

UNITED CHURCH *of* CHAPEL HILL FESTIVAL WORSHIP



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

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

OPENING VOLUNTARY

Meditation on O WALY WALY

Trad. Scottish folk tune

INSTRUMENTAL INTROIT

The Peaceable Garden

Rhett Barnwell

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Adapted from Psalm 84

How lovely is your dwelling place,

O LORD of hosts!

My soul longs, indeed it faints,

for the courts of the LORD;

my heart and my flesh sing for joy

to the living God.

Even the sparrow finds a home

and the swallow a nest for herself,

at your altars, O LORD, my God.

Happy are those who live in your house,

ever singing your praise.

Happy is everyone who trusts in you.

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 8

*Praise to the Living God
(see insert)*

DIADEMATA

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

CHILDREN'S RESPONSE

Where Children Belong



This, this is where chil-dren be-long, wel-come as part of the wor-ship-ing throng.



Wa-ter, God's Word, bread and cup, prayer, and song: This is where chil-dren be-long.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Song of Songs 1:5-6; 2:1-7

NRSVUE

I am black and beautiful,
O daughters of Jerusalem,
like the tents of Kedar,
like the curtains of Solomon.
Do not gaze at me because I am dark,
because the sun has gazed on me.
My mother's sons were angry with me;
they made me keeper of the vineyards,
but my own vineyard I have not kept!

I am a rose of Sharon,
a lily of the valleys.

As a lily among brambles,
so is my love among maidens.

As an apple tree among the trees of the wood,
so is my beloved among young men.

With great delight I sat in his shadow,
and his fruit was sweet to my taste.

He brought me to the banqueting house,
and his intention toward me was love.

Sustain me with raisins,
refresh me with apples,
for I am faint with love.

O that his left hand were under my head
and that his right hand embraced me!

I charge you, O daughters of Jerusalem,
by the gazelles or the wild does:

do not stir up or awaken love
until it is ready!

Mark 4:26-29

NRSVUE

He also said, "The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. The earth produces of itself first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle because the harvest has come."

SERMON

Praise in Bloom

Jackson Ringley

MUSIC FOR REFLECTION

CALL TO SHARING

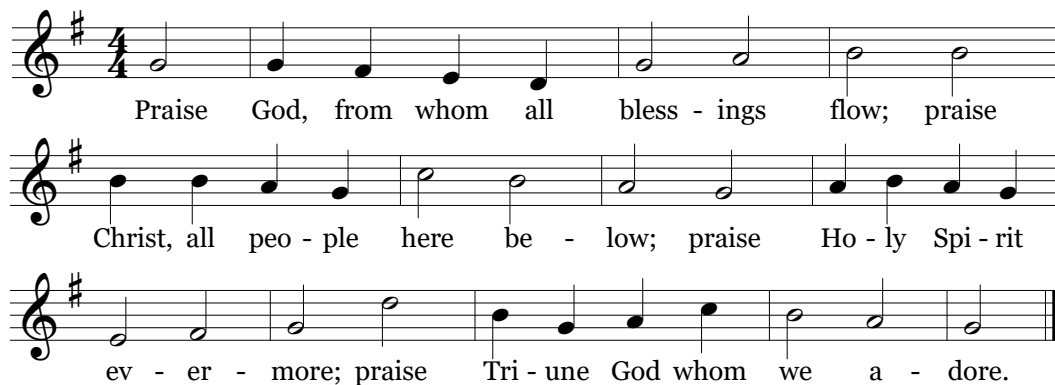
ANTHEM

Fugue in G minor

Mozart

*DOXOLOGY

OLD HUNDREDTH



Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise
Christ, all peo - ple here be - low; praise Ho - ly Spi - rit
ev - er - more; praise Tri - une God whom we a - dore.

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.

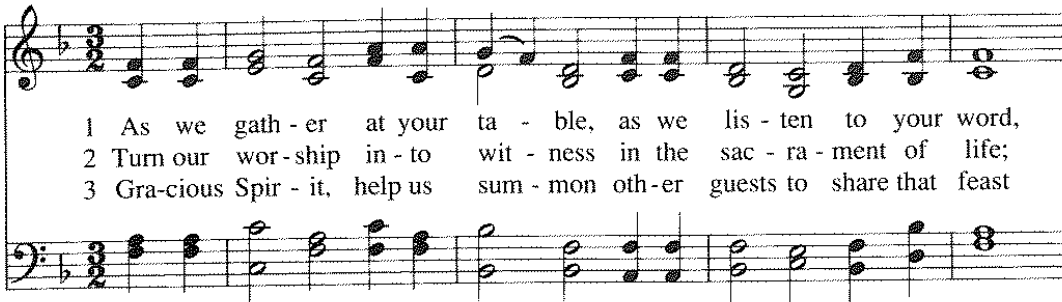
WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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.

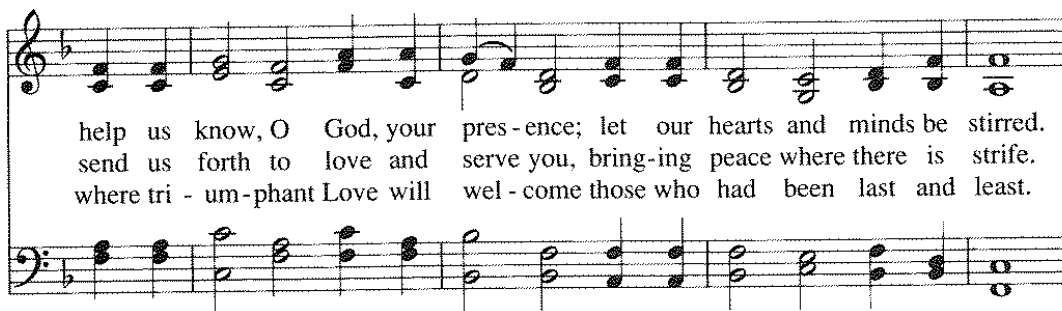
COMMUNION HYMN 332

As We Gather at Your Table

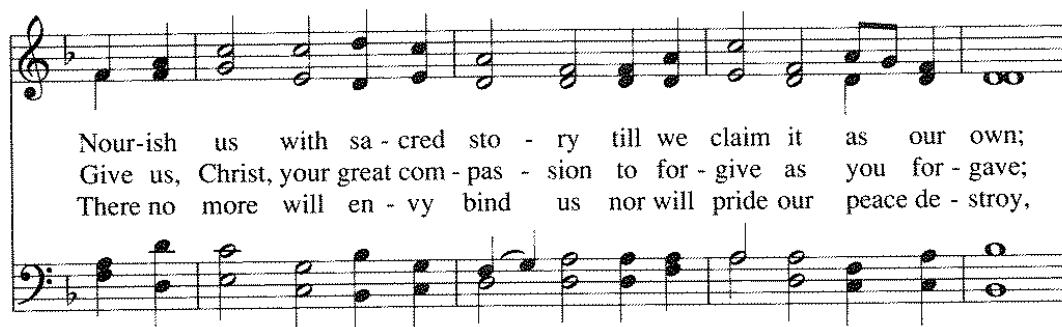
BEACH SPRING



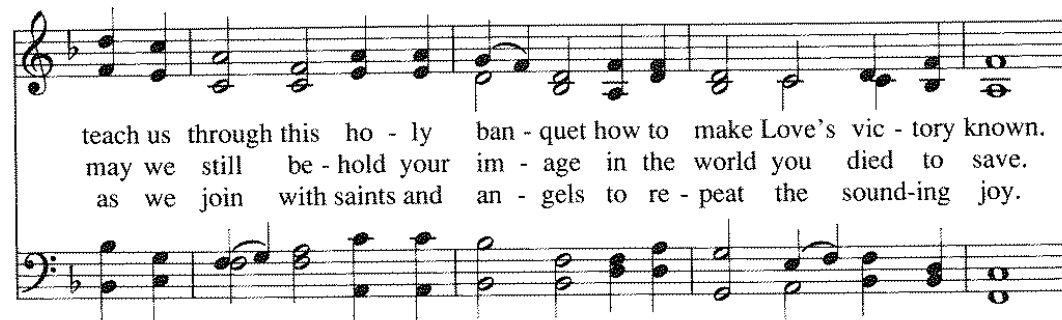
1 As we gath - er at your ta - ble, as we lis - ten to your word,
2 Turn our wor - ship in - to wit - ness in the sac - ra - ment of life;
3 Gra-cious Spir - it, help us sum - mon oth - er guests to share that feast



help us know, O God, your pres - ence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.
send us forth to love and serve you, bring - ing peace where there is strife.
where tri - um - phant Love will wel - come those who had been last and least.



Nour - ish us with sa - cred sto - ry till we claim it as our own;
Give us, Christ, your great com - pas - sion to for - give as you for - gave;
There no more will en - vy bind us nor will pride our peace de - stroy,



teach us through this ho - ly ban - quet how to make Love's vic - tory known.
may we still be - hold your im - age in the world you died to save.
as we join with saints and an - gels to re - peat the sound - ing joy.

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 459

Come, O Fount of Every Blessing
(see insert)

NETTLETON

*BENEDICTION

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Sonata in G minor

Domenico Scarlatti

COLOMBIA EARTHQUAKE RELIEF

United Church is supporting an emergency relief effort for families affected by the recent devastating earthquake in Colombia. Physical donations of *new* emergency supplies must be received by September 1 for shipment to the affected communities (see details); monetary donations can be made at any time. Please scan the QR code for a list of needed supplies, drop-off information, and ways to give:



GRATITUDE CORNER

The Refugee Support Center is grateful to United Church for being our partner again this year in its annual school supplies collection drive. Many thanks to church staff, especially Kati Ruark, for their graciousness, to Kas Sielken and Henry Lister for playing key roles in the drive's success, and to all our church members who stepped up to meet the need. The outcome is that we were able to provide backpacks with school supplies to 369 kids of refugee families, as well as to La Mesa families. Thank you for church space to stage the operation and for space in the your collective heart for refugees. —Flicka Bateman

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.

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.

FALL RETREAT TO BLOWING ROCK

Join us October 9-11, 2026 at Blowing Rock Conference Center for our annual Fall Retreat. This year, we welcome Rev. Dr. Mary Luti, retired pastor, professor, and author, who will lead us in exploring new meanings in our weekly practice of Communion. With worship, fellowship, activities for children and youth, free time in the mountains, and beloved retreat traditions, there will be something for all ages. Help with costs of the retreat may be available. Register by Wednesday, September 23. Learn more & register here:



UCCH YOGA & MORE: SEPTEMBER CLASSES

Join us for Friday morning yoga with Melanie Joiner and pilates-style classes led by Karen Setty! All levels welcome. **Fridays at 9am in the Assembly Hall:** Sept 4 - Pilates; Sept 11 - Regular Yoga; Sept 18 - Chair Yoga; Sept 25 - Pilates. Questions? Contact Melanie at melanie.spence@gmail.com.

VIVALDI'S GLORIA: OPEN REHEARSALS

Wednesday, September 9 | 7-8pm in the Music Room
Singers from UCCH and the wider community are invited to join rehearsals of Vivaldi's *Gloria* in preparation for a joint concert by UCCH and University Presbyterian Church toward the end of October. Questions? Contact Reyna Alston (ralston@united-church.org).

SEPTEMBER 13 - SUNDAY MORNING PROGRAMS

8:45am: Gospel Worship with UVoP (Fellowship Hall)

9:15am: Faith Formation hour (Sunday School, Faith & Family, Spiritual Growth class, Community Forum)

10:30am: La Mesa & Festival Worship

After worship: Coffee hour (Fellowship Hall) & flu shot clinic (office lobby)

FLU SHOT CLINIC

Walgreens will provide flu vaccines to anyone who would like to receive one **after worship on Sunday, September 13 (in the office lobby)**. Thank you to church member Jesus Felix for organizing this clinic for us once again!

The vaccine is available to anyone age 3 and older. Insurance is NOT required. If you do have health insurance, please have your card available that day. It is not necessary to sign up in advance, but it would help to gauge interest beforehand, so please complete this form if you'd like to get a flu shot on September 13:



HELP KEEP THE LITTLE FREE PANTRY STOCKED

Jesus said, "You give them food." Our Little Free Pantry is answering that call from Jesus. Items disappear from it almost as quickly as they are put in it. Individual snack items, toiletries, and packs of takeout utensils go the quickest – although any shelf-stable items that are not in glass are also appreciated. Please drop off your donations either in the Little Free Pantry or in the designated basket at the narthex entrance to worship.

MORE ANNOUNCEMENTS IN ENEWS

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

FROM THE UCCH LIBRARY

- ★ McCollough, C. The seed and the harvest. In "The Art of Parables," p152-158. 226.6 McC A
- ★ Wall, C. Anticipated blooms. In "Mister Owita's Guide to Gardening," p67-83. 920 Wal M
- ★ McCoy, L.S. Planting seeds. In "Planting a Garden: Growing the Church Beyond Traditional Models," p34-40. 253.7 McC P
- ★ Ramshaw, G. Harvest. In "Treasures Old and New: Images in the Lectionary," p199-207. 220.6 Ram T
- ★ Davis, E.F. The flowering of love. In "Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and the Song of Songs," p249-254. 223.7 Dav P
- ★ Davis, E.F. 'The one whom my soul loves': The Song of Songs. In "Getting Involved with God: Rediscovering the Old Testament," p65-88. 221.6 Dav G
- ★ Lamott, A. "Somehow: Thoughts on Love." 152.4 Lam S

These items are on the small wooden rack in the center of the library. Volunteers will be in the library after the worship service, to assist you in finding library materials and answer your questions about the library.

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

SERVICE NOTES

MUSIC: Julie Mitchell, piano; Linden Thayer and Nanette de Andrade, harp; Barbara Wildemuth, piano

DEACON: Bill Benjey

GREETERS: Vicki Gardner, Peter Barnes

READER: Jeff Hall

SOUNDBOARD: Toby McCoy

LIVESTREAM: Bob Sielken

COFFEE HOST: Youth Leadership Team

COVER ART: *Life Force* by M.C. Escher, 1919. Public domain.

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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

JUNIOR CHOIR DIRECTOR: Elizabeth Brown

LA MESA CHOIR DIRECTOR: Adrián Salvador Valiente Tame

LA MESA ACCOMPANIST: Brendan Smith

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

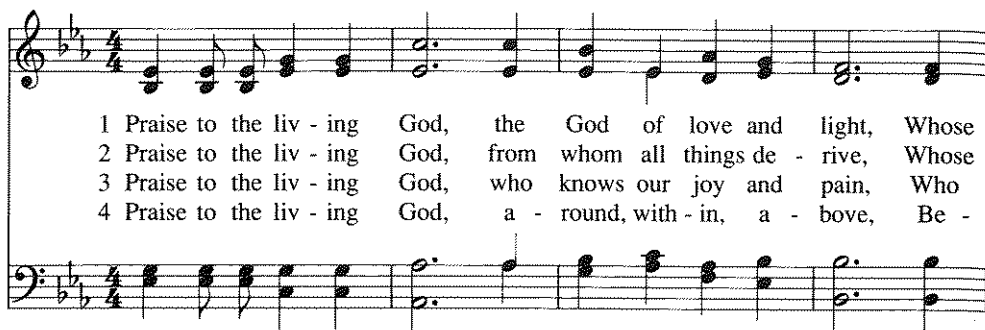
PHONE
919-942-3540

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

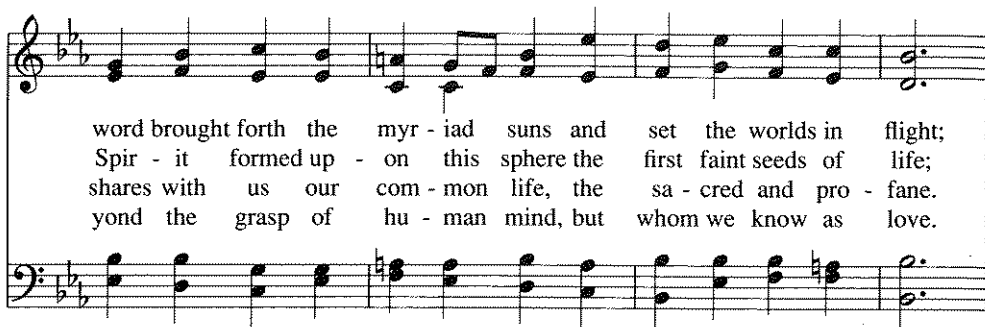
Praise to the Living God

Ps. 84:1-2

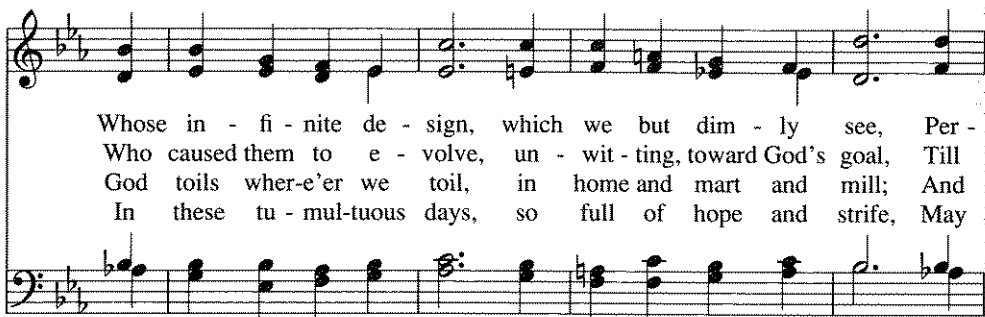
Curtis Beach, 1966; alt.



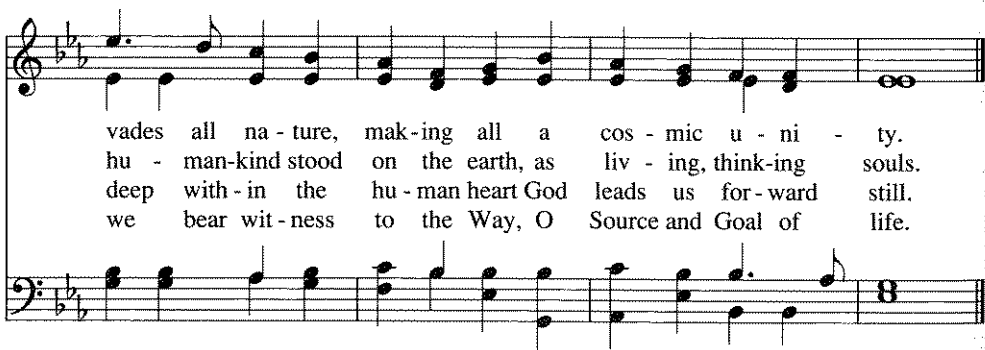
1 Praise to the liv - ing God, the God of love and light, Whose
 2 Praise to the liv - ing God, from whom all things de - rive, Whose
 3 Praise to the liv - ing God, who knows our joy and pain, Who
 4 Praise to the liv - ing God, a - round, with - in, a - bove, Be -



word brought forth the myr - iad suns and set the worlds in flight;
 Spir - it formed up - on this sphere the first faint seeds of life;
 shares with us our com - mon life, the sa - cred and pro - fane.
 yond the grasp of hu - man mind, but whom we know as love.



Whose in - fi - nite de - sign, which we but dim - ly see, Per -
 Who caused them to e - volve, un - wit - ting, toward God's goal, Till
 God toils wher-e'er we toil, in home and mart and mill; And
 In these tu - mul-tuous days, so full of hope and strife, May



vades all na - ture, mak - ing all a cos - mic u - ni - ty.
 hu - man-kind stood on the earth, as liv - ing, think - ing souls.
 deep with - in the hu - man heart God leads us for - ward still.
 we bear wit - ness to the Way, O Source and Goal of life.

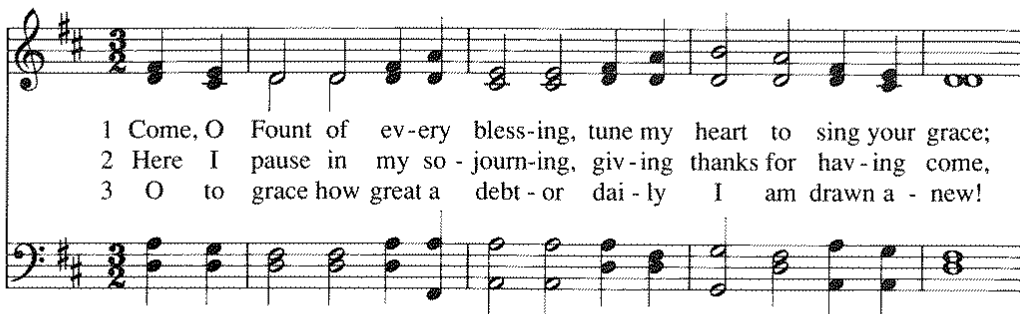
Curtis Beach, born into a family of several generations of ministers, was educated at Harvard University, the Boston University School of Theology, and the University of Southern California. A minister in the United Church of Christ, Beach authored *The Gospel of Mark: Its Making and Meaning*.

Tune: DIADEMATA S.M.D.
 George J. Elvey, 1868

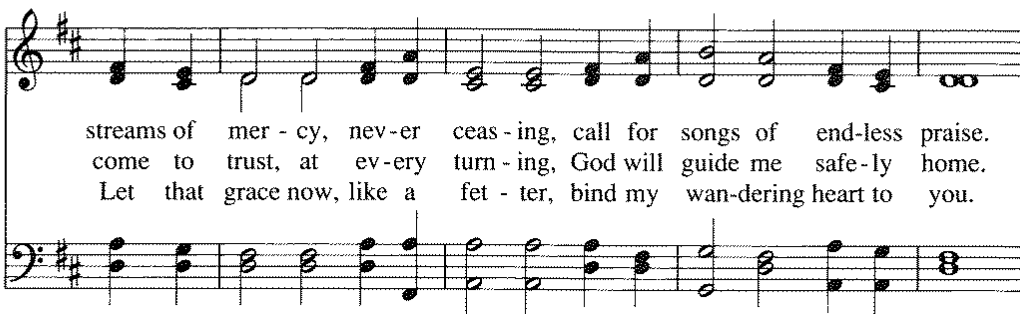
Come, O Fount of Every Blessing

Ps. 36:7-9

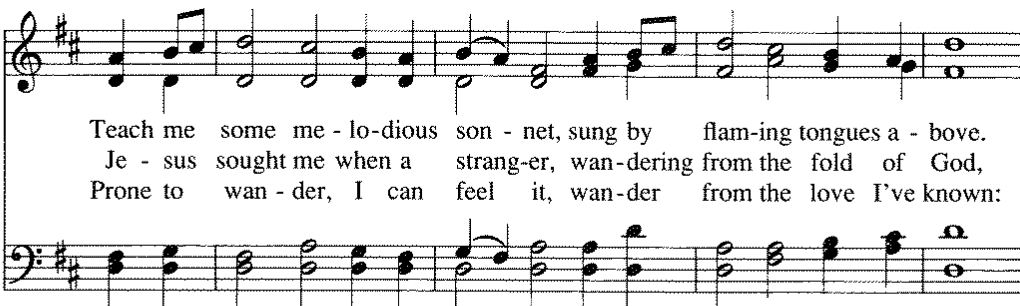
Robert Robinson, 1758; alt.



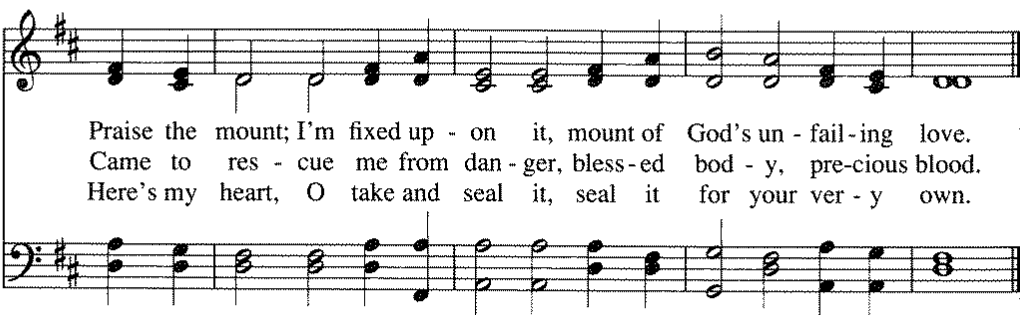
1 Come, O Fount of ev-ery bless-ing, tune my heart to sing your grace;
 2 Here I pause in my so - journ-ing, giv-ing thanks for hav-ing come,
 3 O to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I am drawn a - new!



streams of mer - cy, nev-er ceas-ing, call for songs of end-less praise.
 come to trust, at ev-ery turn-ing, God will guide me safe-ly home.
 Let that grace now, like a fet - ter, bind my wan-dering heart to you.



Teach me some me - lo-dious son - net, sung by flam-ing tongues a - bove.
 Je - sus sought me when a strang-er, wan-dering from the fold of God,
 Prone to wan - der, I can feel it, wan-der from the love I've known:



Praise the mount; I'm fixed up - on it, mount of God's un - fail-ing love.
 Came to res - cue me from dan - ger, bless-ed bod - y, pre-cious blood.
 Here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for your ver - y own.

Converted to Methodism at age twenty, Robert Robinson soon became a Calvinistic Methodist preacher and later gained great popularity. The melody, associated with this text since 1813, is an American folk tune.

Tune: NETTLETON 8.7.8.7.D.
 John Wyeth's Repository of Sacred Music, 1813