



Photo by James Gardner

Sunday, October 8, 2023

Culmore
United Methodist Church

Welcome and
Good Morning!


Happy Birthday, Rose!

Once again it's your birthday. Once again the time is here.
What a loving gift from Jesus, He has given you one more year.
Happy time is your birthday, happy time this year.
What a loving gift from Jesus, He has given you one more year.
Oh happy birthday to you, oh happy birthday to you.
For you have Jesus Christ everyday of your life.
Oh happy birthday to you, oh happy birthday to you.
The Lord bless and keep you.
Happy birthday to you. And to Jesus with you.
God bless you and keep you. Happy birthday to you.



Baptism





Wisdom from the Prophets



"Joy to the World" - Three Dog Night song



Jeremiah

Psalm 137: 1-4

By the rivers of Babylon we sat and wept
when we remembered Zion.

There on the poplars we hung our harps,
for there our captors asked us for songs,
our tormentors demanded songs of joy.



Art by Philip Calderon



They said, "Sing us one of the songs of Zion!"
How can we sing the songs of the LORD
while in a foreign land?

Opening Prayer

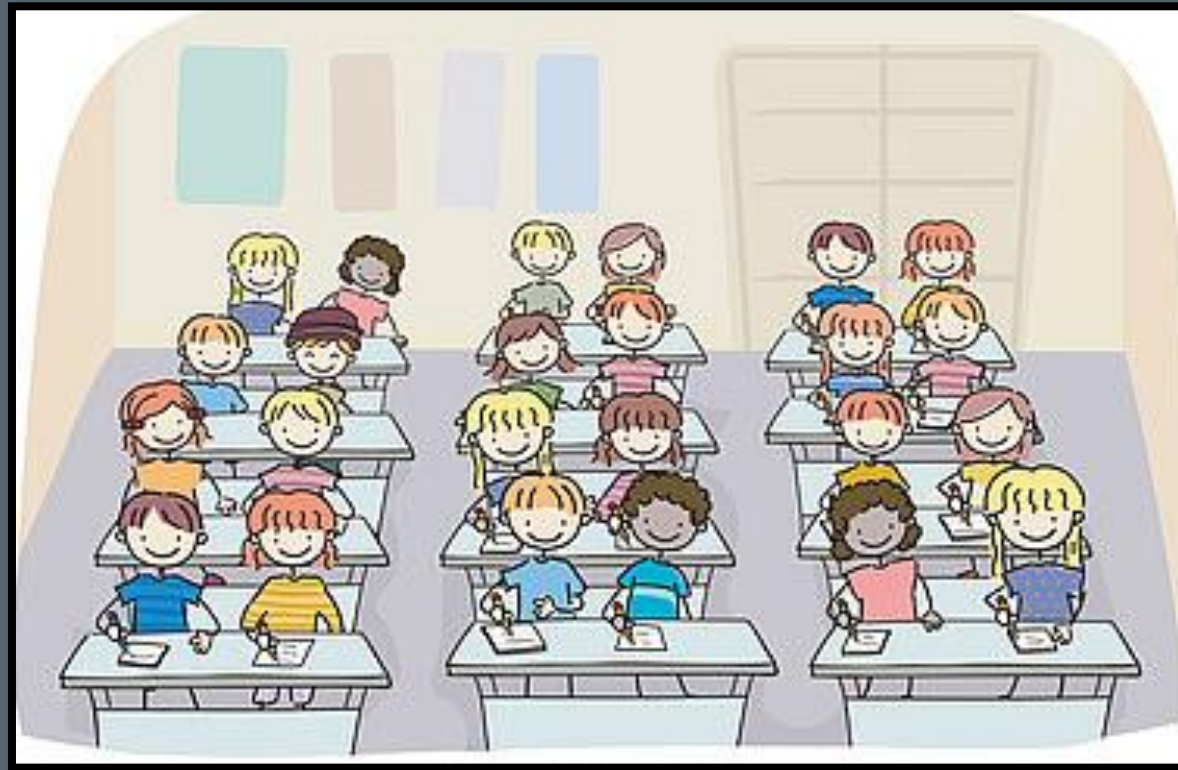
Gracious and loving God,

Sometimes we, too, feel out of place - like foreigners in this land, like outsiders in our group of peers, unable to "fit in" easily; and sometimes we get scared and nervous about the future. But we know and trust that the future is in Your hands.

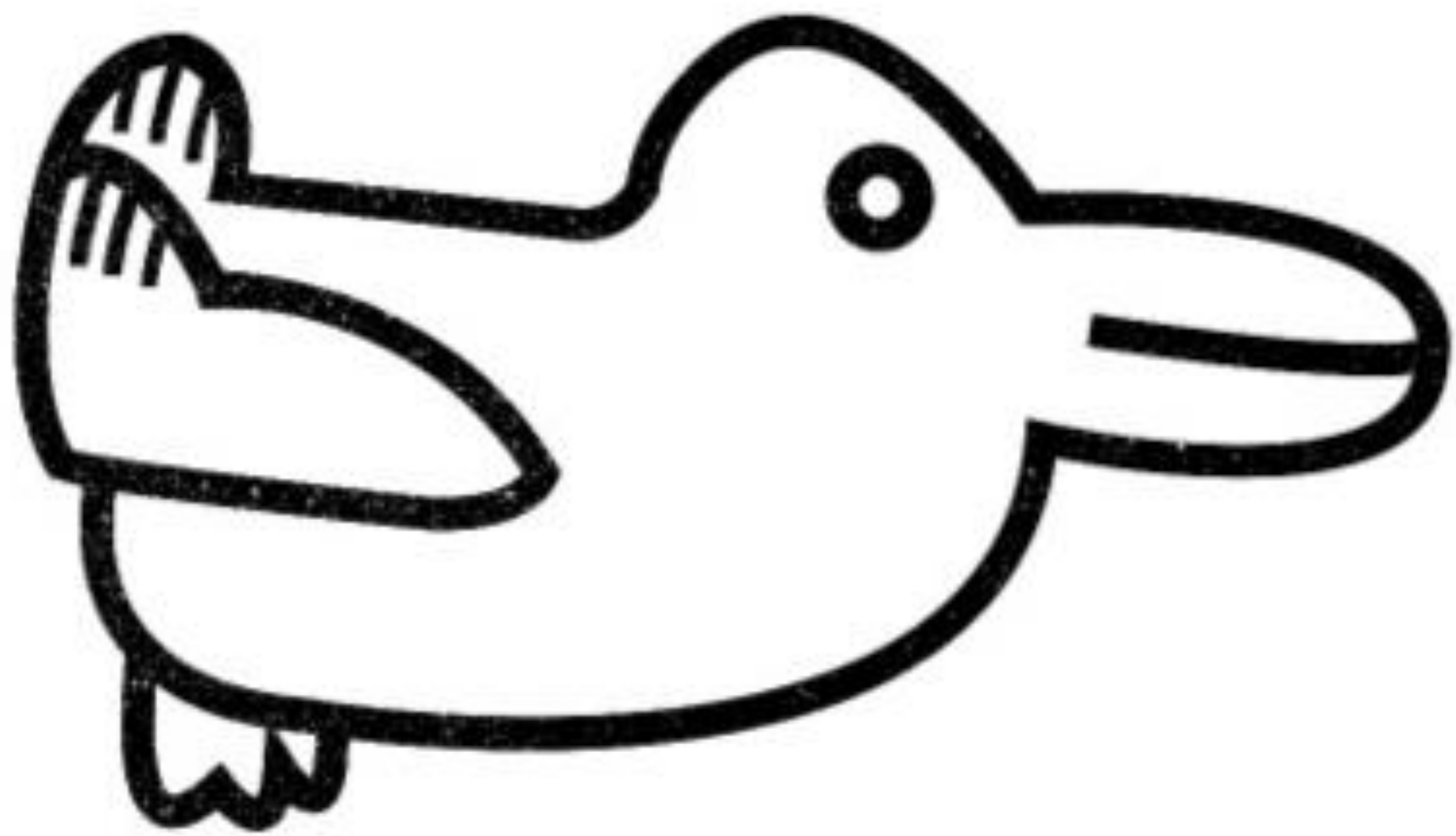
Be with us as we go through this day and all the days of our lives.
Help us to make good decisions, and be with us every step of the
way. Help us to find our place, to set down roots, all the while
sustaining our cultural identity and living out our faith according
to Your word. *Amen*

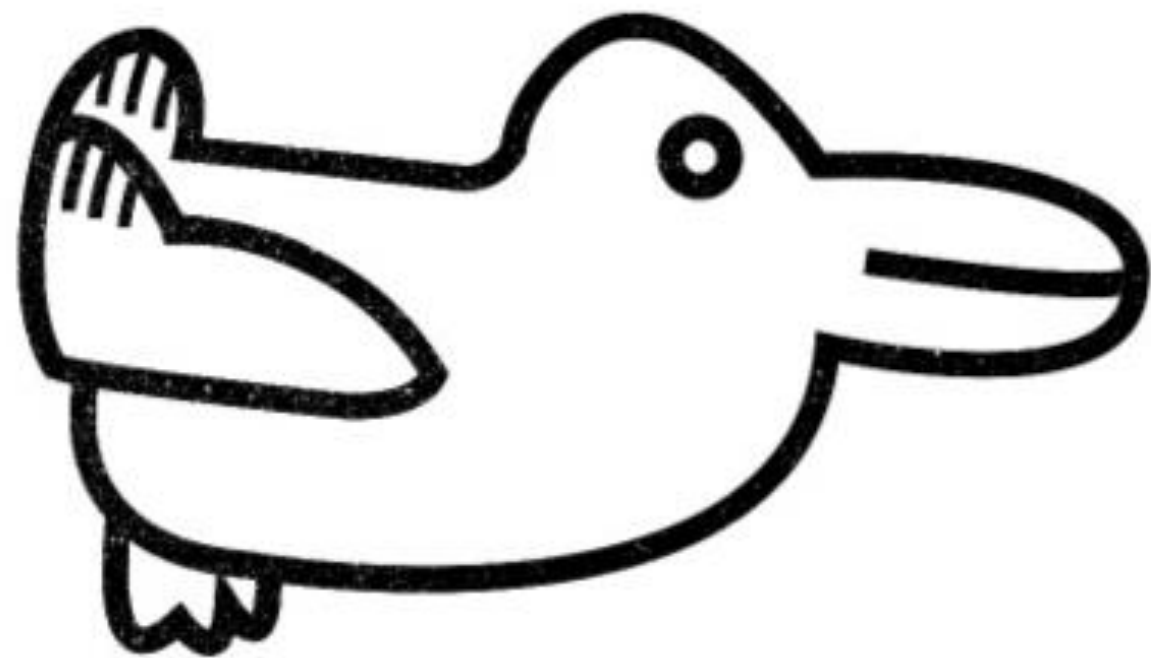
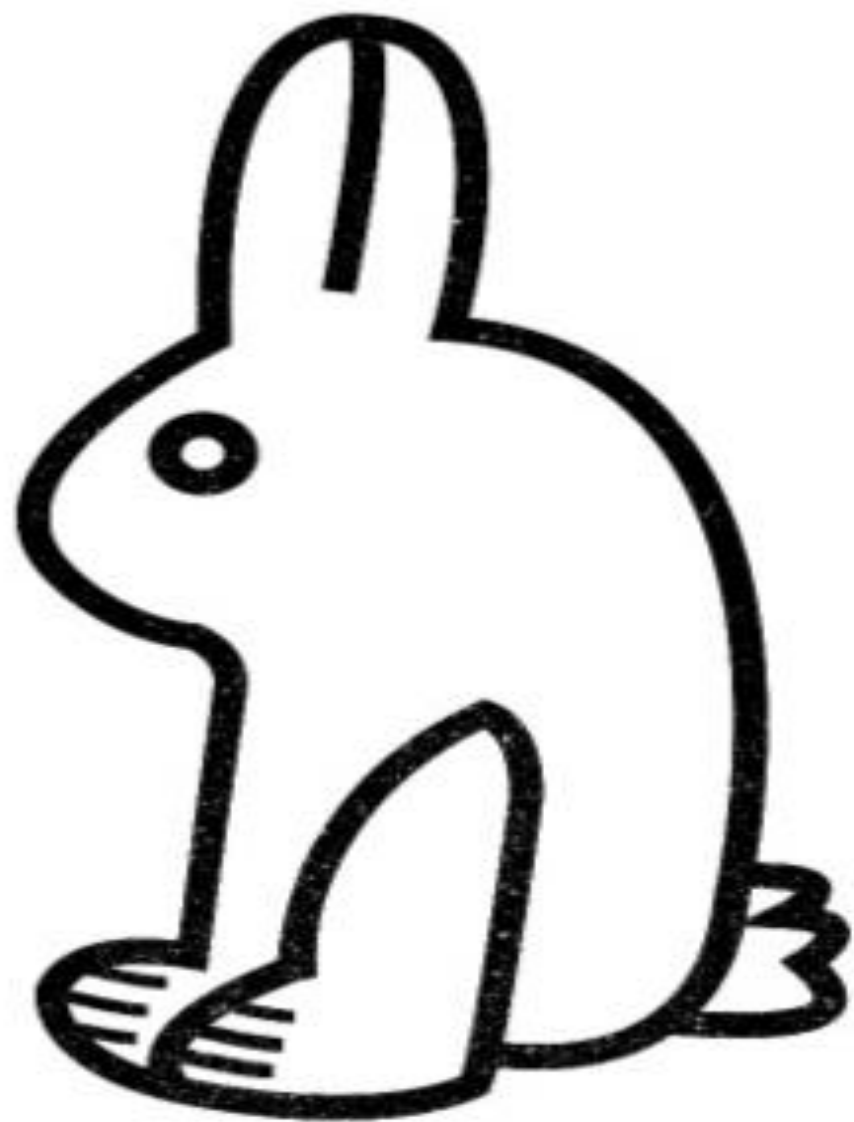


Lessons for the Young and Young at Heart







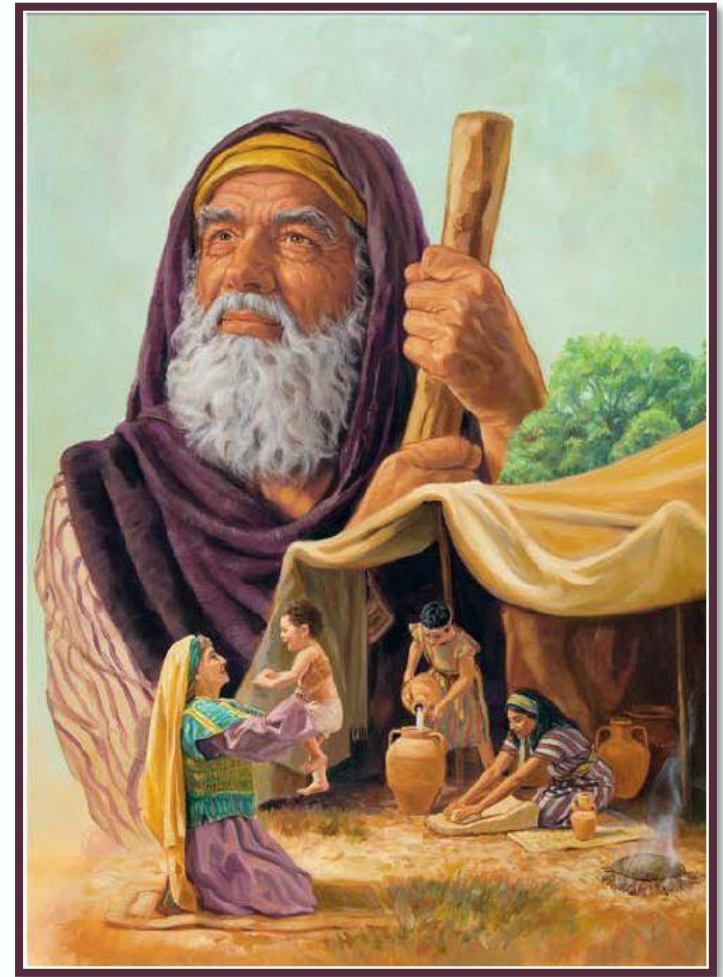


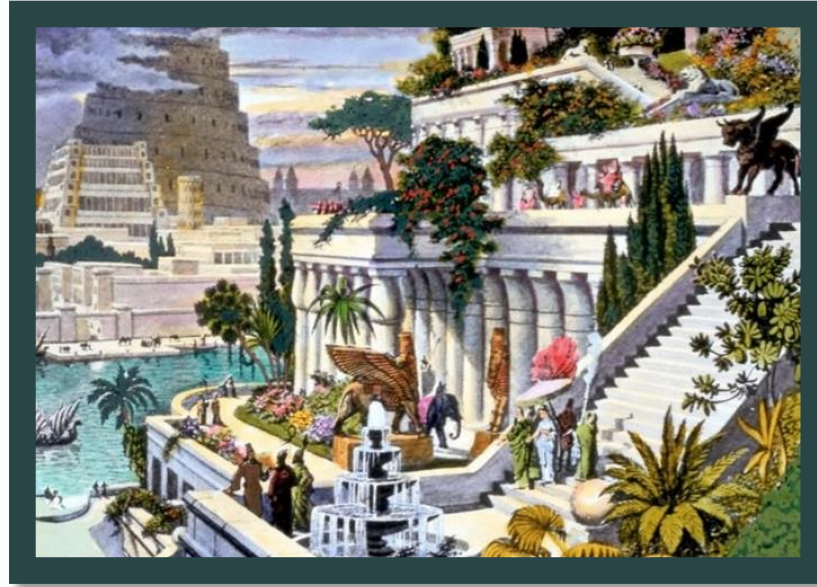
Jeremiah 29: 4-7

This is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says to all those I carried into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon:



Marry and have sons and daughters;
find wives for your sons and give your
daughters in marriage, so that they too
may have sons and daughters. Increase
in number there; do not decrease.





Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper.

A dramatic landscape photograph featuring a body of water, likely a fjord, nestled between steep, grassy mountains. A bright sunbeam pierces through a heavy, grey, overcast sky, casting a brilliant, shimmering path of light across the water's surface. The foreground shows a rocky, moss-covered shoreline. The overall mood is one of hope and divine presence.

Keep on living.

Hold onto hope;
hold onto God.

继续生活吧。抓住上帝。

Sigue viviendo. Aférrate a Dios.

계속 살아보세요.
하나님을 붙잡으십시오.

**Keep on living.
Hold onto God.**

Mabuha ka. Humawak ka sa Diyos.

生き続けてください。神をしっかり掴んでください。

Continuez à vivre. Accrochez-vous à Dieu.

Responsive Reading (based on Jeremiah 29)

A word of encouragement came from prophet to people;

We will live a life that is full -

we will build, plant, eat, love, multiply--

We will pray for our communities

**We will keep God in the center of all that is,
all that we do.**



We enter into worship today with hope in our hearts
For something happens here that reminds us
that we can live as God desires.

God has made a promise of faithfulness to us
and we can trust the promise.

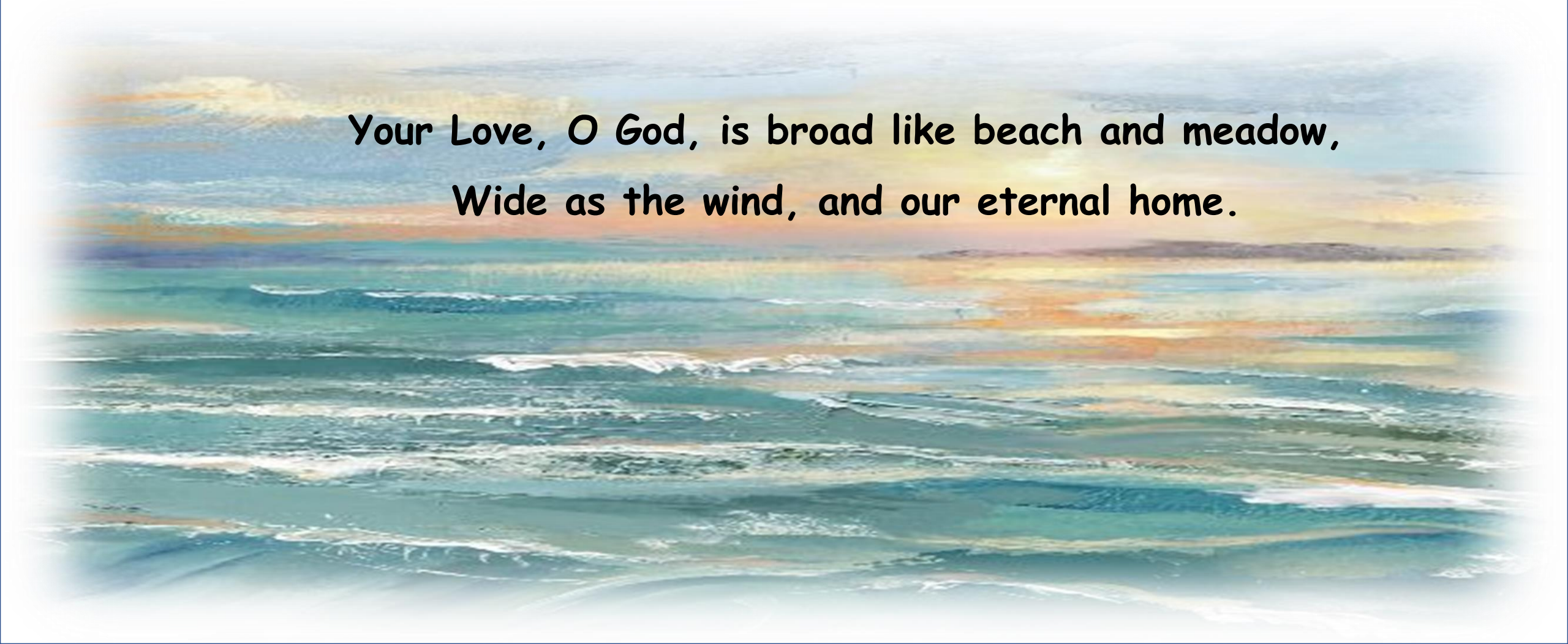


Artwork by Sue Carroll



Your Love, O God - UMH - 120

Your Love, O God, is broad like beach and meadow,
Wide as the wind, and our eternal home.



Jeremiah 29: 10-14

For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you."



Artwork by Sue Carroll

You will seek me and find me
when you seek me with all
your heart. **I will be found
by you,"** declares the LORD...





Jeremiah

Just because you've left
home doesn't mean you've
left God....

...or that God has left you.



Day by Day

Day by day, day by day

O dear Lord, three things I pray:

- To see thee more clearly
- Love thee more dearly
- Follow thee more nearly

Day by day.

Day by day by day.



Community Prayer

Gracious Father,

The joy of the LORD is our strength, and we can live every day well because of that strength. Sometimes we may think we need to have certain things, people, or circumstances in our lives in order to be happy and successful.

The prophets had a different message for Your people when they were away from home and living in captivity.

Speaking words of encouragement,
Jeremiah reminded them...and us...
that when we live with hope and trust
in You and Your goodness, that is all
we need. Life goes on, no matter our
circumstances, for You bless us where
we are and others around us, too.

Amen



Art by Sue Carroll

Offering and Doxology

UM Hymnal 95



We give thanks for this wonderful,
generous community of faith.



Benediction

Art by Sue Carroll