

**Sunday, September 8, 2024**  
**Rally Day**



**The Gilford Community Church**  
**The Reverend Michael C. Graham, Pastor**  
**Amber McLane, Director of Youth and Family Programs**  
**Carolyn Ames, Music Director/Organist**  
**AJ Coppola, Choir Director**

**19 Potter Hill Road**  
**Gilford, NH 03249**  
**[gilfordcommunitychurch.org](http://gilfordcommunitychurch.org)**

## Gathering Time

*As we arrive for worship, let us greet and make new friends, and be alert for guests as we celebrate the fellowship of our faith community.*

### Time for Prayer and Meditation

The ringing of the church bell and lighting of the candles calls us to sit down and allow ourselves to forget the hurry and worry of the world. Center your heart, mind and soul on God's love for you and all creation.

### Ring the Bell and Bringing the Light

#### Words of Welcome

#### Prelude

"Heaven Down Here"

by Mickey Guyton

Performed by Stacey Pate, Wendy Davidson and Cindie Graham

#### \*Call to Worship

When we stand at the edge of fear and worry,

**God invites us to step into the waters of faith and trust.**

When we stand at the edge of the world's pain and need,

**Jesus invites us to step into the land of humble service.**

When we stand at the edge of our hunger and thirst:

**the Spirit invites us to sit at the Table of grace.**

#### \*Hymn of Praise

"God Reigns O'er All the Earth"

#21

#### Prayer of Invitation followed by the Lord's Prayer (debts)

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.

**Choral Response (Old Hundredth)**

**Rejoice in love we know and share,  
in love and beauty everywhere;  
rejoice in truth that makes us free,  
and in the good that yet shall be.**

**Scripture Reading**

Mark 7:24-37

**Anthem**

“Let the Children Come”

by Pepper Choplin

Performed by our Chancel Choir

**One Community Project Presentation**

Amber McLane

**Children’s Time**

Amber McLane

**Rally Day Litany**

Insert

**Special Music**

Performed by AJ Coppola

**Morning Prayer**

**\*Hymn of Preparation**

“Amazing Grace”

#547

**Sermon**

“Back to School”

**\*Hymn of Commitment**

“You Have Come down to the Lakeshore”

#173

**\*Benediction**

**\*Choral Amen**

## **GCC Announcements**

❖ Today's Coffee Hour will be hosted by our Diaconate!

***The Gilford Community Church is an inclusive, open community. We embrace believers and doubters, seekers and skeptics, young and old. We welcome new companions on a journey of faith that often includes laughter, live music and joy. We celebrate both our differences and our shared commitments: to spiritual journey, to supporting each other, and to building community in Gilford, the Lakes Region and beyond.***

***If you wear hearing aids, please remember to have the TELECOIL option activated for optimal benefit.***

***Exciting news, we are embracing some new technology and now offer a QR Code for a fast, easy, secure way to make your pledge or donation! Open your camera and hold your device over the QR Code below, so that it is clearly visible within your smartphone's screen. The phone will either automatically scan the code and take you directly to our online platform or on some devices, you may have to touch the link when it appears. Of course, offering plates are in the foyer as well.***



## Rally Day Litany

**ALL:** We come together as a living church.

**WORSHIP LEADER:** We come together from different places as unique individuals. Our paths and the ways of our going are diverse, yet we share our journey.

**CONGREGATION:** We come together in gladness, knowing that here we are welcome as we are and that here also the best possibilities of our spirits are encouraged to grow.

**PARENTS OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH:** I am glad to bring my children to this church which is for us a larger family. Here we come to understand that we are all part of an even larger family of life on earth, which is our home. In our church we can discover what it means to be related.

**CHILDREN AND YOUTH:** I am glad I came into a family of love. I am glad to be a part of this church family, and glad to be a part of a world where there is so much to discover and to do.

**TEACHERS OF THE CHURCH SCHOOL:** I am glad I have the opportunity to work and play and learn with the youngest people in our church. Your questions invite my wonder; your trust encourages my hope. So, I will strive to give each of you the kind of affection and respect which fosters your ability to question and to trust.

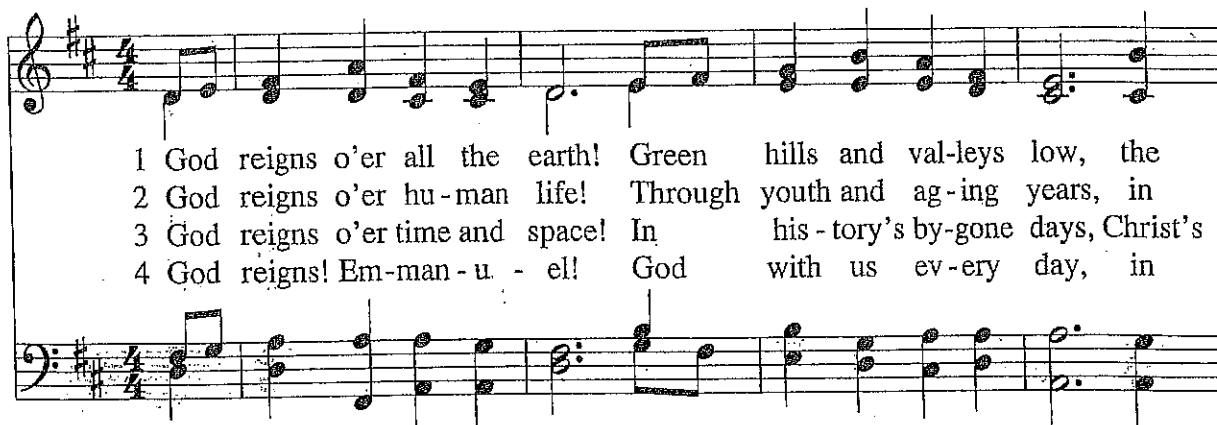
**OTHER ADULTS:** We all rejoice in the children and youth who are with us on life's journey. As we cherish you, we pledge ourselves to share with you the living wisdom of our religious tradition which is your heritage. We welcome you into our fellowship. As you grow, we hope to find you beside us in the long and loving work of creating goodness in the world.

**CONGREGATION:** As members of a church family, we promise to stick together, to support each other, as all good families do, through thick and thin, through joy and sorrow, through tears and laughter, through work and play and all the choices and challenges life's journey brings.

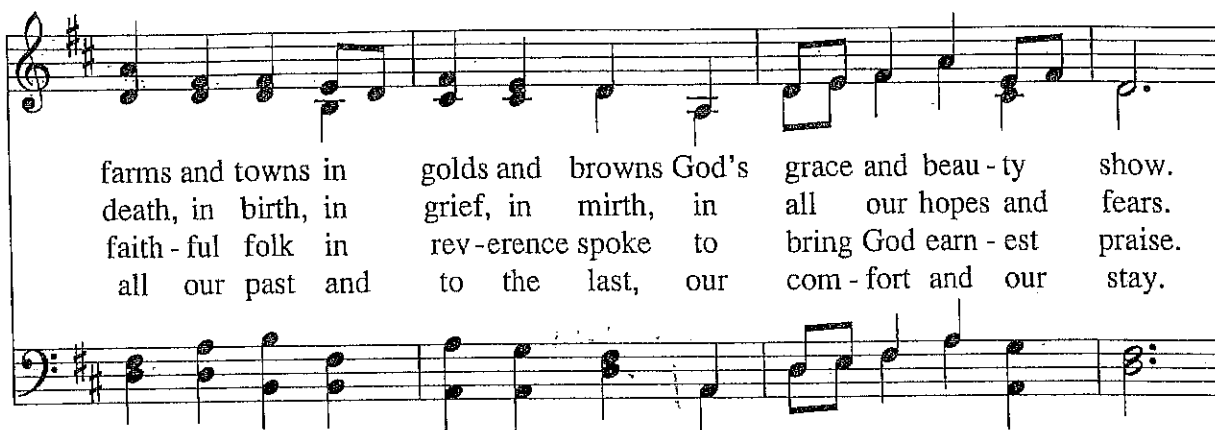
**WORSHIP LEADER:** As children of one Creative Spirit, we affirm our relationship to the larger family of life. We affirm our faith that we have within us the power and wisdom to join in the creation of a world of justice, peace and joy.

**ALL:** Let us strive to understand ourselves and one another, and to extend the spirit of goodwill as far as our love can reach.

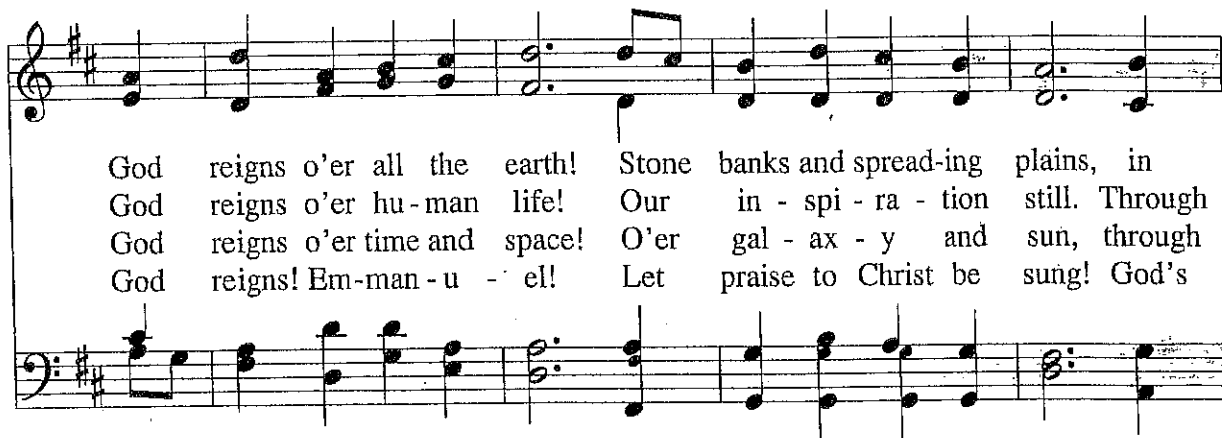
# God Reigns o'er All the Earth



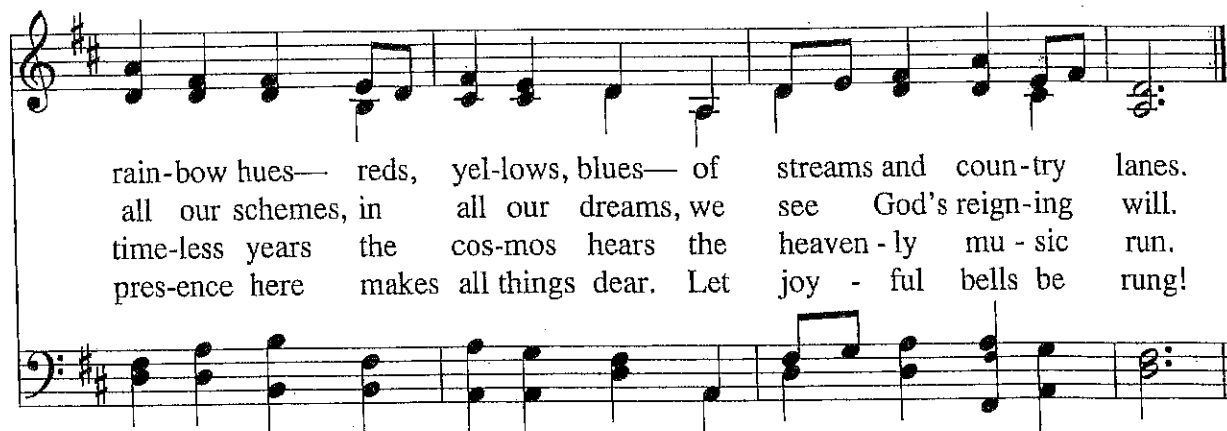
1 God reigns o'er all the earth! Green hills and val-leys low, the  
2 God reigns o'er hu-man life! Through youth and ag-ing years, in  
3 God reigns o'er time and space! In his - tory's by-gone days, Christ's  
4 God reigns! Em-man - u - el! God with us ev-ery day, in



farms and towns in golds and browns God's grace and beau - ty show.  
death, in birth, in grief, in mirth, in all our hopes and fears.  
faith - ful folk in rev-erence spoke to bring God earn - est praise.  
all our past and to the last, our com - fort and our stay.



God reigns o'er all the earth! Stone banks and spread-ing plains, in  
God reigns o'er hu-man life! Our in - spi - ra - tion still. Through  
God reigns o'er time and space! O'er gal - ax - y and sun, through  
God reigns! Em-man - u - el! Let praise to Christ be sung! God's



rain-bow hues— reds, yel-lows, blues— of streams and coun-try lanes.  
all our schemes, in all our dreams, we see God's reign-ing will.  
time-less years the cos-mos hears the heaven - ly mu - sic run.  
pres-ence here makes all things dear. Let joy - ful bells be rung!

# Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

547

1 A - maz - ing grace, how sweet the sound, that  
 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and  
 3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares, I  
 4 My God has prom - ised good to me, whose  
 5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright

saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but  
 grace my fears re - lieved; How pre - cious did that  
 have al - read - y come; 'Tis grace has brought me  
 word my hope se - cures; God will my shield and  
 shin - ing as the sun, We've no less days to

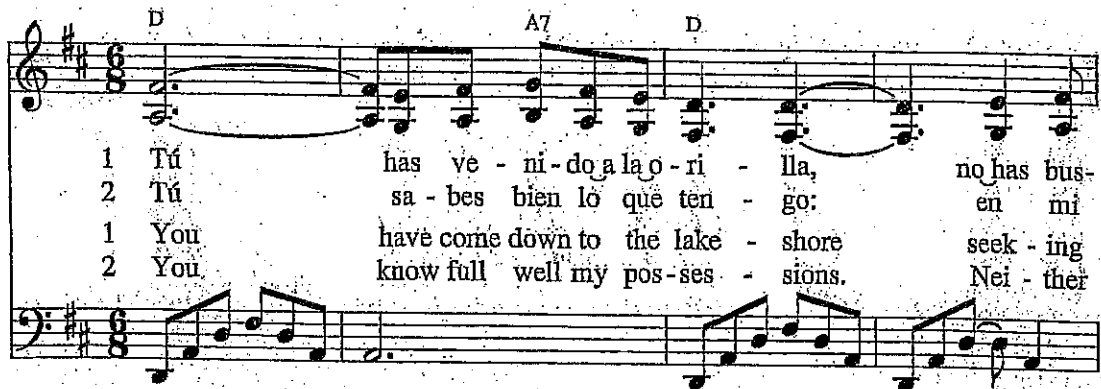
now am found, was blind but now I see.  
 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!  
 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.  
 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.  
 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

# 173

# Tú has venido a la orilla

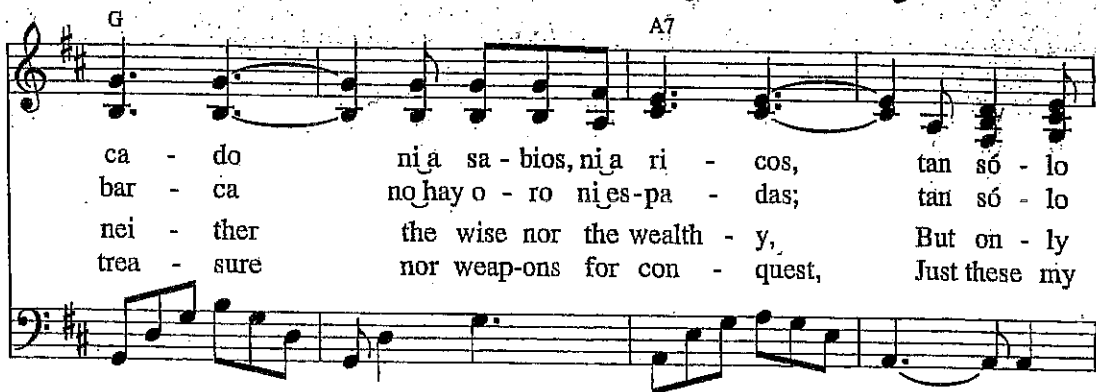
(You Have Come down to the Lakeshore)

D A7 D



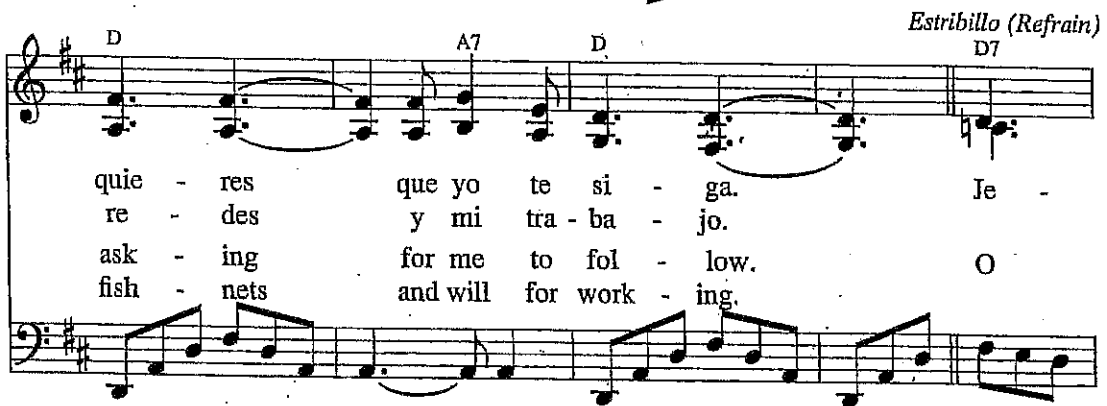
1 Tú has ve - ni - do a la o - ri - lla, no has bus -  
2 Tú sa - bes bien lo que ten - go; en mi  
1 You have come down to the lake - shore seek - ing  
2 You know full well my pos - ses - sions. Nei - ther

G A7



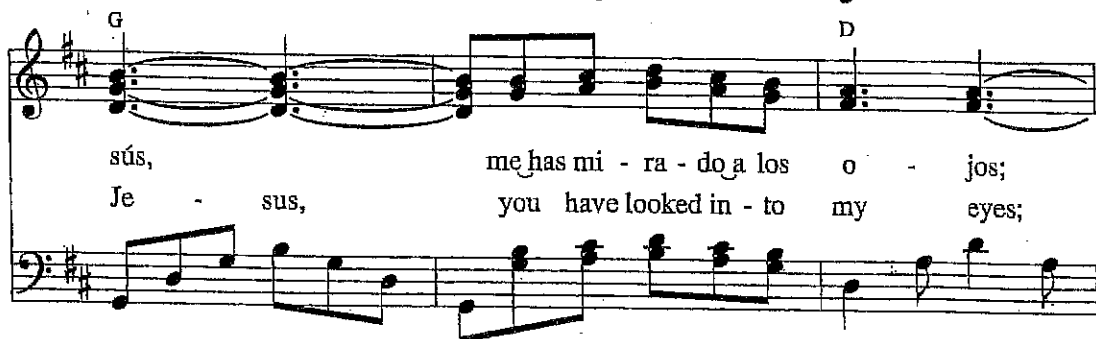
ca - do ni a sa - bios, ni a ri - cos, tan só - lo  
bar - ca no hay o - ro ni es - pa - das; tan só - lo  
nei - ther the wise nor the wealth - y, But on - ly  
trea - sure nor weap - ons for con - quest, Just these my

D A7 D *Estrillo (Refrain)* D7



que - res que yo te si - ga. Je -  
re - des y mi tra - ba - jo. O  
ask - ing for me to fol - low.  
fish - nets and will for work - ing.

G D



sús, me has mi - ra - do a los o - jos;  
Je - sus, you have looked in - to my eyes;



A7 D

son - ri - en - do,                      has di - cho mi nom - bre;  
 kind - ly smil - ing,                    you've called out my name.

D7                      G                      F#m

en la a - re - na                      he de - ja - do mi bar - ca;  
 On the sand I                      have a - ban - doned my small boat;

B7                      Em                      A7                      D

jun - to a ti                      bus - ca - ré o - tro mar.  
 now with you                      I will seek oth - er seas.

3. Tú ne - ce - si - tas mis ma - nos,  
 mi can - san - cio que a o - tros des - can - se,  
 a - mor que quie - ra se - guir a - man - do.  
*Estrillo*

3. You need my hands, my ex - haus - tion,  
 work - ing love for the rest of the  
 wea - ry—  
 A love that's will - ing to go on lov - ing.  
*Refrain*

4. Tú, Pes - ca - dor de o - tros ma - res,  
 an - sia e - ter - na de al - mas que es - pe - ran.  
 A - mi - go bue - no, que a - sí me lla - mas.  
*Estrillo*

4. You who have fished oth - er wa - ters;  
 you, the long - ing of souls that are  
 yearn - ing:  
 As lov - ing Friend, you have come  
 to call me.  
*Refrain*