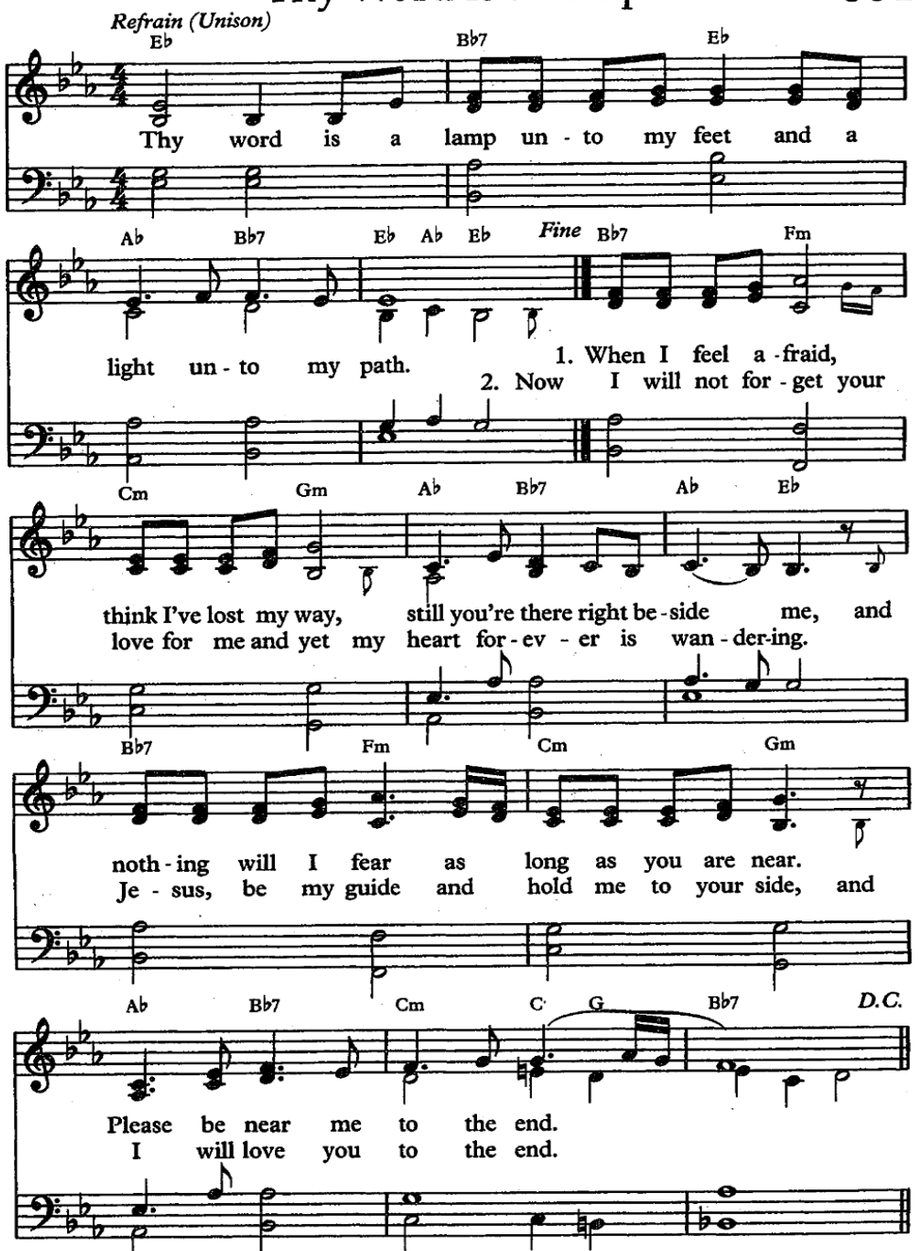
Thy Word Is a Lamp 601

WORDS: Amy Grant, 1984 (Ps. 119:105)
MUSIC: Michael W. Smith 1984; arr. by Keith Phillips

THY WORD
Irr. with Refrain

October 11, 2026

Part Two: The Faith We Make Our Own

Scripture and the Still-Speaking Spirit

GATHERING MUSIC

PRELUDE & LIGHTING OF CANDLES **Mr. Kevin Crone & Acolyte**

****ANNOUNCEMENTS ARE PRINTED IN BULLETIN & NEWSLETTER**

WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Good morning, and welcome to worship. Today we continue the Worship Series titled: *The Faith We Make Our Own* by considering how we listen for God through Scripture. We come with different experiences of the Bible. Some passages have comforted us. Some have challenged us. Some have confused us. Some may even have been used in ways that wounded us. We bring all of that honestly into the presence of God. The living God has spoken through prophets and apostles.

All: ***In Jesus Christ, God's Word took on flesh and lived among us.***

Leader: The Holy Spirit continues to create and renew the Church.

All: ***Spirit of truth, open our minds and soften our hearts.***

Leader: We come not to master Scripture, but to listen, wrestle, question, and be formed.

All: ***Give us humility to learn, courage to change, and love to guide our understanding.***

Leader: God is still speaking.

All: ***We are still listening. Let us worship God!***

OPENING HYMN ***"Standing on the Promises"*** **BLUE Hymnal #552**

CALL TO CONFESSION

Leader: Scripture tells the truth about human life - including our tendency to confuse our own certainty with God's voice. Trusting that grace makes honesty possible, let us confess the ways we have listened carelessly, spoken too quickly, or used holy words without holy love.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: ***Still-Speaking God, you have given us Scripture to teach, challenge, comfort, and equip your people for lives of faithfulness. Yet we confess that we do not always read with humility or care. Sometimes we take words out of context. Sometimes we avoid passages that unsettle us. Sometimes we assume that our interpretation must be the only faithful one. Sometimes we use Scripture to win arguments, defend our preferences, silence questions, or place burdens on others that we would not carry ourselves. Forgive us when we speak in your name without listening for your Spirit. Free us from fear, pride, and easy***

certainty. Teach us to read with minds awake, hearts open, and lives centered in Jesus Christ. May our understanding bear the fruit of love, justice, mercy, and peace. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

Leader: Hear the good news: God's Word became flesh in Jesus Christ, full of grace and truth. Christ does not abandon us to our misunderstandings or mistakes. The Holy Spirit continues to teach, correct, renew, and lead us toward truth.
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and invited to begin again with greater humility, deeper love, and renewed courage.

All: ***Thanks be to God, who is still speaking and still forming us. Amen.***

PRAISE HYMN ***"Gloria Patri"*** **BLUE Hymnal #35**

PASSING THE PEACE

Leader: Because Christ meets us with grace, we can meet one another with humility and peace. The peace of Christ is with you.

All: ***And also with you.*** *(The congregation shares signs and words of peace.)*

CHILDREN'S TIME

HYMN ***Wonderful Words of Life*** **BLUE Hymnal #323**

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING **2 Timothy 3:14–17**

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING **1 Thessalonians 5:19–22**

GOSPEL READING **Mark 12:28–34**

SERMON **Mrs. Peg Gingerich**

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER *(Using "sins")*

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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.***

COVENANT FOR FAITHFUL READING OF SCRIPTURE

Leader: We receive Scripture as the treasured testimony of God's people and an essential witness to Jesus Christ.

All: ***We will read with reverence, curiosity, humility, and care.***

Leader: We trust the Holy Spirit to create and renew the Church.

All: ***We will remain open to the Spirit, and we will test what we hear.***

Leader: We honor the wisdom of tradition, the gifts of reason, and the truth carried in human experience.

All: ***We will bring them into conversation with Scripture, centered in Jesus Christ.***

Leader: We know that faithful Christians may read the same passage and reach different conclusions.

All: ***Our differences will not release us from listening, learning, speaking truthfully, repairing harm, and seeking Christ together.***

Leader: We will ask not only, "What does this passage say?" but also, "What kind of people is it calling us to become?"

All: ***We will look for the fruits of love, justice, mercy, reconciliation, and peace.***

Leader: God is still speaking.

All: ***We are still listening, and we accept the responsibility to respond. Amen.***

ANTHEM ***Thou, O Lord, My Shepherd Art*** **Chancel Choir**

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY

Leader: Scripture becomes living testimony when it takes shape in lives of love. Through our gifts, we participate in God's work of teaching, feeding, welcoming, healing, and seeking justice. Let us offer what we have with a song and a prayer, so that the good news we hear may become good news our neighbors can experience. Please stand as you are able to do so, comfortably.

DOXOLOGY ***Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow*** **BLUE Hymnal #46**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

All: ***Still-Speaking God, receive these gifts and receive our lives. Let what we have heard become compassion in our hearts, justice in our choices, generosity in our living, and hope in our community. By your Spirit, use us to make the love of Jesus Christ visible in the world. Amen.***

CLOSING HYMN ***Thy Word is Lamp Unto My Feet*** **Bulletin, Page 4**

BENEDICTION

Leader: Go with Scripture open before you, the Spirit moving within and among you, and Jesus Christ as your center. May God give you humility when you are certain, courage when truth unsettles you, wisdom when faithful people disagree, and love strong enough to guide every interpretation. Listen deeply. Test carefully. Hold fast to what is good. And let what you believe become love made visible.
In the name of God: Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit.

All: ***Amen.***

POSTLUDE AND CANDLE EXTINGUISHING **Mr. Kevin Crone and Acolyte**

SENDING WORDS (Spoken from rear of sanctuary)

Leader: God is still speaking.

All: ***We are still listening. We now go to live the love we hear. Amen.***