

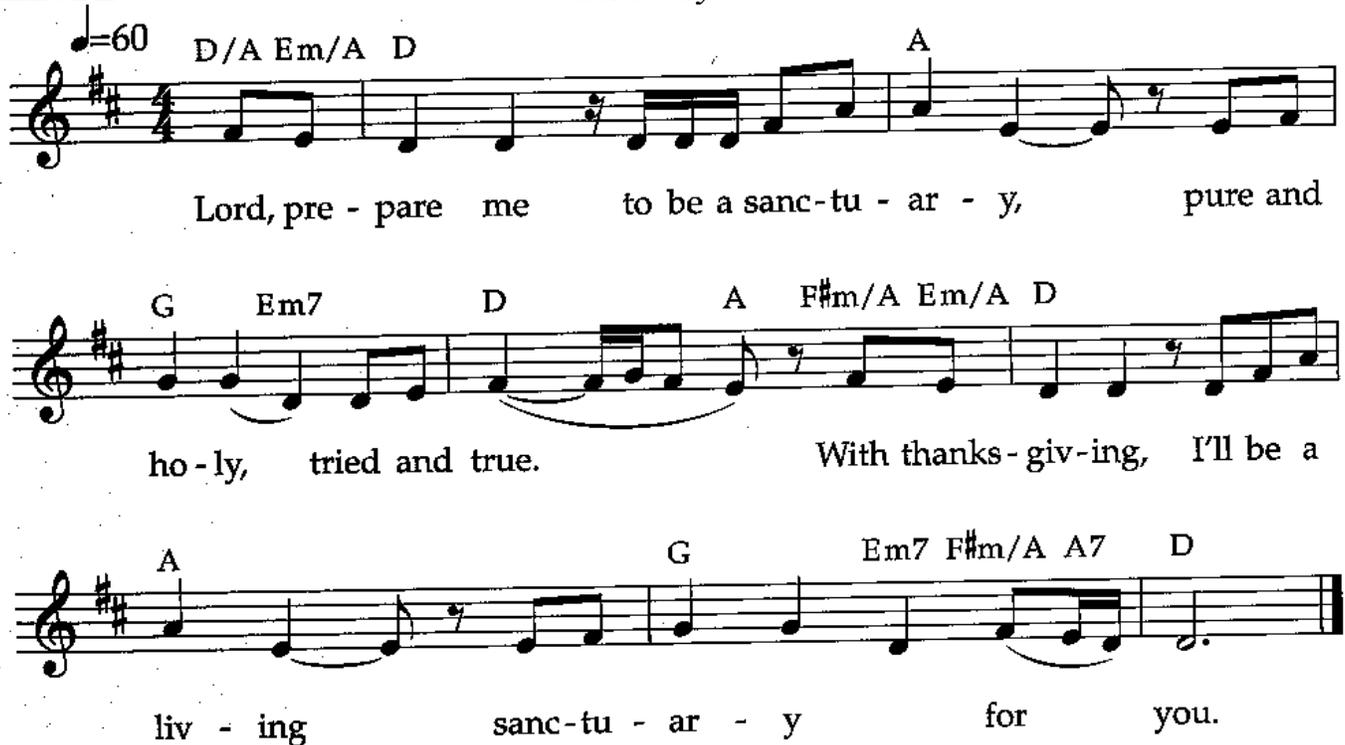
“Our faith becomes stronger as we express it; a growing faith is a sharing faith.”

— Billy Graham

## PREWORSHIP MUSIC

### PRELUDE

### Sanctuary



♩=60 D/A Em/A D A

Lord, pre - pare me to be a sanc - tu - ar - y, pure and

G Em7 D A F#m/A Em/A D

ho - ly, tried and true. With thanks - giv - ing, I'll be a

A G Em7 F#m/A A7 D

liv - ing sanc - tu - ar - y for you.

## GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PRAYER OF INVOCATION<sup>1</sup> & OFFERTORY PRAYER<sup>2</sup>

Pastor: Friends, let us worship God today, for our God is so good –  
God gifts us with Words of Life, faith, and community.  
God encourages us, loves us, and blesses us to be a blessing to others.  
Friends, let us worship God today, for our God is so good!  
Let us worship, beginning with a prayer of thanksgiving,  
and in doing so re-commit ourselves to sharing a generous portion  
of our time, talent, and financial resources,  
blessings, which come from God.

All: *Loving, Living God, be with us now. Show us your ways. Guide our steps. Live in us, that we may be people of steadfast hope and powerful giving. Help us hear your words, challenging us to give you all the things that are yours. Help us remember that all we are and all we have are gifts from you, gifts to be shared in service and love. Holy One among us, help us to be a holy people who receive your Word with you joy and live your message with love. Amen.*

<sup>1</sup> “Written by Beth Merrill Neel on her blog, ‘Hold Fast to What Is Good’. Used with permission.” (Adapted by Rev/ Laura Baker)

<sup>2</sup> Mary Scifres, on the **Ministry Matters** website. <http://www.ministrymatters.com/all/blog/entry/1779/worship-elements-october-16-2011>.

## CONFESSION (Based on Psalm 130)

Pastor: Every week, as we worship together, we have the opportunity to admit to ourselves, to each other, and to God that we do not always live as we are called. In this time of confession, this time of opening our hearts, let us remember that God is merciful and just, eager to offer grace and love. Let us offer personal prayers of confession, first in silence.

### MOMENT OF SILENCE TO OFFER PERSONAL PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

*All people: Out of the depths we cry to you, Lord. God, hear our voices. Let your ears be attentive to our cries for mercy. If you, Lord, kept a record of sins, Lord, who could stand? But with you there is forgiveness, so that we can, with reverence, serve you. We will wait for the Lord, our whole being waits, and in God's word we put our hope.*

## ASSURANCE OF GRACE

Pastor: Friends in Christ, believe the gospel truth: the mercy of God is from everlasting to everlasting in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

*All people: Thanks be to God!  
Alleluia! Amen.*

## OLD TESTAMENT – Judges 2:7-10

## EPISTLE - James 1:19-27

## GOSPEL - Matthew 5:14-20 and 28:16-20

## STUDY SERMON

*Spreading the Word*

**Rev. Laura Bair-Baker**

## INTERCESSORY PRAYER<sup>3</sup> and THE LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor: God,  
like the Israelites in the wilderness,  
we too have known your love,  
and experienced your care and provision.  
You invite us to extend that love to the world around us—  
to care for others as deeply as we care for ourselves.  
And so, we pause for a moment now, to bring before you:  
the needs of our world and local communities,  
our concern for loved ones, and our own needs... (Pause for silent prayers...)  
Lord, in your mercy,

*All: hear our prayer.*

Pastor: We pray for the many who do not have enough:  
enough food to eat, or shelter to keep warm;  
enough employment, or money to pay their bills;  
enough medicine or medical care.  
Lord, in your mercy,

*All: hear our prayer.*

Pastor: We also pray for those who have more than enough,  
but who still struggle to find meaning and purpose in life;  
who indulge in dangerous or self-serving activities -  
to dull their pain or loneliness.  
Lord, in your mercy,

*All: hear our prayer.*

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<sup>3</sup> Longhurst, Christine. re:Worship – Prayer for Others: God's Provision. July 26, 2021

Pastor: God, your grace reaches out to all of us.  
You call us to live as citizens of heaven,  
working together with one heart and mind.  
Strengthen us to live in a manner worthy  
of the Good News we have received,  
offering our lives in service of your kingdom,  
where the last are first, and the first are last,  
and there is grace enough for all.  
Lord, in your mercy,

**All:** *hear our prayer.*

Pastor: We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord,  
who taught us to pray too, saying:

**All:** *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.*

## HYMN

### *I Love to Tell the Story*

Bulletin, Last Page

## BENEDICTION (Based on Psalm 78:1-7)

Pastor: Once again, we've heard God's story—  
a story of love and faithfulness,  
of mercy and compassion.  
As God's people, we are called to bring this story to the world,  
to tell and re-tell it by our words and our actions,  
so that others may hear and join the story, too.  
So go from this time of worship with joy and courage,  
strengthened and sustained in your storytelling  
by the grace of God,  
the love of Jesus Christ,  
and the presence of the Holy Spirit.

**All:** *Amen.*

## POSTLUDE

# I Love to Tell the Story

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*I will sing of the LORD'S great love forever — Psalm 89:1 NIV*

1. I love to tell the sto - ry Of un - seen things a - bove, Of  
 2. I love to tell the sto - ry; 'Tis pleas - ant to re - peat What  
 3. I love to tell the sto - ry; For those who know it best Seem

Je - sus and His glo - ry, Of Je - sus and His love: I love to  
 seems each time I tell it, More won - der - ful - ly sweet: I love to  
 hun - ger - ing and thirst - ing To hear it, like the rest: And when, in

tell the sto - ry Be - cause I know 'tis true; It sat - is - fies my  
 tell the sto - ry, For some have nev - er heard The mes - sage of sal -  
 scenes of glo - ry, I sing the new, new song, 'Twill be the old, old

long - ings As noth - ing else can do.  
 va - tion From God's own ho - ly Word. I love to tell the sto - ry, 'Twill  
 sto - ry That I have loved so long.

be my theme in glo - ry To tell the old, old sto - ry of Je - sus and His love.

WORDS: Katherine Hankey, 1834-1911  
 MUSIC: William G. Fischer, 1835-1912

HANKEY  
 7.6.7.6.D. with Refrain