# Order Of Worship
# Polka Sunday
## NOVEMBER 8, 2026

**GATHERING** The Middletones (*I Come to the Garden Alone*)

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

***CALL TO WORSHIP** PSALM 66:1-5, 8

**Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth**
**Sing the glory of his name; give to him glorious praise.**
**Say to God, "How awesome are your deeds!**
**Because of your great power, your enemies cringe before you.**
**All the earth worships you; they sing praises to you, sing praises to your name.**
**Come and see what God has done: He is awesome in his deeds among mortals.**
**Bless our God, O peoples, let the sound of his praise be heard.**

***OPENING HYMN # 465 *What a Friend We Have in Jesus***

***CALL TO CONFESSION** (based on Philippians 3)

Jesus said, "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28). Trusting in God's gracious mercy through Jesus Christ, let us confess the sin that separates us from God and our neighbors. Let us pray.

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Merciful God, we confess that our confidence is often misplaced. We put our confidence in ourselves and our abilities rather than in You and Your love. Forgive us for our misgivings. Redirect us according to Your Spirit and Your will. Help us to follow Your ways and find our freedom in Your heavenly calling.**

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON:**

The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance,
**that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.**
Children of God, hear and believe the good news:
**In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!**

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**:

Almighty God, we join the psalmist as we say, “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path” (Psalm 119:105). As we hear the joyous music today, may our hearts be illumined by your Holy Spirit. May our lives and actions reflect the light of your Word that others may follow your path, also. Amen.

**THE WORD PROCLAIMED THROUGH MUSIC**. The Middletones

*Variations on a Ukrainian Theme* The Middletones

*On a Hill Far Away (the Old Rugged Cross)* Clayton Capps

*Once Upon a December* Mike Middleton

***HYMN OF RESPONSE** *Tell Me the Stories of Jesus* (Song Sheet)

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** *(Adapted from Philippians 3)*

**Jesus broadened the definition of neighbor**
**to include those ordinarily despised and excluded.**
**His life in behalf of others led to persecution and death.**
**He commanded his disciples to live the same way.**
**We believe Christ gives us and demands of us**
**lives that recognize all people in all cultures**
**as our neighbors on this planet.**

**CALL FOR THE OFFERING**

The gifts of God are abundant, and we have received far more than we know. Out of gratitude and with hope, let us bring our tithes and offerings for God’s work among us as we wait for the day of Christ’s appearance in our midst.

**OFFERTORY** Amazing *Grace Medley* The Middletones

*__DOXOLOGY Hymn # 1 *Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty*__ (Verse 1 & 4)

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

We give you thanks, O God, for the many blessings that you have bestowed upon us. Receive these gifts as symbols of the dedication of our very lives and signs of trust in your coming reign of justice and peace. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Holy God, it is with humble hearts and audacious hope that we come before you in prayer.

God of grace, we give you thanks that you have drawn us together as your church. We pray that we might find unity in your call to love and serve you, in the common mission that we share.

God of beauty, we give you thanks for the wonders of your creation. We know we have not served as the stewards and caretakers that your world needs and deserves. Inspire us to care for each creature and keep us mindful of all those who will dwell in this place in the generations that follow us.

God of hope, we ask you to draw near to those who grieve; to those who are ill and in need of healing; to those struggling to find meaningful work; to those whose memories are fading; to those who fear what tomorrow will bring.

God of faithfulness and love, give us words to speak as a witness to you. In all that we say, type, post and do, may it be evident that we serve the Lord of heaven and earth, even as we watch for the new heaven and new earth you have promised and as we join our voices with the saints of all the ages to pray together: **"Our Father…".**

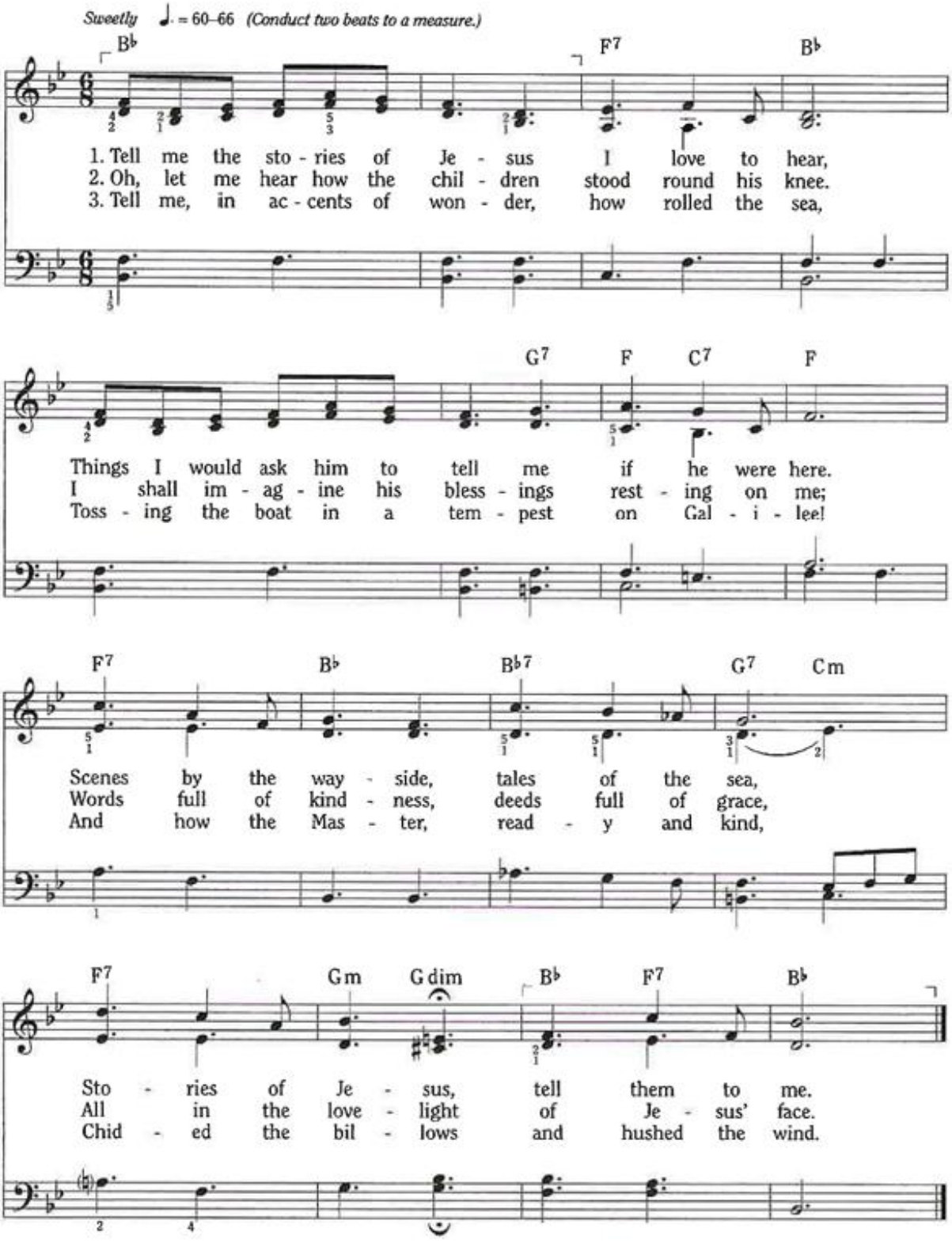
***HYMN OF SENDING # 136** *Go Tell It on the Mountain* (Refrain Only)

**CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

As we go forth from this place; as our service of worship comes to an end, may our lives of worship and service begin anew. May the Spirit draw us forth and unite us with all those who eagerly await the coming of the Lord. May our work as we watch and wait always be pleasing to the one who loves us beyond all measure. **Alleluia. Amen.**

(PLEASE BE SEATED FOR MORE MUSIC BY THE MIDDLETONES)

# Tell Me the Stories of Jesus




*Words:* W. H. Parker, 1845–1929
*Music:* Frederic A. Challinor, 1866–1952

Matthew 4:23–24
Mark 10:13–16; Luke 8:22–25