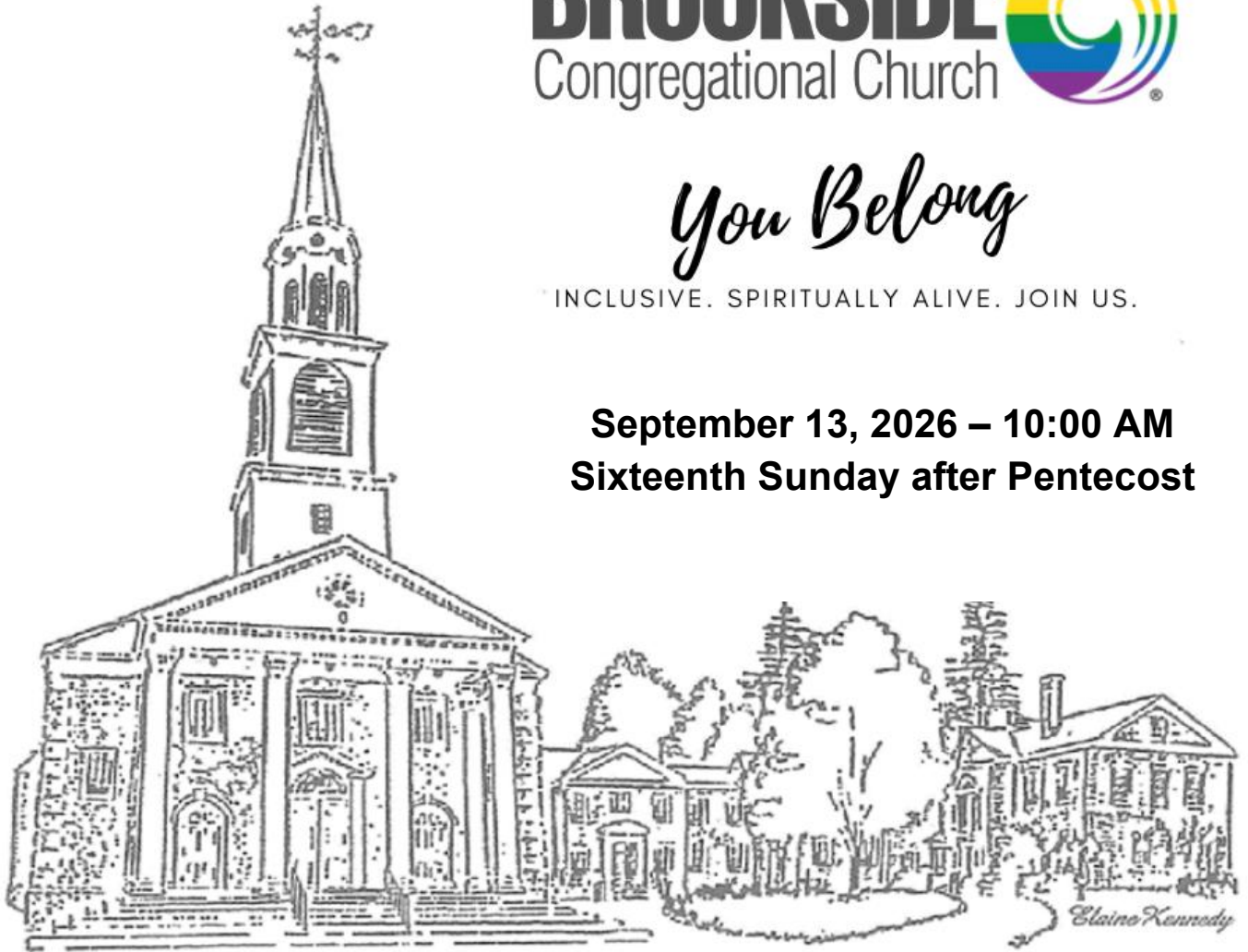




You Belong

INCLUSIVE. SPIRITUALLY ALIVE. JOIN US.

September 13, 2026 – 10:00 AM
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost



Reverend Laura Biddle, Minister

Michelle Jaques, Music Leader

Heather Bridges, Choir Leader

Robert Dionne, Organist

Christina Alvarez and Amber Nicole Cannon, Youth Troupe

Louise Popp, Church Administrator

An Open and Affirming Congregation

2013 Elm Street, Manchester, NH 03104-2528

Tel. (603) 669-2807 ~ Fax (603) 668-9041

admin@brookside.org ~ www.brooksidecc.org

*Please Stand

GREETING

The **Flowers** are given in memory of Marion, William, and Skip Thorndike by Marti Thorndike

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Come excited to be in the presence of God with your fellow Christians. Let us remember God's marvelous works.

People: Surely God has saved us in difficult times. The healing hands of the Holy Spirit live in each of our hands.

Leader: God's guiding hands are involved in bringing peace to the earth.

People: Sing the praises of God, our strength and guiding light. Trust in the power of God's Spirit.

Leader: How great is God's mercy of all human beings. Be open to the gentle kindness and patience that only God can provide.

OPENING PRAYER

Majestic and gentle God, who led our spiritual ancestors with a pillar of clouds by day and protected them by night, lead us through this time of our life together. Save us from our criticisms and self-doubts. Grant us strength to reach out to those who are struggling the most, that we might be a support for all who stumble. Let every voice praise you as we give thanks for your presence here at Brookside.

*HYMN *Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain* N 230

SCRIPTURE Psalm 149:1-5 Laura Schneider

Praise the Lord! Sing to the Lord a new song, his praise in the assembly of the faithful. Let Israel be glad in its Maker; let the children of Zion rejoice in their King. Let them praise his name with dancing, making melody to him with tambourine and lyre. For the Lord takes pleasure in his people; he adorns the humble with victory. Let the faithful exult in glory; let them sing for joy on their couches.

Romans 13:8-12

Owe no one anything, except to love one another, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; you shall not murder; you shall not steal; you shall not covet," and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light.

Matthew 18:21-22

Then Peter came and said to him, "Lord, if my brother or sister sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

SERMON

Armor of Light

Rev. Laura Biddle

ANTHEM

Come, Share the Lord

PRAYERS

LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY

*HYMN

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

N 23

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Deacon of the Week: Heather Merrill

Reader: Laura Schneider

Sound Technician: Peter VanAmburg

Technology: Brian Brady

Join us in Fellowship Hall after Worship for our Potluck Luncheon.



Please Remember in Prayer



Anna O'Donnell
Helene and Michael Sullivan

Brookside's sponsor children: Eben Gulo and Ryan Pierre
~ Sakubva Church, UCC – the center candle celebrates our
Ukama Partnership since 1996 ~



Scan the code to
donate to
Brookside Church.

Blessing of the Backpacks

Next **Sunday, September 20**, we will bless youth backpacks. Please bring your school backpacks to church. If you need one, we will have some available for you.

Outing to see "Sister Act" at the Palace Theatre on September 27th at 2 pm

Join us for a fun-filled afternoon at the Palace Theatre to see Sister Act! Brookside's very own Tina Alvarez is starring as Sister Mary Theresa! If we are able to get 20 people to attend, the cost will be \$40 for adults and \$35 for children 12 and under. **You can sign up at the church potluck on September 13.**

Fall Community Concert

Join us Saturday, **October 3, 2026, 4:30pm – 6:30pm** in the sanctuary for a free concert (donations welcome) with local favorite Chad LaMarsh. Let music fill our church as we usher in a new season and kick off the 2027 stewardship campaign. Following the concert all are invited to visit our newly renovated Fellowship Hall for socializing and ice cream Sundays. Don't miss this exciting event at Brookside!!

Fall Book Group - October 27 on Zoom

Join Rev. Laura for our fall book group on **Tuesday, October 27 at 6:00 pm** on Zoom. We will be discussing "I See You've Called In Dead" by John Kenney. It is a dark comedic book about a disillusioned obituary writer who accidentally publishes his own death notice. We will explore themes of life and mortality, and grief and connection. Please get in touch with the office if you would like to join us.

Soup Bowl Fundraiser – Sunday, October 25

Brookside Church, The Pinnacle Foundation, and Monica Leap of Studio 550-Community Art Center have been working together to organize a Soup Bowl Fundraiser on October 25 at Brookside. Monica has graciously invited us to her studio for a tour and private painting time on Monday, September 21st from 3:30-5 pm.

The discounted cost is \$5/painter to help cover material costs of the underglaze used to paint. Reservations are required as the studio can accommodate 25 painters in one sitting. Here is the link to reserve a spot.

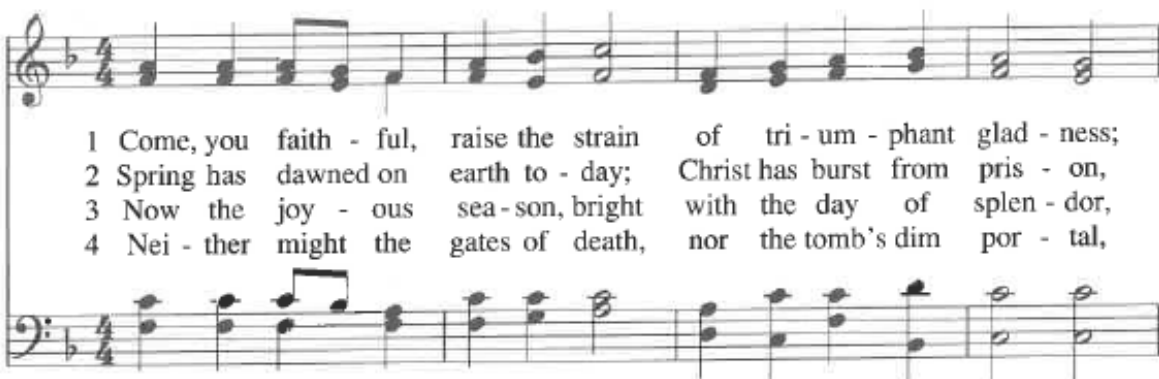
<https://550arts.as.me/EmptyBowlsPinnacleBrookside>

Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain

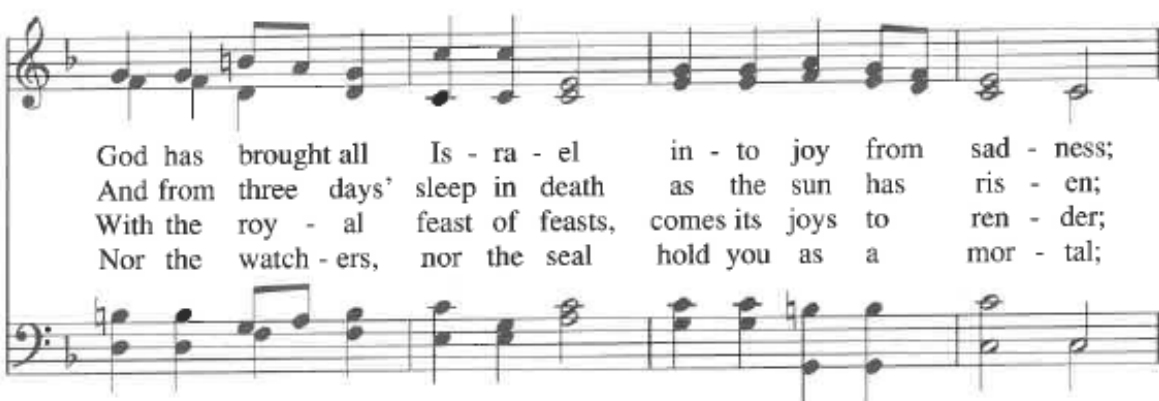
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Attrib. to John of Damascus (c. 696–c. 754 C.E.)
Transl. John Mason Neale, 1872; alt.

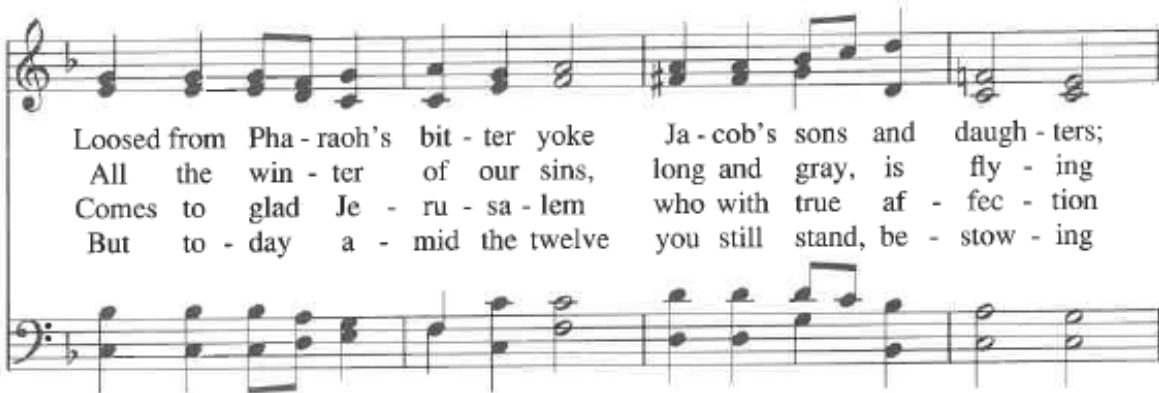
Exod. 15; Luke 24



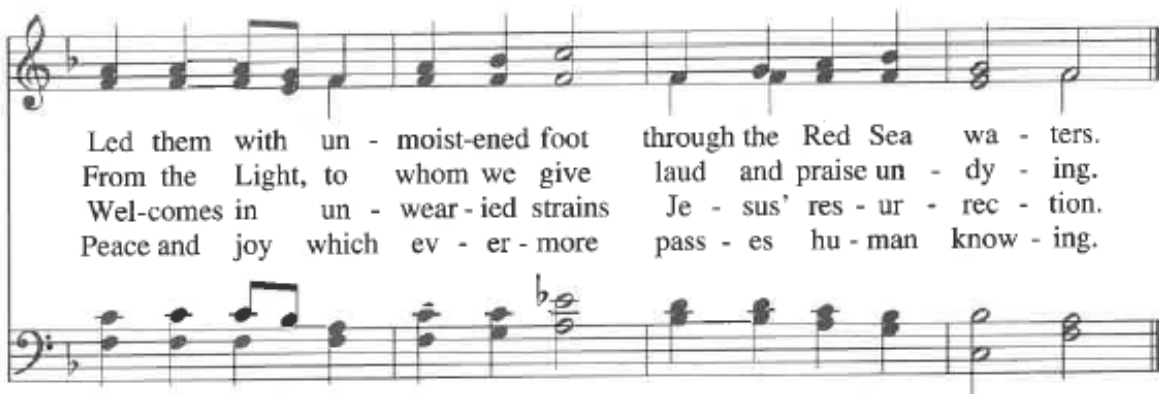
1 Come, you faith - ful, raise the strain of tri - um - phant glad - ness;
2 Spring has dawned on earth to - day; Christ has burst from pris - on,
3 Now the joy - ous sea - son, bright with the day of splen - dor,
4 Nei - ther might the gates of death, nor the tomb's dim por - tal,



God has brought all Is - ra - el in - to joy from sad - ness;
And from three days' sleep in death as the sun has ris - en;
With the roy - al feast of feasts, comes its joys to ren - der;
Nor the watch - ers, nor the seal hold you as a mor - tal;



Loosed from Pha - raoh's bit - ter yoke Ja - cob's sons and daugh - ters;
All the win - ter of our sins, long and gray, is fly - ing
Comes to glad Je - ru - sa - lem who with true af - fec - tion
But to - day a - mid the twelve you still stand, be - stow - ing

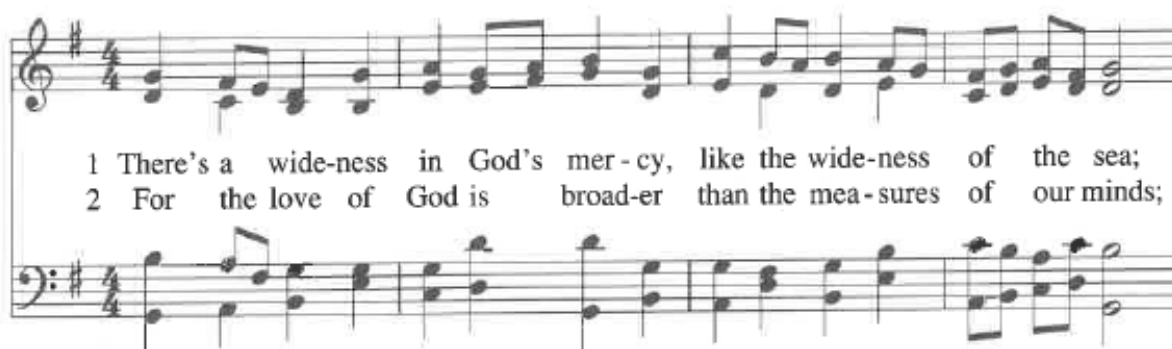


Led them with un - moist - ened foot through the Red Sea wa - ters.
From the Light, to whom we give laud and praise un - dy - ing.
Wel - comes in un - wear - ied strains Je - sus' res - ur - rec - tion.
Peace and joy which ev - er - more pass - es hu - man know - ing.

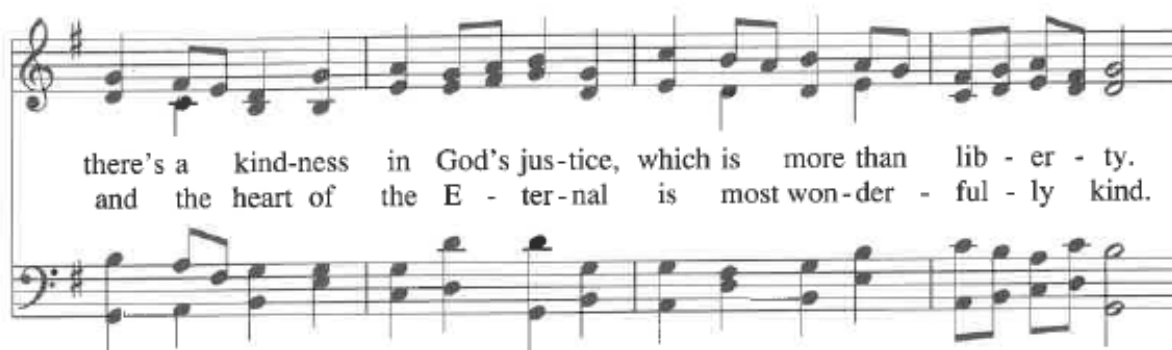
There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

23

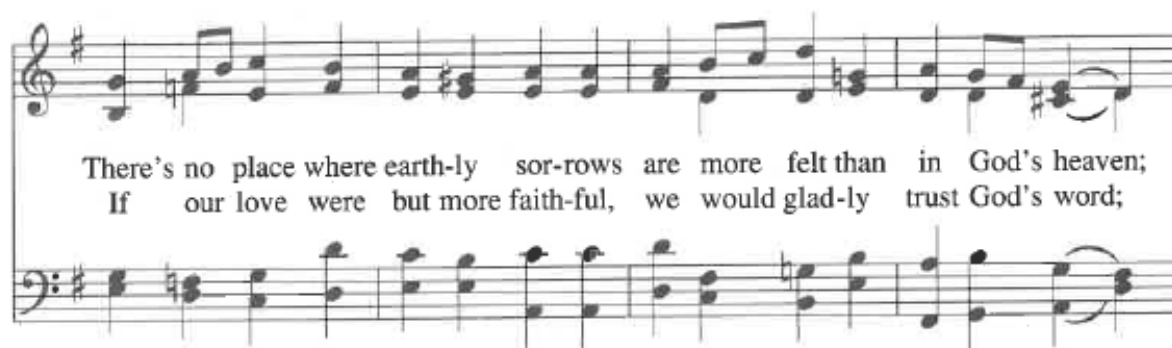
Frederick William Faber, 1854; alt.



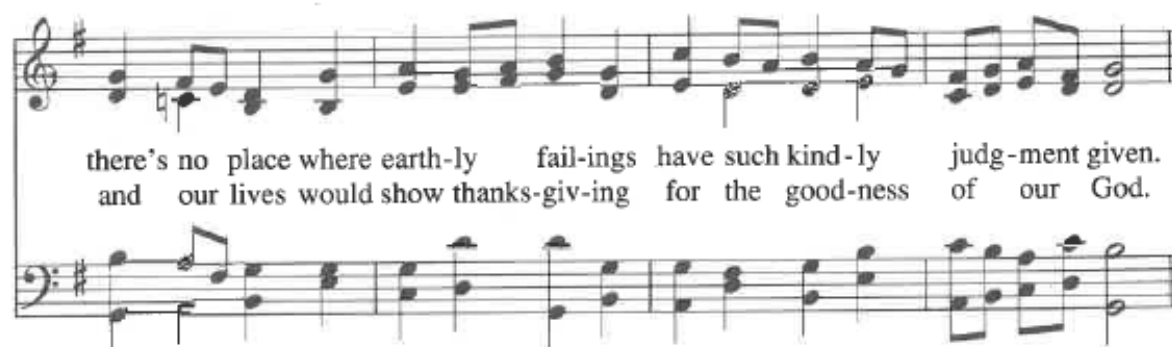
1 There's a wide-ness in God's mer-cy, like the wide-ness of the sea;
2 For the love of God is broad-er than the mea-sures of our minds;



there's a kind-ness in God's jus-tice, which is more than lib - er - ty.
and the heart of the E - ter-nal is most won-der - ful - ly kind.



There's no place where earth-ly sor-rows are more felt than in God's heaven;
If our love were but more faith-ful, we would glad-ly trust God's word;



there's no place where earth-ly fail-ings have such kind-ly judg-ment given.
and our lives would show thanks-giv-ing for the good-ness of our God.