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



November 15, 2026

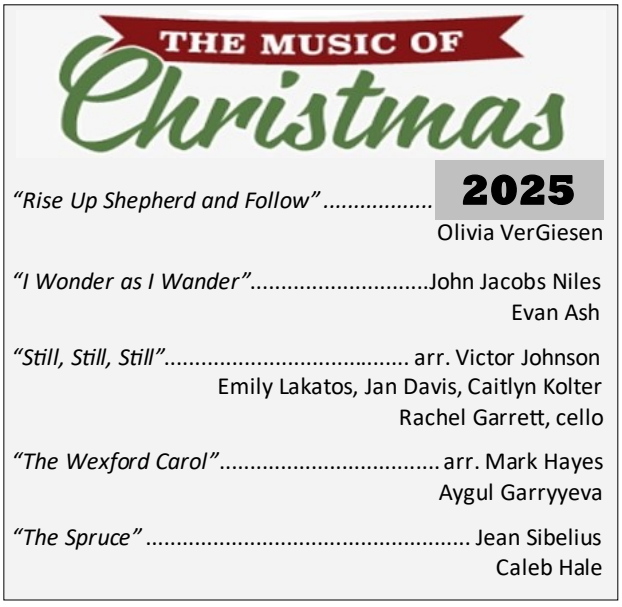
Our sanctuary is equipped with a hearing loop. You can access the loop by activating the T-coil in your hearing aid. If you do not have a T-coil, you can request a portable receiver from an usher.

Hearing Loop
Switch hearing aid to T-coil

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 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.





Interested in making a musical offering as part of our half-hour prelude that precedes our 8 p.m. Christmas Eve service? If so, please sign up at Union Central. Please provide a couple of options for musical titles that interest you so we can all work together to prepare a diverse collection of music. Music selection will begin as sign-ups appear, and rehearsals will be held immediately after Sunday's service on Dec. 6, Dec. 13, and Dec. 20.

Thank you for sharing your talents!
A member of the music staff will follow up with you.

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

25th Sunday after Pentecost

November 15, 2026 10:00 a.m.

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP (*) invites all who are able to stand

PRELUDE: *"Prière à Notre Dame"* Léon Boëllmann
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: Come, all who are weary, all who are hopeful, all who are still figuring out what they believe.
All: Come, bringing the images of God you have inherited, the questions you carry, and the faith you are still growing into.
One: We gather to remember that God is not confined by our fears or limited by our imaginations.
All: We gather to steep ourselves in God's ways and connect with others on this journey.
One: Let us encourage one another, hold fast to what is good, and open ourselves to the surprising possibilities of God's love.
All: Let us worship together in joy and in hope.

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION: (responsive)
One: Gracious God, we confess that sometimes we have imagined you too small. We have pictured you as demanding rather than generous, judgmental rather than compassionate, eager to punish rather than longing to forgive. We have allowed fear to shape our faith and suspicion to shape our relationships. We have buried the gifts you have entrusted to us, afraid to take risks, afraid to get it wrong, afraid that we will never be enough. Let us take a moment of silence to call to mind all we would lay before the Lord. (Silence is kept.)

One: Let us pray.

All: Forgive us. Free us from the false images that keep us from trusting your love. Forgive us not only for the ways we have misunderstood you, but for the ways our misunderstandings have shaped our actions, our words, and the ways we have treated one another. Inspired by Christ, help us live with greater courage, generosity, and grace. Amen.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON: (in unison)

Let us trust the good news that God's love is not limited by our understanding, nor is God's grace exhausted by our failures. We are forgiven, we are loved, and we are free to begin again. And, trusting that love, may we live lives of grace. Thanks be to God!

*PASSING THE PEACE OF JESUS CHRIST

*HYMN NO. 436: *"God of Grace and God of Glory"* CWM RHONDDA
(see page 5) The New Century Hymnal

PROCLAIMING GOD'S GOOD NEWS

HOLY SCRIPTURE: 1 Thessalonians 5:14-24 p. 205

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 with our paid nursery staff. Activity bags with crayons, etc. are available from an usher.

BELL CHOIR ANTHEM: *"There Is a Fountain"* Linda R. Lamb

HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 25:14-30 p. 28

THE SERMON: Rev. Bridget Flad Daniels

RESPONDING IN FAITH

HYMN: *"Servant Song"* Bobby Fisher
(see page 6)

THE PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY AND THE LORD'S PRAYER
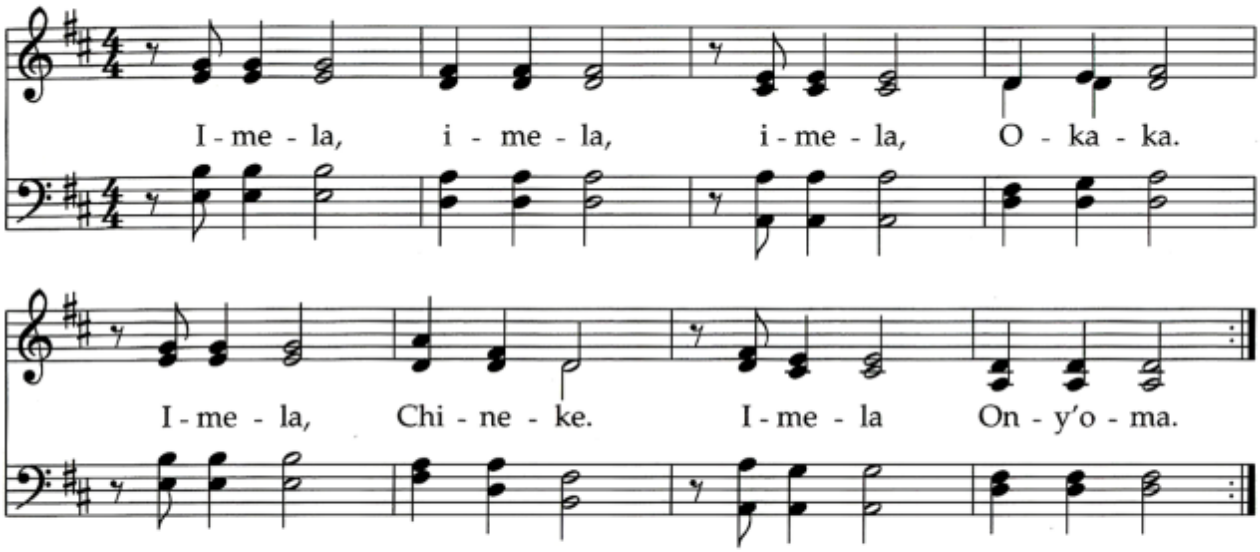
Please join us in praying the Lord's Prayer in these words or a translation meaningful to you.

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: *"The Quiet Prayer"* Gordon Young

*Praise Response: *"Imela"* traditional Nigerian



Translation
Thank you, great God.
Thank you because you are good.

Pronunciation Guide:
ee-meh-lah Oh-kah-kah
ee-meh-lah Chee-neh-keh
ee-meh-lah Ohn-yoh-mah

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (in unison)

Generous God, receive these gifts and our lives as expressions of our gratitude and our trust. May they become encouragement for the weary, hope for the discouraged, welcome for the stranger, and tangible signs of your love in a world that so needs it. Help us not to bury the gifts entrusted to us, but put them to work building a world shaped by your generosity and grace. Amen.

SENT INTO ALL THE WORLD

*CLOSING HYMN: *"My Eyes Have Seen the Glory"* Rev. Tony Larsen
(see page 7)

***THE BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE: *"Thanks Be to Thee"* George Frideric Handel

Thanks to all who helped lead today's service including our reader, **Karen Ludolph**, our guest organist, **Jason Pues**, and **Brittany Hendrix Malone** who offered our Children's Moments.
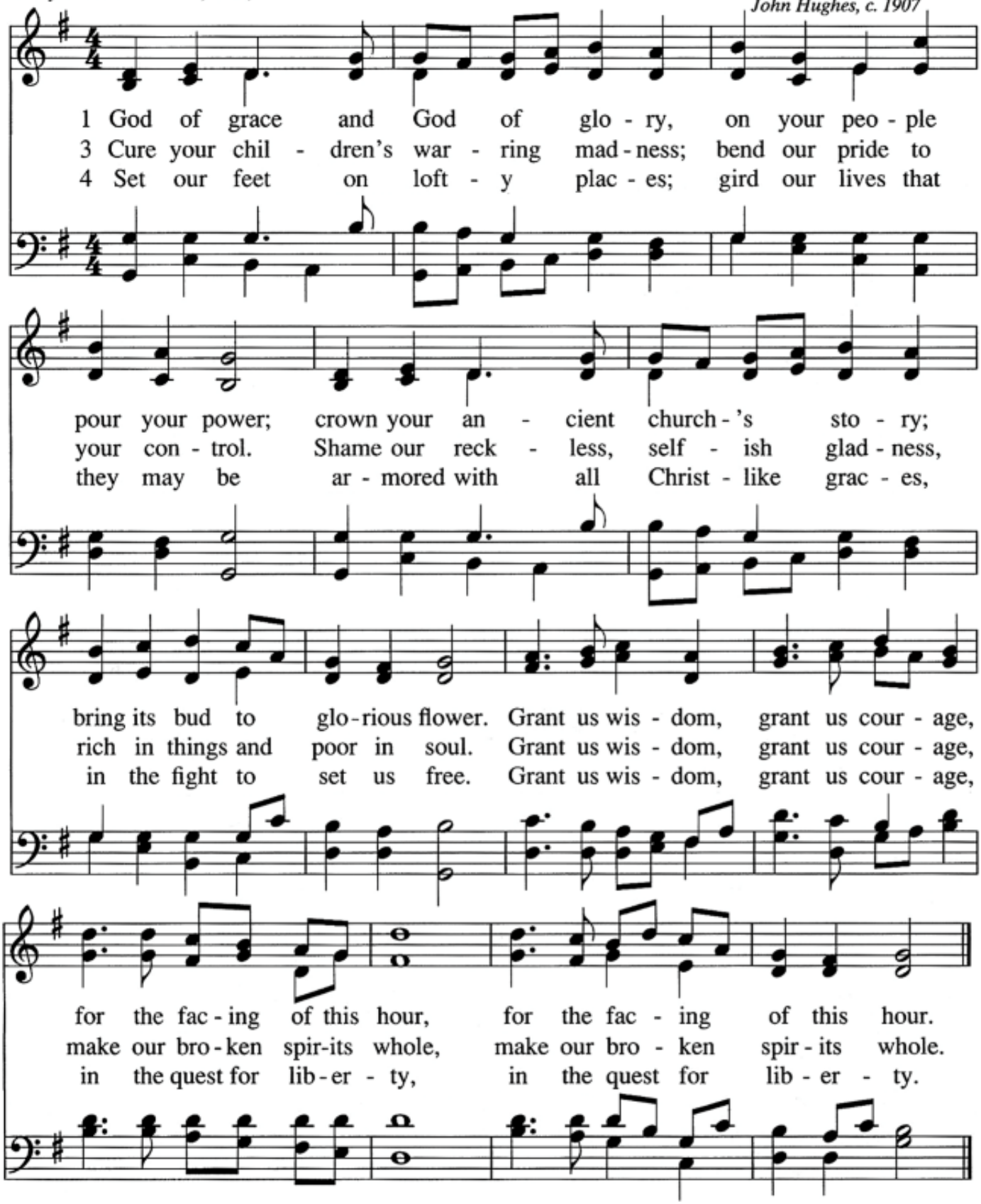
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God of Grace and God of Glory 436
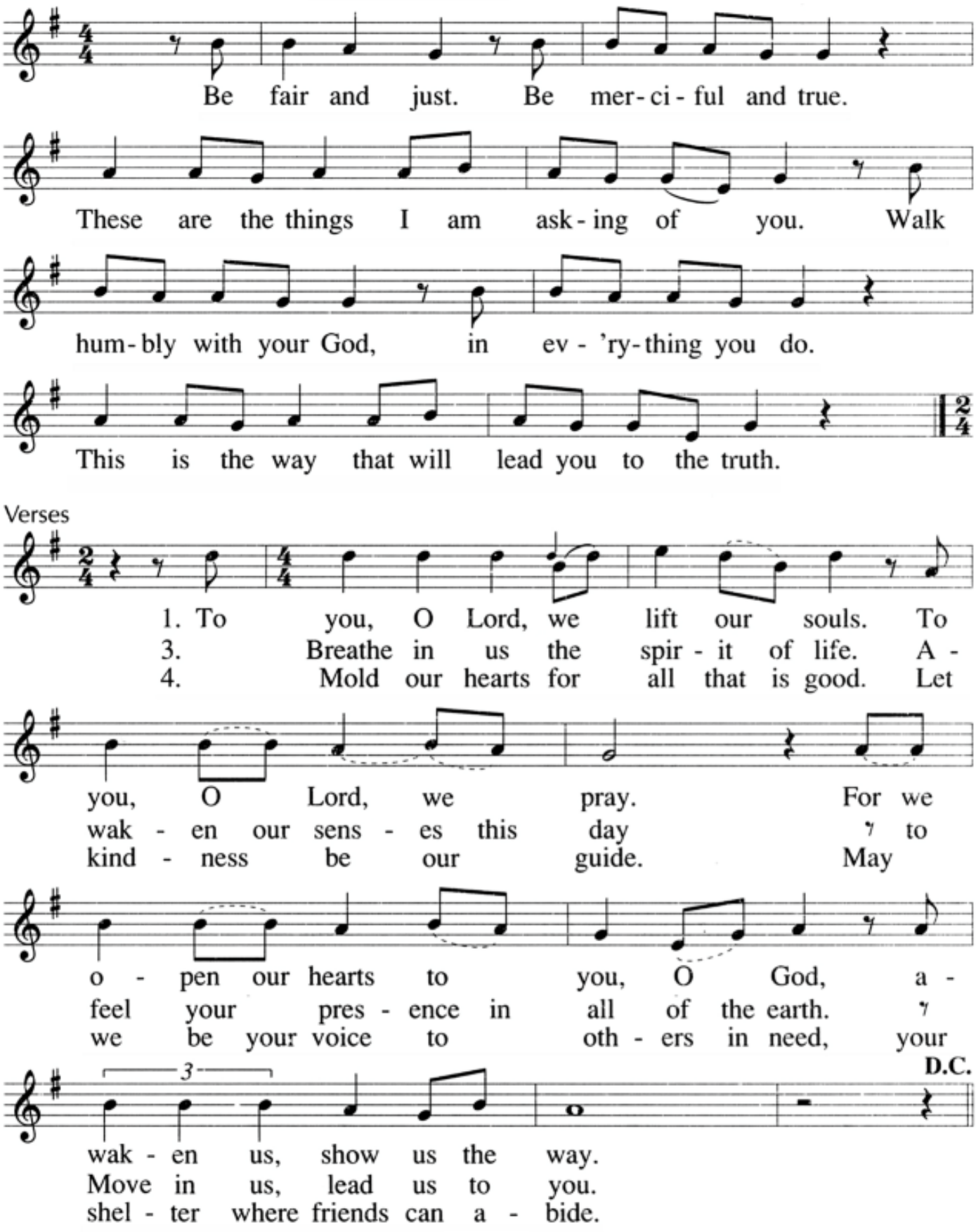
Harry Emerson Fosdick, 1930; alt.

CWM RHONDDA 8.7.8.7.8.7.7.
John Hughes, c. 1907
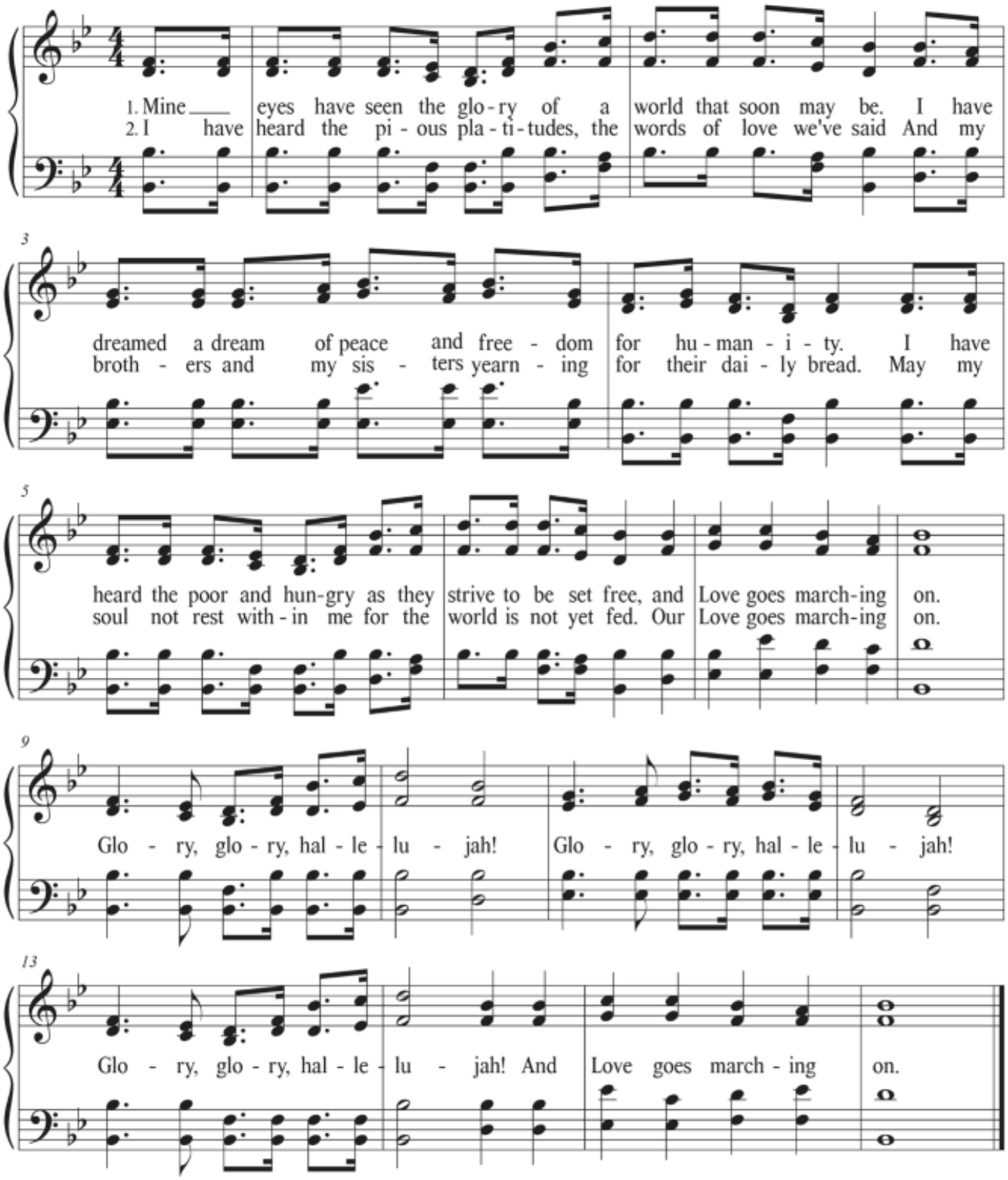


Servant Song

Text: Micah 6:8, Psalm 25; Ziggy Stardust and Bobby Fisher, b.1952
Tune: Bobby Fisher, b.1952 © 1992, GIA Publications, Inc.



My Eyes Have Seen the Glory



Adult Education: The Rest of the Christmas Story

The familiar Christmas story usually starts with an angel visiting Mary and ends with the Wise Men going back to their own country. But what about Zechariah in the Temple? The birth of John the Baptist and Zechariah's prophecies about him? Mary, Joseph and Jesus visiting the Temple when Jesus was a newborn?

If these stories sound unfamiliar, it's probably because our liturgical calendar doesn't have room for all these readings. But Luke wrapped his birth story within these other vignettes for a reason. So studying them helps highlight some of his key messages.

At Adult Education (9 a.m.) on Sunday, December 20, Julie Harder will walk us through these lesser-known scriptures so we can enrich our understanding of Luke's Christmas story.

On the First Day of Christmas… We Feed Our Neighbors!

"O come, all ye faithful…" — especially if you're faithful to the idea that Christmas is about more than presents under a tree. You could be part of bringing *"tidings of comfort and joy…"* to our neighbors in need.

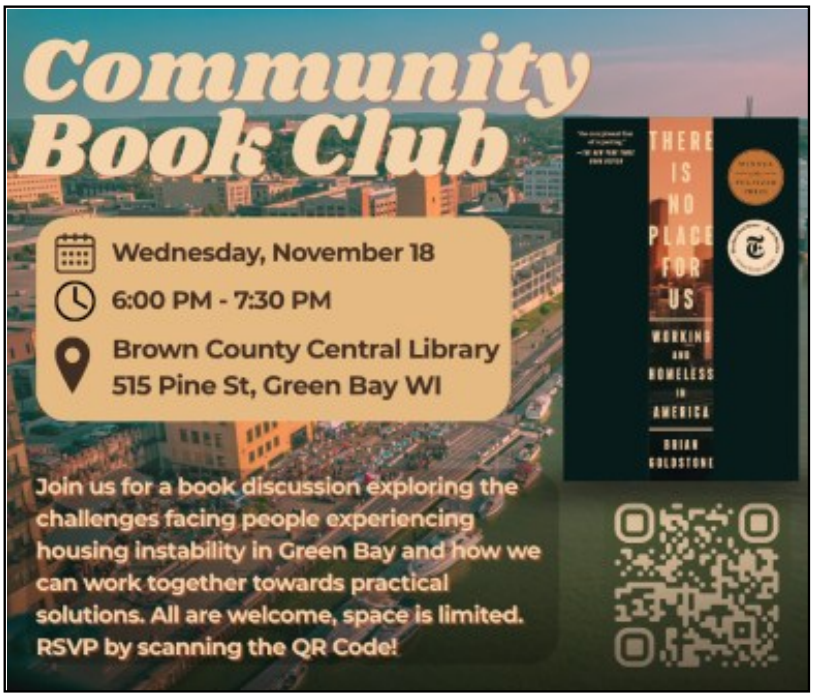
We have an opportunity to make and serve the evening meal at the NEW Shelter on **Christmas Eve, December 24**. What better way to celebrate than by sharing a meal and a little kindness with our neighbors? As you're making your Christmas Eve plans, consider sharing an hour to make others' holiday brighter.

Souper Cooks volunteers prepare a meal at **1:00 p.m.** at Union and/or serve it at **4:45 p.m.** at the **NEW Community Shelter on Mather Street**. Cooking usually takes about an hour; serving takes a little more than an hour. You can choose to **cook, serve, or do both**. No special training is needed. Just as the finest gift the Little Drummer Boy could find to give was his drumming, all that's needed is for you (and maybe your family) to come lend a helping hand. *"Joy to the world" will sound even sweeter when you've been part of making the world a little better for someone else.*

Contact Marty Berry mjpberry@sbcglobal.net or Achim Seifert seif409@sbcglobal.net to volunteer.

Priscilla Circle

Our next gathering will be Tuesday, November 24 at 1:00 p.m. in the English Room. Betty and Steve Hartman will be sharing insights from the immersive experience they had with their daughter and her family during their trip to Taiwan and Japan. We welcome all senior women to join us for this time of warm fellowship. We would love to see you there!



Read. Learn. Discuss. Act.

Join us for a community discussion of *There Is No Place for Us: Working and Homeless in America* by Brian Goldstone. This powerful book highlights the experiences of individuals and families navigating homelessness and housing insecurity in today's housing market.

Join us at the Brown County Central Library on Wednesday, November 18, 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. to participate in a discussion of the book's themes and other relevant conversation. All are welcome.

Joshua Delegate Wanted!

Union has been a member of Joshua since its was formed in 2004, and we are seeking someone to represent us on Joshua's board starting in January. Joshua is an organization formed by various faith traditions to work for social justice in the Brown County area. While some organizations focus on immediate needs, Joshua works on the long-term systemic issues in our area by working with public and private sectors. Active areas include Transformational Justice, Housing, Immigration, and Environmental Justice. More information can be found at joshua4justice.org. If you are interested in representing Union, please call Tim Harder (920.664.0752).

Soon the Weather Outside May Be Frightful

Looking ahead to winter, Stewardship Ministry is looking for some volunteers to call to help shovel and salt the church entryways when it snows. Please contact the church office if you'd be willing to be on a list of people we contact when this need arises.



Weekly Planner

November 16 — 21

Monday:
11:30 a.m. Ladies Lunch Bunch

Tuesday:
6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir

Wednesday:
1:00 p.m. Bible Study
5:45 p.m. Dinner
6:15 p.m. Youth Groups

Friday:
2:00 p.m. Tree and Wreath Sale

Saturday:
10:00 a.m. Tree and Wreath Sale

NEXT SUNDAY: November 22
Reign of Christ
New Member Sunday

9:00 a.m. Faith Formation
10:00 a.m. Worship in the sanctuary (or stream it online) followed by Coffee Hour
11:15 a.m. Tree and Wreath Sale

Our Tree Lot Opens Friday

Our tree lot opens later this week and it will be open every Friday, Saturday and Sunday until December 19 or when all trees and wreaths are sold. Tree lot hours:

Friday — 2 to 6 p.m.
Saturday — 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Sunday — 11:15 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Union Congregational United Church of Christ

Union Congregational United Church of Christ is an **Open and Affirming Congregation**. We are a Christian fellowship where diverse perspectives may live together in the Spirit of Christ and where all persons are precious children of God without qualification or discrimination because of ability, age, ethnicity, gender, race, or sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression.

e-mail: **office@unionucc.com**
church office: **920-437-9266**
website: **www.unionucc.com**

Ladies Lunch Bunch Meets November 16

Join us at 11:30 a.m.
at the Village Grille in Allouez

Our Church Staff

Senior Minister.....Bridget Flad Daniels
Administrative Assistant.....Eric Goska
Financial Secretary.....Katrina Catteruccia
Building & Maintenance Supervisor.....Brad Dorin
Music Director.....Haley Steele
Organist.....Franklin Beyer
Handbell Ensemble Director.....Linda Cook
Librarian.....Cathy Putman
AV Coordinator.....Daniel Hatton

Student Music Interns:
Zeke Fietsch-Huber, Caleb Hale, Ella Hamilton

Nursery Attendants:
Jenna Stevens, London Graham, Katelyn Mertens, Scott Nixon