

# 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



July 12, 2026

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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.
- Please 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.

## St. James Playground After Church

Please join other Union Families after church at the playground across the street for fun and fellowship.



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

## **Seventh Sunday after Pentecost**

July 12, 2026

10:00 a.m.

### **GATHERING FOR WORSHIP**

(\*) invites all who are able to stand

PRELUDE: "Come Thou Fount" arr. Joseph Martin  
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)

One: We come from busy weeks and crowded minds, bringing joy and worry, hope and heaviness.

**All: God meets us here, just as we are.**

One: God's word is a lamp for our feet, offering enough light for the next faithful step.

**All: Christ scatters seeds of love, justice, mercy, and hope with astonishing generosity.**

One: Some seeds fall on hard places. Some are crowded out. Some struggle to take root.

**All: Yet God never stops sewing. God never stops believing that new life is possible.**

One: Come, let us open our hearts to the One who still speaks.

**All: Come, let us worship God and be renewed.**

#### \*PRAYER OF CONFESSION: (responsive)

Leader: Generous God, you scatter grace freely, yet we confess that our hearts are not always ready to receive it. Sometimes we let fear harden us. Sometimes resentment grows like weeds. Sometimes the distractions of busyness, anxiety, and ambition crowd out the life you long to cultivate within us. Too often we want your light to reveal the whole journey before we are willing to take the next step. In the silence of our hearts, we offer the places where we long for new growth.

(Silence is kept.)

One: Let us pray.

**All: Forgive us for the ways we resist your transforming love. Break up the hardened places within us. Pull away whatever chokes compassion. Deepen our roots in your love, that we may bear the fruit of justice, kindness, generosity, and peace. Nurturing God, keep sowing your grace in us until our lives become fields of blessing for the world. Amen.**

\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON: (responsive)

One: Friends, hear the good news. The Sower in Jesus' parable never gives up. Again and again, God scatters seeds of mercy, hope, and new possibility. Nothing in this week's failures can keep God from planting tomorrow's grace.

**All: In Christ, we are forgiven. In the Spirit, we are made new. The light still shines before us, and God will illuminate the next faithful step. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

\*PASSING THE PEACE OF JESUS CHRIST

\*HYMN NO. 181:

*"You Are Salt for the Earth, O People"*  
(see page 4)

BRING FORTH  
The New Century Hymnal

## PROCLAIMING GOD'S GOOD NEWS

HOLY SCRIPTURE:

Psalm 119:105-112

p. 569

### 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.

HOLY GOSPEL:

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

p. 13

THE SERMON:

Rev. Bridget Flad Daniels

## RESPONDING IN FAITH

HYMN:

*"Seeds of God's Garden"*  
(see page 5)

Amanda Udis-Kessler

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: *“Air and Variation”* arr. Henry Coates

\*Praise Response: *“We Belong to One Another”* Amanda Udis-Kessler

***We give thanks for one a-no-ther, for each heart and hand and face.***

***We are grate-ful for the bless-ings that in-fuse our lives with grace.***

***May we of-fer our a-bun-dance. As we’re gi-ven, may we give.***

***In our thanks for one a-no-ther, may we help each o-ther live.***

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (in unison)

**Generous God, you have first given everything to us—life, love, mercy, and hope. Receive these gifts, and receive our lives. May what we offer today become seeds of healing in wounded places, seeds of justice where inequity persists, seeds of welcome where people have been excluded, and seeds of hope wherever despair has taken root. Use these gifts, and use us, until your reign grows like a field abundant with compassion and joy. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.**

**SENT INTO ALL THE WORLD**

\*HYMN NO. 451: *“Be Now My Vision”* SLANE  
(see back page) The New Century Hymnal

\*THE BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE: *“Be Thou My Vision”* arr. Matthew Weston

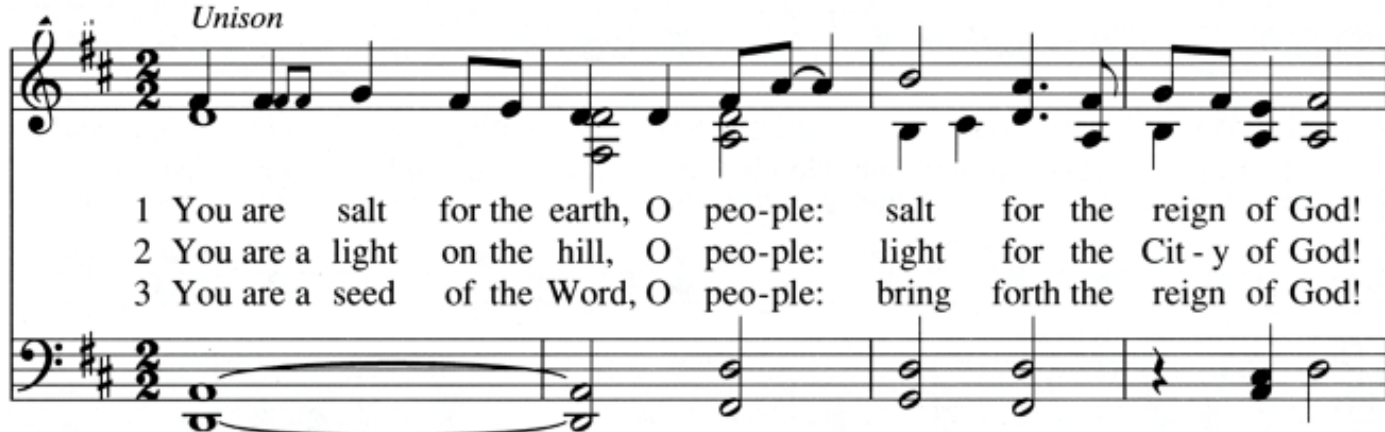
Thanks to all who helped lead today’s service including our reader, **Lou Norsetter**,  
and **Brittany Hendrix Malone** who offered our Children’s Moments.

# You Are Salt for the Earth, O People

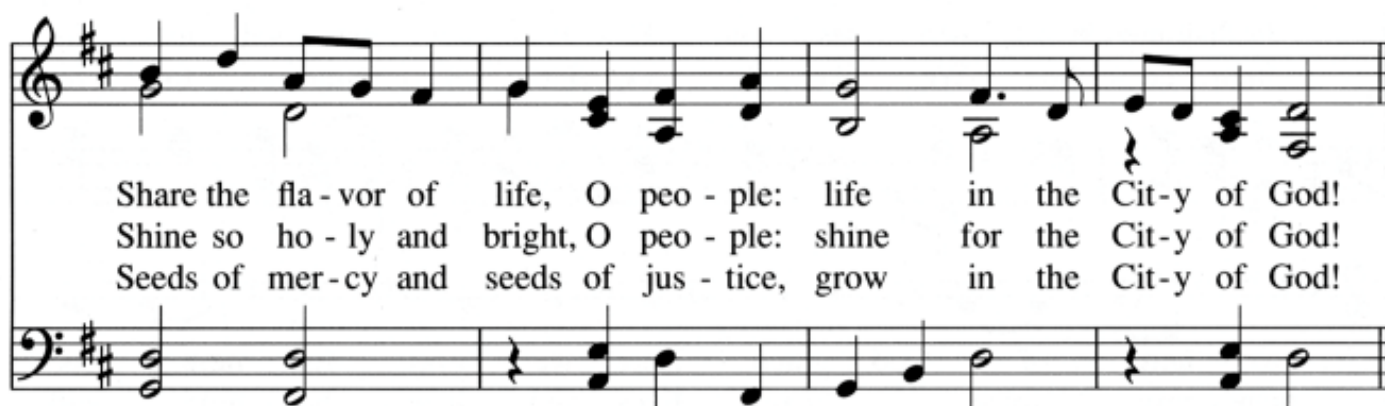
181

Paraphr. by Marty Haugen, 1986; alt. Tune: BRING FORTH Irr. with refrain Marty Haugen, 1986 Matt. 5:13-15

## Unison



1 You are salt for the earth, O peo-ple: salt for the reign of God!  
2 You are a light on the hill, O peo-ple: light for the Cit-y of God!  
3 You are a seed of the Word, O peo-ple: bring forth the reign of God!

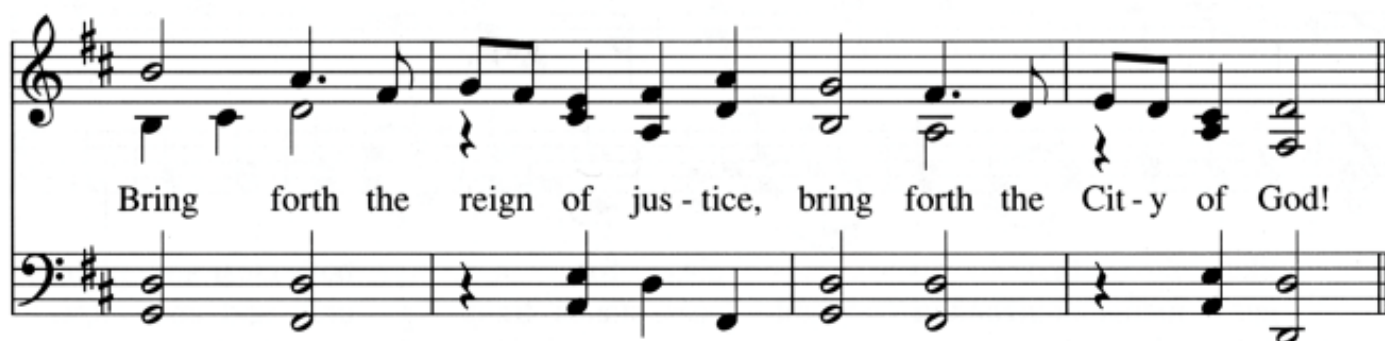


Share the fla-vor of life, O peo-ple: life in the Cit-y of God!  
Shine so ho-ly and bright, O peo-ple: shine for the Cit-y of God!  
Seeds of mer-cy and seeds of jus-tice, grow in the Cit-y of God!

## Refrain



Bring forth the reign of mer-cy, bring forth the reign of peace;



Bring forth the reign of jus-tice, bring forth the Cit-y of God!

## Seeds of God's Garden



1. Seeds of God's gar - den, ten - der - ly  
 2. Seeds of God's gar - den, ti - ny and  
 3. Seeds of God's gar - den, one day to



plant - ed, hope of cre - a - tion, bur - ied with  
 frag - ile, hope of cre - a - tion, cool in the  
 blos - som, hope of cre - a - tion, bear - ing good



care, through our be - hold - ing slow - ly un -  
 earth, eas - ing our sad - ness, bring - ers of  
 fruit, gen - tly re - pair - ing all our de -



fold - ing, tend - ed in pa - tience, nur - tured in prayer.  
 glad - ness, bear - ers of good - ness show - ing our worth.  
 spair - ing, faith reach - ing out - ward, love at the root.

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## Be Now My Vision

Ancient Irish text, c. 8th century; transl. Mary E. Byrne, 1905  
Versified by Eleanor H. Hull, 1912; adapt.

## Unison

1 Be now my vi - sion, O God of my heart;  
2 Be now my wis - dom, and be my true word;  
3 Rich - es I need not, nor life's emp - ty praise,  
4 Sov - ereign of heav - en, my vic - to - ry won,

noth - ing sur - pass - es the love you im - part—  
ev - er with - in me, my soul is as - sured;  
you, my in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways;  
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heav - en's Sun!

You my best thought, by day or by night,  
Moth - er and Fa - ther, you are both to me,  
You and you on - ly are first in my heart,  
Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

wak - ing or sleep - ing, your pres - ence my light.  
now and for - ev - er your child I will be.  
great God, my trea - sure, may we nev - er part.  
still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.