

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

**NEIGHBORS IN NEED SUNDAY
BAPTISM 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."

October 18, 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.**

Gathering....

Musical Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

***Morning Psalm** Adapted from Psalm 99 by Nan C. Merrill

One: Awaken, O you people! Entrust your hearts to Love. For the Beloved reigns supreme;

All: Let all the earth give thanks!

One: Your unseen presence is great in the land; you sit with the leaders of nations.

All: Let them be silent and guided by Your voice!

One: Holy are You! You are mighty and love justice, You establish equity;

All: Out of the silence Your word can be heard inviting the nations to live in peace.

One: Listen, O you people! Open your hearts to the Beloved, that Truth may be born anew!

All: Holy are You, O Giver of Life!

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

***Opening Hymn**

O God in Whom All Life Begins

NCH #401

ORDER FOR THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

for

Henry Oliver Tierson

Born April 29, 2026

Son of Sonja Anne Tierson and Matthew Paul Tierson

Grandson of the Tierney family and the Johnson family

Presentation of the Water for Baptism

One: Brothers, sisters, and siblings in Christ, we gather now to celebrate the gift of grace in the sacrament of baptism.

All: There is one body and one Spirit. There is one hope in God's call to us. There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God, Creator of us all.

One: Baptism is the sacrament through which we are united with Jesus Christ, and given part in Christ's ministry of reconciliation. In baptism God works in us the power of forgiveness and the renewal of the Spirit, and the knowledge of the call to be Christ's disciples always.

All: This is the water of baptism. Out of this water we rise with new life, forgiven of sin and one in Christ, members of Christ's body.

Responsive Scripture Reading - Mark 10:13-16

One: People were bringing children to Jesus so that he would bless them. But the disciples scolded them. When Jesus saw this, he grew angry and said to them:

All: "Let the children come to me, do not hinder them; for to such belongs the realm of God. Truly I say to you, whoever does not receive the realm of God like a child shall not enter it."

One: And Jesus took them in his arms and blessed them, laying his hands upon them.

Invitation to the Family

Questions and Affirmations

Pastor: Matt and Sonja, do you desire to live and grow with Henry in the covenant community of Jesus Christ?

Parents: We do.

Pastor: Will you strive to learn from the wisdom of the prophets; doing justice, loving mercy, and walking humbly with your God, helping Henry to do the same?

Parents: We will, with the help of God.

Pastor: Will you seek an appreciation for the life and teachings of Jesus, in concert with an appreciation for diverse religious traditions, helping Henry to do the same?

Parents: We will, with the help of God.

Pastor: Will you honor the faith questions that arise throughout life, and will you help Henry do the same?

Parents: We will, with the help of God.

Pastor: Will you remember and help Henry to learn that faith is a journey and that God's love is available to you each day?

Parents: We will, with the help of God.

Pastor: Family and friends, will you guide and encourage Henry, by counsel and example, in prayer and with love, to follow the way of Jesus Christ?

Family: We will, with the help of God.

Congregational Assent

One: Jesus calls us to make disciples of others, and to offer them the gift of grace in baptism. On behalf of the Christian church in every place, do you who witness and celebrate this sacrament, promise your love, support, and care to Henry as he lives and grows in Christ?

People: We promise our love, support and care.

Prayer of Baptism

One: We give you thanks, O Holy One, mother and father of all the faithful for this your child and for the grace acknowledged here today in water and the Holy Spirit.

All: Gracious and loving God, we pray that you bless Henry with strength for life's journey, courage in the face of injustice, compassion at the sight of oppression, the joy of faith, the freedom of love, and the hope of new life; through Jesus Christ, who makes us one. Amen.

Baptism of Henry Oliver Tierson

***Devotional Hymn** Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart NCH #290

Reflecting...

Scripture Readings

Exodus 33:12-23

Moses said to the LORD, "See, you have said to me, 'Bring up this people,' but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. Yet you have said, 'I know you by name, and you have also found favor in my sight.' Now if I have found favor in your sight, please show me your ways, so that I may know you and find favor in your sight. Consider, too, that this nation is your people." He said, "My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest." And he said to him, "If your presence will not go, do not bring us up from here. For how shall it be known that I have found favor in your sight, I and your people, unless you go with us? In this way, we shall be distinct, I and your people, from every people on the face of the earth."

The LORD said to Moses, "I will also do this thing that you have asked, for you have found favor in my sight, and I know you by name." Moses said, "Please show me your glory." And he said, "I will make all my goodness pass before you and will proclaim before you the name, 'The LORD,' and I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy. But," he said, "you cannot see my face, for no one shall see me and live." And the LORD continued, "See, there is a place by me where you shall stand on the rock, and while my glory passes by I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by; then I will take away my hand, and you shall see my back, but my face shall not be seen."

Matthew 22:15-22

Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap him in what he said. So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one, for you do not regard people with partiality. Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not?" But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. Then he said to them, "Whose head is this and whose title?" They answered, "Caesar's." Then he said to them, "Give therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's." When they heard this, they were amazed, and they left him and went away.

Our Sermon "The Face of God and the Face of Caesar" Rev. Andrew Harris

Anthem

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

God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending

NCH #565

*Benediction

Postlude

* * * * *

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
Sarah Del Dotto, Director of Music Ministries
Deb Raymond, Director of Christian Education
Bobbie Killilea, Administrative Assistant
Uccburlington.org / 781-272-4547

*Kari Lynch donated today's altar flowers in memory of her wonderful dad,
Kenneth Drs.*

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Jan McSheffrey
Barbara Naddaff
Thomas Omobono
Keri Beyer
Shirley Garside and daughter Lynn
Bobbie Killilea's godson Chris
Dan Shea
Nancy Davis
Skip Glancy
Donna DeSiome's sister
Brenda, brother-in-law Rick
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
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
and 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
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

*Today we will baptize Henry Oliver Tierson, son of Sonja and Matt Tierson.
Blessings to you and all your family!*

Worship Participation
October 18, 2026 Baptism

| | |
|----------------|-------------------------------|
| Pastor: | Rev. Andrew Harris |
| Organist: | Sarah Del Dotto |
| Lay Leader: | Chris Stahlinski |
| Head Usher: | |
| Usher: | Carol Downing |
| Greeter: | |
| Flowers: | Kari Lynch |
| Collector | Lucy Damiani |
| Nursery: | Kathy Hill
Brenda McCuskey |
| Sunday School: | Deb Raymond
Donna Ferro |
| Coffee Host: | |
| Bakers: | Deana Tredeau |

Worship Participation
October 25, 2026 Baptism
Red Wagon

| | |
|----------------|--------------------------------|
| Pastor: | Rev. Andrew Harris |
| Organist: | Sarah Del Dotto |
| Lay Leader: | |
| Head Usher: | Dick Butler |
| Usher: | Karen Butler |
| Greeter: | |
| Flowers: | Carol Downing |
| Collector | Joan Zink |
| Nursery: | Kanika Agarwala |
| Sunday School: | Deb Raymond
Donna Ferro |
| Coffee Host: | Chris Stahlinski
Kathy Hill |
| Bakers: | Chris Stahlinski |

BIBLE STUDY

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.

October 21 - The Anointing (Mark 14:3-9)

October 28 - Tabitha (Acts 9:36-43)

November 4 - Woman at the Well (John 4:1-42)

November 11 - Mary and Martha (Luke 10:38-42)

November 18 - Anna (Luke 2:25-40)

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

NEIGHBORS IN NEED (NIN)

Fall is the busiest time of the year for your Mission's committee. We pledge to support 5 special projects of the UCC. This lets us support the UCC missions of peace and justice on a larger scale. This year on October 18 there will be a special offering for Neighbors in Need.

"The Neighbors in Need" offering today supports ministries of justice and compassion, with one-third of the offering given to the Council for American Indian Ministries and the remaining two-thirds supporting UCC justice ministries."

Special Neighbors in Need envelopes are in the pews and outside the Church office. You may also donate online.

SUNDAY SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE-MOVED TO NOVEMBER 1ST.

Come down to the Sunday School right after church on November 1st to see what we have been up to!

HALLOWEEN CELEBRATION

SUNDAY OCTOBER 25

Our church hall is very booked for the month of October, so we won't be holding the Halloween party, BUT..we are going to hold a Halloween church service as such. The kids will wear costumes to church. AND adults please wear costumes too.

CE will hold a Halloween themed coffee hour and a parade of costumes. There will then be a pie throwing contest on the lawn outside.

COMMUNITY DINNER

Wednesday 10/28/26 UCC will host the October dinner at the Presbyterian Church.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

-Volunteers for the meal

Making Halloween themed Shepherd's Pie. Recipes will be available.

We will need a few volunteers to make Shepherd's pie and to make desserts.

-Volunteers to set up at 4:30pm

-Volunteers to clean up until 7:30pm

There will be signup sheets at coffee hour - Please text or call Deb Raymond 857-373-9156.

COAT BOSTON

Coat Boston collected over 2,000 new winter coats last year which were distributed to children in need of coats in Boston. This year they are hoping to collect 3,000 **new coats** sizes for infants to 4XL. These will be distributed to 27 schools and organizations in Boston. ***UCC Burlington will be collecting coats through November 1.*** There will be a bin for coats outside the office area.

WISH PROJECT CLOTHING NEEDS

As you start to take out your winter clothing, please remember Wish Project in Chelmsford is asking for fall and winter donations of clothing. All sizes of clothing are needed. All donations need to be free of stains, with no holes, missing buttons or tears. Your donations can be left in one of the bins underneath the hall coat rack.

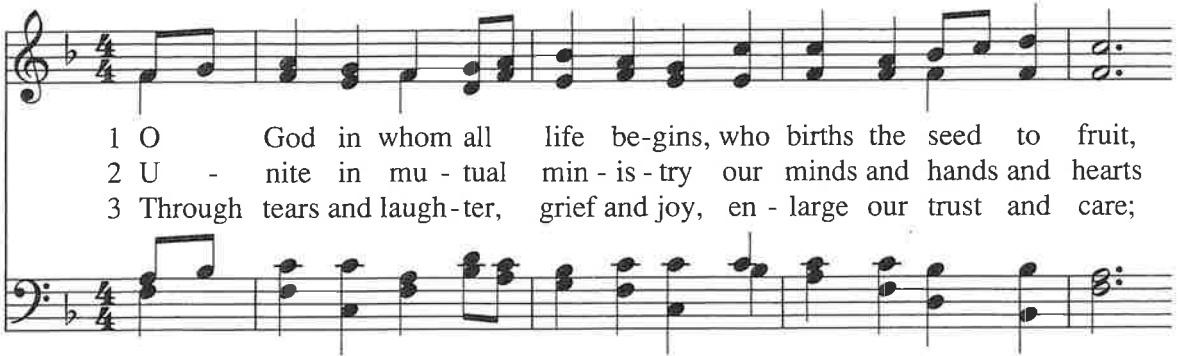
WISH TREE

The People Helping People Holiday program was established to help Burlington families in need during the holiday season. One part of this project is the Wish Tree Program which provides clothing and gifts requested by a child of pantry clients. The Wish Tree has a table located on the second floor of the mall. People stop by, obtain a wish, buy the gift from wherever they want and bring the item back to the Wish Tree table.

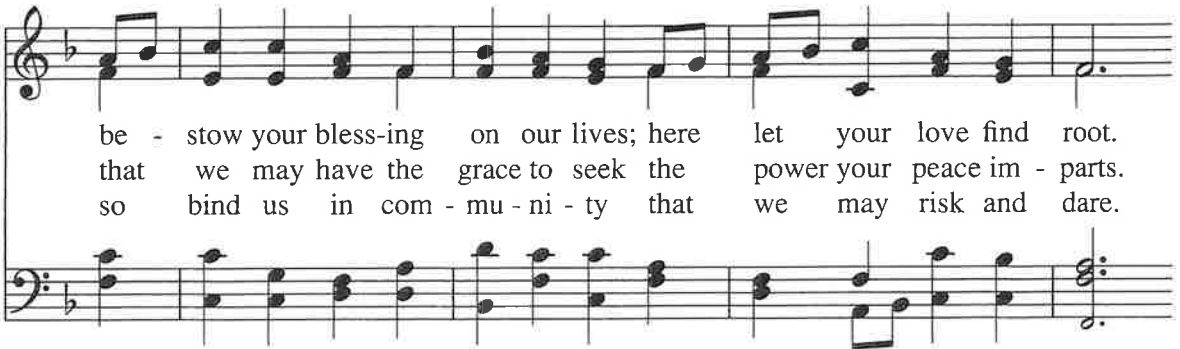
UCC will be at the Wish Tree table handing out the special wishes on December 1 and 7 from noon until 7PM. There is a sign-up sheet at coffee hour and outside the office if you can volunteer.

O God in Whom All Life Begins

401

Carl P. Daw, Jr., 1992


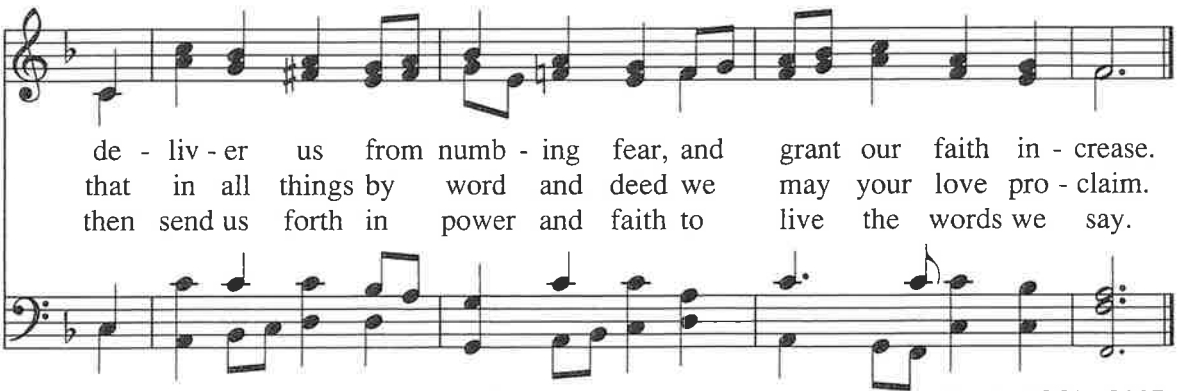
1 O God in whom all life be-gins, who births the seed to fruit,
 2 U - nite in mu - tual min - is - try our minds and hands and hearts
 3 Through tears and laugh-ter, grief and joy, en - large our trust and care;



be - stow your bless-ing on our lives; here let your love find root.
 that we may have the grace to seek the power your peace im - parts.
 so bind us in com - mu - ni - ty that we may risk and dare.



Bring forth in us the Spir - it's gifts of pa - tience, joy, and peace;
 So let our var - ied gifts com-bine to glo - ri - fy your Name
 Be with us when we gath - er here to wor-ship, sing, and pray,



de - liv - er us from numb - ing fear, and grant our faith in - crease.
 that in all things by word and deed we may your love pro - claim.
 then send us forth in power and faith to live the words we say.

Carl P. Daw, Jr., is an Episcopal priest who began hymnwriting while serving on the text committee for The Hymnal 1982. He has held academic positions at the College of William and Mary and the University of Connecticut, where he was also vicar-chaplain.

Tune: NOEL C.M.D.
 Traditional English melody
 Arr. Arthur S. Sullivan, 1874

Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart

290

*George Croly, 1854; alt.**Gal. 5:25; Matt. 22:37; John 1:32*

1 Spir - it of God, de - scend up - on my heart;
 2 I ask no dream, no proph - et ec - sta - sies,
 3 Have you not bid us love you ev - ery way?
 4 Teach me to feel that you are al - ways nigh;
 5 Teach me to love you as your an - gels love,

wean it from earth, through all its puls - es move;
 no sud - den rend - ing of the veil of clay,
 All, all your own: soul, heart, and strength, and mind;
 teach me the strug - gles of the soul to bear,
 one ho - ly pas - sion fill - ing all my frame;

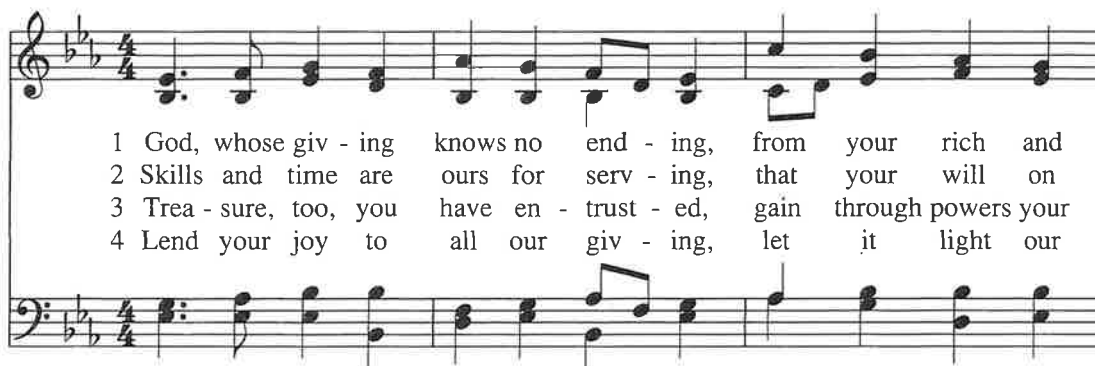
Stoop to my weak - ness, might - y as you are,
 No an - gel vis - i - tant, no o - pening skies;
 I see your cross— there teach my heart to stay:
 To check the ris - ing doubt, the reb - el sigh;
 The bap - tism of the heaven - de - scend - ed dove,

and make me love you as I ought to love.
 but take the dim - ness of my soul a - way.
 O let me seek you, and O let me find.
 teach me the pa - tience of un - an - swered prayer.
 my heart an al - tar, and your love the flame.

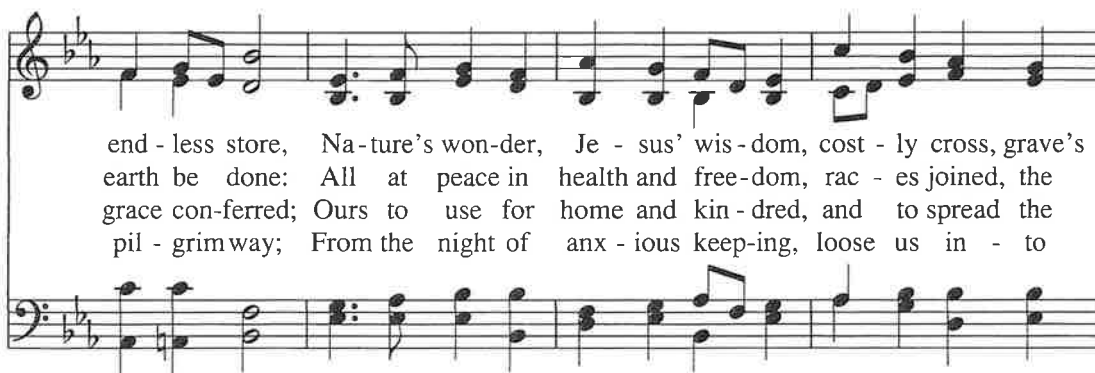
George Croly, ordained in the Church of Ireland, was well known in London literary circles and served a poor parish. This hymn is from a collection he compiled for that congregation. Hellespont was the original name for the tune Morecambe.

Tune: MORECAMBE 10.10.10.10.
Frederick C. Atkinson, 1870

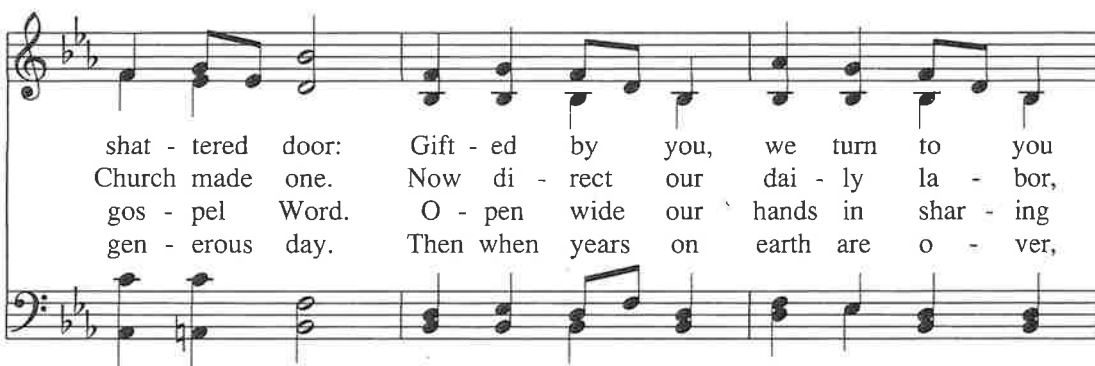
God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending

Robert L. Edwards, 1961; alt.


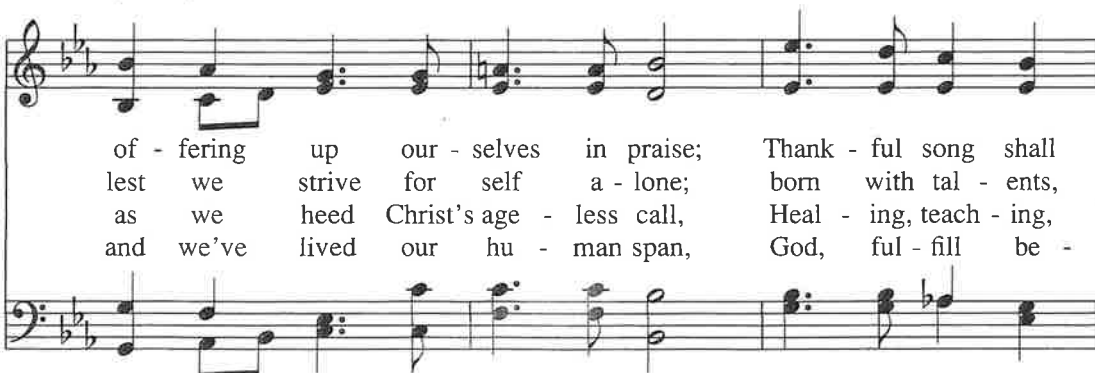
1 God, whose giv - ing knows no end - ing, from your rich and
 2 Skills and time are ours for serv - ing, that your will on
 3 Trea - sure, too, you have en - trust - ed, gain through powers your
 4 Lend your joy to all our giv - ing, let it light our



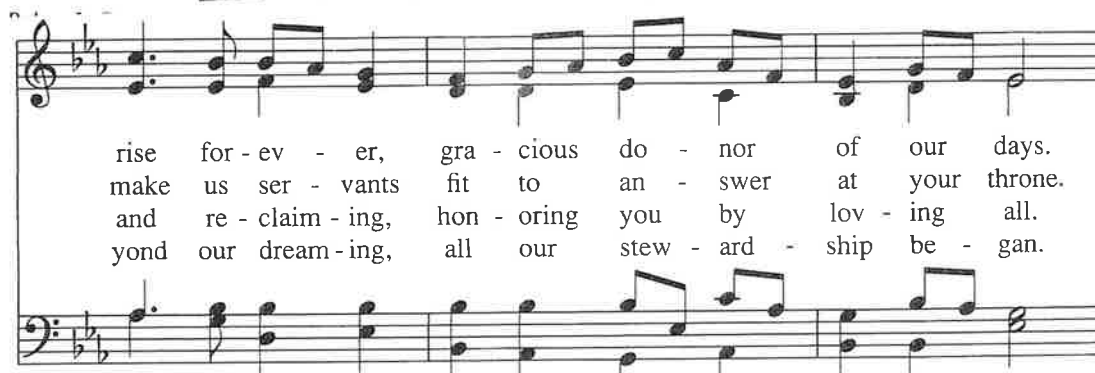
end - less store, Na - ture's won - der, Je - sus' wis - dom, cost - ly cross, grave's
 earth be done: All at peace in health and free - dom, rac - es joined, the
 grace con - ferred; Ours to use for home and kin - dred, and to spread the
 pil - grim way; From the night of anx - ious keep - ing, loose us in - to



shat - tered door: Gift - ed by you, we turn to you
 Church made one. Now di - rect our dai - ly la - bor,
 gos - pel Word. O - pen wide our hands in shar - ing
 gen - erous day. Then when years on earth are o - ver,



of - fering up our - selves in praise; Thank - ful song shall
 lest we strive for self a - lone; born with tal - ents,
 as we heed Christ's age - less call, Heal - ing, teach - ing,
 and we've lived our hu - man span, God, ful - fill be -



rise for - ev - er, gra - cious do - nor of our days.
 make us ser - vants fit to an - swer at your throne.
 and re - claim - ing, hon - oring you by lov - ing all.
 yond our dream - ing, all our stew - ard - ship be - gan.