

UNITED CHURCH *of* CHAPEL HILL

FESTIVAL WORSHIP



OCTOBER 4, 2026 | 10:30 A.M.

*Please stand, as able, when indicated by asterisk. **Bold text indicates congregational response.**

OPENING VOLUNTARY

Saman

Olafur Arnalds

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Adapted from Psalm 139 (CEB)

Where could I go to get away from God's spirit?

Where could I go to escape God's presence?

If I went up to heaven, God would be there.

If I went down to the grave, God would be there too!

If I could fly on the wings of dawn,

stopping to rest only on the far side of the ocean—

even there God's hand would guide me;

even there God's strong hand would hold me tight!

If I said, "The darkness will definitely hide me;

the light will become night around me,"

even then the darkness isn't too dark for you!

Nighttime would shine bright as day,

because darkness is the same as light to you!

COLLECT IN ESPAÑOL

Dios misericordioso, que nos llamas a amar a nuestro prójimo como a nosotros mismos, nos has bendecido con muchas lenguas para alabar tu santo nombre. Oramos por la unidad de la iglesia, por todos los que celebran su culto en inglés o en español, y por los inmigrantes que viven de la fe en un país desconocido. Por Cristo Jesús, que hace un hogar para todos tus hijos. Amén.

Merciful God, who calls us to love our neighbor as ourselves, you have blessed us with many tongues to praise your holy name. We pray for the unity of the church, for all who worship in English or Spanish, and for immigrants who live by faith in an unfamiliar country. Through Christ Jesus, who makes a home for all your children. Amen.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

*HYMN OF PRAISE 33

God Created Heaven and Earth
(see insert)

TÕA-SĪA

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

CHILDREN'S RESPONSE

Where Children Belong



This, this is where chil-dren be-long, wel-come as part of the wor-ship-ing throng.



Wa-ter, God's Word, bread and cup, prayer, and song: This is where chil-dren be-long.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

John 3:1-21

NRSVUE

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person.” Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

“Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned, but those who do not believe are condemned already because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”

SERMON

By Night

Jackson Ringley

MUSIC FOR REFLECTION

CALL TO SHARING

***DOXOLOGY**

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Praise God from whom all bless-ings flow; Praise Christ all crea-tures here be-low;
O, praise God! Al-le-lu-ia! Praise Ho-ly Spi-rit, Com-for-ter;
One, God, Tri-une whom we a-dore, O, praise God! O, praise God!
Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God of grace,
hear our prayer.

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.

INVITATION TO AN OPEN TABLE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

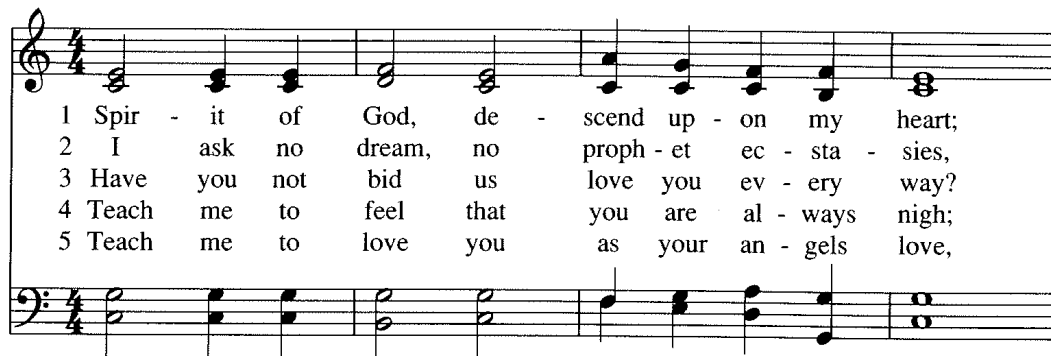
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

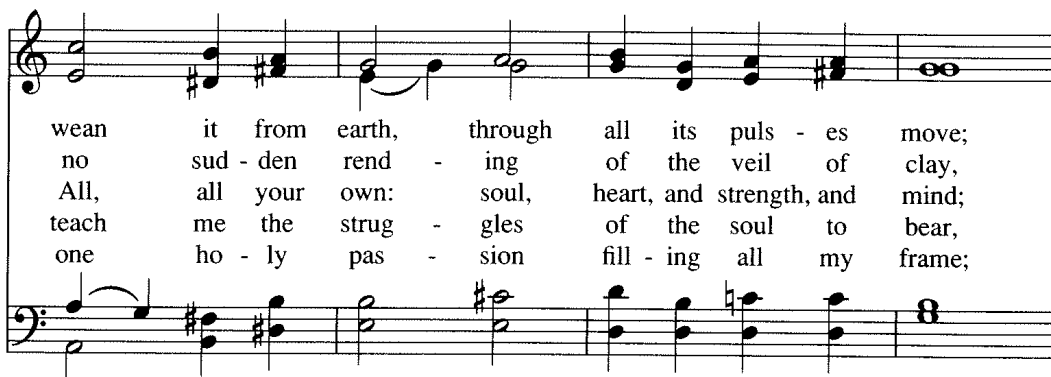
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

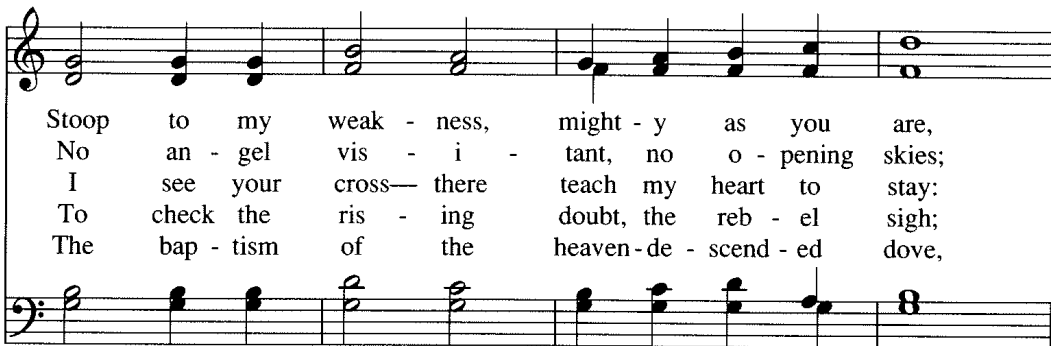
Please come forward to receive the bread and cup. We offer a gluten-free option in the basket with purple linens and serve only non-alcoholic grape juice. Raise your hand if you would like a pastor to bring the elements to you.



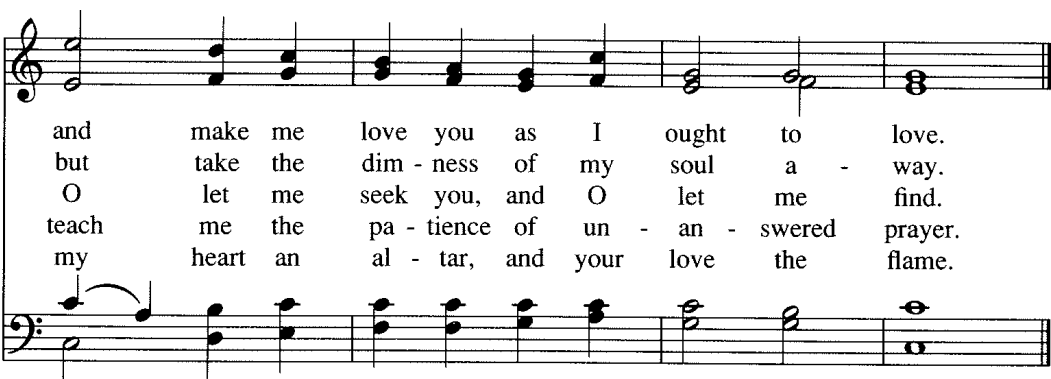
1 Spir - it of God, de - scend up - on my heart;
 2 I ask no dream, no proph - et ec - sta - sies,
 3 Have you not bid us love you ev - ery way?
 4 Teach me to feel that you are al - ways nigh;
 5 Teach me to love you as your an - gels love,



wean it from earth, through all its puls - es move;
 no sud - den rend - ing of the veil of clay;
 All, all your own: soul, heart, and strength, and mind;
 teach me the strug - gles of the soul to bear,
 one ho - ly pas - sion fill - ing all my frame;



Stoop to my weak - ness, might - y as you are,
 No an - gel vis - i - tant, no o - pening skies;
 I see your cross—there teach my heart to stay;
 To check the ris - ing doubt, the reb - el sigh;
 The bap - tism of the heaven-de - scend - ed dove,



and make me love you as I ought to love.
 but take the dim - ness of my soul a - way.
 O let me seek you, and O let me find.
 teach me the pa - tience of un - an - swered prayer.
 my heart an al - tar, and your love the flame.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

We give thanks, gracious God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

*HYMN OF BLESSING

Through the Night
(see insert)

lyrics by Jackson Ringley, music by Reyna Alston

*BENEDICTION

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Rondeau in C minor

Johann Sebastian Bach

GRATITUDE CORNER

I appreciate *all* UCCH folks who collaborated so beautifully on the special joint service celebrating 30 years of Spanish language ministry. I want to highlight the contributions of La Mesa music leaders Adrián Valiente and Brendan Smith, along with the La Mesa choir. La Mesa musicians bring us joy and delight from the first irresistible note of every hymn, anthem, or instrumental arrangement. We are blessed with Adrián and Brendan's abundant musical skills, talents, and creativity. We are extra blessed to know them as warm, caring wonderful humans! —With gratitude, Julie Mitchell

Submissions needed! If you can name something about our church community that makes you want to give thanks and sing in less than 200 words, we'd love to share your thoughts in our weekly worship bulletins and newsletters. Send your submission to mmee@unitedchurch.org.

WELCOME!

If you are new to United Church, we are so glad you are here. Please stop by the Welcome Table to fill out a contact card and take a gift bag with more information about our congregation. We also invite you to introduce yourself to a pastor and join us in Fellowship Hall for coffee and refreshments following worship.

CHURCH EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN

UCCH has a response plan in place for health/safety emergencies or other unexpected situations. If you would like more details, please contact a Deacon or Pastor.

IFC PROJECT 5000

Stop by the narthex table and grab a shopping list of most-needed items and a bag to fill! Each bag will provide emergency food for a family of four for two days. Return filled bags to the narthex by October 11.

THE PEOPLE'S TRIBUNAL: U.S. GOVERNMENT COMPLICITY IN GAZA LIVE SCREENING

Saturday, October 10 | 1-8pm | UCCH Fellowship Hall

Through testimony, evidence, and dialogue, the People's Tribunal will explore the role of elected officials and government institutions in shaping US policy toward Gaza. Purpose: to educate the public, promote informed civic engagement, and build support for policy reforms that strengthen accountability, human rights, and adherence to US and international law. This screening is organized by local peace and justice groups including Palestinian Justice Partners. RSVP to LLewis2001@earthlink.net.

HEAVEN PRACTICE HOUSING LAUNCH FOR DEEPLY AFFORDABLE HOMEOWNERSHIP

Sunday, October 11, 6:00 – 7:30pm

Mt Zion AME Church, 5124 NC-86, Hillsborough

United Church has committed to send a crowd to the October 11 kick-off event for Heaven's Practice Deeply Affordable Housing Campaign. We need you there! Let's support this joint campaign with Justice United and Habitat for Humanity to make the dream of home ownership possible for households making as little as \$32,000. This will be a significant step toward our shared commitments to racial and economic justice for our neighbors.

UCCH YOGA & PILATES CLASSES

Join us for yoga with Melanie Joiner and pilates-style classes led by Karen Setty! All levels welcome. **Fridays at 9am in the Assembly Hall:** Oct 9 - Pilates; Oct 16 - chair yoga; Oct 23 - yoga. Questions? Contact Melanie at melanie.spence@gmail.com and Karen at karen.setty@gmail.com.

JOYAS DE JOY JEWELRY COLLECTION

Donate gently used jewelry and small accessories for the Alternative Gift Market! Proceeds support the Language Learning Ministry. Donations (clean and in good condition) may be placed in the marked box in the office lobby on Sundays or dropped off at the office Monday–Friday, 9:30am–5pm. Deadline: November 8. Contact Linda Soto (linsoto@gmail.com) with questions.

UPCOMING COMMUNITY FORUMS

Sundays at 9:15am in the Fellowship Hall

October 11 - No forum

October 18 - *Data Centers with Dan Vermeer:* Dan Vermeer, a former UCCH member and Duke University professor, will present “Sacred Ground: AI Infrastructure, Local Communities, and the Future We Choose”. He will explain what AI actually runs on, where and how it's being built, who bears the costs, and who gets a say.

UCCH 101 FOR PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS

Sunday, October 25 at 9:15am in the library

Sunday, Nov. 22: Membership Day - meet at 9:30 in the library for celebration breakfast & preparing to join

Interested in joining United Church as a member, or just in learning more about this congregation or denomination? UCCH 101 is for you! Visit bit.ly/UCCH101 to RSVP and join us for any of the UCCH 101 meetings leading up to membership day. Over breakfast, we'll explore spirituality, our church community and denomination, with plenty of time for questions and conversation.

MORE ANNOUNCEMENTS IN ENEWS

Our email newsletter is sent weekly on Tuesdays (English) & Fridays (Spanish). Sign up at unitedchurch.org.

FROM THE UCCH LIBRARY

- ★ Zaleski, P. The night journey of Nicodemus. Parabola: Myth, Tradition, and the Search for Meaning, 23(4), p61-68, Winter 1998. 291.1 Par
 - ★ Taylor, B.B. Born again. In “Holy Envy: Finding God in the Faith of Others,” p161-174. 261.2 Tay H
 - ★ Reyes-Chow, B. “Everything Good about God Is True: Choosing Faith.” 230 Rey E
 - ★ Evans, R.H. “Wholehearted Faith.” 248.4 Eva W
- These items are on the small wooden rack in the center of the library. A volunteer, Linda Lambert, will be in the library immediately following today's service, to assist you in finding library materials.

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

SERVICE NOTES

MUSIC: Mark Rossnagel, guest pianist
DEACON: Jean Anne Barnes
GREETERS: Peter Barnes
READER: Seth Murray
LIVESTREAM: Peter Schay
COFFEE HOST: Christine "Chew-Mee" Kirtland

COVER ART: *Born Again* by Lauren Wright Pittman, 2016 | © A Sanctified Art | sanctifiedart.org
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UNITED CHURCH STAFF

SENIOR PASTOR: Rev. Cameron Barr
ASSOCIATE PASTOR: Rev. Caleb Wolf
MINISTER TO CHILDREN: Anitra Grove
MINISTER TO YOUTH AND FAMILIES: Jackson Ringley
MINISTER OF MUSIC: Reyna Alston
PROGRAM ORGANIST: Julie Mitchell
JUNIOR CHOIR DIRECTOR: Elizabeth Brown
LA MESA CHOIR DIRECTOR: Adrián Salvador Valiente Tame
LA MESA ACCOMPANIST: Brendan Smith
ADJUNCT MUSIC STAFF: Charles Bradshaw (United Voices of Praise Director)

CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR: Kati Ruark
BUSINESS MANAGER: Duane Gilbert
COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER: Marisa Mee
SEXTON: Bruce Thomas
KITCHEN STEWARDS: Hser Nay Htoo, Zoila Fonseca
NURSERY ASSISTANTS: Brody Tapper, Connor Gilmore, Elizabeth Hall, Ella Law, Jack Tanner, John Grove, Karleigh Purcell, Lauren Shultz, Luke Atkinson, Parker Shultz, Sylvia Sadgrove, Wylie Kenan

Bienvenido. Welcome. Visitors are invited to take a contact card from the Narthex or Sanctuary pew pockets to fill out and place in the offering plate. / *Se invita a los visitantes a coger una tarjeta de contacto de los bolsillos de los bancos del Nártex o del Santuario para rellenarla y depositarla en el plato de las ofrendas.*

Or complete the form online:
O rellene el formulario en línea:



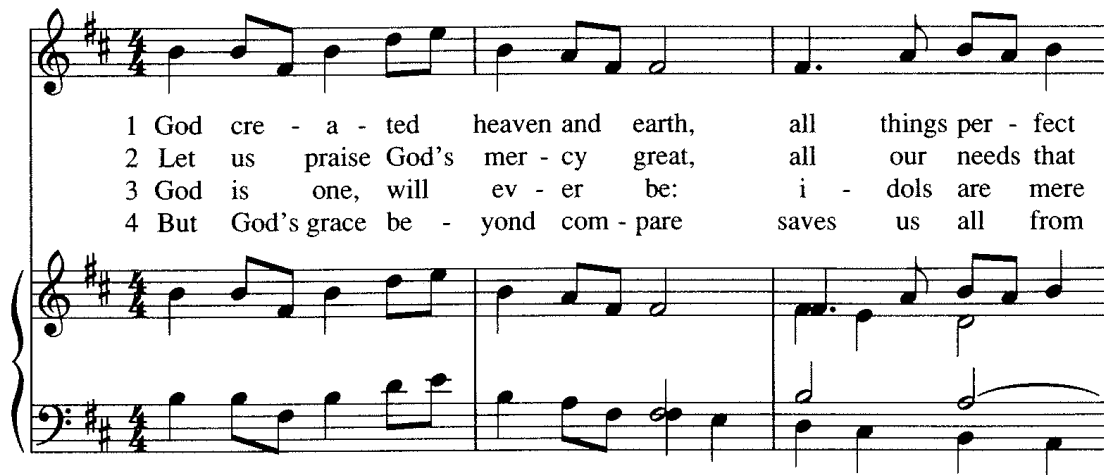
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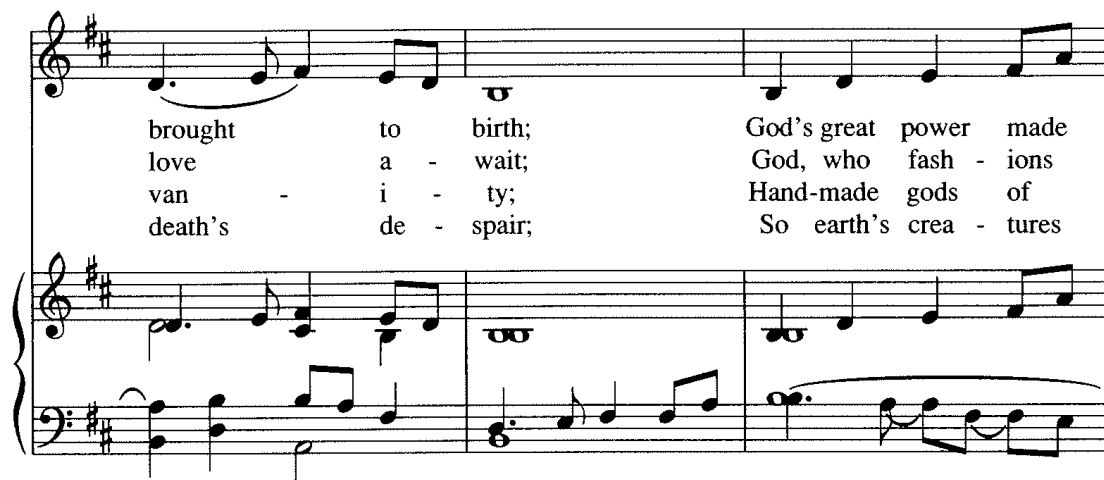
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PHONE
919-942-3540

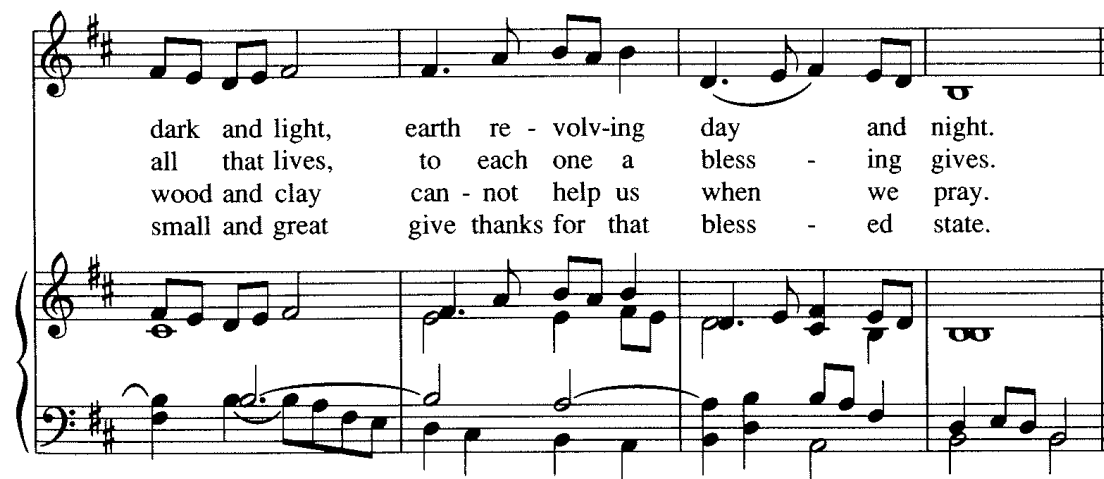
A PLACE *of* BELONGING FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN



1 God cre - a - ted heaven and earth, all things per - fect
 2 Let us praise God's mer - cy great, all our needs that
 3 God is one, will ev - er be: i - dols are mere
 4 But God's grace be - yond com - pare saves us all from



brought to birth; God's great power made
 love a - wait; God, who fash - ions
 van - i - ty; Hand-made gods of
 death's de - spair; So earth's crea - tures



dark and light, earth re - volv-ing day and night.
 all that lives, to each one a bless - ing gives.
 wood and clay can - not help us when we pray.
 small and great give thanks for that bless - ed state.

*HYMN OF BLESSING

Through the Night

lyrics by Jackson Ringley, music by Reyna Alston



Sun - set, day - light is fleet - ing; Li - mits make up my
Caught in a sea of ques - tions; Lead me in - to the
Christ calls the spi - rit 'round me; New birth comes from a -
My eyes lift to the moun - tains, I've seen God's heav'n - ly
New days on the hor - i - zon; Gov - erned by truth and

4



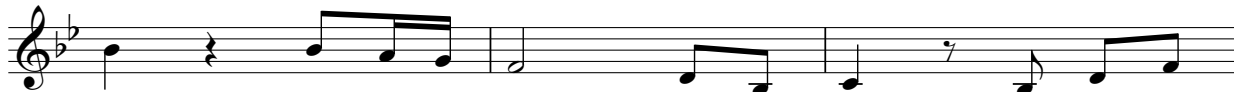
days, Will I find li - ber - a - tion from this
light, Lost in a to - tal dark - ness, Je - sus
bove. Com - fort; Je - sus as - sures me, I am
light. God's love sent to cre - a - tion in the
grace. Though we saw through a dark glass, Now we

7



world's des - pair - ing ways? I be - lieve, I be -
finds me in the night.
known and ful - ly loved.
flesh of Je - sus Christ.
see God face to face.

10



lieve! Walk with me through the night. Lord I be -

13



lieve, I be - lieve! Help my un - be - lief.