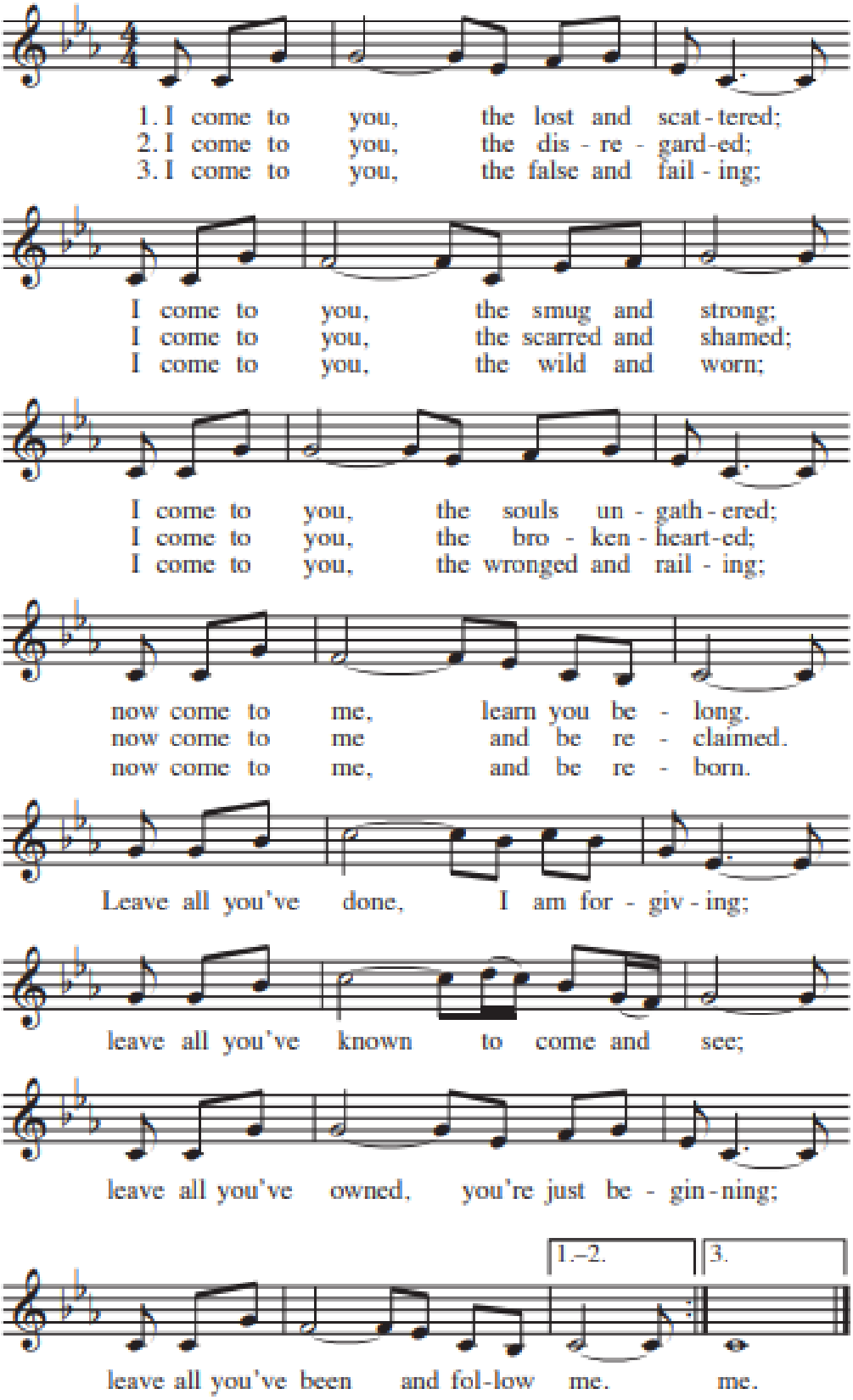
Vs. 1-4



I COME TO YOU

Hannah C. Brown

WAYFARING STRANGER
American traditional melody
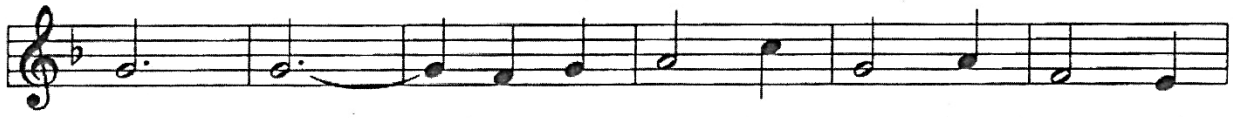


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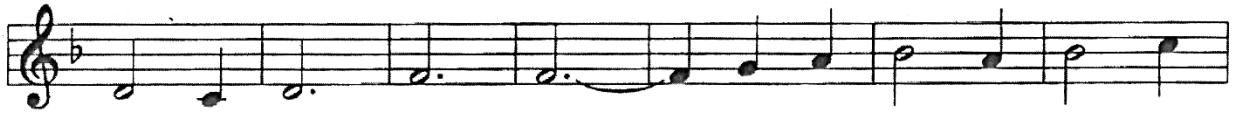
The Summons 2130
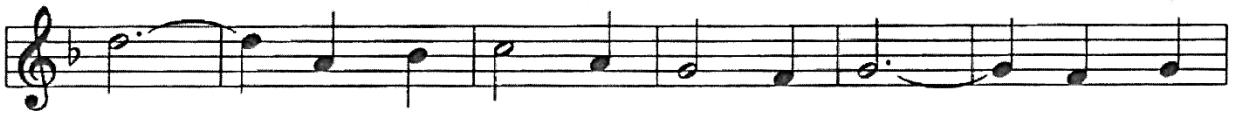


1. Will you come and fol - low me if I but call
2. Will you leave your - self be - hind if I but call
3. Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call
4. Will you love the "you" you hide if I but call
5. Lord, your sum - mons ech - oes true when you but call



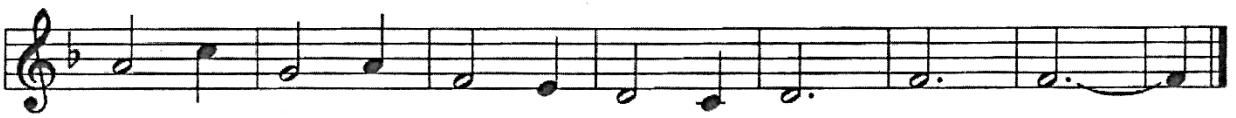
your name? ___ Will you go where you don't know and
your name? ___ Will you care for cruel and kind and
your name? ___ Will you set the pris - oners free and
your name? ___ Will you quell the fear in - side and
my name. ___ Let me turn and fol - low you and



nev - er be the same? ___ Will you let my love be
nev - er be the same? ___ Will you risk the hos - tile
nev - er be the same? ___ Will you kiss the lep - er
nev - er be the same? ___ Will you use the faith you've
nev - er be the same. ___ In your com - pa - ny I'll



shown, ___ will you let my name be known, ___ will you
stare ___ should your life at - tract or scare? ___ Will you
clean, ___ and do such as this un - seen, ___ and ad -
found ___ to re - shape the world a - round, ___ through my
go ___ where your love and foot - steps show. ___ Thus I'll



let my life be grown in you and you in me? ___
let me an - swer prayer in you and you in me? ___
mit to what I mean in you and you in me? ___
sight and touch and sound in you and you in me? ___
move and live and grow in you and you in me. ___

WORDS: John Bell
MUSIC: Traditional Scottish

KELVINGROVE
13 13 7 7 13

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Joining First Church as a Member

We celebrate that we continue to welcome newcomers to our church, and the ministers and leaders of our church invite you to our next official Newcomers Luncheon on Sunday, November 15 at 11:45 am, in the Ramsay Dining Room. We will share about our church's ministries and what membership means- and if you are ready to join, new members are invited to join on Nov. 22. Please rsvp to Rev. Petra or the Church Office and include any dietary needs.

First Congregational Church of Long Beach
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

CHURCH OFFICERS

Doug Emslie, Moderator
Charlotte Waldo, Vice Moderator
Julie Gholson, Treasurer
Kirsten Pickus, Secretary

BOARD CHAIRS

Building, Historic Preservation & Safety:
Pam Chapin, Dorothy King
Christian Education:
Elena Legeros
Cultural Arts:
Julie Ford & Tim Mountain
Diaconate:
Harold Sutherland & Bill Peck
Parish Life:
Alison Mitchell & Don Donan
Social Justice and Outreach:
Jenn Tafel
Stewardship & Finance:
Jane Hansen & Randy King

AT-LARGE COUNCIL MEMBERS

Cathy Chambers, Heather Chambers & Sebastian Jobin-Reyes

COMPOSER-IN-RESIDENCE

Curtis Heard

POET-IN-RESIDENCE

Tina Datsko de Sánchez

HISTORIAN

Bob Kalayjian

BOOKKEEPERS

Melody O'Keefe & Heather Chambers at Privity CPA Partners, LP

CLERGY

Rev. Petra Malleis-Sternberg, Senior Minister
pmsternberg@firstchurchlb.org
Rev. Wally Hoeger, Associate Minister
whoeger@firstchurchlb.org

MUSIC STAFF

Curtis Heard, Director of Music
Tracy Halter-Balin, Associate Director of Music
Megan O'Toole, Soprano Soloist
Lisa Bode Heard, Alto Soloist
Charlie Carlos, Tenor Soloist
George Carson, Bass Soloist

PROFESSIONAL STAFF

Tracy Halter-Balin, Director of Christian Ed.
Eric Peterson, Business Manager
Rhyan Humphrey, Office Manager
Preston Andres, Lead Custodian
Sophia Valenzuela, Kyla Baker, Yesi Urrea Castro, Sebastian Lytwynec, Mercy Segastume Castillo, Sunday School
Elijah Brown, Joel Gantt, Cassie Jordan, Custodians
Julianne Fung, Audio Technician
Abby Zidonis, Video Technician

CLERGY IN OUR COMMUNITY

Rev. Jerry Stinson, Senior Minister Emeritus
Rev. Katy Hyman, Director of Pediatric and Adult Palliative Care, MemorialCare
Dr. Marc Dickey, Organist Emeritus