The United Church of Christ, Congregational
Burlington, MA

TWENTY-FOURTH 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."

November 8, 2026 **10:30am**

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UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
CONGREGATIONAL
BURLINGTON, MA

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 78

One: God says, "Listen well, O my people, to my teaching."
All: We attune our ears to the Word that speaks in our souls.
One: God says, "I open my mouth and ancient mysteries unfold."
All: Our hearts receive the wisdom of our ancestors.
One: We will not hide them from our children;
All: We will exclaim the wonders of God's love to the coming generation!
One: We will teach the children of the inward voice.
All: We will teach them the song that sings in our innermost being.
One: We will teach the generations how to listen with their hearts.
All: We will show the generations how to shout the Good News!
One: We will tell the children the ways of God.
All: We will remember God in all that we do, and set our hope upon him.

***Opening Hymn** God Reigns o'er All the Earth NCH #21

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

***Devotional Hymn** God's Actions, Always Good and Just NCH #415

Reflecting...

Scripture Readings

Wisdom of Solomon 6:12-16

Wisdom is radiant and unfading,
and she is easily discerned by those who love her
and is found by those who seek her.
She hastens to make herself known to those who desire her.
One who rises early to seek her will have no difficulty,
for she will be found sitting at the gate.
To fix one's thought on her is perfect understanding,

and one who is vigilant on her account will soon be free from care,
because she goes about seeking those worthy of her,
and she graciously appears to them in their paths
and meets them in every thought.

Matthew 25:1-13

"Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten young women took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' Then all those young women got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet, and the door was shut. Later the other young women came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' Keep awake, therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

Our Sermon With Lamps Ready to Catch Fire Rev. Andrew Harris

Anthem Sarah Del Dotto

Praying...

Pastoral Prayer

Lord's Prayer

Offering...

Invitation of Offering and Love 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** Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning NCH #369

***Benediction**

Postlude

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CHURCH VISION STATEMNT
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

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Donna DeSimone
Ken Keyser
Ryan Clark
Barbara Moran
Jan McSheffrey
Barbara Naddaff
Deb Raymond's friend Keith
Anna Karwan's brother Steve
Shirley Garside and daughter Lynn
Dan Shea
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
Sally Willard's sister Vicky
Rev. Cheryl Kerr's son Gabe
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

Worship Participation
November 8, 2026 Love Offering

Pastor:	Rev. Andrew Harris
Organist:	Sarah Del Dotto
Lay Leader:	Chris Stahlinski
Head Usher:	David McNeil
Usher:	
Greeter:	Marcia Rich
Cornucopia:	Deacons
Collector	Dick Butler
Nursery:	Kanika Agarwala
Sunday School:	Deb Raymond
	Donna Ferro
Coffee Host:	Jessy McNeil
Baker/Snacks:	Jessy McNeil

Worship Participation
November 15, 2026 Pledge Sunday

Pastor:	Rev. Andrew Harris
Organist:	Sarah Del Dotto
Lay Leader:	Lucy Damiani
Head Usher:	Chris Stahlinski
Usher:	
Greeter:	
Cornucopia:	Deacons
Collector:	Marge Zamanian
Nursery:	Kanika Agarwala
Sunday School:	Deb Raymond
	Donna Ferro
Coffee Host:	
Baker/Snacks:	Marcia Rich

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

November 11 - Mary and Martha (Luke 10:38-42)
November 18 - Anna (Luke 2:25-40)

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 8 TODAY.*** 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. Thank you to all who have volunteered!**

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR NOVEMBER

INGATHERING SUNDAY - NOVEMBER 22 DURING WORSHIP



Our church is blessed to serve as the collection and distribution point for the Burlington Community Thanksgiving Dinners to families in need this year. Currently, we are soliciting volunteers and donations, advertising, and planning for this huge event.

We are having a **Thanksgiving Food Drive on Saturday, November 21st from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.** at United Church of Christ, Congregational, 6 Lexington Street. For this food drive, we are requesting Thanksgiving and Food Pantry non-perishable foods. Cub Scouts Pack 555 will be collecting hundreds of pies at Shaw's, so stop by and buy a pie.

We are requesting that our church and our neighboring faith communities provide non-perishable food for the Thanksgiving Dinners. You may bring these donations on Saturday to the food drive and items will be taken directly from your car or bring your donations to worship on Sunday, November 22nd. We encourage all of our families to participate in the sorting.

This is a short list, but we need DOZENS and DOZENS OF EACH ITEM. **Please, NO EXPIRED DATES!**

Stuffing (bags or boxes)	**Corn, canned**
Gravy	**Chicken broth**
Mayonnaise	**Cornbread mix**
Cranberry sauce, canned	

When families arrive to shop in the afternoon, we ask that only adults are allowed to help due to privacy reasons.



CHRISTMAS TREE FUNDRAISER

Our tree sale opens Friday, November 27, the day after Thanksgiving! Hours are 4–6 PM on weekday evenings and 12–6 PM on weekends. We need volunteers to set up and staff the lot. Thank you for sharing your time and spirit! Along with beautiful trees, we'll sell fresh wreaths and handmade ornaments throughout the sale.

Prepay before November 27 to save $5 on your tree this year, then pick it up anytime during the sale. You can also sponsor a tree for someone in need. If you don't need a real Christmas tree, consider buying one for another family; we'll work with People Helping People to deliver sponsored trees to families who would like one.
Home | Mistletoe Market at UCC Burlington!

EXTRA HANDS WILL BE NEEDED TO HELP SET UP LIGHTING FOR THE TREE SALES. STAY TUNED!





MISTLETOE MARKET

We're delighted to welcome back the Mistletoe Market! Local vendors will rent tables to display their goods, and UCC's craft and bake table will feature handmade contributions from our congregation. Crafters and bakers, please contribute a few holiday-themed items or gifts, including Christmas cookies individually wrapped for hanging on our cookie tree.

Santa Claus will also join us for photos on the Sewall Hall stage!

The Market needs many volunteers! Save the date and contact us to help or look for the signup sheet at Coffee Hour in early November.

Raffles & Silent Auction: Many vendors are generously contributing raffle items for the Mistletoe Market, and a silent auction is also planned for that day. We'd welcome themed baskets and a few higher-value donations, such as vacation rentals or gift card bundles, to help make the fundraiser a success.

Want to Get Involved? If you have questions about the Market, feel free to email us at **UCCMistletoeMarket@gmail.com**. Vendor spots are filling quickly! Interested or know of someone who is? Share this application link:
https://forms.gle/V3b7RmdMZJeFFxT99

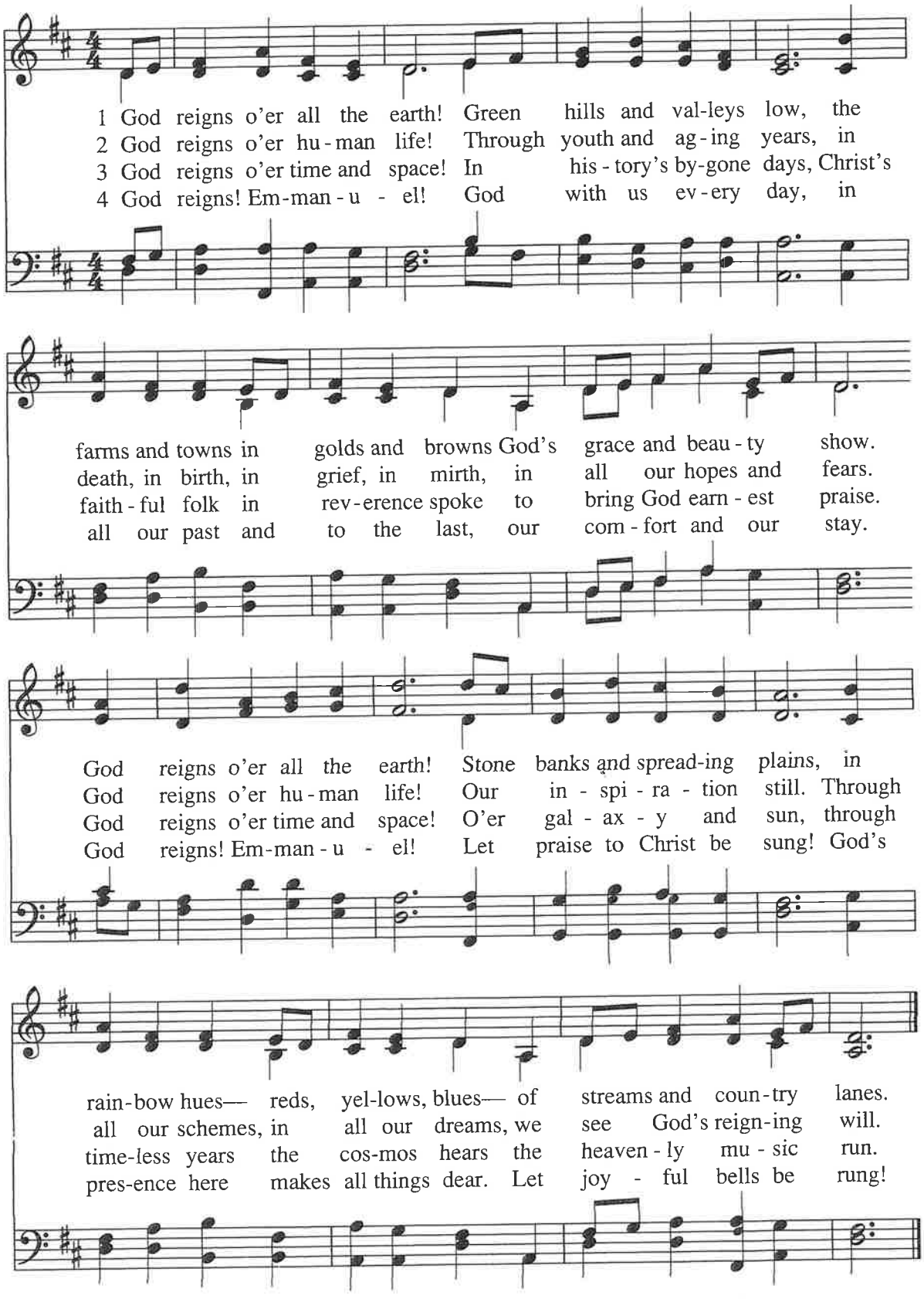
We can't wait to celebrate the season with you - bringing joy, connection, and the spirit of giving to our church and sharing our joy with the community.

God Reigns o'er All the Earth

21

Jane Parker Huber, 1981

Isa. 52:7–10
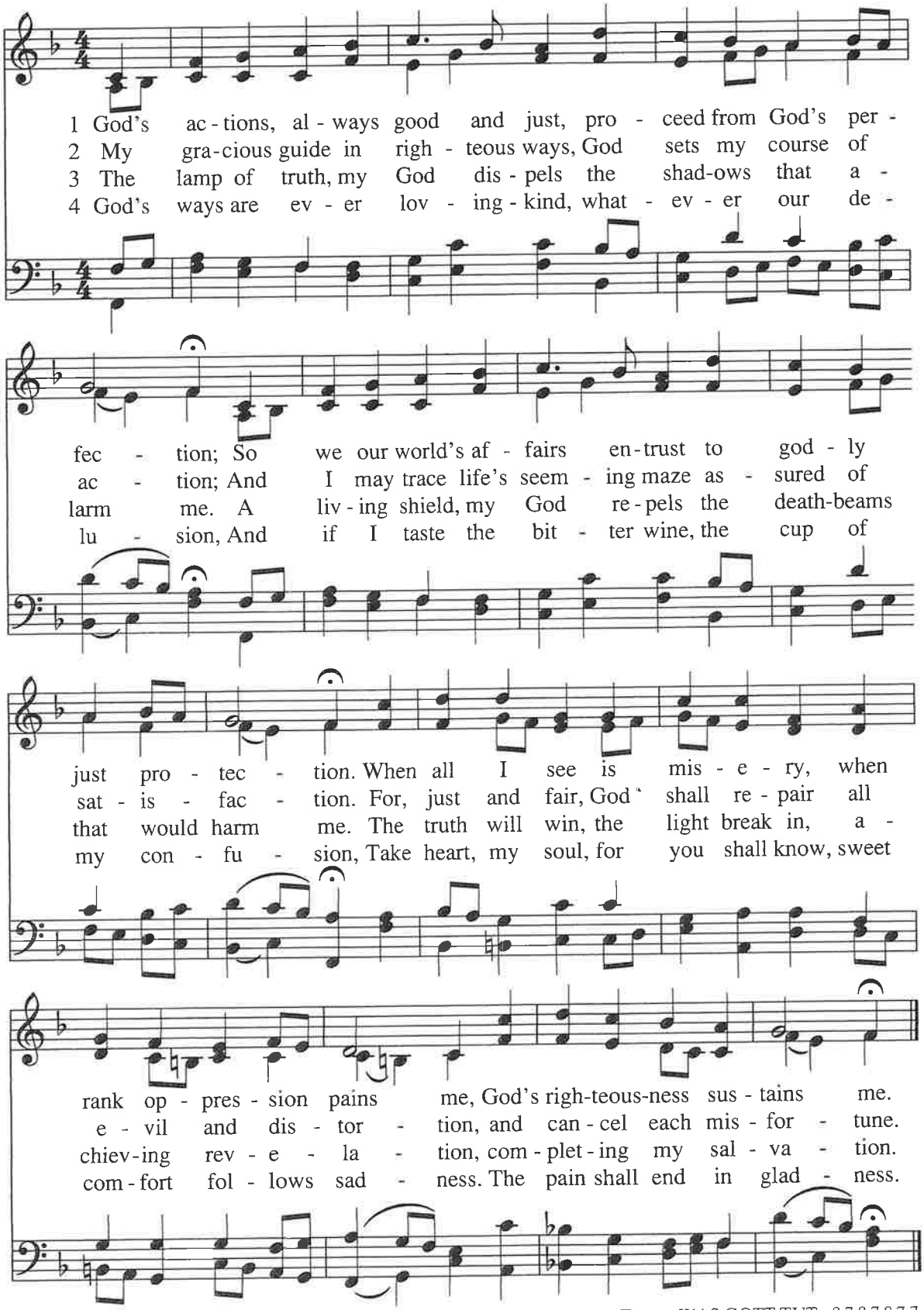


The author's notes on this text describe it as a progression of awareness of God's reign among us—in physical surroundings, in the various stages of life, in time and space, and supremely in Christ, God with us.

Tune: TERRA BEATA S.M.D.
Traditional English melody
Adapt. Franklin L. Sheppard, 1915

415 God's Actions, Always Good and Just

Samuel Rodigast, 1675; transl. Madeleine Forell Marshall, 1992
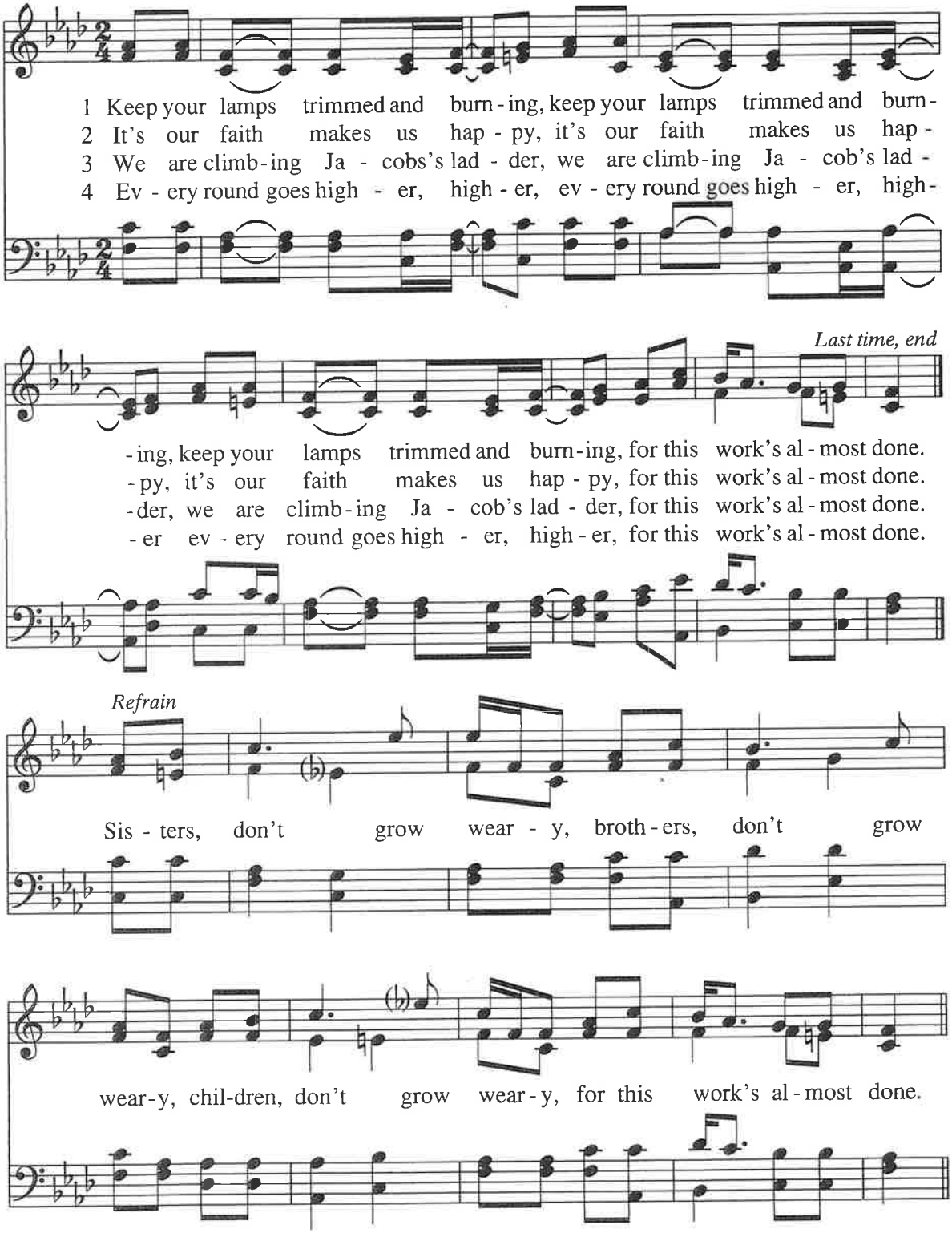


When Severus Gastorius suffered a serious illness in 1675, his friend Samuel Rodigast wrote this hymn to comfort him. Gastorius was a German Lutheran music director at Jena. Rodigast was a scholar and educator in Berlin.

Tune: WAS GOTT TUT 8.7.8.7.8.7.7.
Severus Gastorius, c. 1675

369 Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning

Matt. 25:1–13; Gal. 6:9

African-American spiritual



By tradition, a leader may call out substitute words for the refrain, such as "Christians don't grow weary, Christians don't grow weary, . . ." *etc., or* "people," "preacher," *or any others that may be appropriate.*

This spiritual is possibly one of the code songs in which to keep one's lamp "trimmed and burning" could have meant keeping a lookout for a conductor of the underground railroad, such as Harriet Tubman. It is often sung at church dedication services.

Tune: KEEP YOUR LAMPS 7.7.7.6.6.6.6.6
African-American spiritual
Harm. The New Century Hymnal, *1994*