

Gloria (*Unison*)

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Words of Welcome; Our Ministry and Mission

Solo “Hear My Prayer, O Lord,” from *Ten Biblical Songs* Antonín Dvorák

Children’s Moment

Hymn 343 (p. 6) *In Heavenly Love Abiding* Nyland

Scripture Lessons

Joshua 5:9-12. [...] The Lord said to Joshua, “Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt.” And so that place is called Gilgal to this day.

¹⁰While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal they kept the passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. ¹¹On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain.

¹²The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32. Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus]. ²And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.” ³So he told them this parable: [...]

^{11b}“There was a man who had two sons. ¹²The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.’ So he divided his property between them. ¹³A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. ¹⁴When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. ¹⁶He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷But when he came to himself he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! ¹⁸I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; ¹⁹I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.”’ ²⁰So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. ²¹Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ ²²But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; ²⁴for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate.

²⁵“Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. ²⁷He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.’ ²⁸Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. ²⁹But he answered his father, ‘Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’ ³¹Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³²But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.’”

Sermon “You Can’t Go Home Again. Really?” Stephen R. Silver

Hymn 83 (p. 7) *If Thou But Suffer God to Guide Thee* Neumark

Sharing of Joys and Concerns; Pastoral Prayer

As we hold community members in prayer, please exercise care and discretion when sharing. Help keep our prayer list current by contacting Rev. Silver or the church office to add or remove names.

We offer our ongoing prayers for Pete, Marcia, Arlene, Evelyn, Greg, Jan, Edith, Eileen, Waneta, Terry, Juanita, Dan, Travis, Garrett, Sue, Rick, Edward, Priscilla, Ron, Lauren, Brian, Micah, Al, Steve, Denzil, Jacobe, Reg, Chris, Pam, Ellen, Tricia, Deserai, Jon, Elizabeth, Dominic, Alicia, Terri, and Mike.

O God, who is like a parent welcoming us home with open arms even though we have sinned, forgive us. Forgive us, we pray—for losing our way, for choosing hate over relationships, for indulging our petty grudges, for succumbing to destructive temptation, for turning our backs on you and your ways, forgive us. We ask your forgiveness and recognize your grace, your love, your power, doing so with joy and gladness that you, our God, have chosen us to be your people.

We offer these prayers, with all the joys and concerns we hold in our hearts, in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Lord’s Prayer (*Unison*)

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.

Offering of Gifts

Remembering those who are without, who are in need, who are often ignored, we invite your support of our ongoing ministry in and for the community.

Offertory

God So Loved the World

John Stainer

Doxology (*Unison*)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,
Praise God, all creatures here below,
Praise God above, ye heavenly host,
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Prayer of Dedication (*Unison*)

Lord, we offer these gifts to you this day with the open heart and hopeful spirit of the father who rejoiced at the return of his wayward son. Let us, like him, look to the future, and enable us to envision all that can be done when we trust in you. Amen.

Hymn 509 (p. 8)

All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly

Holy Manna

Benediction

Postlude

Fugue in C Minor, BWV 847

Johann Sebastian Bach

* * *

Leading Worship This Week

The Rev. Stephen R. Silver, Pastor

Ernie Drown, Organ/Piano • The FCC Choir • Laurel Stavis, Alto • Betsy Bowse, Liturgist
Linda Gerlach and Ann Gartner, Ushers • Bob Gerlach, Zoom Greeter

* † * HOLY WEEK IS APRIL 13-20 * † *

It's Time for the Lenten Lunch Bag Offering

Lent once again brings the **Children's Community Corner** Lunch Bag Offering! We ask for your participation in this annual collection of savings from a regular sacrifice during Lent. The total collection on Palm Sunday (April 13) will be split between **WISE of the Upper Valley** and **Epilogos Charities**. (*Decorated paper bags will be available, but not required to participate.*)

The Children's Community Corner thanks you for supporting this stewardship project!

Be the Light: One Great Hour of Sharing UCC Mission Offering

This annual, nationwide UCC offering funds mission initiatives around the world. It supports healthcare, education, agriculture, refugee assistance, and disaster relief in over 130 countries. OGHS funds are leveraged with local, national, and global partners to maximize their impact.

Please consider a contribution as you are able, and thank you for SHARING!

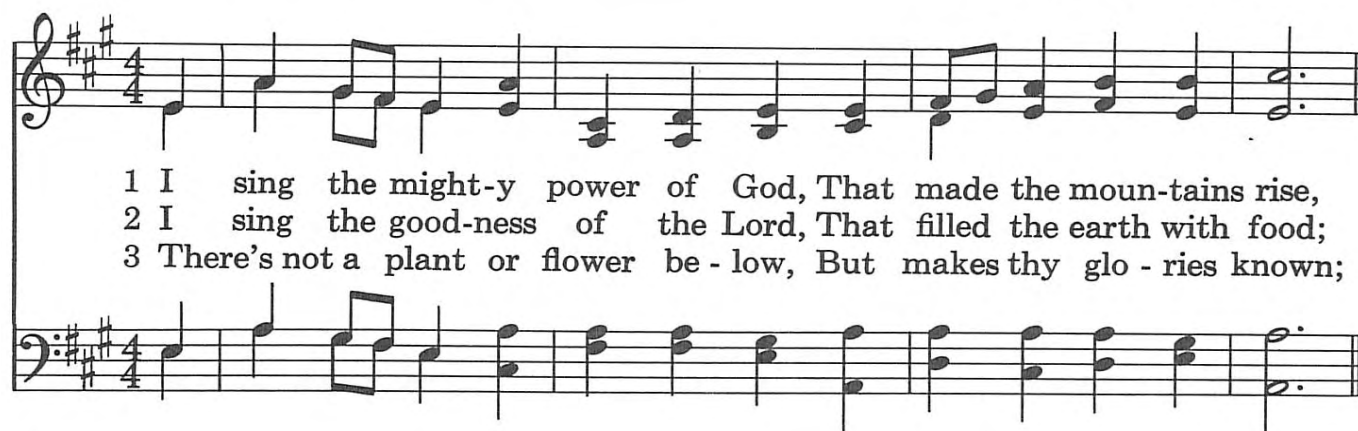
(Payable to FCC, with "OGHS" in the memo line. Contributions gratefully accepted until Easter.)

I Sing the Mighty Power of God

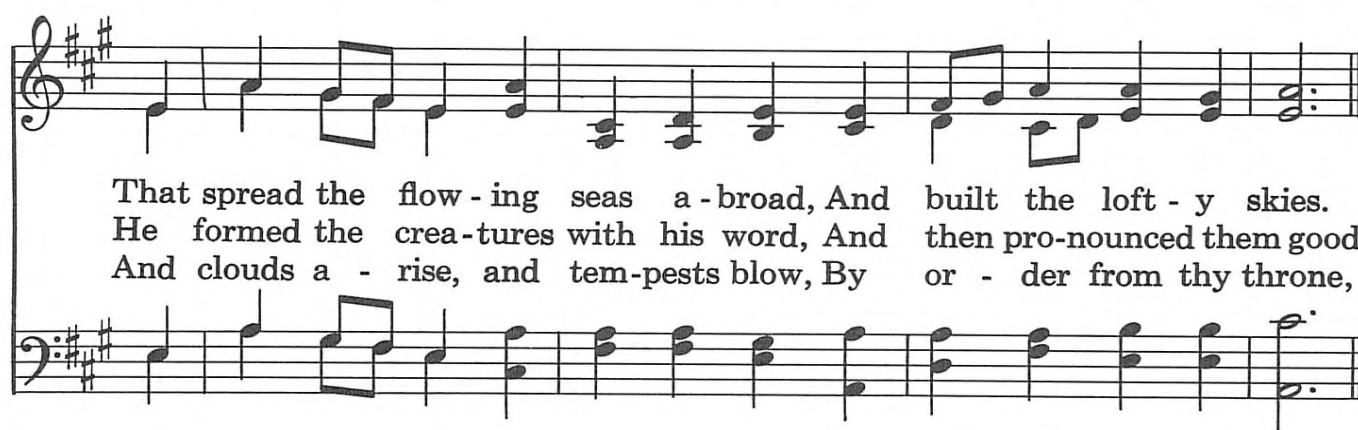
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Isaac Watts, 1674-1748, *all.*

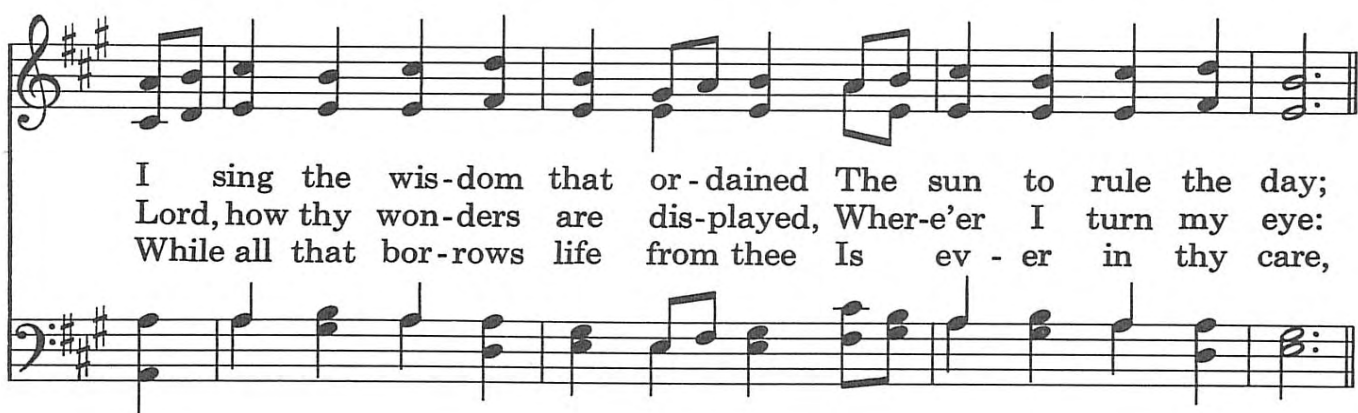
ELLACOMBE C.M.D.
"Gesangbuch," Wirtemberg, 1784



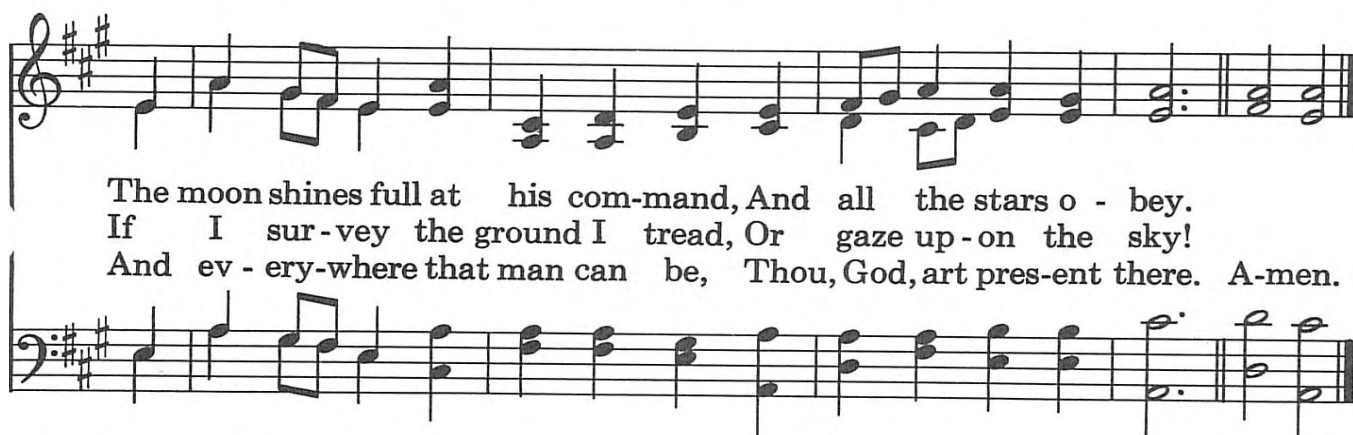
1 I sing the might-y power of God, That made the moun-tains rise,
2 I sing the good-ness of the Lord, That filled the earth with food;
3 There's not a plant or flower be - low, But makes thy glo - ries known;



That spread the flow - ing seas a - broad, And built the loft - y skies.
He formed the crea-tures with his word, And then pro-nounced them good.
And clouds a - rise, and tem-pests blow, By or - der from thy throne,



I sing the wis-dom that or-dained The sun to rule the day;
Lord, how thy won-ders are dis-played, Wher-e'er I turn my eye:
While all that bor-rows life from thee Is ev - er in thy care,



The moon shines full at his com-mand, And all the stars o - bey.
If I sur-vey the ground I tread, Or gaze up-on the sky!
And ev - ery-where that man can be, Thou, God, art pres-ent there. A-men.

In Heavenly Love Abiding

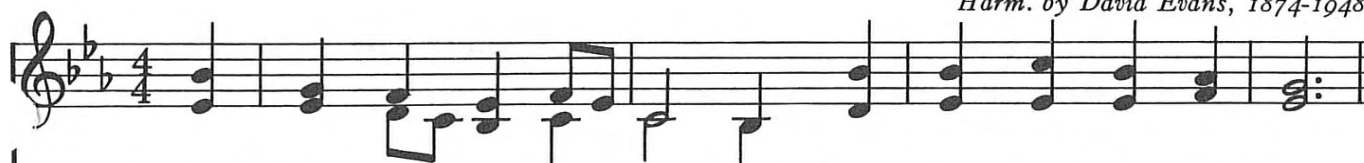
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Anna L. Waring 1823-1910

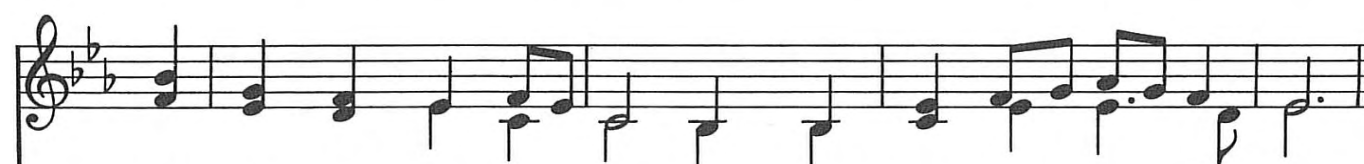
NYLAND 7.6.7.6.D.

Traditional Finnish Melody

Harm. by David Evans, 1874-1948



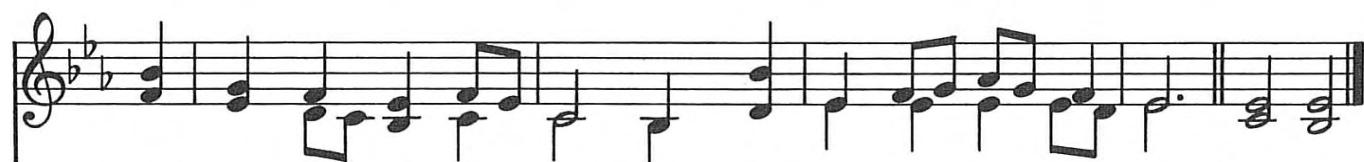
1 In heaven-ly love a - bid - ing, No change my heart shall fear,
2 Wher - ev - er he may guide me, No want shall turn me back;
3 Green pas - tures are be - fore me, Which yet I have not seen;



And safe is such con - fid - ing, For noth - ing chang-es here.
My shep-herd is be - side me, And noth - ing can I lack.
Bright skies will soon be o'er me, Where the dark clouds have been.



The storm may roar with - out me, My heart may low be laid,
His wis - dom ev - er wak - eth; His sight is nev - er dim;
My hope I can - not meas - ure; The path to life is free;



But God is round a - bout me, And can I be dis-mayed?
He knows the way he tak - eth, And I will walk with him.
My Sav - ior has my treas - ure, And he will walk with me. A-men.



If Thou but Suffer God to Guide Thee

Georg Neumark, 1621-1681
Tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878

NEUMARK 9.8.9.8.8.8.
Melody by Georg Neumark, 1621-1681

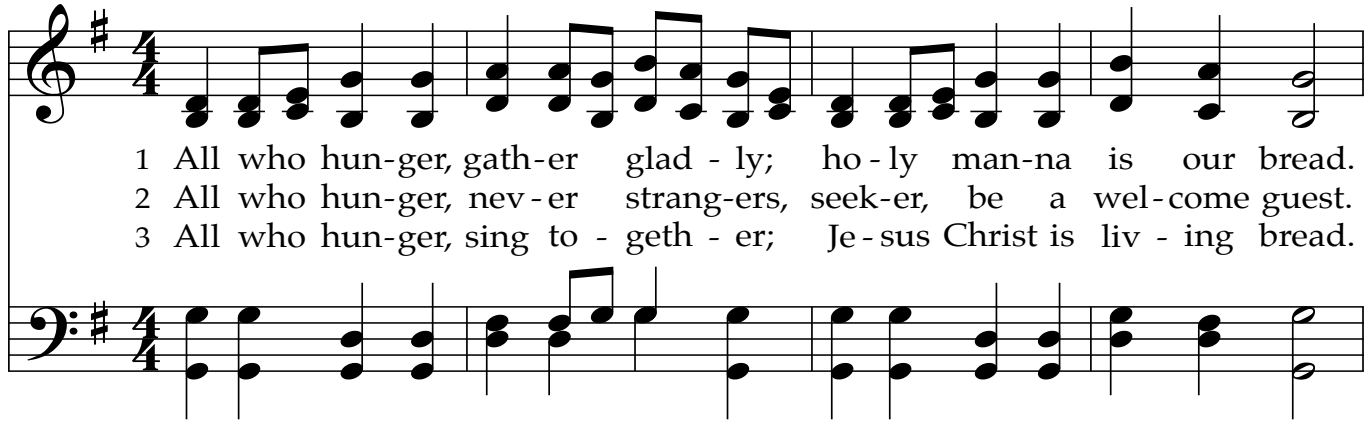
1 If thou but suf - fer God to guide thee, And hope in
2 On - ly be still, and wait his lei - sure In cheer - ful
3 Sing, pray, and keep his ways un - swerv - ing; So do thine

him through all thy ways, He'll give thee strength, what-e'er be - tide thee,
hope, with heart con - tent To take what-e'er thy Fa - ther's pleas - ure
own part faith - ful - ly, And trust his word, though un - de - serv - ing;

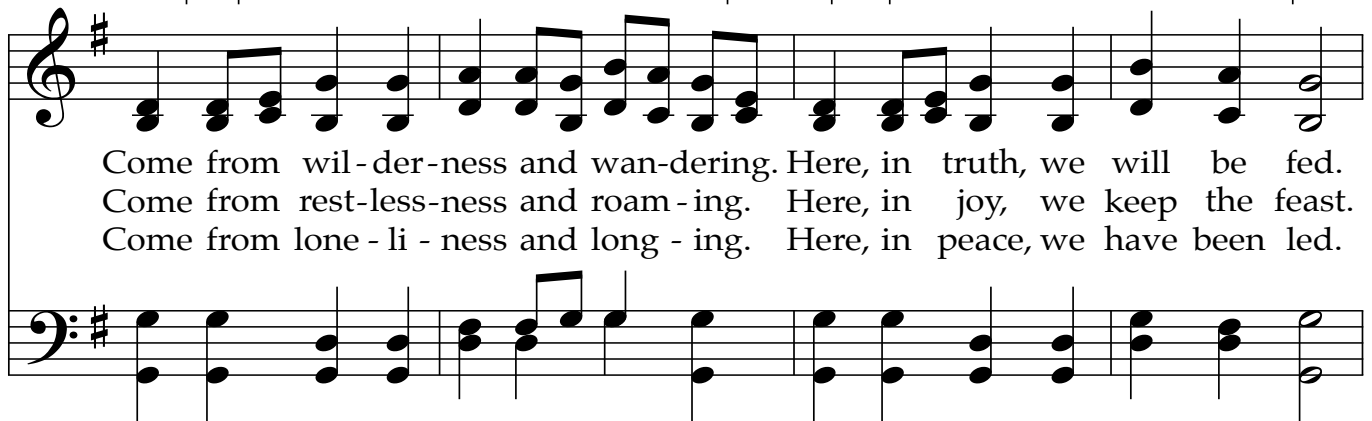
And bear thee through the e - vil days; Who trusts in God's un -
And all - de - serv - ing love have sent; Nor doubt our in - most
Thou yet shalt find it true for thee; God nev - er yet for -

chang - ing love Builds on the rock that nought can move.
wants are known To him who chose us for his own.
sook at need The soul that trust - ed him in - deed. A - men.

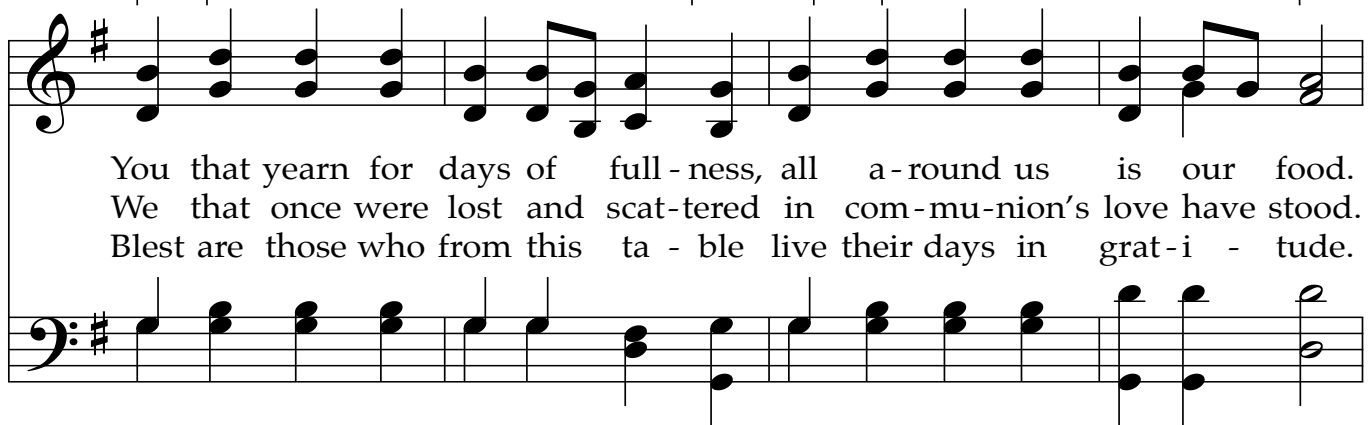
All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly 509



1 All who hun-ger, gath-er glad - ly; ho - ly man-na is our bread.
2 All who hun-ger, nev-er strang-ers, seek-er, be a wel-come guest.
3 All who hun-ger, sing to - geth - er; Je - sus Christ is liv - ing bread.



Come from wil-der-ness and wan-dering. Here, in truth, we will be fed.
Come from rest-less-ness and roam-ing. Here, in joy, we keep the feast.
Come from lone - li - ness and long - ing. Here, in peace, we have been led.



You that yearn for days of full - ness, all a - round us is our food.
We that once were lost and scat-tered in com-mu-nion's love have stood.
Blest are those who from this ta - ble live their days in grat-i - tude.



Taste and see the grace e - ter - nal. Taste and see that God is good.

The United Church of Canada minister who wrote this text was introduced to shape note tunes at the 1990 Hymn Society conference in Charleston, South Carolina. Afterwards she vacationed with friends nearby and worked out this text while humming this tune as she walked up and down the beach.



The Anonymous Coffeehouse—Fridays, Mar. 28, Apr. 11 and 25, and May 9, all 7:30 pm

Our comfy community venue for live folk music continues its fifth season! Come and go as you please; food and drink available. *Free admission. For performers and more, visit anoncoffee.org.*

Classicopia: Blowin' in the Winds—Friday, April 4, at 7:30 pm

In an uncommon but expressive combination, pianist Dan Weiser joins oboist Margaret Herlehy and bassoonist Janet Polk for a selection of trios. Dan will also remember his Classicopia co-founder Marcia Colligan (1931-2025). *Adults \$20, FCC members \$15, children free; more at classicopia.org.*

The Apple Hill String Quartet—Saturday, April 5, at 4:00 pm

The Apple Hill Center for Chamber Music in Nelson, NH, is one of our state's musical treasures. Its renowned resident quartet offers eclectic programs, ranging from canonical works to new compositions and globally inspired pieces. *Adults \$25, under-18 free; more at uvmusic.org.*

Franz Joseph Haydn: The Seven Last Words of Christ—Palm Sunday, April 13, at 4:00 pm

FCC welcomes a performance that has been a Holy Week tradition across Vermont for over three decades. Four singers (Martha Peck, Cara Hill, Brian Clancy, Jose Schmidt) join a string quartet (Susan Janes, Jane Tulloh, Jody Racht, Melissa Perley) for Haydn's bracingly dramatic, sublimely poignant portrayal of Christ's final hours on the cross. *Freewill donation to benefit the Open Door Ministry.*

Upper Valley Music Center CelloFest—Saturday, April 26, at 6:00 pm

Upper Valley Music Center is excited to welcome Sara Bennett Wolfe's advanced Cello Choir from Connecticut for a collaborative concert with Ben Kulp and other UVMC faculty and students. The program ranges from J. S. Bach to Nirvana and Neil Diamond. *Free admission; more at uvmusic.org.*

Young Traditions Vermont Touring Group—Sunday, April 27, at 2:00 pm

UVMC hosts this ensemble of talented teenage musicians and singers for a concert and jam session on their New England tour. A program of Vermont Folklife, the group nurtures youth involvement in traditional music and dance. *Suggested \$10-20 donation, under-18 free; more at uvmusic.org.*

Do Your Part to Fill the Cart!

Currently, we are collecting non-perishable food and personal-care items on behalf of:

THE UPPER VALLEY HAVEN

For a list of current and ongoing needs, please visit uppervalleyhaven.org/current-wish-lists/ or see the list that is attached to the shopping cart itself.

Direct financial contributions to any Upper Valley service organization are always needed and much appreciated. Thanks for fighting local poverty and hunger!



First Congregational Church of Lebanon

PO Box 230

10 South Park St

Lebanon NH 03766

Weekly Worship Resources Enclosed!

DATED MATERIAL—Please Deliver Promptly

Do you use email? Contact church@fcclieb.org to receive this and other communication by email.

Welcome!

We are a Christ-centered community that celebrates the love of God. Although we are of varied minds, with varying measures of belief and unbelief, we are one body, bound together in Christ. We recognize the uniqueness of every individual as God's beloved child. We seek to respond faithfully to God's call for justice for all creation. We strive in word and deed to be faithful to Jesus' model of loving acceptance. We seek to create a sanctuary where all will know they are welcome and included.

No matter your age, gender identity, sexual orientation, marital status, race or ethnicity, physical or mental ability, or economic circumstance, you are invited into the full life and ministry of First Congregational Church of Lebanon, including its worship, sacraments, and rites.

Join us as we grow together in God's love.

First Congregational Church of Lebanon

The Rev. Stephen R. Silver, Pastor

Ernie Drown, Organist and Choir Director • **Brian Clancy**, Church Administrator

Jon Scott, Chair of Church Council • **Linda Gerlach**, Chair of Deacons • **Barbara Jones**, Moderator

Church Office Hours: Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, 9:00-12:00 (or by appointment as needed)

603-448-4281 • church@fcclieb.org • prayer@fcclieb.org • music@fcclieb.org • www.fcclieb.org