

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

FIFTEENTH 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 6, 2026

10:30am

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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!

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

Coming...

Musical Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Praising & Learning...

***Morning Psalm - Adapted from Psalm 149**

One: Praise the LORD!

All: Sing to the LORD a new song,

One: Let the people be glad in our Creator;

All: let the children of God rejoice.

One: Let them praise his name with dancing,

All: Make melody to him with tambourine and lyre.

One: For the LORD takes pleasure in his people

All: He adorns the humble with victory.

One: Let the faithful exult in glory;

All: Let them sing for joy!

***Opening Hymn**

All Things Bright and Beautiful

NCH #31

***Sharing of Joys and Concerns**

***Devotional Hymn**

Mothering God, You Gave me Birth

NCH #467

Reflecting & Praying...

Scripture Reading

Ezekiel 33:7-11

So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. If I say to the wicked, "O wicked ones, you shall surely die," and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life.

Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel: Thus you have said: "Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?" Say to them: As I live, says the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways, for why will you die, O house of Israel?

Matthew 18:15-20

"If your brother or sister sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If you are listened to, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If that person refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church, and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a gentile and a tax collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

Sermon

Turn and Live

Rev. Andrew Harris

Anthem

Offering...

Offering

Invitation to Offering

Offertory Music

***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.

Blessing

Communion...

Invitation to the Table

O God triune, how majestic
is your name in all the earth.
Over the eons your merciful might
evolved our home, a fragile tree of life.
Here by your wisdom
are both life and death,
growth and decay,
the nest and the hunt,
sunshine and storm,
darkness and light.
Sustained by these wonders,
we creatures of dust join in the ancient song:
The earth is full of your glory.
The earth is full of your glory.
O God triune, you create the worlds,
you uphold the living,
you embrace the dead.
Send forth your Spirit
and renew the face of the earth.
Strengthen us for our journey with this meal,
the body and blood of Christ.
Give us a future that trusts in you
and cares for your earth.
Empowered by your promises,
we rise from our deaths
to praise you again:
The earth is full of your glory.
The earth is full of your glory.

***Prayer of Confession**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.
**Everlasting God, the Alpha and the Omega,
the beginning and the end,
we confess that we participate in systems
that perpetuate oppression and injustice.
We are often numb to the pain of the world around us,
resistant to change that costs us something,**

**and reluctant to love our neighbors as ourselves.
We sin against your good creation,
failing to be faithful stewards
of the land, the sea, and all their creatures.
Make your home among us once more, O God,
naming us beloved and opening our hearts
to do your will. Amen.**

Words of Forgiveness

All you saints and sinners, this good news is for you:
God knows you, forgives you by the self-giving love of Jesus Christ,
and frees you to love the world as you have been loved.
Creation's story will not end until mourning, crying, and pain are no more.
When everything else changes, God's love is steadfast and sure.
Nothing can ever separate you from the love of God
in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

***Communion Hymn**

As We Gather at Your Table

NCH #332

***Prayer of Consecration**

One: Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us, we pray, as you gather us all in
this place. May the broken bread become our healing and the cup of grace
our fullness that we might empty ourselves to become a blessing to those
who long for peace and reconciliation in their lives.

**All: Come, Holy Spirit Come, be with us in all of our eating and
drinking together. Amen**

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving

**God of our salvation,
we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls,
reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey.
Through the body and blood of your Son,
may we become Christ's body in the world,
bearing witness to your love for all creation,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

Going...

***Closing Hymn**

Take my Life God and Let It Be

NCH #448

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.

WELCOME SUNDAY AND BRUNCH

We are preparing for our Welcome Sunday on September 13. The service will be an all worship Sunday including the children, new members joining and our band performing. We will recognize the 296 anniversary of the 2nd Parish of Woburn being established on September 16, 1730. After worship we hope everyone will join us for our Welcome Sunday Brunch. The Deacons and Christian Ed boards are providing our traditional breakfast casseroles, including meat and vegetarian choices, French toast, and breads, fruit and yogurt.

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

Bible study Every Wednesday 2-3pm in the Conference Room and on Zoom Women of the Bible

There are so many stories centered on women in the Bible and yet throughout church history they have often been overshadowed and sidelined. In this Bible study session, we will explore these stories and discuss the ways women have always played an essential role in God's creation, in the church, and in the story of our faith. Come join us and learn about Hannah, Tabitha, Rahab, Deborah and more amazing women in God's continuing story.

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

WORSHIP PARTICIPATION

SEPTEMBER 6 COMMUNION

10:30AM

Communion Prep: Marge Zamanian
Sarah Clark
Pastor: Rev. Andrew Harris
Organist: Sarah Del Dotto
Lay Leader: Debbie Claar
Head Usher: Dave McNeil
Usher:
Greeter:
Flowers: Sue Wisniewski
Collector: Dick Butler
Nursery: Volunteers
Coffee Host:
Baker/Snacks:

SEPTEMBER 13 WELCOME SUNDAY/BAND

Pastor: Rev. Andrew Harris
Organist: Sarah Del Dotto
Lay Leader: Sarah Clark
Head Usher:
Usher:
Greeter: Chris Stahlinski
Flowers:
Collector: Joan Zink
Nursery:
Sunday School: Deb Raymond
Welcome Brunch: Deacons

Hello, everyone!

I'm so happy to be serving as the new Music Director. I've really enjoyed getting to know some of you in the congregation this summer, and I'm excited to begin a new season of music together.

I'm especially excited to start our church choir this fall. Rehearsals will be on **Wednesday evenings from 7:00-8:30 p.m.** and again on **Sunday mornings at 9:30. *Our first rehearsal will be on Wednesday, September 9 in the sanctuary.*** Our first Sunday singing will be on Sunday, September 20. The choir will be singing in the service about twice a month.

Everyone is welcome to join us! Whether you've been a singer in a choir for years, sang when you were younger, or have never sung in a choir before, I'd love to have you be a part of it. There are no auditions-just come as you are! If you're curious but not quite ready to commit, come try a rehearsal and see what you think.

We'll sing a variety of music throughout the year, and my hope is that the choir will become a welcoming, joyful community where we can make music, workshop, and grow together. I hope that you'll consider joining us or invite someone you know who might enjoy singing with us.

Also, I'm always going to be looking for soloists and instrumentalists, so do not hesitate to contact me about participating and worshiping in that capacity.

If you have any questions about the choir or music at church, please feel free to contact me at my new email address: sdeldotto@uccburlington.org. And if you see me after worship, please come and say hello!

I'm looking forward to making music with you all and am excited to begin this new chapter with all of you.

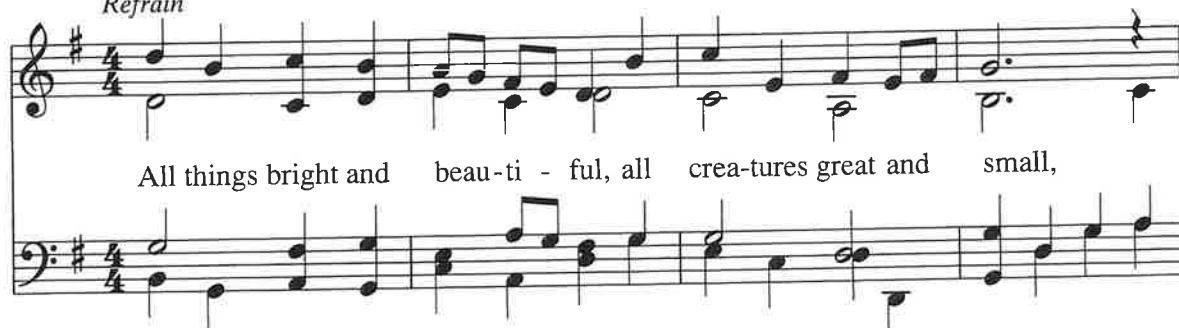
Psalm 100:1-2 "Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands. Serve the Lord with gladness; come before his presence with singing."

-Sarah Del Dotto

All Things Bright and Beautiful

Cecil F. Alexander, 1848; alt.

*Unison
Refrain*

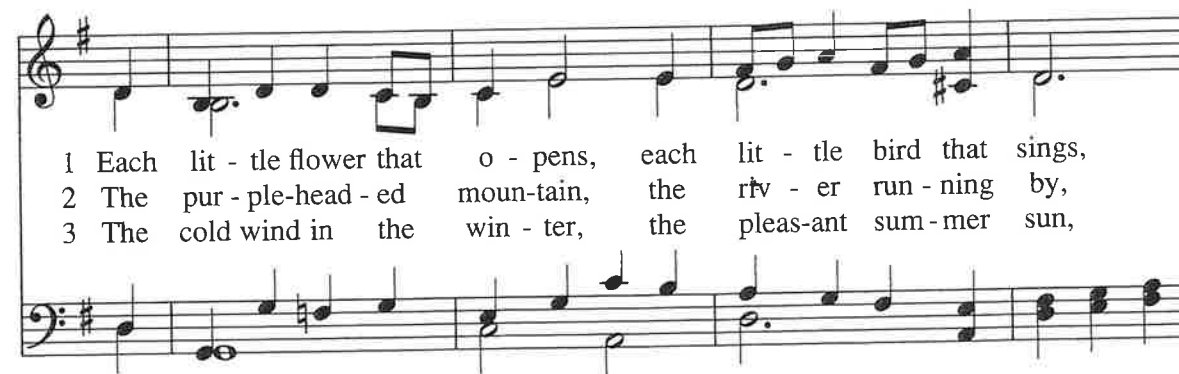


All things bright and beau-ti - ful, all crea-tures great and small,

Last time, end

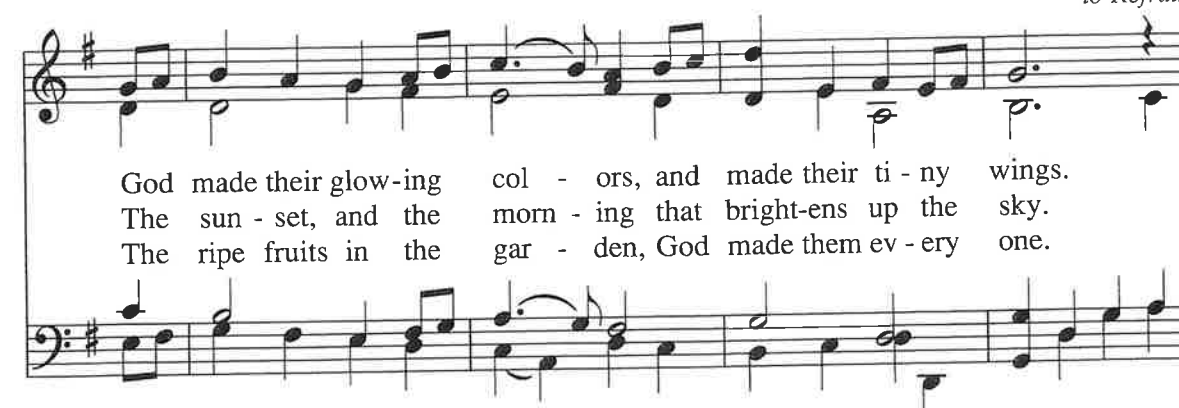


All things wise and won - der - ful, our dear God made them all.



1 Each lit - tle flower that o - pens, each lit - tle bird that sings,
2 The pur - ple-head - ed moun-tain, the riv - er run - ning by,
3 The cold wind in the win - ter, the pleas-ant sum - mer sun,

to Refrain



God made their glow-ing col - ors, and made their ti - ny wings.
The sun - set, and the morn - ing that bright-ens up the sky.
The ripe fruits in the gar - den, God made them ev - ery one.

This hymn for children is based on the first article of the Apostles' Creed: "Maker of heaven and earth." The English hymnwriter Cecil Frances Alexander was married to William Alexander, who became bishop of Ireland.

Tune: ROYAL OAK 7.6.7.6. with refrain
English melody
Adapt. Martin Shaw, 1915

Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth

Gen. 1:1-5; Matt. 26:26-29;
Mark 14:22-25; Luke 22:15-20

Jean Janzen, 1991
Based on the writings of Julian of Norwich

1 Moth - er - ing God, you gave me birth in the bright
2 Moth - er - ing Christ, you took my form, of - fer - ing
3 Moth - er - ing Spir - it, nur - turing One, in arms of

morn - ing of this world, Cre - a - tor,
me your food of light, Grain . . . of
pa - tience hold me close, So that in

Source of ev - ery breath, you are my rain, my wind, my
life, and grape of love, your ver - y bod - y for my
faith I root and grow un - til I flower, un - til I

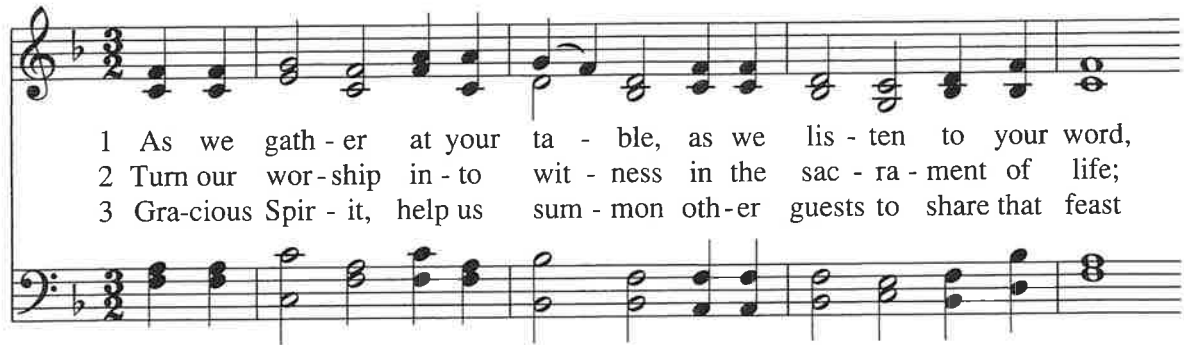
sun; you are my rain, my wind, my sun.
peace; your ver - y bod - y for my peace.
know; un - til I flower, un - til I know.

1-2 3

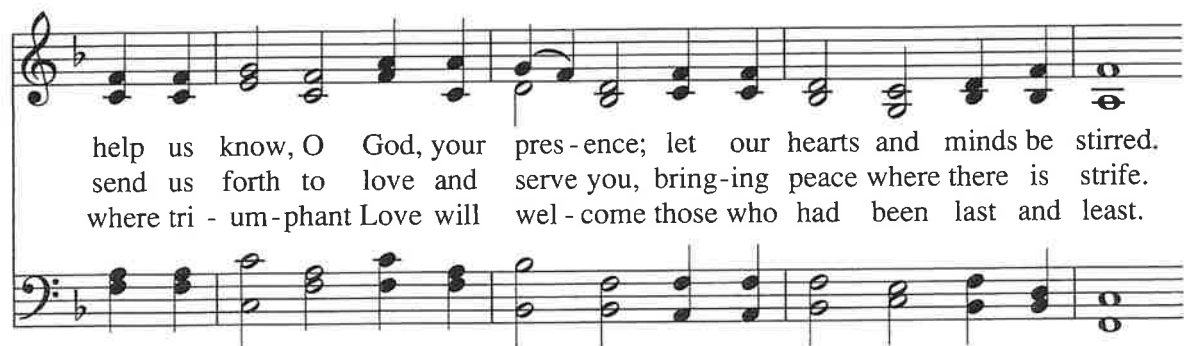
As We Gather at Your Table

Matt. 22:1-10; Luke 14:16-24

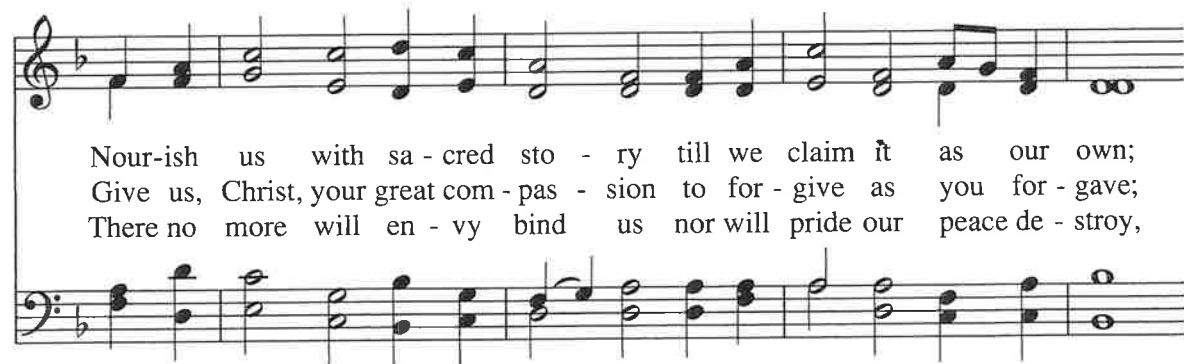
Carl P. Daw, Jr., 1989



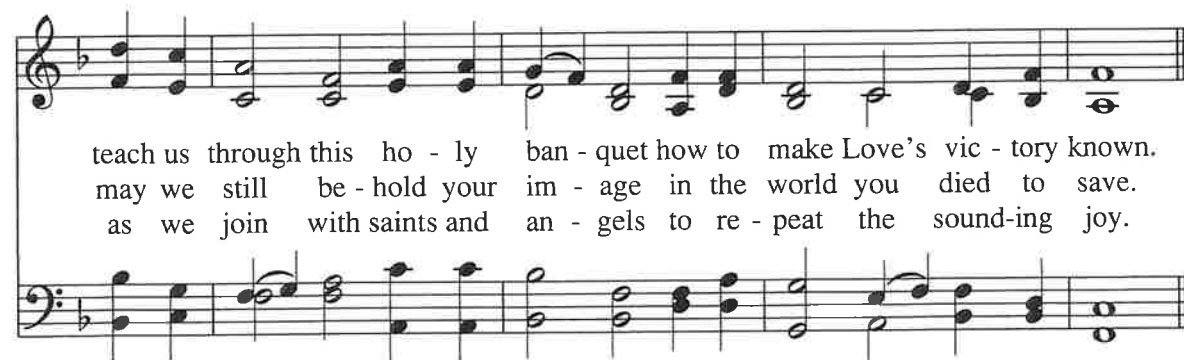
1 As we gath - er at your ta - ble, as we lis - ten to your word,
 2 Turn our wor - ship in - to wit - ness in the sac - ra - ment of life;
 3 Gra - cious Spir - it, help us sum - mon oth - er guests to share that feast



help us know, O God, your pres - ence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.
 send us forth to love and serve you, bring - ing peace where there is strife.
 where tri - um - phant Love will wel - come those who had been last and least.



Nour - ish us with sa - cred sto - ry till we claim it as our own;
 Give us, Christ, your great com - pas - sion to for - give as you for - gave;
 There no more will en - vy bind us nor will pride our peace de - stroy,



teach us through this ho - ly ban - quet how to make Love's vic - tory known.
 may we still be - hold your im - age in the world you died to save.
 as we join with saints and an - gels to re - peat the sound - ing joy.

In this hymn, commissioned by an Episcopal parish in Virginia for the celebration of its tricentennial, Carl P. Daw, Jr., utilized a familiar phrase from Isaac Watts' "Joy to the World," which was the motto for the celebration: "Repeat the sounding joy."

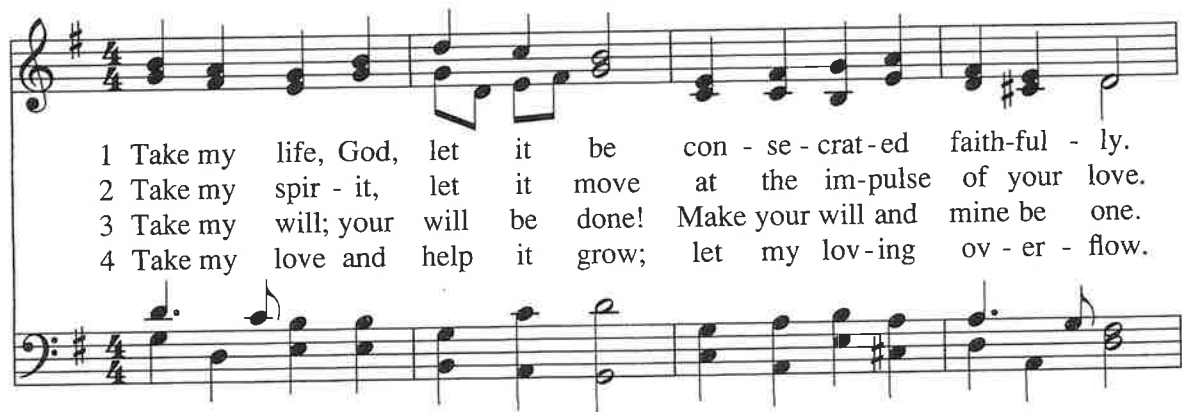
Tune: BEACH SPRING 8.7.8.7.D.
 The Sacred Harp, 1844
 Harm. The New Century Hymnal, 1992

Take My Life, God, Let It Be

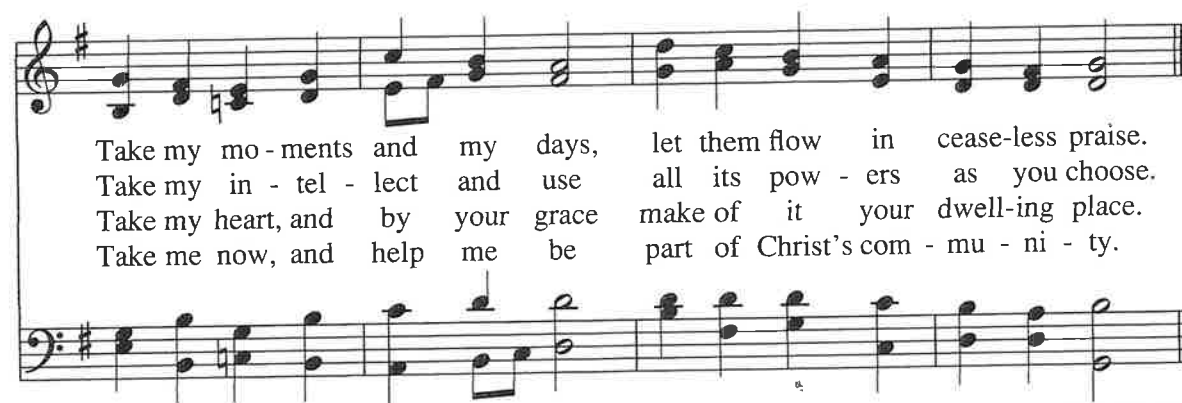
448

Frances R. Havergal, 1874; alt.

Rom. 12:1



1 Take my life, God, let it be con - se - crat - ed faith - ful - ly.
 2 Take my spir - it, let it move at the im - pulse of your love.
 3 Take my will; your will be done! Make your will and mine be one.
 4 Take my love and help it grow; let my lov - ing ov - er - flow.



Take my mo - ments and my days, let them flow in cease - less praise.
 Take my in - tel - lect and use all its pow - ers as you choose.
 Take my heart, and by your grace make of it your dwell - ing place.
 Take me now, and help me be part of Christ's com - mu - ni - ty.

Frances R. Havergal wrote her hymn following a visit to Areley House in Worcestershire, England. Among the ten persons at the house were "some unconverted . . . some converted but not rejoicing." Before she left, "everyone had got a blessing."

Tune: VIENNA 7.7.7.7.
 Justin H. Knecht, 1797
 Alternate tune: HENDON