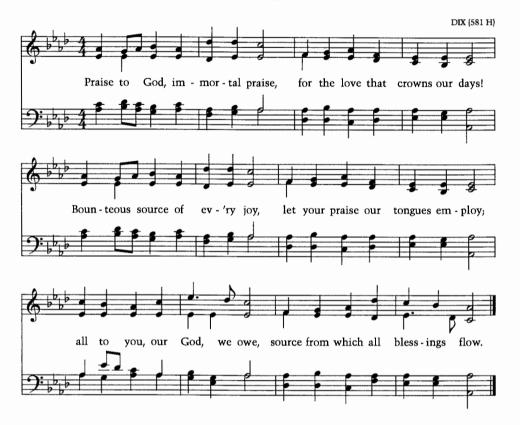
## CHRISTIAN HOMES

(Standing)



Eternal God, Creator of our first home, and our only true Rest, we gather as your family to celebrate our diverse homes, and to seek your blessings on them. God of relationships, you have put within our hearts a longing that only you can satisfy. Yet we need each other to learn of your steadfast love throughout all generations.

Open our hearts, that we may learn from our biblical heritage how to manifest your love.

(Sitting)

God our Creator, in the garden you formed our first parents, and found them good. At first in their innocence, they trusted you and helped each other, but they sinned and fell short of your purposes for them.

Forgive us our sins and give us grace to trust you in the goodness of your creation and your design.

You called Sarah and Abraham to go out from their homeland and begin a new nation in covenant with you. In their old age, you gave them a child whose name meant laughter. In our homes, may we live with their trust and courage, their humor, their sense of mission.

### Increase our faith and give us grace to answer your call.

You strengthened Ruth and Naomi, in the face of grief and bitterness, to remain loyal to each other and to journey to new life.

#### Encourage us and give us grace to support each other.

When you came to earth, Incarnate God, you had no place to lay your head. God of the stable, bless the homeless, and bring them to a place of shelter.

### Keep us aware and give us grace to be family to others.

Rejoicing Savior, you sanctified marriage by your presence at Cana in Galilee. You restored life and health and balance in the home of Mary, Martha, and Lazarus. Be a holy guest within our homes, filling our ordinary days with newness of life and mutual joy.

# Grant us the grace to recognize you as the Christ among us, and to be open to your miracles of change.

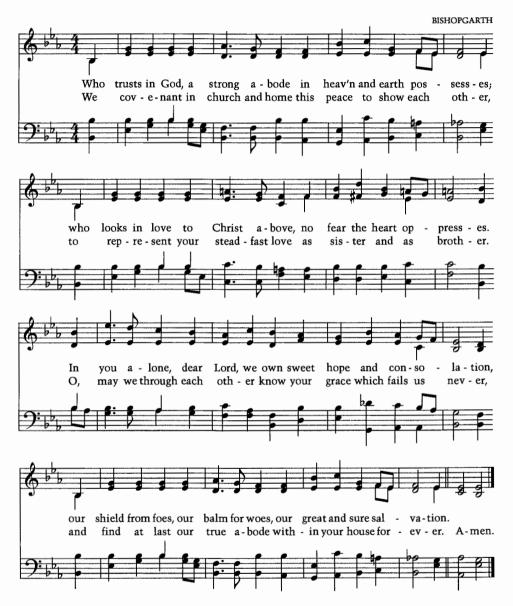
Suffering God, from the cross you cared for your loved ones, saying to Mary: Woman, behold your son! and to the disciple: Behold your mother! And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home. Bless all families and enable them to form new bonds of love.

## Comfort us in our brokenness and give us grace to claim our relationship as your children.

Life-giving Spirit, you came in power to form and guide the church, a family with varied gifts and graces. Grant that church and home may model for each other the nurturing of individuals and the growth of community. We recognize the difficulty of forming family with those who are different from ourselves, and with those who are like ourselves. We confess our failure to love and grow, our impatience for others to change, our blindness to one another's needs. Yet we rejoice that you have given us each other, and we dedicate ourselves to mutual support and love, trusting not in our own strength, but in your strong compassion.

### Bless and guide us, Triune God, and enable us to support and love each other.

#### (Standing)



TEXT: St. 2 Lehoma Goode

From the 1995 Moravian Book of Worship, ©1995 IBOC Moravian Church in America. Used with Permission. We gratefully acknowledge the Rev. Lehoma B. Goode, who has granted her permission for Moravian congregations to share this liturgy and her hymn text as part of their online services.

This book is published by the authority of:
Provincial Elders' Conferences of the Northern and Southern Provinces
of the Moravian Church
1992 Synod of the Southern Province
1990 Synod of the Northern Province

© 1995 by the Interprovincial Board of Communication PO Box 1245, Bethlehem, PA 18016-1245; telephone 800.732.0591; fax 610.866.9223; email: pubs@mcnp.org; www.moravian.org

Third printing, 2006

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any manner whatsoever, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying and recording, or by any information storage or retrieval system, except as may be expressly permitted by the 1976 Copyright Act, without written permission from the publisher or from the specific copyright holders. The publisher gratefully acknowledges permission to reproduce texts, tunes, and arrangements granted by publishers, organizations, and individuals listed as copyright holders below each hymn. Addresses for these copyright holders can be found in the acknowledgment pages beginning on page 877. Every effort has been made to trace the owner or holder of each copyright. If any rights have been inadvertently infringed upon, the publisher asks that the omissions be excused and agrees to make necessary corrections in subsequent printings.

Moravian congregations may reproduce for worship or educational purposes materials without a copyright notice with the following attribution:

Reprinted from the 1995 Moravian Book of Worship with the permission of the Interprovincial Board of Communication, Moravian Church in North America.

If there is a copyright notice below the hymn for tune and/or text, permission must be sought from the copyright holder.

English texts of the Lord's Prayer, Gloria, Benedictus, Te Deum, Nunc Dimittis, and Nicene Creed used in the liturgical section were prepared by the English Language Liturgical Consultation (ELLC), 1988. English text of the Apostles' Creed was prepared by the International Consultation on English Texts (ICET), 1975. The acclamation "Christ has died, Christ has risen, Christ will come again!" used in the Reign of Christ liturgy, page 112, is from the International Committee on English in the Liturgy (ICEL), © 1973.

The confession of sins in General Liturgy 3, page 21, is from *The Book of Common Prayer*, 1979. The prayer of St. Chrysostom which concludes General Liturgy 5, page 36, is adapted from *The Book of Common Prayer*, 1979.

The liturgical text includes quotations from or adapted from the following translations:

The New Revised Standard Version of the Bible, ©1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA. All rights reserved.

The Revised Standard Version of the Bible, ©1946, 1952, 1971 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA.

The Holy Bible: New International Version®. NIV®. ©1973, 1978, 1984 by International Bible Society. Used by permission of Zondervan Publishing House.

Today's English Version. © American Bible Society 1966, 1971, 1976, 1992. Used by permission. J.B. Phillips, Letters to Young Churches (New York: Macmillan, 1947). Canadian rights granted by HarperCollins Publishers, Limited.

We are grateful for the permission to use these texts.

Cover design: Nancy Starosky
Typography: Midwest Engraving, Russell Springs, Kentucky
Printer of Third Printing: Victor Graphics, Baltimore, Maryland

Library of Congress Catalog Card Number: 94-79796 ISBN: 1-878422-15-4 Pew Edition ISBN: 1-878422-16-2 Leatherbound Edition Printed in the United States of America