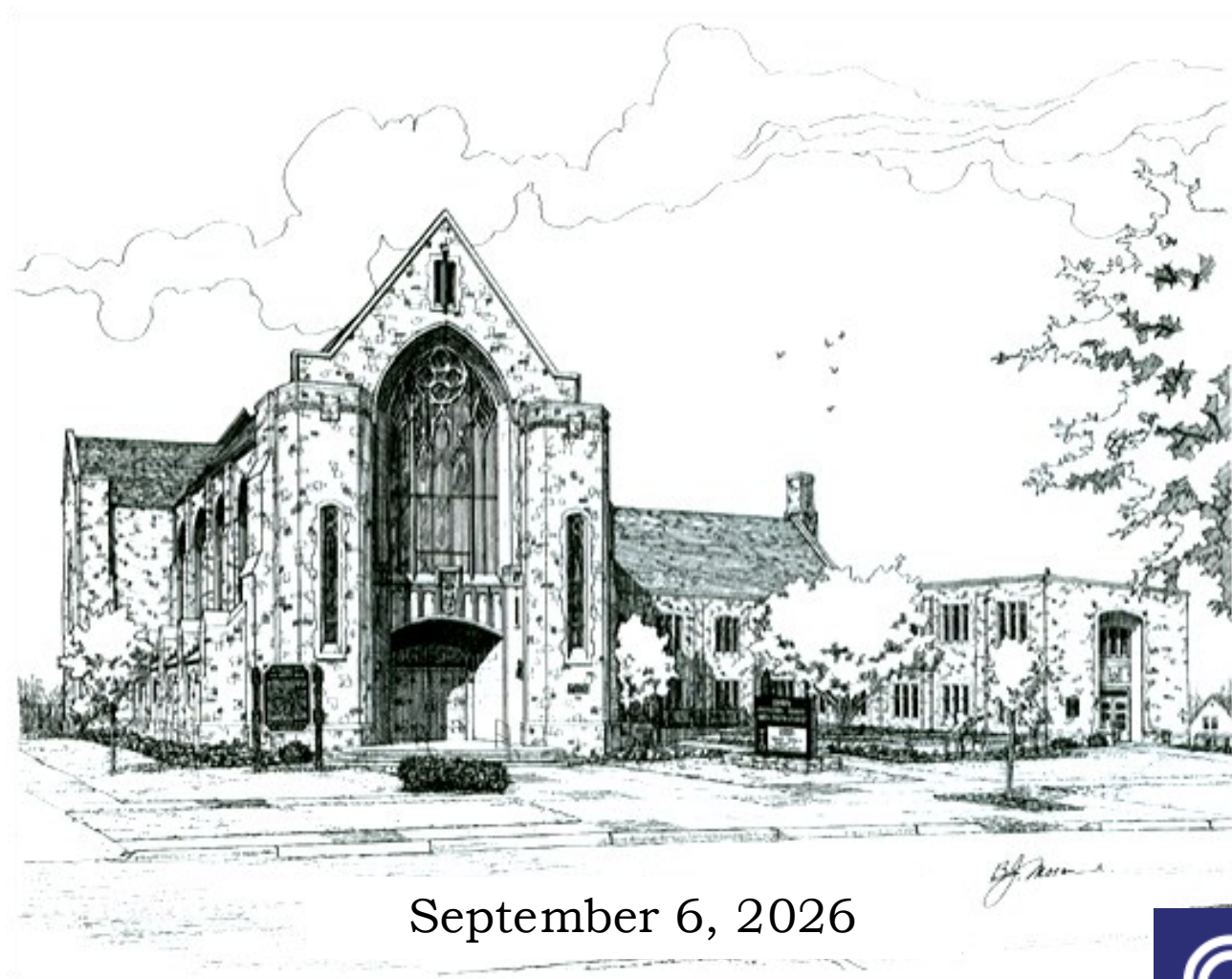


# Union Congregational United Church of Christ



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



September 6, 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](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 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.

## Dreaming Boldly About Union's Future

As part of Union's participation in the United Church of Christ's Church Building and Loan Fund's Thriving Congregations Initiative: Transform Church, Transform Community 2.0, we are spending this year listening, discerning, imagining, and asking a big question: What is God calling Union to become and do next?

**On Saturday, September 12, from 9:00 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. and from 4:45 p.m. until 5:15 p.m.,** leaders from the Church Building and Loan Fund will guide us through a process of dreaming boldly about Union's future—listening for where our passions and gifts intersect with the needs of our wider community. **Contact the church office to receive the Zoom link and handouts if you will be participating from somewhere beside Moon Beach.**

All are encouraged to participate. Because our facilitator herself is Zooming in, folks can participate from wherever you are. Many of us will Zoom in from Moon Beach, while others will from home or on the road. Please contact the church office to receive the Zoom link and information about how to join.

Whether you are at Moon Beach or joining us from home, your input here is critical. We want to hear what lights you up, what concerns break your heart, what gifts and experiences you carry, and where you sense energy, hope, and holy possibility. Because this is our chance not simply to preserve Union's legacy—but to help shape its future.

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

**Celebrating**

**Steve Hartman's 50th Ordination Anniversary**

September 6, 2026

10:00 a.m.

**GATHERING FOR WORSHIP**

(\*) invites all who are able to stand

PRELUDE: *"Shepherd Me, O God"* arr. Mark Hayes  
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.

INTROIT: *"Prelude—Moonlight Sonata"* Ludwig van Beethoven  
Eleanora Hartman-Pickerell, piano  
Theodore Hartman-Pickerell, piano

\* CALL TO WORSHIP: (responsive)  
One: We come with our joy, our gratitude, our questions, our convictions, our doubts, our hopes.  
**All: And God calls us to a way that is simpler than we sometimes make it.**  
One: To act justly.  
**All: To love mercy.**  
One: To walk humbly with our God.  
**All: To feed the hungry, welcome the stranger, clothe the naked, and care for those in need.**  
One: We come not because we have mastered this way, but because we are still learning to walk it.  
**All: We come ready to listen, to be changed, and to love our neighbors more faithfully.**  
One: Let us worship the God who asks not for perfection, but for lives turned toward justice, mercy, and love.  
**All: Let us worship together.**

**\* PRAYER OF CONFESSION: (in unison)**

**Holy God, you have never made your expectations particularly mysterious. You have asked us to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with you. You have told us to feed the hungry, welcome the stranger, care for the sick, and stand with those who are vulnerable. And yet we confess that we have sometimes looked for something easier. We have waited for someone else to fix what is broken. We have convinced ourselves that good intentions are enough. We have passed by suffering because it was inconvenient, complicated, or simply too far away. Forgive us. Give us courage to walk your way with justice in our hands, mercy in our hearts, and humility in our steps. Amen.**

**\* ASSURANCE OF PARDON (in unison)**

**Hear the good news: There is always another opportunity to choose justice, another chance to practice mercy, another neighbor to welcome, another hungry person to feed, another place where love can take root. In the grace of God, our failures do not have the final word. We are forgiven. We are restored. And we are called again. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

**\* PASSING THE PEACE OF JESUS CHRIST**

**\* HYMN NO. 28:**

*"For the Beauty of the Earth"*  
(see page 5)

DIX  
The New Century Hymnal

**PROCLAIMING GOD'S GOOD NEWS**

**HOLY SCRIPTURE:**

Micah 6:6-8

p. 866

**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 "prayground" in the south transept to play and pray quietly or to drop them off downstairs to play in the nursery.

**SPECIAL MUSIC:**

*"Come, Ye Thankful People, Come"*

arr. Joel Raney

**HOLY GOSPEL:**

Matthew 25:31-46

p. 29

**THE SERMON:**

Becca Hartman-Pickerell

**RESPONDING IN FAITH**

**HYMN NO. 593:**

*"Lift Every Voice and Sing"*  
(see pages 6-7)

LIFT EVERY VOICE  
The New Century Hymnal

## THE OFFERING

Offertory:

*"I Need Thee Every Hour"*

arr. Joel Raney

\*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.*

## CELEBRATING COMMUNION

### THE INVITATION

One: The table of bread and wine is now to be made ready. Come to this table, you who have much faith and you who would like to have more;

**All: You who have been here often and you who have not been for a long time, if ever.**

One: You who have tried to follow Jesus, and you who have fallen short.

**All: Come, all who seek to follow Christ's way. It is Christ who offers to encounter us here.**

### THE COMMUNION PRAYER

One: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

One: Lift up your hearts!

**All: We lift them up to the Lord.**

One: Let us give thanks to God Most High.

**All: It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

### CONGREGATIONAL SANCTUS:

*"Santo, Santo, Santo"*

anonymous, Argentina

¡San - to, san - to, san - to, mi cor - a - zón te a - do - ra! Mi  
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, my heart, my heart a - dores you! My

cor - a - zón te sa - be de-cir: san - to e - res Dios.  
heart is glad to say the words: you are ho - ly, God.

### THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

Communion servers will pass trays of bread, red wine, and white grape juice through the pews. Please let an usher know if you would prefer to commune with the prepackaged Communion elements, and they will bring one to you. Please hold the bread and cup until all are served so that we may commune together. Gluten-free bread is in the paper cup in the center of the tray.

The host at this table is Jesus Christ. In Christ's name and spirit, we invite all to partake of God's grace. Children may participate according to their parents' wishes.

### PRAYERS OF CONSECRATION, OF THE PEOPLE, AND OF OUR LORD

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.**

### PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (in unison)

**Holy God, we give you thanks for this table, where there is no test of worthiness, no entrance exam, no perfect record required. We give you thanks for bread that reminds us that no one should go hungry, for a cup that reminds us that mercy is meant to overflow, and for a table that reminds us that your love keeps making room. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

### **SENT INTO ALL THE WORLD**

\*HYMN NO. 81:

*"God Be with You"*  
(see page 8)

GOD BE WITH YOU  
The New Century Hymnal

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE:

*"Festival on LANCASHIRE"*

arr. Gilbert Martin

Thanks to all who helped lead today's service including:

**Eleanora and Theodore Hartman-Pickerell** (piano introit), **Katie Hartman Waller** (Micah reading),  
**Becca Hartman-Pickerill** (sermon) and **Ed Tucker** who offered our Children's Moments.

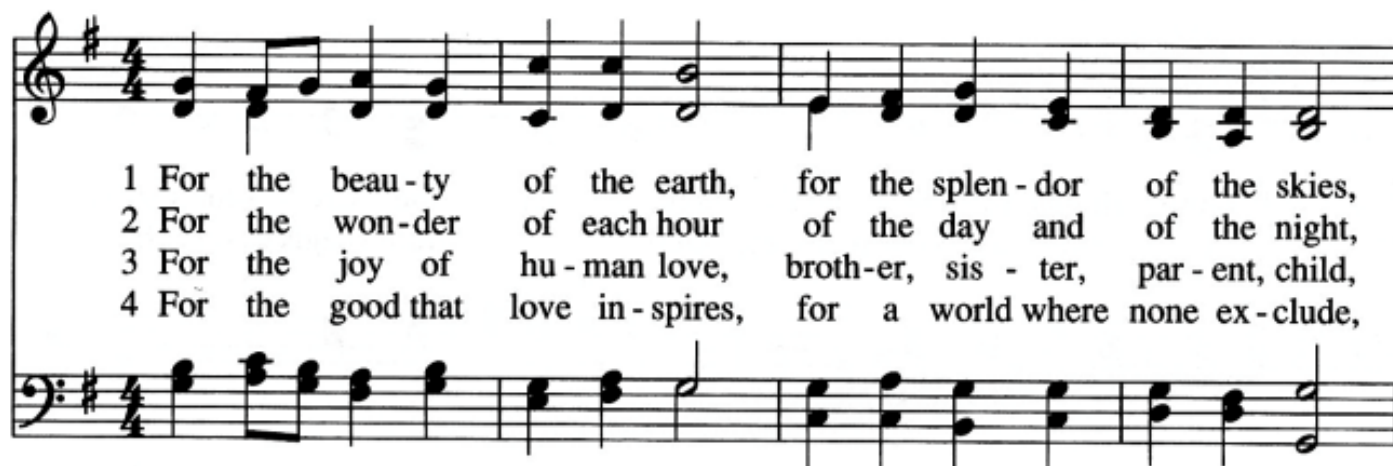
## **Altar Flowers**

In gratitude for Union's faith community.  
—the Hartman Family

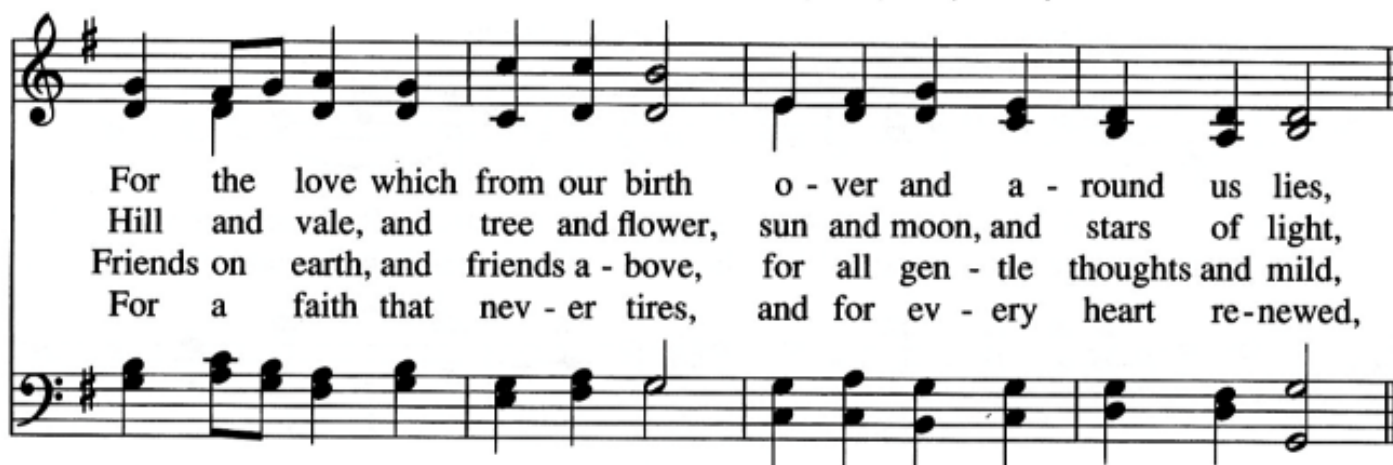
Tune: DIX 7.7.7.7. with refrain  
 Conrad Kocher, 1838  
 Adapt. William H. Monk, 1861

# For the Beauty of the Earth

St. 1-3, Folliott S. Pierpoint, 1864; alt.  
 St. 4, Miriam Therese Winter, 1993

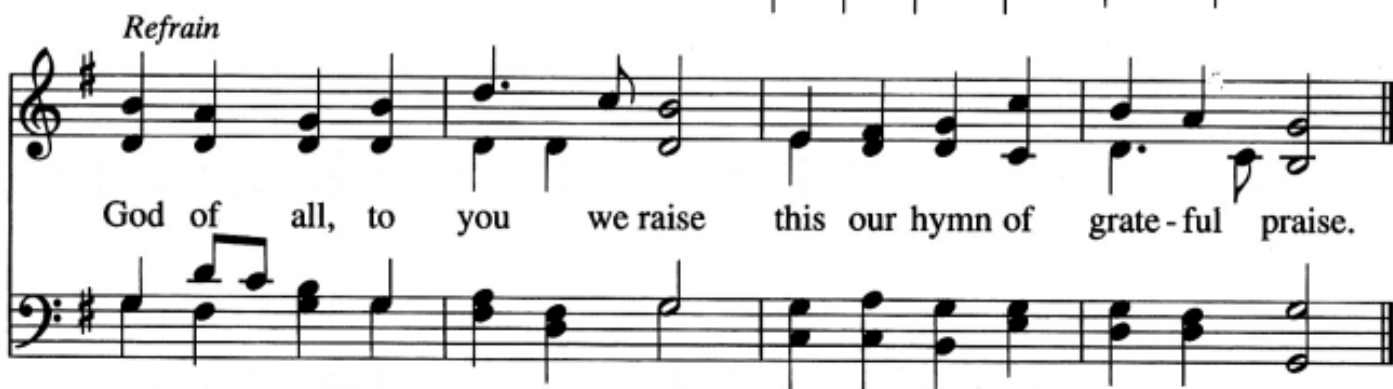


1 For the beau-ty of the earth, for the splen-dor of the skies,  
 2 For the won-der of each hour of the day and of the night,  
 3 For the joy of hu-man love, broth-er, sis-ter, par-ent, child,  
 4 For the good that love in-spires, for a world where none ex-clude,



For the love which from our birth o-ver and a-round us lies,  
 Hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light,  
 Friends on earth, and friends a-bove, for all gen-tle thoughts and mild,  
 For a faith that nev-er tires, and for ev-ery heart re-newed,

*Refrain*



God of all, to you we raise this our hymn of grate-ful praise.

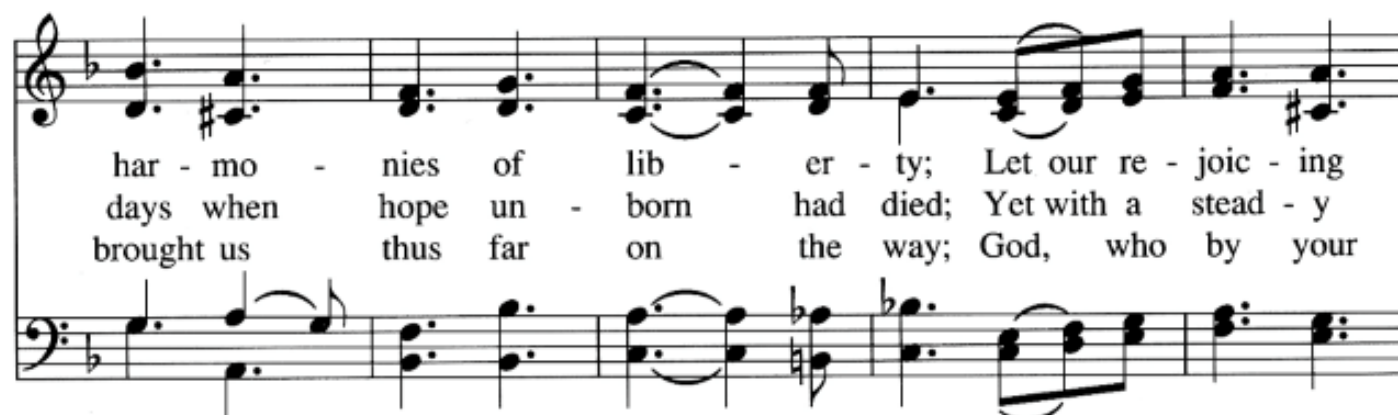
All music reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE,  
 License # A-736814. All rights reserved.

Tune: LIFT EVERY VOICE Irr.  
J. Rosamond Johnson, 1921

James Weldon Johnson, 1921; alt.



1 Lift ev-ery voice and sing, till earth and heav - en ring, ring with the  
2 Ston-y the road we trod, bit-ter the chas-tening rod, felt in the  
3 God of our wea - ry years, God of our si - lent tears, God who has



har - mo - nies of lib - er - ty; Let our re - joic - ing  
days when hope un - born had died; Yet with a stead - y  
brought us thus far on the way; God, who by your



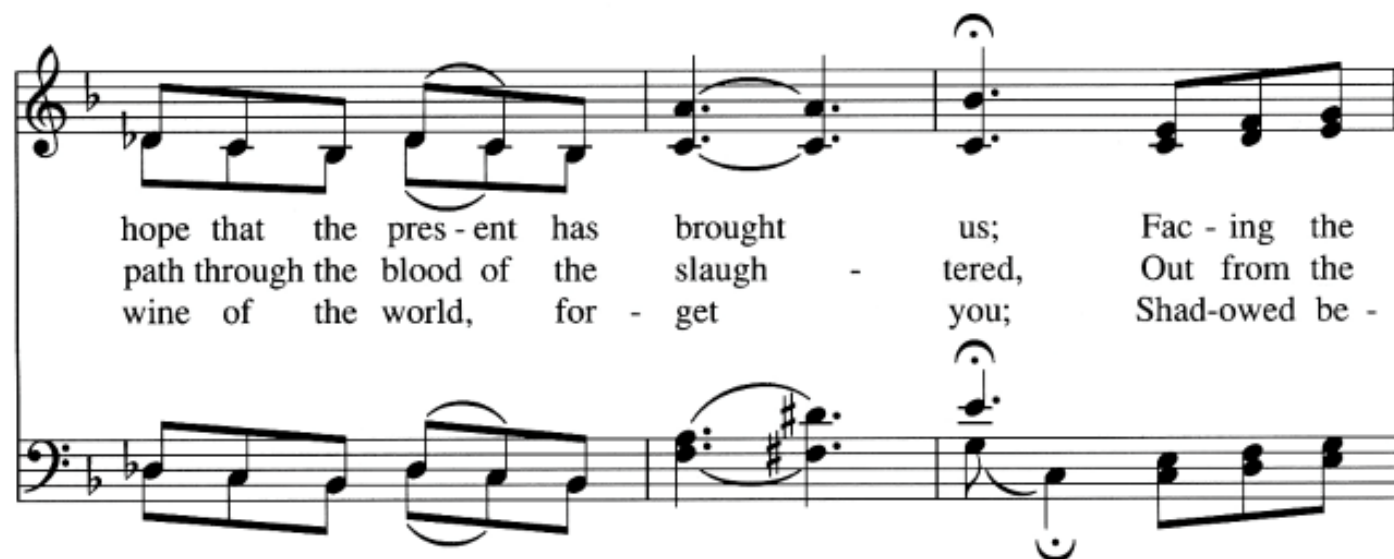
rise, high as the lis - tening skies, let it re - sound loud as the  
beat, have not our wea - ry feet, come to the place for which our  
might, led us in - to the light, keep us for - ev - er in the



roll - ing sea. Sing a song full of the  
peo - ple sighed? We have come o - ver a  
path, we pray. Lest our feet stray from the



faith that the harsh past has taught us, Sing a song full of the  
 way that with tears has been wa - tered, We have come, tread - ing our  
 plac - es, our God, where we met you, Lest our hearts, drunk with the



hope that the pres - ent has brought us; Fac - ing the  
 path through the blood of the slaugh - tered, Out from the  
 wine of the world, for - get you; Shad - owed be -



ris - ing sun of our new day be - gun, let us march  
 gloom - y past, till now we stand at last where the white  
 neath your hand, may we for - ev - er stand, true to our

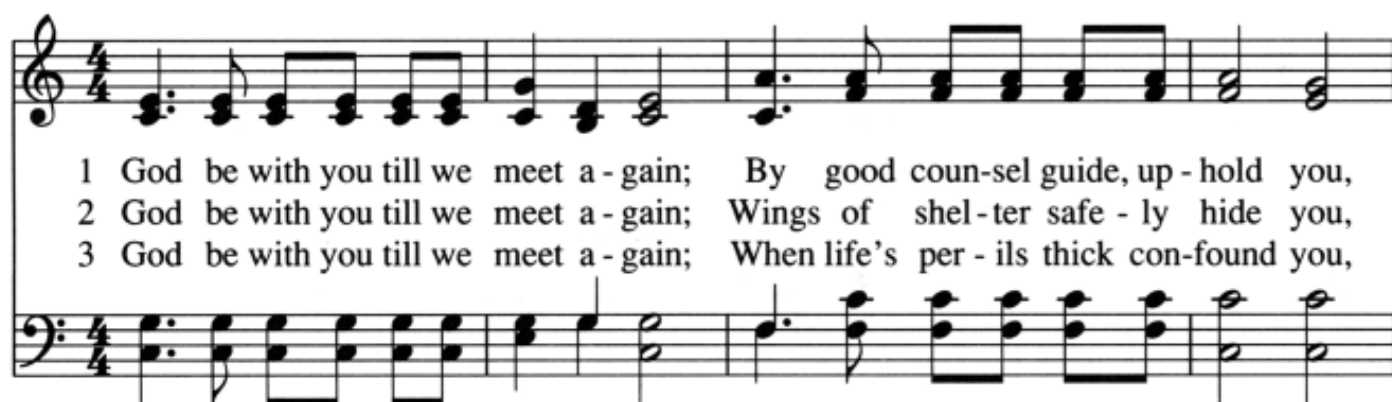


on till vic - to - ry is won.  
 gleam of our bright star is cast.  
 God, true to our na - tive land.

# God Be with You

Tune: GOD BE WITH YOU 9.8.8.9. with refrain  
Jeremiah E. Rankin, 1880; alt. William G. Tomer, 1880

81

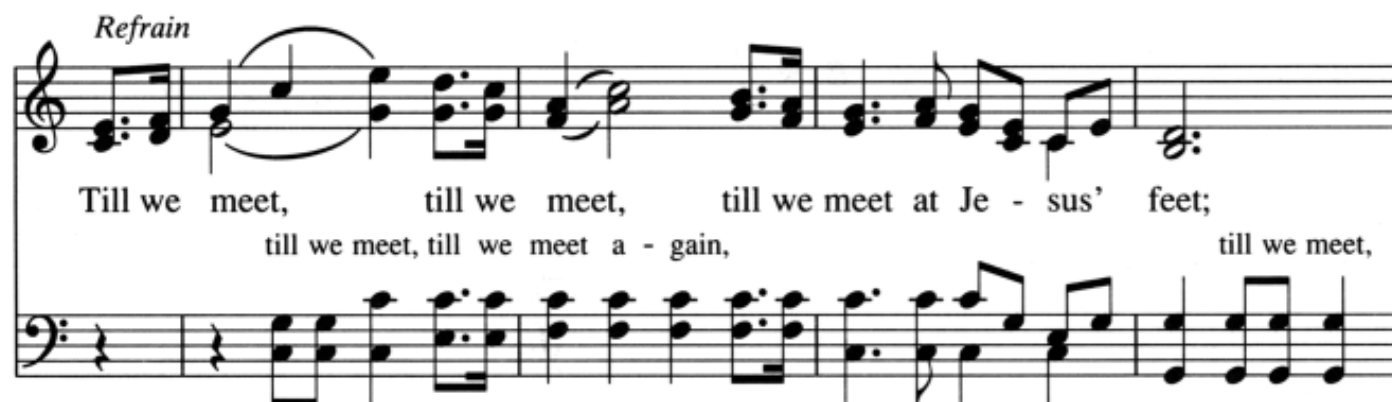


1 God be with you till we meet a - gain; By good coun-sel guide, up - hold you,  
2 God be with you till we meet a - gain; Wings of shel-ter safe - ly hide you,  
3 God be with you till we meet a - gain; When life's per - ils thick con-found you,



With a shep-herd's care en - fold you: God be with you till we meet a - gain.  
Dai - ly man - na still pro-vide you: God be with you till we meet a - gain.  
Put un - fail - ing arms a - round you: God be with you till we meet a - gain.

*Refrain*



Till we meet, till we meet, till we meet at Je - sus' feet;  
till we meet, till we meet a - gain, till we meet,



till we meet, till we meet, God be with you till we meet a - gain.  
till we meet, till we meet a - gain,

# Seminary Secrets: When Scriptures Conflict

Ever notice that various Bible passages sometimes seem to contradict each other? We see this not only in “what happened,” but also in how God is portrayed and what God wants from us. This reality can be confusing for those who look to the Bible as the foundation of the Christian tradition! The first step in clearing up the confusion is to understand the historical and political contexts of the individual authors. But then, other questions arise: how do we discern which texts to prioritize? And how does the concept of “inspiration” fit into all of this?

This fall, Seminary Secrets classes will explore some of these contradictory texts and address these thorny questions.

## **General info about Seminary Secrets classes:**

WHAT? In these sessions, we learn about the tools that biblical and theological scholars employ in their interpretations and arguments. We apply these new insights to our lives as Christians.

LEADER? Julie Harder. Julie holds a master’s degree in theology/biblical studies.

FOR WHOM? Anyone who is curious and willing to do a little reading to prepare for the sessions.

HYBRID OPTION: Seminary Secrets classes have both an in-person and Zoom-in option. Zoomers are shown on a large screen so that in-person people can see and hear them. Zoomers can also see and hear in-person participants, PowerPoint slides, and the blackboard.

“HOMEWORK”: Most sessions have a short reading assignment to be completed beforehand.

## **Specific info about the When Scriptures Conflict series:**

DATES: Wednesdays, starting September 23. We will probably continue throughout the fall, but if you can’t come to all sessions, see below.

TIME? 6:15 to 7:30 p.m.

WHERE? Chapel Classroom (or Zoom)

HOW TO SIGN UP & GET THE READING ASSIGNMENTS: Email Julie at [jblackharder@gmail.com](mailto:jblackharder@gmail.com).

WHAT IF I CAN’T COME TO ALL SESSIONS? Each session is recorded, so you can view or listen to any session that you miss. Also, this fall’s main topic will be divided up into several smaller topics, so you might opt to attend some mini-topics and miss others. (The exact schedule will be sent to those who sign up.)

*QUESTIONS? Email Julie at [jblackharder@gmail.com](mailto:jblackharder@gmail.com).*

**Julie Harder, M.D.**, trained as a Gottman Institute Leader,  
*presents* the Free Online Workshop:

**FREE ONLINE WORKSHOP**

# The Seven Principles

## *Couples Workshop*

BASED ON  
NEW YORK TIMES  
BESTSELLER  
OVER A MILLION  
COPIES SOLD



Are you in a committed relationship,  
or considering marriage?



Is your relationship OK, but you'd like  
to make it even happier?



Are you arguing in circles about  
the same issues?



Would you like evidence-based  
strategies for relationship success?

Dr. John Gottman observed thousands of couples over forty years, analyzing their interactions, then following them for years to see which couples stayed happily together and which split up.

From this data Dr. Gottman developed proven strategies to help couples succeed.



**WHEN?**  
**Saturdays,**  
**October 17 & 31 and**  
**November 7 & 14**  
12–3:15 pm EST



**FREE!**  
+ \$55+ shipping  
for the course  
materials.



**SIGNUP CLOSES**  
**October 1st**



Email Dr. Julie Harder at  
[julie.harder.projects@gmail.com](mailto:julie.harder.projects@gmail.com)  
for more details and to register.

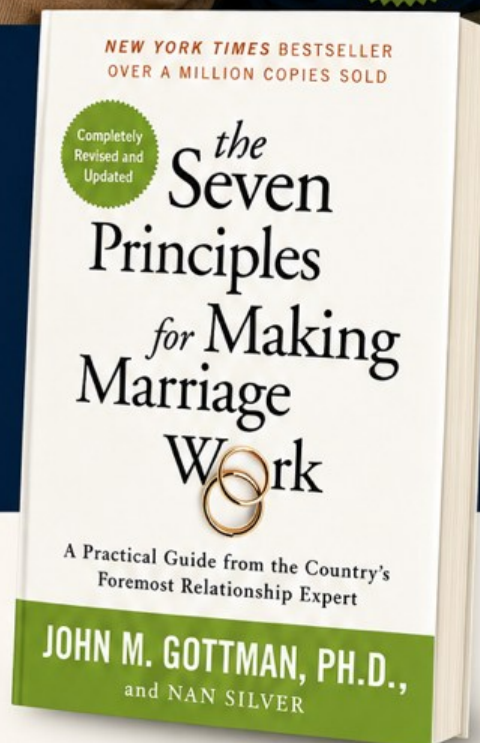
**OR, GO TO THESE LINKS:**



**FAQs:**  
<https://tinyurl.com/7PWorkshopFAQs>



**Logistics and  
registration info:**  
<https://tinyurl.com/7PWorkshopLogistics>



**STRONGER CONNECTION. HEALTHIER RELATIONSHIP. A BETTER FUTURE—TOGETHER.**

*Build the relationship you both deserve.* We all can love better.