An Open & Affirming, A2A-Accessible to All Congregation of the United Church of Christ

8 November 2026 – 10:30 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Simple Gifts
A Festival of Favorite Hymns & Anthems

***indicates the congregation is invited to stand.**
Please feel free to remain seated if you prefer.

PRELUDE — *The King of Love My Shepherd Is* — setting by John N. Beck
Vlada Volkova-Moran, organist

WELCOME & BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS — The Rev. David Pattee, pastor

*CALL TO WORSHIP — *Psalm 100* — Maryse Postlewaite, liturgist

One: Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth.
All: Worship God with gladness; come into God's presence with singing.
One: Know that the LORD is God. It is God who made us.
All: We are God's people, and the sheep of God's pasture.
One: Enter the gate with thanksgiving, God's courts with praise.
All: Give thanks to God and bless God's name.
One: For God is good; God's steadfast love endures forever,
All: And God's faithfulness to all generations.

*DOXOLOGY — OLD HUNDREDTH

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

ANTHEM — *How Can I Keep from Singing* — Z. Randall Stroupe
CHANCEL CHOIR • Cheryl Anderson, director

HYMNS OF THE SEASON [seated]

Sowing in the morning, sowing seeds of kindness, — SOWING IN THE MORNING
Sowing in the noontide and the dewy eve;
Waiting for the harvest, and the time if reaping,
We shall come rejoicing, bringing in the sheaves
Bringing in the sheaves… We shall come rejoicing, bringing in the sheaves…

Sowing in the sunshine, sowing in the shadows,
Fearing neither clouds nor winter's chilling breeze;
By and by the harvest, and the labor ended,
We shall come rejoicing, bringing in the sheaves
Bringing in the sheaves… We shall come rejoicing, bringing in the sheaves…

****

For the fruit of all creation, thanks be to God. — AR HYD Y NOS
For God's gifts to every nation, thanks be to God.
For the plowing, sowing, reaping, silent growth while we are sleeping,
Future needs in earth's safekeeping, thanks be to God.

In the just reward of labor, God's will is done.
In the help we give our neighbor, God's will is done.
In our wordwide task of caring for the hungry and despairing,
In the harvests we are sharing, God's will is done.

SCRIPTURE *Romans 5:1-5* Maryse Postlewaite

Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

HYMNS OF COURAGE AND HOPE [seated]

Whispering Hope [insert] ANGEL'S VOICE
Life's Railway to Heaven [insert] TILLMAN

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH concluding with *A Prayer in the Spirit of Jesus*

Earth-Maker, Life-Giver, Pain-Bearer, Source of all that is and all that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all, Loving God in whom is Heaven:
May the hallowing of your name echo through the universe.
May your Heavenly will be done by all creatures great and small.
And may your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth.
With the bread we need this day, feed us. For the hurt we inflict on one another, forgive us.
Through times of temptation, strengthen us. From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us. For you reign in the glory of the power that is Love.

HYMN [seated] *You Are Salt for the Earth, O People* [insert] BRING FORTH

ANTHEM "The Promise of Living" from *The Tender Land* Aaron Copland
Vlada Moran & Luke Shepherd, pianists

OFFERTORY

Invitation
Anthem *Sing to the Lord of Harvest* Healey Willan

*the congregation standing to sing as invited

Heap on God's sacred altar the gifts God's goodness gave,
The golden sheaves of harvest, the souls Christ died to save.
And hearts lay down before God when at God's feet you fall,
And with your lives adore Christ who gave his life for all.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*HYMNS OF GOD'S GRACE

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me! NEW BRITAIN
I once was lost, but now am found, was blind but now I see.

My God has promised good to me, whose word my hope secures;
God will my shield and portion be as long as life endures.

****

How firm a foundation for you has been laid, FOUNDATION
By God in the Word, in the sacrifice paid!
What more can God say than to you has been said,
To you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

"Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dismayed,
For I am your God, I will still give you aid;
I'll strengthen you, help you , and cause you to stand
Upheld by my gracious, omnipotent hand."

*COVENANT

We covenant with God and with each other:
to walk together in all God's ways as the Holy is revealed to us;
to give ourselves freely and without reserve to Jesus' ministry in this church;
to celebrate through worship God's amazing gifts of unity and diversity;
to take up Christ's mission around the world, striving for justice and peace;
to care for the earth and all her creatures, reconciling ourselves to them in love;
for God gives immeasurable grace into all life and every life.

*HYMN [insert] *God Be with You* GOD BE WITH YOU

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *'Tis the Gift to Be Simple* setting by John A. Benke

HYMN NOTES

Praise God from whom all blessings flow is likely the most well-known "doxology," a short hymn or verse of praise addressed to the divine, this one written by English cleric Thomas Kenn in 1674. Its first documented pairing with the 1551 *Genevan Psalter* tune, OLD HUNDREDTH occurred in Boston in 1790. *Bringing In the Sheaves* is a gospel hymn text written by Christian Church minister Knowles Shaw in 1874 while serving in Ohio. George Minor composed a tune for the text in 1880, and this pairing is common all over the world, adapted into many languages. *For the fruit of all creation* was penned in 1970 by Fred Pratt Green, one of the most prolific modern hymn writers. It can be sung to several popular tunes and is paired here with the traditional Welsh melody AR HYD Y NOS ("all through the night") which dates from 1784. *Whispering Hope*, both tune and text were composed in 1868 by Septimus Winner, a well-known Philadelphia poet and songwriter who sometimes went by the pseudonym Alice Hawthorne. This "parlor song" was inspired by Hebrews 6:19, "We have this hope, a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul…" *Life's Railway to Heaven* (1891) was written by M.E. Abbey, a Baptist minister in Georgia in the 1890s, and set to music by Charlie D. Tillman. A staple of country/folk music adopted by several evangelical Christian hymnals in the second half of the twentieth century, it has been recorded by numerous artists, including Johny Cash, Patsy Cline, Merle Haggard, Sheryl Crow and Brad Paisley. *You are salt for the earth, O people* and the tune BRING FORTH were both written by Marty Haugen in 1986 to be used as a "processing song" in outdoor worship. The text is based on Matthew 5:13-15, "You are the salt of the earth… You are the light of the world." *Amazing grace, how sweet the sound* has been translated into many languages and is cherished all over the world, a Christian hymn that has pervaded secular culture. John Newton's autobiographical text, written in 1779, reflects his conversion from an earlier existence as a slave trader. It is commonly paired with NEW BRITAIN, a traditional tune of the American south, first published in *Columbian Harmony*, 1829. *How firm a foundation* is from an author who has only been identified as "K," first published in 1787 by John Rippon, an English Baptist clergyman. It seems most likely that "K" was a member of Rippon's congregation. The early American tune FOUNDATION is also anonymous, first published in 1832 by Jospeh Funk, descendent of German Mennonite immigrants, and a leading figure in the Singing School Movement of the Second Great Awakening (1790s – 1840s.) *God be with you* was written by the Rev. Jeremiah Rankin in 1880 during his 15-year tenure with the First Congregational Church of Washington D.C., his last pastorate prior to becoming the president of Howard University. Paired to a tune of the same name in collaboration with William G. Tomer, it spread quickly through the 19th century revival meetings of evangelists Dwight Moody and Ira Sankey.

Whispering Hope

Septimus Winner, 1868



Public Domain
Courtesy of the Cyber Hymnal™

Life's Railway to Heaven

Eliza R. Snow & M. E. Abbey, 19th Century — Charles Davis Tillman, 1891



Public Domain
Courtesy of the Cyber Hymnal™

You Are Salt for the Earth, O People

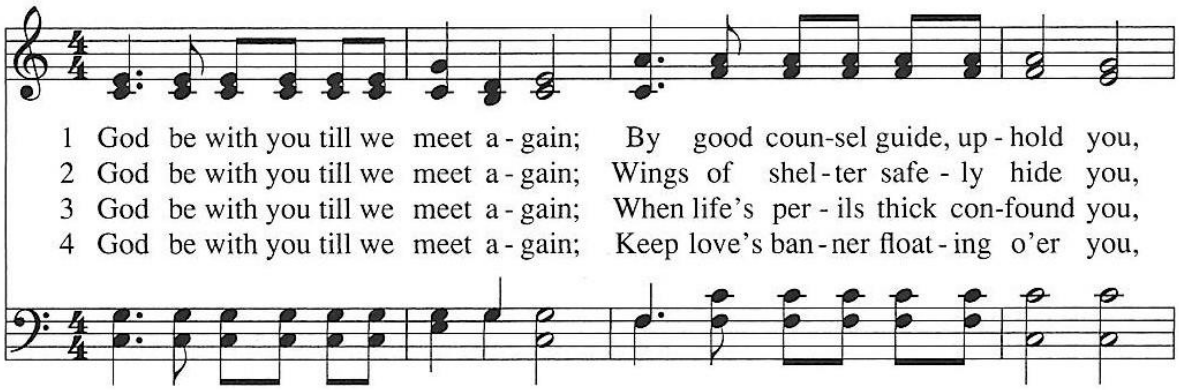
Paraphr. by Marty Haugen, 1986; alt. *Matt. 5:13–15*



Tune: BRING FORTH Irr. with refrain
Marty Haugen, 1986

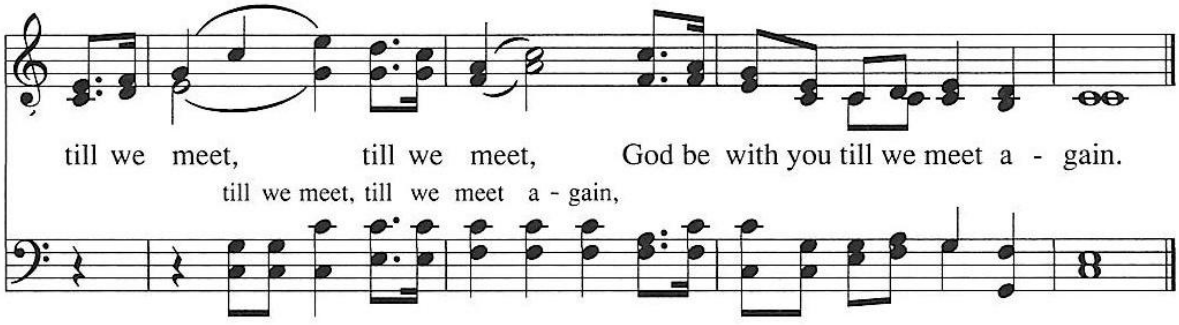
God Be with You

Jeremiah E. Rankin, 1880; alt.









Tune: GOD BE WITH YOU 9.8.8.9. with refrain
William G. Tomer, 1880