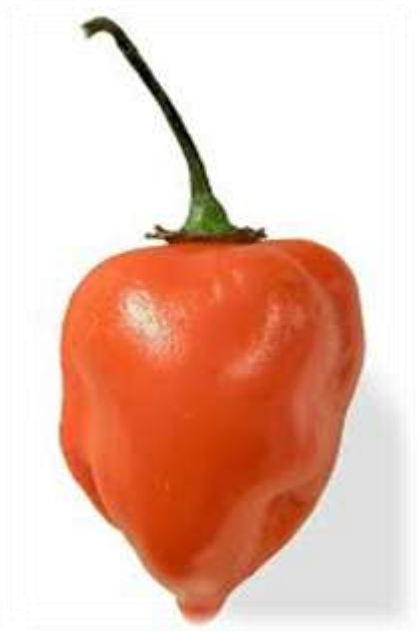
Grace Presbyterian Church
Fort Wayne, IN – Oct. 25, 2026
Reformation Sunday



Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and mind… and love your neighbor as you love yourself. — Matthew 22:37, 39

Service Notes: Prayer cards are available in your pews for the sharing of Joys and Concerns. You can give them to Sandy Garcia. We invite you to join in the liturgy by speaking the parts in ***BOLD.*** **Indicates when to stand in body or spirit.*

Worship Volunteers: Worship Leader: Pastor Sandy Garcia – Lay Leader: Todd German – Children's Message: Katie Lochry – Ushers: Stacey Monnier, Katelyn Monnier, & Grace Hochstetler – Tech: Todd German & Bob Bausser – Counters: Kevin Mahoney & Todd German – Pianist: Sue Creager – Choir Director: Tom Callahan.

Prelude — *Here I Am to Worship* by Hughes

Welcome — Rev. Sandy Garcia

Call to Worship

God is our refuge and strength, our help in every generation.
We gather in the grace of God, who is always making all things new.
Christ calls us to love God with heart, soul, and mind.
Christ calls us to love our neighbors as ourselves.
The Spirit is still at work—reforming our hearts and renewing the Church.
Come, let us worship God and open ourselves again to God's transforming grace.

***Opening Hymn — #203 "Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love"**

***Call to Confession —**

The church is always being reformed because we are always in need of God's reforming grace. We confess not because we must earn God's love, but because God's love has already made it safe for us to tell the truth. Trusting in that grace, let us confess our sin together.

***Prayer of Confession —**

Gracious God, you call us to love you with all our heart, soul, and mind, and to love our neighbors as ourselves. Yet we confess that our love is often incomplete. We cling to what is comfortable rather than follow where you lead. We defend our preferences instead of listening for your Spirit. We love some neighbors easily and keep others at a distance. Forgive us, O God. Reform our

hearts. Renew your Church. Free us from fear, pride, and complacency, so that our lives may bear witness to your grace and our love may reflect the love of Christ. Amen.

Time for silent confession

***Assurance of Pardon —**

Hear the good news: our hope does not rest in our goodness, our accomplishments, or even our ability to reform ourselves. Our hope rests in Jesus Christ. By grace we are forgiven, by grace we are made new, and by grace God is still at work within us. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God! Amen.

Song of Assurance #583 "Glory to God"

***Passing the Peace**

Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another. The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Please take a moment to greet your neighbor and others with the peace of Christ.

Time for Music & Meditation

Children's Message

Prayer for Illumination

Living God, your Word has reformed your Church across generations. By your Spirit, open our hearts and minds again today. Where we have become comfortable, awaken us. Where we have become fearful, give us courage. Where we have forgotten how to love, lead us again to Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Hebrew Bible Reading — Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18 p.184

1 The Lord said to Moses, 2 "Speak to the entire assembly of Israel and say to them: 'Be holy because I, the Lord your God, am holy.

15 "'Do not pervert justice; do not show partiality to the poor or favoritism to the great, but judge your neighbor fairly.

16 "'Do not go about spreading slander among your people. "'Do not do anything that endangers your neighbor's life. I am the Lord.

17 "'Do not hate a fellow Israelite in your heart. Rebuke your neighbor frankly so you will not share in their guilt.

18 "'Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against anyone among your people, but love your neighbor as yourself. I am the Lord.'

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Choir Anthem — #828 "More Love to Thee, O Christ"

Gospel Reading — Matthew 22:34-46 p.1535

34 Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got
together. 35 One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this
question: 36 "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the
Law?"

37 Jesus replied: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and
with all your soul and with all your mind.' 38 This is the first and
greatest commandment. 39 And the second is like it: 'Love your
neighbor as yourself.' 40 All the Law and the Prophets hang on these
two commandments."

41 While the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them, 42
"What do you think about the Messiah? Whose son is he?" "The son
of David," they replied.

43 He said to them, "How is it then that David, speaking by the Spirit,
calls him 'Lord'? For he says, 44 "'The Lord said to my Lord: "Sit at
my right hand until I put your enemies under your feet."'

45 If then David calls him 'Lord,' how can he be his son?" 46 No one
could say a word in reply, and from that day on no one dared to ask
him any more questions.

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Message *Reformed by Love – Rev. Sandy Garcia*

***Affirmation of Faith:** *The Apostle's Creed*

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

***Hymn of Response — #707 "Take Thou Our Minds, Dear Lord"**

Prayers of the People & The Lord's Prayer

Reforming God, you have gathered your Church across generations—calling ordinary people, in ordinary places, to follow Christ with courage and faith. You have never stopped working among your people. You reform what has grown weary, renew what has become discouraged, and call us again and again to the heart of the gospel: to love you and to love our neighbors as ourselves. So together we pray:

Reform our hearts, O God, and teach us to love.

For your Church throughout the world, give us humility to listen, wisdom to discern, and courage to change when change is needed. Keep us from confusing our traditions with your will or our preferences with your truth. Root us deeply in your Word and make us attentive to your Spirit.

Reform your Church, O God, and teach us to love.

For our neighbors—those we know well and those whose names we have not yet learned; those who are easy for us to love and those we struggle to understand; those who feel welcomed and included and those still searching for a place to belong—open our eyes to see each person as you see them. Make Grace Presbyterian a congregation that does not simply speak about love, but practices it.
Reform our community, O God, and teach us to love.

For each of us in our daily vocations, remind us that calling is not limited to pulpits or sanctuaries. You call teachers and caregivers, parents and grandparents, students and workers, neighbors and volunteers, those who are employed and those who are retired. Take the gifts you have entrusted to us and use them for the flourishing of others. Show us where our particular lives can become instruments of your grace.
Reform our lives, O God, and teach us to love.

We pray for those who are hurting today—for those who are sick, grieving, lonely, anxious, or afraid; for those carrying burdens others cannot see; for those facing uncertainty and those longing for healing or hope. Surround them with your mercy, and when possible, make us part of your answer by teaching us to notice, to listen, to show up, and to care.

And now, trusting that nothing is too small and no concern too ordinary to bring before you, we offer the prayers of this congregation.

[Invite prayers from the congregation.]

For the prayers spoken aloud, for those held quietly in our hearts, and for needs we do not yet know how to name, hear us, gracious God.

Gathering our prayers into one, we pray as Christ taught us, saying: **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.**

Call to Offering

God has already given us more than we could ever earn: grace that claims us, love that surrounds us, and gifts with which to serve. We do not give so that God will love us. We give because God already does. So we offer not only our financial gifts, but our time, our abilities, our work, and our very lives—trusting that God can use them to love our neighbors and serve the world. With grateful hearts, let us bring our offerings to God.

Offertory — *Let's Just Praise the Lord* by Gaither

***Doxology — #606 "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"**

***Prayer of Dedication —**

Let us pray: **Gracious God, everything we offer begins with what you have first given us. Receive these gifts, and receive our lives. Take our time, our talents, our resources, our work, and our daily vocations, and use them for your purposes. Reform our hearts, renew your Church, and send us into the world to love you and to love our neighbors. May all that we give and all that we are bear witness to the grace of Jesus Christ. To God alone be the glory. Amen.**

Announcements

***Closing Hymn — #729 "Lord, I Want to Be a Christian"**

***Charge & Benediction**

Postlude — *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God* by Luther

ANNOUNCEMENTS

United Faith Food Bank in Need of Empty Egg Cartons and Grocery Bags:

Halloween at Grace: Our annual trunk or treat is coming up. We need volunteers and candy! Currently, there is a bin in the narthex for candy donations. Also, a sign up for decorated cars and helpers to hand out candy will be out soon.

Per Capita: Just a friendly reminder, if you haven't paid your $46.06 for 2026, you still can.

Prayer Requests

- Prayers of peace and comfort for the family of Merry.
- Recovery and patience for Judy Bellis
- Peace and strength for Bruce Barnet during his cancer treatment.
- Your continued presence and healing for Sue.
- Healing for Jenny, JoAnn's niece, in her cancer treatment.

Birthdays

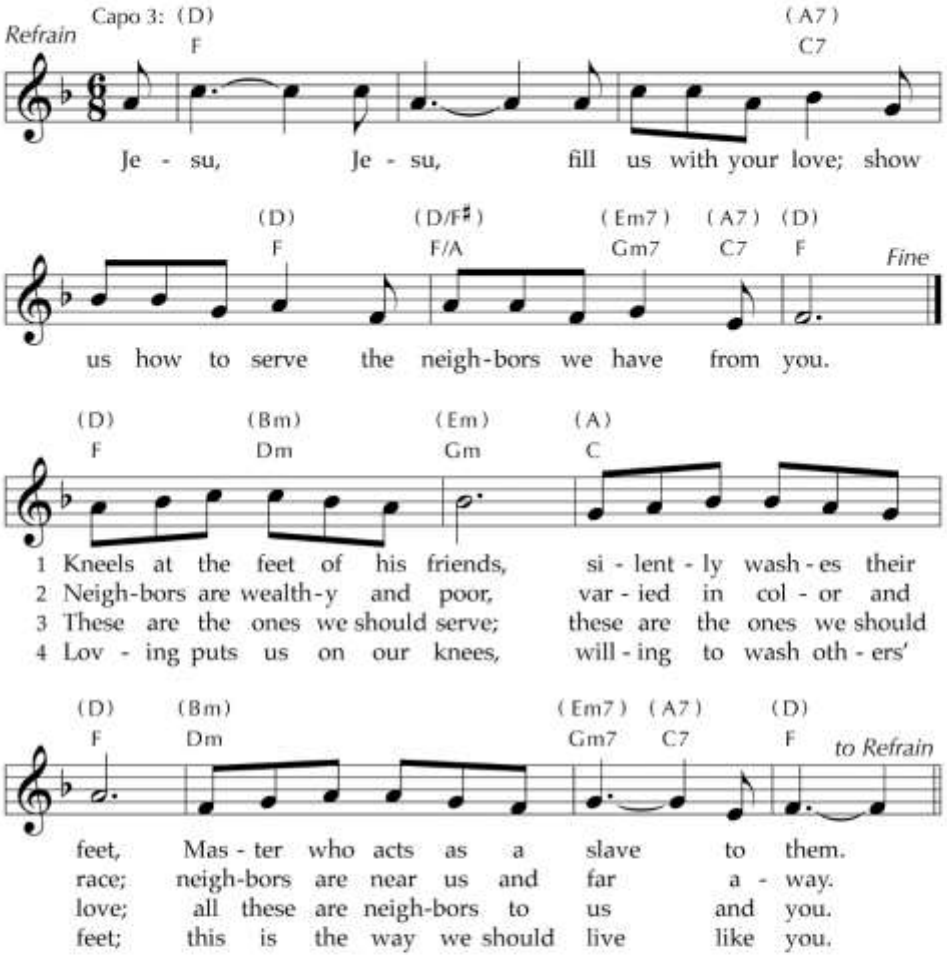
Susan Creager – October 28
Darren Polk – October 28
Alex Monnier – October 30

Anniversaries
John & Nancy Current
November 1, 1975

Worship Volunteers for November 1, 2026

Lay Leader – Cathy German
Children's Message – Holly Bouthot
Ushers – Stacey Monnier, Katelyn Monnier, & Grace Hochstetler
Technology – Stacey Monnier & Bill Werling
Counters – Stacey Monnier & Bob Bausser

203 Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love
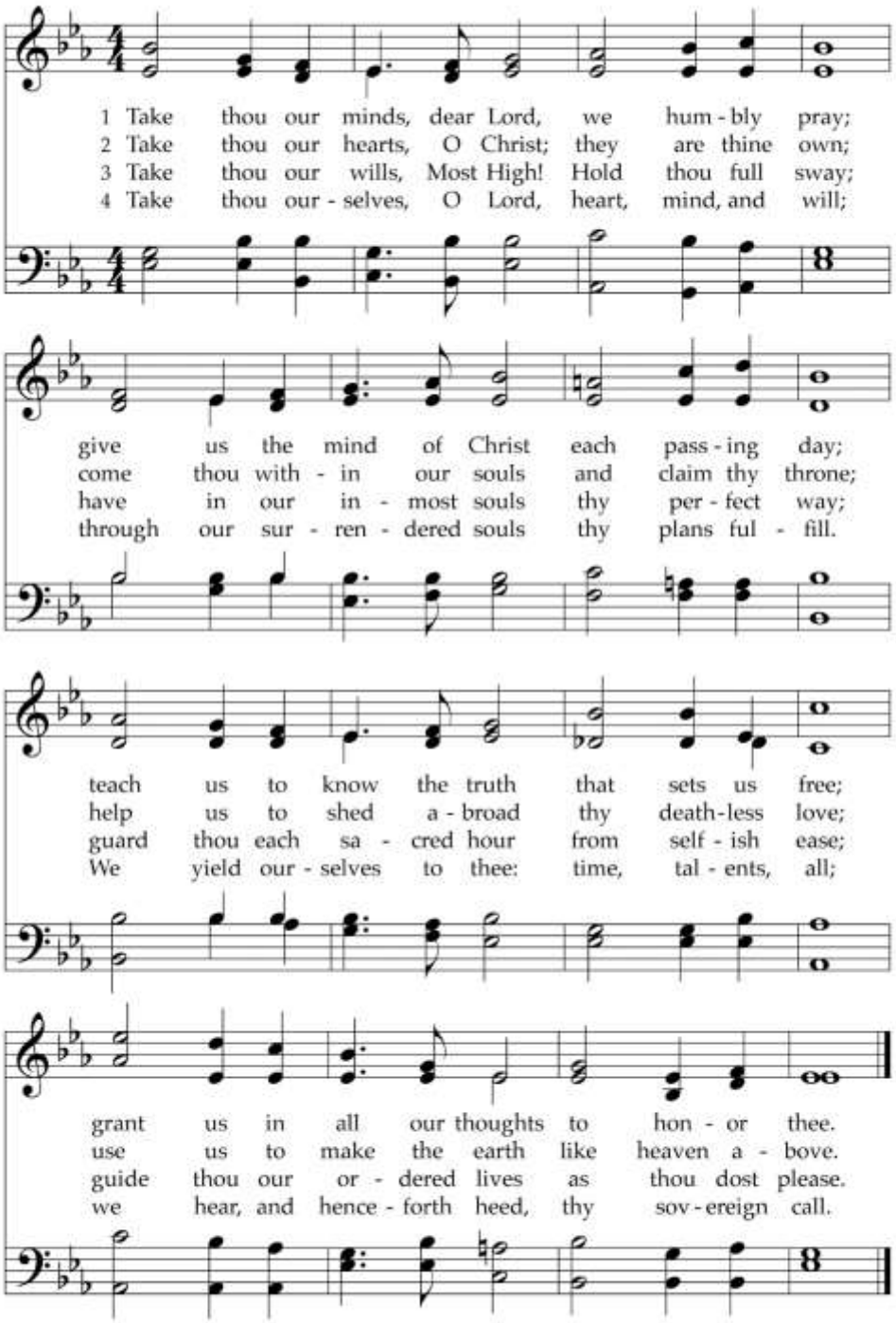


Considering that this text comes from a part of the world where Christianity is not the primary religion gives these simple but powerful words even more depth and meaning. The tune name recalls the district in the Northern Region of Ghana where this tune was collected.

TEXT: Tom Colvin, 1969, rev. 1997, alt.
MUSIC: Ghanaian folk melody; adapt. Tom Colvin, 1963; arr. Jane Marshall, 1982
Text and Music © 1969 Hope Publishing Company
Music Arr. © 1982 Hope Publishing Company

CHEREPONI
7.7.9 with refrain

707 Take Thou Our Minds, Dear Lord
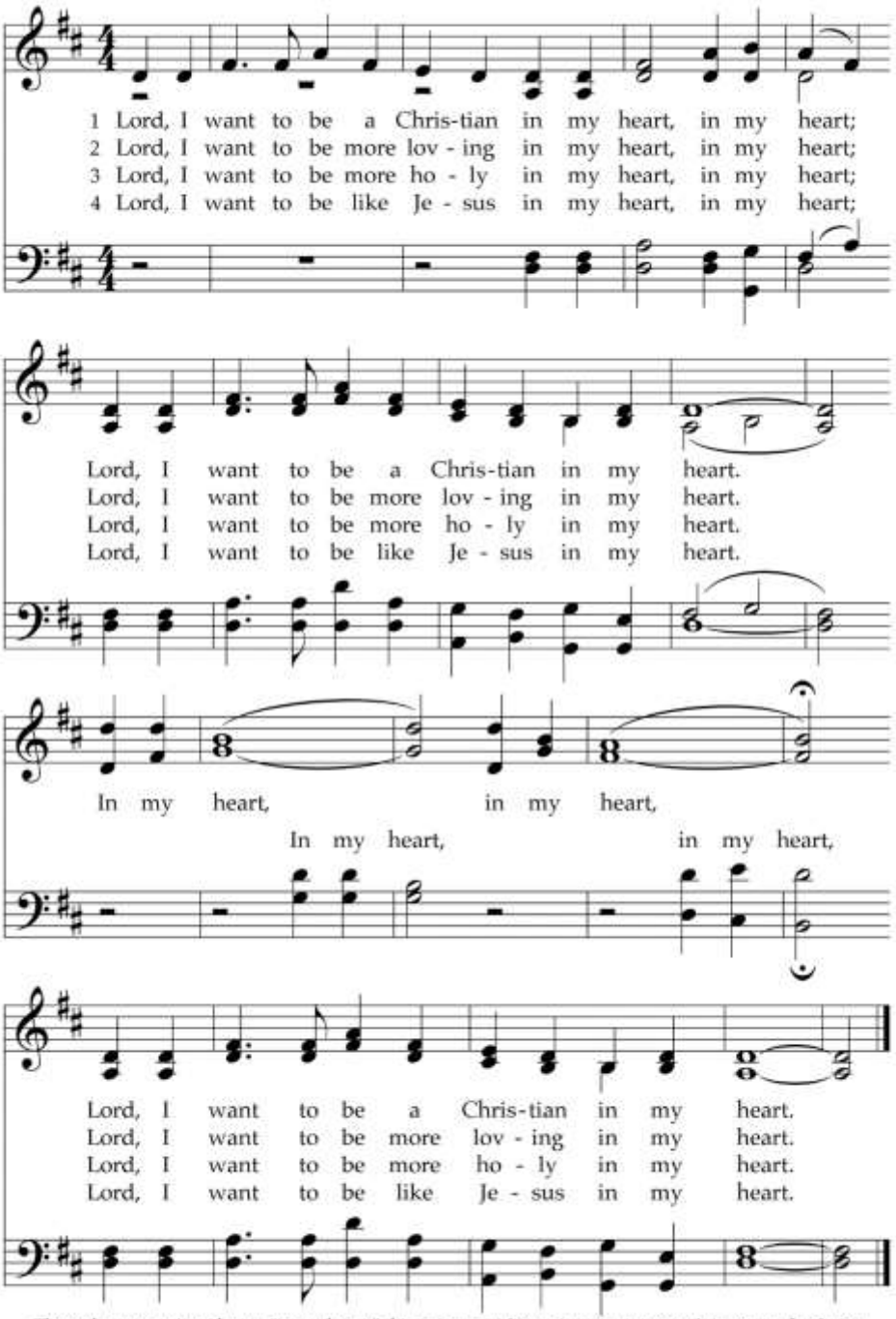


This hymn began with the tune, which the composer hummed to the author with a request for a text that would challenge the hearts and minds of young people. The text of the first three stanzas was written that day, and the fourth stanza later emerged at a youth conference.

TEXT: William H. Foulkes, stanzas 1–3, 1918, stanza 4, c. 1920
MUSIC: Calvin Weiss Laufer, 1918

HALL
10.10.10.10

DISCIPLESHIP AND MISSION

729 Lord, I Want to Be a Christian



Through its recurring phrase, "in my heart," this poignant African American spiritual expresses the desire that our professed faith will not be superficial or hypocritical but will permeate the very center of our being, so that we may truly be the people God calls us to be.

TEXT and MUSIC: African American spiritual

I WANT TO BE A CHRISTIAN
Irregular

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