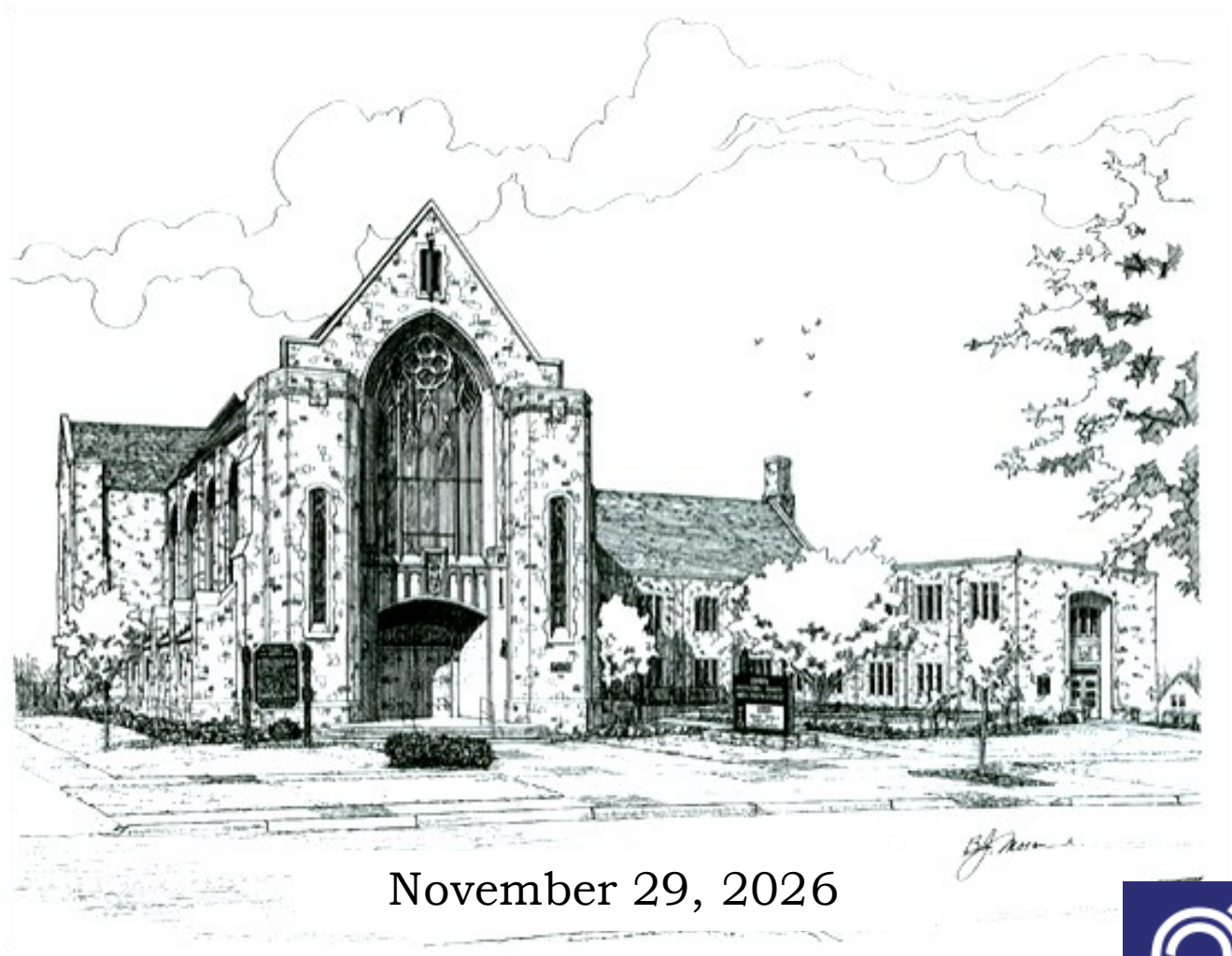
Union Congregational United Church of Christ

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 29, 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!

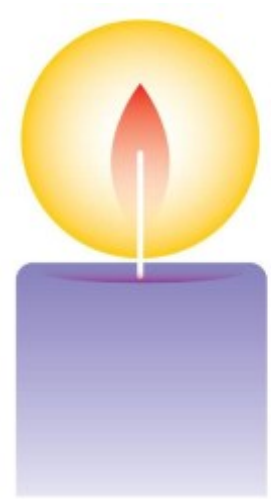
- Today's service is being live streamed via Facebook and YouTube.
- During the Children's Moments, the live stream will display a graphic, in order to protect our children's privacy.
- Please see an usher if you would like a children's activity packet or if you need help finding the nursery.
- Visitors 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

10:00 a.m.

FIRST SUNDAY OF Advent

November 29, 2026

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

(*) invites all who are able to stand

PRELUDE

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)

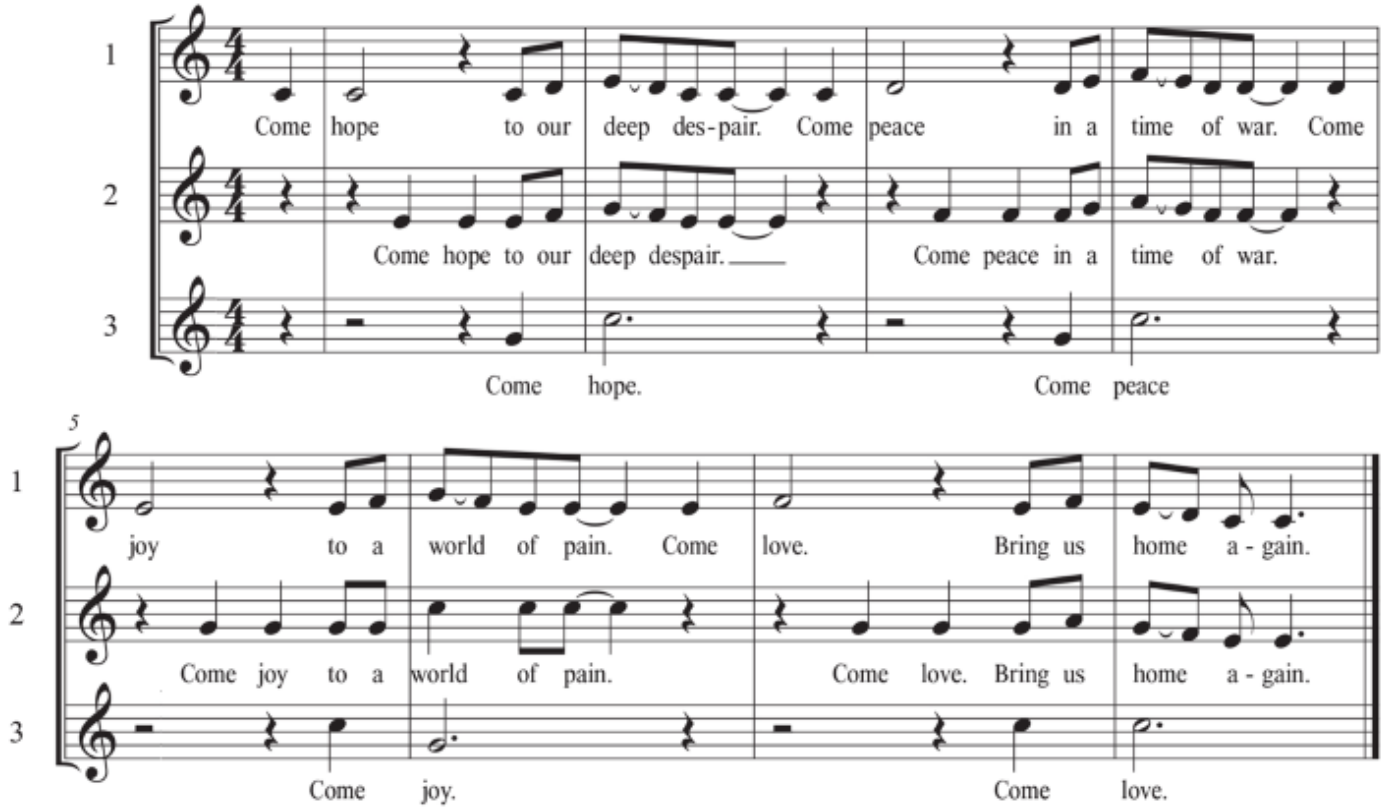
Giving our all as we have been given all...

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.

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION: (in unison)

God of hope, we gather together in this space, hoping to encounter you. As we enter this season, we acknowledge all we bring with us: expectation and longing, as well as fear, worry, and even exhaustion. We listen to your call to be on guard, to be alert, to watch and wait. May the thrill of hope far surpass our worry or fear. Cosmic God, you reveal yourself to us in signs, seasons, and surprises. As we witness the cycles of nature, awaken us to signs of your presence among us in acts of courage, compassion, and generosity. Grace us with your presence in the holy darkness. Teach us to be vigilant and patient as we await the coming of Christ, our salvation. Amen.

*ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING: *"Come Hope"* Amanda Udis-Kessler



One: In the midst of busyness, bustling, and buzzing, we pause to breathe and release our burdens. We surround ourselves with candles, lights, greenery, and beauty. May these sights and sounds remind us that we are people of faith, guided by the light of the world.

All: What can we do? Where is our hope?

One: Be alert. Pay attention. There are whispers of hope all around you.

All: As we prepare for Emmanuel, God With Us, we remember salvation doesn't happen when all is right in the world.

One: The Messiah draws near now, breaking into the present through moments of compassion and flourishing.

All: In this season of holy waiting and holy longing, we light the candle of hope.

One: Amidst the powers that harm and diminish, we prepare the way for the coming of Christ.

All: May the hope of God-with-us thrill and inspire.

All Sing Refrain Again

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION: (in unison)

O God For Whom We Yearn, we confess the love for power and control that separates us from one another and from you. We confess the times we cling tightly to wealth because we fear vulnerability, the times we insist on our own way out of fear, the times we follow our own paths instead of your faithful leading.

Forgive us through your endless grace and guide us into your ways of truth. Lead us by the mercy of Jesus, who is our way and our life. Amen.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON: (responsive)

One: From the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven, so great is God's mercy for us. You are forgiven, and you are held by a love that will never pass away. Receive this good news in the name of Christ.

All: As you, O God, draw near to us in the birth of Christ, may we trust your healing love and draw nearer to you. Amen.

*PASSING THE PEACE OF JESUS CHRIST

*HYMN NO. 103: *"Watcher, Tell Us of the Night"* ABERYSTWYTH
(see page 5) The New Century Hymnal

PROCLAIMING GOD'S GOOD NEWS

SCRIPTURE READING: Isaiah 40:1-11 p. 667

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: *"Thou Who Wast Rich"* Molly Ijames

HOLY GOSPEL: Mark 13:24-37 p. 50

THE SERMON: Rev. Bridget Flad Daniels

RESPONDING IN FAITH

HYMN: *"Though the Mountains May Fall"* Dan Schuette
(see page 6)

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.

THE OFFERING

Offertory

*Praise Response: *"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"* VENI EMMANUEL

O come, O Wis-dom from on high, and or-der all things far and nigh;
Make en-vy, strife, and quar-rels cease; fill the whole world with heav-en's peace.

Re-joice! Re-joice! Em-man-u-el shall come to you, O Is-ra-el!

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (in unison)

We lift up our hearts in gratitude to you, O God, for all the many ways you offer grace each day. In this Season of Advent, as we wait for the Messiah, we offer not only these gifts but our very beings as well. May all that we offer work to bring about healing, justice, belonging, and the thrill of hope in this weary world. Through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel, we pray. Amen.

SENT INTO ALL THE WORLD

*HYMN: *"Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning"* KEEP YOUR LAMPS
(see page 7)

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

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

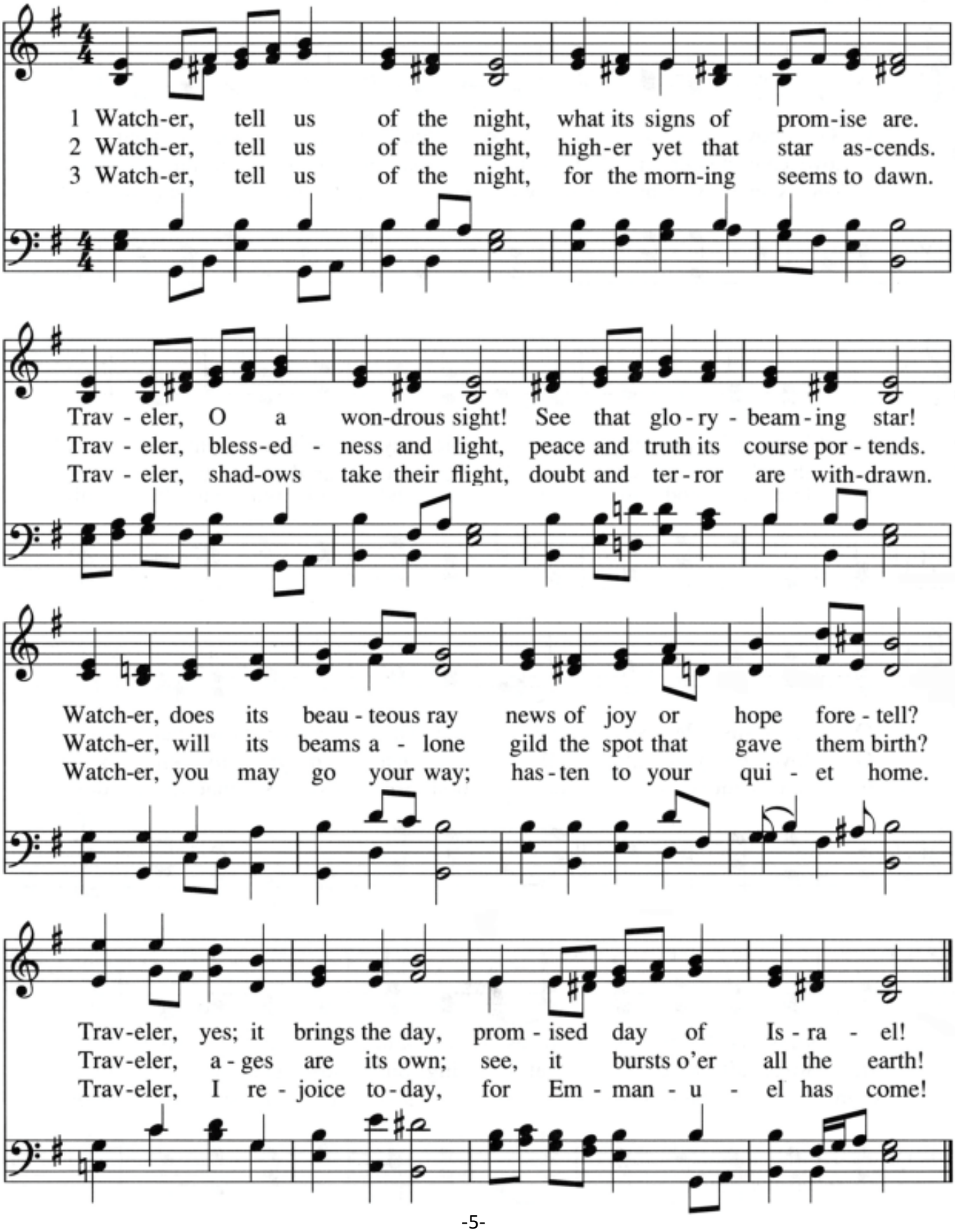
Our written prayers today are adapted from "A Thrill of Hope" by Illustrated Ministry.

103 Watcher, Tell Us of the Night

Tune: ABERYSTWYTH 7.7.7.7.D.
Joseph Parry, 1879

Isa. 21:11–12 *Alternate tune: ST. GEORGE'S WINDSOR*

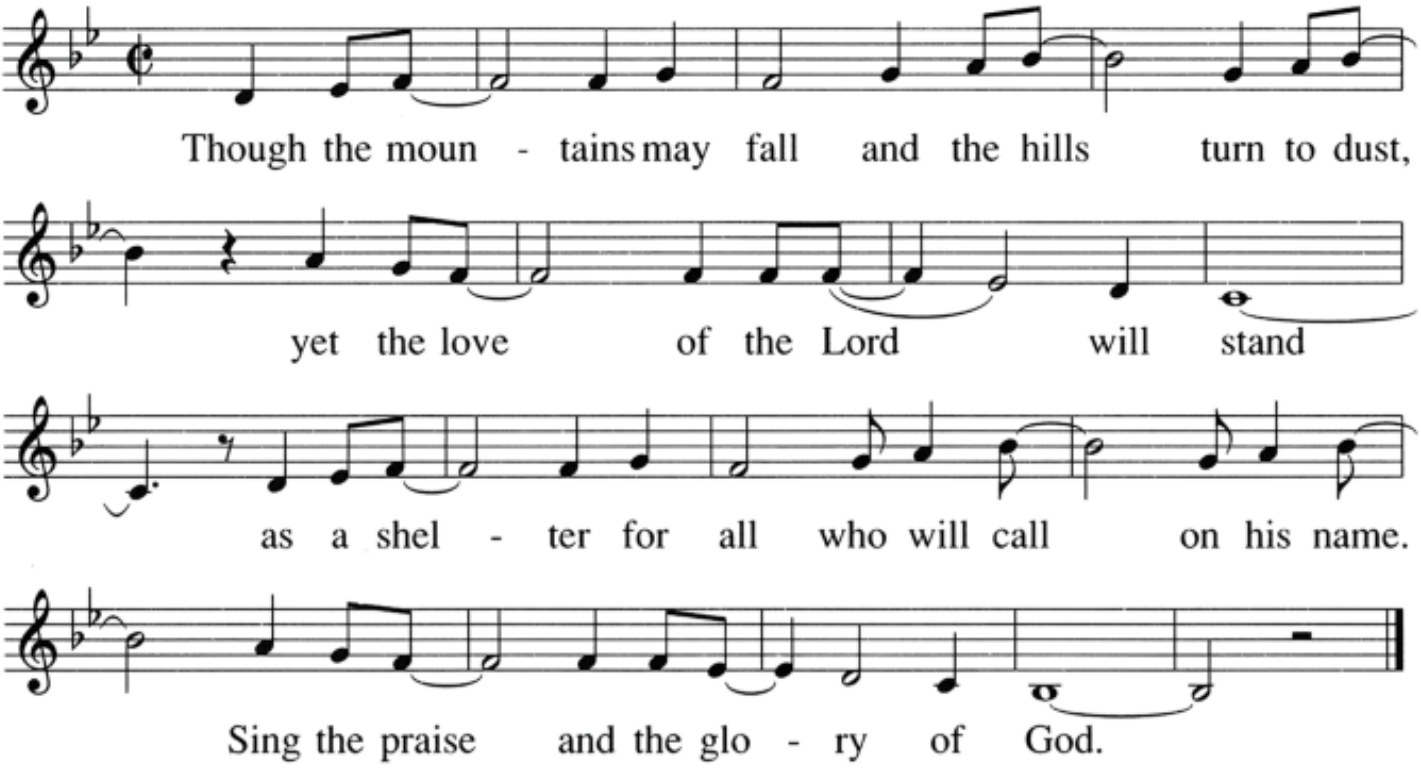
John Bowring, 1825; alt.



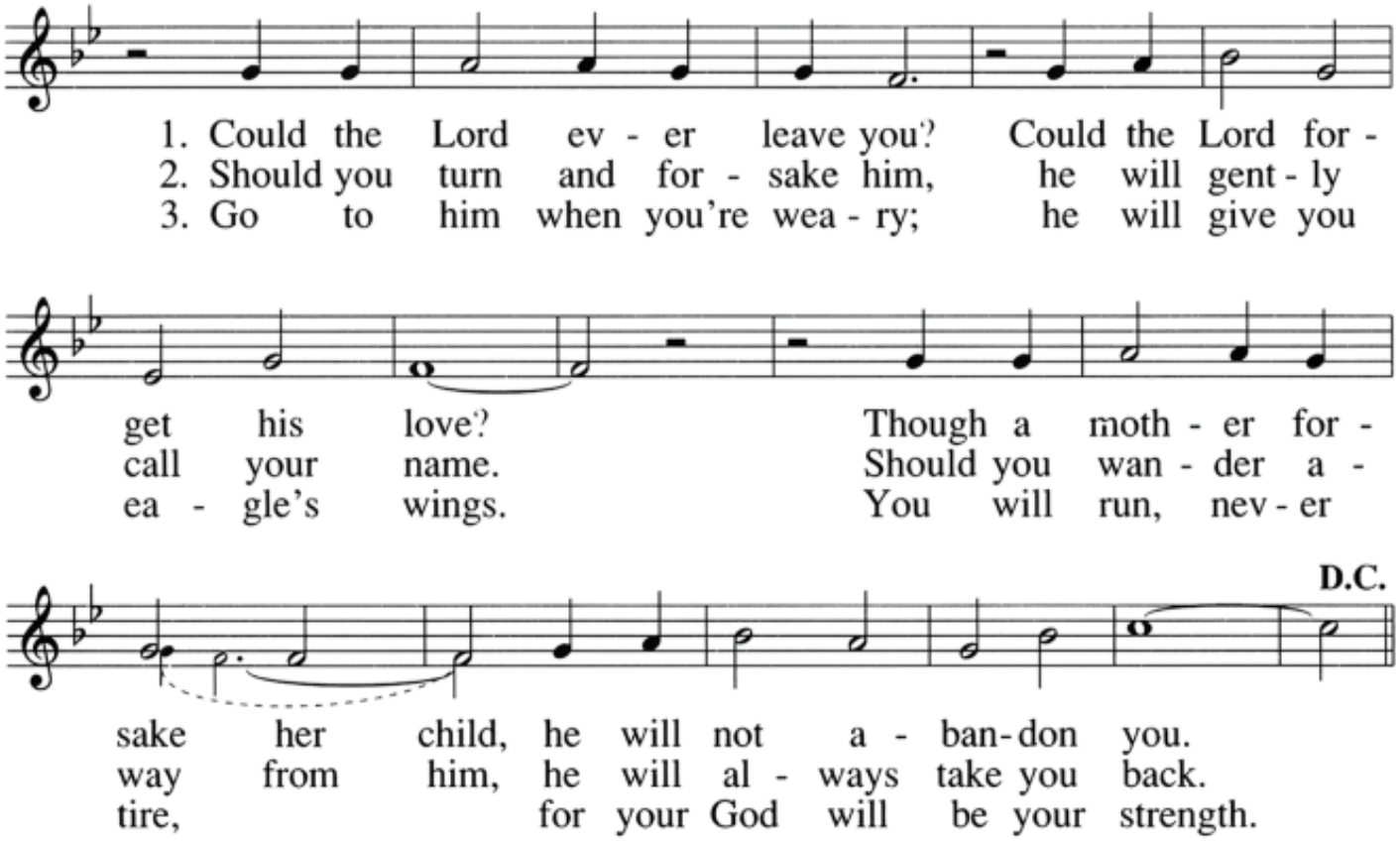
Though the Mountains May Fall

Text: Isaiah 54:6-10, 49:15, 40:31-32; Dan Schutte
Tune: Dan Schutte, b.1947; acc. by Michael Pope, SJ
© 1975, Daniel L. Schutte and New Dawn Music

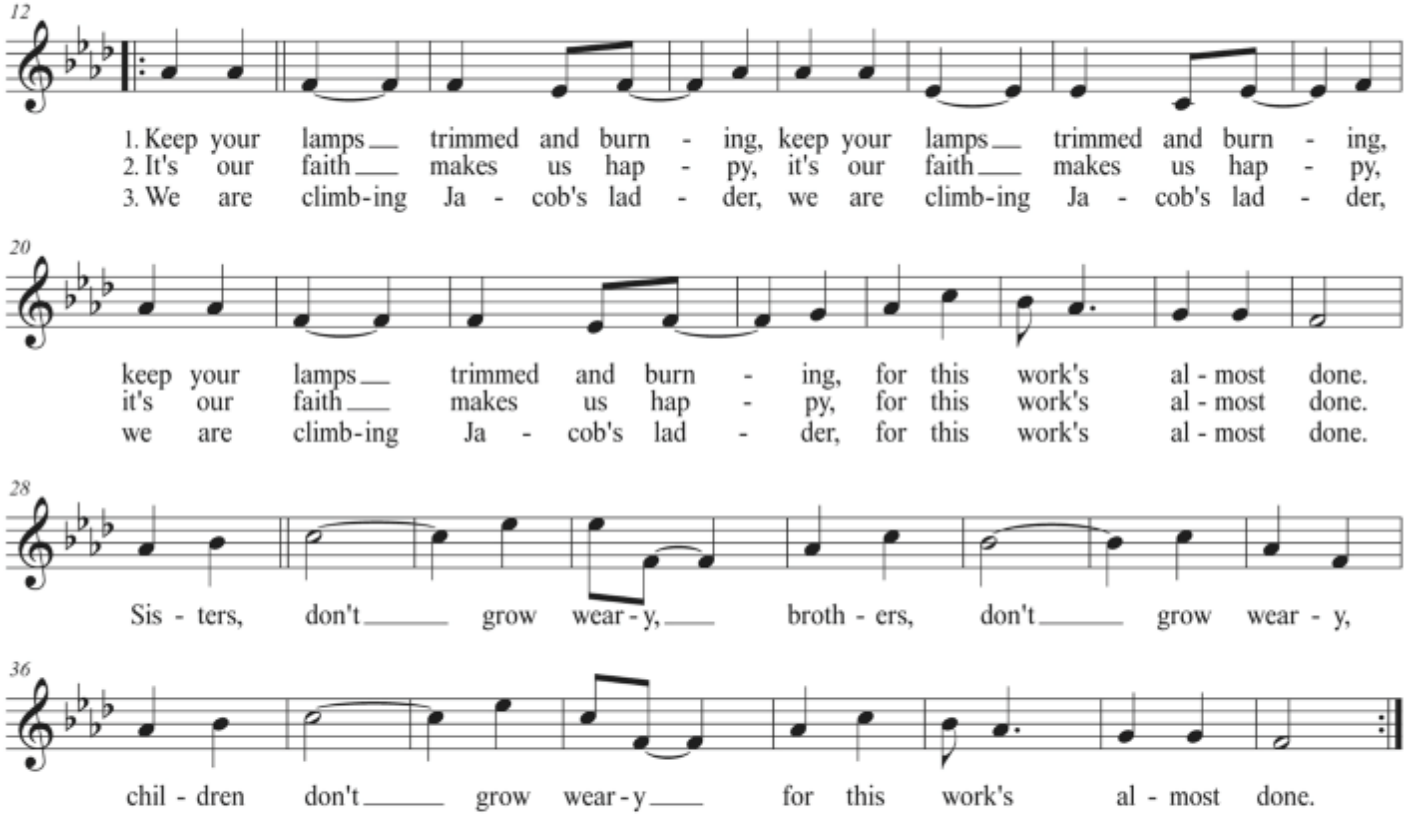
Refrain



Verses



Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning



This spiritual is possibly one of the code songs in which to keep one's lamp "trimmed and burning" could have meant keeping a lookout for a conductor of the underground railroad, such as Harriet Tubman. It is often sung at church dedication services.

African-American Spiritual
Tune: KEEP YOUR LAMPS 7.7.7.6.6.6.6.6.

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

Christmas Eve

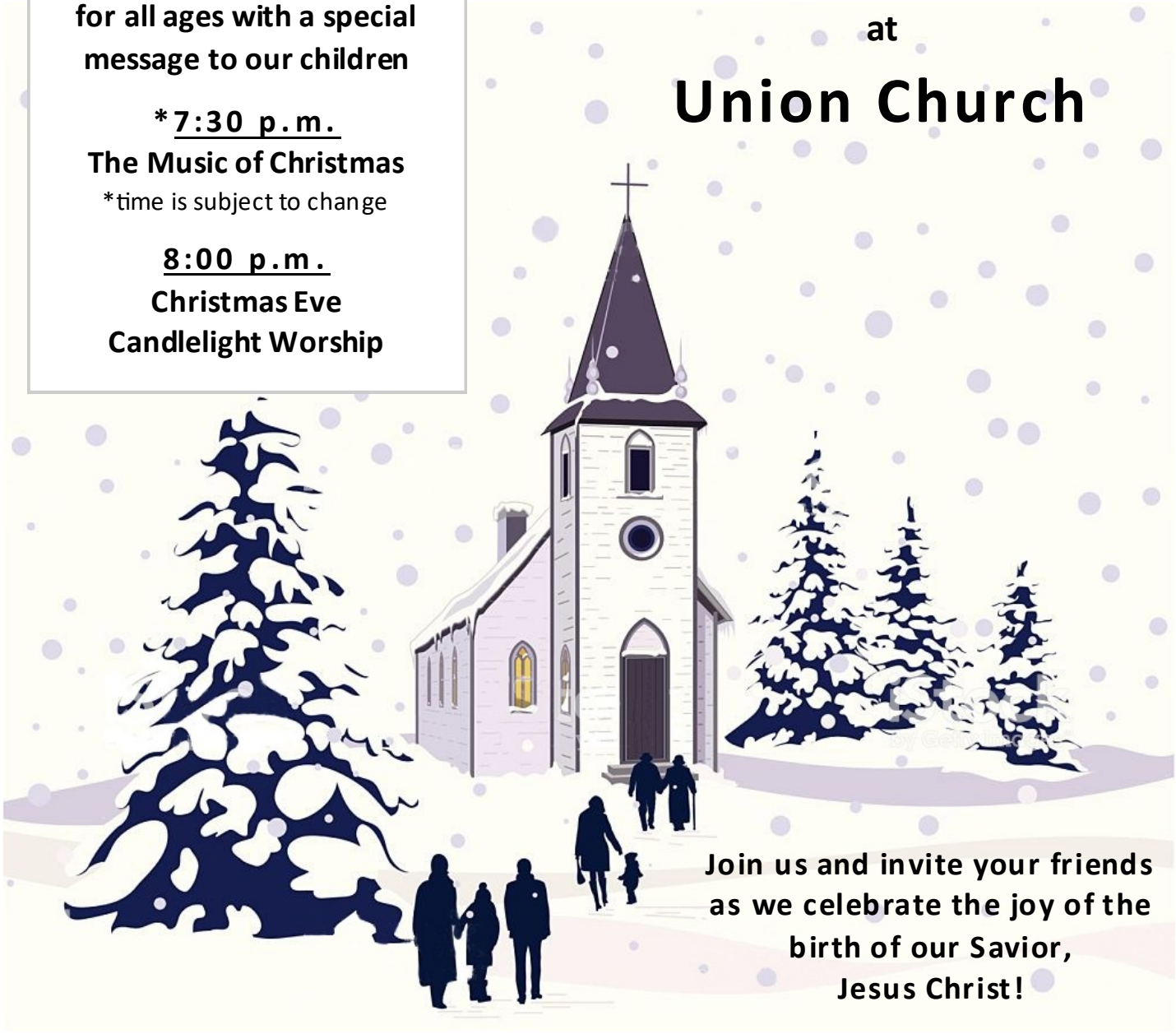
at

Union Church

3:00 p.m.
Christmas Eve Worship for all ages with a special message to our children

***7:30 p.m.**
The Music of Christmas
*time is subject to change

8:00 p.m.
Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship



Join us and invite your friends as we celebrate the joy of the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ!

Our Tree Lot is Open!

Our tree lot is open for business today and will be open every Friday, Saturday and Sunday until December 20 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.

Ward Bacon Ukraine Relief Update

Several years ago, Union's Gifts and Memorials Ministry contributed to Union member Ward Bacon's humanitarian efforts in Ukraine and Poland. Here's an update from him from the fall of 2026:

This fall we have raised $11,120. So far we have spent $9,864 on:

- 36 heaters
- 2 power stations
- 2 washing machines
- 2 generators
- 1 gas water pump
- 5 power banks
- 5 fire extinguishers
- 5 fire blankets
- Medical supplies ($352)
- Plus fuel costs to transport these items.

The items are currently in Warsaw and are scheduled to arrive in the Kharkiv region on November 28. They will then start distribution.

We still have $1,256 to spend, and more may come in. $20 gives a family a fire blanket, $40 gives a family a fire extinguisher, and $92 gives a family a diesel heater. I will do one more shipment for this winter in December. If you want to contribute, you can venmo @Ward-Bacon, make a deposit at any Capital Credit Union to Ward Bacon's BFF savings account, or mail a tax deductible check to:

The Bacon Family Foundation
2068 Norfield Road
Suamico WI 54173

Thank you all for your help!

BLESSING BOX FOOD DRIVE
Sunday, December 1

Thank you for your continuing support!

Winter-weather needs include:

- Granola Bars
- Pouch Tuna
- Instant Oatmeal or Cocoa Packets
- Instant Potatoes or Rice Mixes
- 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.



Christmas Altar



All are invited to join in contributing toward the poinsettias and other accouterments we will be purchasing to prepare our altar and sanctuary for the Christmas season. The average cost of the poinsettias is $25; any size gift is greatly appreciated. If you wish to contribute, please fill out this form and return it to the church office **by Monday, December 14.**

Poinsettia Contribution

I/we would like to contribute for the Christmas altar.

Name(s) _____ Amount Enclosed $ _____

Dedication for the Bulletin

_____

_____

_____

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

We have an opportunity to make and serve the evening meal at the NEW Shelter on Mather Street on **Christmas Eve, December 24**. As you're making your Christmas Eve plans, consider sharing an hour to make others' holiday brighter.

Souper Cooks volunteers prepare a meal (**1:00 p.m.**) and/or serve it (**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 **cook, serve, or do both**. No special training is needed.

To volunteer, contact Marty Berry mjpberry@sbcglobal.net
or Achim Seifert seif409@sbcglobal.net.