

The United Church of Christ, Congregational
Burlington, MA

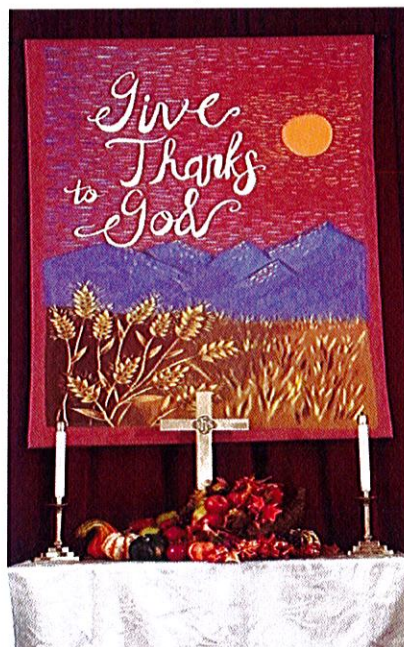
INGATHERING SUNDAY

"We gather for worship, study, planning and mission to celebrate the life, teachings, death and living presence of Jesus Christ which frees us to love boldly and to serve gladly as God would want us to do."

November 19, 2023

10:30 A.M.

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***We believe God calls us to love unconditionally,** following the example of Jesus Christ.*

***Recognizing that all people are equal in the sight of God,** we seek to be an inclusive and respectful community for persons of every color, age, sexual orientation, gender, ability and economic means.*

***In our calling to express the love and welcome of Christ,** we affirm the dignity and worth of every person, and declare ourselves to be an Open and Affirming congregation.*

***We strive to respond to the needs of our town and world** with practical deeds of love.*

***We welcome individuals and families of every configuration** into the full life and ministry of this church, and invite you to join us on our faith journey!*

Coming...

Musical Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

***Introit** Come One! Come All! Transcribed by Brian Gionet, Music by M. Mussorgsky Congregation

**Come One! Come all! To the house of the Lord our God.
Holy Lord, in the highest, Praise Your Name!**

***Please rise in body or spirit.**

Praising & Learning...

***Call to Worship**

One: Holy One, you have been our God from generation to generation. Before the universe exploded and the earth was without form, you have been with us.

All: Creator, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.

One: We enter your presence to worship and praise your holy name.

All: Mighty One, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.

One: Teach us to count the days with joy and appreciation for all your marvelous works and steadfast love.

All: Everlasting God, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.

***Opening Hymn**

Joyful, Joyful We Adore You

NCH #4

***Opening Prayer**

Generous God, you pour your Spirit into us. You bless us with your love. In your presence, there is fullness of joy, comfort for those in despair, and peace in the midst of chaos and confusion. You do not abandon us in time of need or of celebration. We turn toward you now seeking to receive your message, to give you honor, and to commune in your presence. Make yourself known among us, O God, make yourself known to us. Amen.

Sharing of Joys, Sorrows, & Concerns

***Devotional Hymn**

God We Thank You for Our People

NCH#376

Reflecting & Praying...

Scripture Readings

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

5 Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. **2** For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. **3** When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! **4** But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; **5** for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. **6** So, then, let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober, **7** for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. **8** But since we belong to the day, let us be sober and put on the breastplate of faith and love and for a helmet the hope of salvation. **9** For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, **10** who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. **11** Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

Matthew 25:14-30

¹⁴ "For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; ¹⁵ to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. At once ¹⁶ the one who had received the five talents went off and traded with them and made five more talents. ¹⁷ In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. ¹⁸ But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. ¹⁹ After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰ Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' ²¹ His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' ²² And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' ²³ His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' ²⁴ Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow and gathering where you did not scatter, ²⁵ so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' ²⁶ But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow and gather where I did not scatter? ²⁷ Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. ²⁸ So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. ²⁹ For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance, but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. ³⁰ As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

Our Sermon

Risk and Fear

Rev. Andrew Harris

Choir Anthem

"A Simple Thanksgiving"

Pastoral Prayer

*Prayer Response

It's Me O Lord, Standing in the Need of Prayer

Refrain

**It's me, It's me, O Lord,
Standin' in the need of prayer;
It's me, it's me, O Lord,
Standin' in the need of prayer.**

Committing...

Stewardship Invitation

Offertory

***Ingathering of Food** (Bring our Sunday offering and food donations forward)

***Pentecost Season Doxology** Lyrics adapted by William Abernethy; tune *NCH #780*
Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God for all that love has done; Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen.

***Ingathering Blessing**

Going...

***Closing Hymn** Take My Gifts *NCH #562*

***Benediction**

Postlude

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CHURCH VISION STATEMENT Adopted February 2017:

At the UCC Burlington, we cultivate a thriving environment, which empowers us to embody the beloved, diverse community that Jesus modeled for us, proclaiming that ***all are welcome, all are loved.*** We celebrate our colonial roots as we change, adapt and grow into who God is calling us to be. We respect the sanctity of each person's spiritual journey and we are blessed by the gifts that each person brings to the life of the church. We join together in faithful service and advocacy with the ongoing hope that we can make the world a better, more just, and peaceful place for everyone.

Rev. Andrew Harris, Pastor
Brian Gionet, Director of Music Ministries
Deb Raymond, Director of Christian Education
Bobbie Killilea, Administrative Assistant
Uccburlington.org / 781-272-4547

WORSHIP PARTICIPATION

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Sheila Vitali-extra prayers!
Conrad Fong
Nancy Davis' friend Donna
Mark Omobono's parents' neighbor Charlene
Chris Stahlinski's sister Evelyn doing better!
Jessy McNeil and her sister Grace
Elaine Glancy's friend Rita, sister-in-law Irene
Jim Killilea
Tonia Egan's Uncle Jay
Laura Nowell's cousin Nigel
Skip Glancy's sister Dorothy
Joyce Carpenter's nephew's daughter-in-law Bree
brother Bob, and niece Cindy
Brian Gionet's Father
Claire Simas and her daughter Marianne
Christa Brown's husband Elliot
Marilyn Langley's brother Bill
Lee Tirrell
Kelly Sievert
Deb Glancy's friend Pat
Beth Hatcher
Bill Hitchcock
Jan Blandino's grandson Toby
her daughter Brenda and Son-in-law Rick
Rollie Damiani
Barbara Moran
Ginger Mungillo's daughter Cindy Surette and
Ginger's son Jim
Shirley Garside's daughter Lynn Larsen
Jean Bastos
Rev. Elizabeth King
Barbara Garland

So much gun violence!
Mother Earth-Fires-Floods
Our Nation
The fighting in Israel and Gaza
Our First Responders! Caregivers!
Military here and abroad!

"WE'RE DREAMING OF A GREEN CHRISTMAS"

The Green Team will be hosting a "mini" Advent Workshop for children of God of all ages during coffee hour on Sunday, December 3rd. Please join us as we make natural and sustainable Christmas ornaments to decorate our Christmas tree, which will be set up in Sewall Hall, as well as to take home and decorate your own trees.

November 19 Ingathering Sunday! 10:30am

Pastor: Rev. Andrew Harris
Organist: Brian Gionet
Lay Leader: Marcia Rich
Head Usher: Deb Glancy
Usher: Chris Stahlinski
Greeter: Chris Stahlinski
Flowers: Mums
Collector: Everett Langley
Nursery: Chris Stahlinski
Sunday School: Deb Raymond-Donna Ferro
Coffee Hour: Jan Costa
Bakers: Jan Costa

November 26 10:30am

Pastor: Rev. Andrew Harris
Organist: Brian Gionet
Lay Leader:
Head Usher: Dave McNeil
Usher:
Greeter: Chris Stahlinski
Flowers: Lynn and Lee Tirrell
Collector: Marge Zamanian
Nursery:
Sunday School: Deb Raymond
And Sunday School
Coffee Hour: Deb and Sunday School
Bakers: Deb/Sunday School
Chris Stahlinski

UPCOMING EVENTS

| | | |
|---------------|-------------------------|---------|
| Today: | Pastor chat | 9am |
| | Worship | 10:30am |
| | Ingathering of Food | noon |
| | Distribution of Food | 2-5pm |
| Mon Nov. 20 | Interfaith Thanksgiving | |
| | Service | 7pm |
| Wed Nov. 22 | Bible Study | 2pm |
| | Choir (new time) | 7:30pm |
| Thu Nov. 23 | Happy Thanksgiving | |
| | Office Closed | |
| Fri Nov. 24 | Office Closed | |
| Sun Nov. 26 | Pastor chat | 9am |
| | Worship | 10:30am |

CRAFTING FOR A CAUSE

C4C will have hybrid meetings at 1pm on Thursdays. We will meet in the conference room and those from afar can join us on Zoom.

WISH PROJECT

It is fall so we will be collecting only *fall and winter* clothing for the Wish Project. All donated clothing needs to be clean, free of stains and holes. As in the past, Woody Knowles takes the clothing up to the Wish Project in Chelmsford where he is a volunteer. We thank you for your donations and for Woody's help taking and transporting the clothing.

PAJAMA/UNDERWEAR DRIVE

PHP is again having a **pajama and underwear drive** for the children of the clients they serve.

The request cards will be available for distribution later this week. Karen Butler will have the cards later this week and will be available to hand them out at coffee hour, Nov 19. The pajamas etc. are due in **Sunday, Dec 10th**. Please be sure to include the card you get from Karen with your donated item when you turn it in.

There will be a bin outside the office for your donation.

WISH TREE at the BURLINGTON MALL

If you wish to donate your time soliciting donations for the **Wish Tree** in the Mall, please speak to Aline Beck. She is organizing our support for this project.

The Missions committee thanks you for your generous support of the Wish Tree, coat drive and pajama/underwear drive.

SAVE THE DATES!!!

SUNDAY MORNING PASTOR CLASS

Every Sunday Morning 9-10am Conference Room
We will discuss one of the morning's scripture.
Pour yourself a cup of coffee, come and chat.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING

Thankful for our Blessings
November 23
Office Closed

BLACK FRIDAY

November 24
Office Closed

GREEN CHRISTMAS ORNAMENTS

Sunday, December 3 at noon

BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE

Saturday, December 9 AT 2PM
Quiet, Meditative Service

HOLIDAY REVELRY

Sunday, December 10 AT 2PM
Good will offering
Refreshments to follow

PUB THEOLOGY

The third Thursday of the month. Next meeting is **December 21 from 8-9pm at Common Craft Burlington Mall**. Discuss spiritually and theologically relevant topics. Conversations will be deep, sometimes silly, sometimes both! This is a great way to get to know each other!

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Sunday, December 24
4th Sunday of Advent 10:30am


Christmas Eve Family Worship 4pm

Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship 11pm



Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You

Ps. 145:10; Isa. 49:13

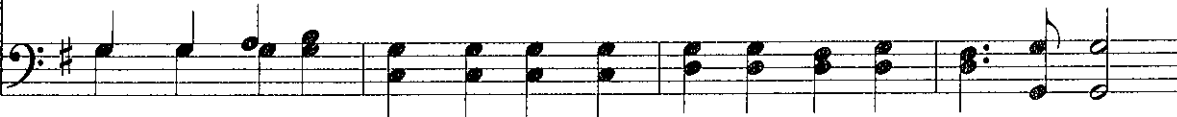

Henry van Dyke, 1907; alt.





1 Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore you, God of glo - ry, God of love;
 2 All your works with joy sur-round you, earth and heaven re - flect your rays,
 3 You are giv - ing and for-giv - ing, ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blessed,
 4 Mor-tals, join the might-y cho - rus which the morn-ing stars be - gan;


Hearts un - fold like flowers be - fore you, open-ing to the sun a - bove.
 Stars and an - gels sing a - round you, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
 Well-spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean depth of hap - py rest!
 Bound-less love is reign - ing o'er us, re - con - cil - ing race and clan.

Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, drive the storms of doubt a - way;
 Field and for - est, vale and moun-tain, flower-y mead-ow, flash-ing sea,
 Lov - ing Spir - it, Fa - ther, Moth - er, all who love be - long to you;
 Ev - er sing - ing, move we for - ward, faith - ful in the midst of strife,

Giv - er of im - mor-tal glad-ness, fill us with the light of day.
 Chant-ing bird and flow-ing foun-tain, teach us what our praise should be.
 Teach us how to love each oth - er, by that love our joy re - new.
 Joy - ful mu - sic leads us on - ward in the tri-umph song of life.

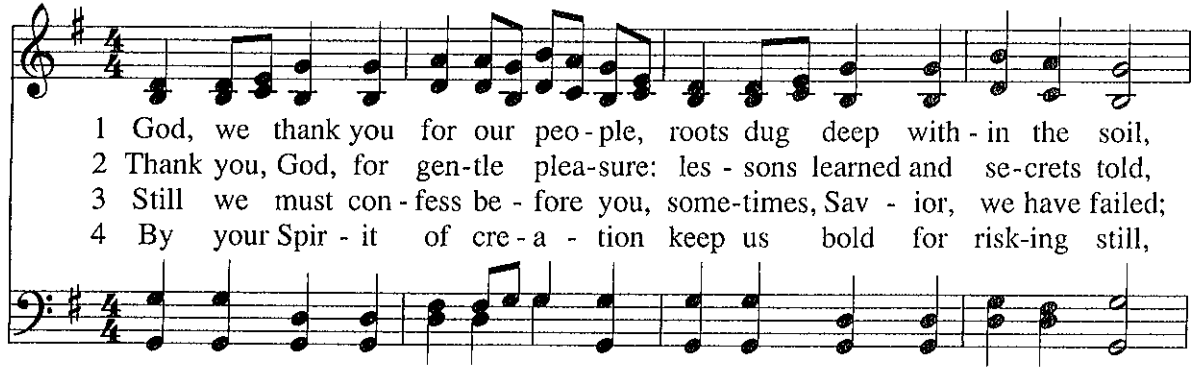


Henry van Dyke was a noted church leader, U.S. ambassador, Navy chaplain, and prolific writer. Many people associate this hymn with Beethoven's ninth symphony, but few are aware of the original poem by the German classicist F. Schiller (1759–1805) that inspired Beethoven.

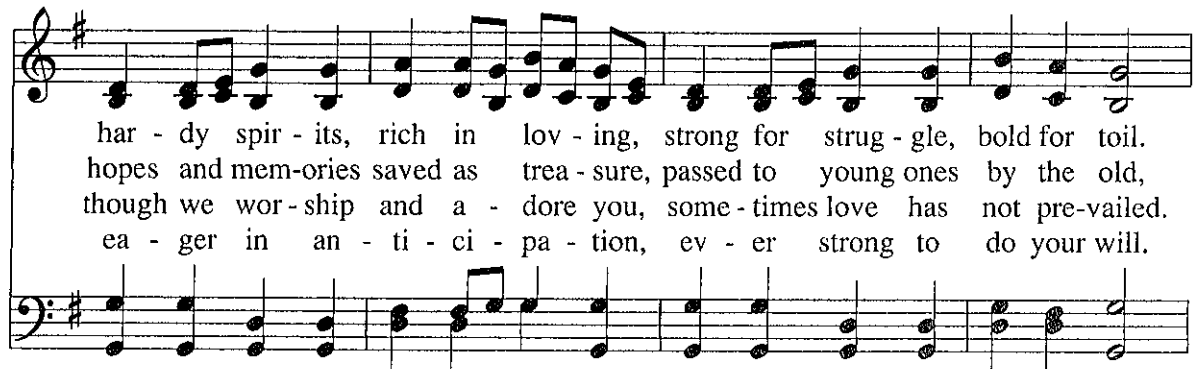
Tune: HYMN TO JOY 8.7.8.7.D.
 Ludwig van Beethoven, 1824
 Adapt. and harm. Edward Hodges, 1846

God, We Thank You for Our People

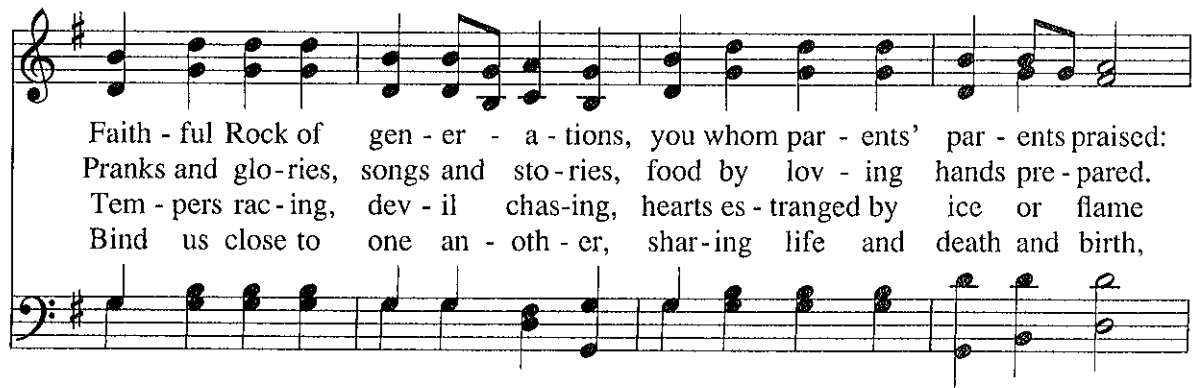
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Ruth Duck, 1986


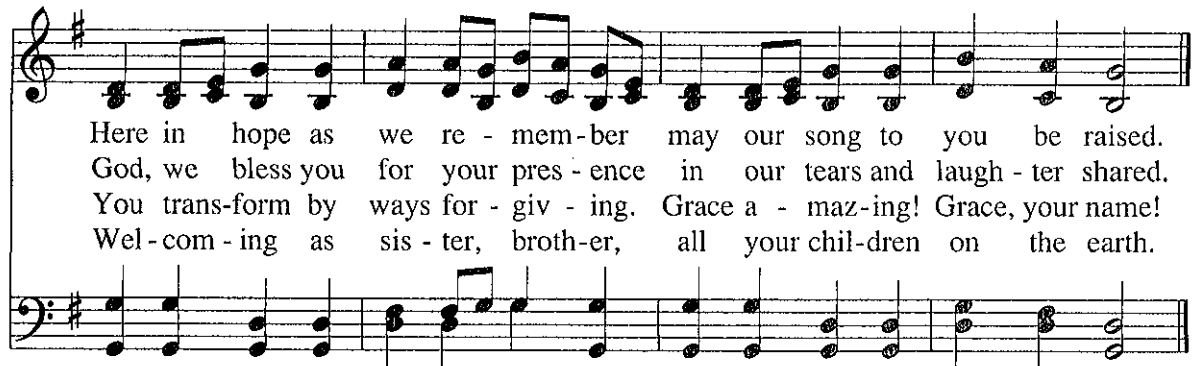
1 God, we thank you for our peo-ple, roots dug deep with - in the soil,
 2 Thank you, God, for gen-tle plea-sure: les - sons learned and se-crets told,
 3 Still we must con-fess be - fore you, some-times, Sav - ior, we have failed;
 4 By your Spir - it of cre-a - tion keep us bold for risk-ing still,



har - dy spir - its, rich in lov - ing, strong for strug - gle, bold for toil.
 hopes and mem-ories saved as trea - sure, passed to young ones by the old,
 though we wor - ship and a - dore you, some-times love has not pre-ailed.
 ea - ger in an - ti - ci - pa - tion, ev - er strong to do your will.



Faith - ful Rock of gen - er - a - tions, you whom par - ents' par - ents praised:
 Pranks and glo-ries, songs and sto-ries, food by lov - ing hands pre - pared.
 Tem - pers rac - ing, dev - il chas - ing, hearts es - tranged by ice or flame
 Bind us close to one an - oth - er, shar - ing life and death and birth,



Here in hope as we re - mem - ber may our song to you be raised.
 God, we bless you for your pres - ence in our tears and laugh - ter shared.
 You trans - form by ways for - giv - ing. Grace a - maz - ing! Grace, your name!
 Wel - com - ing as sis - ter, broth - er, all your chil - dren on the earth.

Ruth Duck created this text at the request of Harold (Hal) McSwain, Jr., for a family reunion. She found her inspiration in the stories of Harold, Sr., and in her own family heritage. The hymn speaks to any community that has shared life together for a long time.

Tune: HOLY MANNA 8.7.8.7.D.
 William Moore, 1825

Take My Gifts

562

Shirley Erena Murray, 1991

1 Take my gifts and let me love you, God who first of all loved me,
 2 Take the fruit that I have gathered from the tree your Spirit sowed,
 3 Take whatever I can offer— gifts that I have yet to find,

gave me light and food and shelter, gave me life and set me free,
 harvest of your own compassion, juice that makes the wine of God,
 skills that I am slow to sharpen, talents of the hand and mind,

now because your love has touched me, I have love to give away,
 spiced with humor, laced with laughter— flavor of the Jesus life,
 things made beautiful for others in the place where I must be:

now the bread of love is rising, loaves of love to multiply!
 tang of risk and new adventure, taste and zest beyond belief.
 take my gifts and let me love you, God who first of all loved me.

Shirley Erena Murray recounted that Colin Gibson composed this tune for her stewardship text "almost instantaneously." Gibson has served as professor at the University of Otago, as well as organist and choir director in Dunedin, New Zealand.

Tune: TALAVERA TERRACE 8.7.8.7.D.
 Colin Gibson, 1991
 Alternate tune: HOLY MANNA