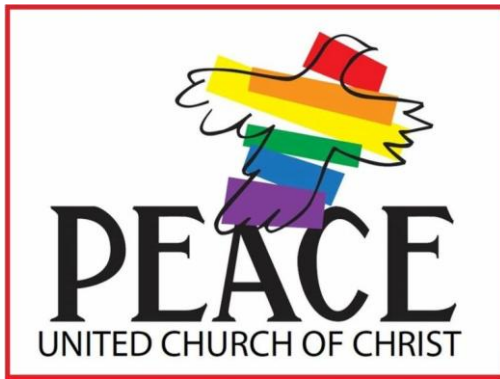




*An Open & Affirming, A2A-Accessible to All
Congregation of the United Church of Christ*

27 September 2026 – 10:30 AM
Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

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

PRELUDE

Truth

Kamasi Washington

JAZZ ON HIGH • Aidan Santa Cruz, piano and vocals
Etienne Franc, bass - Jeff Hanson, drums

WELCOME

The Rev. David Pattee, pastor

*GATHERING

**We are the young – our lives are a myst'ry, we are the old – who yearn for your face,
We have been sung throughout all of hist'r'y, called to be light to the whole human race.
Gather us in – the rich and the haughty, gather us in – the proud and the strong;
Give us a heart so meek and so lowly, give us the courage to enter the song.**

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Tom Postlewaite, liturgist

One: Among the certain and among the scared,
Among the poor and among the privileged,
All: Christ is calling us to trust and live in God's Way.
One: In the living room and in the boardroom,
In the classroom and where there is no room,
All: Christ is calling us to trust and live in God's Way.
One: With a gentle touch and with a hot passion for justice,
With a clear conscience and with burning love,
All: Christ is calling us to trust and live in God's Way.
One: In our fretting and in our attending,
In our divided loyalties and in our earnestness,
All: Christ is calling us to trust and live in God's Way.

*HYMN 459 [hymn sheet]

Come, O Fount of Every Blessing

NETTLETON

*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.**

*GREETING OF PEACE

ANTHEM

A Wilderness Wandering People

Jim Strathee

When he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, 'By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?'

Jesus said to them, 'I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?'

And they argued with one another, 'If we say, "From heaven", he will say to us, "Why then did you not believe him?" But if we say, "Of human origin", we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.' So they answered Jesus, 'We do not know.'

And he said to them, 'Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

'What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, "Son, go and work in the vineyard today." He answered, "I will not"; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, "I go, sir"; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?' They said, 'The first.'

Jesus said to them, 'Truly I tell you, the tax-collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax-collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.

SERMON

Hope in Times of False Authority

Sam Altis

RESPONSE

South African Hymn

(Masithi:) **Amen, si-ya-ku-du-mi-sa**(Sing amen) **Amen, we praise your name, O God.**(Masithi:) **Amen, si-ya-ku-du-mi-sa**(Sing amen) **Amen, we praise your name, O God.****Amen, Bawo, Amen, Bawo,****Amen, amen, amen, amen,****Amen, si-ya-ku-du-mi-sa.****Amen, we praise your name, O God.**

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Pastor Dave

OFFERTORY

Invitation

Offertory Music

Warm Valley

Duke Ellington

*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 502 [hymn sheet]

Dear God, Embracing Humankind

REST

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

My Blue Heaven

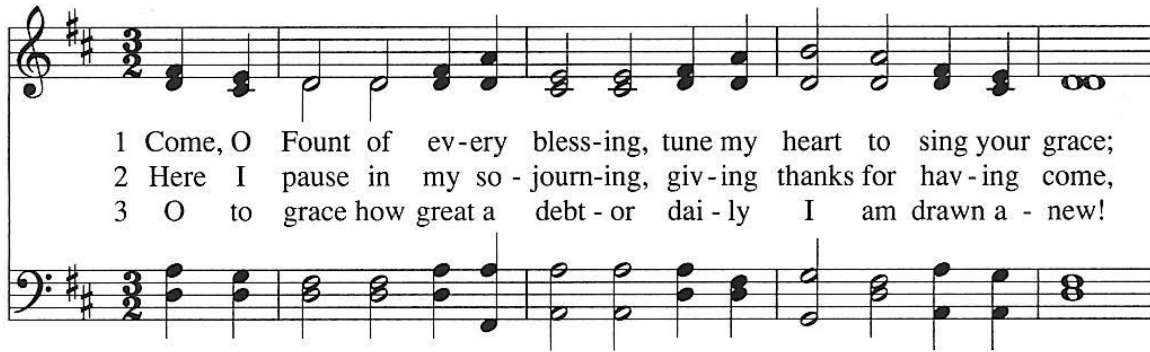
Mary Lou Williams

Our preacher this morning, Sam Altis, is executive director of the Association of Faith Communities (AFC), a longtime mission partner of this church. AFC is a coalition of nearly 40 faith communities working to alleviate suffering for those experiencing homelessness through four programs: SafeSpaces (parking for those who live in their vehicles), Faith Community Shelter (overnight accommodation and a home-cooked meal), Mobile Showers, and SPIN (distributing thousands of pairs of socks at shelters and food pantries.)

Come, O Fount of Every Blessing

Ps. 36:7-9

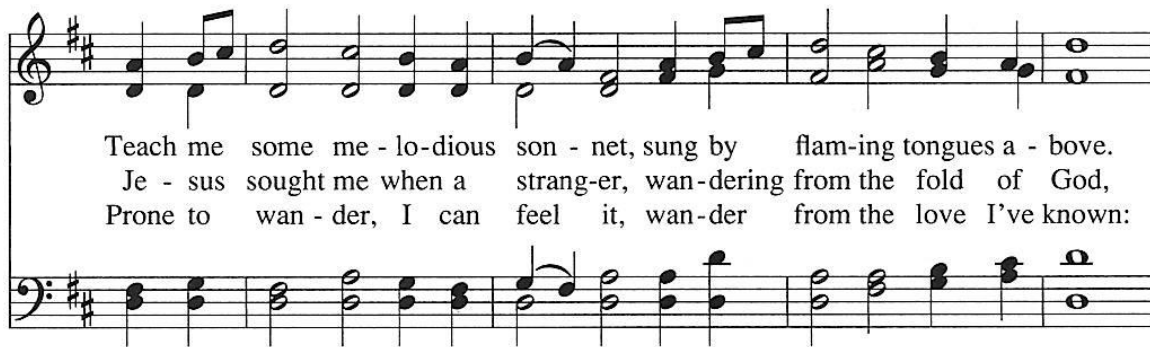
Robert Robinson, 1758; alt.



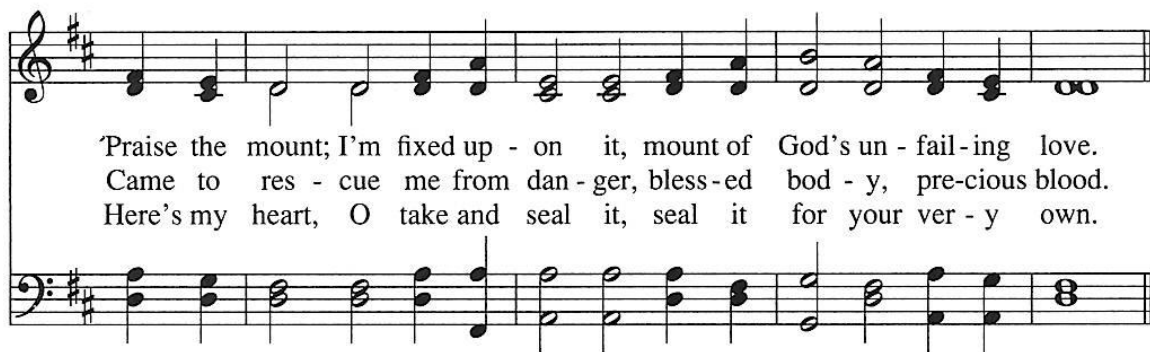
1 Come, O Fount of ev-ery bless-ing, tune my heart to sing your grace;
 2 Here I pause in my so - journ-ing, giv-ing thanks for hav-ing come,
 3 O to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I am drawn a - new!



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.

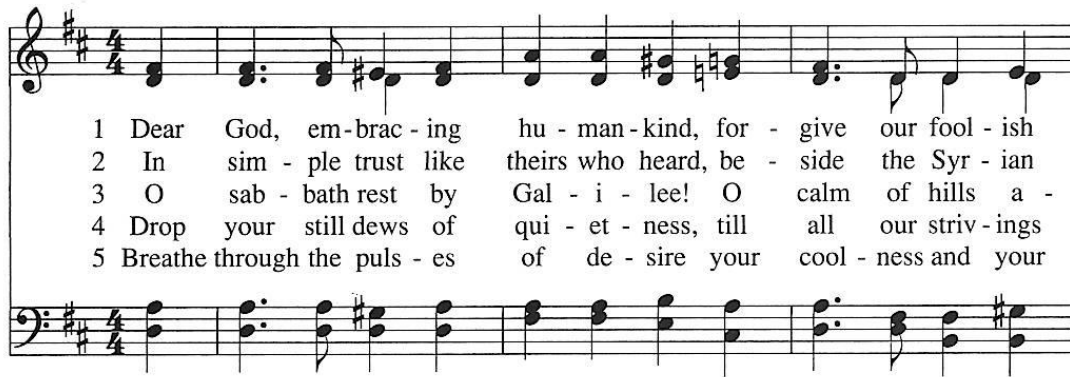
Tune: NETTLETON 8.7.8.7.D.
 John Wyeth's Repository of Sacred Music, 1813

Dear God, Embracing Humankind

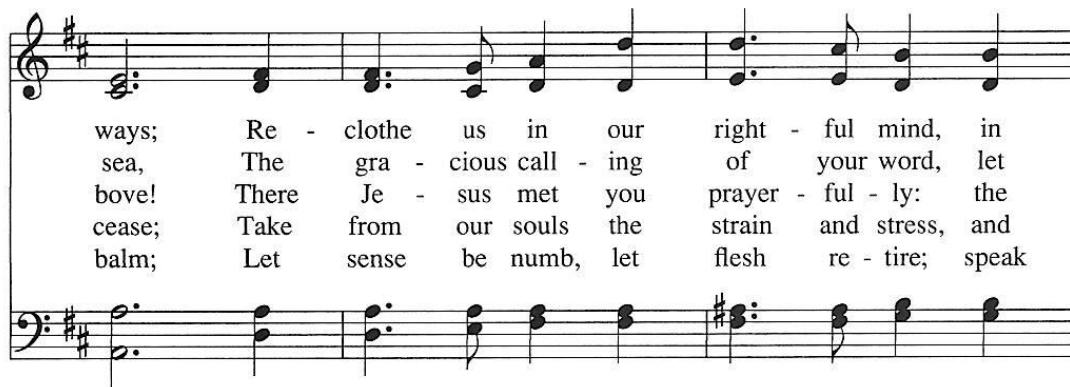
502

John Greenleaf Whittier, 1872; alt.

Mark 1:16-20; Matt. 14:22-23; 1 Kings 19:11-12



1 Dear God, em-brac - ing hu - man - kind, for - give our fool - ish
 2 In sim - ple trust like theirs who heard, be - side the Syr - ian
 3 O sab - bath rest by Gal - i - lee! O calm of hills a -
 4 Drop your still dews of qui - et - ness, till all our striv - ings
 5 Breathe through the puls - es of de - sire your cool - ness and your



ways; Re - clothe us in our right - ful mind, in
 sea, The gra - cious call - ing of your word, let
 bove! There Je - sus met you prayer - ful - ly: the
 cease; Take from our souls the strain and stress, and
 balm; Let sense be numb, let flesh re - tire; speak



pur - er lives your ser - vice find, in deep - er rev - erence, praise.
 us, like them, by spir - it stirred, rise up and fol - lowers be.
 si - lence of e - ter - ni - ty, in - ter - pret - ed by love.
 let our or - dered lives con - fess the beau - ty of your peace.
 through the earth-quake, wind, and fire, O still, small voice of calm.

In his poem "The Brewing of Soma," New England poet John Greenleaf Whittier compares frenzied ecstasies of a sect of Hindu priests to the noisy Christian revivals he found so offensive. This hymn of quiet worship is from the final stanzas.

Tune: REST 8.6.8.8.6.
 Frederick C. Maker, 1887
 Alternate tune: REPTON
 (repeating last phrase)