

Sunday, October 1, 2023

Columbia United Church of Christ

100th
Anniversary
Worship



Columbia United Church of Christ
3201 I-70 Dr. NW
Columbia, MO 65202
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573-445-7931



**Columbia
United Church
Of Christ**



October 1, 2023

10:30 Worship

"Centennial"

*"... We will tell the coming generations of the glorious deeds of God!"
-Psalm 78:4*

Welcome and Greetings

Pastor Rick

Prelude

"Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

Chapel Ringers
arr. Janet Linker

Bringing in the Light of Christ

*Call to Worship

(based on Psalm 78)

Pastor Rick

Incline your ears to God's Teaching;
Open your ears to the Wisdom of God's mouth.

**We will share this Wisdom with our children;
We will tell God's parables to future generations.**

We will tell of God's glorious might;
Speaking of the wonders God has brought forth.

**We share our faith with coming generations
That all might set their hope in God!
Come, let us worship God!**

*Gathering Hymn "To You, O God, All Creatures Sing"

#17

*Opening Prayer

Pastor Rick

Loving God, who guided our forbearers, we come to you this day with prayers of thanksgiving for your blessings on those who have served and worked in this community these past 100 years. We thank you for every memory that our celebrations revive and for the great number of witnesses who gather here today, celebrating our past while embracing our future.

We pray that you will deepen within each of us a sense of gratitude for the many sacrifices made by those who have gone before us to make this church a place of comfort and challenge. May we continue to see the needs of those around us and the future of those who will come after us. We pray that we may always do all that is possible to witness in word and deed and intentional affirmation the ministry Jesus exemplified in his life. In Jesus' name we pray; Amen.

*Assurance of Blessing

Pastor Rick

We have been blessed with much: comfort and challenge, faith and friendship, power and presence. As ones so richly blessed, we are called to be blessings in God's world. But even when we forget this call, God still loves us, remembers us, embraces us, forgives us. Through our repentance and God's grace, we are forgiven, beloved, and blessed. Praise be to God!

*Prayer Response

"Weave"

***Weave, Weave, weave us together!
Weave us together in unity and love!
Weave, Weave, weave us together!
Weave us together; together in love!***

*Sharing God's Gift of Peace

Pastor Rick

May God's Peace be with you!

And also with you!

Anthem

"Holy, Holy, Holy"

arr. Robert Sterling

Presented to God's Glory by the 100th Anniversary Reunion Choir
Virginia (Rathert) Zetterberg, MA, guest conductor

Children's Time

Pastor Rick

Response:

"I Have Decided to Follow Jesus"

(Sung as children return to their seats)

***I have decided to follow Jesus!
I have decided to follow Jesus!
I have decided to follow Jesus!
No turning back, no turning back!***

Anniversary Reflections

Revs. Jerry Jordan and Fred Brandenburg

Old Testament Lesson

Exodus 17:1-7

Rev. Dr. John C. Dorhauer

The people of Israel quarrel with Moses, but God continued to provide for them, even in their doubt. They questioned whether God was with them in their most trying times. Exacerbated, Moses expresses his frustration, but God's presence and provision remains constant.

Pg. #56

Gospel Reading

Matthew 21:23-32

Rev. Damien Lake

Jesus is confronted by the chief priests and elders of the Temple, who question the authority of his unorthodox teachings. They are concerned with style over substance, perception over practice. Jesus tells them a parable that illustrates the wisdom of integrity.

Pg. #802

Anthem “Kept by the Grace of God” Eldrick Brown
Presented to God’s Glory by the 100th Anniversary Reunion Choir
Brandon Brown, M.M., guest conductor
Ronnie Wilson, guest soloist & Grayson Smullen, guest drummer

Sermon “Challenges and Celebrations”
Rev. Dr. John C. Dorhauer & Rev. Damien Lake

*Hymn “O Christ, the Great Foundation” #387

Invitation to Communion

This is the joyful feast for the people of God. All are welcome, no matter who you are or where you are on life’s journey. As we gather here today around this table, we also gather with the Saints of the Church who have gone before us, who sat in The Evangelical Club, The Chapel, and this Sanctuary years ago. They are great cloud of witnesses who laid the foundation for today’s ministries and who still surround us. Let us gather for the feast.

Pastoral Prayer, Silent Prayer, & Invocation

Blessing the Children “I Come With Joy” #349

In the Sacraments, we see Christ most clearly in our midst. Our desire to share this presence prompts us to offer special blessings to children in our midst. During the hymn, our children are invited to come forward via the center aisle and receive a special blessing from Pastor Rick.

Institution; Fraction; Distribution

You will be invited to come forward to receive Communion from the Communion Stewards. There will be four communion stations. The stewards will serve you the bread and the cup of wine; if you would rather have grape juice, ask the steward. There is also gluten free bread in the vessel on the paten. If you would prefer this option, the steward can help you. You may bring the elements back to your seat and hold them, so we can all commune together once everyone is served. If you rather, you can partake of the elements when you return to your seat.

Communion Music Linda Neale, flute & Jolene Hackman, piano

*Prayer of Thanksgiving Pastor Rick

Eternal and Loving God, we give thanks to you for your goodness through all the years of worship and witness in the many incarnations of this church. We give thanks for calling this church to be your hands and feet in the world. We give thanks for your love revealed to us in Jesus Christ, sent from your own being to be our Savior. We especially give thanks for this meal, that nourishes our soul and claims us as your community. And now we gather, one family of faith, singing the prayer you taught us:

*The LORD's Prayer (*sung by the Congregation, led by Brandon Brown*)

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Re-dedication of this Faith Community for another 100 years of Ministry

Introduction

Pastor Rick

Presentation

Kurt Heine

As Representative of the Church Council,
I present this faith community to be focused on Glorifying God
and to the service of all God's Children.
Representing the leadership of this church,
I promise that we will embody the stated mission of this congregation:

To Welcome all God's people;
To Nurture Faith and Spiritual Growth;
To Challenge and Inspire everyone with vibrant worship
To Build a supportive church family
To Transform the community through service and outreach

*Congregational Response (*adapted from 1969 dedication service*)

To the glory of God, who has called us by grace; to the honor of Jesus Christ, who dedicated his life to sharing God's wisdom with his beloved community, of which we are the inheritors; and to the enabling of the Holy Spirit, who continues to illumine and sanctify us; We dedicate our hearts.

To comfort those who mourn, to challenge those who are comfortable, to give strength to those who are tempted, to give light to enable searchers to see the way, we dedicate our work.

In gratitude for the labors of all who love and serve this church, in loving remembrance of those who have gone before us who enabled ministries in their time, in the hope of an eternal reunion with the Saints of the Church who have gone before us and those who will come along after we are gone, we dedicate our lives.

Accept, O God, the dedication of ourselves to the great work we have been called to do. May the dedication of this congregation signify to all our renewed dedication to your ministry. Surrounded

with such a great cloud of witnesses, we are humbled by the heritage they have passed on to us. Let us know that apart from you, those that labor do so in vain. Accept, O God, this service of dedication, and bless this congregation to your purposes for many years to come. Amen.

Recognitions and Presentations

Pastor Rick & Kurt Heine

Sharing our Announcements of Community Life

Pastor Rick

Mission Moment

“Neighbors in Need”

Mark Duncan

Invitation to the Offering

*As we have been blessed, we give to be blessings in God's World.
To give online text “GIVE” to 573.240.4041*

Offertory

“How Wondrous and Great”

Jolene Hackman, organ, & Connie Loveless, piano
Lyons/Arr. Darwin Wolford

*Prayer of Dedication

(adapted from 1969 dedication service)

Pastor Rick

God of love, receive us and these gifts as we dedicate them and ourselves to you. Consecrate for us the experience and resolve of this hour, and lead us in the way of true understanding and faithful service. Amen.

*Benediction

Pastor Rick

*Response

“Let There be Peace on Earth”

***Let there be Peace on Earth and Let it Begin with me!
Let there be Peace on Earth; the Peace that was meant to be!
With God our Creator, Children all are we!
Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony!
Let Peace begin with me; let this be the moment now!
With every step I take let this be my solemn vow:
To take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally!
Let there be Peace on Earth; and let it begin with me!***

*Postlude

“Come, Christians, Join to Sing”

Jolene Hackman & Connie Loveless, piano duet
Arr. Robert D. Vandall

The United Church of Christ:

“United in Christ's Love, A Just World for All”

COLUMBIA UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

(Formerly "The Evangelical Club" and later "The Chapel")

FOUNDED JANUARY 23, 1923

One hundred years ago, Professor H. H. Krusekopf at Mizzou was instrumental in getting German Evangelical students and faculty together. He attended an Evangelical Church back home. In 1921, he held prayer meetings, hosted speakers, and led worship services in his home, and on campus at the University of Missouri, where he was a professor in the School of Agriculture. On January 23, 1923, the group was formally organized, calling themselves "The Evangelical Club." They were a mission of the Evangelical Synod of North America (one of the predecessor bodies of the United Church of Christ), providing a college ministry in Columbia on behalf of the Synod.

The Evangelical Club grew and asked for a permanent pastor. The Evangelical Synod sent an Eden Seminary graduate, Ralph Abele, to serve as part-time pastor while doing graduate work at Mizzou. He was in Columbia two years and got the group planning for the future. The next pastor was Waldo Berlecamp in 1927. He instituted two Sunday services: one in the morning and a Sunday evening social action service with discussions about social issues, guest speakers, and vespers.

In 1926, the congregation discerned a need for a building of their own to help serve the students, faculty, and residents. In 1926, a Building Fund was started, but it would be 1933 before a facility was constructed on Hitt Street. On February 11, 1933, The Chapel was dedicated and The Evangelical Club officially changed their name to "The Chapel."

In 1939, Rev. Harold Wilke was called to be pastor. Born without arms, Rev. Wilke faced discrimination his entire life. At first, the Evangelical and Reformed Church was hesitant to ordain him, claiming that a pastor with no arms would not be able to consecrate the elements in the Sacrament of Communion. He showed them – he did just fine consecrating the elements with his feet! He would go on to head the UCC Disabilities Ministry and was instrumental in passing the Americans with Disabilities Act. He was present when President George Bush signed the ADA into law in 1990.

The war was on everyone's mind in the 1940s. Chapel records reveal that several Chapel members went on record as Conscientious Objectors to the war. In 1942, the first overtures were made to the Congregational Christian Churches to enter into The Chapel program with the Evangelical and Reformed Churches. This union was made official in 1944, 13 years before the UCC merger.

Frederick Stoerker became pastor of The Chapel in 1943. He and his wife, Mildred, came to Columbia to continue The Chapel program. In 1943, a group was gathered to make toys for Japanese children interred in US detention camps. The Chapel Guild also gathered clothes and material for overseas relief. Another group gathered \$100 of scholarship money for Japanese students.

The Sunday evening discussions were sometimes controversial, but educational for the students. Topics like the situation in Europe, politics, city planning, and social justice issues were addressed by the students and they brought in prominent speakers from many places to address these issues. A social action group, "The Fellowship of the Concerned," was formed and grew quickly. Students involved could pick a subject and run with it, leading it and bringing in speakers, etc.

During the 1950s, the Chapel was a busy, busy church. The congregation was growing and more space was needed. There was constant Food, Fun, & Fellowship happening at 315 Hitt Street in Columbia. An expansion plan was endorsed by the Evangelical and Reformed Synod and Congregational Christian Conference of Missouri. Blueprints were drawn and submitted to contractors in 1950. Phillips Construction Co. submitted an estimate of \$28,000 for the new educational wing of The Chapel.

The 1960s was a big decade for The Chapel. Rev. Herb Gessert was the new minister as the '60s began. He and his family lived in the parsonage next door to The Chapel. In 1961, Rev. Bill Kerr was called as Associate Minister. He focused on campus ministry while Rev. Gessert worked more with the residential groups. Working together, many great things happened for the congregation. They took mission trips to St. Louis to work at *Caroline Mission*. They organized retreats at Shannondale. In 1963, they entered into a campus ministry program with five other denominations.

On December 30, 1965, a fire damaged the Sanctuary. The building did not burn to the ground, but there was a tremendous amount of smoke and water damage. The congregation was at a crossroads: What to do? Rebuild or relocate? Many people thought they should stay on Hitt Street to be available to the students. Others thought they should move to another property. Finally, Madeline and Merle Muhrer donated 5 acres of land west of Columbia, and the decision became clear. On May 25, 1966, the congregation voted to move to the land donated by the Muhrers. A number of families disagreed with these decisions, and they left the church. It was a bittersweet time for the congregation.

Rev. Gessert left in 1966, and Rev. Jerry Jordan arrived in 1967. He led us from the "old" church to the "new" church. Ground was broken on Palm Sunday, April 7, 1968. The cornerstone was laid on October 27, 1968. It was an exciting time, waiting for the new, round church to go up. The service of dedication for the new church was September 21, 1969. Before entering the church for the first time, we all walked around the building. There was music, singing, and joy. This was also when the name of the congregation was officially changed to "Columbia United Church of Christ."

Under the leadership of Rev. Jerry Jordan in the early 1970s, membership was increasing. However, on March 31, 1973, Rev. Jordan submitted his letter of resignation in order to become pastor of a church in Colorado. In February 1974, Rev. Fred Brandenburg became CUCC's next pastor. Little did we know, this relationship would last **30 years!** Once again, we were led by a

“coach” with such deep faith in not only the church but in the members themselves. The story of the Brandenburg’s time at CUCC would fill many pages.

CUCC started the decade of the ‘90s with 381 members. More Sunday School classes were needed, more office space, a larger, more efficient kitchen, a music room, and storage space. There had been occasional conversations about expanding the church. Now was the time to decide. At the 1992 Annual meeting, a request was made to pursue an effort toward the idea of church expansion. And so, it began. By May of 1996, Capital campaign pledges totaled \$616,078. In August of 1997, the Building Committee recommended to accept a bid for \$875,000. In September of 1998, we had groundbreaking for the new wing. The New Education Wing was dedicated on April 11, 1999 with 200 attending. Rev. Todd Hackman was the guest speaker that day.

In 2002, our Little One’s Day Out preschool ministry program began. This program has served thousands of children and families in the Columbia area for over 20 years. The program continues to thrive, serving 60+ students each week. In 2004, Rev. Fred Brandenburg retired, ending a 30-year tenure at CUCC. The years following Rev. Brandenburg were a time of discernment and visioning for CUCC as we sought the Holy Spirit’s guidance in our call. Rev. Tom Nordberg and Rev. Steve Swope served us during this time.

In 2017, Rev. Richard Oberle was called as our most recent settled pastor. During his tenure, the congregation completed a 5-year discernment process that had begun under Rev. Swope to become a designated Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ. Many months of study and discernment led to the formation of our Open and Affirming/Inclusion Covenant, which challenges us to embody the inclusive ministry of Jesus Christ in all that we do.

The COVID pandemic of 2020/2021 did not derail this congregation; it actually inspired us to step up our game! We learned how to utilize social media and streaming services to do virtual worship, fellowship and Bible Studies. Emerging from the pandemic, this congregation has grown even stronger in the bonds that unite us and our passion to serve.

In early 2023 we unveiled plans for a “New Century Sanctuary,” the first major remodel of our worship space since 1989. A \$150,000 Capital Campaign was initiated to raise the funds for this, and that goal was exceeded quickly. Work began on June 10, and over the summer we held worship in the Fellowship Hall. We re-entered and dedicated our New Century Sanctuary on Rally Day, September 10, 2023. It was a joyful Sunday with a ribbon cutting ceremony, a dedication of the New Century Sanctuary, special music and communion.

We are currently working on a major “5-year Ministry Vision” that will begin this fall, to guide us into the future. We plan to unveil our 5-year plan at our Congregational Planning and Assessment Meeting on November 12. 2023 has been an amazing year of celebration for us as we “Celebrate our Past while Embracing our Future.”

Columbia United Church of Christ

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Organist/Accompanist:

LODO Director: Erika Maltsbarger

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Custodian: Caleb Berry

calebprenticeberry@gmail.com

Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Fred Brandenburg

TODAY IN WORSHIP:

Worship Leader: Pastor Rick

Ushers: Pat Forward & Llona Weiss

Greeters: Susan Dunham

Technology: Ted Dachroeden & John Graves

Hospitality: Judi Privitt

Council Stewards: Judi Privitt

Organist/Accompanist: Jolene Hackman/Connie Loveless

NEXT SUNDAY IN WORSHIP:

Worship Leader: Lena Muench

Ushers: Mary Lorber & Mahree Skala

Greeters: Helen Schultz

Technology: Mike & Trevor Pierson

Hospitality: Mary Lorber

Council Stewards: Mary Lorber



Online giving

COLUMBIA UCC CHURCH COUNCIL

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heinekurt@gmail.com

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NURSERY CARE is available for children in kindergarten and younger in room #201 in the educational wing. If you need help finding it, ask an usher!

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Sun	10/1	<i>Centennial Sunday/World Communion Sunday</i>	
		Sunday School	9:00 a.m.
		Fellowship Time	10:00 a.m.
		Worship (in person and livestream)	10:30 a.m.
Mon-Wed		LODO Closed	
10/3-10/10		CUCC Mission Trip to Chiapas	
Tue	10/3	Quilters	10:00 a.m.
Wed	10/4	Chapel Ringers/Celebration Singers Rehearsal	6:00/7:00 p.m.
Sun	10/8	Sunday School	9:00 a.m.
		Fellowship Time	10:00 a.m.
		Worship (in person and livestream)	10:30 a.m.



CUCC

Columbia United Church of Christ

CUCC Open and Affirming/Inclusion Covenant:

Columbia United Church of Christ celebrates God's boundless and unconditional love by intentionally welcoming and affirming all God's children.

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey;
No matter where you are on your faith journey;
No matter your sexual orientation, gender expression, or identity;
No matter your race, culture, ethnicity, nationality, or politics;
No matter your age, ability, health, relationship status, or family structure;
No matter your social, economic, educational, legal, or life circumstances;
You are welcome here!

Called by Jesus to be an Open and Affirming, inclusive faith community, Columbia United Church of Christ commits to welcoming everyone into the full life of our congregation. Our paths and voices may differ, but we journey in faith together.

Columbia UCC Prayer List

Please keep in your prayers this week . . .

Kenna Lasley. . . Preemie in the NICU;
Parents: Kyle and Brie Lasley

Sharon Crousore . . . anticipating eye surgery
Don Privitt . . . Recovering from hip replacement surgery
Cliff Beckman . . . health issues
John Adams . . . more health issues and testing

Health Issues:

Ed Kaiser; Neal Stumbo (Jean Strothmann's nephew)
Terry & Mike Freeman (friends of the Remeikas)
Stephanie Porter (Phillip Neale's niece)

Students and staff at Alpha Hart Lewis Elementary . . . our partnership friend

Sheila . . . challenges in life and faith
The Koerkenmeier & Malicoat Families

Living in Care Facilities:

Bea Gordon, Neal Sprick, Gary Ehrhardt,
Vernie Blank

Living in Independent Living Facilities:

Helen Graves, Jean Strothmann

Pregnancies in our Church Family:

Kurt & Emmalee Heine

Serving us in the military:

Christopher Tennill, Dane Wilson, Aaron Dachroeden,
James Walker (Don Helmreich's nephew)

CUCC celebrates God's boundless love by:

Welcoming all God's Children;

Nurturing Faith and Spiritual Growth;

Challenging and inspiring everyone with vibrant worship;

Building a supportive church family;

*Transforming both the congregation and community
through service and outreach*



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To You, O God, All Creatures Sing

Ps. 148

St. Francis of Assisi, 1225

Adapt. Miriam Therese Winter, 1993

Descant

4 To you, God, day af-ter day, earth in

Unison

- 1 To you, O God, all crea-tures sing, and all cre - a - tion, ev - ery -
- 2 Your wind that blows the tem-pest by, your clouds that sail a - cross the
- 3 Your flow-ing wa - ters, crys - tal clear, make mel - o - dies for you to
- 4 To you, O God, day af - ter day, your plan - et earth in ev - ery

ev-ery way sings your prais-es, al-le - lu - ia! As fruit, fra - grant

(Harmony) *(Unison)*

- thing sings your prais-es, al-le - lu - ia! Your burn-ing sun with gold-en
 sky sing your prais-es, al-le - lu - ia! Your morn-ing ris - es with a
 hear, sing your prais-es, al-le - lu - ia! Your fire, . . . boun-ti - ful and
 way, sings your prais-es, al-le - lu - ia, As sa - vory fruit and fra-grant

Miriam Therese Winter described her thoughts about adapting this text: "As I entered into communion with the word and spirit of the hymn, I felt called to enable that unknown-to-me poet's wisdom to live on into the future, a moving commission, and I so felt a bond with the one who had gone before."

Tune: LASST UNS ERFREUEN
 8.8.4.4.8.8, with alleluias
 Geistliche Kirchengesäng, Cologne, 1623
 Harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906
 Descant, The New Century Hymnal, 1993

The Church's One Foundation

*Eph. 2:13-22; 4:4-6; 1 Cor. 3:11**Samuel J. Stone, 1866; alt.*


1 The church's one foun - da - tion is Je - sus Christ our Lord;
 2 E - lect from ev - ery na - tion, yet one o'er all the earth,
 3 'Mid toil and trib - u - la - tion, and tu - mult of our war,
 4 Yet we on earth have un - ion with God, the Three-in - One,

we are Christ's new cre - a - tion by wa - ter and the word;
 one char - ter of sal - va - tion, one God, one faith, one birth,
 we wait the con - sum - ma - tion of peace for - ev - er - more;
 and mys - tic sweet com - mu - nion with those whose rest is won.

From heaven Christ came and sought us in love to set us free;
 One name to - geth - er bless - ing, one ho - ly food we share,
 Till with the vi - sion glo - rious, our long - ing eyes are blessed,
 O hap - py ones and ho - ly! God, give us grace that we,

with pre - cious blood Christ bought us for all e - ter - ni - ty.
 to one hope we are press - ing, at one in work and prayer.
 and the great church vic - to - rious shall be the church at rest.
 like them, the meek and low - ly, may live e - ter - nal - ly.

Like the writings of Ambrose many centuries earlier, this hymn was born out of a doctrinal dispute. The young priest Samuel J. Stone composed twelve hymns on the articles of the Apostles' Creed in support of those reacting against nontraditional views of biblical scholarship. This hymn is based on article nine, "the

Tune: AURELIA 7.6.7.6.D.
Samuel S. Wesley, 1864

O Christ, the Great Foundation

387

*Timothy Tingfang Lew, 1933; alt.
Transl. Frank W. Price, 1953; alt.*

Acts 2:17-21; Eph. 4:4-6; Col. 1:18-20

- 1 O Christ, the great foun-da-tion
on which your peo-ple stand
to preach your true sal-va-tion
in ev-ery age and land:
Pour out your Ho-ly Spir-it
to make us strong and pure,
to keep the faith un-bro-ken
as long as worlds en-dure.
- 2 Bap-tized in one con-fes-sion,
one church in all the earth,
we bear Christ's own im-pres-sion,
the sign of sec-ond birth:
One ho-ly peo-ple gath-ered
in love be-yond our own,
by grace we were in-vit-ed,
by grace we make you known.

- 3 Where ty-rants' hold is tight-ened,
where strong de-vour the weak,
where in-no-cents are fright-ened,
the righ-teous fear to speak,
There let your church a-wak-ing
at-tack the powers of sin
and, all their ram-parts break-ing,
with you the vic-tory win.
- 4 This is the mo-ment glo-rious
when Christ who once was dead
shall lead the church vic-to-rious,
their cham-pion and their head.
The Sov-ereign of cre-a-tion
a new do-min-ion brings,
the fi-nal con-sum-ma-tion,
the glo-ry of all things.

Timothy Tingfang Lew was born in China and was educated both there and in the United States. He served as representative to the World Council of Churches from 1927 to 1939 and chaired the commission that prepared the Chinese Union hymnbook in 1936.

Tune: AURELIA 7.6.7.6.D.
Samuel S. Wesley, 1864

Help Us Accept Each Other

388

Fred Kaan, 1974; alt.

John 15:12; 17:20-23; Eph. 4:1-6, 11-16

- 1 Help us ac-cept each oth-er
as Christ ac-cept-ed us;
teach us as sis-ter, broth-er,
each per-son to em-brace.
Be pres-ent, God, a-mong us,
and bring us to be-lieve
we are our-selves ac-cept-ed
and meant to love and live.
- 2 Teach us, O God, your les-sons,
as in our dai-ly life
we strug-gle to be hu-man
and search for hope and faith.
Teach us to care for peo-ple,
for all, not just for some,
to love them as we find them,
or as they may be-come.

- 3 Let your ac-cep-tance change us,
so that we may be moved
in liv-ing sit-u-a-tions
to do the truth in love;
To prac-tice your ac-cep-tance,
un-til we know by heart
the ta-ble of for-give-ness
and laugh-ter's heal-ing art.
- 4 God, for to-day's en-coun-ters
with all who are in need,
who hun-ger for ac-cep-tance,
for righ-teous-ness and bread,
Bring us new eyes for see-ing,
new hands for hold-ing on;
re-new us with your Spir-it;
God! Free us, make us one!

Dutch theologian Fred Kaan was ordained in the United Reformed Church in England and Wales and has served as an international church administrator. Author of more than 200 hymns, Kaan frequently has addressed contemporary issues in his texts.

Tune: AURELIA 7.6.7.6.D.
Samuel S. Wesley, 1864

I Come with Joy

Brian Wren, 1968; rev. 1982, 1994

Unison

1 I come with joy, a child of God, for - giv - en, loved, and
 2 I come with Chris - tians far and near to find, as all are
 3 As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share, each proud di - vi - sion
 4 And thus we meet, and bet - ter know the Pres - ence, ev - er
 5 To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound, in friend - ship we will

free, The life of Je - sus to re - call, in
 fed, The new com - mu - ni - ty of love in
 ends. The love that made us, makes us one, and
 near, And join our hearts and sing with joy that
 stay, And go with joy to love the world and

love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.
 Christ's com - mu - nion bread, in Christ's com - mu - nion bread.
 strang - ers now are friends, and strang - ers now are friends.
 Christ is ris - en here, that Christ is ris - en here.
 live the way we pray, and live the way we pray.

One of Brian Wren's most widely published texts, this hymn was originally written to "sum up a series of sermons on the meaning of communion. It tries to use simple words to suggest important theological themes."

Tune: DOVE OF PEACE 8.6.8.6.6.
 Southern Harmony, 1835
 Arr. Austin Lovelace, 1977