

UNITED CHURCH *of* CHAPEL HILL

FESTIVAL WORSHIP



AUGUST 16, 2026 | 10:30 A.M.

*Please stand, as able, when indicated by asterisk. **Bold text indicates congregational response.**

OPENING VOLUNTARY

Le petit berger (The Little Shepherd)

Claude Debussy

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Jesus says, “Love the Lord your God
with all your heart and with all your soul,
with all your mind and with all your strength.”
Jesus says, “Love your neighbor as yourself.”
There is no commandment greater than these.
There are no words greater than these.
Alleluia, amen! Let us praise the Living God!

COLLECT IN ESPAÑOL

Dios misericordioso, que nos llamas a amar a nuestro prójimo como a nosotros mismos, nos has bendecido con muchas lenguas para alabar tu santo nombre. Oramos por la unidad de la iglesia, por todos los que celebran su culto en inglés o en español, y por los inmigrantes que viven de la fe en un país desconocido. Por Cristo Jesús, que hace un hogar para todos tus hijos. Amén.

Merciful God, who calls us to love our neighbor as ourselves, you have blessed us with many tongues to praise your holy name. We pray for the unity of the church, for all who worship in English or Spanish, and for immigrants who live by faith in an unfamiliar country. Through Christ Jesus, who makes a home for all your children. Amen.

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

May the peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

***HYMN OF PRAISE 558**

O How Glorious, Full of Wonder
(see insert)

IN BABILONE

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

CHILDREN'S RESPONSE

Praise God All Ye Little Children



Praise God! Praise God, all you lit-tle chil-dren. God is love, God is love.

Praise God! Praise God, all you lit-tle chil-dren. God is love, God is love.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Genesis 1:1-5

NRSVUE

When God began to create the heavens and the earth, the earth was complete chaos, and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. And God saw that the light was good, and God separated the light from

(continued on next page)

the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

2 Corinthians 4:1-12

NRSVUE

Therefore, since it is by God’s mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart. We have renounced the shameful, underhanded ways; we refuse to practice cunning or to falsify God’s word, but by the open statement of the truth we commend ourselves to the conscience of everyone in the sight of God. And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing clearly the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus’s sake. For it is the God who said, “Light will shine out of darkness,” who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.

But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us. We are afflicted in every way but not crushed, perplexed but not driven to despair, persecuted but not forsaken, struck down but not destroyed, always carrying around in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be made visible in our bodies. For we who are living are always being handed over to death for Jesus’s sake, so that the life of Jesus may also be made visible in our mortal flesh. So death is at work in us but life in you.

SERMON

Words at Work

Jackson Ringley

*HYMN OF THE DAY 42

O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

AZMON

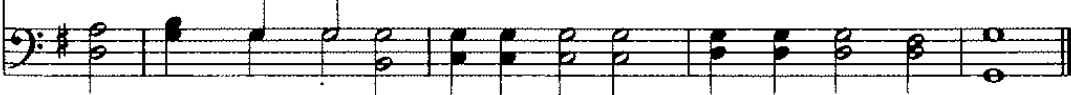


1 O for a thou-sand tongues to sing my great Re-deem-er’s praise,
2 My gra-cious Sav - ior and my God, as - sist me to pro - claim,
3 Je - sus! the name that calms our fears, that bids our sor - rows cease
4 Glo - ry to God, and love and praise be ev - er, ev - er given





The glo - ries ev - er ech - o - ing the tri - umphs of God’s grace!
To spread through all the earth a - broad the hon - ors of your name.
Is mu - sic in the sin-ner’s ears, is life, and health, and peace!
By all the saints in ev - ery age, the church in earth and heaven.



MUSIC FOR REFLECTION

CALL TO SHARING

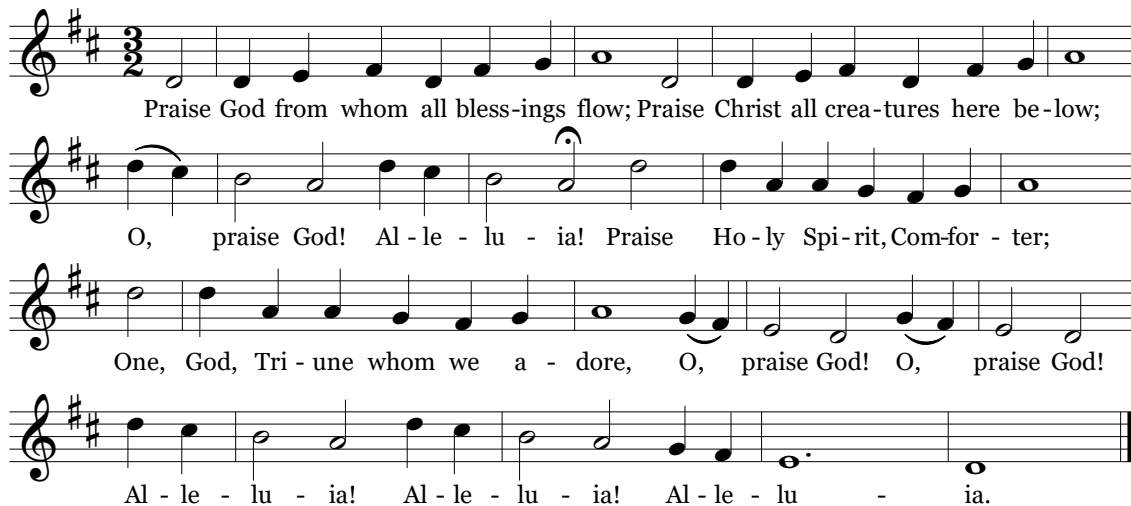
ANTHEM

Down in the River to Pray

African American spiritual,
arr. The Commas

*DOXOLOGY

LASST UNS ERFREUEN



Praise God from whom all bless-ings flow; Praise Christ all crea-tures here be-low;
O, praise God! Al - le - lu - ia! Praise Ho - ly Spi - rit, Com-for - ter;
One, God, Tri - une whom we a - dore, O, praise God! O, praise God!
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God of grace,
hear our prayer.

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO AN OPEN TABLE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Please come forward to receive the bread and cup. We offer a gluten-free option in the basket with purple linens and serve only non-alcoholic grape juice. Raise your hand if you would like a pastor to bring the elements to you.

COMMUNION MUSIC 343

*Jesus Took the Bread
(see insert)*

NEW HOPE

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

We give thanks, gracious God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

***HYMN OF BLESSING 530**

*God Our Author and Creator
(see insert)*

JEFFERSON

***BENEDICTION**

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Suite I, Z. 660

Henry Purcell

GRATITUDE CORNER

Sharon and I are always amazed and blessed by the wonderful music selflessly and consistently provided at UCCH. One recent example, beautifully sung by 3 members of The Commas, was so touching and anointed that I felt the best way to express our gratitude is to simply quote and impart most of the lyrics back to them here: "May I suggest, May I suggest to you, / May I suggest this is the best part of your life. / May I suggest, this time is blessed for you, / This time is blessed and shining almost blinding bright. / Just turn your head, and you'll begin to see, / The thousand reasons that were just beyond your sight; / The reasons why, Why I suggest to you, / Why I suggest this is the best part of your life. / The million stars that fill the turning sky at night. / Oh I suggest, Yes I suggest to you. / Yes I suggest this is the best part of your life....."

—Ted and Sharon Shohfi

Submissions needed! If you can name something about our church community that makes you want to give thanks and sing in less than 200 words, we'd love to share your thoughts in our weekly worship bulletins and newsletters. Send your submission to mmee@unitedchurch.org.

CHURCH WORKDAY SATURDAY, AUGUST 22
~9am-1pm (building will open at 8am)



Groups are invited to set up for the Celebration of Ministries and to prepare the building and grounds for their area of ministry this program year. Don't have a project to work on but want to help out? Show up at 9 to learn about suggested tasks. Indoor and outdoor projects are available, so wear and bring what you need to be comfortable to move around, get dirty, and possibly be hot!



CELEBRATION OF MINISTRIES SUNDAY, AUGUST 23
Worship @ 10:30 (Fellowship Hall) | Ministry Fair after worship

Interested in participating in a musical group? Want to learn about how UCCH supports the IFC? Wondering about faith formation opportunities for your child? Been meaning to sponsor the altar flowers? Looking for more information about Spanish classes?

The Celebration of Ministries is the place for you! The year, the ministry fair will be held throughout the top floor, so don't miss any of the displays (or tasty snacks)! This is a great Sunday for first-time visitors, longtime members, and everyone in between to learn more about how they can be a part of the life of the church.

Fall Congregational Retreat: **HOLY COMMUNION**

OCTOBER 9 - II

at



Registration now open: bit.ly/ucchretreat2026
Please register & pay by *Wednesday, September 23*

All are welcome!



Rev. Dr. Mary Luti, a retired pastor and professor of worship and liturgy, will lead our program as we discover new meanings in our weekly practice of communion.

Other highlights include the Friday night bonfire, Saturday evening hymn sing and talent show, a free afternoon to explore the area, yoga, bread baking for children, a youth hiking trip, and Sunday morning worship.



Learn more and register now!

Questions about the retreat? Contact Cameron (cbarr@unitedchurch.org).

Questions about registration? Contact Kati (kruark@unitedchurch.org).

WELCOME!

If you are new to United Church, we are so glad you are here. Please stop by the Welcome Table to fill out a contact card and take a gift bag with more information about our congregation. We also invite you to introduce yourself to a pastor and join us in Fellowship Hall for coffee and refreshments following worship.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN

UCCH has a response plan in place for health/safety emergencies or other unexpected situations. If you would like more details please contact a Deacon or Pastor.

VENEZUELA RELIEF FUND: GIVING REPORT

The results of our July special collection have been finalized. Gifts have been sent to the Bambi Foundation, which cares for children orphaned by disaster, and the Red Cross, to provide urgently needed medical supplies and humanitarian aid.

Total funds raised: \$14,225

Funds sent to American Red Cross: \$7,112.50

Funds sent to Bambi International Foundation: \$7,112.50

WORSHIP @ ORANGE CORRECTIONAL CENTER

Join us for a bilingual evening worship service and meal at Orange Correctional Center on **Sunday, September 13**. If you would like to attend, please contact Janet Flowers (janetflowers@gmail.com) **by August 16** to reserve your spot (out of 10 available). Maria Palmer will offer the meditation and provide Spanish interpretation. The residents sincerely appreciate this meaningful gesture of goodwill.

UCCH YOGA: AUGUST CLASSES

Join Melanie Joiner for an all-levels yoga class focused on building resilience and community on **Fridays, August 21 and 28, at 9am in the Assembly Hall**. Questions? Contact Melanie at melanie.spence@gmail.com.

YOUTH MINISTRY INTERNSHIP

We are seeking a kind, energetic, and creative undergraduate or graduate student to support the social, emotional, and spiritual growth of middle and high school students at United Church of Chapel Hill. The intern helps prepare and lead youth group activities each week alongside the Youth Minister (Jackson Ringley). **Apply by August 26**. Find details & the application form: unitedchurch.org/careers/

IN-HOME POTLUCKS: REGISTER NOW!

Our next In-Home Potlucks will take place **September 12 and 13!** These small gatherings offer an opportunity to share a meal, meet new people, and strengthen relationships within the UCCH community. You may register to host a gathering or attend as a guest. **Registration closes August 24**. Registration/interest form:



UCCH LANGUAGE LEARNING PROGRAM

The UCCH Language Learning Program starts again on August 24. As in the spring, the classes will be on Mondays and Wednesdays from 6:30 – 8:00pm. There will be a beginner and an intermediate class for both English (Monday and Wednesday) and Spanish (Beginner on Monday; Intermediate on Wednesday). Scan the attached QR code to register. If you have any questions, please contact Lew Nelson at toomanycds2@gmail.com or through WhatsApp at (919)448-1878. Thanks so much for supporting this mission of UCCH!



MORE ANNOUNCEMENTS IN ENEWS

Our email newsletter is sent weekly on Tuesdays (English) & Fridays (Spanish). Sign up at unitedchurch.org.

FROM THE UCCH LIBRARY

- ★ Johnson, J.W. The creation. In “God’s Trombones: Seven Negro Sermons in Verse,” p16-20. 811 Joh G
 - ★ Finck, L. First. In “Let There Be Light: The Real Story of Her Creation,” p5-9. 220.9 Fin L
 - ★ Thomas, D. She blows where she wills: Spirit. In “A Faith of Many Rooms: Inhabiting a More Spacious Christianity,” p73-82. 230 Tho F
 - ★ Long, T.G. First light. In “Testimony: Talking Ourselves into Being Christian,” p69-88. 248 Lon T
 - ★ Weston, P. Witnessing from the inside out. In “The Word’s Out: Speaking the Gospel Today,” p62-77. 269 Mal W
 - ★ Gilliard, D.D. Jesus: Abandoning and leveraging privilege to proclaim the good news. In “Subversive Witness,” p97-117. 261.8 Gil S
 - ★ Daniel, L. Speaking faith: Grace breaking in. In “From Nomads to Pilgrims,” p97-114. 248.4 Bas Fr
- These items are on the small wooden rack in the center of the library. Instructions are provided: for using the catalog (near the computer), and for borrowing an item (near the door). Questions? Contact Barbara Wildemuth.

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

SERVICE NOTES

MUSIC: Renee McBride, guest pianist; The Commas
DEACON: Jean Anne Barnes
GREETERS: Peter Barnes, Mark Kleinschmidt
READER: Susan Denault
SOUNDBOARD: Sonic Al
LIVESTREAM: Bill Siddall
COFFEE HOST: Board of Adult Education

COVER ART: *Behind Every Shadow There is a Great Light* by Edie Mae Herrel, 1984. From Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt University Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.

UNITED CHURCH STAFF

SENIOR PASTOR: Rev. Cameron Barr
ASSOCIATE PASTOR: Rev. Caleb Wolf
MINISTER TO CHILDREN: Anitra Grove
MINISTER TO YOUTH AND FAMILIES: Jackson Ringley
MINISTER OF MUSIC: Reyna Alston
PROGRAM ORGANIST: Julie Mitchell
ADJUNCT MUSIC STAFF: Charles Bradshaw (United Voices of Praise Director)
CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR: Kati Ruark
BUSINESS MANAGER: Duane Gilbert

COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER: Marisa Mee
SEXTON: Bruce Thomas
KITCHEN STEWARDS: Hser Nay Htoo & Zoila Fonseca
NURSERY ASSISTANTS: Harper Gray, Kallista Mela, Mimi Reeves, Anna Grove, Jack Tanner, Josh Hart, Elizabeth Hall, Paloma Bradley, Mere Gaillard, Sydnee Tapper, Lauren Shultz, Ella Law, James Minor, John Grove, Mason Maciejewski, Connor Gilmore

Bienvenido. Welcome. Visitors are invited to take a contact card from the Narthex or Sanctuary pew pockets to fill out and place in the offering plate. / *Se invita a los visitantes a coger una tarjeta de contacto de los bolsillos de los bancos del Nártex o del Santuario para rellenarla y depositarla en el plato de las ofrendas.*

*Or complete the form online:
O rellene el formulario en línea:*



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unitedchurch.org

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[/unitedchurchofchapelhill](https://www.facebook.com/unitedchurchofchapelhill)

PHONE
919-942-3540

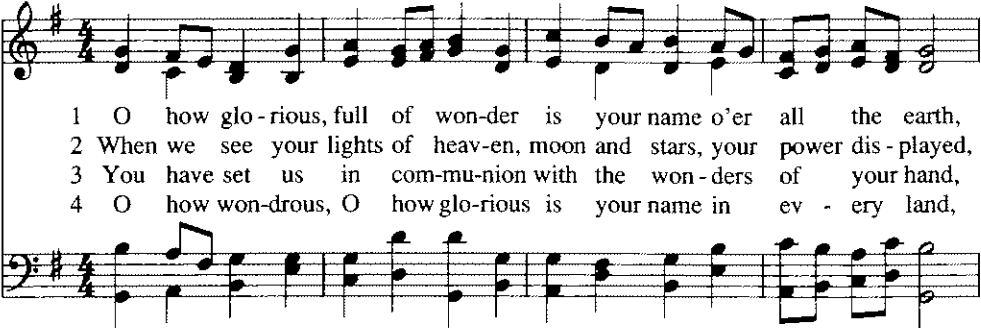
A PLACE *of* BELONGING FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN

O How Glorious, Full of Wonder

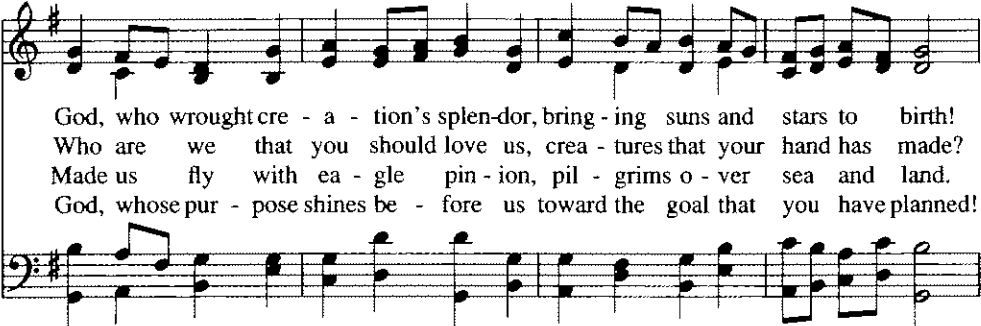
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Curtis Beach, 1958, rev. 1980; alt.

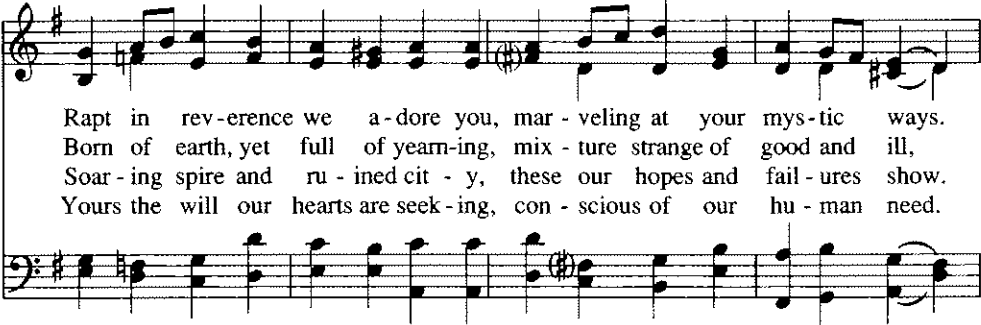
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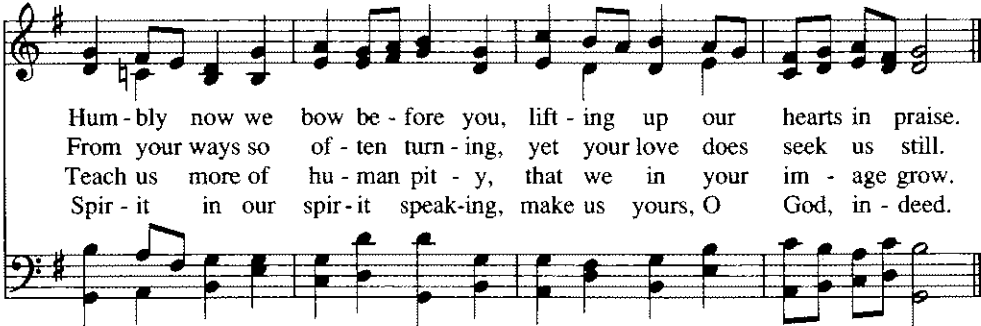
1 O how glo - rious, full of won - der is your name o'er all the earth,
 2 When we see your lights of heav - en, moon and stars, your power dis - played,
 3 You have set us in com - mu - nion with the won - ders of your hand,
 4 O how won - drous, O how glo - rious is your name in ev - ery land,



God, who wrought cre - a - tion's splen - dor, bring - ing suns and stars to birth!
 Who are we that you should love us, crea - tures that your hand has made?
 Made us fly with ea - gle pin - ion, pil - grims o - ver sea and land.
 God, whose pur - pose shines be - fore us toward the goal that you have planned!



Rapt in rev - erence we a - dore you, mar - veling at your mys - tic ways.
 Born of earth, yet full of yearn - ing, mix - ture strange of good and ill,
 Soar - ing spire and ru - ined cit - y, these our hopes and fail - ures show.
 Yours the will our hearts are seek - ing, con - scious of our hu - man need.



Hum - bly now we bow be - fore you, lift - ing up our hearts in praise.
 From your ways so of - ten turn - ing, yet your love does seek us still.
 Teach us more of hu - man pit - y, that we in your im - age grow.
 Spir - it in our spir - it speak - ing, make us yours, O God, in - deed.

United Church of Christ minister Curtis Beach submitted this hymn to the editorial committee of the Pilgrim Hymnal (1958). It was one of two psalm paraphrases by Beach to be accepted. The hymn was also included in The Hymnal of the United Church of Christ (1974).

Tune: IN BABILONE 8.7.8.7.D.
 Traditional Dutch melody
 Arr. Julius Röntgen, c. 1906
 Alternate tune: HYMN TO JOY

Jesus Took the Bread

Matt. 26:26-28; Luke 9:16; 22:19; 24:30

Ruth Duck, 1982

Unison D A F#m Bm Em7 D/A A7

1 Je - sus took the bread, dai - ly gift of God,
 2 Je - sus blessed the bread, thanked the God of grace,
 3 Je - sus broke the bread; then he poured the wine.
 4 Je - sus gives the bread at our ta - ble still,

Bm Bm7 GM7 C Em7 A7

formed of wheat and sweat and toil, sun, rain, and sod.
 thanked the One who made all worlds, all time, all space.
 Bro - ken bod - y, life poured out, God gives as sign.
 gives the cup to those who seek God's lov - ing will.

D A Bm Em F#m GM7 A7

In our hands we take gifts of bread and wine,
 Bless - ing, hon - or, praise, all to God be - long.
 Weak, a - fraid, and lost: that is when we're healed.
 Let us go in peace; let us free - ly give,

D A F# Bm Em A7 D

gath - ered from the fields of earth, signs of love di - vine.
 Let us lift our hearts to God in a thank - ful song.
 In our hu - man bro - ken - ness: there God is re - vealed.
 shar - ing love with all the world dai - ly as we live.

Ruth Duck wrote this hymn emphasizing the actions of communion—taking, blessing, breaking, and giving the bread—following a summer study of liturgy at the University of Notre Dame. It was first used at New Hope United Church of Christ in Milwaukee.

Tune: NEW HOPE 10.11.10.12.
 Ruth Duck, 1982
 Arr. Randall Sensmeier, 1982

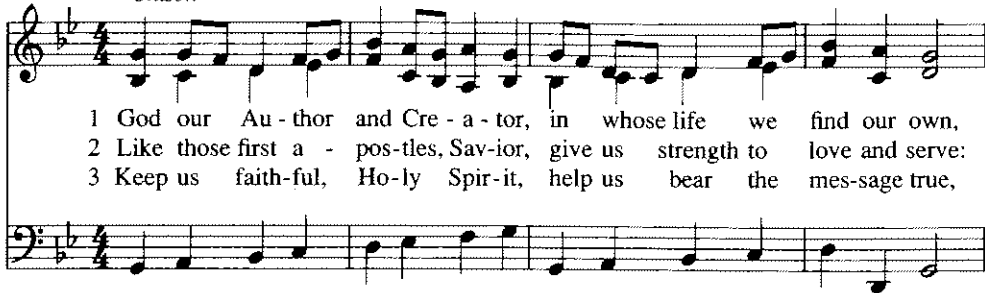
God Our Author and Creator

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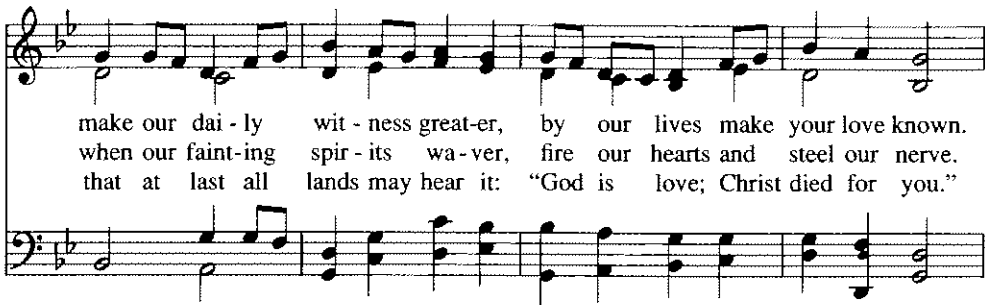
Carl P. Daw, Jr., 1985

Gen. 1:1-2:3; Acts 17:22-31; Rom. 12:2; John 3:16-17

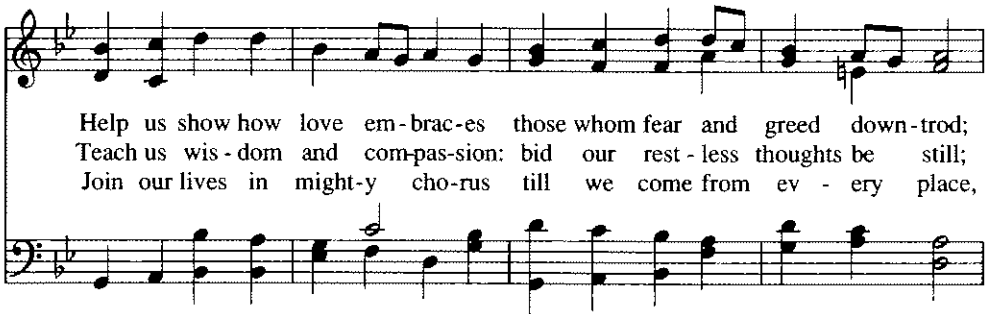
Unison



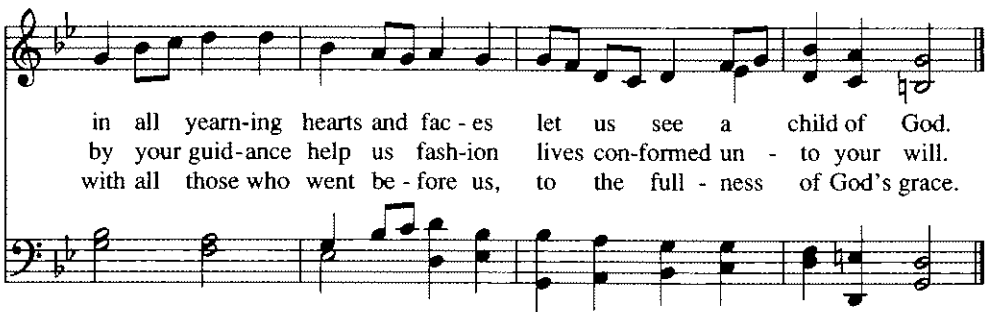
1 God our Au - thor and Cre - a - tor, in whose life we find our own,
 2 Like those first a - pos-tles, Sav-ior, give us strength to love and serve:
 3 Keep us faith-ful, Ho-ly Spir-it, help us bear the mes-sage true,



make our dai - ly wit - ness great-er, by our lives make your love known.
 when our faint-ing spir - its wa-ver, fire our hearts and steel our nerve.
 that at last all lands may hear it: "God is love; Christ died for you."



Help us show how love em-brac-es those whom fear and greed down-trod;
 Teach us wis - dom and com-pas-sion: bid our rest - less thoughts be still;
 Join our lives in might-y cho-rus till we come from ev - ery place,



in all yearn-ing hearts and fac - es let us see a child of God.
 by your guid-ance help us fash-ion lives con-formed un - to your will.
 with all those who went be - fore us, to the full - ness of God's grace.

In 1985, a hymn competition was held to commemorate the centennial of the Women's Missionary Union of the Southern Baptist Convention. This winning text by Carl P. Daw, Jr., fulfilled the guideline that the hymn address mission in the context of daily life.

Tune: JEFFERSON 8.7.8.7.D.
 Southern Harmony, 1835
 Harm. John Ferguson, 1973

Pillars of Promise *Capital Campaign Update*

We knew our HVAC systems were living on borrowed time when we launched the Pillars of Promise campaign. Turns out, our sanctuary A/C decided its time was up a little sooner than we'd have liked—which is why we're currently enjoying the cozy acoustics of the Fellowship Hall. Thanks for being such troopers while we navigate this "refreshing" change of scenery!

The good news is that progress is happening. We're currently in a high-stakes waiting game for our new three-phase transformer, the crown jewel of our HVAC upgrade. You might have seen the construction gear outside and that shiny new pad just sitting there, waiting for the HVAC's big arrival.

Now's time to call on your spiritual A-game. Please pray for the manufacturer, the shipping company, the truck driver, and the entire supply chain. If you've ever wanted to offer intercessions for industrial electrical equipment, this is your shining moment!

All jokes aside, thanks for your incredible support. This project is the very reason we started this campaign, ensuring our church home is ready for all our future care and outreach. Your generosity does more than just fix the A/C—it sustains our church's entire ministry. Without you, none of what we do together is possible.

Thank you for your faithful support of this campaign. Together, we are caring for the infrastructure that supports our worship, our ministries, and our mission for years to come. Your generosity launched the Capital Campaign and your generosity sustains our operating budget week after week. Your gifts keep the lights on and the ministries going to be sure, but you also help us build and sustain the church we are called to be now and in the future. Thank you for your generosity, your faith, and your commitment to this community.

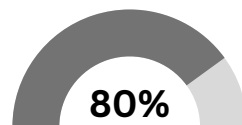
- Capital Campaign Steering Committee

Pillars of Promise *Giving Update*

Pledges (as of 8/13/26): \$1,726,938

Gifts received (as of 8/13/26): \$1,375,109 (80% of pledged amount)

Thank you!



onrealm.org/ucch/give

Make a gift to the campaign now. Choose
“Capital Campaign” from the fund menu.