

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

NINTH 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."

July 26, 2026

10:30am

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Summer Worship Series
Drawn In: Living Out the Creative Life with God
Week Four: RISK

God's act of creating all that is, God's act of entering our lives in the person of Jesus, God's everyday act of creating new life—all these are acts of bringing that which is not into being—all acts of originality. To create is to assert ourselves in a way that is risky, that invites stepping into the unknown. Jesus told a story about people who did different things with the "talents" given to them. The one who took a risk and utilized those talents multiplied his gift in the world. What can you do to risk what God has given you to expand love and grace in the world?

Gathering....

Musical Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

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

Opening Prayer

Risking God, you created something from nothing. Open us to move into the unknown future with confidence so that we might live into your vision for this world you continue to create. Draw us into your possibilities. Give us the courage to act. Amen.

***Opening Hymn**

Called as Partners in Christ's Service

NCH #495

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Passing the Peace-Red Wagon

***Devotional Hymn**

O Word of God Incarnate

NCH #315

An Imaginative Word

"Invocation" by Cynthia Winton-Henry

Here's an idea.
Let us make something out of nothing.
No not nothing.
Let us gather up everything that we ever were or are or will be.
Let us be Shapers,
Creators,
Makers,
of Some Thing.
Some World,
Some Living.
Let us dare to succeed at it,
Dare to fail at it,
Dare to fly on the wings of this moment.
Let us improvise our dreams.
Let us leap boldly from the shoulders of our lives,
Our histories,
Our loves,
Our disasters.

Here's an idea.
Let us play ourselves out!
(The real work)
Let us do nothing at all.

It may not matter.
Let us run the risk of naked individuality.
Let us go out wildly
Not just as one,
But as a union, an ensemble.

Here is an idea.
When we make our worlds
Let us commit to them
hold still with them
let them go when it is time.
Let us breathe,
Let us sing,
Let us laugh,
Let us dance,

Let us see what will be
when we invoke
God
Creativity
and Power.

Reflecting...

Scripture Readings

Matthew 25:24-30

"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 seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' 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? 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. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. 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. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'"

Anthem

Donna DeSimone, John Getsinger,
Mark Omobono on Guitar

Praying...

Pastoral Prayer

Lord's Prayer

Offering...

Invitation of Offering

Offertory

***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**

O God of Strength

NCH #534 (melody is #533)

***Benediction**

Postlude

Rev. Andrew Harris, Pastor
Rev. Trina Portillo, Pastor, The Presbyterian Church
Sarah Del Dotto, Organist
Deb Raymond, Director of Christian Education
Bobbie Killilea, Administrative Assistant
Uccburlington.org / 781-272-4547

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.

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY

Bible Study will continue through the summer months. We will be studying the Women of the Bible.

Meet at 1pm in the conference room. If you can't come in person, you can always join Zoom livestreaming:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89076641525>

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!

*Marcia Rich donated today's altar
flowers in celebration of the life of her
late father,
Graydon Rich.*

**July 26 Worship Participation Red
Wagon**

Pastor: Rev. Trina Portillo
Organist: Sarah Del Dotto
Lay Leader: Andie Joseph
Head Usher:
Usher: Carol Downing
Greeter:
Collector: Marge Zamanian
Flowers: Marcia Rich
Nursery: Volunteer
Coffee Host: Deana Tredeau
Baker/Snack: Deana Tredeau

**August 2 Worship 10:30am
at the Presbyterian Church**

Collector: Marcia Rich

**Called to Care will meet in the
conference room after worship
today.**

AUGUST WORSHIP

Worship on August 2, 9, 16 and 23 will
take place at The Presbyterian Church,
335 Cambridge Street here in
Burlington. The time will remain the
same at 10:30am. All welcome!

JOYS AND CONCERNS

*Anna Karwan's brother Steve
Bobbie Killilea's godson Chris
Dan Shea
Shirley and Geoff Fong and Uncle
Skip Glancy
Donna DeSiome's sister Brenda,
brother-in-law Rick
Bobbie and Tom Killilea
Tonia Egan, her mom and dad
Joe Stoddard's family member Jada
Cindy Phillip's friend's husband
pancreatic cancer
Barbara Naddaff's grandson and friend
Mary
Sally Willard's sister Vicky
Anna Karwan's sister caregiver for mom
Rev. Cheryl Kerr's son Gabe
Auri Musselman's sister-in-law's family
Woody Knowles
Joyce Carpenter
Bill Livezey
Kay Shute
Roberta Low
Debbie Claar's dear friends Victor, Bob
Jan Blandino, her grandson Toby
David Knowles
Ted Brierley
Andrew's friend Lorenzo
Bill Hitchcock
Shirley Fong's Mom Mary
Julie Lewis' cousin Alicia
Shirley Garside's daughter Lynn
Jessy McNeil's sisters Grace and Joyce
Kelly Sievert
Ginger Mungillo, daughter Cindy, son
Jim
Barbara Garland*

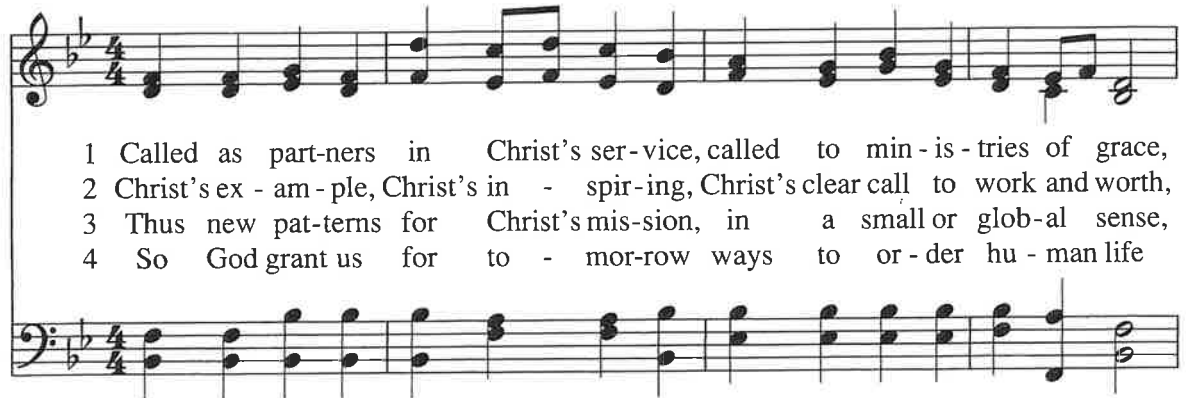
*Middle East-Our Country-The World
Mother Earth-Earthquakes-Fires-Storms*

Called as Partners in Christ's Service

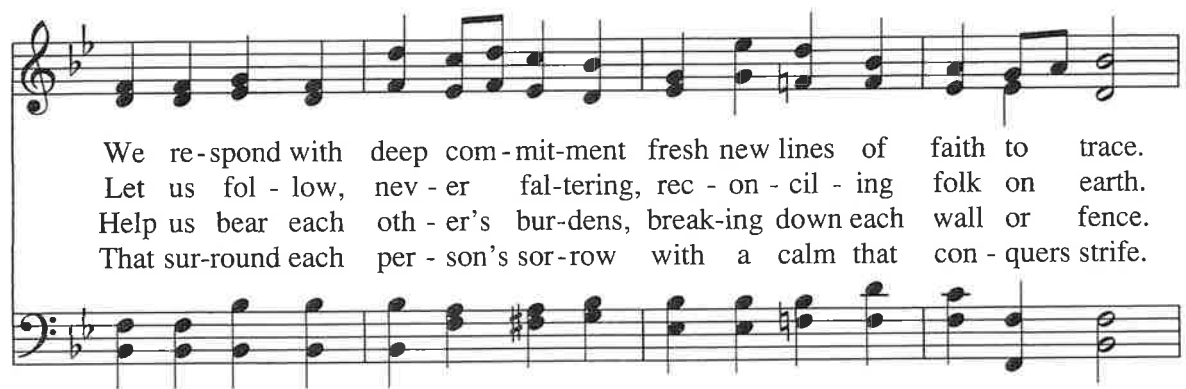
495

Jane Parker Huber, 1981

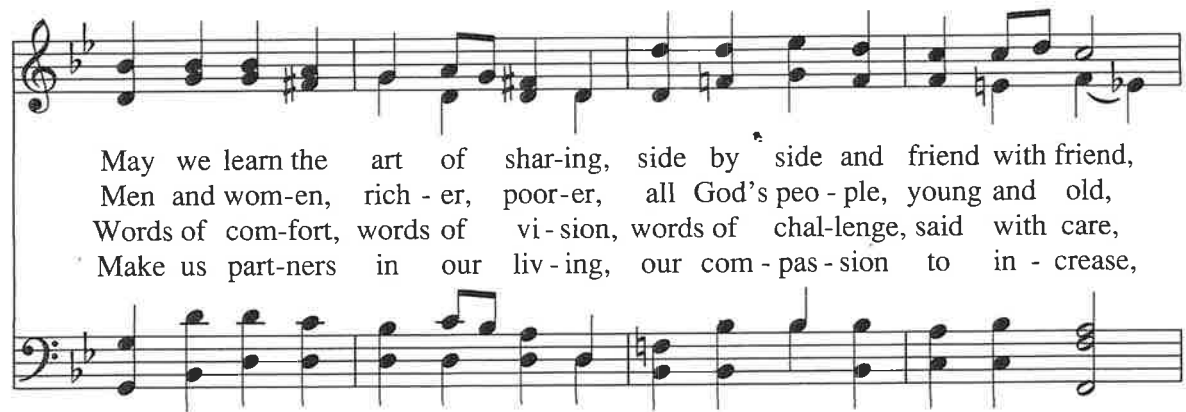
John 15:12-17; Gal. 6:2; Eph. 2:14-22



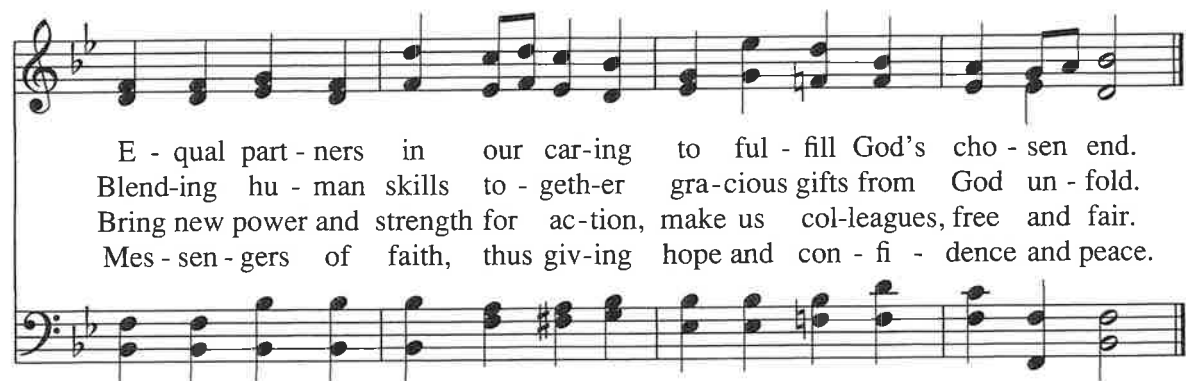
1 Called as part-ners in Christ's ser-vice, called to min-is-tries of grace,
 2 Christ's ex-am-ple, Christ's in-spir-ing, Christ's clear call to work and worth,
 3 Thus new pat-terns for Christ's mis-sion, in a small or glob-al sense,
 4 So God grant us for to-mor-row ways to or-der hu-man life



We re-pond with deep com-mit-ment fresh new lines of faith to trace.
 Let us fol-low, nev-er fal-tering, rec-on-cil-ing folk on earth.
 Help us bear each oth-er's bur-dens, break-ing down each wall or fence.
 That sur-round each per-son's sor-row with a calm that con-quests strife.



May we learn the art of shar-ing, side by side and friend with friend,
 Men and wom-en, rich-er, poor-er, all God's peo-ple, young and old,
 Words of com-fort, words of vi-sion, words of chal-lenge, said with care,
 Make us part-ners in our liv-ing, our com-pas-sion to in-crease,



E - qual part - ners in our car-ing to ful - fill God's cho - sen end.
 Blend-ing hu - man skills to - geth-er gra-cious gifts from God un - fold.
 Bring new power and strength for ac-tion, make us col-leagues, free and fair.
 Mes - sen - gers of faith, thus giv-ing hope and con - fi - dence and peace.

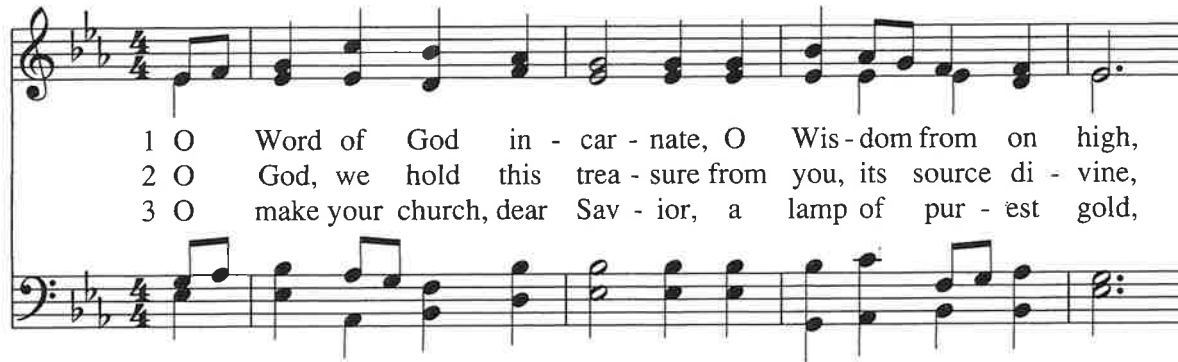
One of Jane Parker Huber's most widely sung texts, this hymn was originally written for a women's breakfast at the 1981 Presbyterian General Assembly meeting to celebrate the partnership of women and men in service of the church.

Tune: BEECHER 8.7.8.7.D.
 John Zundel, 1855
 For another key, see 43, 368

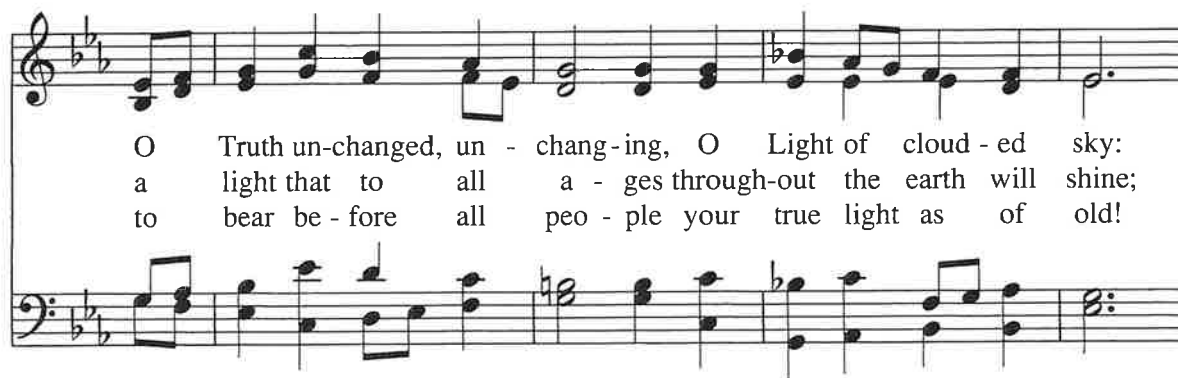
O Word of God Incarnate

Ps. 119:105

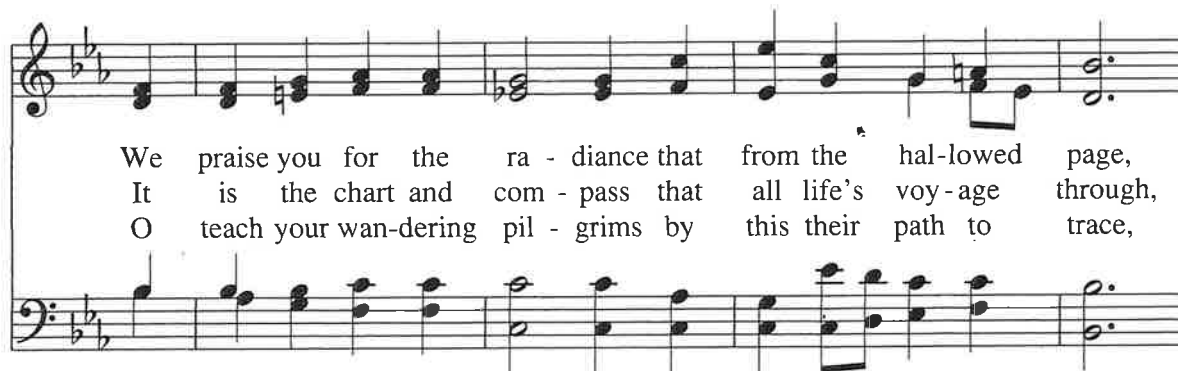
William W. How, 1867; alt.



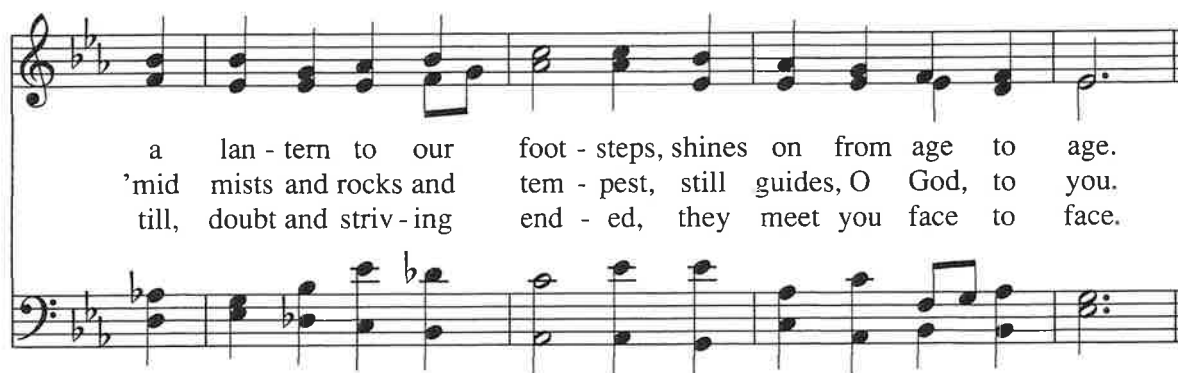
1 O Word of God in - car - nate, O Wis - dom from on high,
 2 O God, we hold this trea - sure from you, its source di - vine,
 3 O make your church, dear Sav - ior, a lamp of pur - est gold,



O Truth un - changed, un - chang - ing, O Light of cloud - ed sky:
 a light that to all a - ges through - out the earth will shine;
 to bear be - fore all peo - ple your true light as of old!



We praise you for the ra - diance that from the hal - lowed page,
 It is the chart and com - pass that all life's voy - age through,
 O teach your wan - dering pil - grims by this their path to trace,



a lan - tern to our foot - steps, shines on from age to age.
 'mid mists and rocks and tem - pest, still guides, O God, to you.
 till, doubt and striv - ing end - ed, they meet you face to face.

William W. How, author and hymnwriter, is remembered especially for his work among the poor of London's East End. Felix Mendelssohn harmonized this German hymn tune, which appeared with a different text for his oratorio *Elijah*.

Tune: MUNICH 7.6.7.6.D.
 Neuvermehrtes Gesangbuch, Meiningen, 1693
 Harm. Felix Mendelssohn, 1847

O God of Strength

Shepherd Knapp, 1907; alt.

- 1 O God of strength, whose
pur-pose, nev-er swerv-ing,
shall make com-plete the
work Christ has be-gun,
Grant us to join and__
work with all dis-ci-ples,
filled with your strength
to see your will is done.
- 2 O Word Made Flesh, whose
work God's work con-tin-ued,
one with the Spir-it's thought
and deed and word,
Now make us one,
com---pan-ions in your ser-vice,
your liv-ing bod-y
by the Spir-it stirred.
- 3 O Power of Peace,
who brings to us good tid-ings,
teach us to speak your word
of hope and cheer:
Rest for the soul, and__ strength
for all our striv-ing,
light for the path of life,
your truth brought near.
- 4 O God, whose grace
has called us to your ser-vice,
how good your thoughts toward us,
how great their sum!
We work with you, we__ go
where you will lead us,
un-til in all the earth
your reign shall come.

This hymn was written for a meeting of the Men's Association of the Brick Presbyterian Church, New York, while Shepherd Knapp was assistant minister there. It later became very popular among the students at Eden Seminary, St. Louis.

Tune: WELWYN 11.10.11.10.
Alfred Scott-Gatty, 1900