

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



August 23, 2026

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.



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 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 one, 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.



Time to Reflect at Moon Beach September 11-13

Our All-Church Retreat is a weekend of fun, fellowship, and reflection. Cost for the retreat is \$200 per adult and \$35 per child.

Financial aid is available (talk to Pastor Bridget). Sign up to attend by contacting the church office or by filling out a form at Union Central.

Deadline to sign up is August 30!

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

13th Sunday after Pentecost

August 23, 2026

10:00 a.m.

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

(*) invites all who are able to stand

PRELUDE:

"Morning Has Broken"

arr. Matthew Weston

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: There are times when the powers of this world demand our obedience, and there are times when faithfulness requires us to say, "No."

All: There are times when fear tells us to keep our heads down, and there are times when love calls us to stand up.

One: Shiphrah and Puah refused to cooperate with Pharaoh's cruelty.

All: Moses' mother refused to surrender her child to death.

One: Miriam watched and waited, and Pharaoh's own daughter chose compassion.

All: Through their courage, God made a way where there seemed to be no way.

One: Holy God, renew our minds, that we might recognize the difference between obedience and faithfulness.

All: Transform our hearts, that we might have courage when justice asks something of us. Come, let us worship the God who works through unlikely people, the God who makes a way through resistance, courage, and love.

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION: (responsive)

One: It is tempting, O God, to believe that keeping the peace is always the faithful thing to do. We can confuse obedience with goodness, silence with wisdom, and comfort with peace. Forgive us for the times we have gone along when we should have spoken up. Forgive us for the times we have protected our own comfort rather than our neighbor's dignity. Forgive us for the ways we have allowed fear, habit, or the expectations of others to keep us from doing what love requires. Let us take a moment of silence to call to mind all that we would lay at the feet of the Lord.

(Silence is kept.)

One: Let us pray.

All: Remind us that you have not called us to simply conform to the ways of this world, but to be transformed by the renewing of our minds, so that we may discern what is good, pleasing, and just. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

* ASSURANCE OF PARDON: (in unison)

God's grace is greater than our faults and failings; God's love is always calling us toward something new. We are forgiven, renewed, and freed, so let us live with courage, trusting that God is still transforming us, still renewing our minds, still teaching us to discern the ways of peace, joy, justice, and love. Thanks be to God! Amen.

* PASSING THE PEACE OF JESUS CHRIST

* HYMN:

"Morning Has Broken"
(see page 4)

BUNESSAN

PROCLAIMING GOD'S GOOD NEWS

HOLY SCRIPTURE:

Exodus 1:8-2:10

p. 49

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.

HOLY SCRIPTURE:

Romans 12:2-8

p. 162

THE SERMON:

Rev. Bridget Flad Daniels

RESPONDING IN FAITH

HYMN NO. 572:

"When Israel Was in Egypt's Land"
(see page 5)

GO DOWN, MOSES
The New Century Hymnal

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:

"Be Thou My Vision"

arr. John Carter

*Praise Response:

"For the Weaving of our Lives"

Amanda Udis-Kessler

***For the thread that each of us / of - fers to the world's de - sign,
Fa - bric of a thou - sand hues, / heart and hands and soul and mind:
All cre - a - tion hears our prayer / as we weave a world of care.***

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (in unison)

Holy God, you have entrusted each of us with gifts, abilities, and opportunities to make a difference in this world. May we offer not only these gifts, but also our courage, our compassion, our voices, and our lives. Use what we give today to bring hope where there is despair, freedom where there is oppression, and welcome where there are walls. We dedicate these gifts and ourselves to you and your ways. Amen.

SENT INTO ALL THE WORLD

*HYMN:

"Ain't Gonna Let Nobody Turn Me 'Round"
(see back page)

*THE BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE:

"The Battle Belongs to the Lord"

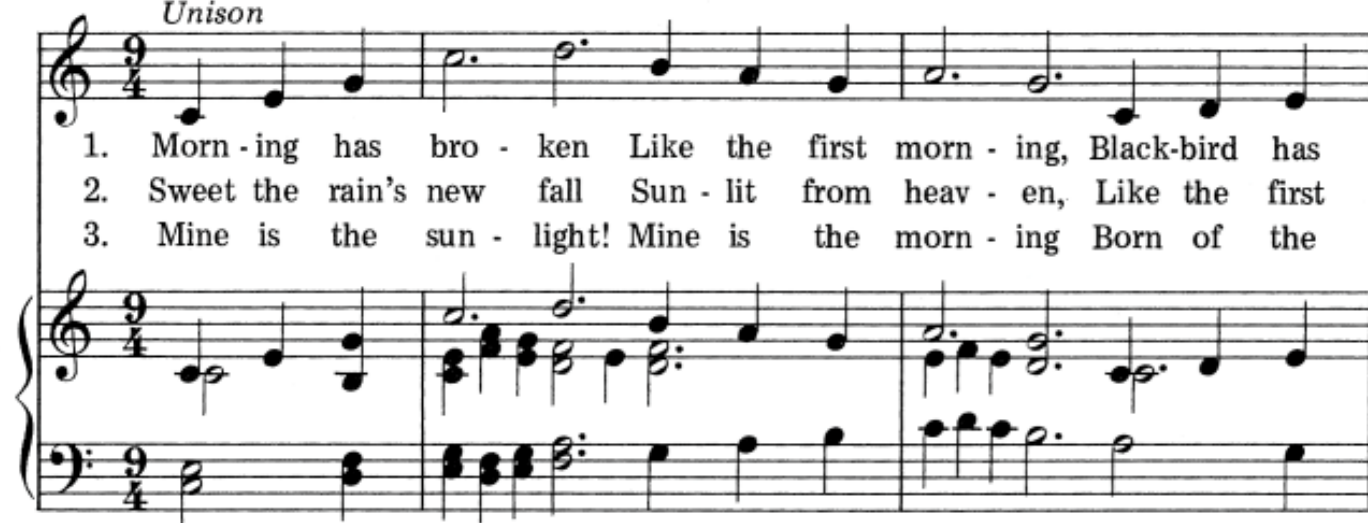
arr. Mark Hayes

Thanks to all who helped lead today's service including our reader, **Jeremy Pelegrin**,
and **Megan Gleason** who offered our Children's Moments.

Morning Has Broken

BUNESSAN 5.5.5.4.D. *Gaelic Melody*
Eleanor Farjeon, 1931 Harm. by David Evans, 1927

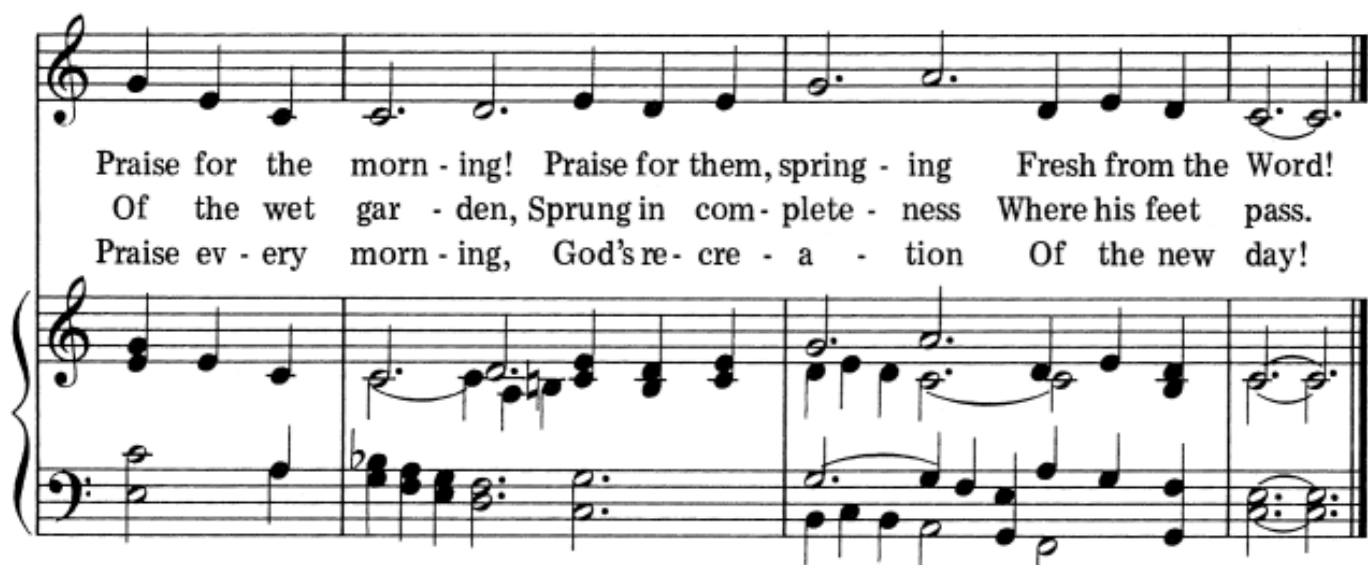
Unison



1. Morn - ing has bro - ken Like the first morn - ing, Black-bird has
 2. Sweet the rain's new fall Sun - lit from heav - en, Like the first
 3. Mine is the sun - light! Mine is the morn - ing Born of the



spo - ken Like the first bird. Praise for the sing - ing!
 dew - fall On the first grass. Praise for the sweet - ness
 one light E - den saw play! Praise with e - la - tion,



Praise for the morn - ing! Praise for them, spring - ing Fresh from the Word!
 Of the wet gar - den, Sprung in com - plete - ness Where his feet pass.
 Praise ev - ery morn - ing, God's re - cre - a - tion Of the new day!

When Israel Was in Egypt's Land

572

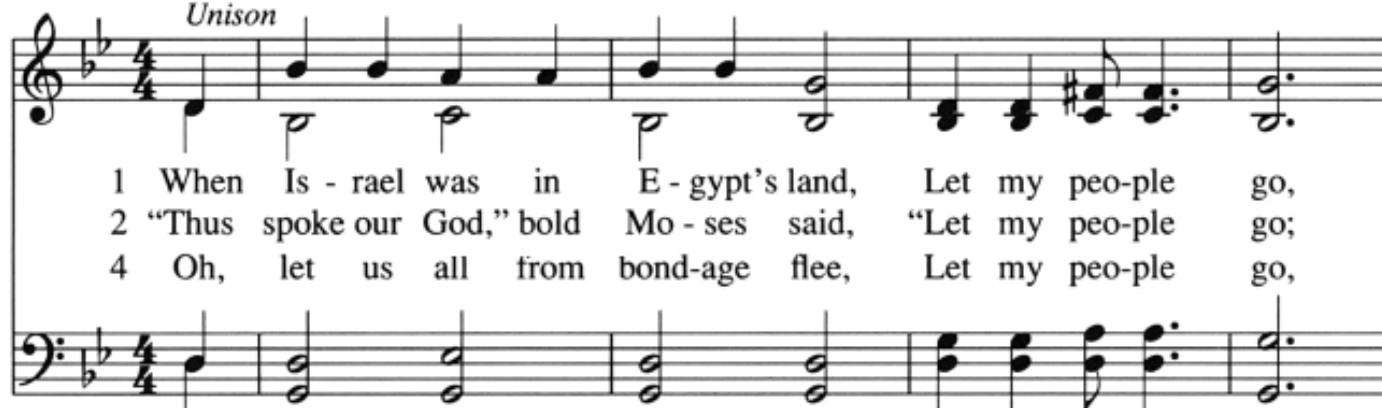
African-American spiritual; alt.

Tune: GO DOWN, MOSES 8.5.8.5. with refrain

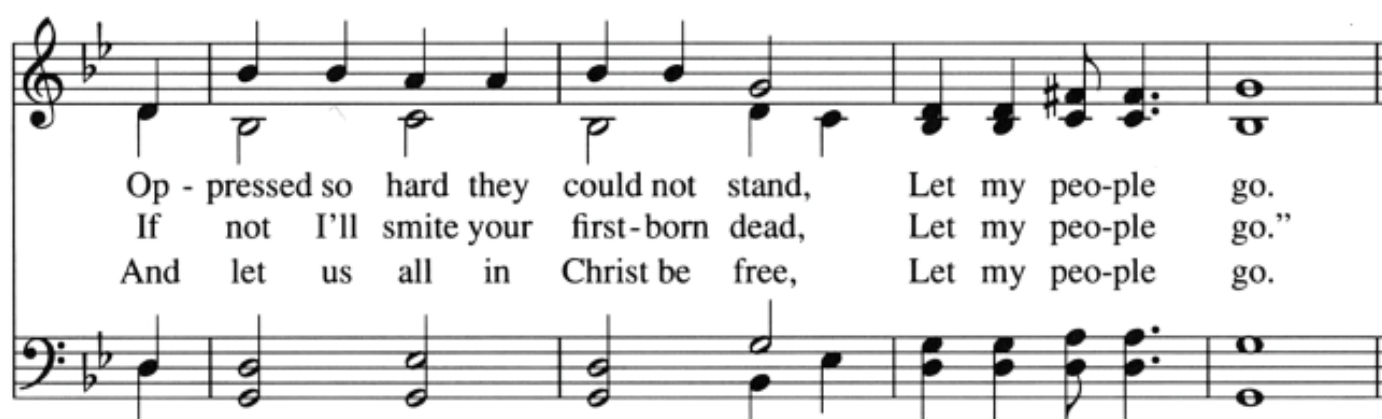
Exod. 3:7-12; 7:16; 8:1, 20; 9:1, 13; 10:3

African-American spiritual

Unison



1 When Is - rael was in E - gypt's land, Let my peo-ple go,
 2 "Thus spoke our God," bold Mo - ses said, "Let my peo-ple go;
 4 Oh, let us all from bond-age flee, Let my peo-ple go,



Op - pressed so hard they could not stand, Let my peo-ple go.
 If not I'll smite your first-born dead, Let my peo-ple go."
 And let us all in Christ be free, Let my peo-ple go.

Refrain



Go down, Mo - ses, way down in E - gypt's land,



Tell old Pha - raoh to let my peo-ple go.

Ain't Gonna Let Nobody Turn Me 'Round

Ain't gon - na let no - bod - y turn me 'round, turn me 'round,
broken sys - tems
in - jus - tice

4 A-6
turn me 'round. Ain't gon - na let no - bod - y turn me 'round. I'm gon - na
broken sys - tems
in - jus - tice

7
keep on a - walk - in', keep on a - talk - in',

9
work - ing for a bet - ter world. Ain't gon - na

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