

# Bethel United Church of Christ



*Welcome  
please use the music of the  
prelude to quietly prepare  
yourself for worship  
in this sacred space*

*“Love in Action”*

April 22, 2018

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

*No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey,  
you are welcome here*

## Responsive Call to Worship

**One:** We are welcomed into the family of God on this Fourth Sunday of Easter. Let us worship God together in faith, hope and love.

We lift our eyes, thoughts and hearts to you, O God.

Your pastoral care of all of us brings us together.

We offer our praise and thanks to you for shepherding our church family and indeed the whole United Church of Christ.

**All:** We pray for blessings, instructions and peace through our Welcoming Shepherd, Jesus.  
Amen.

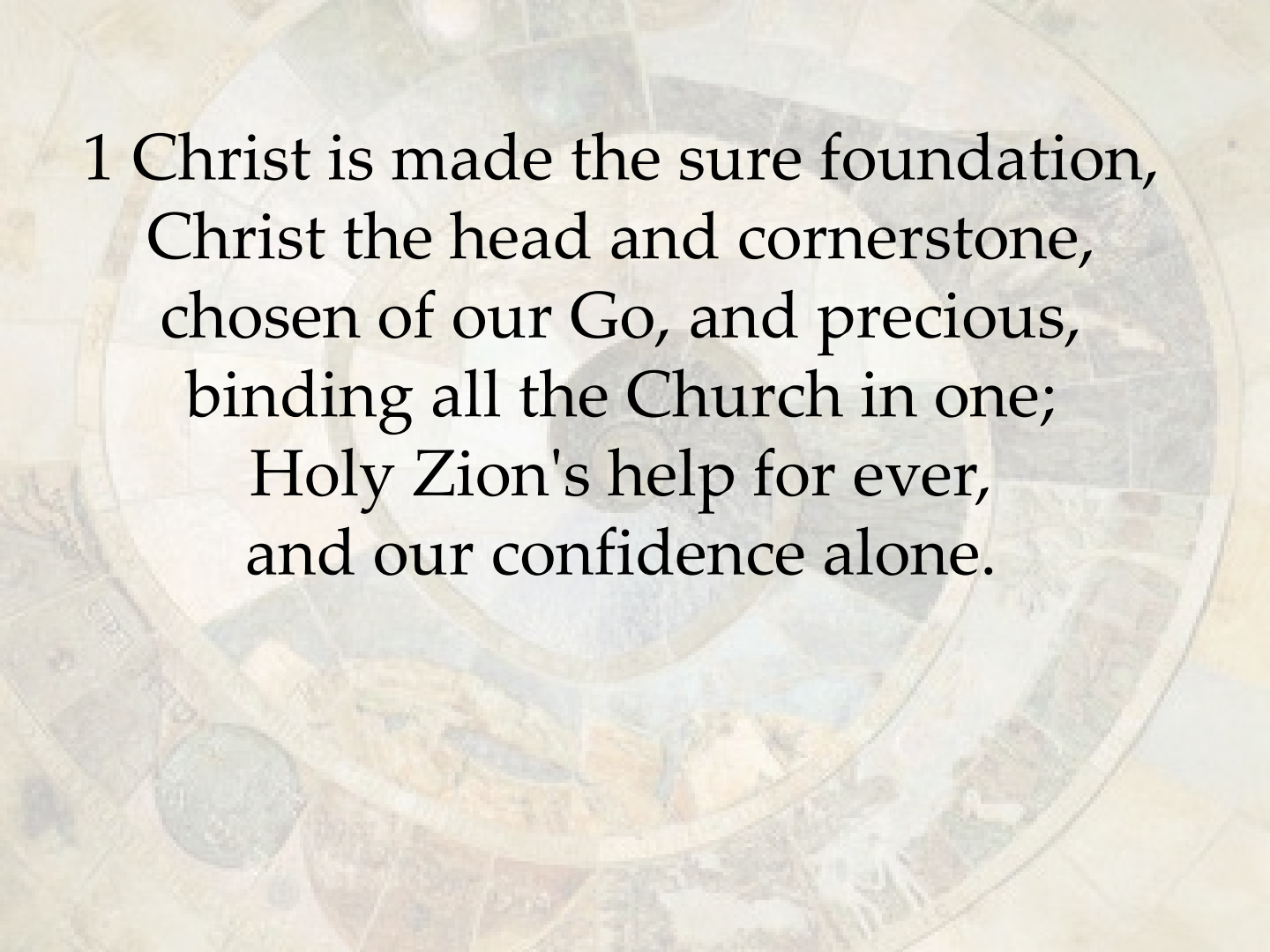
A circular mosaic floor, likely from an ancient Roman or Greek site, featuring a central circular opening. The floor is composed of concentric rings of tiles in various colors, including shades of blue, green, yellow, and brown. The central opening is a simple circular hole. The overall design is symmetrical and geometric.

# Invocation

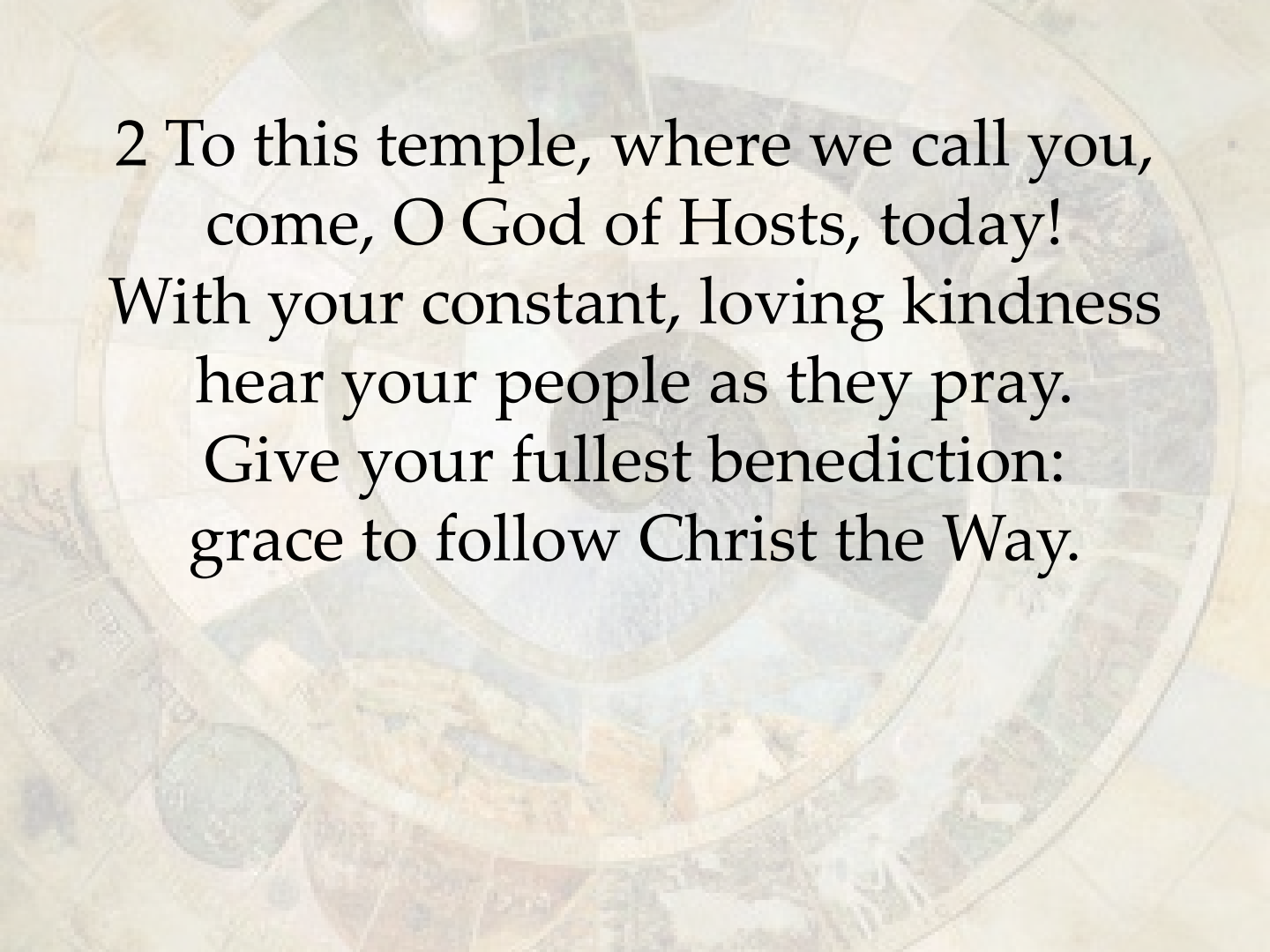


# Gathering Hymn

*Christ Is Made the Sure  
Foundation*



1 Christ is made the sure foundation,  
Christ the head and cornerstone,  
chosen of our Go, and precious,  
binding all the Church in one;  
Holy Zion's help for ever,  
and our confidence alone.



2 To this temple, where we call you,  
come, O God of Hosts, today!  
With your constant, loving kindness  
hear your people as they pray.  
Give your fullest benediction:  
grace to follow Christ the Way.

3 Here renew your servants' vision,  
that by faith they may attain  
peace and hope, renewed compassion,  
strength to comfort those in pain,  
Tears and grief transformed to  
gladness  
in your everlasting reign.



# Passing of the Peace

*No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.*



# Welcome, Greetings and Key Announcements!

*(Be sure to check your bulletin for special announcements – and KEEP it as a reference)*

*No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.*

# Children's Time



Tiempo de los niños

## **Gloria (#759, NCH)**

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



# A Reading from the Psalms

**Psalm 23**  
*Responsive*

L: God is my shepherd,  
I shall not want.

**P: God makes me lie down  
in green pastures;  
and leads me  
beside still waters;**

L: God restores my soul.

**P: and leads me in right paths  
for the sake of God's name.**

L: Even though I walk  
through the darkest valley,

**P: I fear no evil;  
for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff —  
they comfort me.**

L: You prepare a table before me  
in the presence of my enemies;

**P: you anoint my head with oil;  
my cup overflows.**

L: Even though I walk  
through the darkest valley,

**P: I fear no evil;  
for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff —  
they comfort me.**

L: You prepare a table before me  
in the presence of my enemies;

**P: you anoint my head with oil;  
my cup overflows.**



# **An Epistle Reading**

**1 John 3:16-24**

Donna Saxton



## 1 John 3:16-24

We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us — and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help? Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action.

## 1 Juan 3:16-24

*En esto conocemos lo que es el amor: en que Jesucristo entregó su vida por nosotros. Así también nosotros debemos entregar la vida por nuestros hermanos. Si alguien que posee bienes materiales ve que su hermano está pasando necesidad, y no tiene compasión de él, ¿cómo se puede decir que el amor de Dios habita en él? Queridos hijos, no amemos de palabra ni de labios para afuera, sino con hechos y de verdad.*

And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

*En esto sabremos que somos de la verdad, y nos sentiremos seguros delante de él: que aunque nuestro corazón nos condene, Dios es más grande que nuestro corazón y lo sabe todo. Queridos hermanos, si el corazón no nos condena, tenemos confianza delante de Dios, y recibimos todo lo que le pedimos porque obedecemos sus mandamientos y hacemos lo que le agrada*

And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

*Y este es su mandamiento: que creamos en el nombre de su Hijo Jesucristo, y que nos amemos los unos a los otros, pues así lo ha dispuesto. El que obedece sus mandamientos permanece en Dios, y Dios en él. ¿Cómo sabemos que él permanece en nosotros? Por el Espíritu que nos dio.*



# **Gospel Reading**

**John 10:11-18**

(Dr. Mann)

## John 10: 11-18

"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep.

## Juan 10:11-18

» Yo soy el buen pastor. El buen pastor da su vida por las ovejas. El asalariado no es el pastor, y a él no le pertenecen las ovejas. Cuando ve que el lobo se acerca, abandona las ovejas y huye; entonces el lobo ataca al rebaño y lo dispersa. Y ese hombre huye porque, siendo asalariado, no le importan las ovejas.

I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice.

*» Yo soy el buen pastor; conozco a mis ovejas, y ellas me conocen a mí, así como el Padre me conoce a mí y yo lo conozco a él, y doy mi vida por las ovejas. Tengo otras ovejas que no son de este redil, y también a ellas debo traerlas. Así ellas escucharán mi voz*

So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father."

*y habrá un solo rebaño y un solo pastor. Por eso me ama el Padre: porque entrego mi vida para volver a recibirla. Nadie me la arrebató, sino que yo la entrego por mi propia voluntad. Tengo autoridad para entregarla, y tengo también autoridad para volver a recibirla. Este es el mandamiento que recibí de mi Padre».*

# Sermon

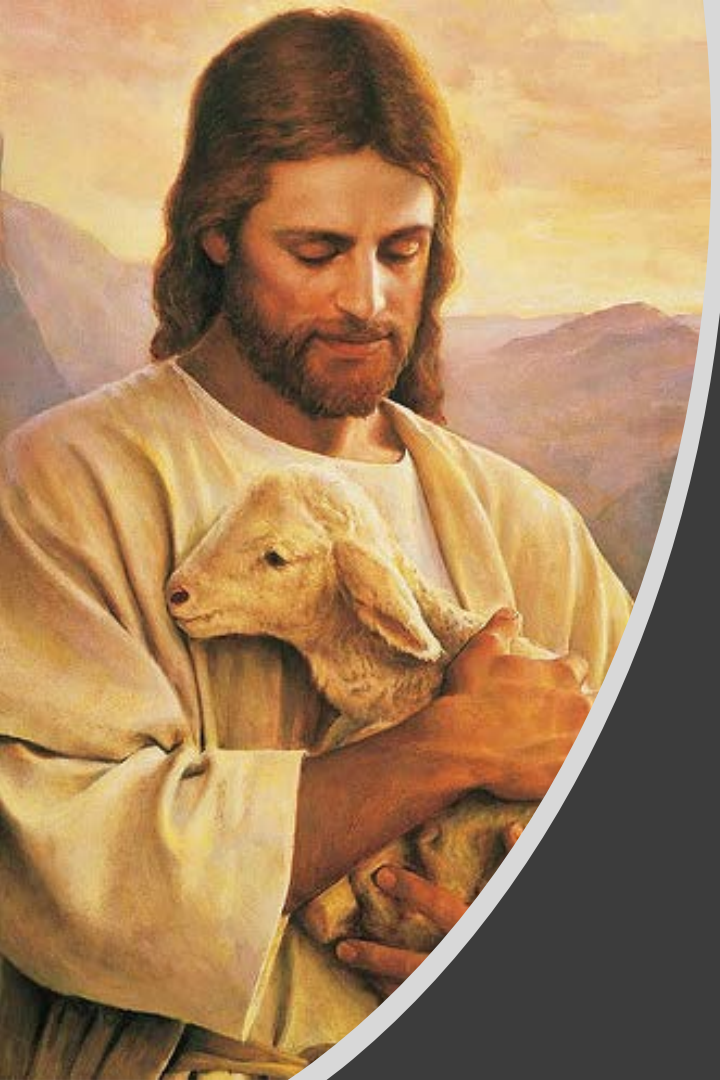
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*“Love in Action”*

*Dr. Sylvia Lee Mann*







# The Good Shepherd

# Shepherd at work





Leading the Sheep



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# Thieves and Robbers



My Sheep  
know my  
voice....

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Who are the  
“Other  
Sheep”?



Responding to  
the call of the  
Shepherd

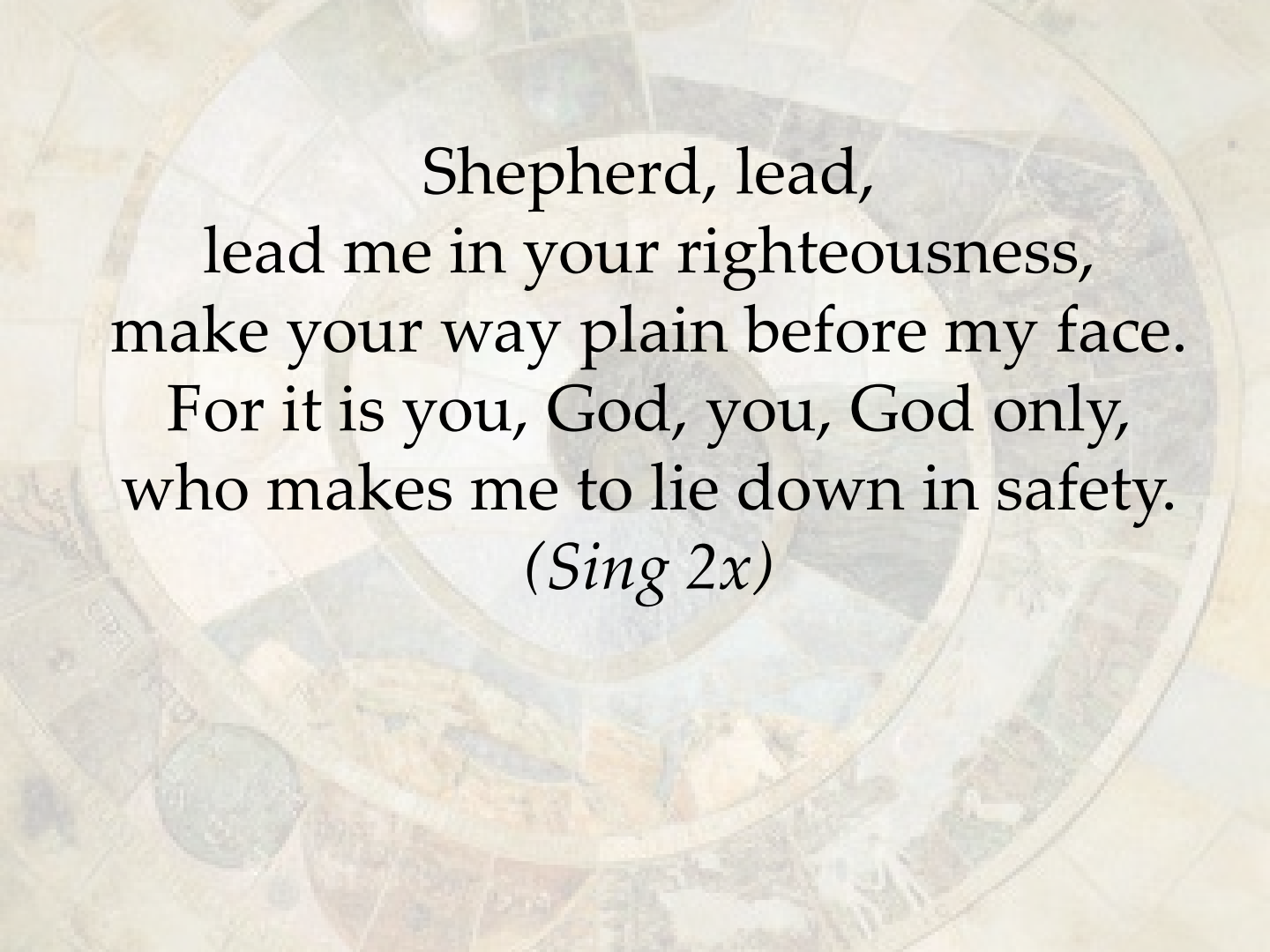


Responding Hymn

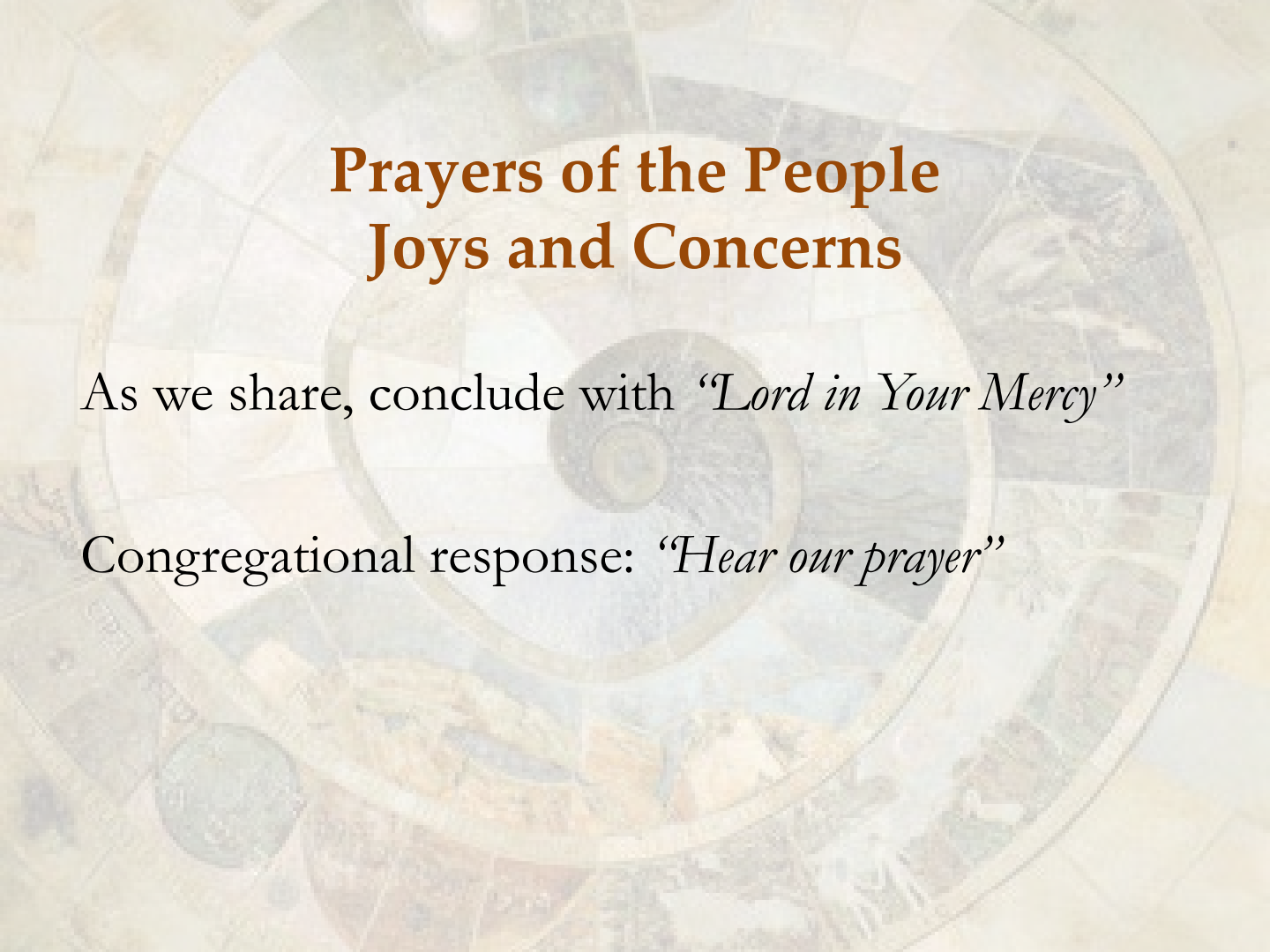
*Shepherd Lead*

*NCH #774*





Shepherd, lead,  
lead me in your righteousness,  
make your way plain before my face.  
For it is you, God, you, God only,  
who makes me to lie down in safety.  
*(Sing 2x)*



# Prayers of the People Joys and Concerns

As we share, conclude with *“Lord in Your Mercy”*

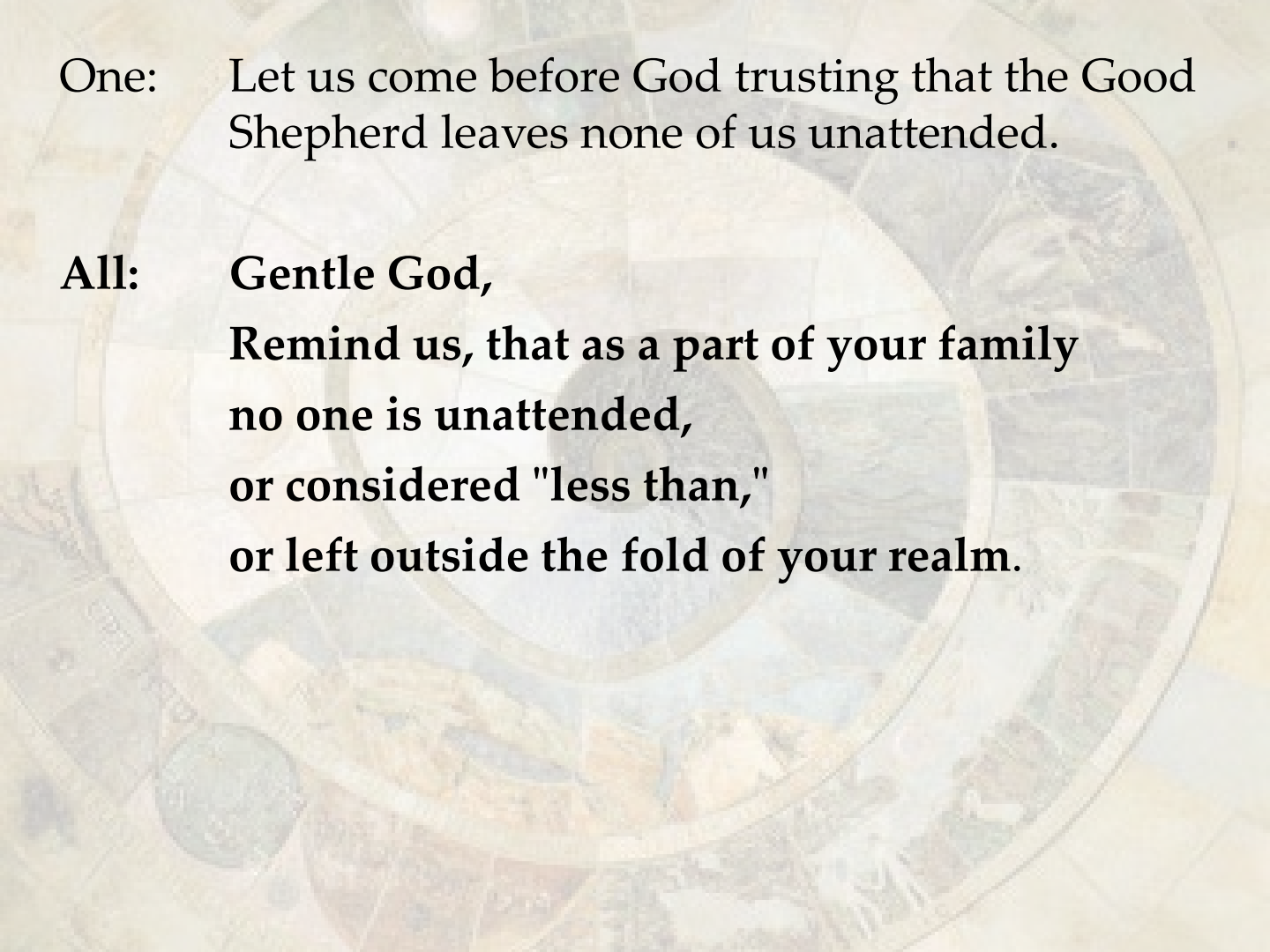
Congregational response: *“Hear our prayer”*

## *The Lords 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 and ever. Amen

A large, circular mosaic floor, likely from an ancient Roman or Greek building, featuring a central spiral design. The mosaic is composed of various colored tiles, including shades of blue, green, and brown. The text "Prayer of Confession" is overlaid in the center of the image.

# Prayer of Confession



**One:** Let us come before God trusting that the Good Shepherd leaves none of us unattended.

**All:** **Gentle God,**  
**Remind us, that as a part of your family**  
**no one is unattended,**  
**or considered "less than,"**  
**or left outside the fold of your realm.**

One: Especially on this Good Shepherd Sunday, help us to recognize the strength we gain from one another.

**All: Welcoming Shepherd,  
may we be ever mindful of the distinctive gifts  
we bring into our wider UCC family.  
Forgive us when we forget.  
Create in us a renewed gratitude  
for relationships with all your people. Amen.**

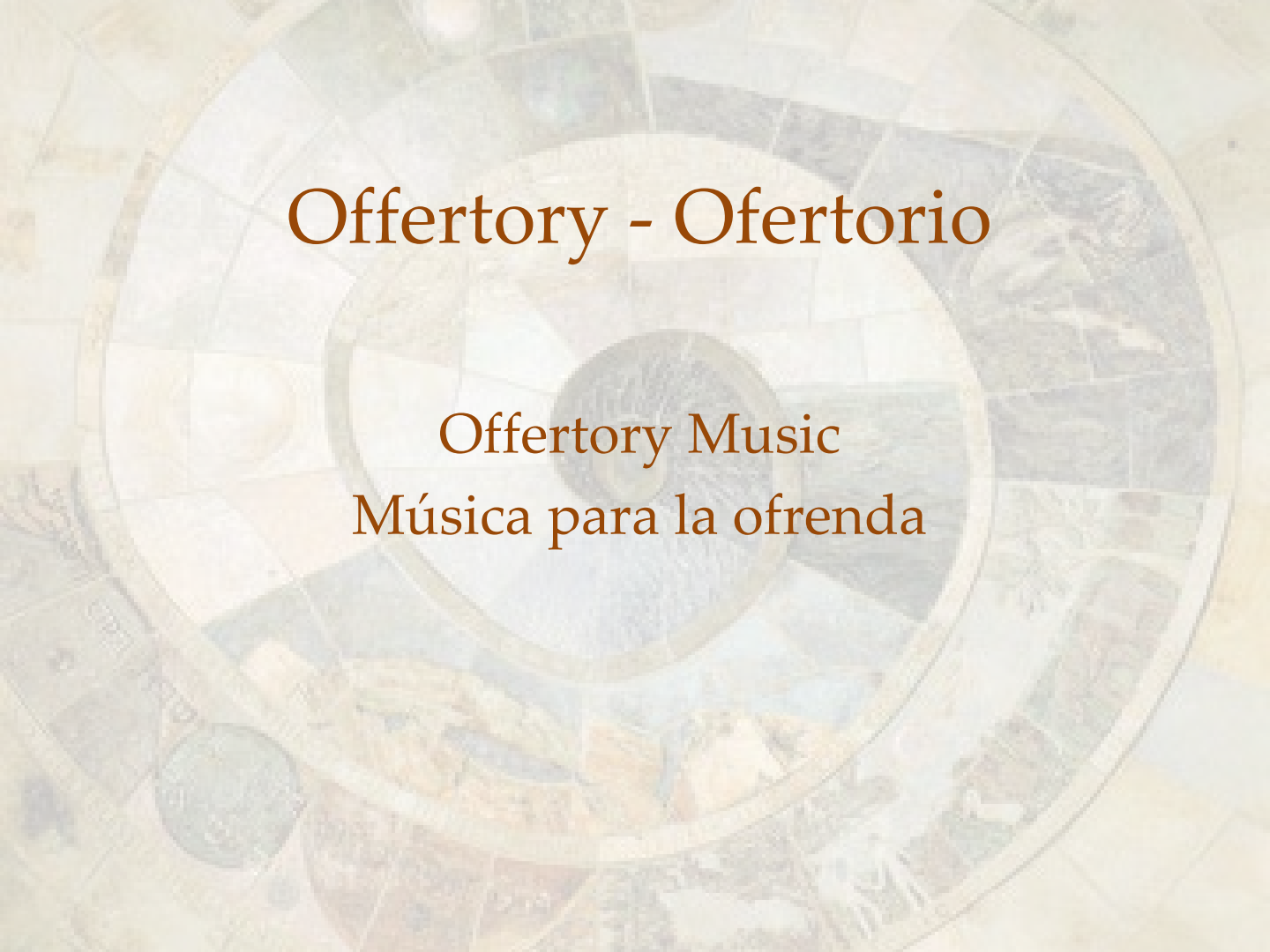
A circular mosaic floor, likely from an ancient Roman or Greek site, featuring a central spiral design. The mosaic is composed of various colored tiles, including shades of blue, green, yellow, and brown. The spiral is formed by a series of concentric, slightly offset bands of tiles. The text "Words of Assurance" is overlaid in the center of the image in a bold, brown, serif font.

# **Words of Assurance**



**Invitation to the Offering**  
*Invitación a la Oferta*





# Offertory - Ofertorio

Offertory Music  
Música para la ofrenda



# Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow  
Praise God all creatures here below  
Praise God above the heavenly hosts  
Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost  
Amen

# Unison Prayer of Dedication

Blessed and blessing God,  
we bring you gifts  
from our hearts and lives.

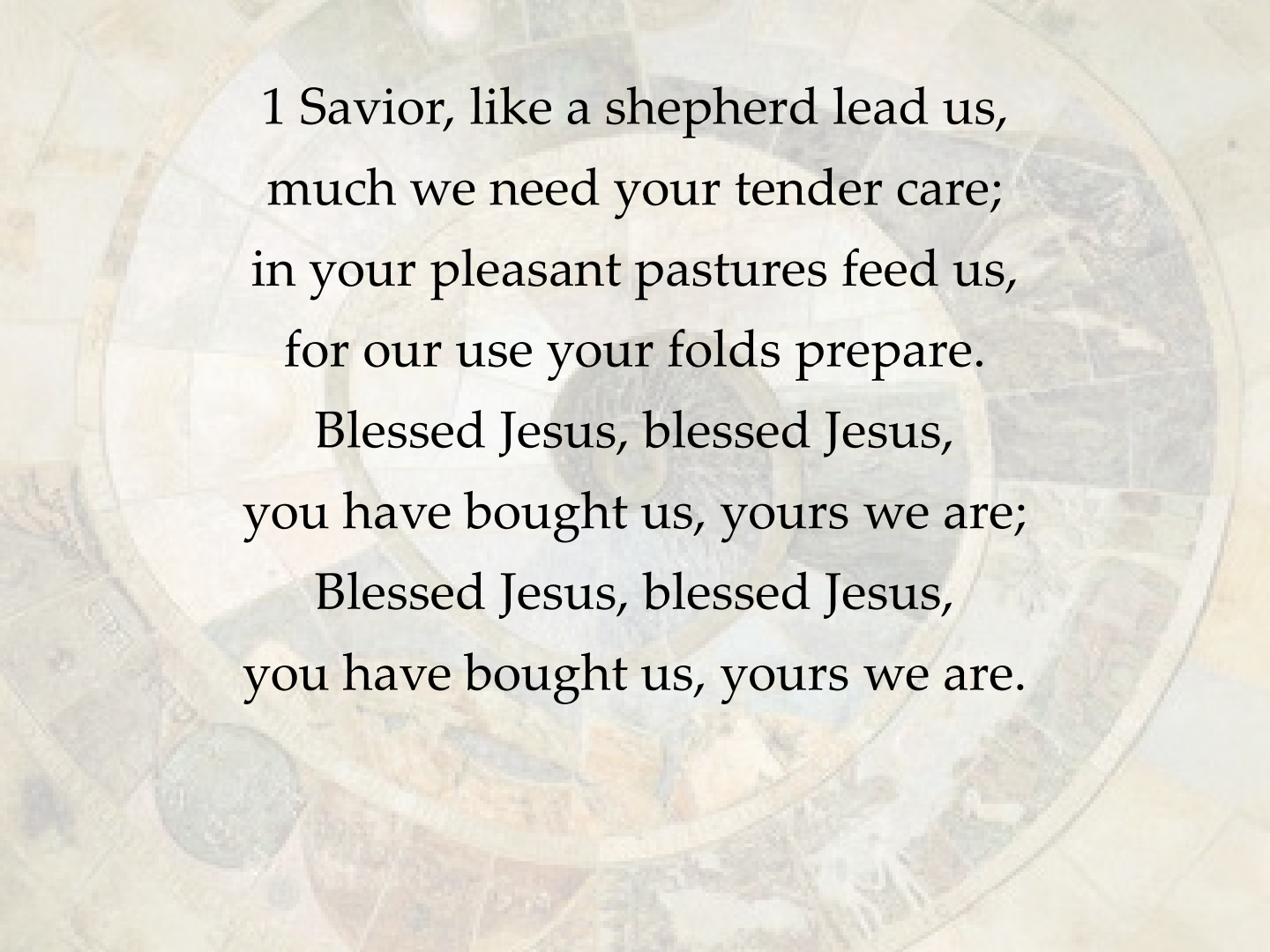
May our gifts be used to bring forth light  
and life to those whom you call into your  
family. Amen.

The background is a circular mosaic. In the center, there is a figure, possibly a shepherd, with a staff, surrounded by sheep. The mosaic is composed of various colored tiles in shades of blue, green, and brown. The text is overlaid on this mosaic.

# *Singing into Mission*

*Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us*

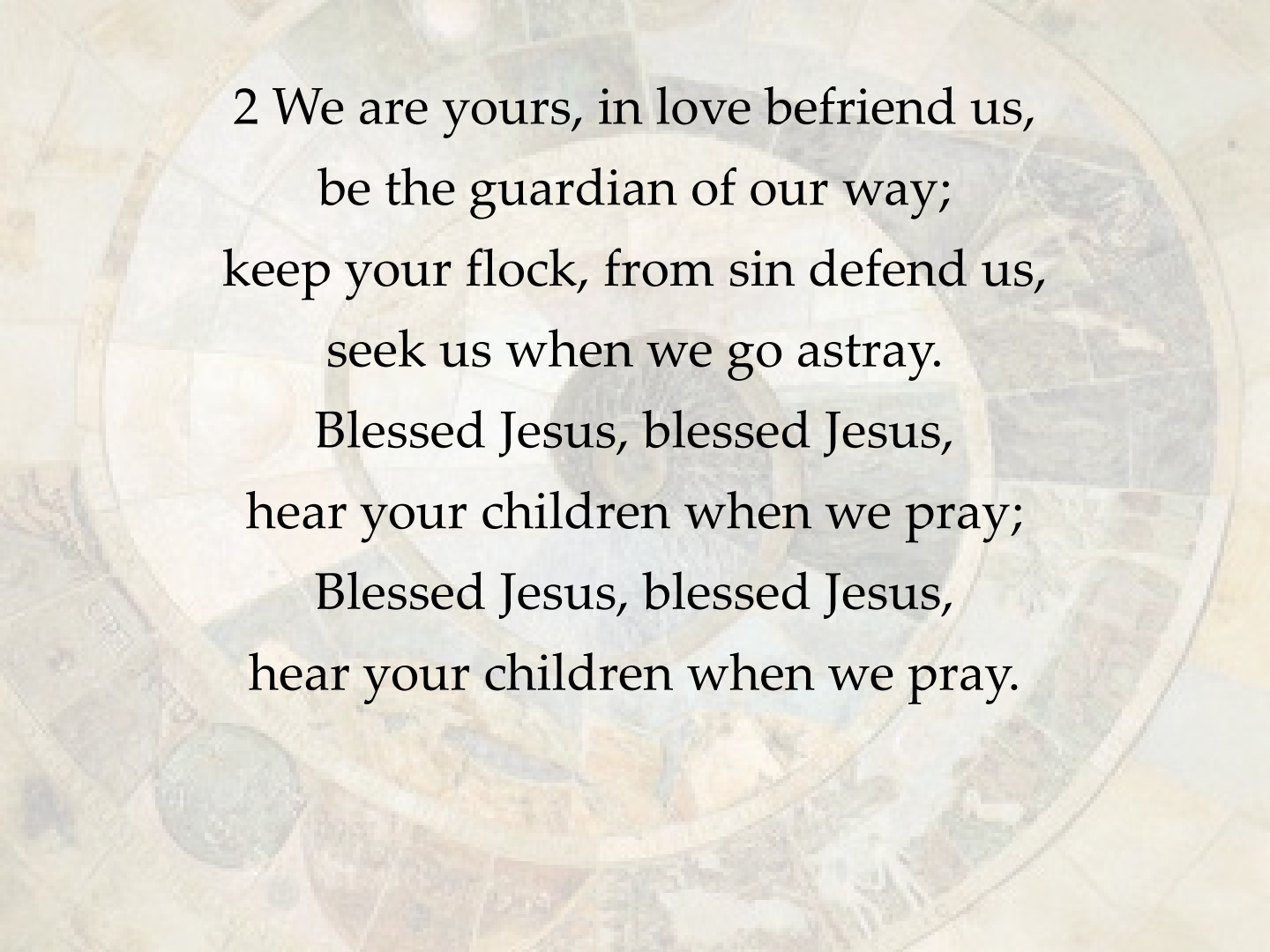
NCH #252



1 Savior, like a shepherd lead us,  
much we need your tender care;  
in your pleasant pastures feed us,  
for our use your folds prepare.

Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,  
you have bought us, yours we are;

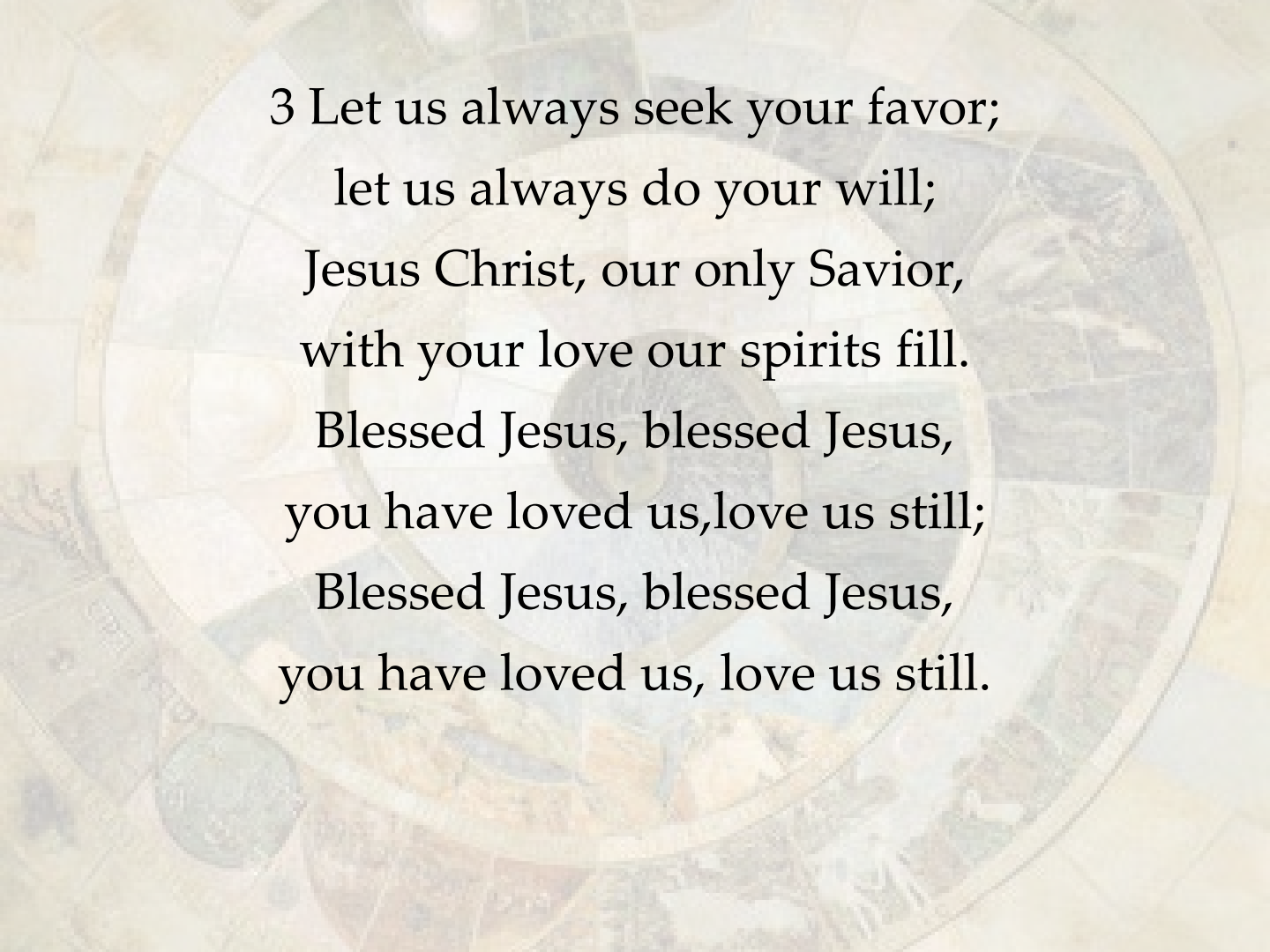
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,  
you have bought us, yours we are.



2 We are yours, in love befriend us,  
be the guardian of our way;  
keep your flock, from sin defend us,  
seek us when we go astray.

Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,  
hear your children when we pray;

Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,  
hear your children when we pray.

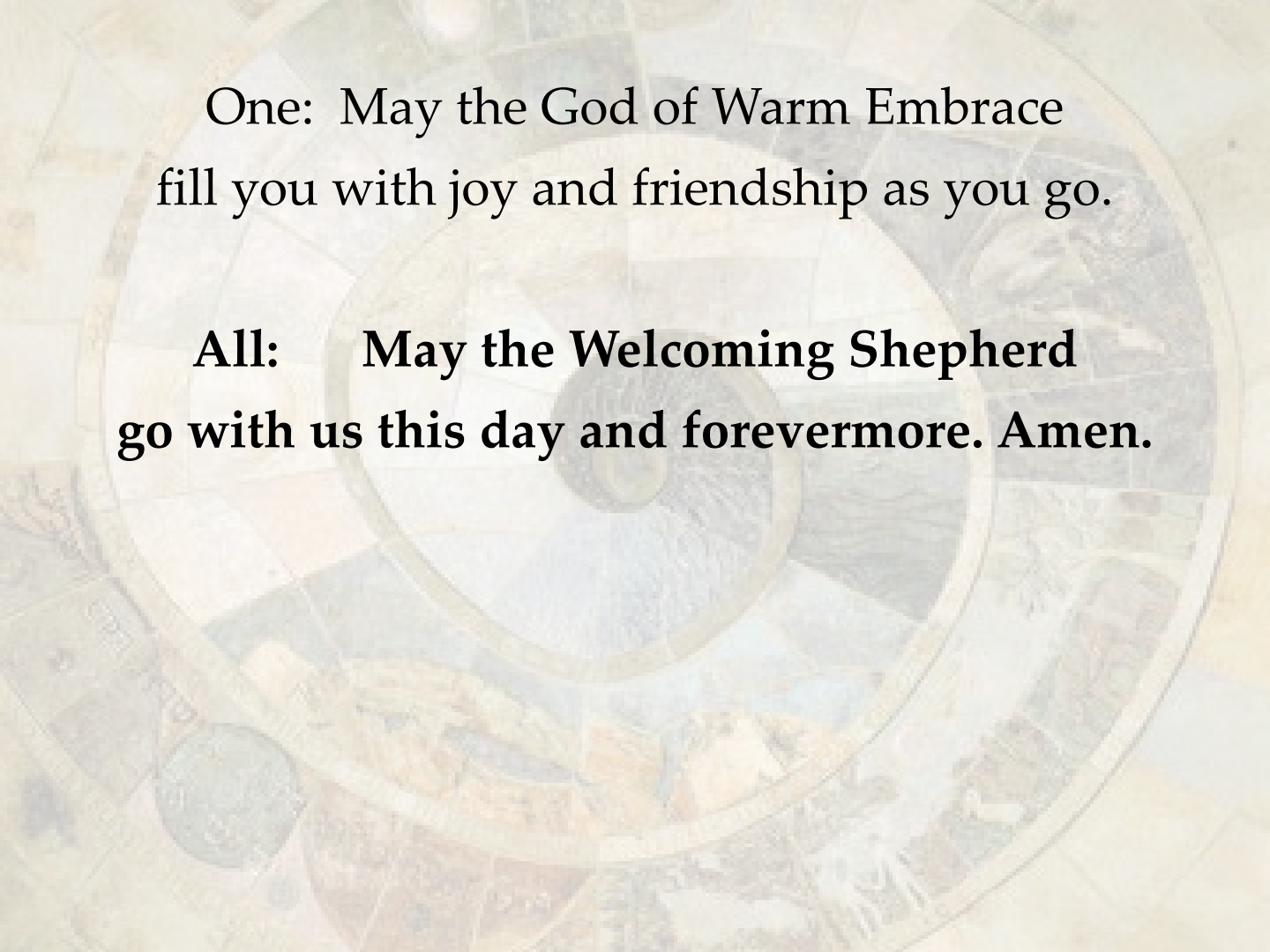


3 Let us always seek your favor;  
let us always do your will;  
Jesus Christ, our only Savior,  
with your love our spirits fill.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,  
you have loved us, love us still;  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,  
you have loved us, love us still.



**Benediction**  
*(Responsive)*



A circular mosaic background with a central figure and surrounding text. The mosaic is composed of various colored tiles in shades of blue, green, and brown. The central figure appears to be a person, possibly a shepherd, surrounded by a circular border. The text is overlaid on the mosaic.

One: May the God of Warm Embrace  
fill you with joy and friendship as you go.

**All: May the Welcoming Shepherd  
go with us this day and forevermore. Amen.**

# Postlude

The Mighty Carillon  
(Wayne Howell)

## **BE THE CHURCH**

*Protect the environment.* Care for the poor.

Forgive often. *Reject racism.*

**Fight for the powerless.**

*Share earthly and spiritual resources.*

*Embrace diversity. Love God. Enjoy this life.*