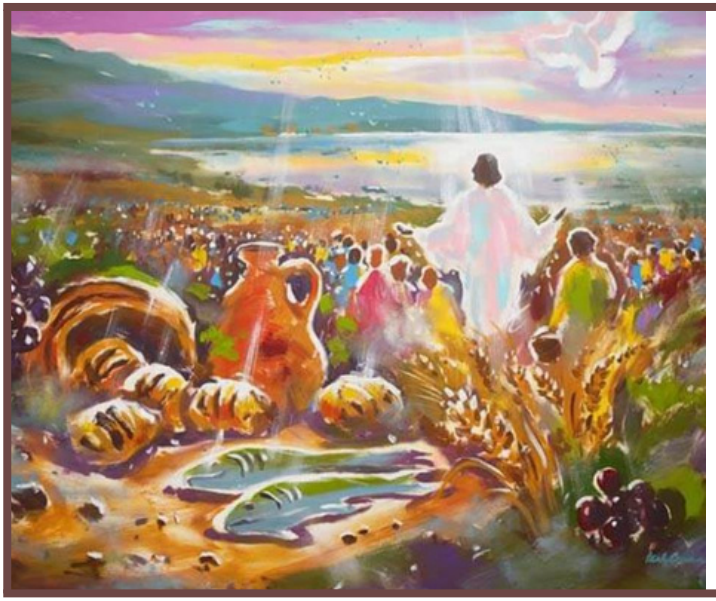


November 8, 2026

"Stewardship — When Love Leads Us to Enough"

Giving Sunday

Welcome!
We encourage wearing name tags.
Restrooms: main level (exit front left), lower level (at foot of entry stair/elevator)

Gathering Music

Ringing of the Bell

Prelude & Candle Lighting "Come Just as You Are/Jesus, Draw Me Close"
arr Tornquist

...quietly acknowledging the light of Christ among us

Words of Welcome & Announcements

One Whoever we are and wherever we are on our life journey -
All We are welcome here - beloved within the body of God

Singing Bowl *...centering ourselves in stillness and breath*

Opening Words from a Neighbor

**indicates sitting or standing*
NCH = New Century Hymnal SPP = Sing! Prayer and Praise

***Gathering Prayer** (*responsive*)

Holy Spirit, you gather us as one body.
Strengthen the bonds of affection that hold your people together.

Bless us with grace to cooperate with one another in love and service.
May we practice compassion and uniting love in a fractured world.

As we face into challenges with imagination,
As we face into disappointments with prayerful trust –
May we, your church, bring forth your reign of love. Amen.

***Opening Hymn (NCH #349)** "I Come with Joy"
verses 1-3

Prayer of Confession and Longing (*unison*)

God of all, you reveal opportunities to do justice and practice kindness.
Sometimes we step forward; sometimes we turn away.
Sometimes we take paths that lead away from you.

Be with us on the journey. Draw us closer to you.
Help us as we reach out to others in companionship, generosity, and solidarity.
Creator, Revealer, Sustainer – may we embody your love through our living.
Amen.

Musical Interlude *...to accompany our quiet prayers*

Assurance of Grace

The peace of Christ be with you! **And also with you!**

Passing the Peace *(seated)*

...smiles and gestures of peace - to those online and seated near us

---

Sung Invitation to Children and Youth *...as they come forward*

This little light of mine...

Singing "Happy Birthday"

Debi Orff (11/9), **Pat** Mazzitello (11/10), **Andre** Harrison (11/10), **Rev. Fritz** West (11/10), **Wendy** Heurung (11/11), **Bob** Heurung (11/13)

Wondering Together

Blessing One Another *...with arms wide open*

Young Ones: God be with you **All: And also with you**

Sung Affirmation *...as young people depart or return to families*

Ev'rywhere I go...

Sunday School | *Children (age 3 - gr. 4) can go downstairs with Claire*
Youth Group | *Youth (gr. 5-12) can go with Eli'jah to our downstairs Youth Room*
Nursery | *Families with infants & toddlers are welcome to use the downstairs nursery*
We welcome the sounds and movements of children who stay in worship!

Reading from the Gospels | *NRSV, p. 97* John 6:1-15

Ancient words can speak to us today. **We listen for our still speaking God.**

Contemporary Reading | *Gwen Westerman* "Give-Away Song"

God speaks wisdom through our neighbors. **May we be moved by what we hear.**

Morning Message "Stewardship — When Love Leads Us to Enough"

Prayer Song (NCH #554) "Out of the Depths, O God, We Call"

Prayers of the People

We share aloud prayers for ourselves, others, and parts of the world
Please tell Pastor Clare if you prefer yours not be added to our printed Prayer Corner

...God, in your love **Hear our prayer**

Prayer of Jesus

We use several versions of this prayer, faithfully expressed across the ages

Our Father and Mother who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name.
Thy kindom 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 kindom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Witnessing Steward **Betsy Runke**

Connect, Grow, Love | Our Oct. 25 - Nov. 8th annual Giving Drive invites us to consider pledging financial support for our congregation's ministry in 2027

Invitation to the Offering

We give by cash, check or electronically (scan the QR code)
Blue electronic giving cards are in pew pockets

Offertory "Choral" *J.S. Bach*

We bring forward to the giving basket:
2027 pledge forms, today's offerings & electronic giving cards,
poinsettia order forms, shared ministry inventories, prayers jotted on Welcome Forms

***Song of Thanks**

Praise, God, for these gifts;
we lift them up for heaven's blessing.
Praise God, for these gifts;
we lift them up to serve you, Lord.

***Prayer to Consecrate our Gifts and Intentions** *(unison)*

God of all – you inspire our commitments to give away a portion of our resources. Bless our gifts of gratitude, investment, and trust. Uplifted by your loving presence, we recommit to serving as your hands and feet through the ministry of this congregation. May the gifts we give move us to more deeply and fully embody your justice, kindness, and love. Amen.

***Closing Song (NCH #570)** "We Shall Overcome"

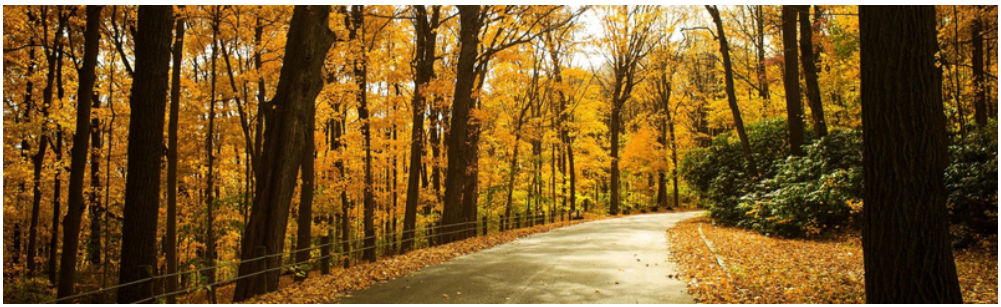
***Benediction**

***Sending Song (NCH #81)** *...forming a circle*

"God Be With You"
verses 1 and 4 (refrain x2)

***Parting Music** *...as we greet one another*

Today following worship:
all are welcome to longer for refreshments and good company!



Pastor Clare will be away on vacation | November 9 - 16

In the event of a question or need, please contact one of the following:

Megan Adams, Office Coordinator (651-439-5667, office@stcroixunitedchurch.org)
Nat Graf, Leadership Council Moderator (651-470-0408, ngraf11@gmail.com)

PRAYER CORNER

*With Dave Staberg, prayers of healing for nephew, **Jordan**, who was recently in a terrible accident with severe burns over a large portion of his body (likely will be hospitalized for at least a month).

*With Sharon Neuenfeldt, prayers for brother, **Alan**, as he recovers from surgery for a rare cancer.

*With Betsy Runke, prayers of healing and peace for her oldest sister, **Vicky**, as she struggles with hospitalization amidst dementia.

*With Gary Piasecki, prayers for all who loved his cousin **Nancy**, who passed last week.

*With Cindy Baker, prayers of healing for cousin **Lynette** following a recent cancer surgery.

*With Mick Buss, prayers for his neighbor's son, **Tim**, recently diagnosed with esophageal cancer.

*With Mary Horak Binger, prayers for **all who struggle with addiction**, and for those who love and support them.

*With Pastor Clare, gratitude for last weekend's **"Walk & Roll for Lowe Syndrome Awareness."**

*With Bob Dickie, prayers that **Israel and the United States** will once again lead in peace and love.

*May **our nation** continue to grow in directions of peace, safety, and dignity for all.

A Big Thanks...!

With gratitude, the Finance Committee acknowledges the generous anonymous gift recently received to cover the pulpit supply expense while Pastor Clare was on sabbatical this summer.

Thank You!

Neighbors In Need - THANK YOU!

We donated $380 for 2026!

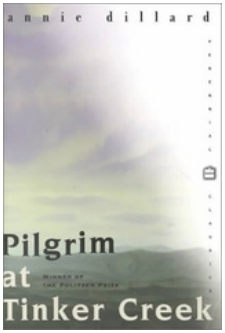
The Neighbors in Need offering supports ministries of justice and compassion, with one-third of the offering given to the Council for American Indian Ministries and the remaining two-thirds supporting UCC justice ministries. In 2025 the Neighbors in Need Offering supported 26 grant recipients across the UCC who were engaged in projects of direct service and advocacy.

Community Collective Craft Night

Wednesday, Nov. 11th | 6:30 pm

Come for our Free Wednesday Supper...
Then stay for crafting with friends and conversation!

Bring a friend!



Faith & Spirit Book Club

Thursday, November 12th | 6 pm

Pilgrim at Tinker Creek by Annie Dilliard
"A personal narrative highlighting one year's exploration on foot in the author's own neighborhood in Tinker Creek, VA. In the summer, Dillard stalks muskrats in the creek & contemplates wave mechanics; in the fall she watches a monarch butterfly migration & dreams of Arctic caribou. She tries to con a coot; she collects pond water & examines it under a microscope. She unties a snake skin, witnesses a flood, & plays 'King of the Meadow' with a field of grasshoppers."

Questions? Contact Mary Piasecki (715-205-8692) or
Betsy Runke (303-229-5763)

Valley Bookseller in Stillwater has copies for 15% off!

Soup & Shop is coming!

Saturday, Nov. 21st | 10 am - 3 pm

Want to help? Sign-ups are available in the Fellowship Hall for:

- Crafts
- Soups, Baked Goods, Pies, Cookies (for variety boxes)
- Kitchen & Dining Room help
- Cashiers, Greeters, Raffle Assistants
- Set-up and Clean-up
- Porch Pot & Swag Party

Questions can be directed to Mary Horak Binger (651-357-8601).

Week at a Glance

Pastor Clare on Vacation | **Nov. 9 - 16**

Personnel Committee | **Nov. 9, 6 pm** | via Zoom

Office Closed | **Nov. 10**

Social Justice Team | **Nov. 10, 11 am** | @ Church
Finance Committee | **Nov. 10, 12 pm** | @ Church

FREE Community Meal | **Nov. 11, 5:30 pm** | @ Church
Teen Time | **Nov. 11, 6 pm** | @ Church
Craft Night | **Nov. 11, 6:30 pm** | @ Church
Leadership Council | **Nov. 11, 6:30 pm** | @ Church & Zoom

Book Club | **Nov. 12, 6 pm** | @ Church
Community Collective | **Nov. 12, 7 pm** | @ Church

Thank you to today's partners: Sharon Neuenfeldt (Worship Accompanist), Lori Mildon (flute), Mary Horak Binger & Carol Dusbabek (ushers), Kathy Iverson (greeter), Sharri Kinkead (liturgist), St. Croix United Choir, Sue Favilla (fellowship), Paul Spilseth, Bob Dickie & Mark Stephan (tech team), Jackie Savage (sanctuary organizer), Claire Spilseth & Roger Klisch (children's activity)

St. Croix United Church
www.stcroixunitedchurch.org @SCUCBayport

Pastor Clare Gromoll
pastor@stcroixunitedchurch.org, (651) 600-6409

Megan Adams | Office Coordinator
office@stcroixunitedchurch.org, (651) 439-5667

Eli'jah Carroll | Youth Coordinator
youth@stcroixunitedchurch.org, (920) 650-1225

Heather Kennedy-Bordeaux | Music Director
(651) 470-1502

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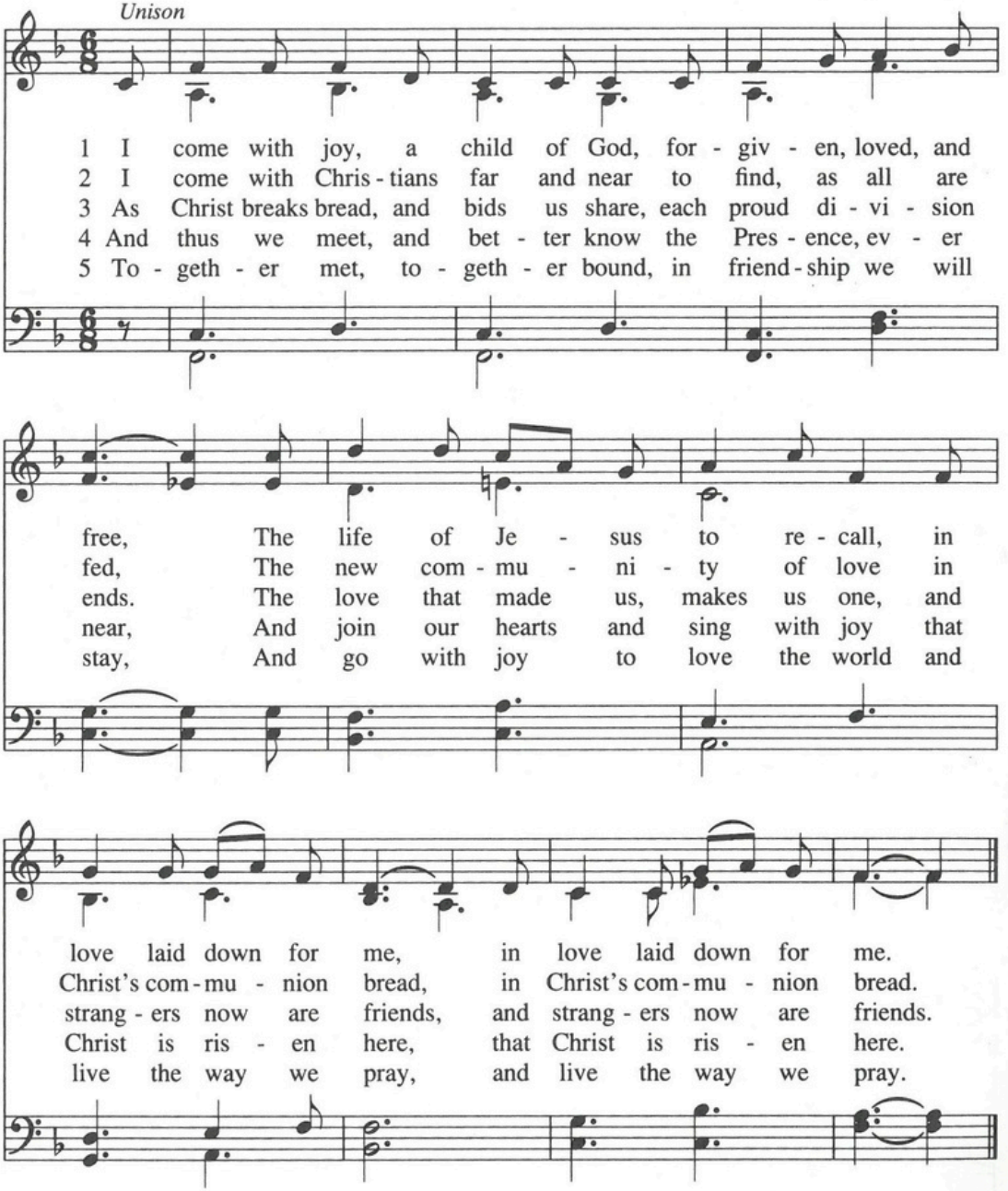
349 I Come with Joy

Brian Wren, 1968; rev. 1982, 1994

Unison

One of Brian Wren's most widely published texts, this hymn was originally written to "sum up a series of sermons on the meaning of communion. It tries to use simple words to suggest important theological themes."

Tune: DOVE OF PEACE 8.6.8.6.6.
Southern Harmony, *1835*
Arr. Austin Lovelace, 1977

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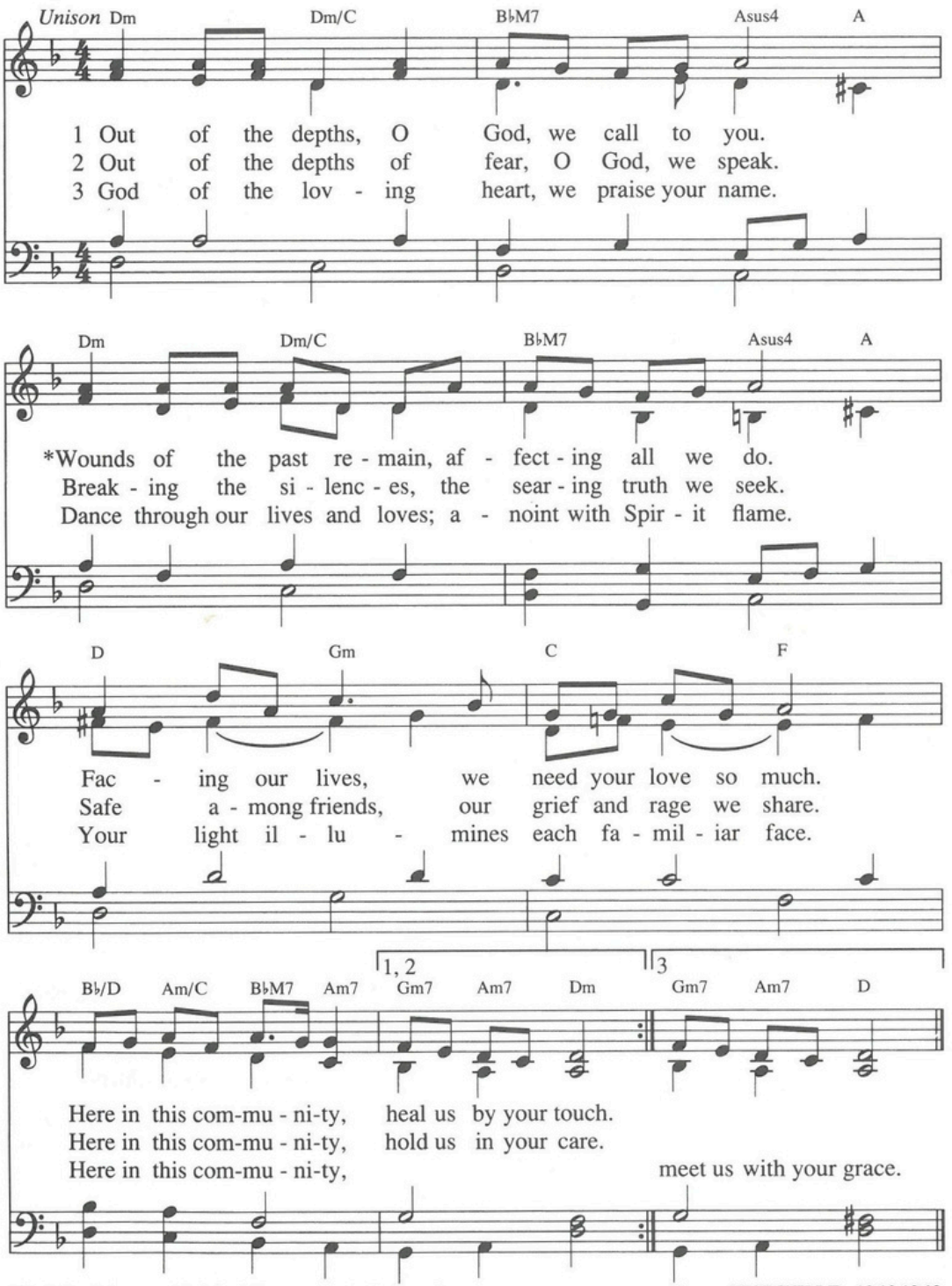
Out of the Depths, O God, We Call

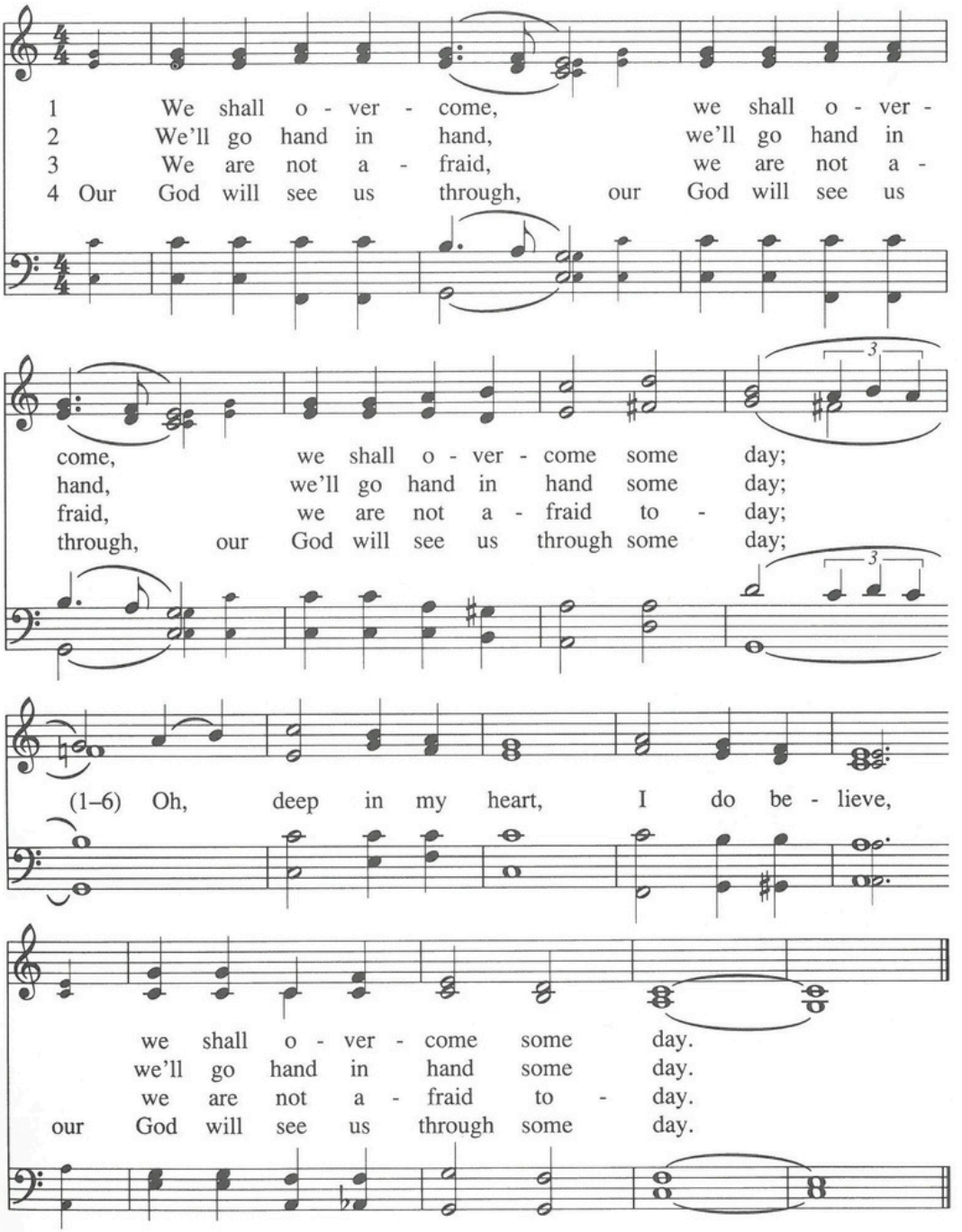
554

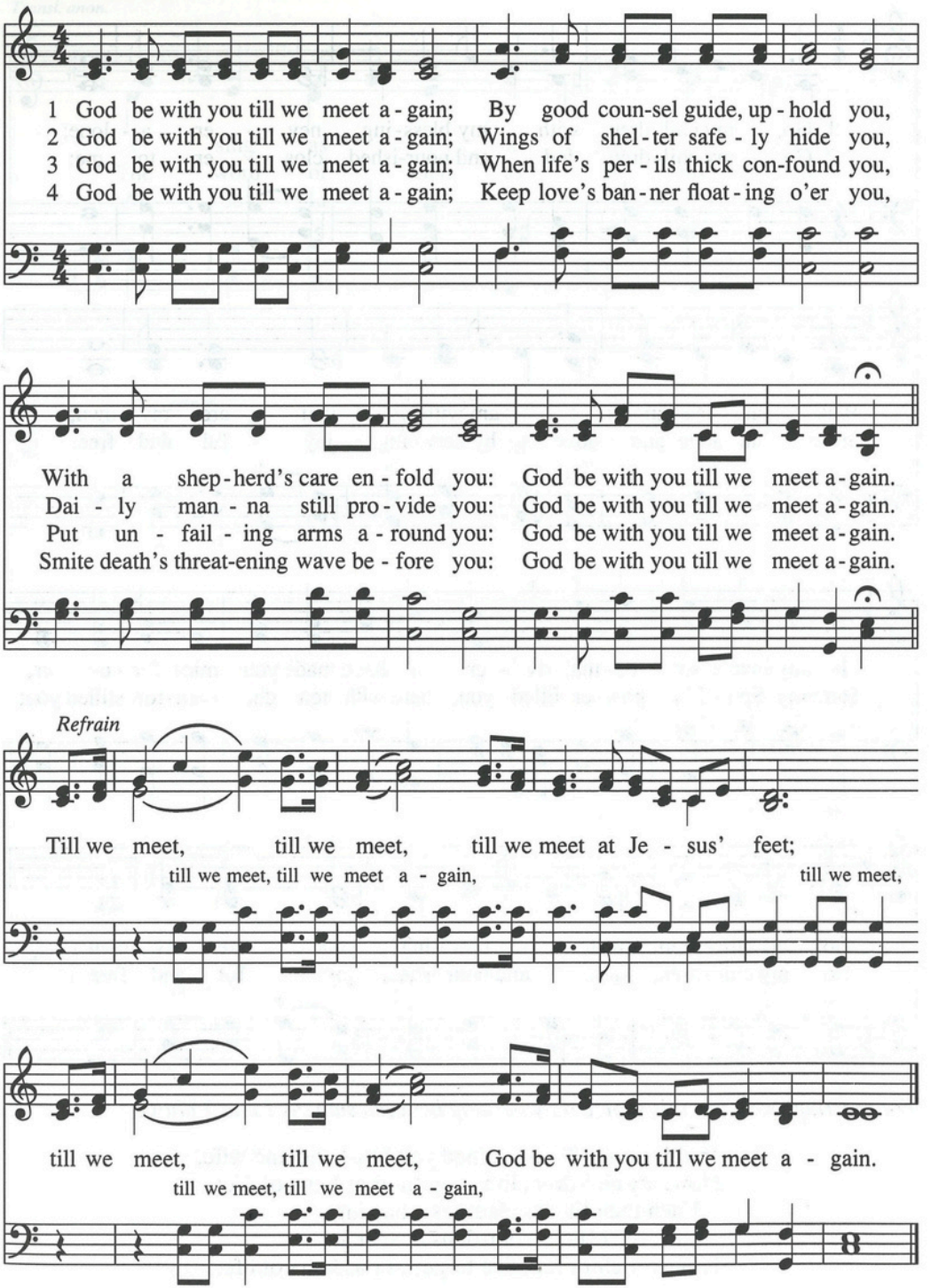
Ruth Duck, 1988

Ps. 130:1–8

We Shall Overcome

570

United States traditional

John 8:31–32; Rom. 12:21; 2 Cor. 13:11

5 The truth shall make us free . . . some day.
6 We shall live in peace . . . some day.

God Be with You

Jeremiah E. Rankin, 1880; alt.