



# 267 Come, Christians, Join to Sing

1 Come, Chris - tians, join to sing: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!  
 2 Come, lift your hearts on high: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!  
 3 Praise yet our Christ a - gain: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!

Loud praise to Christ our King: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!  
 Let prais - es fill the sky: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!  
 Life shall not end the strain: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!

Let all, with heart and voice, be - fore his throne re - jice;  
 He is our guide and friend; to us he'll con - de - scend;  
 On heav - en's bliss - ful shore his good - ness we'll a - dore,

praise is his gra - cious choice: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!  
 his love shall nev - er end: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!  
 sing - ing for - ev - er - more: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!

Like many other hymns of praise, this text was originally addressed to children but has been embraced by adults as well. Although the tune's repetitive elements suggest folk origins (possibly with alternating groups of singers), no specific source has been identified.

## Prayer of Confession

Eternal God, who knows us through and through, we confess we have tried to hide from you, especially those parts of us we are not proud of. We have lived for ourselves and apart from you. We have turned from our neighbors and failed to bear the burdens of others. We have ignored the pain of the world, and passed by the hungry, the poor and the oppressed... (Silence, followed by:) Forgive us, O God, and move us to trust, that we may boldly live your grace and love; through Jesus Christ our Savior, Amen.

## Assurance of God's Grace

Hear the good news. The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. Jesus bore our sins that we might be dead to sin and alive to all that is good. Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life has gone; a new life has begun. Know that you are forgiven and be at peace.

## Passing of the Peace

### Anthem

### *Bread of the World*

John Abdenour

*Bread of the world in mercy broken,  
Wine of the soul, in mercy shed,  
By whom the words of life were spoken,  
And in whose death our sins are dead.*

*Look on the heart, by sorrow broken,  
Look on the tears by sinners shed;  
And be thy feast to us the token  
That by thy grace our souls are fed.*

- Reginal Heber (1783-1826)

## Prayer for Illumination

Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that as the scriptures are read and your Word is proclaimed, we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen.

## Listen to the Word: 1 Samuel 3:1-20

Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the Lord under Eli. The word of the Lord was rare in those days; visions were not widespread.

At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the Lord, where the ark of God was. Then the Lord called, 'Samuel! Samuel!' and he said, 'Here I am!' and ran to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' But he said, 'I did not call; lie down again.' So he went and lay down. The Lord called again, 'Samuel!' Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' But he said, 'I did not call, my son; lie down again.' Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. The Lord called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' Then Eli perceived that

the Lord was calling the boy. Therefore Eli said to Samuel, ‘Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, “Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.”’ So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

Now the Lord came and stood there, calling as before, ‘Samuel! Samuel!’ And Samuel said, ‘Speak, for your servant is listening.’ Then the Lord said to Samuel, ‘See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make both ears of anyone who hears of it tingle. On that day I will fulfil against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end. For I have told him that I am about to punish his house for ever, for the iniquity that he knew, because his sons were blaspheming God, and he did not restrain them. Therefore I swear to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli’s house shall not be expiated by sacrifice or offering for ever.’

Samuel lay there until morning; then he opened the doors of the house of the Lord. Samuel was afraid to tell the vision to Eli. But Eli called Samuel and said, ‘Samuel, my son.’ He said, ‘Here I am.’ Eli said, ‘What was it that he told you? Do not hide it from me. May God do so to you and more also, if you hide anything from me of all that he told you.’ So Samuel told him everything and hid nothing from him. Then he said, ‘It is the Lord; let him do what seems good to him.’

As Samuel grew up, the Lord was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground. And all Israel from Dan to Beer-sheba knew that Samuel was a trustworthy prophet of the Lord.

## **Reflection on the Word and Life**

### **\*Affirmation of Faith** (adapted from the Brief Statement of Faith)

We trust in God the Holy Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the Church. In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God’s new heaven and new earth, praying, “Come, Lord Jesus!”

### **\*Doxology** (Tune: Old Hundredth, Hymn 607)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God for all that love has done;  
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen.

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## **The Sacrament of Holy Communion**

### **Invitation to the Table**

## **Communion Prayer**

The Lord's Prayer (traditional)

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.

## **Words of Institution / Sharing of the Bread and Cup**

## **Prayer of Dedication**

\* *Hymn 761*    **Called as Partners in Christ's Service**

BEECHER

## **\*Charge and Benediction**

### **Choral Response    *God Be in My Head***

Lorayne Coombs

*God be in my head, and in my thinking.*

*God be in my eyes, and in my looking.*

*God be in my mouth, and in my speaking.*

*Oh, God be in my heart, and in my understanding.*

### **Postlude        *Festive Trumpet Tune***

David German

## **Leading Worship**

Rev. Ruth Goldthwaite

Ryan Dye, Minister of Music

FPC Chancel Choir

Rev. Ruth Hicks

Dena Duncan, Liturgist

## Called as Partners in Christ's Service 761



1 Called as part-ners in Christ's ser-vice, called to min-is-tries of grace,  
 2 Christ's ex-am-ple, Christ's in-spir-ing, Christ's clear call to work and worth,  
 3 Thus new pat-terns for Christ's mis-sion, in a small or glob-al sense,  
 4 So God grant us for to - mor-row ways to or - der hu - man life



we re-pond with deep com-mit-ment fresh new lines of faith to trace.  
 let us fol-low, nev - er fal-tering, rec - on - cil - ing folk on earth.  
 help us bear each oth - er's bur-dens, break-ing down each wall or fence.  
 that sur-round each per - son's sor-row with a calm that con-que-rs strife.



May we learn the art of shar-ing, side by side and friend with friend,  
 Men and wom-en, rich - er, poor - er, all God's peo-ple, young and old,  
 Words of com-fort, words of vi-sion, words of chal-lenge, said with care,  
 Make us part-ners in our liv - ing, our com-pas-sion to in - crease,



e - qual part-ners in our car - ing to ful - fill God's cho - sen end.  
 blend - ing hu - man skills to - geth - er gra - cious gifts from God un - fold.  
 bring new power and strength for ac - tion, make us col - leagues, free and fair.  
 mes - sen - gers of faith, thus giv - ing hope and con - fi - dence and peace.

This hymn is a celebration of mutuality and diversity as well as a challenge to the Christian community to live out a ministry of reconciliation and inclusion. This 20th-century text is set to a 19th-century tune named for the noted pastor and preacher Henry Ward Beecher.