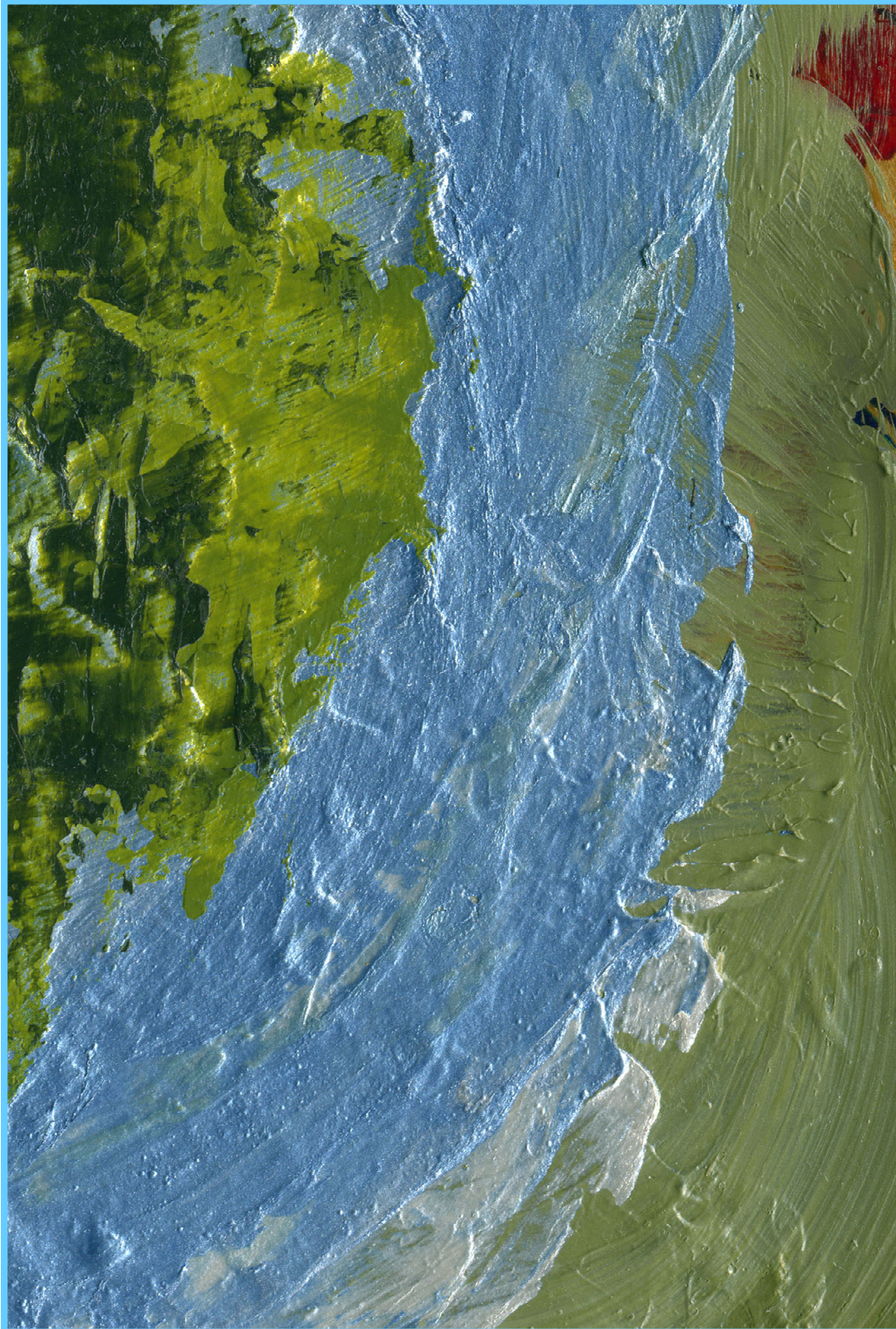


KIRK IN THE HILLS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)
9:00 A.M. GARDEN | 11:00 A.M. SANCTUARY WORSHIP
8TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST | JULY 19, 2026



Rejoice and Be Glad | Jan Richardson, used with permission



A Note from Pastor Edwin!

Welcome to the Kirk!

Welcome to worship at the Kirk in the Hills. Whether you are a long-time member, a returning friend, or a first-time visitor, we are grateful that you are here. Summer offers a unique opportunity to slow down, reconnect, and enjoy many of the gifts God has given us—time with family and friends, travel and recreation, evenings on the lake, walks through beautiful gardens, and moments of rest and renewal.

This year, as our nation commemorates the 250th anniversary of American Independence, we give thanks for the blessings of freedom while recommitting ourselves to working toward *a more perfect union, with liberty and justice for all*. As Christians, we remember that our highest allegiance is to God, whose kingdom calls us to seek the common good and love our neighbors.

Throughout the summer, our worship series, **Summer in the Psalms: Songs from the Heart of David**, invites us to pray, sing, reflect, and grow through the Bible's ancient songbook. The Psalms speak honestly about joy and sorrow, gratitude and struggle, worship and wonder, helping us discover God's presence in every season of life.

As you worship today, take in the beauty around you, the sunlight hitting the stained-glass windows just so, the gardens in bloom, the music that lifts our hearts, the prayers we offer, and the community gathered beside you. May this be a time to connect more deeply with God, with your own soul, and with the people God has placed in your life.

May you experience the Holy God today through worship and fellowship.

Join us next Sunday for **Psalm 34** and **Summer in the Psalms: Taste and See!**

Let us worship God!

Rev. Dr. Edwin Estevez
Sr. Pastor | Head of Staff | Kirk in the Hills

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

9:00 a.m. Garden Worship

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Dr. Philip J. Reed

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

Rev. Rami Almaqdasi

The Lord is our refuge and strength,
A very present help in trouble.

Therefore, we will not fear,

Though the earth should change.

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

Blessed are those who take refuge in him.

Let us worship the living God!

* HYMN 445

God, How Can We Forgive (See page 10.)

LEONI

*** PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Rev. Rami Almagdasi

Faithful and loving God,

You know us completely and still you call us your own.

Yet we confess that we wander from your ways.

Our hearts are anxious,

Our speech is careless,

And our love for neighbor grows thin.

Restore to us the joy of your salvation,

And lead us again in the paths of righteousness;

Through Jesus Christ, our Shepherd and Savior. Amen.

* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Lord, Have Mercy

John Merbecke



Lord, have mer-cy up - on us; Christ, have mer-cy up - on us; Lord, have mer-cy up - on us.

* ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Rev. Rami Almaqdasi

Hear and believe the good news:

“The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.”

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

In Jesus Christ, we are a new creation!

Alleluia, Amen!

* ACCLAMATION OF PRAISE 581

Glory Be to the Father

GLORIA PATRI

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.

WORD

WORD WITH CHILDREN AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

COMMISSIONING MIDDLE SCHOOL MISSION TRIP

Rev. Dr. Philip J. Reed & Sarah Ford

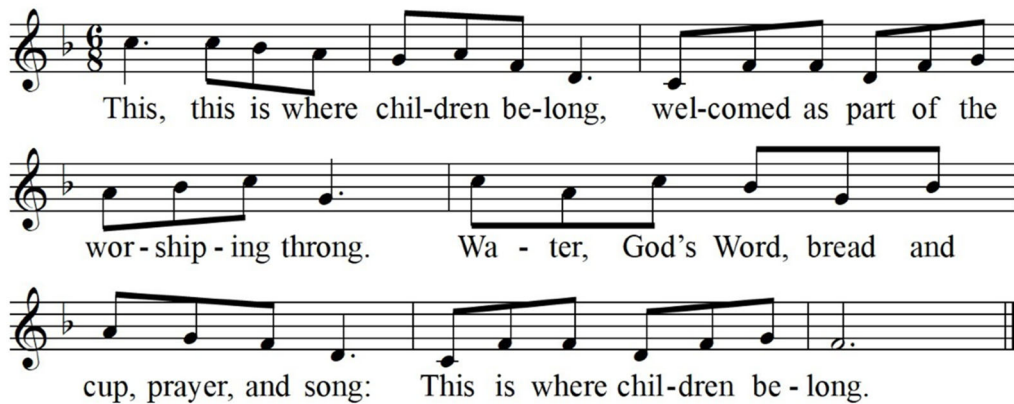
Children grade 3 through grade 8 will go to The Abbey Lounge after The Word With Children.

INVITATION HYMN

Where Children Belong

James Ritchie

Please join in singing.



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.

PRAYER

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Dr. Philip J. Reed

WORD

TRIO

Consider the Lilies

Hoffman/Lyon

*Consider the lilies of the field,
How they grow, how they grow.
Consider the birds in the sky,
How they fly, how they fly.
He clothes the lilies of the field.
He feeds the birds in the sky.*

*And he will feed those who trust him,
And guide them with his eye.*

*Consider the sheep of his fold,
How they follow where he leads.
Though the path may wind across the mountains,
He knows the meadows where they feed.
He clothes the lilies of the field.
He feeds the birds in the sky,
And he will feed those who trust him,
And guide them with his eye.*

*Consider the sweet, tender children
Who must suffer on this earth
The pains of all of them he carried
From the day of his birth.
He clothes the lilies of the field,
He feeds the lambs in his fold,
And he will heal those who trust him,
And make their hearts as gold.*

SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 32

Deacon Amy Maple

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Summer in the Psalms: The Joy of Forgiveness

Rev. Matthew Means

SENDING

*** HYMN 435**

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy
(See page 11.)

IN BABILONE

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION (seated)

THE CARILLON

Scottish Fantasy

Adam Lenhart

*Garden worshippers are encouraged to drop off donations in the baskets located at the Celtic Cross
near ramp or at the door to the cloister as you exit to the front patio as you depart. Please see notes on page 6.
Join us for coffee and fellowship on the patio immediately following service!*

INFORMATION ON TODAY'S SERVICES

Musicians: 9:00 a.m. trio: Courtney Jolley and Karen Truscott, sopranos; Rebekka Beacham, alto; 11:00 a.m. trio: Jamie Jurado and Courtney Jolley, sopranos; Katherine Faddol and Trinity Green, mezzo-sopranos; Marilyn and James Biery, organists; Adam Lenhart, carillonist.

About the Music: Léon Boëllmann (1862 – 1897) was a French composer, known for a small number of compositions for organ. His best-known composition is the *Suite Gothique* (1895), which is a staple of the organ repertoire, especially its concluding Toccata. The prelude features the lovely slow movement from this suite, and the postlude the menuet.

British composer Oliver Tarney (b. 1984) was born and educated in Lancaster, then at Manchester university. After completing a Master's Degree in composition and training as a teacher, he is now Assistant Director of Music at Tiffin School, Kingston, after holding the position of Head of Academic Music and Composition at Winchester College in Hampshire.

Jakob Ludwig Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy (1809 – 1847), simply known as Felix Mendelssohn, was a German composer, pianist, organist and conductor of the early Romantic era. Mendelssohn's compositions include symphonies, concertos, piano music, organ music and chamber music. His best-known works include the overture and incidental music for *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (from which his "Wedding March" comes), the Italian and Scottish Symphonies, the oratorios *St. Paul* and *Elijah*, and the melody used in the Christmas carol "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing,"

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Stephen Ministers are available for personal, confidential prayer in the Garden after the 9:00 a.m. outdoor worship and in Melrose Chapel immediately following each service Sunday. If you or someone you know is in need of prayer please contact Nancy Lau at 248-835-6691. If you are interested in being connected with a Stephen Minister, please call Robin Brinks at 248-310-2034.

Feeling called to join the Kirk Church Family? Mercy Adams—Kirk Member, Stephen Minister, Usher, and staff support to New Member and Evangelism and Outreach & Mission Committees is here to guide you. Meet Mercy after Sunday Worship, during Coffee Hour.



Camera and Phone Usage Guidelines: Out of respect for your fellow worshipers and those leading worship, we kindly ask you to silence cellphones and other communication devices and to refrain from taking photos or video during worship. Recordings of past worship services and other sanctuary events are available at kirkinthehills.org/worship/past-messages.

Deacon Flower Ministry: If you or someone you know needs a little cheering up, our Deacon flower ministry has bud vases each Sunday in the narthex. Please take a flower to remind someone of God's love or to remind yourself of the same.

The flowers on the altar are presented to the glory of God by Angus and Karen Campbell in loving memory of their parents, Angus and Virginia Campbell and Ray and Kay Nelson, and their grandparents.

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

11:00 a.m., Sanctuary

PRELUDE

Suite Gothique

Léon Boëllmann

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Dr. Philip J. Reed

** Please rise in body or spirit at the ringing of the bell.*

*** INTROIT**

Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty

Joachim Neander

Open now thy gates of beauty, Zion, let me enter there, where my soul in joyful duty waits for God who answers prayer; O how blessed is this place, filled with solace, light, and grace.

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

Rev. Rami Almagdasi

The Lord is our refuge and strength,
A very present help in trouble.

Therefore, we will not fear,
Though the earth should change.

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

Bless are those who take refuge in him.

Let us worship the living God.

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN 445

God, How Can We Forgive

LEONI

*** PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Rev. Rami Almagdasi

Faithful and loving God,
You know us completely and still you call us your own.
Yet we confess that we wander from your ways.

Our hearts are anxious,
Our speech is careless,
And our love for neighbor grows thin.
Restore to us the joy of your salvation,
And lead us again in the paths of righteousness;
Through Christ, our shepherd and savior. Amen.

* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Lord, Have Mercy

John Merbecke



Lord, have mer-cy up - on us; Christ, have mer-cy up - on us; Lord, have mer-cy up - on us.

* ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Rev. Rami Almagdasi

Hear and believe the good news:

"The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love."

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

In Jesus Christ, we are a new creation!

Alleluia, Amen!

* ACCLAMATION OF PRAISE 581

Glory Be to the Father

GLORIA PATRI

WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION Gracious God

Arabic Tune

Gracious God, you are the source of all light. By your Word you give light to the soul. Pour on us the source of your wisdom that we may hear your Word through Jesus Christ. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 32 (OT, page 506)

Elder Carole Pearl

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

QUARTET

Christ Be With Me

Oliver Tarney

*Christ be with me,
Christ within me,
Christ behind me,
Christ before me,
Christ beside me,
Christ to win me,
Christ to comfort and restore me.*

*Christ beneath me,
Christ above me,
Christ in quiet,
Christ in danger,
Christ in the hearts of all who love me,
Christ in the mouths of friend and stranger.*

SERMON

Summer in the Psalms: The Joy of Forgiveness

Rev. Matthew Means

* **HYMN 441**

Hear the Good News of Salvation

NETTLETON

(Please be seated after the hymn.)

THANKSGIVING

CALL TO OFFERING AND DEDICATION

Rev. Rami Almaqdasi

Our giving is an offering to God. All offerings are part of our worship of God and are used to support the Kirk's ministry. Text "KITH" to 73256 to give using your mobile device.

OFFERTORY

Lift Thine Eyes from "Elijah"

Mendelssohn

Lift thine eyes, O lift thine eyes, to the mountains whence cometh help. Thy help cometh from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth. He hath said, thy foot shall not be moved. Thy keeper will never slumber. (Ps. 121:1-4)

* **DOXOLOGY** (Hymn 606)

OLD HUNDREDTH

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him* all creatures here below;
Praise him* above, ye heavenly host,
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

** or God*

PRAYER

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Dr. Philip J. Reed

Our Father, who art in heaven... (*debts & debtors*)

SENDING

* RECESSIONAL HYMN 435 **There's a Wideness in God's Mercy**

IN BABILONE

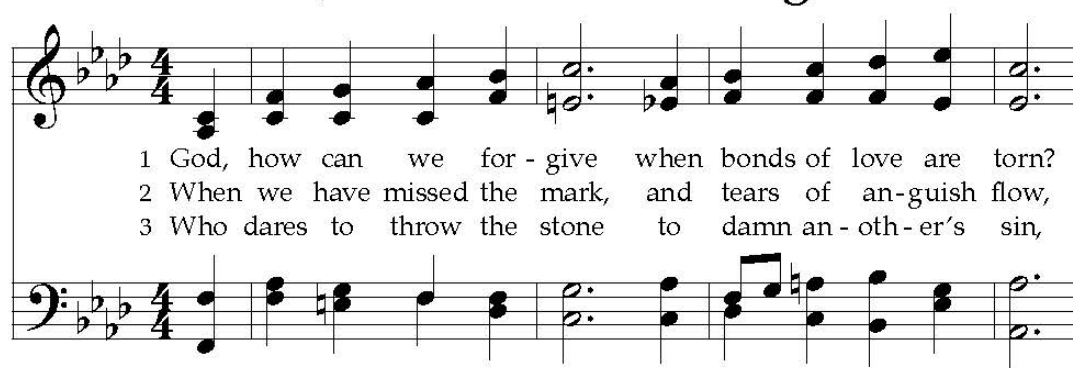
CHARGE AND BENEDICTION (*seated*)

CHORAL AMEN

POSTLUDE **Menuet Gothique**

Boëllmann

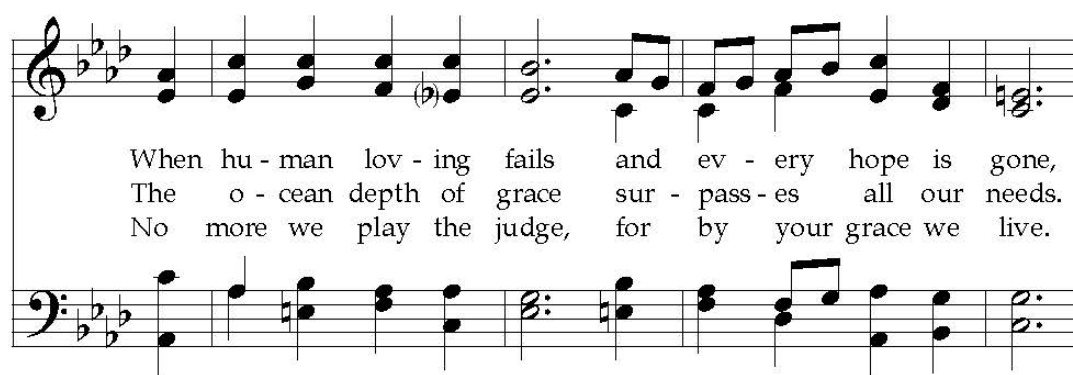
445 God, How Can We Forgive



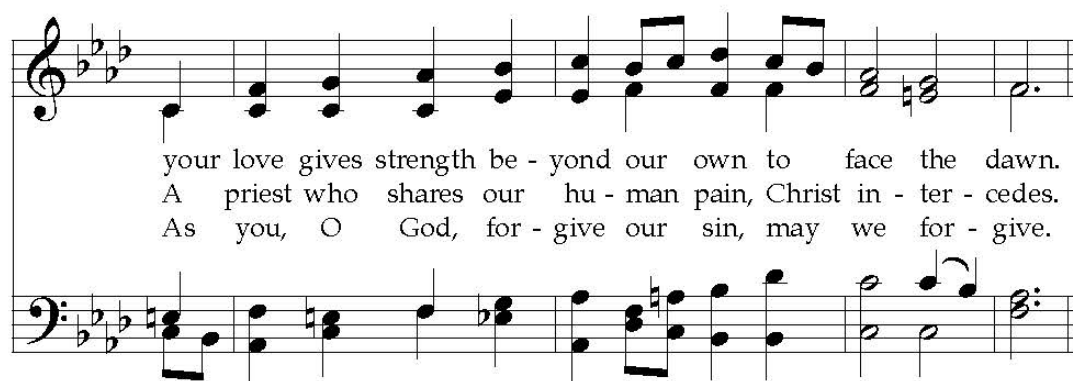
1 God, how can we for - give when bonds of love are torn?
 2 When we have missed the mark, and tears of an-guish flow,
 3 Who dares to throw the stone to damn an - oth - er's sin,



How can we rise and start a - new, our trust re - born?
 how can you still re - lease our guilt, the debt we owe?
 when you, while know - ing all our past, for - give a - gain?



When hu - man lov - ing fails and ev - ery hope is gone,
 The o - cean depth of grace sur - pass - es all our needs.
 No more we play the judge, for by your grace we live.



your love gives strength be - yond our own to face the dawn.
 A priest who shares our hu - man pain, Christ in - ter - cedes.
 As you, O God, for - give our sin, may we for - give.

This text reflects both the struggle to deal with a deep personal hurt and a keen awareness of biblical language and content. The opening line of stanza two, for example, draws on the root meaning of the Greek word for sin, and the beginning of stanza three alludes to John 8:3-8.

435 There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

1 There's a wide-ness in God's mer-cy, like the wide-ness
2 For the love of God is broad-er than the mea-sures

of the sea. There's a kind-ness in God's jus-tice,
of the mind. And the heart of the E-ter-nal

which is more than lib-er-ty. There is no place where earth's
is most won-der-ful-ly kind. If our love were but more

sor-rows are more felt than up in heaven. There is no place
faith-ful, we would glad-ly trust God's Word, and our lives re-

where earth's fail-ings have such kind-ly judg-ment given.
flect thanks-giv-ing for the good-ness of our Lord.

These stanzas, excerpted from quite a few more, offer a reminder that the model for our dealings with others should be God's generosity rather than limited human tolerance. The text is effectively set to a broad and sturdy Dutch folk melody, probably from the 17th century.



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