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 22, 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.

Christmas Eve Prelude



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

Thanksgiving and New Member Sunday

November 22, 2026 10:00 a.m.

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

(*) invites all who are able to stand

PRELUDE: *"We Gather Together"* arr. Joel Raney

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

*CALL TO WORSHIP: (responsive)

One: For the blessings of this marvelous creation,
All: we give thanks to God.
One: For the people who have walked alongside us and the strangers who became neighbors,
All: we give thanks for the opportunity to love.
One: For those who are hungry, hurting, lonely, or forgotten,
All: we give thanks for the invitation to serve.
One: For the hope that opens our eyes to what might yet be,
All: we gives thanks for the wisdom of God's Spirit.
One: Come, let us worship the God whose love gathers us together,
All: and sends us out to share that love with the world.

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION: (responsive)

One: There are times when we become so focused on our own experience that we fail to see what others need. We count our blessings and mistake our own comfort for the fullness of God's kingdom, forgetting that the needs of our neighbors are never separate from our own calling to love. Let us take a moment of silence to offer our prayers of confession to God. (Silence is kept.)
One: Let us pray.
All: Gracious and Generous God, forgive us when our actions fall short of the love we profess. Forgive us when we judge rather than seek to understand, when we turn away rather than reach out, and when we fail to make room for those who are different from us. Open the eyes of our hearts to see the people around us, especially those whose needs we would rather not notice. Teach us to recognize Christ in the faces of our neighbors, and to make our faith visible through lives of compassion, generosity, and love. Amen.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON: (in unison)

One: Friends, may this Good News seep into your inmost being: God's love is not something we earn through good deeds or perfect faithfulness. It is a gift, freely given, generously shared, and always inviting us into new life. In Christ, we are forgiven, renewed, and given another opportunity to become the people God created us to be.

All: May the wisdom of the Holy Spirit open our eyes, the hope of Christ strengthen our hearts, and the grace of God remind us that we are loved beyond measure. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven and freed for new life. Amen.

*HYMN NO. 422: *"Come, O Thankful People, Come"* ST. GEORGE'S WINDSOR
(see page 5) The New Century Hymnal

PROCLAIMING GOD'S GOOD NEWS

HOLY SCRIPTURE: Ephesians 1:15-19 p. 192

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.

SPECIAL MUSIC: *"Come Build a Church"* Ken Medema

HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 25:31-46 p. 29

THE SERMON: Rev. Bridget Flad Daniels

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

INVITATION AND QUESTIONS OF THE CANDIDATES FOR MEMBERSHIP

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.

PLEDGE OF FELLOWSHIP (in unison)

We welcome you with joy in the common life of this church. We promise you our friendship, help and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in knowledge and love of God and as witnesses of our risen Savior, Jesus Christ.

GREETING, PRAYER AND BLESSING

*PASSING THE PEACE OF JESUS CHRIST

(Please turn and offer a sign of Christ's peace to one another.)

RESPONDING IN FAITH

HYMN NO. 425: *"For the Fruit of All Creation"* AR HYD Y NOS

(see page 8) The New Century Hymnal
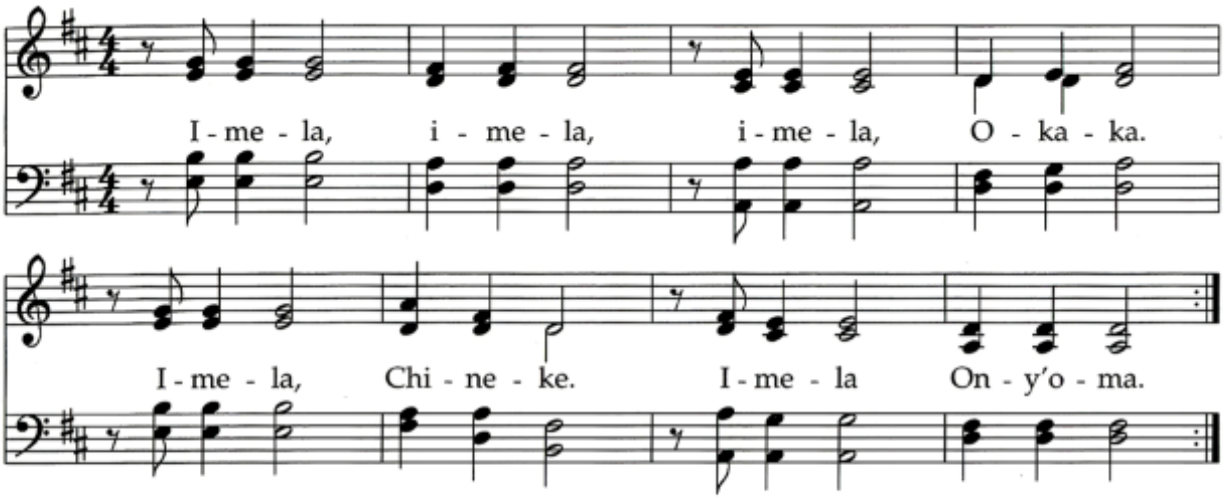
THE PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

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: *"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)

God of all creation, our hearts overflow with gratitude for the marvels of this world: the love that surrounds us, the planet that sustains us, the beauty that surprises us, and the grace that carries us through. With grateful hearts, we bring these gifts, offering back a portion of all that you have entrusted to us. Bless what we give, and bless what we do. May our thanksgiving be more than words, building a world overflowing with compassion, justice, and love. Amen.

SENT INTO ALL THE WORLD

*CLOSING HYMN: *"Let All Things Now Living"* Katherine K. Davis

(see pages 6-7)

*THE BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE: *"Toccata"* John Lee

Thanks to all who helped lead today's service including our reader, **Kathy Baldwin**, and **Ed Tucker** who offered our Children's Moments.

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Faith Formation Advent Food Drive
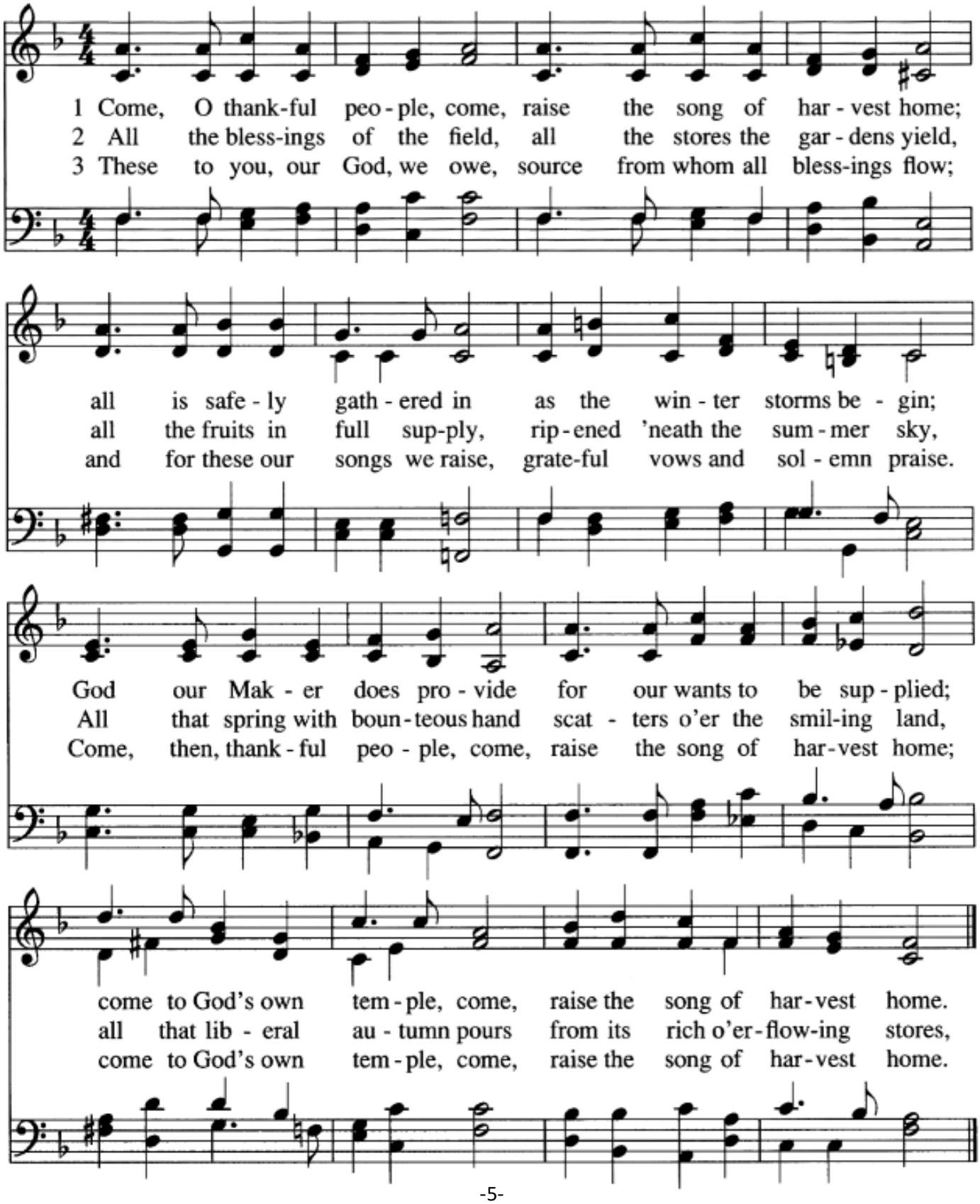
In an effort to help the children of the congregation learn the spirit of generosity this Christmas, Education Ministry has asked the Faith Formation classes to inspire us to bring a different food item each week to stock the Blessing Box. Pay attention to these child-led Advent Children's Moments to learn what item to bring the following week!

Our Christmas Fund Offering is December 6

422 Come, O Thankful People, Come

Exod. 23:16 Tune: ST. GEORGE'S WINDSOR 7.7.7.7.D. *George J. Elvey, 1858*

St. 1, Henry Alford, 1844; alt.
St. 2, Anna Laetitia Aiken Barbauld, 1772; alt.
St. 3, composite of Alford and Barbauld; alt.
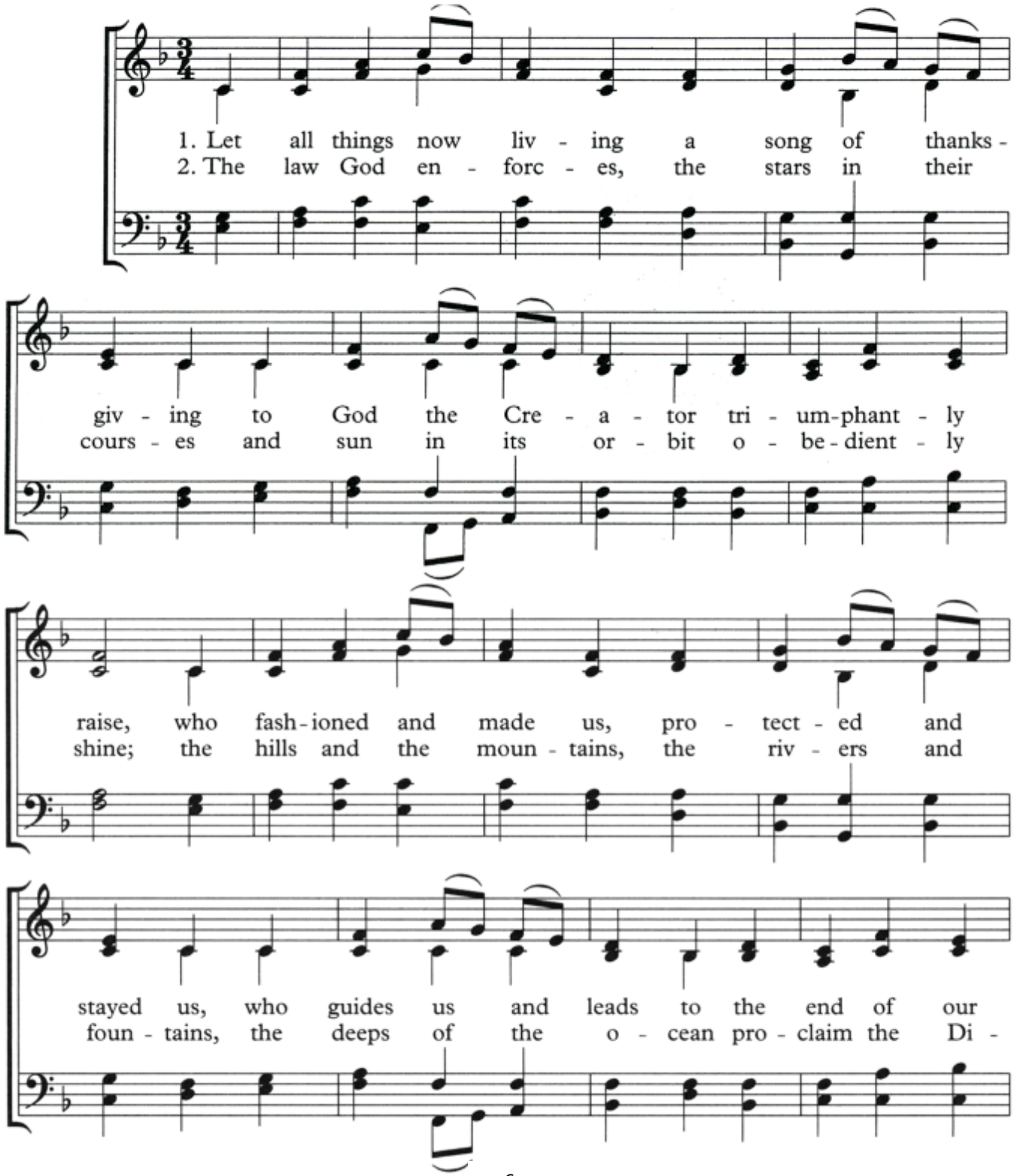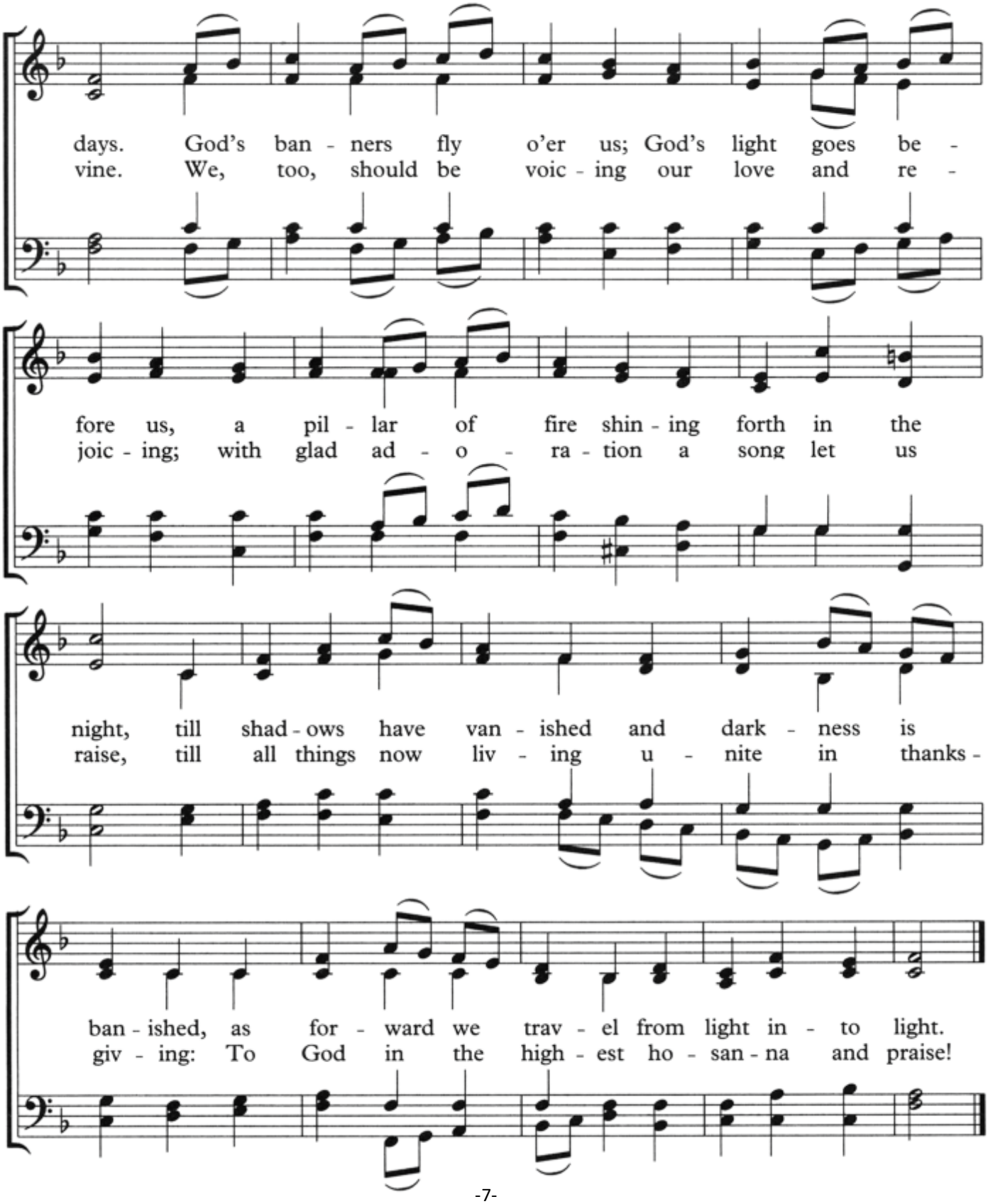


WORDS: Katherine K. Davis (Exod. 13:21; Ps. 148; 150:6)
MUSIC: Trad. Welsh melody; harm. by Katherine K. Davis

Words, harm. © 1938, 1966 E. C. Schirmer

Let All Things Now Living

THI 'E
6 6 11.6 6 11 D




days. God's ban - ners fly o'er us; God's light goes be -
vine. We, too, should be voic - ing our love and re -
fore us, a pil - lar of fire shin - ing forth in the
joic - ing; with glad ad - o - ra - tion a song let us
night, till shad - ows have van - ished and dark - ness is
raise, till all things now liv - ing u - nite in thanks -
ban - ished, as for - ward we trav - el from light in - to light.
giv - ing: To God in the high - est ho - san - na and praise!

For the Fruit of All Creation

Tune: AR HYD Y NOS 8.4.8.4.8.8.8.4. 425
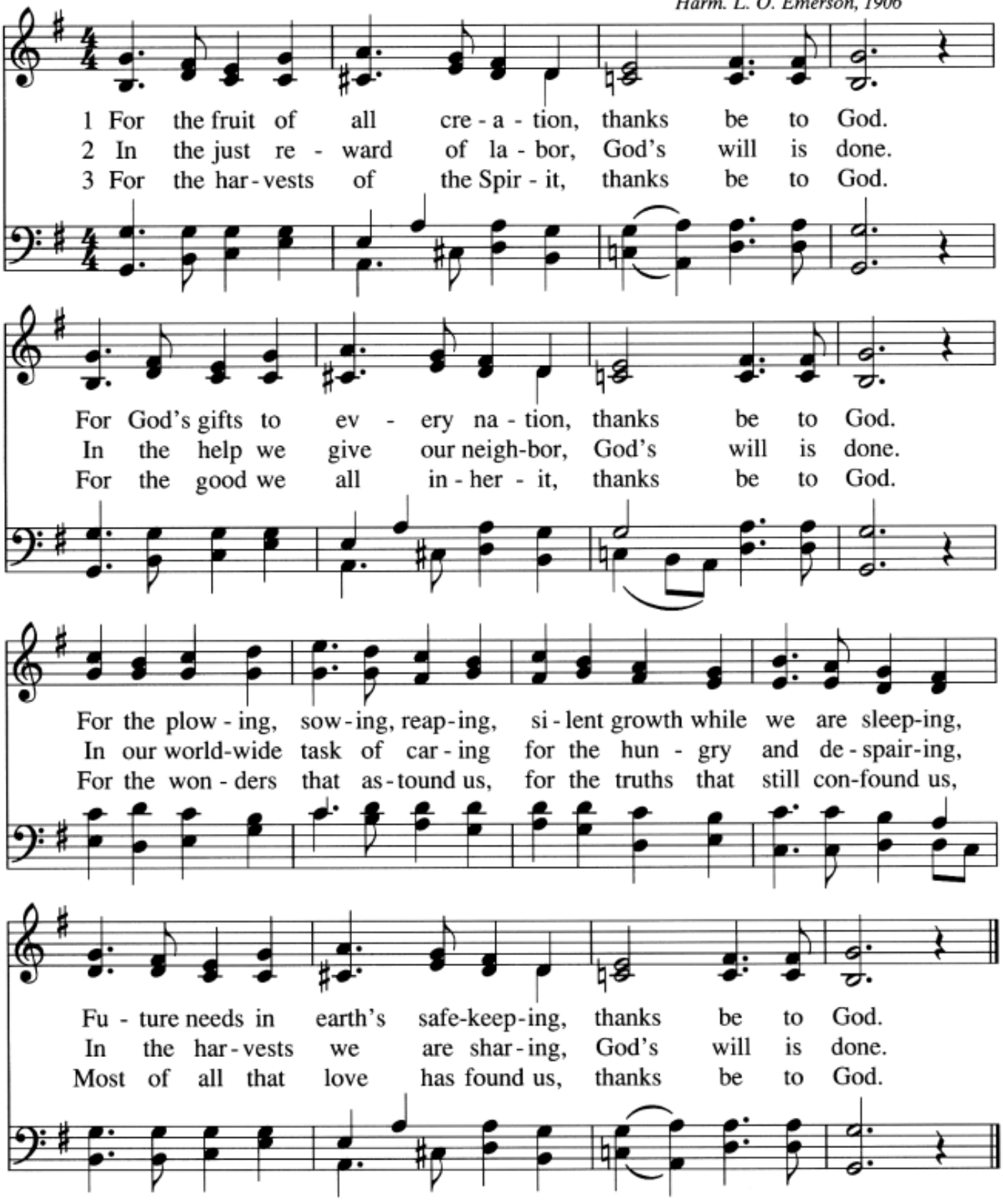
Welsh traditional melody

Fred Pratt Green, 1970

Words Copyright © 1970 by Hope Publishing Company

Musical Relicks of the Welsh Bards, *Dublin, 1784*

Harm. L. O. Emerson, 1906



Please Join Us for

Women's Advent

Botanicals of Christmas

December 7, 6:30–8:30 pm

Join us as we welcome the Advent season with a program of readings, music, dessert, and fellowship.

All who identify as women are welcome.

BLESSING BOX FOOD DRIVE
Sunday, December 1

Thank you for your continuing support of the Blessing Box ministry!

Winter-weather needs include:

- Granola Bars
- Instant Oatmeal or Cocoa Packets
- Instant Potatoes or Rice Mixes
- Pouch Tuna
- Ramen Noodle Packs
- Toilet Paper

Please place donations on the cart at the front of the Sanctuary on **December 6** or on the blue table inside the Mayflower entrance at any time.

To make a monetary donation, please send a check with "Blessing Box" on the memo line, or donate via the church website at www.unionucc.com/giving.



JOIN US FOR

PANCAKES WITH SANTA!!



DECEMBER 6

11:15 AM TO 12:30 PM

UNION CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

CHURCH HALL

ON THE MARK DYSLEXIA CLINIC WOULD LIKE TO THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUOUS SUPPORT. COME AND ENJOY BREAKFAST AND A VISIT WITH SANTA!

RVSP TO EMILY IS APPRECIATED BUT NOT REQUIRED

CLIPBOARD IN CHURCH HALL

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