First Central Congregational
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

LENT THEME: TO BE MORE . . .

March 22, 2020 **Fourth Sunday in Lent**

Prelude
Fugue in B flat *Bach*

Welcome and Announcements
Rev. Katie Miller

*Greeting and Passing of the Peace
"The Peace of God be with you."

In Unison: **Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love;**
the fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.
** Let us rise in body or spirit.*

Call to Worship
Barb Switzer, liturgist

Our Magnificent God gathers us for worship.
We are in awe of your vision that is broad and vast.
We are listening to God who calls us to be more.
Awaken us to your holiness,
inspire us with your creative power,
and peel back our layers of anxiety and fear.
God enlivens us through love.
Help us as we strive to be all you have called us to be.

*Processional Hymn

God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending — *Black Hymnal,* No.565
AUSTRIAN HYMN

*Invocation

Gracious God, your amazing love extends through all time and space, to all parts of your creation. You made a covenant with humanity, putting a rainbow in the sky to symbolize your promise of love and blessing. As your people of faith, we are called to live in covenant with all creation. We pray for the healing of the earth, so that present and future generations may continue to enjoy the fruits of your work. May our actions bring you praise and reflect your glory. Amen.

*Gloria

Black Hymnal, No. 759

Glory to the Creator, the Christ, the Holy Spirit, Three in One; as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

Conversation with the Children

First Testament Lesson

Genesis 9:8-17 — *Pew Bible*, Page 642

Word in Music

Give Us Grace

Lyn Bouma, Katie Miller, Stephen Bouma

God, give us grace to accept with serenity the things that cannot be changed. Give us courage to change the things that should be changed, and the wisdom to distinguish the one from the other.

Prophetic Lesson

Micah 4:1-5 — *Pew Bible*, Page 34

For the Word of God in scripture,
For the Word of God within us,
For the Word of God among us,
Thanks be to God.

Sermon

To Be More . . .Sustainable — Rev. Dr. Scott Jones

* Hymn

Again We Keep This Solemn Fast — *Black Hymnal,* No. 187

ERHALT UNS HERR

*Prayer of Confession

O Wise and Gracious God, we are each a small dot, a pixel, in the picture of your amazing creation. You have designed us to work together. In this time of separation, we are reminded of the importance of connection. Our strength does not lie in our individuality, but in relationships with one another. In this time, teach us to practice greater respect with all creation. May we learn to live more sustainably. Amen.

*Words of Assurance

Even in our reluctance, even in our brokenness, God provides a path to wholeness and renewal. God has mercy on us and forgives us. What good news.
Thanks be to God.

Prayers

Pastoral 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.

Offertory

Interlude — *Thiman*

*Hymn of Dedication

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts! Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

*Offertory Prayer

By your surprising grace, Dear God, our eyes are opened, our ears unstopped, our hearts attuned to the needs of others. We give so more people may know your love and forgiveness. We support the ministry of this congregation and the wider church. Expand our horizons, we pray. Amen.

*Recessional Hymn

From the Crush of Wealth and Power — *Black Hymnal,* No. 552

BRIDEGROOM

*Benediction

Benediction Response

Bouma

May you hear laughter in the wind. May you see hope in the light.
May you find courage in your faith. May you know joy in your God.

Postlude

Sinfonia in G — *Bach*

You are invited to remain for the playing of the postlude.
Please respect those who wish to sit in silence.

Open & Affirming Statement

In our ongoing quest for hearts that open, minds that understand, and lives that serve, we welcome into our fellowship, membership, leadership, and employment, all people, regardless of abilities, race, gender, sexual orientation, or any God-given characteristic.

Announcements
March 22, 2020

Prayers: ***Charlene Wozny***, recovering from knee surgery; ***Will Kennedy***, recently hospitalized.

Joys: it's officially spring!

Chancel flowers and decorations: sponsored this month by ***Randy & Mary Solberg; Sophie Feng.*** Many thanks to ***Joyce Wilson*** for her beautiful painting!

Happy Birthday this week: to ***Elisa Wiseman, Robin Fey, Patrick Irish, Matt Lee, Melissa Price***, and ***Tom Syster.***

FIRSTKids: following the Conversation with the Children, age 4 through grade 5, through 11:30 a.m.

Young Children at Church: For your convenience, childcare for infants through three or four year olds is available in the Nursery from 9:15 to 11:45 a.m. Your child is always welcome to stay in worship with you.

Fair Trade Coffee: sponsors this month are ***Jeannie Bates, Terry & Pam Beranek, Lamar & Vickie Jones, Elizabeth Wearin.***

Lost and Found!: check out the tables in the Parlor to see if we've found something you lost or forgot. Glasses, coffee tumblers, perhaps a life jacket?

Activities for the Coming Week, March 23 – March 28

Lectionary Readings: Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 130; Romans 8:6-11; John 11:1-45.

Monday: Staff meeting, 1:30 p.m., Pastor's Study.
Wednesday: Evergreen Thrift Shop, *temporarily closed.*
Church Night, *temporarily cancelled.*
Sanctuary Choir *temporarily cancelled.*

Next Sunday, March 29

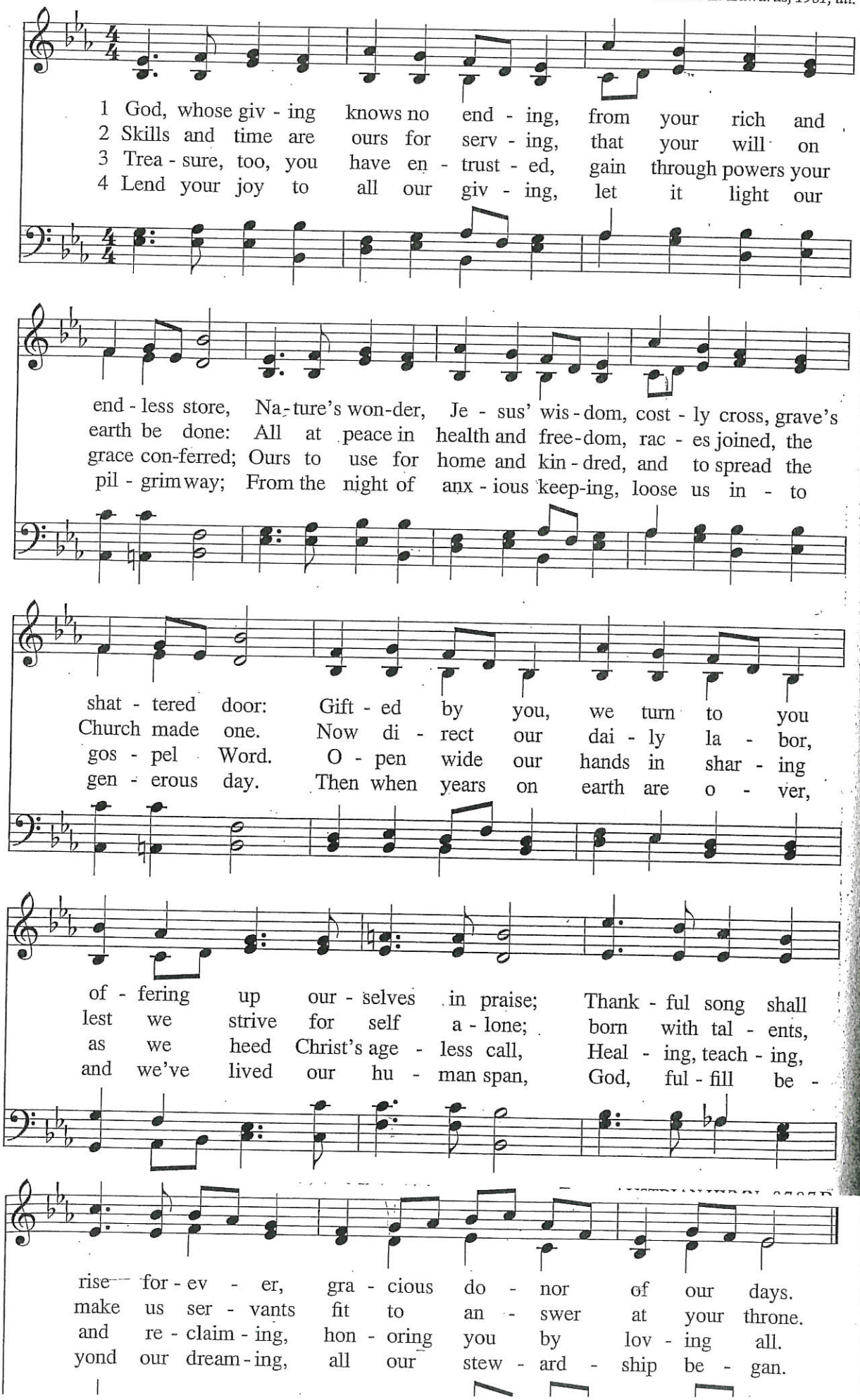
First Forum: *temporarily cancelled.*

FIRSTKids: *temporarily cancelled.*

Want to donate electronically? Please scan the QR code.

565 God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending

Robert L. Edwards, 1961; alt.



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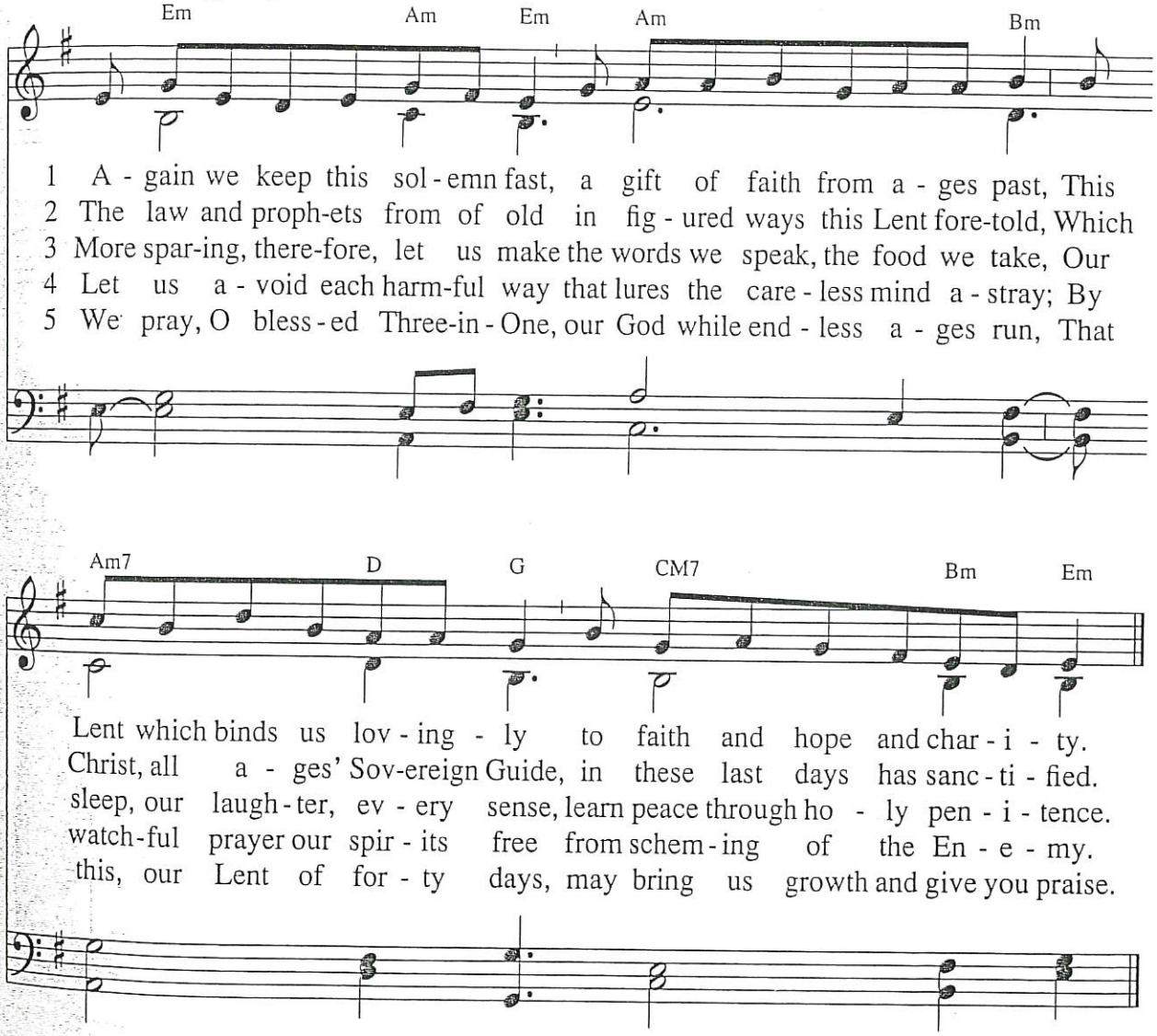
Again We Keep This Solemn Fast

187

"Ex more docti mystico"
Attrib. to Gregory the Great (c. 540–604)
Transl. Peter J. Scagnelli (b. 1949); alt.

Matt. 6:1–6, 16–21

To be sung freely



Ascribed by some to Gregory the Great, this Latin hymn, "Ex

Tune: ERHALT UNS, HERR L.M.

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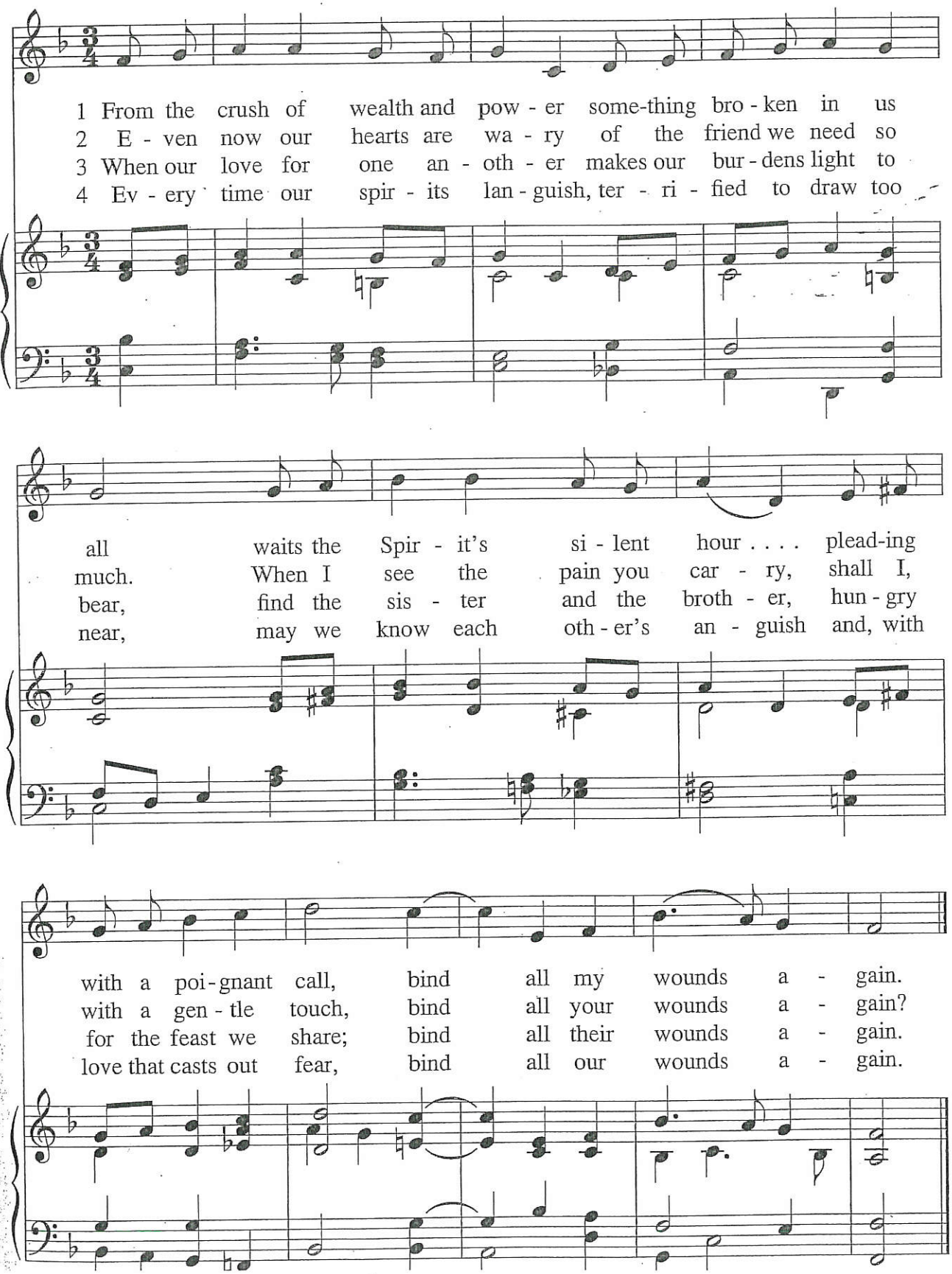
From the Crush of Wealth and Power 552

Kendyl L. R. Gibbons, 1992

Luke 10:34; James 5:14–16



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