

The United Methodist Church at Absecon

100 Pitney Rd // Absecon, NJ 08201

609.641.1265 // abseconumc.com

abseconumc@comcast.net

The Reverend David L. Ledford III, Pastor

ReverendDaveLedford@gmail.com

Priscilla Cunningham,
Director of Music and Organist



Traveling Straight Paths

September 28, 2025

Today's Lay Reader: Melissa Wilson

Welcome

Prelude

Prelude

J. S. Bach

Call to Worship

Leader: Come! Come from our sanctuary or from your home. Come at 11 AM on Sunday or any time during the week. Come whenever and wherever you are. Come! Worship is called in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit!

People: **We come, ready to trust in the Lord with all our hearts, and lean not on our own understanding.**

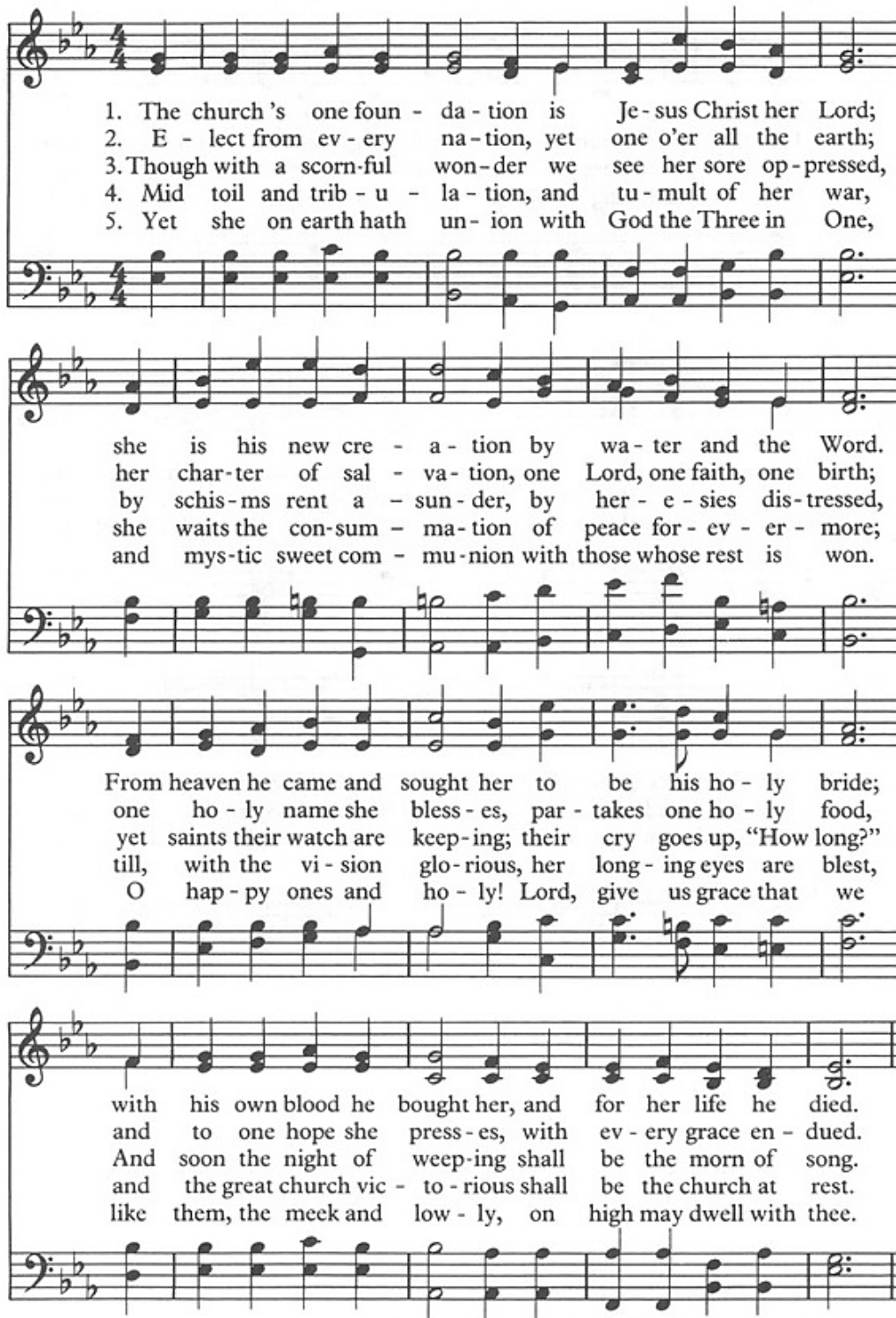
Leader: In all our ways, we will acknowledge God, and God will make our paths straight.

People: **We will keep God's words in our hearts. They bring strength for the journey, and joy for the soul.**

Hymn

The Church's One Foundation

(verses 1, 2, 4, and 5)



1. The church's one foun - da - tion is Je - sus Christ her Lord;
 2. E - lect from ev - ery na - tion, yet one o'er all the earth;
 3. Though with a scorn - ful won - der we see her sore op - pressed,
 4. Mid toil and trib - u - la - tion, and tu - mult of her war,
 5. Yet she on earth hath un - ion with God the Three in One,

she is his new cre - a - tion by wa - ter and the Word.
 her char - ter of sal - va - tion, one Lord, one faith, one birth;
 by schis - ms rent a - sun - der, by her - e - sies dis - tressed,
 she waits the con - sum - ma - tion of peace for - ev - er - more;
 and mys - tic sweet com - mu - nion with those whose rest is won.

From heaven he came and sought her to be his ho - ly bride;
 one ho - ly name she bless - es, par - takes one ho - ly food,
 yet saints their watch are keep - ing; their cry goes up, "How long?"
 till, with the vi - sion glo - rious, her long - ing eyes are blest,
 O hap - py ones and ho - ly! Lord, give us grace that we

with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.
 and to one hope she press - es, with ev - ery grace en - dued.
 And soon the night of weep - ing shall be the morn of song.
 and the great church vic - to - rious shall be the church at rest.
 like them, the meek and low - ly, on high may dwell with thee.

Opening Prayer

Gracious and faithful God, we gather in Your presence with grateful hearts. You are the One who directs our steps and makes our paths straight. Teach us to trust in You with all our hearts, to lean not on our own wisdom, but to rest in Your guiding hand. When we trust in you, we know that you will guide us in the right paths. Help us, Lord, to trust in you and your guidance. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Chorus

Sanctuary

Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and true;
With thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for You.

Senior Choir

What a Friend
Violin – Susan Elsayed

Don Besig

Young Disciples Chatting with the Rev

Scripture Lesson

Proverbs 3:1-6

My child, do not forget my teaching,
but let your heart keep my commandments,
for length of days and years of life
and abundant welfare they will give you.

Do not let loyalty and faithfulness forsake you;
bind them around your neck;
write them on the tablet of your heart.
Then you will find favor and high regard
in the sight of God and of people.

Trust in the Lord with all your heart,
and do not rely on your own insight.
In all your ways acknowledge him,
and he will make straight your paths.

Leader: The Word of God for the people of God

People: **Thanks be to God**

Message

Traveling Straight Paths

Offering Ourselves and Our Gifts to God

Offertory

"Air" from Westminster Suite

Henry Purcell

Doxology

Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

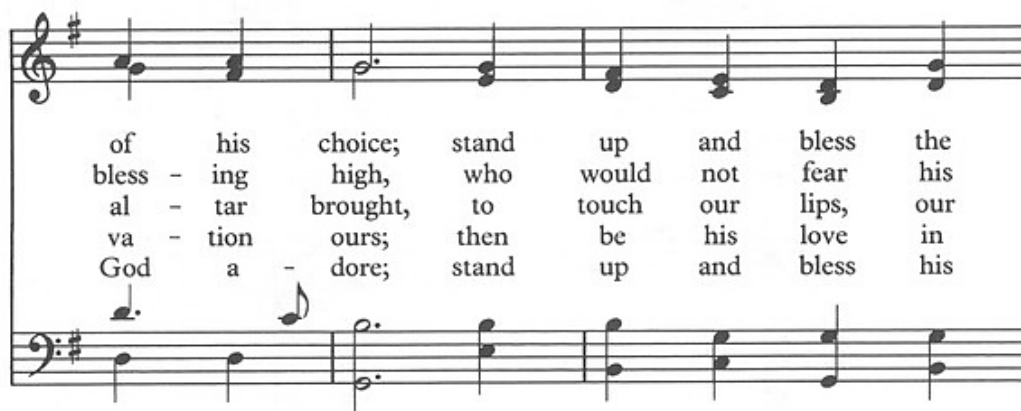
Hymn

Stand Up and Bless the Lord

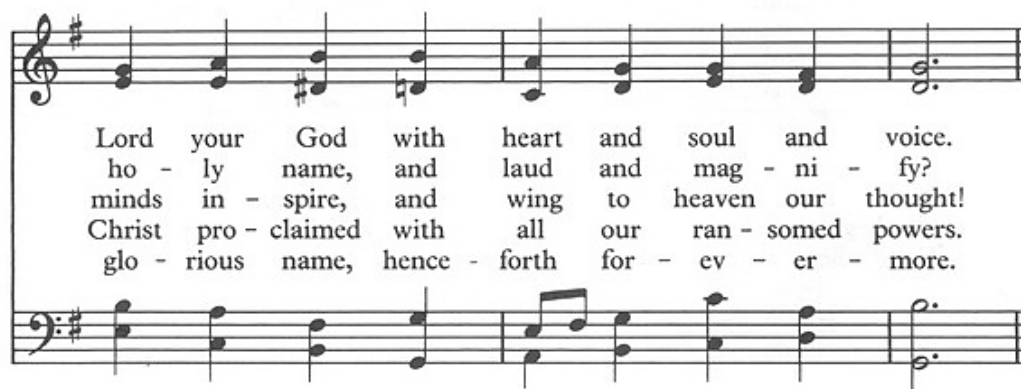
(verses 1, 2, 4, and 5)



1. Stand up and bless the Lord, ye people
2. Though high above all praise, above all
3. O for the living flame from his own
4. God is our strength and song, and his sal -
5. Stand up and bless the Lord; the Lord your



of his choice; stand up and bless the
bless - ing high, who would not fear his
al - tar brought, to touch our lips, our
va - tion ours; then be his love in
God a - dore; stand up and bless his



Lord your God with heart and soul and voice.
ho - ly name, and laud and mag - ni - fy?
minds in - spire, and wing to heaven our thought!
Christ pro - claimed with all our ran - somed powers.
glo - rious name, hence - forth for - ev - er - more.

Benediction

Postlude

The Awakening

Edward Broughton