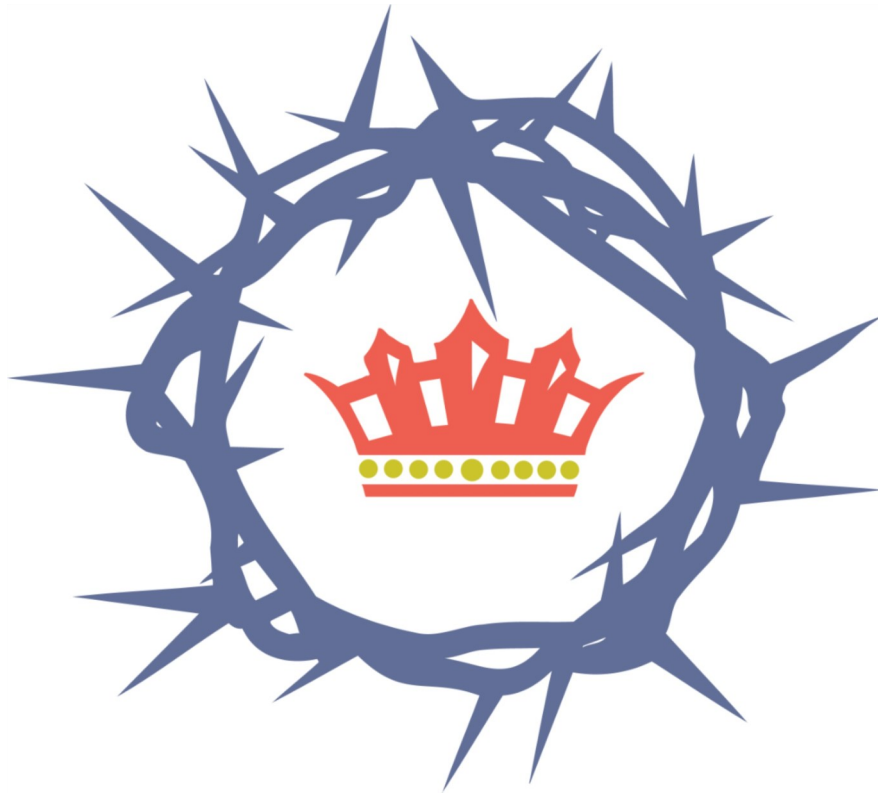


First Presbyterian Church



*210 S. Wayne Street Milledgeville, GA 31061
(478) 452-9394, milledgevillepcusa@gmail.com*

**Followers of Christ, called to serve our community
and be an actively-engaging light to the world.**

We live into our faith, inspired by our worship, encouraged by our fellowship, empowered by our studies. As a Matthew 25 Congregation, we answer the call to provide food and shelter to those in need. As a More Light Presbyterians Congregation, we provide a safe and affirming worshiping community for LGBTQIA+ persons, celebrating the uniqueness and dignity of each person as they seek a home for their faith and confidence in the promises of God for them.

November 23, 2025
Reign of Christ Sunday

In a Landscape

John Cage

PRELUDE

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

We are delighted that you have joined us this Lord's Day. If you'd like to learn more about our mission and ministry, we invite you to speak to the Pastor or an Elder.

GATHERING AROUND GOD'S WORD

CHORAL INTROIT *Give thanks for those whose faith is firm* GTG #731, vs. 1

CALL TO WORSHIP (based on Luke 1:68-79)

Leader: We gather to worship God, who looks favorably on all the humans they created.

Congregation: We sing blessings to God, who stands with us for justice and salvation.

Leader: We gather to worship God, who worked with many prophetic humans in every time and place.

Congregation: We sing blessings to God, who makes faithful promises, to us and our ancestors.

Leader: We gather to worship God, whose tenderness we see shimmering in the breaking of dawn.

Congregation: We sing blessings to God, who guides our feet on paths of peace.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Shepherd of Israel, hear our prayer as your Son heard the plea of the criminal crucified with him. Gather into Christ's holy reign the broken, the sorrowing, and the sinner, that all may know wholeness, joy, and forgiveness. Amen.

*HYMN 81 *Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken*

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (based on Jeremiah 23:1-4)

O God of justice and mercy, you call us to be shepherds who gather and protect those more vulnerable than ourselves. We speak of your justice, but our actions continue to leave others scattered on the edges of society. In the name of our own safety, we shield ourselves from others, push them away with closed doors, hostile looks, and insensitive questions. Even as we protest the actions of the rich and powerful, we have still absorbed their desire for king-like power. We remain tempted by the dream of the Good Life, where goodness for some only comes at the expense of many. Raise us up, O God, from our willful ignorance; bring us back into the fold; help us shepherd in the genuine change that reflects your just promises.

CHORAL RESPONSE *Give thanks for those whose hope is clear* GTG #731, vs. 2

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Leader: God promised to deal wisely with a scattered people who made compromised choices while living under an empire's occupation. God promised to save them by bringing justice and righteousness to the land.

Congregation: Hear the good news: Jesus's death and resurrection confirm God's faithful promises extend to us. God forgives and calls us to keep striving to do justice. Amen!

GLORIA PATRI

HYMN NO. 581

***Glory be to the Creator, and to the Christ and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end!
Amen, amen***

THE PEACE

Leader: The Peace of Christ be with you. **Congregation: And also with you.**
Please greet those near to you with the peace of Christ.

HEARING GOD'S WORD

ANTHEM

O Give Thanks

Joseph Corfe

*O give thanks unto the Lord, the Lord is good;
For his steadfast love endures forever more.*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

TIME WITH THE YOUNG DISCIPLES

SCRIPTURE READINGS

NEW TESTAMENT

Colossians 1:11-20

Pew Bible Page #

NT P. 200

GOSPEL

Luke 23:33-43

NT P. 89

SERMON

"Who's in Charge"

Rev. Ron Gilreath

*HYMN 645

Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (from the Belhar Confession and with gender-expansive language)

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

- **that God has revealed themselves as the one who wishes to bring about justice and true peace among people**
- **that God, in a world full of injustice and enmity, is in a special way the God of the destitute, the poor, and the wronged**
- **that God calls the church to follow them in this; for God brings justice to the oppressed and gives bread to the hungry**
- **that God frees the prisoner, supports the downtrodden, protects the stranger, and blocks the path of the ungodly**
- **that the church must therefore stand by people in any form of suffering and need, which implies, among other things, that the church must witness against and strive against any form of injustice, so that justice may roll down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.**

Therefore, we reject any ideology which would legitimate forms of injustice and any doctrine which is unwilling to resist such an ideology in the name of the gospel. To the one and only God, Parent, Child, and Holy Spirit, be the honor and the glory for ever and ever.

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

MOMENT FOR MISSION

INVITATION TO OFFERING



I appeal to you, siblings in Christ, to present yourselves as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God. Let us offer our lives to the Lord. You may present your offering at the front of the sanctuary, or if you prefer to contribute electronically, you can do so using the PayPal QR Code in your bulletin or visit our website at fpcmilledgeville.org.



Scan. Pay. Go.

OFFERTORY

Consolations IV

Fran Lisxt

*DOXOLOGY

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below; Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts! Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!***

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

To you, O God, we offer our lives—our abundance, our poverty, all that we have, all that we are—a sign of our great thanksgiving for the treasure of your grace. Take and use us for good in the world that you so love; we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

BEARING GOD'S WORD INTO THE WORLD

*HYMN 268

Crowns Him With Many Crowns

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION *Give thanks for those whose love is pure*

GTG #731, vs. 3

POSTLUDE

Danza de Criollas III

Alberto Ginestera

Lord, hear our prayers

CHURCH FAMILY:

Charles & Melba Burrell, upon the death of his nephew Allen Burrell

Harry Beck, ongoing health concerns

Nan Carpenter, ongoing health concerns

Sunda Coleman, recovering from surgery after a fall

Louise Sallstrom, recovering from a fall

Ellen Thompson, recovering from a broken hip at home

EXTENDED FAMILY:

Darryl Allen, Andrew Allen's father, ongoing health concerns

Nannette Green Allen, childhood friend of Margaret Ivester with serious health issues

Mark Archer, Sunda Coleman's brother-in-law, hip replacement, recovering at home

Michael Bledsoe, Mary Lucik's grandson, multiple health concerns

Taylor Croghan, Craig Callender's niece, EDS diagnosis

Don Goggans, Elaine Goggans' son, stage four cancer

Alonzo Kelley, Craig Callender's father, Stage 4 Melanoma

Velma Kelley, Craig Callender's grandmother, ongoing health concerns

Elizabeth Knobel, Carolyn Morgan's daughter, ongoing health concerns

Charles Morgan, Jennifer Flory's father, ongoing health concerns

Joanne Murphy, Kathy Carroll's mother, ongoing health issues- at Carlyle House in Macon

John J. Murphy, Kathy Carroll's father, recovering from kidney operation

Paul Orman, Barbara Orman's husband, ongoing health concerns

Chris Pearson, Sunda Coleman's son, recovering at home; dialysis

Renee Pearson, Sunda Coleman's daughter-in-law, diagnosed with congestive heart failure, at home

Runette Pounds, Sunda Coleman's mother, ongoing health concerns

Bob Smart, Anne Smart's husband, ankylosing spondylitis

Windy Spaide, Craig Callender's sister, ongoing health concerns

Randy Stewart, Haywood Edwards' son-in-law, ongoing health concerns

Ike Thomas, ongoing cancer treatments

Dudley Weathers, Anne Weathers' husband, at home in hospice care

Wayne Woodard, Ruby Werts' brother, diagnosed with Parkinson's

IN ASSISTED LIVING

Nan Carpenter, PO Box 527, Jefferson, GA 30549

Jude Hirsch, Fellowship Home at Meriwether, 10 Meriwether Place

Laura King, The Cottages of Milledgeville, 1010 Fernwood Drive

Maryanne Morris, Fellowship Home at Meriwether, 10 Meriwether Place

Runette Pounds, in hospital, moving soon to Fellowship Home

Suzy Smith, The Oaks Peake, 400 Foster Rd., A2, Macon, GA 31210

Nursery Volunteers

November 23—Susan McGill/Joel Burns

Liturgist

November 23 & 30 ~ Andrew Allen



THIS WEEK AT OUR CHURCH: November 23 – November 30

Today	9:30	Sunday School
	10:15	Children's Sunday School
	11:00	Worship—Reign of Christ
	12:00	Youth Group (Youth Room)
Monday	7:00	Oconee Recovery Coalition
	7:00	Milledgeville Singers Guild
Tuesday	9:30	Food Pantry
	12:00	Kiwanis
	7:30	NA Meeting
Wednesday	6:30	NO Potluck and Bible Study this week
Thursday	7:30	NA Meeting
Saturday	10:00	HANGING OF THE GREENS
	7:30	NA Meeting
Sunday	9:30	Sunday School
	10:15	Children's Sunday School
	11:00	Worship Service—1st Sunday of Advent
	12:00	Youth Group (Youth Room)
	12:00	MILLY FREE FRIDGE

We welcome Ron Gilreath to the pulpit today.
We thank Eden Chase for serving as the Organist.

The office will only be open Monday & Tuesday this week—HAPPY THANKSGIVING!!

Liturgy written by Jimmy Hoke and provided for free distribution.

Offerings in November	\$31,611.64
Anticipated November expenses:	\$17,147.00
(Monthly expenditures may exceed anticipated amounts)	



**Join us for worship in-person or
online on Facebook Live every week.**

Sunday: 9:30AM **Sunday School Class** (meets in parlor), we are studying *The Bible With and Without Jesus: How Jews and Christians Read the Same Stories Differently* by Amy Jill Levine and Marc Zvi Brettler. Please contact Joel Burns

joeldburns@gmail.com if you are interested in attending via Zoom.

Fellowship Sunday School Class (meets in small room next to office at end of hall), studying *Being a Presbyterian in the Bible Belt* by Ted V. Foote Jr. & P. Alex Thornburg.

10:15AM **Children's Sunday School Class**, singing, crafts and stories, (meeting in the Craft Room upstairs)

12:00PM **Youth Group** (Youth Room)

Wednesday: 6:30PM **Wednesday Night Potluck and Bible Study**, studying *Uppity Women of the Bible* by Hebrew Bible professor Dr. Lisa Wolfe, (meeting in the Fellowship Hall).

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES



Presbyterian Women Thank Offering will be received on November 23.

Bicentennial Christmas Ornaments will be available for sale beginning November 23. 1 for \$15 or 2 for \$25. Make sure to bless your tree with this monumental treasure!



An Advent Devotional will also be available on November 23, online and printed.

Our very spectacular Hanging of the Greens will take place on Saturday November 29 at 10:00am.

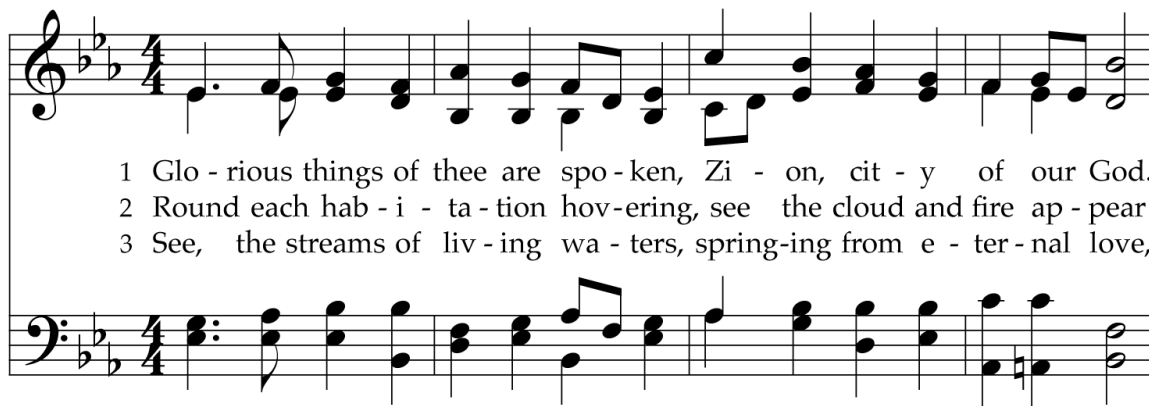


Dedication Sunday is November 30th. With joyful response to God's abundant grace, we pledge our financial gifts to support the vital mission and outreach of our church. Please return your pledge card in on this day or drop off or mail to the church office.

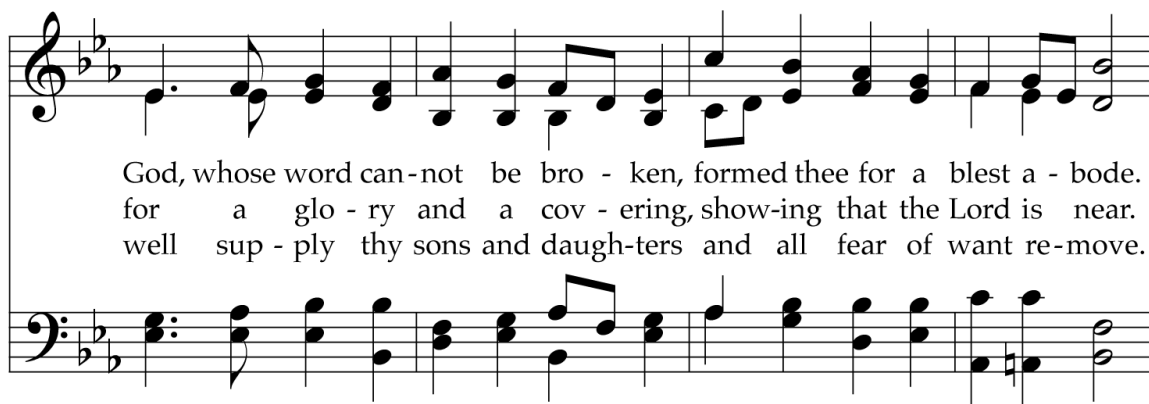
Joy Gift Offering & Christmas Program will be held on December 7th during the worship service at 11:00am. Please bring your favorite holiday treats to share, following service.



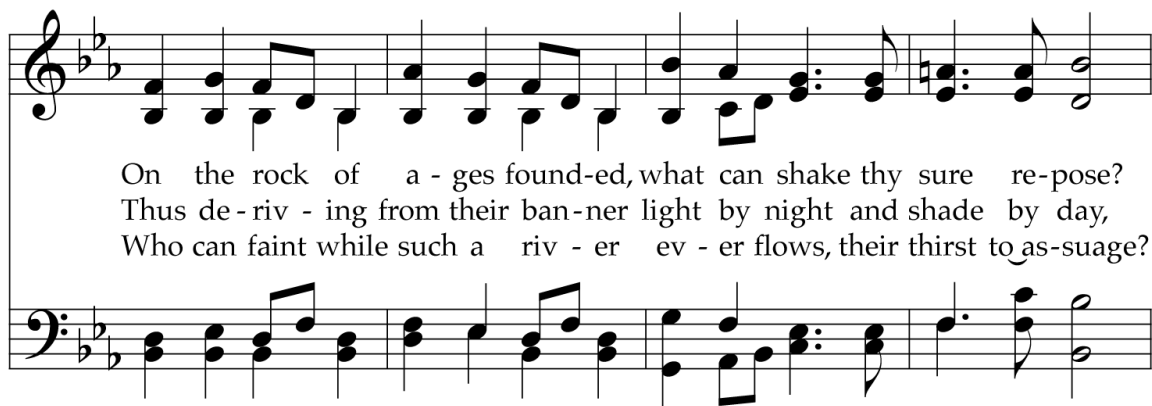
81 Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken



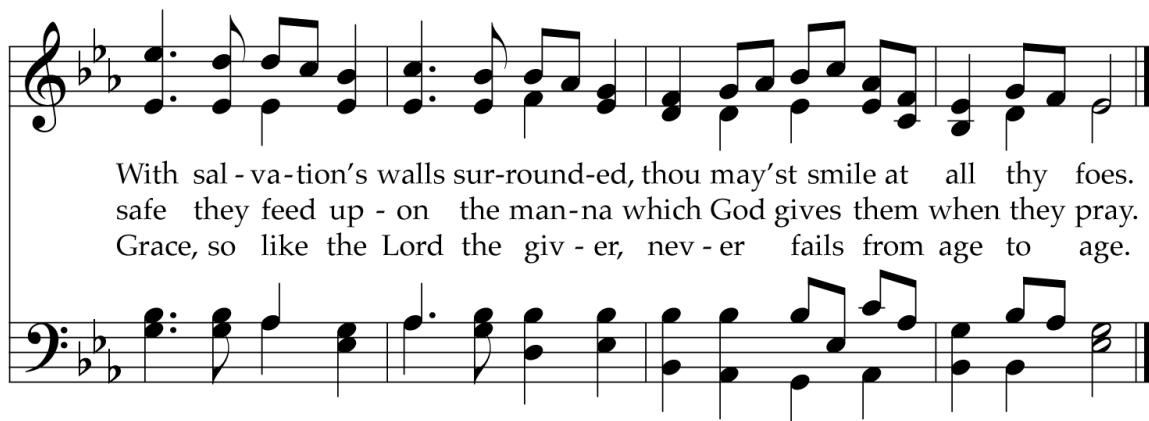
1 Glo - rious things of thee are spo - ken, Zi - on, cit - y of our God.
 2 Round each hab - i - ta - tion hov - ering, see the cloud and fire ap - pear
 3 See, the streams of liv - ing wa - ters, spring - ing from e - ter - nal love,



God, whose word can - not be bro - ken, formed thee for a blest a - bode.
 for a glo - ry and a cov - ering, show - ing that the Lord is near.
 well sup - ply thy sons and daugh - ters and all fear of want re - move.



On the rock of a - ges found - ed, what can shake thy sure re - pose?
 Thus de - riv - ing from their ban - ner light by night and shade by day,
 Who can faint while such a riv - er ev - er flows, their thirst to as - suage?



With sal - va - tion's walls sur - round - ed, thou may'st smile at all thy foes.
 safe they feed up - on the man - na which God gives them when they pray.
 Grace, so like the Lord the giv - er, nev - er fails from age to age.

The Nazi appropriation of this tune for propaganda purposes has clouded a noble piece of music first associated with this text in 1889. In a 1779 collection, the author indicated that this hymn is primarily based on Isaiah 33:20–21 with allusions to several other passages.

645 Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above



1 Sing praise to God who reigns a - bove, the God of all
 2 What God's al-might - y power has made God's gra - cious mer -
 3 The Lord is nev - er far a - way, but, through all grief
 4 Thus all my toil-some way a - long I sing a - loud



cre - a - tion, the God of power, the God of love,
 cy keep - eth; by morn - ing glow or eve - ning shade
 dis - tress - ing, an ev - er - pres - ent help and stay,
 thy prais - es, that all may hear the grate - ful song



the God of our sal - va - tion. With
 God's watch - ful eye ne'er sleep - eth. With -
 our peace and joy and bless - ing, as
 my voice un - wea - ried rais - es. Be



heal - ing balm my soul is filled, and ev - ery faith - less
 in the king - dom of God's might, lo! all is just and
 with a moth - er's ten - der hand God gent - ly leads the
 joy - ful in the Lord, my heart; both soul and bod - y,



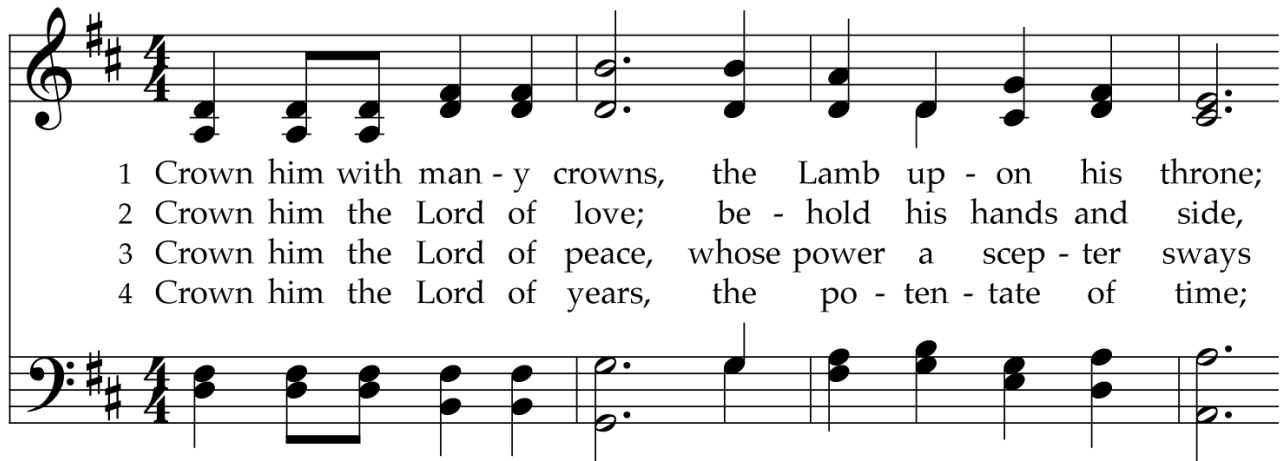
THANKSGIVING



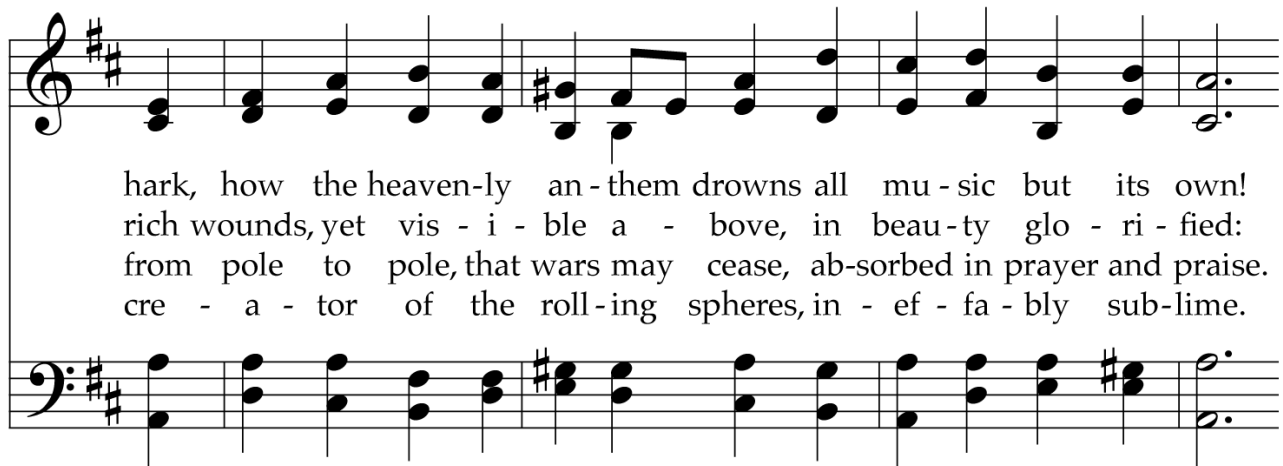
mur - mur stilled:
 all is right: to God all praise and glo - ry!
 cho - sen band:
 take your part:



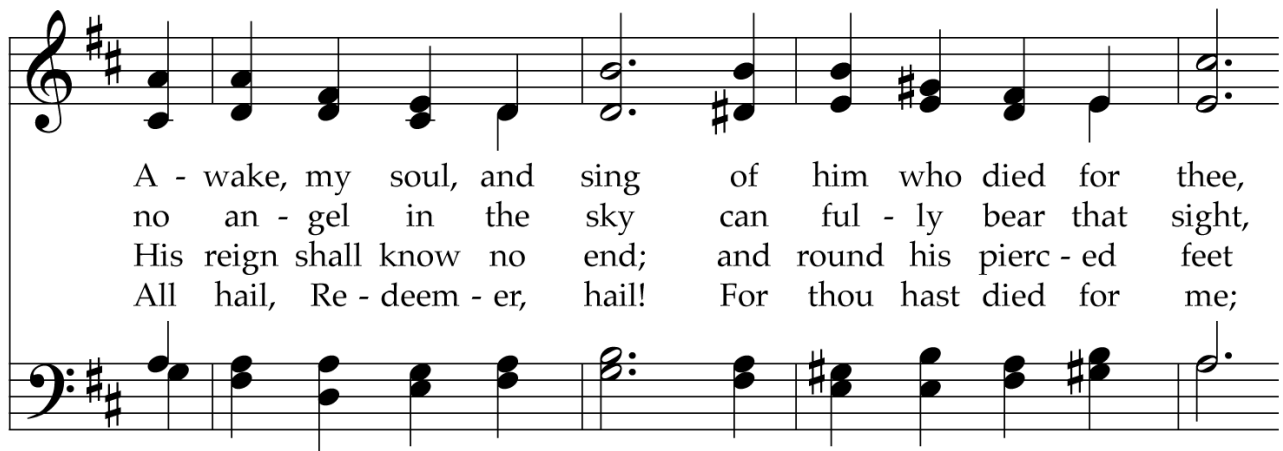
Crown Him with Many Crowns 268



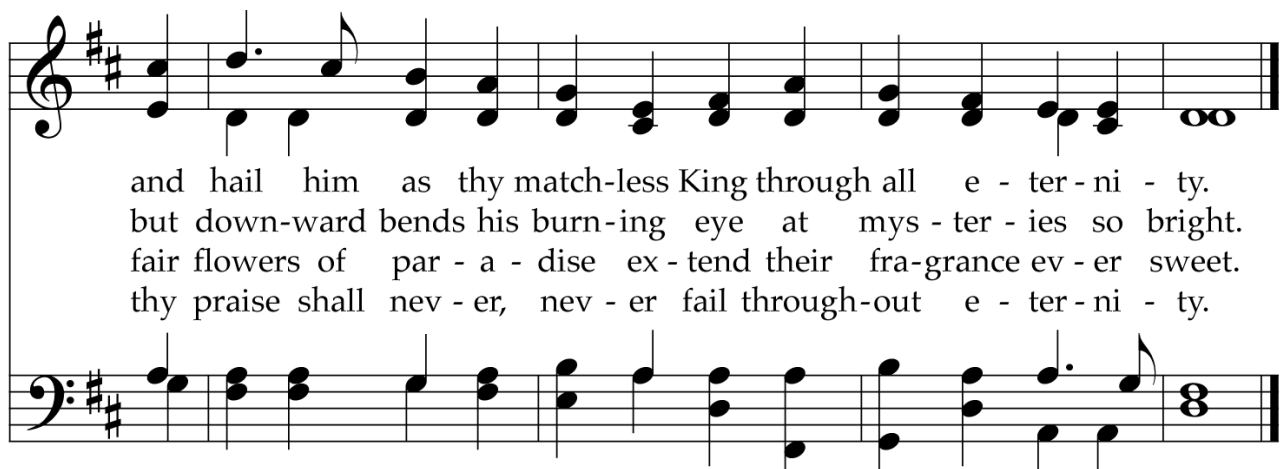
1 Crown him with man - y crowns, the Lamb up - on his throne;
 2 Crown him the Lord of love; be - hold his hands and side,
 3 Crown him the Lord of peace, whose power a scep - ter sways
 4 Crown him the Lord of years, the po - ten - tate of time;



hark, how the heaven-ly an - them drowns all mu - sic but its own!
 rich wounds, yet vis - i - ble a - bove, in beau - ty glo - ri - fied:
 from pole to pole, that wars may cease, ab - sorbed in prayer and praise.
 cre - a - tor of the roll - ing spheres, in - ef - fa - bly sub - lime.



A - wake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,
 no an - gel in the sky can ful - ly bear that sight,
 His reign shall know no end; and round his pierc - ed feet
 All hail, Re - deem - er, hail! For thou hast died for me;



and hail him as thy match-less King through all e - ter - ni - ty.
 but down-ward bends his burn - ing eye at mys - ter - ies so bright.
 fair flowers of par - a - dise ex - tend their fra - grance ev - er sweet.
 thy praise shall nev - er, nev - er fail through - out e - ter - ni - ty.