

# UNITED CHURCH ON THE GREEN

In the Heart of New Haven, Open to all Seekers



An Open and Affirming Congregation of  
the United Church of Christ



May 9, 2021

10:00AM

Easter 6B

### **We Gather as Church**

*We gather this week via Zoom videoconference.  
Though we are apart in body, we are close in spirit.*

To join from a computer, tablet, or smartphone, click this link:

<https://zoom.us/j/2037874195?pwd=YUdBR0FzSHNxUy9Ta3ZWK1Rvc1hEQT09>

To join from a telephone, dial 646-876-9923 and follow the prompts.

Meeting ID: 203 787 4195    Password: 06511

#### **PRELUDE**

*Amazing Grace*

setting by Mark Hayes

#### **WORDS OF WELCOME**

Peace be with you... **And also with you...**

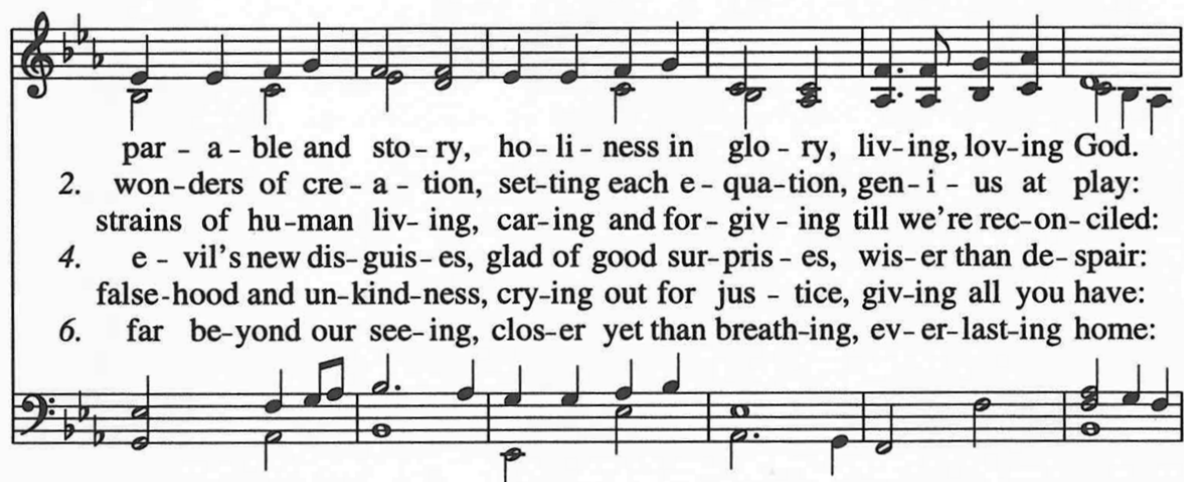
## HYMN

*Bring Many Names*  
 Brian Robinson, song leader

WESTCHASE



1. Bring man - y names, beau - ti - ful and good, cel - e - brate, in  
 2. Strong moth - er God, work - ing night and day, plan - ning all the  
 3. Warm fa - ther God, hug - ging ev - ery child, feel - ing all the  
 4. Old, ach - ing God, gray with end - less care, calm - ly pierc - ing  
 5. Young, grow - ing God, ea - ger, on the move, say - ing no to  
 6. Great, liv - ing God, nev - er ful - ly known, joy - ful dark - ness



par - a - ble and sto - ry, ho - li - ness in glo - ry, liv - ing, lov - ing God.  
 2. won - ders of cre - a - tion, set - ting each e - qua - tion, gen - i - us at play:  
 strains of hu - man liv - ing, car - ing and for - giv - ing till we're rec - on - ciled:  
 4. e - vil's new dis - guis - es, glad of good sur - pris - es, wis - er than de - spair:  
 false - hood and un - kind - ness, cry - ing out for jus - tice, giv - ing all you have:  
 6. far be - yond our see - ing, clos - er yet than breath - ing, ev - er - last - ing home:



Hail and Ho - san - na! bring man - y names!  
 2. Hail and Ho - san - na! strong moth - er God!  
 Hail and Ho - san - na! warm fa - ther God!  
 4. Hail and Ho - san - na! old, ach - ing God!  
 Hail and Ho - san - na! young, grow - ing God!  
 6. Hail and Ho - san - na! great, liv - ing God!

## CALL TO WORSHIP

from Psalm 107 (adap.)

One: O give thanks to God who is good;  
Whose steadfast love endures forever.

Many: **We thank you, God, for your steadfast love,  
For your wonderful works to humankind;**

One: For you satisfy the thirsty,  
And fill the hungry with good things.

Many: **Fill our hearts with wisdom, we pray,  
That we may ponder the majesty of your loving deeds.**

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

## ASSURANCE OF GRACE

### We Listen for God's Word

READINGS John 5:1-9

Jane Jervis

"Autobiography in Five Chapters," by Portia Nelson

## REFLECTION

Rev. Alexis Fuller-Wright

## MUSICAL REFLECTION

### We Respond

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The Lord be with you... ***And also with you...*** Let us pray...

- For those celebrating birthdays this week, including Pastor Jocelyn Gardner Spencer and Christine Maursky.
- For Walter Staley, who is healing after injuries from a fall.
- For Lois Sackrider, as she recovers from Covid-19.
- For all for whom Mother's Day is joyful, and for all for whom it is painful, and for all for whom it is bittersweet.
- For the families of George Floyd, Daunte Wright, Adam Toledo, Ma'Khia Bryant, Andrew Brown, Jr., and all who bear the trauma of police violence

against communities of color—and for the transformation of our systems such that there will be no more names to add to this list.

- For all who are impacted by gun violence, and for the wisdom and will to put an end to these preventable tragedies.
- For the families of the more than 580,000 people in this nation, and over 3.2 million children of God worldwide, who have died of Covid-19.
- For the people of India and so many other places around the world who are suffering severe outbreaks beyond the capacity of their medical systems.
- For all who are ill, and for those who care for them, that they might find healing and wholeness.
- For all who struggle to find hope, peace, health, breath, food, shelter, stability, and support, and for all who are exhausted and long for relief as the crisis drags on.
- For the hope that is growing with the vaccine roll-out, and for quick and equitable distribution to all.
- For our local congregation and for our wider church, as we seek to be the Body of Christ for such a time as this.
- For the leaders of our nation and every nation, that they might do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly.

### **PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR**

**Our Father/Mother/God, 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen....**

### **SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

Peace be with you... *And also with you...*

## **Call to Action**

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*If you are new to United, or feeling new, we'd love to keep in touch with you. If you wish, please share your contact info and prayer requests at [www.unitednewhaven.org/connect](http://www.unitednewhaven.org/connect).*

## **SHARING OUR GIFTS FOR A NEW BEGINNING**

Julie Peterman

*As we look toward the 2021-22 program year, we believe God will do a new thing in our midst as we emerge (hopefully!) from this protracted pandemic season. Please join in committing your support to sustain our ministries and our impact in the community. Make a pledge at [www.unitednewhaven.org/pledge](http://www.unitednewhaven.org/pledge).*

## **OFFERING OUR RESOURCES AND OURSELVES**

*In anxious times like these, the work and word of the church is all the more important. Please help United continue to offer life-giving ministry by giving online through our secure website at [www.unitednewhaven.org/donate](http://www.unitednewhaven.org/donate).*

## **OFFERTORY**

*Psalm 23*

Bobby McFerrin (dedicated to his mother)

Julia Blue Raspe, soloist and keyboard

## **SONG OF THANKSGIVING**

OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, ye heavenly host:  
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

## **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

One: Blessed and blessing God, we bring you gifts from our hearts and lives. May our gifts be used to spread the hope and joy of risen life, on earth as it is in heaven.

**All: And bless those who give and those who long to give, that we may become living stones of mercy, grace, and justice in the house of your creation. Amen.**



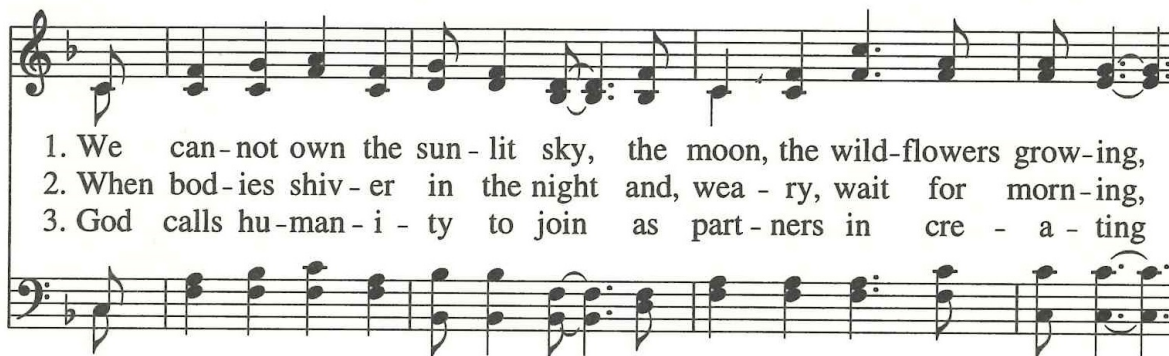
## We Are Sent Out

HYMN

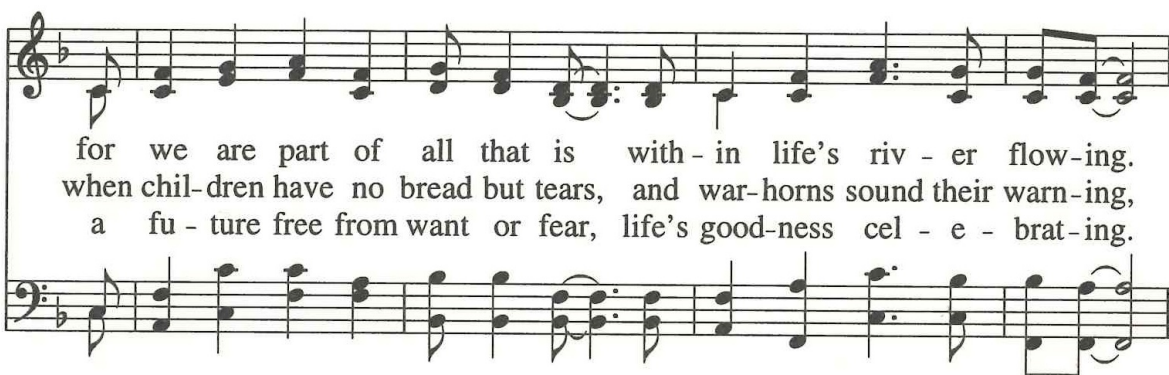
*We Cannot Own the Sunlit Sky*

HOW CAN I KEEP FROM SINGING

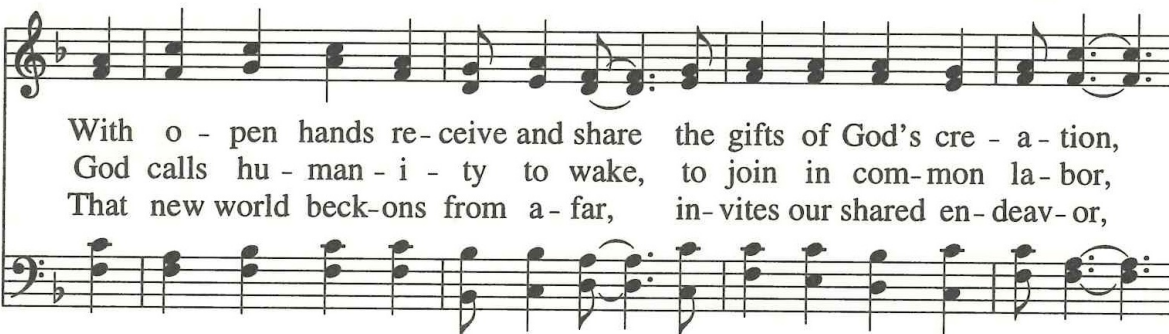
Brian Robinson, song leader



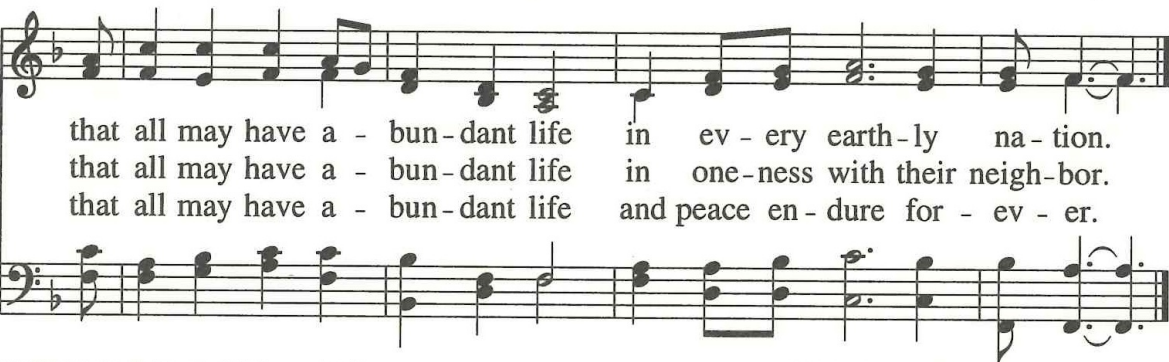
1. We can-not own the sun-lit sky, the moon, the wild-flowers grow-ing,  
2. When bod-ies shiv-er in the night and, wea-ry, wait for morn-ing,  
3. God calls hu-man-i-ty to join as part-ners in cre-a-ting



for we are part of all that is with-in life's riv-er flow-ing.  
when chil-dren have no bread but tears, and war-horns sound their warn-ing,  
a fu-ture free from want or fear, life's good-ness cel-e-brat-ing.



With o-pen hands re-ceive and share the gifts of God's cre-a-tion,  
God calls hu-man-i-ty to wake, to join in com-mon la-bor,  
That new world beck-ons from a-far, in-vites our shared en-deav-or,



that all may have a-bun-dant life in ev-ery earth-ly na-tion.  
that all may have a-bun-dant life in one-ness with their neigh-bor.  
that all may have a-bun-dant life and peace en-dure for-ev-er.

**COMMISSION AND BLESSING**

**POSTLUDE**

*Spring Comes Early*

Mark Hayes

Our Worship Has Ended. Let Our Service Begin!

***Following the service, please stay for coffee hour (BYO coffee!).***



### **THIS WEEK'S WORSHIP LEADERS**

<b>Pastor</b>	Rev. Jocelyn Gardner Spencer
<b>Guest Preacher</b>	Rev. Alexis Fuller Wright
<b>Director of Music</b>	Caesar Storlazzi
<b>Soloists</b>	Julia Blue Raspe, <i>soprano</i> Brian Robinson, <i>bass-baritone</i>
<b>Digital Deacon</b>	Scott Hawkins
<b>Head Sexton</b>	William Henton

### **THIS WEEK AT UNITED CHURCH**

- May 9th:** 10:00AM Sunday Worship at United Church – Online  
11:15AM Coffee Hour – Online  
5:00PM Shalom UCC Worship – Online
- May 11th:** 7:00PM Faith Formation Ministry Team – Online
- May 12th:** 12:30PM Prayer Meeting – Online  
1:00PM Staff Meeting – Online  
2:00PM UCG Crafting Group – Online  
(contact Jean Blue for Zoom info: [jeanandjon71@gmail.com](mailto:jeanandjon71@gmail.com) )  
7:00PM UCG Board Meeting – Online
- May 13th:** 7:00PM Congregational Care & Connection Ministry Team – Online
- May 14th:** 4:00PM Bible Study – Online  
6:00PM YHHAP Soup Kitchen – Take Out Only
- May 15th:** 6:00PM YHHAP Soup Kitchen – Take Out Only

### **CHURCH NOTES**

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### **In Person Meetings at the Church Have Been Suspended**

United will be suspending in person meetings and gatherings until further notice. We will be worshiping and gathering online, so that we can keep in touch, keep each other safe and slow the spread of the COVID-19 virus. The Pastor and the staff are reachable by email and phone message. Please reach out to us with any concerns. We will reach out to you with information on upcoming online worship services and events.

Unfortunately, we've had to cancel the Alcoholics Anonymous Meetings held at the church. To find an online meeting, go to: [www.onlinegroupaa.org](http://www.onlinegroupaa.org).

Please continue to maintain social distance, use face covering, and cleanse your hands. We will continue to lift each other in prayer.

**At United Church on the Green, we seek to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with God, following in the footsteps of Jesus.** We are also a progressive Protestant Christian church, a member of the nationwide United Church of Christ (UCC).

**We have a long history.**

- Established 1742. Meetinghouse was built in 1815.
- The Amistad Incident? Abolition of slavery? The 1970 Black Panther trials? Divestment in South Africa? United was there.

**We believe God is still speaking to the world today... and we're trying to listen.**

- Not a "The Bible says it. I believe it. That settles it." kind of church. Questions encouraged. (Actually, they're necessary.)
- "Open and Affirming" of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people since 1989.

**We are working with God to build a better future.**

- Not interested in "saving souls" or "converting the heathen." God's love is for all.
- Trying to "connect the dots" to grow peace, justice, and compassion in the world.

**Staff Contacts**

**Rev. Jocelyn B. Gardner Spencer**, *senior minister*

**Caesar Storlazzi**, *director of music*

**Jack Russell**, *director of operations*

**Nicole René Atchison**, *church administrator*

**Nancy Lupi**, *financial secretary*

**Rev. Louise B. Higginbotham**, *minister emerita*

**Rev. Dr. Bonnie Scott**, *minister emerita*

[jocelyn@unitednewhaven.org](mailto:jocelyn@unitednewhaven.org)

[music@unitednewhaven.org](mailto:music@unitednewhaven.org)

[operations@unitednewhaven.org](mailto:operations@unitednewhaven.org)

[office@unitednewhaven.org](mailto:office@unitednewhaven.org)

[bookkeeping@unitednewhaven.org](mailto:bookkeeping@unitednewhaven.org)

**United Church on the Green, UCC**

**meeting house**, *corner of Temple & Elm*

**parish house office**, *corner of Temple & Wall*

323 Temple St., New Haven, CT 06511

tel 203.787.4195

[www.unitednewhaven.org](http://www.unitednewhaven.org)

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

