

# Union Congregational United Church of Christ



At Union, we are all the body of Christ together:  
Through our voices, Christ is still speaking  
Through our hands, Christ is still serving  
Through our hearts, Christ is still loving



May 11, 2025

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Our sanctuary is equipped with a hearing loop. You can access the loop by activating the T-coil in your hearing aid. If you do not have a T-coil, you can request a portable receiver from an usher.

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# Welcome to Union Church!

- Today's service is being live streamed via Facebook and YouTube.
- During the Children's Moments, the live stream will display a graphic, in order to protect our children's privacy.
- See an usher if you would like a children's activity packet or if you need help finding the nursery.
- Visitors are encouraged to fill out a visitor card at the usher's station or email [office@unionucc.com](mailto:office@unionucc.com) to receive our weekly email newsletter.
- Visitors, if you would like more information about our church, please take home a yellow "Welcome to Union Church" folder located at either sanctuary door. If you have trouble finding them, ask one of our friendly members to help you locate one!
- We encourage those who are COVID positive or have cold or flu symptoms to worship from home and to consult with your healthcare provider to ensure you are engaging in best practices regarding masking, distancing, and receiving vaccines/boosters, particularly if you or someone you live with have health concerns.



## Music Notes



Today, our choral anthem acknowledges an expansive view of "family" ("The Family We Find Along the Way"). Coinciding with both Mother's Day and the Festival of the Christian Home, today we honor those who show us the peace of belonging, beyond the gesture of welcome. Notable lyrics include "The blessings we breathe in, the bond we believe in, the light that astounds us, the love that surrounds us, the family we find along the way. [...] They hear us, they hold us, they lift us, they love us, the family we find along the way." This piece features a guest student musician, Maddie Moreau, playing the cajón.

Our middle hymn ("Mothering God ...") uses a unique text to help us augment our image of God, who is more often given masculine pronouns. As we unite our voices, we acknowledge the immediacy of the Divine by using first-person pronouns ("Mothering God, you took my form, offering me your food of light, grain of life, and grape of love, your very body for my peace"). This text is based on the writings of Juliana of Norwich (1342-1416; an English anchoress) and is special as most of the prose reliably published in Western hymn literature is distinctly not written by women.

—Haley Steele, Music Director

*Serving Christ . . . Loving Each . . . Affirming All*

**Fourth Sunday of Easter — Mother's Day**

May 11, 2025

10:00 a.m.

**GATHERING FOR WORSHIP**

(\*) invites all who are able to stand

PRELUDE:

*"Abendlied"*

R. Schumann

With music and silence we begin worship, praying quietly and opening our hearts to God.

THE LIFE OF OUR COMMUNITY

Welcome! Please share Announcements, Ministry Opportunities, Joys and Concerns.

**PRAISING OUR GOD**

THE BOND OF UNION: (in unison)

*Giving our all as we have been given all...*

**We accept the religion of love and service which Jesus lived and taught, and declare it our purpose to strive to do the will of God, and to make the Christ Spirit dominant in our lives and in all human relations.**

\*CALL TO WORSHIP: (responsive)

Leader: Amidst destruction blessed be the creators

**All: Amidst despair blessed be the nurturers of connection**

Leader: Amidst cynicism blessed be those practicing hope

**All: Amidst cruelty blessed be the gentle**

Leader: Amidst death-dealing systems blessed be those with reverence for life

**All: The God of New Life blesses those who love compassion and justice.**

Leader: Let us worship God with hope and love.

\*GATHERING PRAYER: (in unison)

**We gather together to worship our loving, nurturing God,  
who, like the ultimate mother, knows us intimately, loves us unconditionally,  
teaches us the way we should go, and comforts us in times of need.**

**Praise God, the Source and Sustainer of life!**

**Holy Spirit, guide us towards what is ours to do today. Root us in spiritual practices, that we may be grounded in our work. Remind us that we are part of a web of interdependence; that collective thriving requires both steadfast devotion and soulful rest. Amen.**

\* PASSING THE PEACE OF JESUS CHRIST

\* HYMN NO. 252:

*“Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us”*  
(see page 4)

BRADBURY  
The New Century Hymnal

**PROCLAIMING GOD’S GOOD NEWS**

HOLY SCRIPTURE:

Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.  
She makes me lie down in green pastures;  
She leads me beside still waters;  
she restores my soul.  
She leads me in right paths for her name’s sake.

Even though I walk through the darkest valley,  
I fear no evil,  
for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.  
You prepare a table before me  
in the presence of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil;  
my cup overflows.  
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me  
all the days of my life,  
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord  
my whole life long.

CHILDREN’S MOMENTS

Children are invited to gather on the chancel steps and bring their offering.  
Following Children’s Moments, all children are welcome to remain in worship.  
Additionally, parents are welcome to accompany their children to our “playground” in the south transept to play and pray quietly or to drop them off downstairs to play in the nursery with our paid nursery staff. Activity bags with crayons, etc. are available from an usher.

CHOIR ANTHEM:

*“The Family We Find Along the Way”*

Mark Burrows  
Maddie Moreau, percussion

HOLY GOSPEL:

John 10:22-30

p. 104

THE SERMON:

Rev. Bridget Flad Daniels

## RESPONDING IN FAITH

HYMN:

*"Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth"*

MARYTON

(see page 5)

### THE PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Please join us in praying the Lord's Prayer in these words or a translation meaningful to you.

**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.**

### THE OFFERING

Offertory:

*"In the Garden"*

arr. Hugh Livingston Jr.

\*Praise Response:

*"We Are Becoming Peace"*

Linnea Good

***We are be - com - ing peace.***

***We are be - com - ing peace.***

***A well of pa - tience, well of grace,***

***Make our souls a ho - ly place.***

***We are be - com - ing peace.***

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION: (in unison)

**Friends, it is Love that called us here and Love that sends us. May we dedicate these gifts and our lives to that same Love. May God's divine Love work in and around us in both miraculous and ordinary ways, binding up broken hearts, rising up against injustice and oppression, and stirring up new life in unimaginable ways.**

## SENT INTO ALL THE WORLD

\*CLOSING HYMN NO. 247:

*"My Shepherd Is the Living God"*

CONSOLATION

(see back page)

The New Century Hymnal

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE:

*"Softly and Tenderly"*

arr. Robert Thygerson

Thanks to all who helped lead today's service including our reader, **Jeremy Pelegrin**, **Ed Tucker** who offered our Children's Moments, and **Maddie Moreau**, our guest student musician.

Today's Prayer of Dedication is adapted from Liturgy That Matters by enfleshed.

# Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us

252

Attrib. to Dorothy A. Thrupp (1779–1847)  
From Hymns for the Young, 1836; alt.

Tune: BRADBURY 8.7.8.7.D.  
William B. Bradbury, 1859

John 10:1–29

1 Sav-ior, like a shep-herd lead us, much we need your ten - der care;  
2 We are yours, in love be - friend us, be the guard-ian of our way;  
3 Let us al - ways seek your fa - vor; let us al - ways do your will;

in your pleas - ant pas-tures feed us, for our use your folds pre-pare.  
keep your flock, from sin de - fend us, seek us when we go a - stray.  
Je - sus Christ our on - ly Sav - ior, with your love our spir - its fill.

Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have loved us, yours we are;  
Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, hear your chil - dren when we pray;  
Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have loved us, love us still;

Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have loved us, yours we are.  
Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, hear your chil - dren when we pray.  
Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have loved us, love us still.

# Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth

WORDS: Jean Janzen, based on the writing of Juliana of Norwich (15th cent.)

MARYTON

MUSIC: H. Percy Smith Words © 1991 Abingdon Press, admin. by The Copyright Co.

LM

1. Moth - er - ing God, you gave me birth  
2. Moth - er - ing Christ, you took my form,  
3. Moth - er - ing Spir - it, nur - t'ring one,

in the bright morn - ing of this world.  
of - fer - ing me your food of light,  
in arms of pa - tience hold me close,

Cre - at - or, source of ev - ery breath, you  
grain of life, and grape of love, your  
so that in faith I root and grow un -

are my rain, my wind, my sun.  
ver - y bod - y for my peace.  
til I flow'r, un - til I know.



247

Tune: CONSOLATION C.M.D.  
Southern Harmony, 1835  
Harm. Erik Routley, 1976

# My Shepherd Is the Living God

Ps. 23; John 10:11, 27-30

Composite from Thomas Sternhold, 1549,  
and Isaac Watts, 1719; alt.

C G C G7 C F G F C

1 My shep-herd is the liv - ing God, I there-fore noth-ing need;  
2 When I walk through the shades of death, your pres-ence is my stay;  
3 The sure pro - vi - sions of my God at - tend me all my days;

Am G C F G Am G7 C G C

In pas - tures fair, near pleas - ant streams you set - tle me to feed.  
A word of your sup - port - ing breath drives all my fears a - way.  
O may your house be my a - bode, and all my work be praise.

C F C Dm G C Am Dm Am FM7

You bring my wan-dering spir - it back when I for-sake your ways,  
Your hand, in sight of all my foes, does still my ta - ble spread;  
There would I find a set - tled rest, while oth - ers come and go—

Em C Am Dm Am Em C G7 C

And lead me for your mer - cy's sake in paths of truth and grace.  
My cup with bless-ings o - ver-flows, your oil a - noints my head.  
No more a strang-er or a guest, but like a child at home.