

**The United Church of Christ, Congregational  
Burlington, MA**

**SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

*"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."*

**September 28, 2025**

**10:30am**

\* + \* + \* + \* + \*



***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!***

## **Gathering....**

**Musical Prelude**

Allein Gott in der Hoh sei Her – Teleann

Aline Beck

**Welcome & Announcements**

**\*Morning Psalm** - adapted from Psalm 146

One: Praise the LORD!

**All: Praise the LORD, O my soul!**

One: I will praise the LORD as long as I live;

**All: I will sing praises to my God all my life long.**

One: Do not put your trust in princes, in mortals, in whom there is no help.

**All: When their breath departs, they return to the earth; on that very day their plans perish.**

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

One: Happy are those whose hope is in the LORD their God, who made heaven and earth, who executes justice for the oppressed;

**All: who gives food to the hungry.**

One: The LORD sets the prisoners free;

**All: the LORD opens the eyes of the blind.**

One: The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;

**All: the LORD loves the righteous.**

One: The LORD watches over the strangers;

**All: he upholds the orphan and the widow,**

One: In God's Holy name we give thanks.

**All: Praise be to God!**

### **\*Opening Prayer**

**Creator God, we delight in your garden; in its many gifts and blessings; in unexpected joys and surprises. We also wonder. We ask questions with unfathomable answers. We cannot understand the workings of creation. Sometimes we are disturbed. Sometimes we are afraid. The knowledge of good and evil is within us, and it troubles us, O God. Still our souls and allow us to find ourselves in your presence this morning. May your mystery comfort us. May your love surround us. Amen.**

### **Red Wagon**

### **Passing the Peace**

### **\*Opening Hymn**

God Who Stretched the Spangled Heaven

NCH #556

## **Reflecting...**

### **Scripture Readings**

#### **Genesis 3**

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?'" The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.' " But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die, for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food and that it was a delight to the eyes and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked, and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

They heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" He said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate." Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent tricked me, and I ate."

To the woman [God] said,

"I will make your pangs in childbirth exceedingly great;  
in pain you shall bring forth children,  
yet your desire shall be for your husband,  
and he shall rule over you."

And to the man he said,

"Because you have listened to the voice of your wife  
and have eaten of the tree  
about which I commanded you,  
'You shall not eat of it,'  
cursed is the ground because of you;  
in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life;  
thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you;  
and you shall eat the plants of the field.  
By the sweat of your face  
you shall eat bread  
until you return to the ground,  
for out of it you were taken;  
you are dust,  
and to dust you shall return."

The man named his wife Eve because she was the mother of all living. And the LORD God made garments of skins for the man and for his wife and clothed them.

Then the LORD God said, "See, the humans have become like one of us, knowing good and evil, and now they might reach out their hands and take also from the tree of life and eat and live forever"—therefore the LORD God sent them forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from which they were taken. He drove out the humans, and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim and a sword flaming and turning to guard the way to the tree of life.

**Our Sermon**

The Garden

Rev. Andrew Harris

**Anthem**

We Are Singing, for the Lord Is Our Light Traditional Zulu

The Choir

**Praying...**

**Joys and Concerns**

**Pastoral Prayer**

**Lord's Prayer**

**\*Song of Prayer**

Our God to Whom We Turn

NCH #37

## Offering...

**Invitation of Offering**

**Offertory**

Andante Religioso – Mendelssohn

Aline Beck

**\*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**

## Sending...

**\*Closing Hymn**

Praise to the Living God

NCH #8

**\*Benediction**

**Postlude**

Sing Praise to God – Smith

Aline Beck

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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  
Aline Beck, Organist  
Deb Raymond, Director of Christian Education  
Bobbie Killilea, Administrative Assistant  
Uccburlington.org / 781-272-4547

## **PRAYERS AND CONCERNS**

Passing of Claire Simas  
Eileen Sickler (Sally's wife) sister Helen's passing  
Mike Meehan Nancy Davis son-in-law  
Conrad Fong  
Tom Killilea  
Tonia Egan's Mom and Dad  
Bill Livezey  
Kay Shute  
Roberta Low  
Laura Nowell's cousin Nigel, and friend Mary  
Tom and Bobbie's dear friend David  
Debbie Claar's dear friends Victor and Bob  
Jan Blandino, her grandson Toby, daughter  
Brenda, son-in-law Rick  
David Knowles  
Elaine Glancy  
Ted Brierley  
Andrew's friend Lorenzo  
Deana Tredeau's brother-in-law Jim  
Bill Hitchcock's girlfriend Denise  
Anna Karwan's mom Irene and gratitude for her  
sister as caretaker  
Skip Glancy and sister Dorothy  
Karen Butler's brother-in-law Lenny  
Barbara Naddaff's friend Mary  
Shirley Fong's Mom Mary  
Julie Lewis' cousin Alicia  
Brian Gionet's Dad  
Shirley Garside's daughter Lynn  
Jessy McNeil's sisters Grace and Joyce  
Marilyn Langley's brother Bill  
Kelly Sievert  
Ginger Mungillo and daughter Cindy, son Jim  
Barbara Garland

Our Country  
Mother Earth

*Today's altar flowers were donated by  
Nancy Davis to honor all our many  
church volunteers!*

## **Worship Participation**

### **September 28 Worship-Red Wagon**

Pastor:	Rev. Andrew Harris
Organist:	Aline Beck
Lay Leader:	Lucy Damiani
Head Usher:	Dick Butler
Usher:	Karen Butler
Greeter:	Jan McSheffrey
Collector:	Dick Butler
Flowers:	Nancy Davis
Nursery:	Mark and Donna Flecchia
Sunday School:	Deb Raymond-Donna Ferro
Coffee Host:	Cindy Phillips
Bakers:	Cindy Phillips and Chris Stahlinski

### **October 5 Communion - Neighbors In Need**

Communion Prep:	
Pastor:	Rev. Andrew Harris
Organist:	Aline Beck
Lay Leader:	Sally Willard
Head Usher:	Dave McNeil
Usher:	Carol Downing
Greeter:	
Collector:	Deb Raymond
Flowers:	
Nursery:	
Sunday School:	Deb Raymond-Donna Ferro
Coffee Host:	
Bakers:	



## **PUMPKIN PATCH AT ST. MARK'S CHURCH ALL OF OCTOBER**

Please plan on shopping locally and supporting this wonderful event. Proceeds support People Helping People!

## **GREEN TEAM BOOK DISCUSSION**

You are invited to join the Green Team for our book discussion, "The Serviceberry" by Robin Wall Kimmerer on September 28th after worship in the conference room.

We will have a special treat for those attending.  
Hope you can join us!

If you can't join us today, there will be another discussion on October 8<sup>th</sup> at 2pm in place of Bible Study.

### **NEIGHBORS IN NEED - NIN**

Our annual offering for Neighbors in Need will be October 5. Our contributions to this church-wide initiative enable us to support the Council for American Indian Ministries and justice and witness ministries. NIN envelopes are in the pews and in the Church office. Contributions may also be made on Vanco.

### **BIBLE STUDY!**

We will explore the first four chapters of Genesis together. We meet every Wednesday from 2-3pm, both in-person and on Zoom. As always, all are welcome and there is no homework or pre-reading necessary. Just show up with an open heart, open ears, and an open mind and together we will discuss God's word for us.

October 1 - Genesis 3  
October 8 – Book Discussion

Zoom Link:

**<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84363847241>**

### **MISSIONS TOILETRY DRIVE**

We are collecting toiletries for Burlington Students through November 2nd. ***There will be a marked bin for your donation outside the church office.*** These will be distributed through the Cambridge Street Closet.

### **Here is a list of suggested items:**

Hand soap	Shampoo
Deodorant	Disposable razors
Shaving cream	Conditioner
Nail clippers	Emory boards
Toothpaste	Toothbrushes
Mouth wash	Band-Aids
First aid cream	Tampons/pads
Combs	Hand cream (moisturizers)



### **COFFEEHOUSE OCTOBER 18<sup>TH</sup>!**

We will be having our annual Coffeehouse again on Saturday, October 18 from 7-9:30 in Sewall Hall. As always, the refreshments will be worth the price of the ticket, and incredible entertainment, a bonus. We are sure you will have a fun evening with your friends and family.

For audience members, tickets are \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door (\$15 for seniors at the door) If you are interested in singing, please feel free to reach out to Debbie during coffee hour or through her email: **[deborahsclaar@gmail.com](mailto:deborahsclaar@gmail.com)** as she will be organizing the performers once again.

If you would like to volunteer to help, please reach out to Deana during coffee hour or by emailing her at: **[deanatredeau@gmail.com](mailto:deanatredeau@gmail.com)**

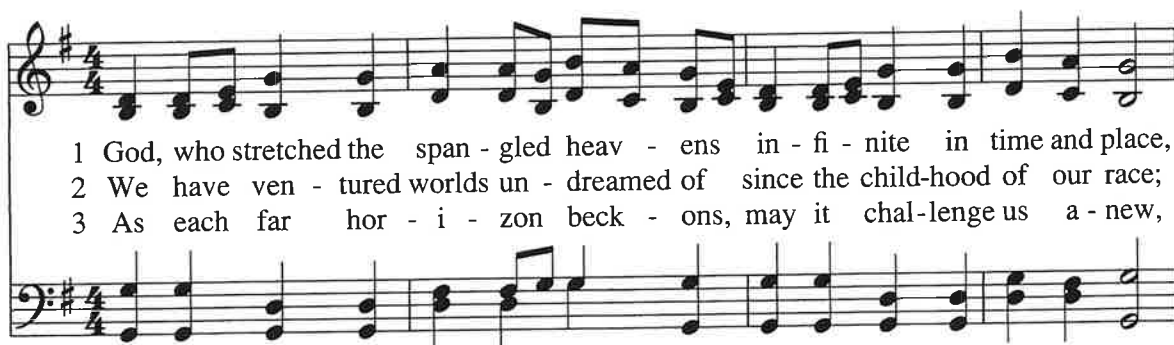
Let's make it a great event this year!

**Tickets are on sale now at coffee hour or call the church office to reserve!**

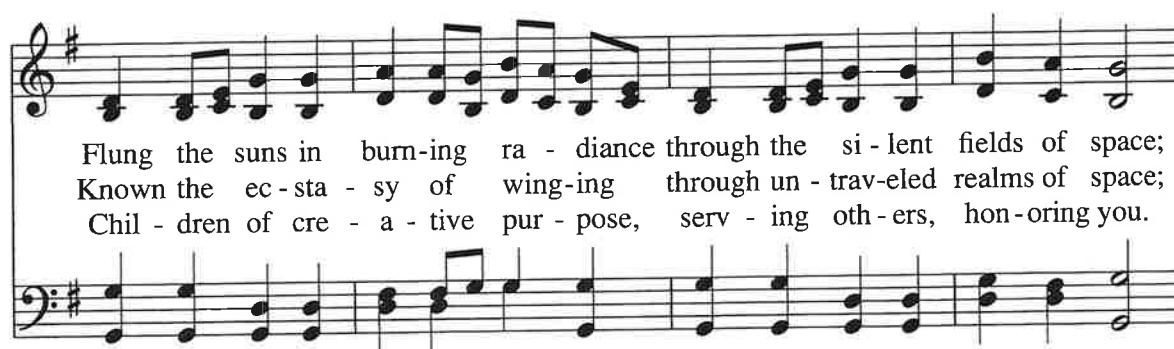
# God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens 556

Catherine Cameron, 1967

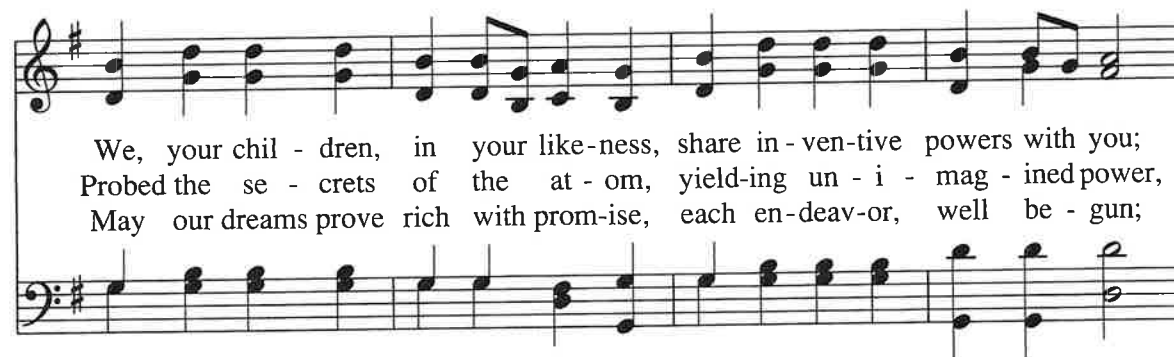
Gen. 5:1-2; Isa. 42:5-9



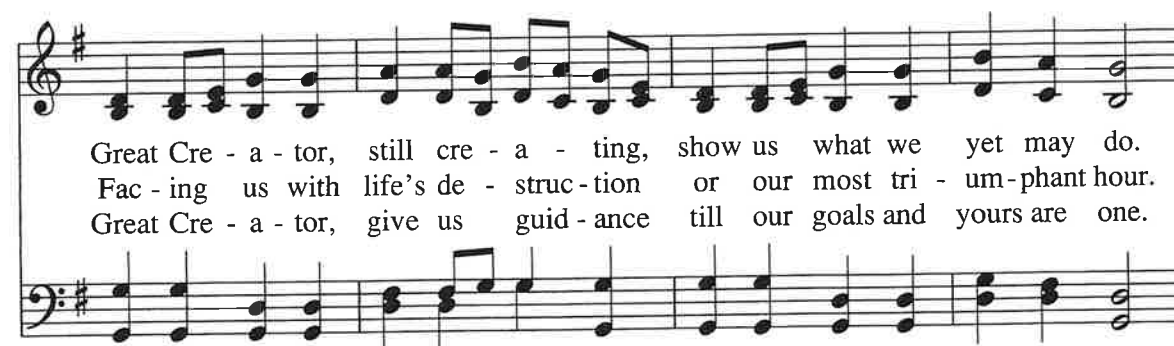
1 God, who stretched the span - gled heav - ens in - fi - nite in time and place,  
 2 We have ven - tured worlds un - dreamed of since the child-hood of our race;  
 3 As each far hor - i - zon beck - ons, may it chal-lenge us a - new,



Flung the suns in burn-ing ra - diance through the si - lent fields of space;  
 Known the ec - sta - sy of wing-ing through un - trav-eled realms of space;  
 Chil - dren of cre - a - tive pur - pose, serv - ing oth - ers, hon - oring you.



We, your chil - dren, in your like-ness, share in - ven-tive powers with you;  
 Probed the se - crets of the at - om, yield-ing un - i - mag - ined power,  
 May our dreams prove rich with prom-ise, each en-deav-or, well be - gun;

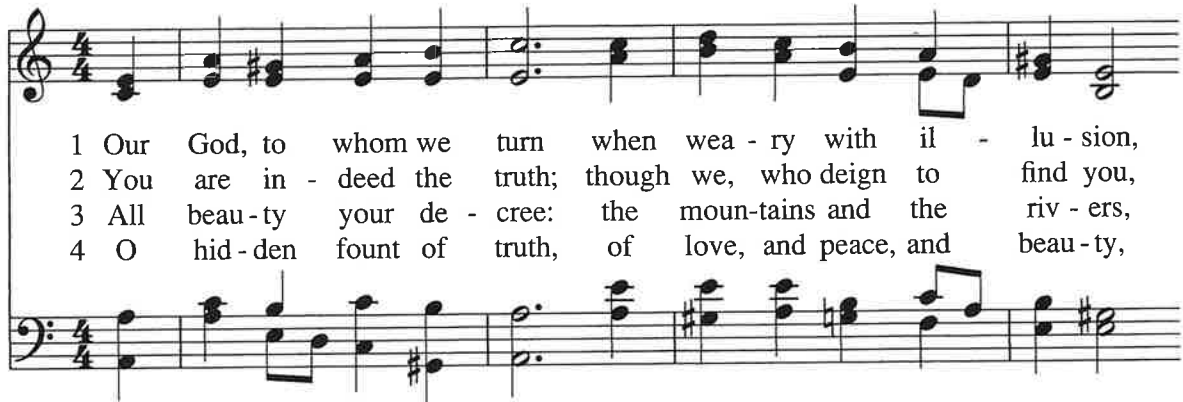


Great Cre - a - tor, still cre - a - ting, show us what we yet may do.  
 Fac - ing us with life's de - struc-tion or our most tri - um-phiant hour.  
 Great Cre - a - tor, give us guid - ance till our goals and yours are one.

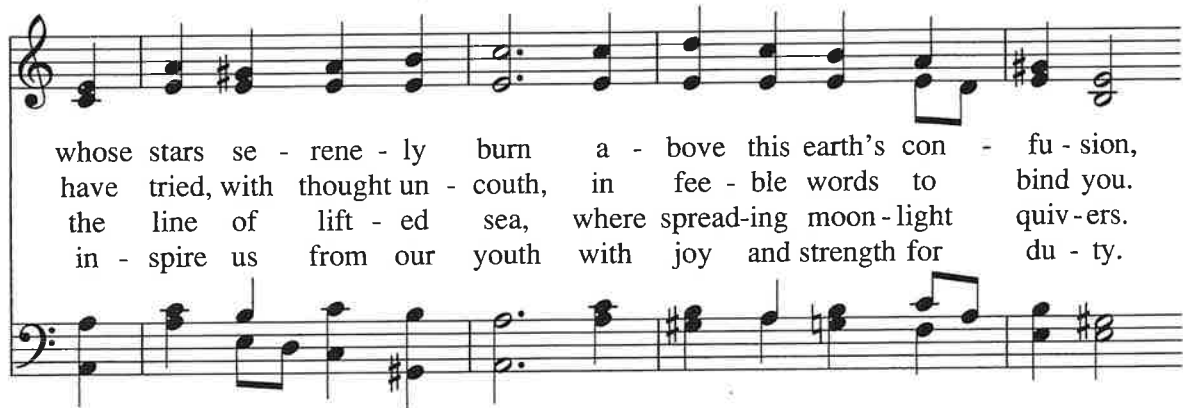
*Catherine Cameron, a professor of social psychology in California, wrote this text in 1967 with Haydn's Austrian Hymn in mind. This tune, Holy Manna, appeared in The Columbian Harmony (1825), and was attributed to the compiler of that volume, William Moore.*

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

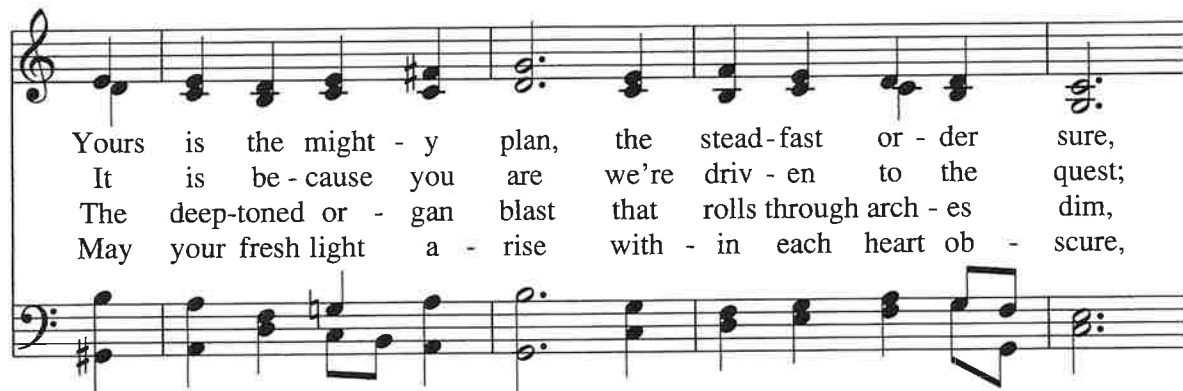
## Our God, to Whom We Turn

*Edward Grubb, 1925; alt.*


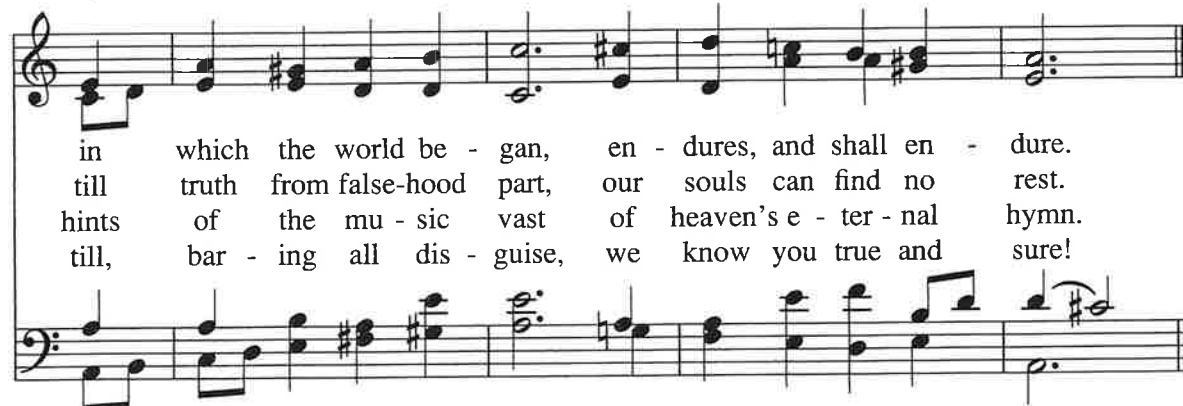
1 Our God, to whom we turn when wea - ry with il - lu - sion,  
 2 You are in - deed the truth; though we, who deign to find you,  
 3 All beau - ty your de - cree: the moun - tains and the riv - ers,  
 4 O hid - den fount of truth, of love, and peace, and beau - ty,



whose stars se - rene - ly burn a - bove this earth's con - fu - sion,  
 have tried, with thought un - couth, in fee - ble words to bind you.  
 the line of lift - ed sea, where spread - ing moon - light quiv - ers.  
 in - spire us from our youth with joy and strength for du - ty.



Yours is the might - y plan, the stead - fast or - der sure,  
 It is be - cause you are we're driv - en to the quest;  
 The deep-toned or - gan blast that rolls through arch - es dim,  
 May your fresh light a - rise with - in each heart ob - scure,



in which the world be - gan, en - dures, and shall en - dure.  
 till truth from false-hood part, our souls can find no rest.  
 hints of the mu - sic vast of heaven's e - ter - nal hymn.  
 till, bar - ing all dis - guise, we know you true and sure!

*The English Quaker Edward Grubb was owner and editor of a monthly periodical, The British Friend. He also wrote and lectured on biblical and religious history and related subjects.*

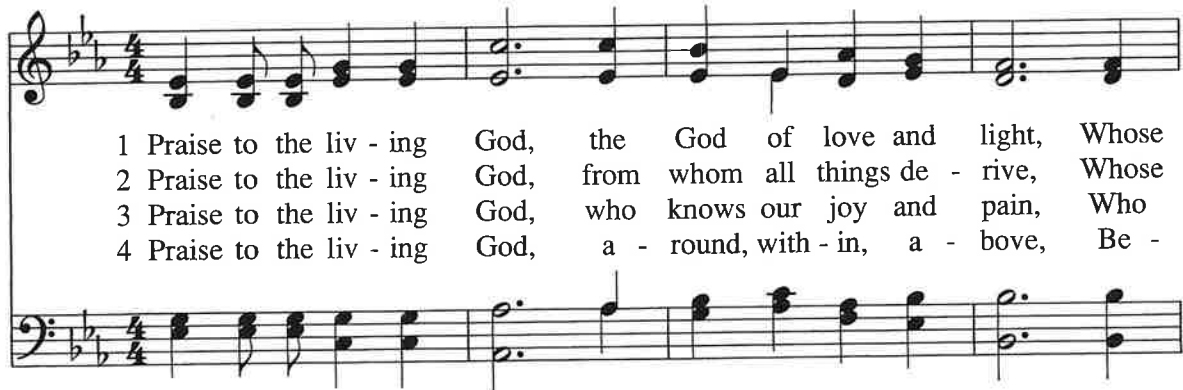
Tune: STEADFAST 6.7.6.7.6.6.6.6.  
 (O GOTT, DU FROMMER GOTT, *Hanover, 1646*)  
 Neu Ordentlich Gesangbuch, 1646  
 Harm. from J. S. Bach (1685–1750)  
 Alternate tune: DARMSTADT



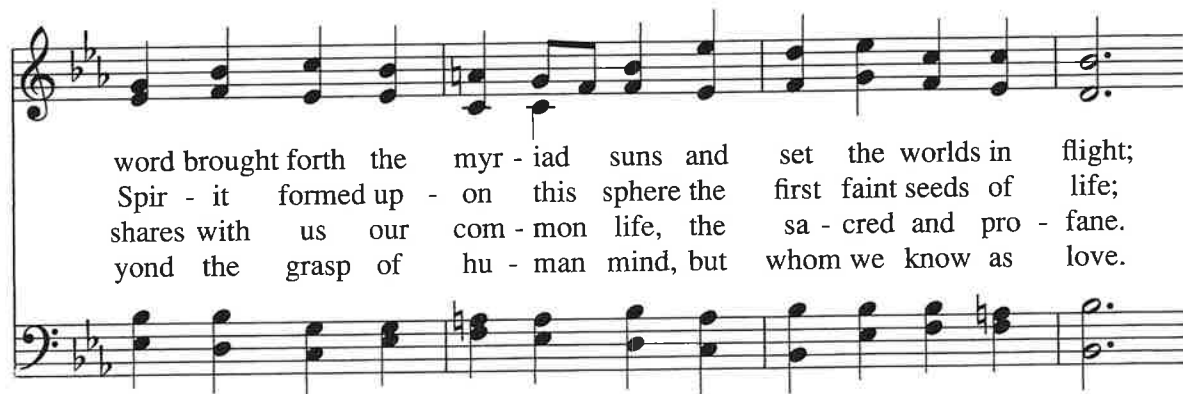
## Praise to the Living God

Ps. 84:1-2

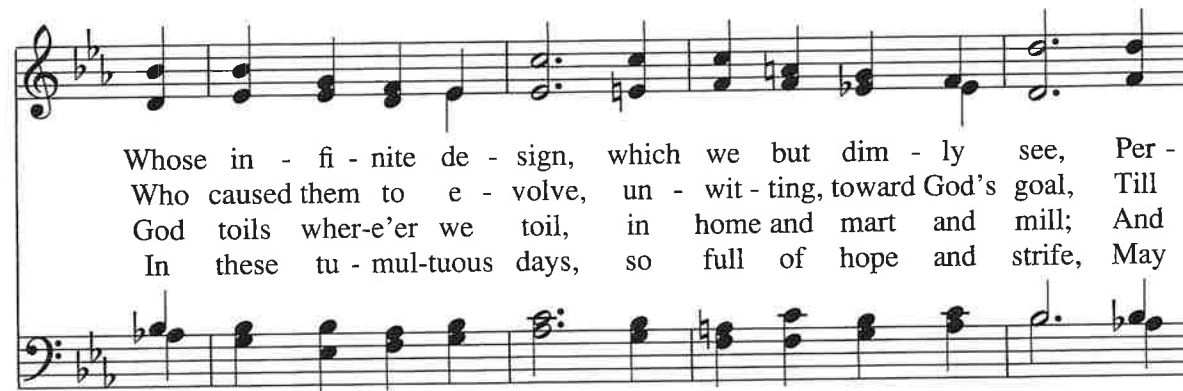
Curtis Beach, 1966; alt.



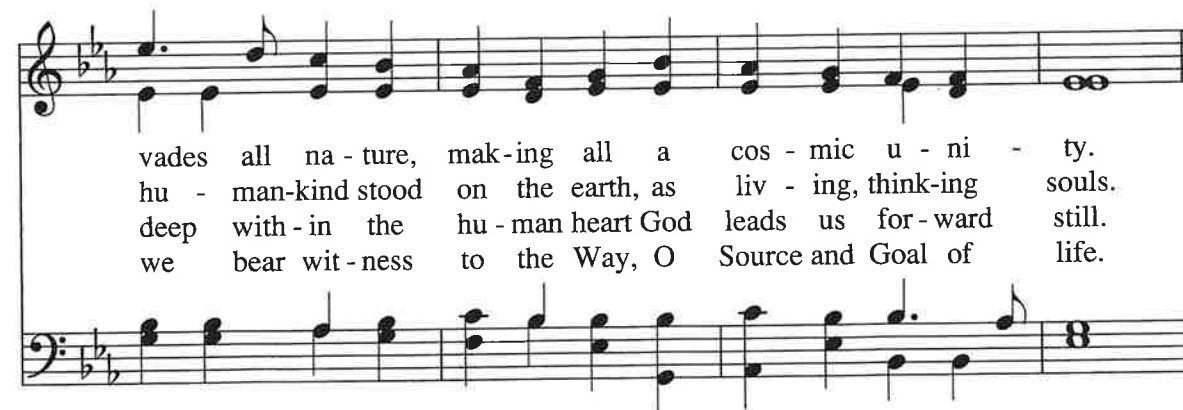
1 Praise to the liv - ing God, the God of love and light, Whose  
 2 Praise to the liv - ing God, from whom all things de - rive, Whose  
 3 Praise to the liv - ing God, who knows our joy and pain, Who  
 4 Praise to the liv - ing God, a - round, with - in, a - bove, Be -



word brought forth the myr - iad suns and set the worlds in flight;  
 Spir - it formed up - on this sphere the first faint seeds of life;  
 shares with us our com - mon life, the sa - cred and pro - fane.  
 yond the grasp of hu - man mind, but whom we know as love.



Whose in - fi - nite de - sign, which we but dim - ly see, Per -  
 Who caused them to e - volve, un - wit - ting, toward God's goal, Till  
 God toils wher-e'er we toil, in home and mart and mill; And  
 In these tu - mul-tuous days, so full of hope and strife, May



vades all na - ture, mak - ing all a cos - mic u - ni - ty.  
 hu - man-kind stood on the earth, as liv - ing, think - ing souls.  
 deep with - in the hu - man heart God leads us for - ward still.  
 we bear wit - ness to the Way, O Source and Goal of life.

Curtis Beach, born into a family of several generations of ministers, was educated at Harvard University, the Boston University School of Theology, and the University of Southern California. A minister in the United Church of Christ, Beach authored *The Gospel of Mark: Its Making and Meaning*.

Tune: DIADEMATA S.M.D.  
 George J. Elvey, 1868