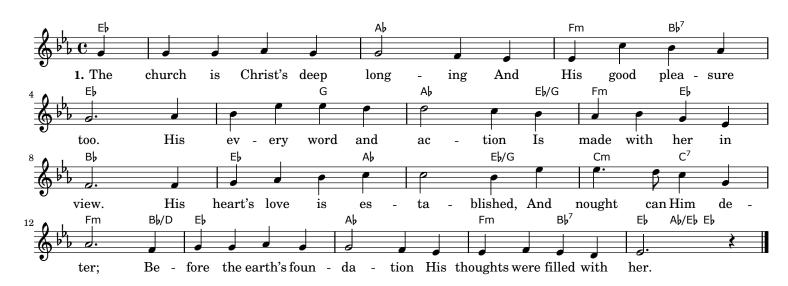
The church is Christ's deep longing

The Church — As Christ's Bride

1229



- 2. The eve of all creation
 He mused on His delight,
 And pondered every feature,
 Well-pleasing in His sight.
 Creation sprang to being,
 But deep in Him did hide
 A heart of depth unfathomed
 Fixed on a glorious Bride.
- 3. And thus His will was 'stablished His counterpart to gain:
 This blessed, firm intention,
 Eternally the same.
 Though sin should e'en beguile man,
 Then mock his helpless state,
 He never could forsake her,
 His yearning ne'er abate.

- 4. Then mercy richly flourished,
 And love was, oh, so vast,
 As graciously He sought her
 With wisdom unsurpassed.
 The love He gave to win her
 God only comprehends!
 His life laid down, an offering
 Whose fragrance yet ascends.
- 5. And now in resurrection

 To her He draws most near,
 And with untold affection
 In glory does appear.
 As she beholds her Bridegroom,
 His glory floods her heart,
 'Til she, His Bride, is raptured,
 His longed-for counterpart.