

The love of a farm family

Since high school, I have worked part time for a neighboring farmer and his family. While I haven't worked consistently during this time, I have found some reason to help out with their family farming operation for the last sixteen years. In that time, a friendship, bond, and trust has formed. It's more than just a job but rather a connection where worlds converge, bringing life experiences, knowledge, expertise, and some stubborn and witty personalities together. It's a true treasure that I have been blessed to be part of for many years.

In this experience, I have found themes of grace, accountability, heartache, disappointment, achievement, fulfillment—most importantly, all in the name of God's love. Placing my trust in this family and receiving their trust has demonstrated to me the psalmist's words: "The LORD's unfailing love surrounds the one who trusts in him (NIV)." Through the mistakes of broken equipment, inaccurately completed tasks, and countless other disappointments, the unconditional love of this farmer and his family still presents itself as a bonded connection in Christian faith and consistent grace that I will forever be grateful for.

The theme that rings through this psalm is grace—the grace of God that is bestowed on each of us as we encounter this Lenten journey on a wilderness walk with Jesus. It's an experience that will test ourselves and our faith much like Jesus felt leading up to his crucifixion. The human, relatable, and the graceful connections we see with Jesus allow us to have a more complete understanding in the complexity of God's love. A love filled with grace!

—Thomas McMullin
Minburn, Iowa

"The pain of the wicked is severe, but faithful love surrounds the one who trusts the LORD" (Psalm 32:10, CEB). **Today's Bible readings from the lectionary:** Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7; Psalm 32; Romans 5:12-19; Matthew 4:1-11.

February 22, 2026, First Sunday of Lent. Photo © Marissa Witkovsky-Eldred. Used by permission. Living Word Bulletin Series © 2026 Brethren Press. Printed in the USA.



FAITHFUL *love* SURROUNDS

CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
Hagerstown, Maryland

MORNING WORSHIP **10:45 AM**

February 22, 2026

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE "As the Sun Doth Daily Rise" (Roberts)

***CALL TO WORSHIP** Chris Stockslager, Worship Leader

One: Come, foolish people, God is calling us. The God of all time and space wants our attention.

All: Why are we called foolish in the church? Does God think we are foolish people?

One: Have we embraced the world's talk and actions? Have we turned away from God's expectations?

All: People call us foolish when we take faith seriously. The world thinks us strange if we are different.

One: God says to us: You shall be holy because I am. You shall be true and just, generous and loving.

All: How can God expect us to be perfect? How can we help others if we don't fit in?

***HYMN** "Take time to be holy" (see insert)

***OPENING PRAYER**

God, we have come to worship you. We thought we could come on our terms, but your word proclaims *your* rule over this gathering and in all your creation. Help us to hear your will for us, not as limiting and oppressive but as the freeing, fulfilling pathway to life. We want to be your faithful children. We want to experience life at its best. Amen.

A MOMENT TO BECOME LIKE CHILDREN

SPECIAL MUSIC "Seek Ye First" (Wagner)
Brethren Bells

SERVICE OF GIVING

Call to Giving

God expects more of believers than of nonbelievers. God delights in our joyous responses to divine generosity. Our offering proclaims our love of God and neighbor, in many different ways. Let us build on the foundations Christ has laid.

As we pass the offering plate here in the sanctuary, we also pass a virtual offering plate to those worshiping with us on YouTube Live. We invite you to give by mailing your offering to the church or dropping it off at the church during the week, or by going to the Hagerstowncob website.

Offertory "O Lord, Throughout These Forty Days" (Smith)

***Doxology #119** "Praise God from whom"

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

With these gifts, we express our desire to observe your law with wholeness of heart, to delight in your commandments with all that we have and are, to worship you not only when we are together but in many difficult places when we are apart. May our church reach out to care for enemies as well as friends. May we remember that we are your church, your temple, your holy ones. Amen.

MORNING ANTHEM "Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days" (St. Flavian)

SHARING OUR JOYS, CONCERNS, AND HOPES

Please remember our worship is also on YouTube and our website.

Please do not share any personal information you do not want to be made public.

An usher will hold the microphone for you while you share.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

HYMN #575 "Precious Lord, take my hand"

[Verse 1]

Precious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand, I am tired, I am weak, I am worn. Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light, take my hand precious Lord, lead me home.

[Verse 2]

When my way grows drear precious Lord, linger near, when my light is almost gone, hear my cry, hear my call, hold my hand lest I fall. Take my hand precious Lord, lead me home.

[Verse 3]

When the darkness appears and the night draws near, and the day is past and gone, at the river I stand, guide my feet, hold my hand. Take my hand precious Lord, lead me home.

SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 5:38-48

NT 5

“You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’ But I say to you: Do not resist an evildoer. But if anyone strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other also, and if anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, give your coat as well, and if anyone forces you to go one mile, go also the second mile. Give to the one who asks of you, and do not refuse anyone who wants to borrow from you.

“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I say to you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven, for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the gentiles do the same? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

MESSAGE “God’s Weather Report” Pastor Eddie Edmonds

***HYMN #545** “Be thou my vision”

[Verse 1]

*Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart; naught be all else to me save that thou art.
Thou my best thought, by day or by night, waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.*

[Verse 2]

*Be thou my wisdom, be thou my true word; I ever with thee, and thou with me, Lord.
Thou my great Father, thy child may I be, thou in me dwelling, and I one with thee.*

[Verse 3]

*Be thou my buckler, my sword for the fight. Be thou my dignity, thou my delight, thou
my soul’s shelter, thou my high tower. Raise thou me heav’nward, O Pow’r of my
pow’r.*

[Verse 4]

*Riches I heed not, nor vain empty praise; thou mine inheritance, now and always. Thou
and thou only, first in my heart, High King of heaven, my treasure thou art.*

[Verse 5]

*High King of heaven, when vict’ry is won may I reach heaven’s joys, O bright
heav’n’s Sun! Heart of my heart, whatever befall, still be my vision, O Ruler of
all.*

***BENEDICTION**

After the Benediction, you may be seated.

Please continue in a spirit of worship as we listen to the Postlude music.

POSTLUDE “Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley” (Page)

(Worship Resources from “Taught By Love”, year A, By Lavon Bayler, pp 44,45)

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\*Please rise — in body or spirit — as an act of worship  
Thank you for joining us in worship today.

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First Sunday in Lent

Hagerstown
Church of the Brethren
15 S. Mulberry Street,
Hagerstown, Maryland
21740
301-733-3565

Office: Tuesday—Friday
Flexible hours
(appointments welcome/
call ahead)

Morning Praise Worship
at 8:30 AM
Sunday School at 9:30 AM
Worship and YouTube Live at
10:45 AM

www.hagerstowncob.org

[www.facebook.com/
hagerstowncob](http://www.facebook.com/hagerstowncob)

[www.youtube.com/
@hagerstowncob](http://www.youtube.com/@hagerstowncob)

Twyla Rowe
Pastor

Allyson McPeak
Administrative Assistant

Burton Young
Director of
Music Ministries

Don Rowe
Interior Esthetics
Technician

*We welcome you to our church and
Rejoice in your participation with us in
worship. It is our prayer that you will
experience the presence of God's Spirit and
that it will equip you for service and ministry
in the week ahead. Our Pastor, Deacons, and
Cluster Leaders are available after worship
and during the week to listen and assist you in
your Christian pilgrimage.*

THE ANNOUNCER February 22, 2026

If you placed someone on the prayer list and they are now celebrating a recovery and would like their name taken off the list, please contact the church office.

If you or a loved one has surgery scheduled, is hospitalized, or would like a visit from the pastor, please notify the church.

"Take A Moment" Let this be our daily Take a Moment prayer for the week beginning Sunday, February 22 - I begin this new day with the hope of being on the mountaintop with you all day, Holy Jesus. Exciting and fulfilling things happen whenever I am there with you. Everything flows smoothly in my life when we are there together, because I can see you and feel your presence...lifting my spirit and guiding me. I can hear your voice telling me that you love me. You speak words of encouragement in those moments that help to carry me through the difficult valley journeys that come my way. You challenge me to deeper commitment and obedience as you speak truths to my heart. You call me to use my gifts to serve others and to share the Gospel with others. When I am on the mountaintop with you...my faith feels very strong. As I continue my journey through this day, I know I may not always feel this closeness with you. Earthly things sometimes lure me away...and when they do, help me to turn my gaze back to you; and redirect me onto the path that will bring me back to the mountaintop with you. Holy Savior, You are my strength and my salvation. Amen.

Attendance. Please sign the attendance rosters found at the end of your pew, or possibly in the hymnal rack, and pass it down the row so everyone can sign.

Our thanks to Chris Stockslager for being our worship leader today and to the Temple Choir and Brethren Bells for our morning music.

Today we welcome Pastor Eddie Edmonds to our pulpit. Thank you Eddie for being with us while Pastor Twyla is on vacation.

The flowers on the altar this morning are given to the glory of God and in memory of our mother, Lois J. DeNobrega, by Diane Graham and Laura Minnich.

Junior Church will be held today for children ages Kindergarten through the sixth grade. **We will gather in the Children's Church Room (Room #203).** (Parents may, of course, opt to keep their child in worship with them especially if the child is uncertain about going.) Parents/grandparents should pick up their children afterward at the stair/elevator area outside the sanctuary in the west entrance. If you'd like to volunteer, please contact Tina Mills. **Junior Church is held the second and fourth Sunday of each month.**

• Lenten Services will be held on March 4, 11, 18, & 25
Our guest speakers are as follows:

- March 4—Chris Stockslager
- March 11—John Miller
- March 18—Brenda Shane & Becky Jackson
- March 25—Dennis Browne

Cookies are also needed for our Lenten services. Sign-up sheets can be found in the west entrance or fellowship hall closer to March.

ALL EASTER FLOWER ORDERS are due TODAY, February 22nd.

Next Sunday is our regular Food Pantry collection. Bring in your gift(s) of non-perishable food items and place them on the cart as you enter the west entrance, and a volunteer delivers the food. We thank everyone for their continued support of this ministry to our community! Just a reminder - all items should be either dry, boxed, or in cans. Please do not bring in anything in a glass jar that could break and injure a recipient or our volunteers. Thank you!



Friends in Faith (Widows & Widowers) —Tuesday, March 10th at 12pm we will be having a luncheon in the Fellowship Hall. Bring a dish to share and please bring a photo of yourself as a child. A sign-up sheet will be in the west entrance and fellowship hall soon. Any questions, please contact Nancy Gingrich, Robin Davies, Suzie Wolfe, Ann Platou, or Mary Means.

Our service week at the REACH Cold Weather Shelter is March 8-15, 2026. The volunteer response has been exceptional this year! Thanks to so many of you, almost all volunteer tasks have been filled! What a blessing! We will be collecting items for REACH from February 15 through March 8. A box is located in the west entrance for you to place your donations. A list of REACH needs is in the bulletin. Please note, individual personal care items are preferred. Thank you to much for your support of the REACH Cold Weather Shelter!

The Service & Outreach Team will be collecting the large tissue boxes (9"x4 1/2"x3") for the residents of Fahrney Keedy. We ask that you wrap the tissue boxes in spring colors (no bows or ribbons needed). We ask that the boxes be placed in the designated box in the west entrance by March 22nd.

Volunteers Needed—The Flower and Altar committee is looking for a volunteer for the month of **January and October**. If you're interested, please contact Cinnamon Shay.

2026 Altar Flowers—If you would like to place flowers on the altar in memory, celebration, or honor of a loved one, the Flower and Altar Committee have the following Sunday dates available in 2026: **May 3, August 30, & November 29**. If you are interested, please contact Cinnamon Shay at 301-730-8499 or email cinnamongirl@myactv.net

Cash for Causes/Martin's Gift Card Program. Purchase Martin's gift cards to take to the store to pay for your groceries or gas, and 5% of the face value of the gift card is a donation to the church and goes toward your yearly charitable contribution. To purchase a card, please contact Donnie Maas (240-866-1077). We can make arrangements to leave cards in your church mailbox or mail them to you.

We're in the season for high heating costs. We remind everyone to please keep doors closed to the sanctuary, fellowship hall, church entrances, hallways, and church office. All classroom doors (2nd and 3rd floor) should stay open. Thank you for your awareness and cooperation.

Because winter weather is here, we'd like to pass along a gentle reminder to drive slowly in our parking lot, especially when it's snow-covered or icy. Always be on alert for children, pedestrians, dogs, cats, and those less mindful than you are of the pavement surface conditions.

Please remember to keep the administrative assistant updated on when and where meetings/events are being held. Please email or call the Administrative Assistant with information that needs added to the church calendar. **301-733-3565 or secretaryhcob@gmail.com**. Thank you!

When you leave items at the mailboxes for someone else to retrieve, please call or email them to alert them the item is there. Remember you may need to follow up with them to make sure they've gotten the item. Thank you!

CALENDAR

Sunday, February 22

Pastor Vacation/Easter Flower Orders Due/Junior Church

8:30 am Morning Praise Worship/Fellowship Hall

9:30 am Sunday School, individual classrooms

10:45 am Worship, Sanctuary & YouTube (www.youtube.com/@hagerstowncob)

Monday, February 23

Pastor Vacation/Church office closed

1:00 pm GriefShare/Mullendore Room

Tuesday, February 24

6:30 pm Leadership Team Meeting/Mullendore Room

Wednesday, February 25

Admin. Assistant/Work from home

12:00 pm Deadline for bulletin submission announcements

Thursday, February 26

5:30 pm Praise Band Rehearsal/Fellowship Time

6:30 pm Brethren Bells/Choir Room

7:30 pm Temple Choir/Fellowship Hall

Friday, February 27

8:00 am Bulletin prep/Church office

1:00 pm Islamic Center/Use of Parking Lot (1-3pm)

Saturday, February 28

Pastor Twyla's day off

Sunday, March 1

Food Pantry Sunday

8:30 am Morning Praise Worship/Fellowship Hall

9:30 am Sunday School, individual classrooms

10:20 am Fellowship Time/Mullendore Room

10:45 am Worship, Sanctuary & YouTube (www.youtube.com/@hagerstowncob)

Remember our weekday schedule is subject to rapid change.

You may mail your offering to
15 S. Mulberry Street,
Hagerstown MD 21740
OR

you can make a secure offering
donation on our website using
Breeze www.hagerstowncob.org

The church calendar is online at
www.hagerstowncob.org.
Click the calendar tab.

2026 Reach's Cold Weather Shelter Needs List

Personal Care

- ♦ Razors
- ♦ Lotion
- ♦ Tampons

Cleaning Supplies

- ♦ Napkins
- ♦ Paper towels
- ♦ Laundry Pods

Food & Drink

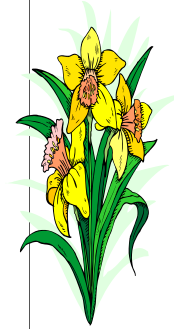
- ♦ Cereal
- ♦ Coffee, Regular or Decaf
- ♦ Non-dairy Creamer
- ♦ Paper Plates of any size

Thank you for your support!

Easter Flowers Order Form

Your name: _____

Amount enclosed _____



The Easter season is approaching and it is time to order Easter flowers. Everyone is invited to purchase a flower for Easter morning. Flowers are as priced below and may be purchased as a memorial, tribute, or as a thank you. Return this completed form and your check made out to Hagerstown Church of the Brethren. Form may be either placed in the offering or mailed to: Hagerstown Church of the Brethren, 15 S. Mulberry St., Hagerstown MD 21740.

All orders must be received by TODAY, February 22, 2026.

Payment must accompany this form. We need to order early so the greenhouse can place the order with its supplier and get our flowers here on time.

Lilies: White only [☐] Number of plants \$12.25/each

Mums: Yellow [☐] Number of plants \$11.00/each
Purple [☐] Number of plants \$11.00/each

Pink Tulips: [☐] Number of plants \$11.00/each

“Pansy Gardens” [☐] Number of pots @ \$11.75/each
(Mini daffs and pansies in the same planter)

(please print)

___ **IN MEMORY OF:** _____

___ **IN TRIBUTE TO:** _____

___ **THANKS TO:** _____



We grieve many things in life, but the loss of a loved one is probably the most devastating. As a result, the grief journey is a painful and lonely one. GriefShare is an international faith-based ministry that provides valuable tools to anyone who has lost a spouse, parent, child, sibling or other family member or friend, even if that loss is not recent. Our HCOB team offers a safe, welcoming space where people understand the heavy emotions of grief and where participants can find support in the company of others also on their grief journeys. If you or someone you know has lost a loved one, please share this information and consider attending. We encourage you to bring a family member or friend so they can better understand your loss and become an even greater support for you.

Our spring session of GriefShare will begin on Monday, Feb. 16, and continue each Monday afternoon through May 11, from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. in the Mullendore Room. Cost of the session is free, but we gladly will accept a \$10 donation toward materials. You may join the group at any time during the 13 weeks, but we ask that you commit to attending at least 3 consecutive weeks. GriefShare recommends repeating the 13-week course a second time to absorb even more of the content, so if you have participated in GriefShare before and wish to attend again, we welcome you.

Register at www.griefshare.org. If you have any questions about the program, see Pastor Twyla or Debbie Nycum.

The Novel Bunch presents...

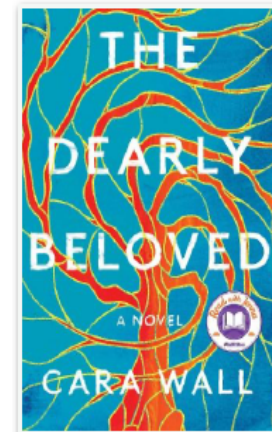
The Dearly Beloved

by Cara Wall

"This gentle, gorgeously written book may be one of my favorites ever."
—Jenna Bush Hager (A Today Show "Read with Jenna" Book Club Selection)

"The best book about faith in recent memory."
—Entertainment Weekly

This book is a character study about friendship, family, and faith. Charles and Lily & James and Nan meet in Greenwich Village in 1963 when Charles and James are jointly hired to manage the historic Third Presbyterian Church through turbulent times. However, their personal differences threaten to tear them apart. Charles is destined to follow his father as an esteemed history professor at Harvard until an unorthodox lecture about faith leads him to ministry. So, how can he fall in love with intellectual Lily after she tells him that she never will believe in God? And yet, how can he not believe?



James, the youngest son in a hardscrabble Chicago family, spent much of his youth angry at his alcoholic father and avoiding his nervous mother. James's escape from his desperate circumstances leads him to Nan, the devout and beloved daughter of a Mississippi minister and debutante. Despite James's guarded optimism, Nan's gentle, constant faith changes the course of his life. *The Dearly Beloved* follows these two couples through decades of love, friendship, jealousy, forgiveness, and commitment. Against the backdrop of conflict and change facing the city and the church's congregation, these four forge improbable paths through their evolving relationships as each struggles with uncertainty, heartbreak, and joy. This book is a moving reflection on faith and reason, and the ways we find meaning in our lives.

Date: Saturday, April 25

Time: 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Place: Fellowship Hall

*This is a book for men and women alike, so we encourage the men of the congregation to attend and offer their perspectives.

Light refreshments to follow.

NOTE: If you have any questions or need assistance acquiring the book, call Jenny Ferguson at 301-964-1779. Please return the section below if you plan to attend.

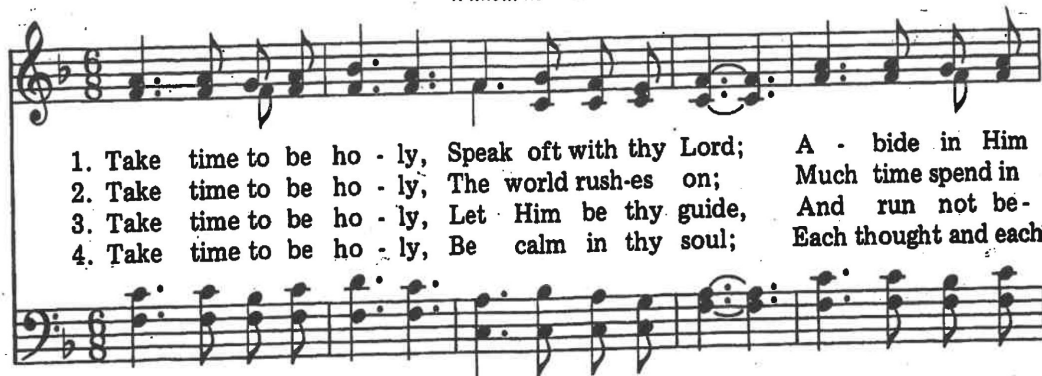
NAME _____ I plan to attend _____ YES

Preferred contact information: Phone _____ OR Email _____

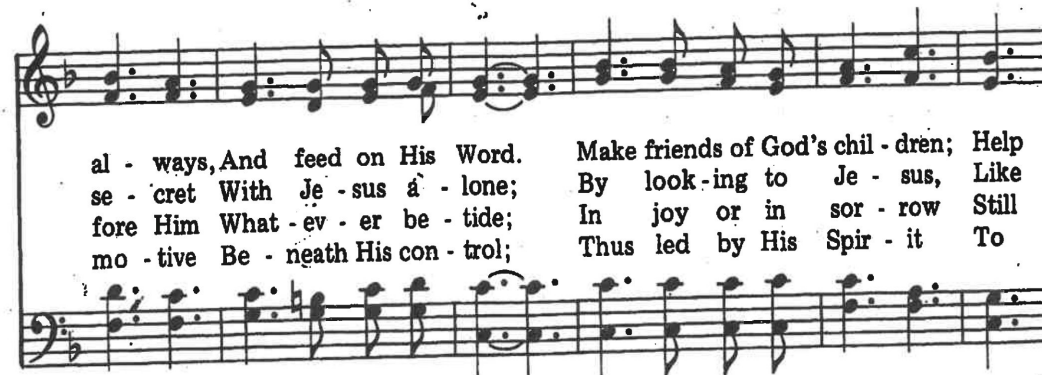
Book Club Team: *Jenny Ferguson, Kristal Bricker, Debbie Nycum, Judy Williams, Jan Young

Take Time to Be Holy

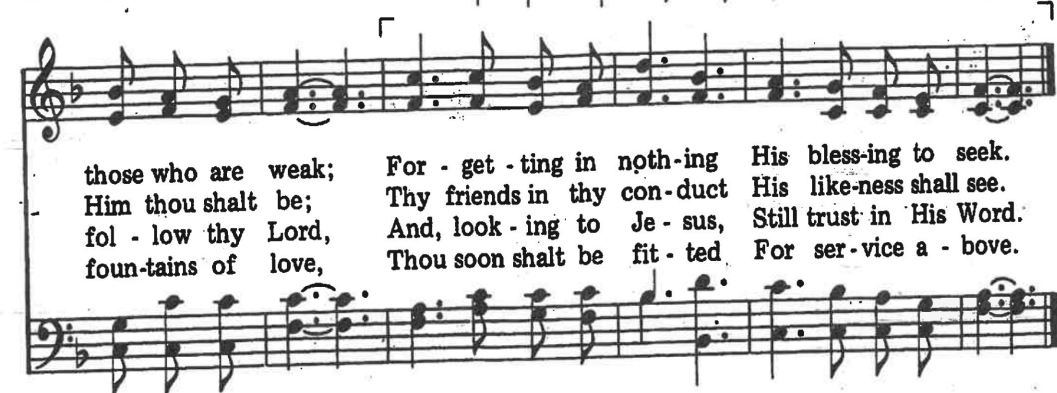
Without holiness no one will see the Lord. Heb. 12:14



1. Take time to be ho - ly, Speak oft with thy Lord; A - bide in Him
 2. Take time to be ho - ly, The world rush-es on; Much time spend in
 3. Take time to be ho - ly, Let Him be thy guide, And run not be-
 4. Take time to be ho - ly, Be calm in thy soul; Each thought and each



al - ways, And feed on His Word. Make friends of God's chil - dren; Help
 se - cret With Je - sus a - lone; By look - ing to Je - sus, Like
 fore Him What - ev - er be - tide; In joy or in sor - row Still
 mo - tive Be - neath His con - trol; Thus led by His Spir - it To



those who are weak; For - get - ting in noth - ing His bless - ing to seek.
 Him thou shalt be; Thy friends in thy con - duct His like - ness shall see.
 fol - low thy Lord, And, look - ing to Je - sus, Still trust in His Word.
 foun - tains of love, Thou soon shalt be fit - ted For ser - vice a - bove.

TEXT: William D. Longstaff
 MUSIC: George C. Stebbins
 Alternate tune: SLANE (altered) at No. 442

HOLINESS
 6.5.6.5.D.