

Sunday, October 25th, 2026
Our Stewardship Story: Restore
Baptism Sunday

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Introit

“Worship God with Music” Natalie Sleeth

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Call to Worship

Fran Kelly

In worship we tell a story:

A story of an unfettered love that changed the world.

In worship we tell a story:

A story of how we live and how we long to live.

In worship we tell a story:

Because we are forgetful people.

So may we remember who we are.

May we release the narratives that trap us.

May we reimagine this world to see what God sees.

And may we work toward restoration.

It's all that easy, and it's all that hard.

Let us worship holy God.

***Hymn**

“This Is the Moment”

please see the insert

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Prayer for Illumination

Fran Kelly

God, we cannot do the work of restoration without your Word. We cannot do the work of remembering, releasing, or reimagining without your Word. We need you like the earth needs rain and a sailboat needs wind. We come to you in prayer to ask that you breathe new life into us. Grant us the clarity needed to hear your Word anew. And as you do, restore us to your breath. Restore us to your Word. Restore us to one another. Gratefully we pray. Amen.

Anthem

“Cantate, Exsultate” by David Waggoner

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CELEBRATION OF BAPTISM

Candidate: William Allen Fitzsimmons

Parents: Taylor and Allen Fitzsimmons

Godparents: Eric Petsch and Donna Mattingly

Introduction

Rev. Abby Gackenhaimer

Following the tradition of Jesus who welcomed children into his community, we celebrate the presence of children within this community of faith....

QUESTIONS OF THE PARENTS AND GODPARENTS: **Rev. Abby Gackenhaimer**

Pastor: Allen and Taylor, do you desire to have your child baptized into this Christian community? If so please say, “we do”. **Parents: “we do”**

Pastor: Allen and Taylor, Eric and Donna, will you encourage this child to learn from the wisdom of the prophets; doing justice, loving mercy, and walking humbly with his God? If so please say, “we will”. **All: “we will”**

Pastor: Allen and Taylor, Eric and Donna, will you be responsible for seeing that this child is brought up in the Christian faith, loving and serving his neighbors and understanding Jesus as a guide to how God would have us live? If so please say, “we will”. **All: “we will”**

Pastor: Allen and Taylor, Eric and Donna, will you teach this child to honor the faith questions that belong to him throughout his life? If so please say, “we will”. **All: “we will”**

Pastor: Allen and Taylor, Eric and Donna, will you journey with this child to discover the wonder of God’s love made manifest here this day? If so please say, “we will”. **All: “we will”**

Congregational Assent

Chris Smith, Deacon

Jesus calls us to welcome children into the full life of our community, opening our table and hearts to those most vulnerable, offering the wisdom of the ages to all who hunger for truth. Do you, who witness and celebrate this sacrament, promise your love, support, and care to this child being baptized as he lives and grows in this faith community?

Congregation: *We promise our love support and care.*

Baptismal Prayer

Rev. Abby Gackenhaimer

We thank you, God, for the gift of creation made known to us in water and word. Before the world had shape and form, your Spirit moved over the waters....

ACT OF BAPTISM

Rev. Abby Gackenhaimer

By what name will your child be called? *William Allen Fitzsimmons*

Prayer of Dedication:

Chris Smith, Deacon

God of wonder and grace, we thank you for your love revealed here in this community, these parents, and this child come together making covenant promises. We pray that this community will have the grace to uphold the promises made here this day, providing a safe shelter of your love in which William may grow and play. We pray that Taylor and Allen may continue to feel the sweet wonder of your presence so transparent here today. We pray that William will bask in your love as he makes his own journey through this life. In your love we pray. Amen.

Presentation of the Child

Rev. Abby Gackenhaimer

Hymn

“Child of Blessing, Child of Promise”

NCH #325

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Scripture

John 21:1-19

Fran Kelly

Following the scripture, children are welcome to join Mrs. Fran in the Friendship Hall.

Sermon

Restore

Rev. Abby Gackenhaimer

Music of Reflection

Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer and Lord’s Prayer

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.

Prayer Response

“Hear My Prayer” by Moses Hogan

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Sharing Our Stewardship Story

Larry Neary

Call to Offering

Offertory

****Doxology Pilgrim Hymnal #515 *[alternative words]***

Praise God from whom all blessings flow

Praise Him [God], all creatures here below

Praise Him [God] above, ye heavenly host

Praise Father [Creator], Son [Christ], and Holy Ghost. Amen

***Unison Prayer of Dedication**

God, we offer you these gifts, and pray that you would take this offering and turn it into ministry. Use these gifts to transform the world we live in to better reflect the home you have envisioned for us—a home of peace, a home built on the foundation of love.

Gratefully we pray, amen.

***Hymn**

“For the Beauty of the Earth”

NCH# 28

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Benediction

Benediction Response

“Choral Chalice Lighting” by Charles Schott

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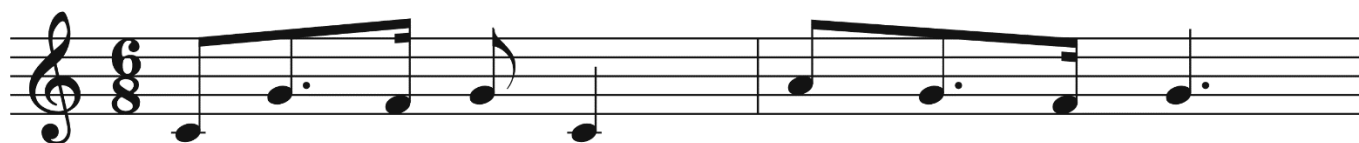
Postlude

Liturgy by Rev. Sarah Are | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org: Our Money Story | Words for Worship
Baptism adapted from the UCC BOW

THIS IS THE MOMENT

Hannah C. Brown

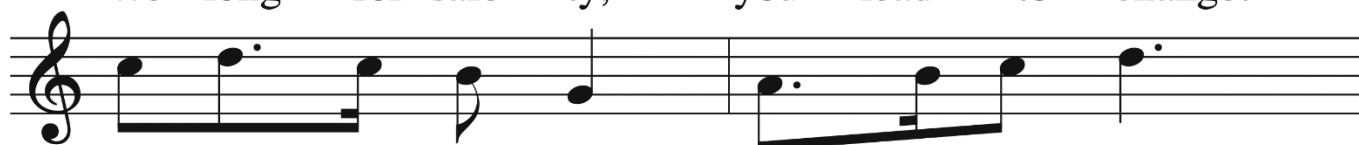
THIS MOMENT
Benjamin Brody



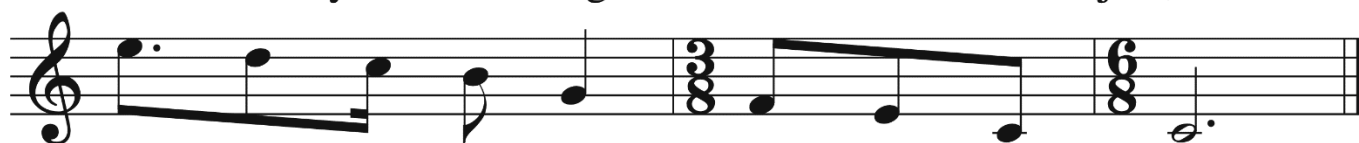
1., 5. This is the mo - ment, here is the place,
2. What is this wel - come, balm for the soul?
3. What is this wa - ter, wash - ing us new?
4. What is this free - dom, sol - emn and strange?



we are the peo - ple yours is the grace.
We seek our heal - ing, you mend the whole.
We search for an - swers, you teach what's true.
We long for safe - ty, you lead to change.



O - pen our sens - es, feel how it starts:
Here is com - mun - ion mak - ing us one.
Here is your sum - mons: "Don't hes - i - tate!
Here is your chal - lenge: "Do what is just;



you send your spir - it, we give our hearts.
Grate - ful, we en - ter what you've be - gun.
Join in this jour - ney, new lives a - wait."
dare to love deep - ly, learn how to trust."

Child of Blessing, Child of Promise

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Ronald S. Cole-Turner, 1981


1 Child of bless-ing, child of prom-ise, bap - tized with the Spir-it's sign;
2 Child of love, our love's ex-pres-sion, love's cre - a - tion, loved in-deed!
3 Child of joy, our dear-est trea-sure, God's you are, from God you came.
4 Child of God your lov - ing Par - ent, learn to know whose child you are.



With this wa - ter God has sealed you un - to love and grace di - vine.
Fresh from God, re - fresh our spir - its, in - to joy and laugh - ter lead.
Back to God we hum-bly give you; live as one who bears Christ's name.
Grow to laugh and sing and wor - ship, trust and love God more than all.

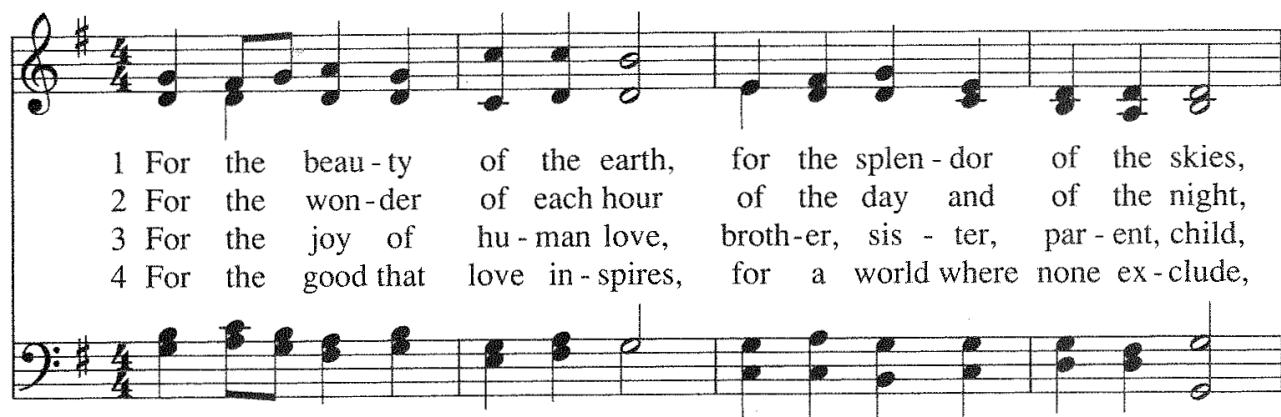
Ronald Cole-Turner, a teacher of theology, is an ordained minister of the United Church of Christ. He is an award-winning author on the interface of science and religion.

Tune: STUTTGART 8.7.8.7.
Attrib. to Christian F. Witt (1660–1716), in
Psalmodia Sacra, Gotha, 1715

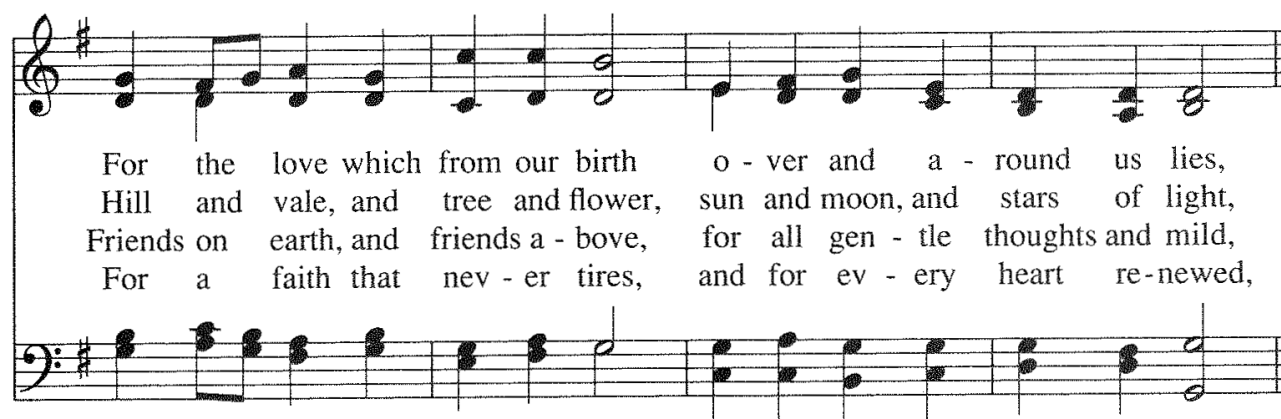
For the Beauty of the Earth

St. 1-3, Folliott S. Pierpoint, 1864; alt.

St. 4, Miriam Therese Winter, 1993

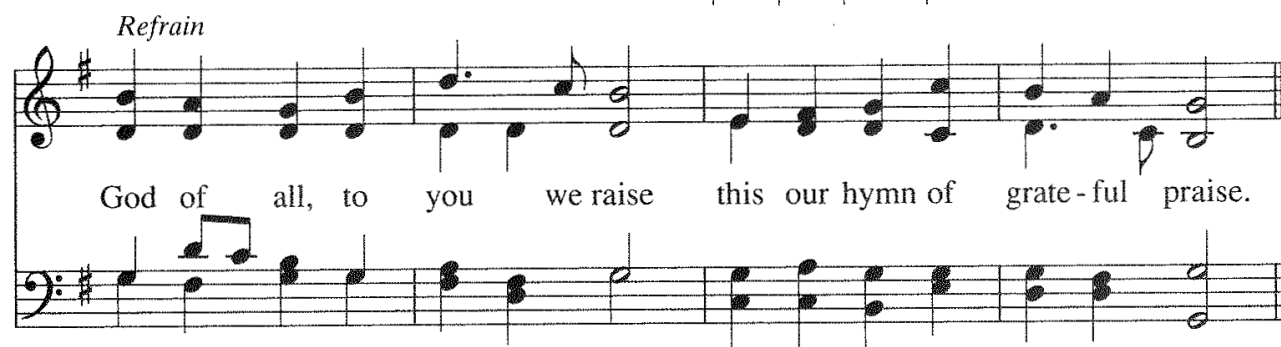


1 For the beau - ty of the earth, for the splen - dor of the skies,
 2 For the won - der of each hour of the day and of the night,
 3 For the joy of hu - man love, broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child,
 4 For the good that love in - spires, for a world where none ex - clude,



For the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies,
 Hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light,
 Friends on earth, and friends a - bove, for all gen - tle thoughts and mild,
 For a faith that nev - er tires, and for ev - ery heart re - newed,

Refrain



God of all, to you we raise this our hymn of grate - ful praise.

Folliott S. Pierpoint, author of numerous hymns, penned these verses near his native city of Bath, England, on a late spring day when flowers were in full bloom and all the earth seemed to rejoice.

Tune: DIX 7.7.7.7. with refrain

Conrad Kocher, 1838

Adapt. William H. Monk, 1861