Twenty-Third Sunday After Pentecost
November 1, 2026
All Saints

UNION CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
United Church Of Christ

Loving God. Loving Neighbor. Building Community.

You are invited to join in the liturgy **in bold type.**

Childcare is available from 9:45 for children in pre-k and under. Following Communion, children through elementary school are invited to Godly Play Sunday School. Both groups currently take place in the 2nd floor of the East Wing. Following worship, all children return to the Assembly Room with the teachers.

Prelude – Songs My Mother Taught Me Antonín Dvořák

Als die alte Mutter mich
noch lehrte singen,
tränen in den Wimpern
gar so oft ihr hingen.
Jetzt, wo ich die Kleinen selber
üb im Sange,
rieselt's in den Bart oft,
rieselt's oft von der braunen Wange.

Songs my mother taught me,
In the days long vanished;
Seldom from her eyelids
Were the teardrops banished.
Now I teach my children,
Each melodious measure.
Oft the tears are flowing,
Oft they flow from my memory's treasure.

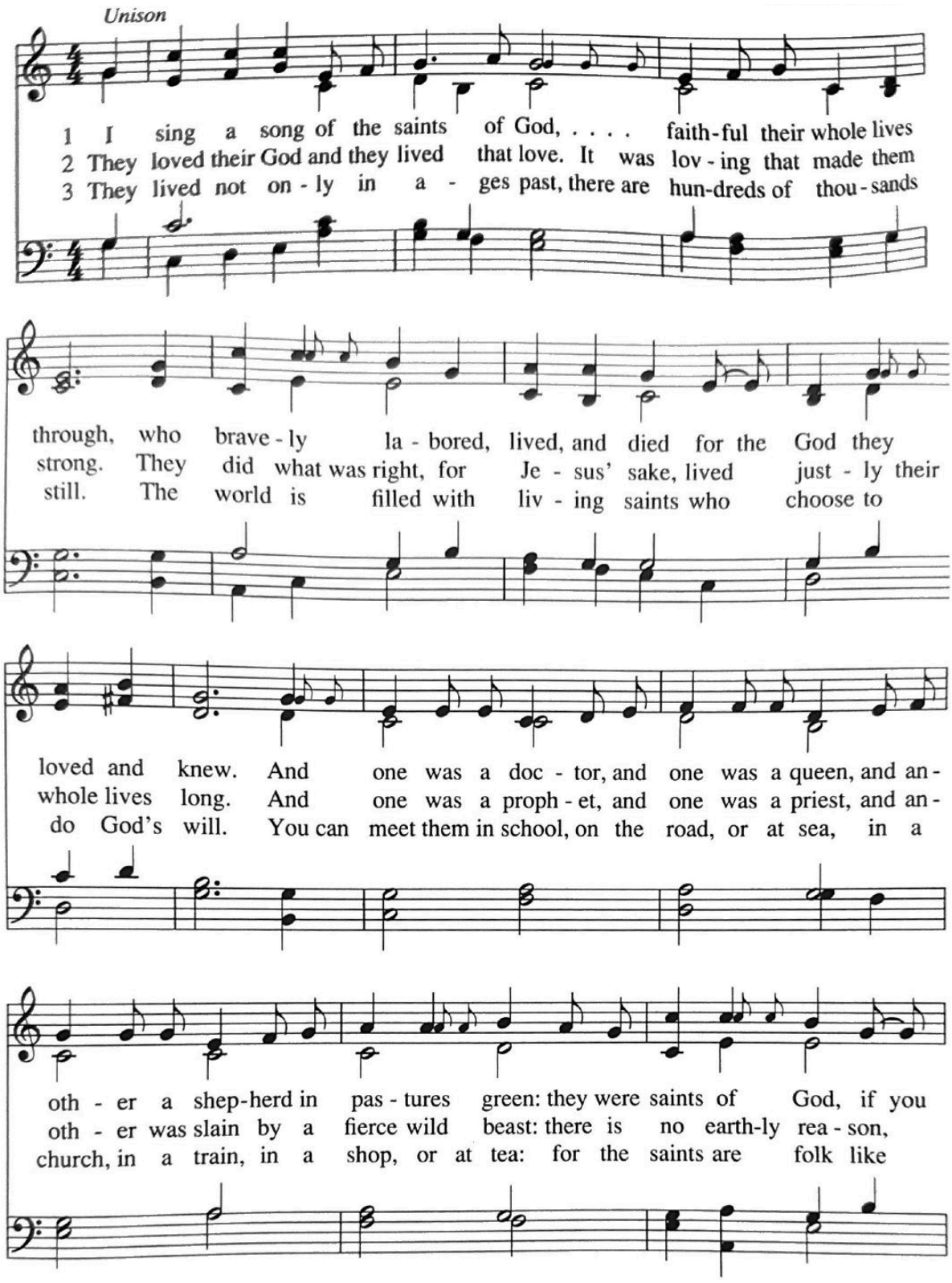
Bill Amory & Jeremy Carlisle

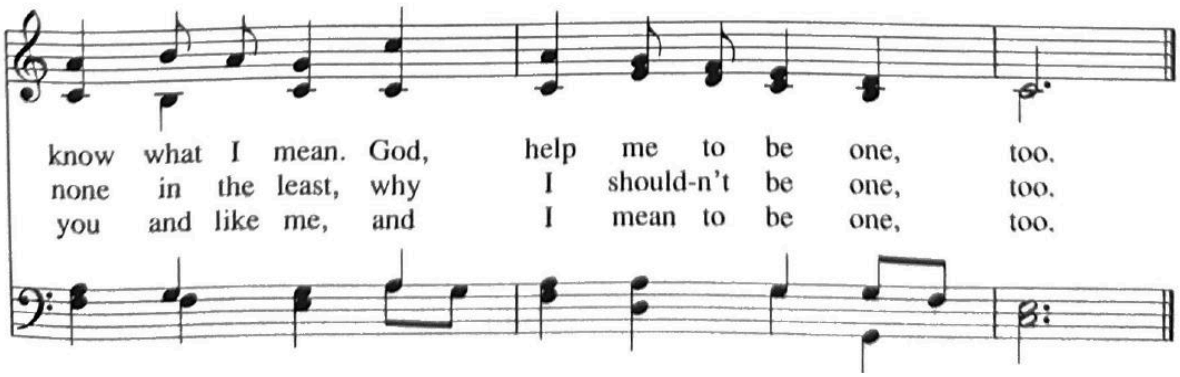
Welcome Rev. Katrina Forman

***Call to Worship**

One: We gather in the presence of God and in the company of the saints.
Many: We are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses.
One: We remember those who prophesied,
those who spoke out,
those who made their witness for God.
Many: We remember those who gave their lives
so every voice might be heard.
One: We give thanks for neighbors and friends
who make their witness for God and the good of all.
Many: We come with gratitude for courage
and with hope for the days ahead.
ALL: Let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us,
looking to God, who is ever faithful.

***Opening Hymn NCH #295 – I Sing a Song of the Saints of God** *GRAND ISLE*
Words: Lesbia Scott Music: John H. Hopkins


Unison
1 I sing a song of the saints of God, ... faith-ful their whole lives
2 They loved their God and they lived that love. It was lov - ing that made them
3 They lived not on - ly in a - ges past, there are hun-dreds of thou - sands
through, who brave - ly la - bored, lived, and died for the God they
strong. They did what was right, for Je - sus' sake, lived just - ly their
still. The world is filled with liv - ing saints who choose to
loved and knew. And one was a doc - tor, and one was a queen, and an -
whole lives long. And one was a proph - et, and one was a priest, and an -
do God's will. You can meet them in school, on the road, or at sea, in a
oth - er a shep-herd in pas - tures green: they were saints of God, if you
oth - er was slain by a fierce wild beast: there is no earth-ly rea - son,
church, in a train, in a shop, or at tea: for the saints are folk like



***Passing the Peace**

Scripture – Hebrews 11:39-12:2 John David Whitener

Communion
Invitation
Pastor: Beloveds, we come to this table on All Saints Day, carrying the sacred weight of our histories and our futures. We stand in a liminal space—anchored by the ancestors who marched, prayed, sang, and wept us into this moment, and looking ahead toward critical choices for our nation in just two days.

People: Our spirits are weary, our minds are anxious, and the ground feels as though it is shifting beneath our feet.

Remembering and Blessing

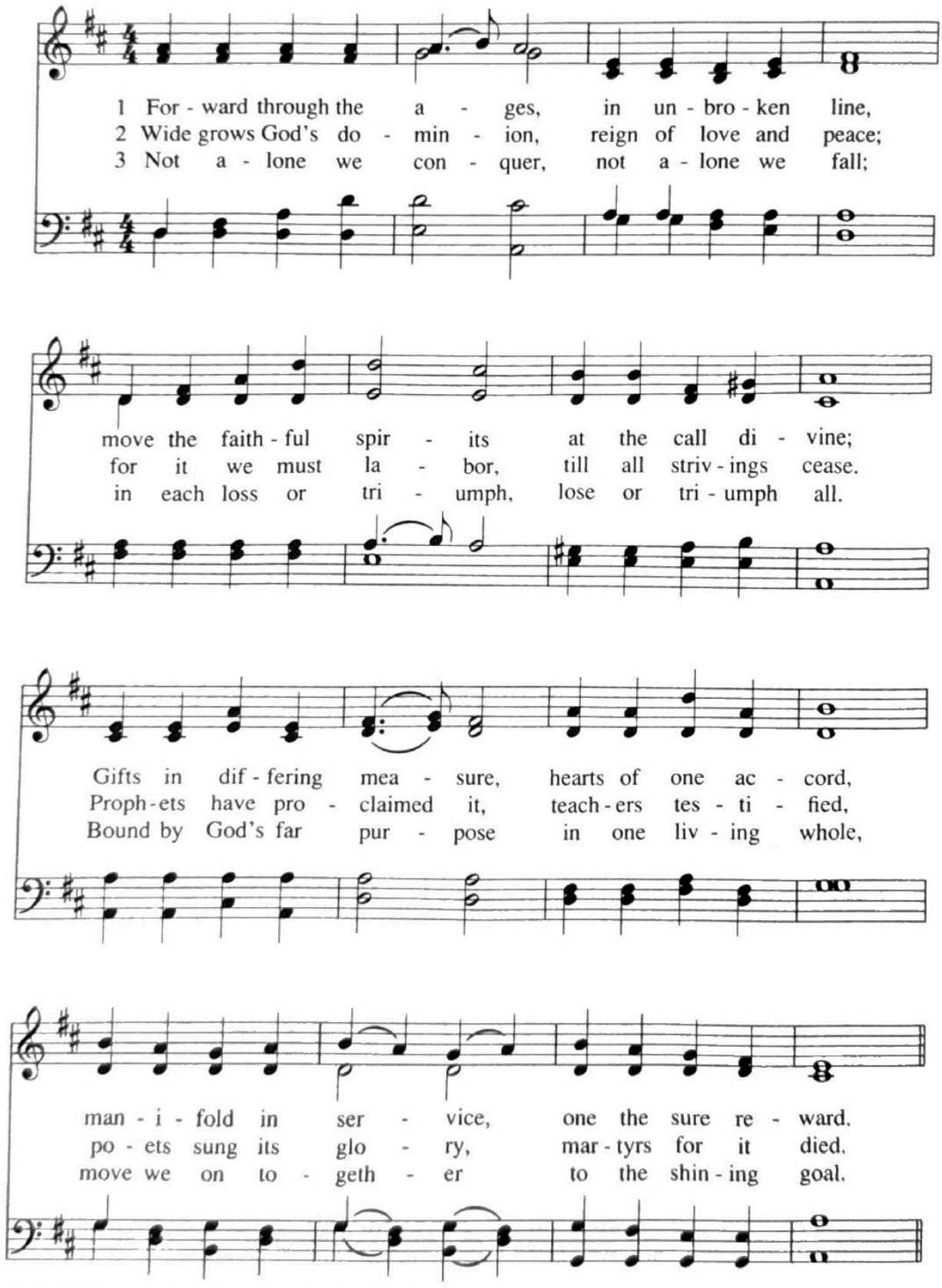
Sharing the Bread and Cup

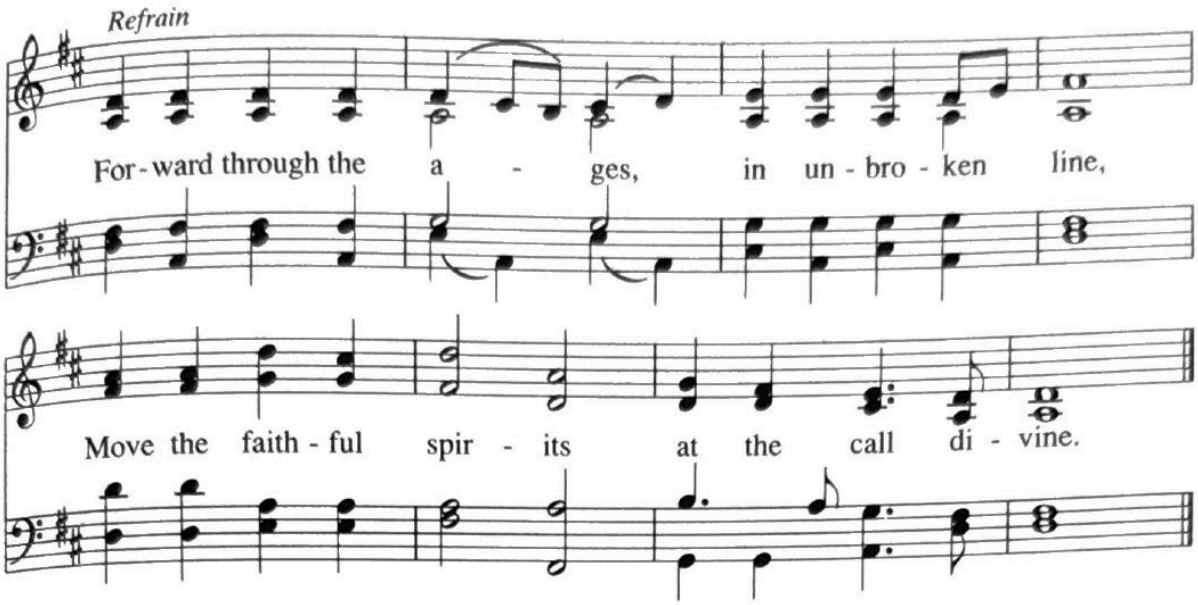
Communion Hymn (insert back of bulletin) – As the Grain Was Scattered
Words & Music: Arthur Clyde

Prayer following Communion (unison)
God thank you for the nourishment of this table. Thank you for the connection it offers with our ancestors in faith, the communion of saints of our own day, and those yet to come. May all our lives and witness point towards your love and justice. Amen.

(Children are invited to attend Sunday School at this time.)

Sermon – Promise and Perseverance Rev. Katrina Forman

***Hymn NCH #377 – Forward through the Ages (vs. 1, 3)** *ST. GERTRUDE*
Words: Frederick Hosmer Music: Arthur S. Sullivan

Refrain on next page



Litany of Remembrance
Remembering Those We Have Lost This Year*

William Parzynski
Muriel Ann Hauf
Clarissa Anthony Schoch
Eileen Stirling

Offertory – Generosity Witness — Brian Pierson

Music for Meditation – Agnus dei from *Requiem* — Gabriel Fauré

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi,
dona eis requiem.
Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi,
dona eis sempiternam requiem.
Lux aeterna luceat eis, Domine,
cum sanctis tuis in aeternum, quia pius es.

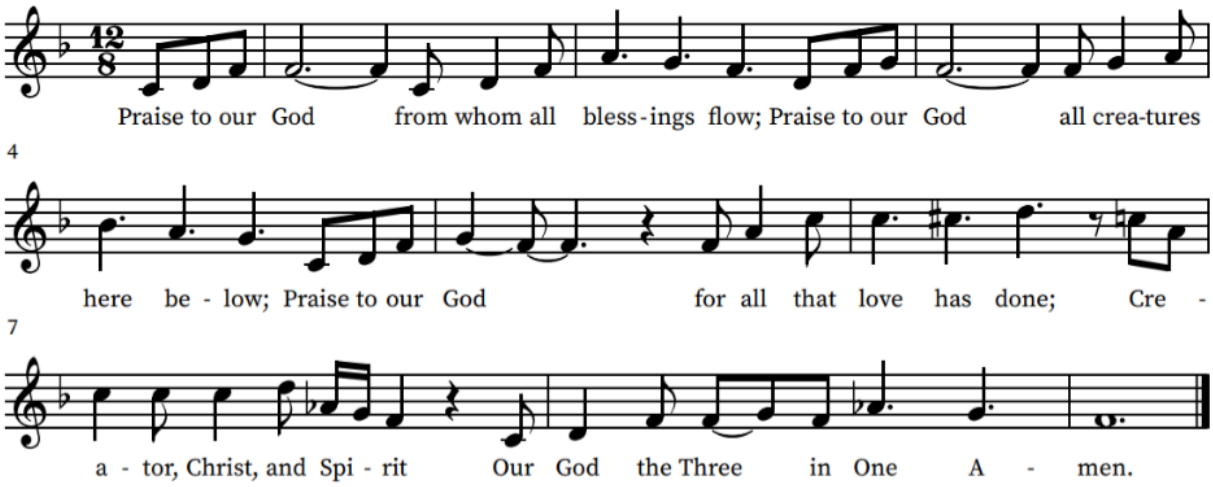
Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,
give them rest.
Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,
give them eternal rest.
May eternal light shine on them, Lord,
with your saints for ever, for you are good.

Requiem aeternam dona eis, Domine,
et lux perpetua luceat eis.

Give them eternal rest, Lord,
and may light perpetual shine upon them.

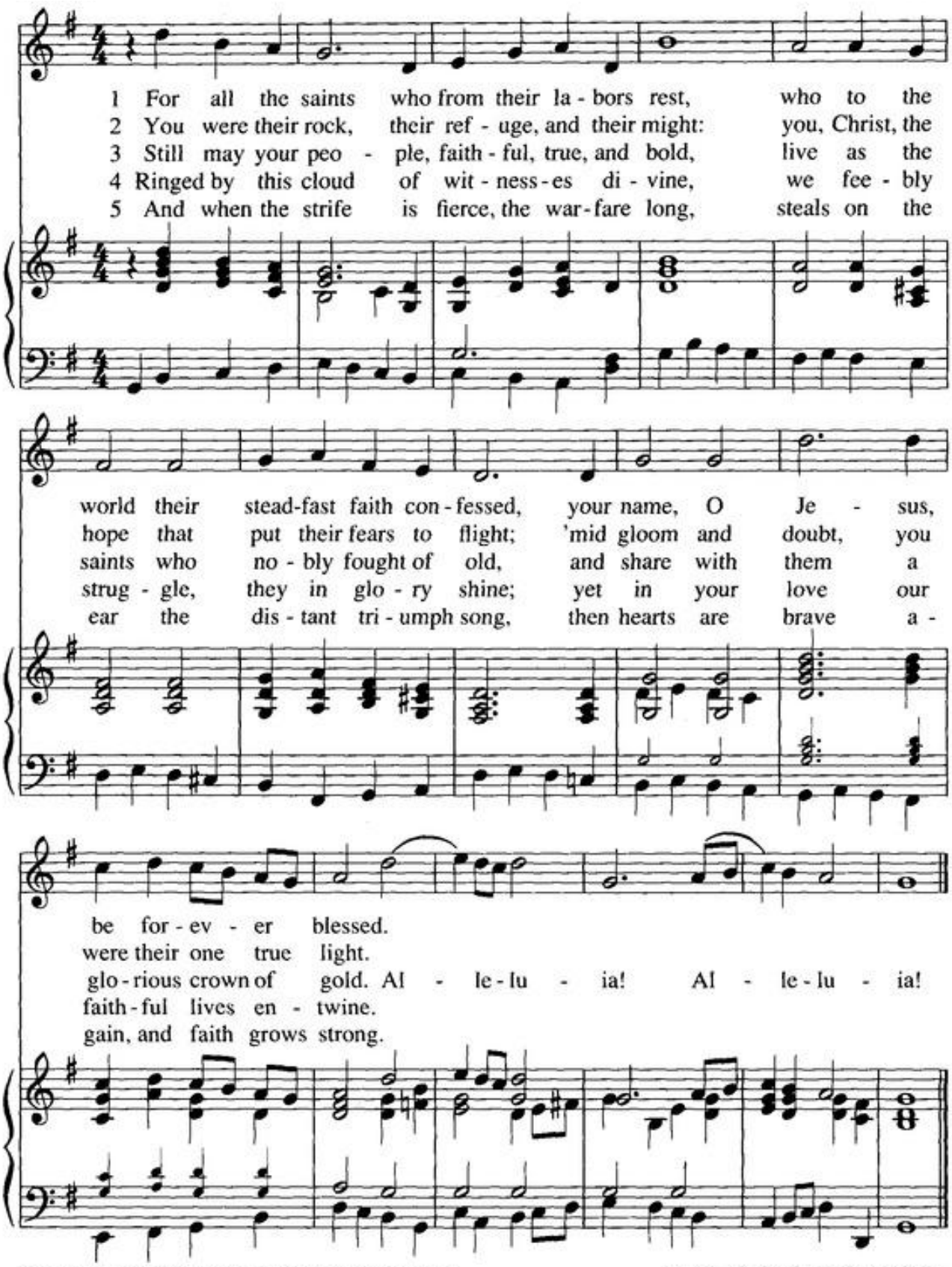
Sanctuary Choir

***Response of Thanksgiving – Doxology** — *GOODNESS*
Words: Thomas Ken, adapt. William B. Abernathy — Music: Paul M. Vasile

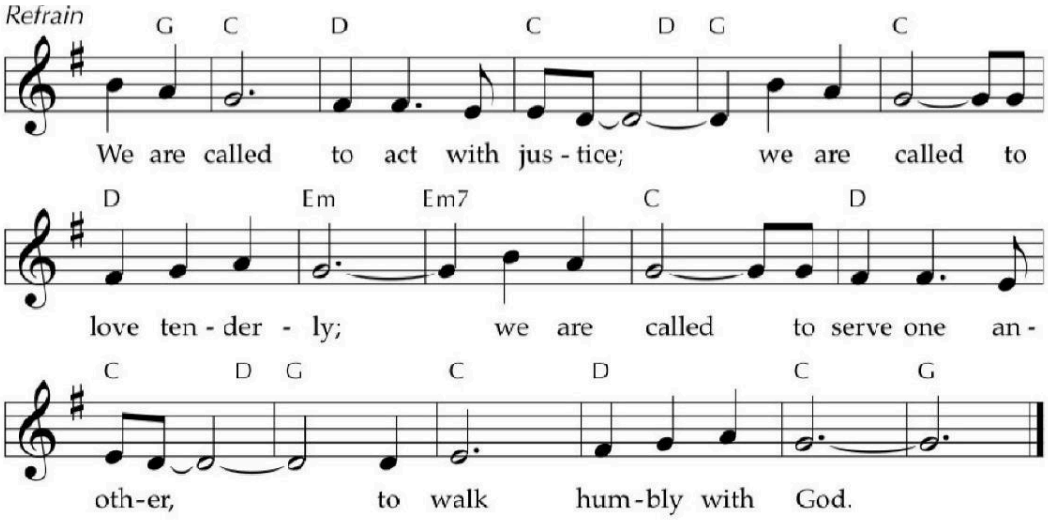


***Prayer of Dedication (unison)**
Holy God, we thank you for the gifts you've poured out on the saints who have gone before us, and all you provide for us. We give thanks for the ways we know of your love through Jesus, your Beloved. Now we offer these gifts to you as symbols of our lives, eagerly anticipating how you will translate them into what is needed most. Amen.

Announcements – Invitation to Sign up Fair Today — Michele Sionas

***Closing Hymn NCH #299 – For All the Saints (vs. 1-4)** — *SINE NOMINE*
Words: William W. How — Music: Ralph Vaughan Williams

***Benediction** Rev. Katrina Forman

***Musical Benediction – We Are Called (Refrain)** Words & Music: David Haas



Postlude – Consolation in A, Op. 17, No. 6 Sergei Bortkiewicz
Jeremy Carlisle

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Bulletin Cover Art: Candles in a Church Window (2019) – Brian A. Jackson

Thank You for joining us for worship this morning. Please sign a welcome card if you are visiting and put it in the offering plate, or scan the QR code on the back of the pew to submit a welcome card electronically. Please stay for coffee hour in the Assembly Room immediately following the service.

Thank You to the Sunday Welcome Team.

Sound Operator: Joe Cristiani **Livestream Video:** Nkenge Jones

ANNOUNCEMENTS

This Week at Union

- Tuesday, November 3
  - Election Day Events listed below
  - 12:30-2:30 PM (Guild Room) - Bible Study
  - 7:00-8:30 PM (Offsite) - Holy Hangout
- Wednesday, November 4
  - 10:30-11:30 AM (Guild Room) - Gentle Yoga
  - 12:00-2:00 PM (Guild Room) - Union Sages
  - 7:00-8:00 PM (Sanctuary) - UCC Ringers
- Friday, November 6, 6:00 PM (Guild Room) - Let's Watch: A Most Beautiful Thing

Today After Worship

- Children's Choir in the In Between Room
- Sanctuary Choir in the Sanctuary
- Sign-Up Fair for Justice and Community Engagement Ministry Teams

November Worship Highlights

- November 8 – *Who Is My Neighbor (In the Pews)?* Part 3 featuring a lessons and carols (readings and songs)-style service with reflections from members of the congregation
- November 15 – *Who Is My Neighbor (In the Pews)?* Part 4 featuring a dialogue sermon between Rev. Katrina and Dr. Fennema
    - Nov 15 2nd Hour – Talk Back with Dr. Sharon Fennema
- November 22 – Generosity Sunday
    - 2nd Hour – Generosity Luncheon
- November 29 – Advent 1: *Sacred Time*

Vote with Love and Gather for Prayer on Election Day Tues, November 3

- Election Day – Sanctuary Open 9am-4pm
    - Before or after you vote, stop by the sanctuary for a peaceful place to pray. At 12pm noon brief prayers will be offered by our clergy.
- Election Night Prayer Gathering (Zoom) 8-8:30pm
    - After you vote with love and before you sit glued to the returns, pause and join us for a time of prayer. Together we will lift up our prayers for all the votes to be counted, for fairness, peace, and integrity of process. Go to the Union Cong Calendar to access the Zoom.

Boo-tiful Generosity: Candy Collection for Our Unhoused Neighbors through Nov 12
Tapestry Collective invites the community to collect leftover candy for our unhoused neighbors. Bag candy in sandwich-size bags, or bring loose candy for Tapestry Collective to bag. Donation bin is in the Assembly Room.

Let's Watch – *A Most Beautiful Thing*: Friday, November 6, 6:00 PM
Join us for *A Most Beautiful Thing*, the inspiring story of the first African American public high school rowing team in the United States. Formed in the 1990s at Manley High School on Chicago's West Side, the team brought together young men, who found friendship, safety, and community on the water. Twenty years later, their reunion demonstrates the power of resilience, connection, and reimagining what's possible. Please RSVP so we know how much pizza to order!

Montclair Community Blood Drive:
Monday, November 9, 1:00–7:00 PM at Commonwealth Club
Learn more or make an appointment by scanning the QR Code. Walk-ins are welcome!

CUMAC Service Project (High School Only)
Wednesday, November 11, 10:30 AM-1:30 PM
CUMAC is "Feeding people. Changing lives." Join us in helping them fulfill their mission by providing groceries to families in need. We'll gather at the church. Scan here to sign up by Tuesday, Nov. 3. When you register, Leah will send you a link to register directly with CUMAC.

November All-Church Breakfast: Saturday, Nov. 14, 9:00 AM
Tim Crist will discuss the research discoveries behind his book, *New Englanders in a New Land*, published by Rutgers University Press. In the book, Tim describes the way Congregationalists settled Newark in the 17th century and how they managed relationships with Native Americans and handled the question of slavery. Books will be available at the reduced price of $20, and Tim will happily sign them! **This program is open to everybody.** Breakfast with gluten-free options will be served for $7. Guests are welcome! Please RSVP to Karen Ermler at karen.ermler@gmail.com.

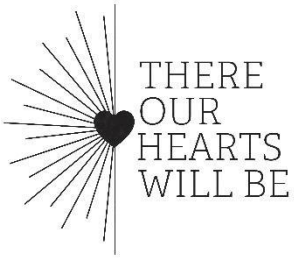
Food, Faith & Fun: *Sunday*, November 15, 5:30–7:30 PM
Mark your calendar for Sunday, November 15, for our third monthly, intergenerational Food, Faith & Fun gathering! We'll share a spaghetti dinner, enjoy a short time of worship, and then team up for some friendly competition with Minute to Win It games for all ages. Come spend your Sunday with us enjoying good food, meaningful connection, and fun across generations!

CoHome Thanksgiving Pie-Off: Sunday, November 15, 12:00–2:30 PM
Join Cohome for a Thanksgiving Pie-Off: an open house-style gathering centered around community, connection, and (of course) incredible pie. Spend the afternoon tasting a variety of delicious pies generously donated by local bakeries, casting your vote for your favorite, and celebrating the season of gratitude. Visit cohome.org for more information.

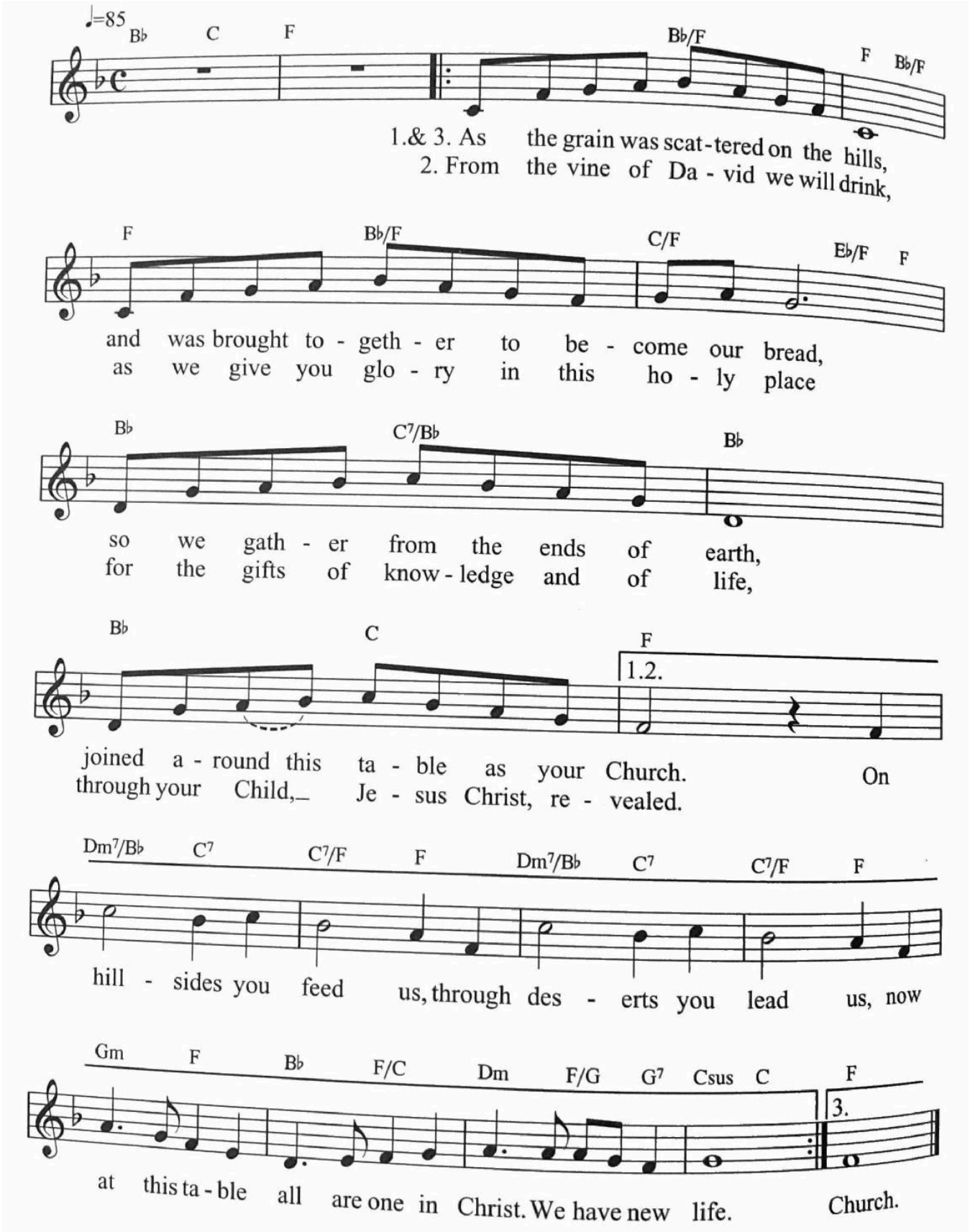
Youth Group Karaoke & Taco Night: Friday, November 20, 6:00–8:00 PM
Middle and high schoolers are invited to join us for a fun evening of make-your-own tacos, karaoke, and hanging out with friends at the Black family's home! Bring your friends and enjoy good food, music, and time together. Not into singing? No problem - come relax and enjoy the show! Scan here to sign up!

Save the Date: Women's Retreat: January 15–17, 2027 at Trinity Retreat Center
Join us for our traditional weekend of contemplation, meaningful activities, and fellowship in a beautiful, restful setting at Trinity Retreat Center. Sign up and details coming soon!

A Message from the Generosity Team
Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. Matthew 6:21



Our theme for this year's generosity campaign, *There Our Hearts Will Be* invites us into a season of deep spiritual alignment—an honest, hopeful exploration of how our practices, priorities, and resources reveal what truly claims our hearts. Rooted in Jesus' teaching from Matthew 6, we will ask: Where is our treasure? How can our hearts more fully align with God's? We invite you to join us on this journey of reflection during the generosity season, as you consider your pledge to the church for 2027. Generosity Sunday is November 22. You can go to unioncong.org/pledge to make your pledge at any time.


♩=85
B♭ C F B♭/F F B♭/F
1.& 3. As the grain was scat-tered on the hills,
2. From the vine of Da - vid we will drink,
F B♭/F C/F E♭/F F
and was brought to - geth - er to be - come our bread,
as we give you glo - ry in this ho - ly place
B♭ C7/B♭ B♭
so we gath - er from the ends of earth,
for the gifts of know - ledge and of life,
B♭ C F
1.2.
joined a - round this ta - ble as your Church. On
through your Child,_ Je - sus Christ, re - vealed.
Dm7/B♭ C7 C7/F F Dm7/B♭ C7 C7/F F
hill - sides you feed us, through des - erts you lead us, now
Gm F B♭ F/C Dm F/G G7 Csus C F
3.
at this ta - ble all are one in Christ. We have new life. Church.