

The United Church of Christ, Congregational
Burlington, MA

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EASTER

"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."

April 14, 2024

10:30am

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A Love Offering!

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**

Hallelujah!

NCH #236

**Halle, halle, halleluja. Halle, halle, halleluja
Halle, halle, halleluja. Halleluja, hallelujah.**

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

Praising & Learning...

***Call to Worship**

One: Jesus said to the disciples, "Peace be with you."

Many: May we enter this worship with peace in our hearts.

One: We come to this place to set down our troubles and grief.

Many: We come to this place to share hope and joy.

One: We come to this place to have our minds opened and scripture revealed.

Many: We come to this place to eat and be filled.

One: Let us gather together, believers and seekers.

Many: Let us gather together, friends and neighbors.

All: Peace be with you, and with us all. Let us worship our God, and follow Christ's call.

***Opening Hymn**

Dear God, Embracing Humankind

NCH #502

***Opening Prayer**

God-with-us, come to us now, as you came to those first disciples. Speak your word of peace into our hearts and allow us to set aside our worries, our distractions, and our busyness. Here in the presence of your love, we remember that we are your children, seen and beloved. May your Holy Spirit be in our breath, inspiring us to sing songs of hope; to pray for justice; to open our spirits to miraculous possibility. With grateful hearts we pray. Amen.

Children of God Time

Sharing of Joys & Concerns

***Devotional Hymn**

Abide with Me

NCH #99

Reflecting & Praying...

Scripture Reading

Luke 24:36-48

³⁶ While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." ³⁷ They were startled and terrified and thought that they were seeing a ghost. ³⁸ He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? ³⁹ Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see, for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." ⁴⁰ And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. ⁴¹ Yet for all their joy they were still disbelieving and wondering, and he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" ⁴² They gave him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³ and he took it and ate in their presence.

⁴⁴ Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." ⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶ and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day ⁴⁷ and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things.

Sermon

Ghosts and Scars

Rev. Andrew Harris

Musical Offering

Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer

Committing...

Stewardship Invitation

Offertory and Love Offering

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.**

*Prayer of Dedication & Consecration

Going...

*Closing Hymn

Savior Like a Shepherd Lead Us

NCH #252

*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.

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LOVE OFFERING

Today's Love Offering is a special fund under Deacons.
There are special envelopes in the pews for your convenience.
This fund is to help those who may be having a difficult time financially.
Please reach out to any of our Deacons.

All requests are confidential

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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

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Karen Butler's brother-in-law Allan Sena
Sue Wisniewski's Godmother, Faye Monroe
Bobbie Killilea's friends John, Judi, and
Ed "Pops" Crowell
Chris Stahlinski's sister Evelyn
Barbara Leonard
Anna Karwan's friends Ellen and Don
Laura Nowell's cousin Nigel and friends Glenda
and Mary
Wayne Higden
Brian Gionet's Dad
Claire Simas and daughter Marianne
Roberta Low
Christa Brown-C4C crafter
Rebecca Sobolewski's sister, Holly
Shirley Garside's daughter Lynn
Jessy McNeil's sister Grace
Elaine Glancy's friend Rita,
sister-in-law Irene
Jim Killilea, Tom's brother
Skip Glancy's sister Dorothy
Joyce Carpenter's sister, niece Cindy, brother Bob
Marilyn Langley's brother Bill
Kelly Sievert
Bill Hitchcock
Jan Blandino's grandson Toby, her
Daughter Brenda and Son-in-law Rick
Barbara Moran
Ginger Mungillo's daughter Cindy and
Ginger's son Jim
Jean Bastos
Barbara Garland

Our Nation
Mother Earth

CHOIR INFORMATION

Join us Wednesday night from 7:15pm to 9pm and Sunday morning from 9:30am-10:15am. We are ALWAYS looking for new members because there is always room for more! All voice types are welcome. If you don't know your voice type, let's find out together!

We have a classical concert lined up for May 19th following Sunday service, performed by Brian Gionet on Piano, Organ, and Clarinet. It is dedicated to folks with mental health struggles. Come join us for an afternoon of Chopin, Rachmaninoff, and much more!

WORSHIP PARTICIPATION

Worship-Love Offering

| | |
|----------------|-------------------------|
| Pastor: | Rev. Andrew Harris |
| Organist: | Brian Gionet |
| Lay Leader: | Sally Willard |
| Head Usher: | Dick Butler |
| Ushers: | Karen Butler |
| Greeter: | Woody Knowles |
| Flowers: | |
| Collector: | Dick Butler |
| Sunday School: | Deb Raymond-Donna Ferro |
| Nursery: | |
| Coffee Hour: | Chris Stahlinski |
| Bakers: | Marge Zamanian |

April 21 Worship

| | |
|----------------|----------------------------|
| Pastor: | Rev. Andrew Harris |
| Organist: | Brian Gionet |
| Lay Leader: | |
| Head Usher: | Dave McNeil |
| Usher: | |
| Greeter: | |
| Collector: | Everett Langley |
| Flowers: | Bobbie Killilea |
| Sunday School: | Deb Raymond
Donna Ferro |
| Nursery: | |
| Coffee Host: | Marge Zamanian |
| Bakers: | Marge Zamanian |

WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

If you can volunteer to be **Lay Leader, Head Usher, Usher, Greeter, Coffee Host or Nursery**, please be sure to sign up on the Signup.com site. We are asking for **bakers for coffee hour** as well!

Here is the link:

<https://signup.com/client/invitation2/secure/567269842043/false?popup=true#/invitation>

SECOND SUNDAY SPEAKER SERIES

Today is a special experience during Sunday School regarding our Labyrinth.

PUB THEOLOGY

Every Third Thursday of the Month

Join Pastor Andrew this month on April 18th 8-9pm. He is moving his location to Emerald Rose, 785 Boston Rd, Billerica, MA 01821

TRUE NORTH COFFEE SHOP PASTOR HOURS

Thursdays from 9-11am
204 Cambridge St, Burlington

BIBLE STUDY

Through the season of Easter up until the week of Pentecost, we'll explore Bible stories of the resurrected Jesus. There are several stories in the gospels, Paul's letters, and the book of Acts that detail Jesus's interactions with his followers after his resurrection. Like we did for wilderness, we'll look at each story individually each week, while also piecing them into the thematic unit as a whole. Hopefully, at the end of these five weeks we have a deeper understanding of Jesus's resurrection, the continuation of his ministry and message after his death, and perhaps even a sense of how the resurrected Jesus appears to us in our lives.

Here are the planned readings for the next five weeks:

2. April 17 - The Road to Emmaus - Luke 24:13-25
3. April 24 - The Conversion of Paul - Acts 9:1-19
4. May 1 - Jesus Makes Breakfast - John 21:1-14
5. May 8 - Feed my Sheep - John 21:15-19

FROM THE GREEN TEAM!

Please join us for worship on Sunday, April 28, 2024, as we welcome Rev. Jessica McArdle who will present the Level Two Green Congregation certificate to our congregation. After worship we will have a blessing of the bike rack at Simons Park. We collaborated with the Rotary Club and Burlington Parks and Recreation Department to have the bike rack stilled as one of our Level Two steps. Stay tuned for more information regarding this very special day.

THE SPIRIT OF GIVING BACK!

SERVICE SUNDAY-June 2nd

Join us on June 2nd for Service Sunday! This special event will replace our usual worship service as we come together to make a tangible difference in our community. Instead of sitting in the pews, we'll be out in the streets, parks, and neighborhoods, participating in various community service projects.

Sign-ups will be out soon, but for now, please mark your calendars for June 2nd and join us as we roll up our sleeves, put our faith into action, and make a positive difference in the lives of others. Let's make this first Service Sunday one to remember!

APRIL 21 POOL PARTY

Pool party at Billerica Boys & Girls Club of Greater Billerica located at 19 Campbell Rd., Billerica. Be at the pool 5 min early so you can be ready to get in the pool at 2pm.

There are girls and boys changing rooms, but you can come with your suits on and just leave your clothes in the changing rooms if you would like. **BRING YOUR OWN TOWEL**, towels are not provided by the club. You are welcome to invite friends.

YOU MUST RSVP no later than April 14, 2024. If there are more than 20 people in the pool we need to hire another Life Guard. The pool needs at least ONE week's notice to hire another life guard.

OUR FAIR CLOSET!

In preparation for the PLANT/BRAFT/BAKE SALE on May 11, we will be looking through the Fair closet to find any finished projects made for past fairs. We will also be looking for used jewelry for a future sale. Since we will be pulling out all bins and storage containers you may find that they have been moved to a different place in the closet. Our goal is to just find finished projects we can offer for sale on May 11.



**PLANT/CRAFT/BAKE SALE-MAY 11
JUST IN TIME FOR MOTHER'S DAY!**



We are hoping you will lend your talents to the cause to make this another successful fundraiser.

Last year we sold many spring and Mother's Day themed crafts, as well as lots of perennials and vegetable and flower seedlings. If you have empty pots to lend to the cause, or would like help digging up/splitting perennials in your yard, please contact Julie Lewis at jalewis@gmail.com.

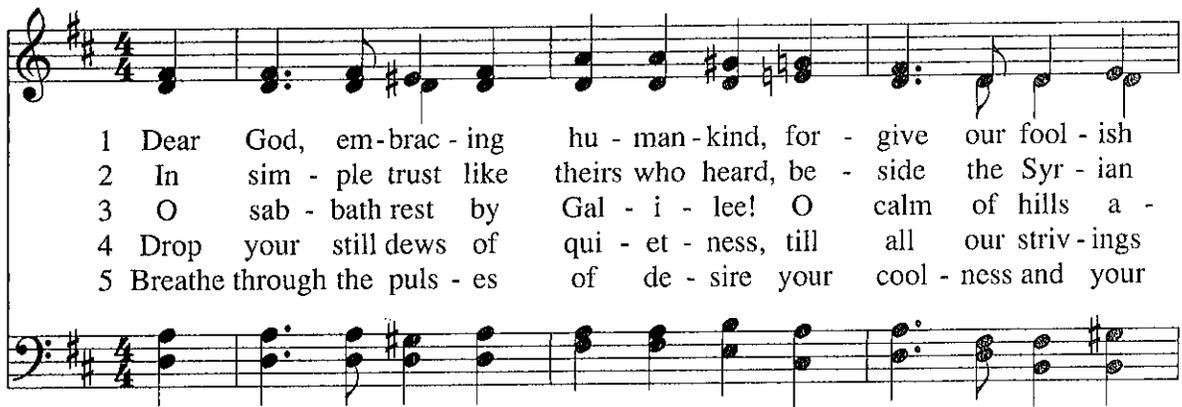
We will also be looking for people to make and package baked goods to sell that day.

If you have crafts to donate let us know!

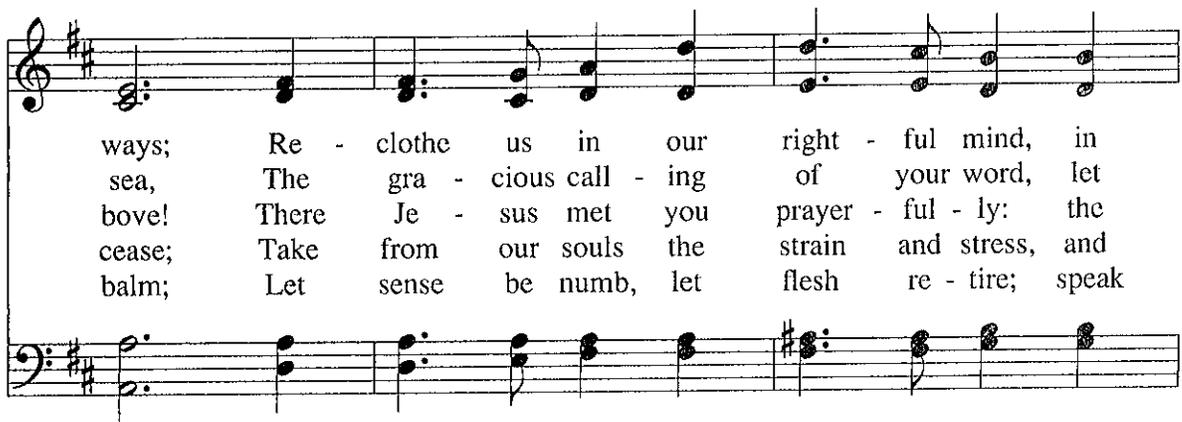
Look for sign-up sheets at coffee hour, or feel free to email Julie if you plan to contribute anything, or if you have questions. Thank you!

Dear God, Embracing Humankind

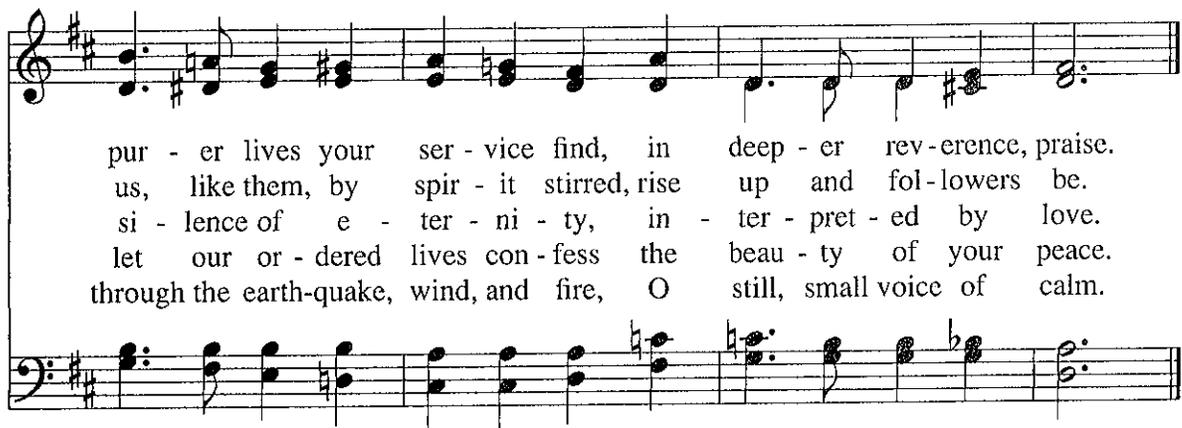
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*John Greenleaf Whittier, 1872; alt.**Mark 1:16-20; Matt. 14:22-23; 1 Kings 19:11-12*


1 Dear God, em-brac - ing hu - man - kind, for - give our fool - ish
 2 In sim - ple trust like theirs who heard, be - side the Syr - ian
 3 O sab - bath rest by Gal - i - lee! O calm of hills a -
 4 Drop your still dews of qui - et - ness, till all our striv - ings
 5 Breathe through the puls - es of de - sire your cool - ness and your



ways; Re - clothe us in our right - ful mind, in
 sea, The gra - cious call - ing of your word, let
 above! There Je - sus met you prayer - ful - ly: the
 cease; Take from our souls the strain and stress, and
 balm; Let sense be numb, let flesh re - tire; speak



pur - er lives your ser - vice find, in deep - er rev - erence, praise.
 us, like them, by spir - it stirred, rise up and fol - lowers be.
 si - lence of e - ter - ni - ty, in - ter - pret - ed by love.
 let our or - dered lives con - fess the beau - ty of your peace.
 through the earth-quake, wind, and fire, O still, small voice of calm.

In his poem "The Brewing of Soma," New England poet John Greenleaf Whittier compares frenzied ecstasies of a sect of Hindu priests to the noisy Christian revivals he found so offensive. This hymn of quiet worship is from the final stanzas.

Tune: REST 8.6.8.8.6.
 Frederick C. Maker, 1887
 Alternate tune: REPTON
 (repeating last phrase)

Abide with Me

Luke 24:29; 1 Cor. 15:55

Henry F. Lyte, 1847; alt.

1 A - bide with me; fast falls the e - ven - tide;
 2 Swift to its close ebbs out life's lit - tle day;
 3 I need your pres - ence ev - ery pass - ing hour;
 4 I fear no foe, with you at hand to bless;
 5 Hold now your cross be - fore my clos - ing eyes;

The shad - ows deep - en, Lord, with me a - bide;
 Earth's joys grow dim, its glo - ries pass a - way;
 I need your grace to foil the tempt - er's power.
 Ills have no weight and tears no bit - ter - ness;
 Shine through the gloom and point me to the skies;

When oth - er help - ers fail, and com - forts flee,
 Change and de - cay in all a - round I see;
 Give me your love my guide and stay to be.
 Where is death's sting? where, grave, your vic - to - ry?
 Heaven's morn - ing breaks, and earth's vain shad - ows flee;

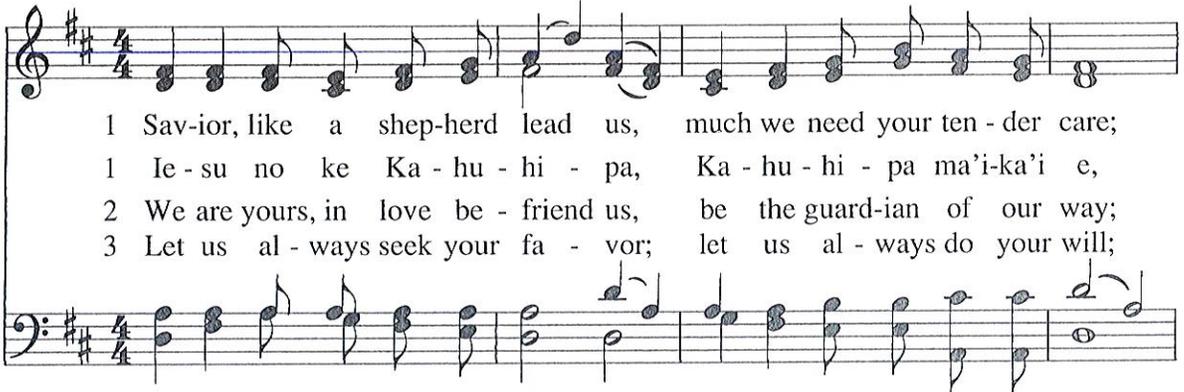
Help of the help - less, O a - bide with me.
 O Christ who chang - es not, a - bide with me.
 Through cloud and sun - shine, O a - bide with me.
 I tri - umph still if you a - bide with me.
 In life, in death, O Christ, a - bide with me.

Following the final sermon of his career, Henry F. Lyte handed a copy of this recently written hymn to a relative. He died two months later. The tune by W. H. Monk has contributed greatly to the popularity of the hymn.

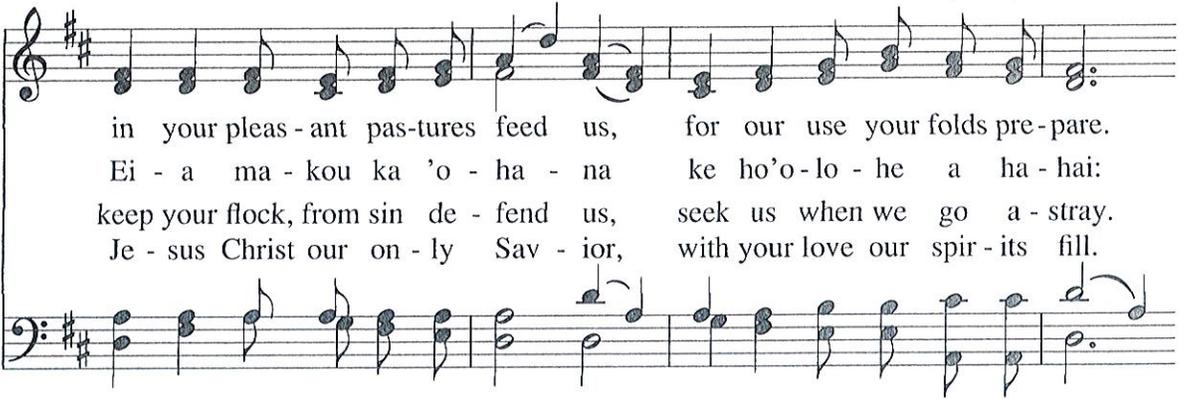
Tune: EVENTIDE 10.10.10.10.
 William H. Monk, 1861

Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us

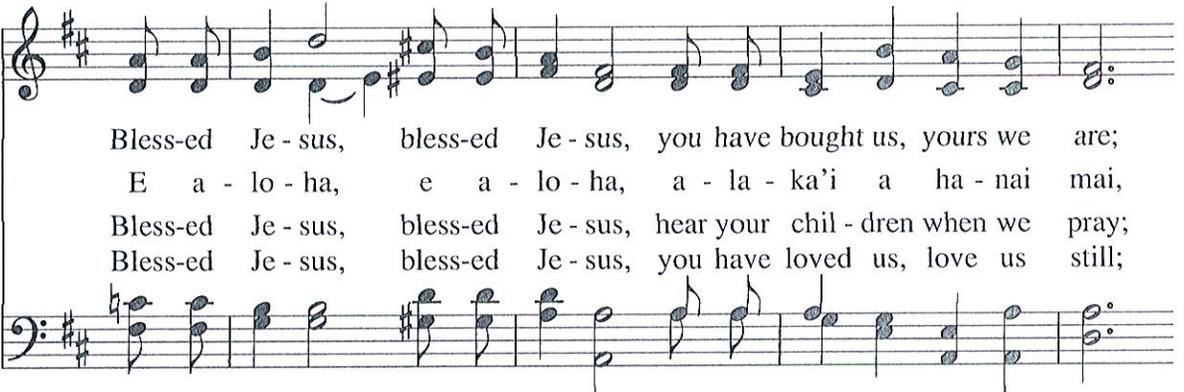
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*Attrib. to Dorothy A. Thrupp (1779–1847)**John 10:1–29**From Hymns for the Young, 1836; alt.**St. 1 transl. to Hawaiian by Laiana (1807–1886)*


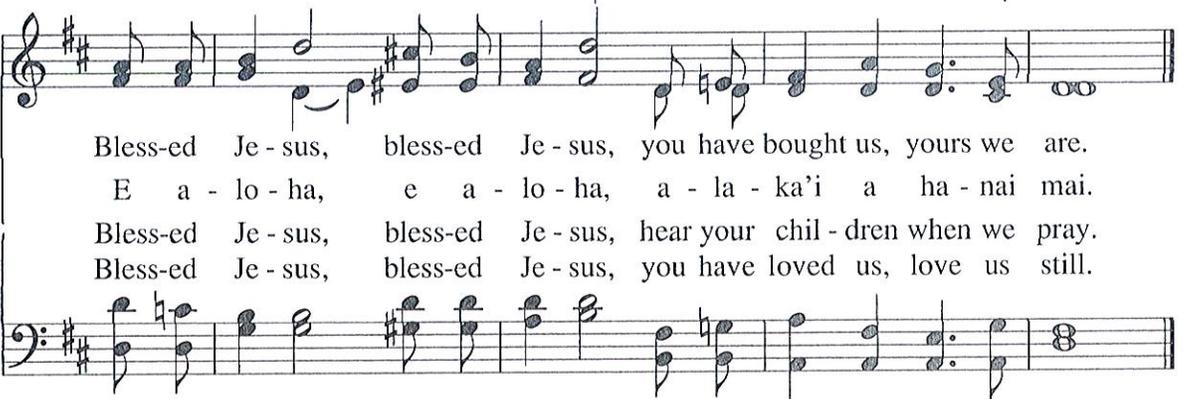
1 Sav-ior, like a shep-herd lead us, much we need your ten - der care;
 1 Ie - su no ke Ka - hu - hi - pa, Ka - hu - hi - pa ma'i-ka'i e,
 2 We are yours, in love be - friend us, be the guard-ian of our way;
 3 Let us al - ways seek your fa - vor; let us al - ways do your will;



in your pleas - ant pas-tures feed us, for our use your folds pre- pare.
 Ei - a ma - kou ka 'o - ha - na ke ho'o-lo - he a ha - hai:
 keep your flock, from sin de - fend us, seek us when we go a - stray.
 Je - sus Christ our on - ly Sav - ior, with your love our spir - its fill.



Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have bought us, yours we are;
 E a - lo - ha, e a - lo - ha, a - la - ka'i a ha - nai mai,
 Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, hear your chil - dren when we pray;
 Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have loved us, love us still;



Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have bought us, yours we are.
 E a - lo - ha, e a - lo - ha, a - la - ka'i a ha - nai mai.
 Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, hear your chil - dren when we pray.
 Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have loved us, love us still.

The theme of Christ as shepherd is familiar and beloved to Christians. Emma Lyons Doyle, granddaughter of Laiana (translator Lorenzo Lyons), once said, "If you want to know the full beauty of this hymn, hear it sung in Hawaiian."

Tune: BRADBURY 8.7.8.7.D.
 William B. Bradbury, 1859