

Columbia United Church Of Christ

July 26, 2026
"Christmas in July"



C U C C

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
United Church
Of Christ**



July 26, 2026

10:30 a.m.

"Mustard Seeds"

**indicates that all are invited to stand, if comfortably able*

*"Sing to God; sing praises to the LORD.
Dwell on all God's wonderful works!"
-Psalm 105:2*

Welcome and Greetings

Pastor Rick

Prelude

"Here I Am Lord"

Jolene Hackman
Arr. Jack Shrader

Carrying in the Light of Christ

*Call to Worship

(based on Psalm 105)

Jessica Lucas

Give thanks to God; call upon God's name!
Make God's deeds known among all people!

**Sing to God; Sing praises to God!
Tell all of God's wonderful works!**

We speak of how God's love can bring salvation to the world.
Let the hearts of those who seek God rejoice!

**All of Creation expresses God's powerful presence.
Who are we to try to bind God's love?**

We seek God continually and rely on God's strength!
We seek the Peace that God offers in all our ways!

**We are God's Children
and we celebrate God's wonderful works!
Come, let us worship God!**

*Hymn

"Rejoice, You Pure in Heart"

#55

*Opening Prayer

Jessica Lucas

God of faith; as Jesus speaks to us in parables, he draws us ever closer to Your wisdom. We understand that we are called to be kingdom builders, and that Your kingdom can exist in this time, in this place. Forgive us for the times we are blind to that reality, and think of Your kingdom as some far away, afterlife place. Remind us that Your vision of justice, righteousness and Shalom is not for someday but for today; and remind us that we are builders of this vision. In Jesus' name we pray; Amen.

*Assurance of Blessing

Pastor Rick

Jesus speaks of the Kingdom of Heaven as being present here and now. But even when we forget that we are Kingdom workers, God still loves and welcomes us, encourages and guides us. Through our repentance and God's grace, we are forgiven, beloved and blessed. Praise be to God!

*Prayer Response

“Seek Ye First”

***Seek ye first the kingdom of God
and God's righteousness
And all these things shall be added unto you.
Allelu, alleluia!***

*Sharing God's Gift of Peace

Pastor Rick

May God's Peace be with you!

And also with you!

Children's Time

Pastor Rick

#524

“This Little Light of Mine”

(Sung as children return to their seats)

***This little light of mine; I'm gonna let it shine!
This little light of mine; I'm gonna let it shine!
This little light of mine; I'm gonna let it shine!
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine!***

Mission Moment

“The Christmas Fund”

Edie Diel

New Testament Lesson

Romans 8:28, 31-35, 37-39

Jessica Lucas

The Apostle Paul, writing to the church in Rome, talks about God's presence in all things. He postulates that all things work together for good for those who love God. In a time of confusion, this would have been a very welcome message to the new followers of the way.

Page #919

Gospel Lesson

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-46

Jessica Lucas

Jesus speaks again in parable. As he does, he uses “the kingdom of heaven” as his reference. What is he talking about when he refers to the “kingdom of heaven?” Is it some other-worldly afterlife place, or is he talking about creating places of Shalom right here on earth?

Page #795

Anthem

Rainbow Bells

Sermon

“Mustard Seeds”

Pastor Rick

Community Prayer & Silent Prayer; The LORD’s Prayer

In an effort to encourage inclusion, we suggest using the address “Creator God” in our unison recitation of The Lord’s Prayer. You are certainly welcome to say “Our Father” instead of “Creator,” “Trespases” instead of “debts,” or “Thy” instead of “Your” if you prefer.

Creator God in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come, Your 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 Yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Sharing our Announcements

Pastor Rick

Invitation to the Offering

*To give online text “GIVE” to 573.240.4041
You can also give online by visiting our website:
www.columbiaucc.com*

Offertory

“My Lord, What a Morning”

Jolene Hackman

Arr. Tom Fettke

*Prayer of Dedication

Jessica Lucas

Creator God, we give these gifts as a form of prayer, lifted up to You. Take them and use them to your will, enabling your blessed Kingdom to become a reality here on earth. 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

“Lord, I Want to be a Christian”

Jolene Hackman

Arr. Tom Fettke

CUCC STRATEGIC PLAN FOR 2026 (and beyond)

CARING FOR EACH OTHER

- Advocate for policies that provide support for others
- Incorporate everyone's talents into the work and life of the church
- Formulate support & education classes for parents and children
- Improve staff training and professional development
- Ensure that our staff are paid just wages
- Discern and address the needs of our older members
- Strive to meet the needs of our members where they are

ESTABLISHING OUR IDENTITY

- Increase public awareness of our mission and location
- Increase our advertising/marketing efforts
- Consistently canvass the neighborhood north of the church
- Attract more members, focusing on youth and diversity
- Strive for intentionality incorporating youth and young adults into the life of the church
- Strive for intentionality incorporating a diverse community into the life of the church

DEVELOPING OUR FACILITY

- Continue to modernize and maintain our building and grounds
- Develop a comprehensive maintenance manual with records, goals and strategies for modernization and maintenance
- Seek out new ways to utilize our building to enhance our ministry and generate income
- Establish financial security for our ongoing ministry programs
- Establish our facility as a host site for music groups, choirs, concerts, lecturer series, and other public events

SERVING GOD'S WORLD

- Partner with other agencies that share our goals & interests
- Create a fulfilling, engaging, inclusive Sunday morning experience
- Develop partnerships with others to share our facility
- Strive for intentionality in connecting children, youth and adults to outreach and service opportunities
- Look for ways to reach out to other UCC congregations and work together for justice
- Strive to identify ways that we can be socially responsible and educated in areas of ecological justice, international mission, and other justice issues at home and abroad

Columbia United Church of Christ

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Music Coordinator: Mike Pierson	mike.pierson.1969@gmail.com
LODO Director: Sara Koenig	lodo.sara.koenig@gmail.com
Custodian: Caleb Berry	calebprenticeberry@gmail.com

Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Fred Brandenburg

TODAY IN WORSHIP:

Worship Leader:	Jessica Lucas
Song Leader:	Mike Pierson
Ushers:	Mahree Skala & Phillip Neale
Greeters:	Mary Lorber
Technology:	Carissa Graves & John Graves
Council Stewards:	Aimee Andersen

NEXT SUNDAY IN WORSHIP:

Worship Leader:	Llona Weiss
Song Leader:	Mike Pierson
Ushers:	Pat Forward & Audrey Lasley
Greeters:	Jolene Kirchhoff
Technology:	Brent Marcks & Lorry Dreier
Council Stewards:	Mary Lorber

Online Giving



COLUMBIA UCC CHURCH COUNCIL

Moderator:	Jerry Kiesling	rollzierp50@gmail.com
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Outreach & Advocacy:	Mahree Skala	skalamahree@yahoo.com
Worship & Music:	Kitty Rogers	kittyrogers3@gmail.com
Pastor:	Rev. Rick Oberle	rick@columbiaucc.com

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

FAITH ON FILM DOCUMENTARY - 8/2

Filmmaker Richard Schwedtmann has a film in the works on the historic Black churches in Boone County. It is a beautiful look at the history and faith of traditional Black congregations. We will host a screening in the Fellowship Hall on 8/2 at 9:00 a.m. Please join us! Questions? Ask Barry Kirchhoff.

HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS TRAINING - 8/16

Linda Neale and Pastor Rick will be leading a discussion on Healthy Relationships during the 9:00 a.m. Sunday School hour on 8/16. This session will contain information about working in healthy ways with children and youth in our church setting. Attendance at this session is a requirement for everyone who will be working with children and youth this program year, but it is good information for everyone. Come join us! Questions? Ask Linda Neale.

RALLY DAY/SUNDAY SCHOOL KICKOFF - 8/23

Mark your calendars! Sunday School starts 8/23 at 9:00 a.m.! We will have a bounce house, and a fellowship meal after worship. More details to come!

YOUNG ADULT/COLEGE MINISTRY BEGINS - 8/30

A new CUCC Young Adult/College Ministry faith formation program will be starting up on 8/30! We will gather on that day for a backyard BBQ at Rev. Mike & Lilly Williams' house. All young adults/college students are welcome; spread the word! For more information, talk to Ashley or Kasper Ramirez, Rev. Lauren or Jesse Lippincott, or Rev. Mike or Lilly Santoro-Williams!

SUPPORT CUCC/LODO THROUGH SOCIAL MEDIA

Social media is a key part in expanding our outreach in the modern era. Sharing our social media posts means more people get to learn about CUCC and will be more inclined to join! Social media uses algorithms to determine what to show users. When people like, comment, save, or share a post, this creates "engagement" and can make the post pop up on other peoples feeds.

When you "like" a post it has a small chance of popping up on a friends feed. Commenting on a post is even better. Commenting on CUCC/LODO posts will help boost it to other people. This tells the algorithm "this is an interesting post and more people would probably want to see it."

But "sharing" our posts are by far the best thing you can do! "Sharing" a post on your page allows others to directly see our content. This allows new people to discover who we are. So be sure to "share" our CUCC/LODO social media posts to help support our CUCC/LODO programs!

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Sun	7/26	Bible Study	9:00 a.m.
		Fellowship	10:00 a.m.
		Worship (in person and livestream)	10:30 a.m.
Tue	7/28	Quilters	10:00 a.m.
Sun	8/2	Faith on Film Documentary	9:00 a.m.
		Fellowship	10:00 a.m.
		Worship (in person and livestream)	10:30 a.m.

Columbia UCC Prayer List

Please keep in your prayers this week . . .

Rev. Carolyn Held... health issues (Edie's Niece)

Mike Freeman... on hospice (Corinne's friend)

The Worsham and Bonebreak Families... challenges in life

Alethea Tennill... recovering from broken leg

The Rev. Josh Privitt... congratulations on his new call to Maryland!

The Eveler Family... on the birth of baby Linus!

Kenny Holtgrewe... recovering well from surgery (Marsha Posz's Father)

Mary Jane Johnson... health issues (Joe Remeika's Sister)

Cassandra Gartner... health issues (Edie's friend)

The people of Venezuela... recovering from disaster

Students and staff at Alpha Hart Lewis Elementary . . . our Partner in Education

All those whose lives are affected by state sanctioned terrorism including:

Owen Ramsingh and family,

The families of Renee Good, Alex Pretti, Lorenzo Salgado, Sebastian Guerrero,
Jack and Claudia (Pastor Rick's friends), and so many others

Our US Military... deployed in the Middle East

Health Issues:

Jeff Kies, Barry Kirchhoff, Glenn Duermeyer, Evie Marcks,

Fred Wilke (Alethea's Father), Julia Marsh (Donna Marsh's Daughter),

Kenny & Jane Holtgrewe (Marsha Posz's parents),

Mark & Connie Fairley, Cody Kile, Dr. Ryan Link;

Martha (friend of the Veteto family), Ken (Adam Veteto's Cousin);

Challenges in Life:

Sheila, The Koerkenmeier & Malicoat Families, Jen Siebert

Living in Assisted Living Facilities:

Gary Ehrhardt, Vernie Blank, Julie Roper. Dean & Jan Barry

Living in Independent Living Facilities:

Don Privitt, Sue Beckman, Linda Evans, Walter & Patty Schroeder

Serving us in the military:

Christopher Tennill, Dane Wilson, Aaron Dachroeden

Garrett Holtgrewe... (Marsh Posz's Nephew)

Pregnancies in our Church Family:

Kristin & Adam Veteto

*If you are interested in joining our Prayer Team or have a prayer request
for our team to lift up please contact*

Melba Shaffer (573) 474-2997 melbamaes@gmail.com

or Tricia Soncasie (314) 374-7477 tsoncasie@aol.com

Romans 8:28, 31-35, 37-39

28 We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.

31 What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us?

32 He who did not withhold his own Son but gave him up for all of us, how will he not with him also give us everything else?

33 Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies.

34 Who is to condemn? It is Christ who died, or rather, who was raised, who is also at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us.

35 Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will affliction or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or peril or sword?

37 No, in all these things we are more than victorious through him who loved us.

38 For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers,

39 nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-46

31 He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field;

32 it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

33 He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened."

44 "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and reburied; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

45 "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; 46 on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

Rejoice, You Pure in Heart

55

*Edward H. Plumptre, 1865; alt.**Ps. 20:5; Phil. 4:4*

1 Re - joice, you pure in heart; lift prais - es to the sky;
2 Bright youth and sea - soned age, strong souls and spir - its meek,
3 With voice as full and strong as o - cean's surg - ing praise,
4 Yes, on through life's long path, still chant - ing as you go,
5 Praise God who rules all worlds, the ris - en Christ a - dore,

Your fes - tal ban - ner wave with joy, the cross of Christ raise high!
Raise high your free, ex - ult - ing song, God's won - drous prais - es speak.
Send forth the hymns the saints have loved, the psalms of an - cient days.
From youth to age, by night and day, in glad - ness and in woe:
Praise God the Spir - it, Ho - ly Fire, one God for ev - er - more!

Refrain

Re - joice, re - joice, re - joice, give thanks and sing.
Re - joice Re - joice

This hymn, inspired by Philippians 4:4, was written for the Choral Festival held at Peterborough Cathedral in England. The author was an Anglican priest and a professor of theology at Oxford University.

Tune: MARION S.M. with refrain
Arthur H. Messiter, 1883

For an alternate setting, see 71

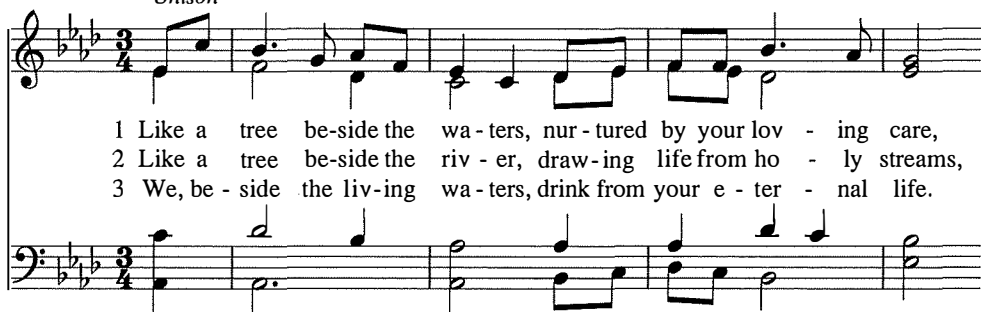
Alternate tune: CHRISTPRAISE RAY

Like a Tree beside the Waters

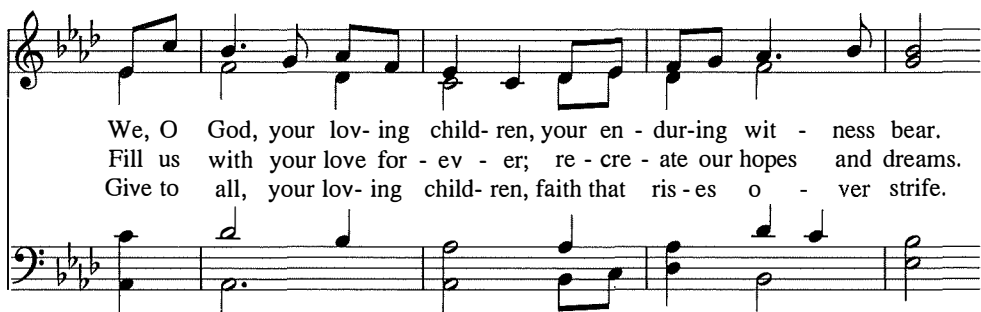
Jer. 17:7-8

Unison

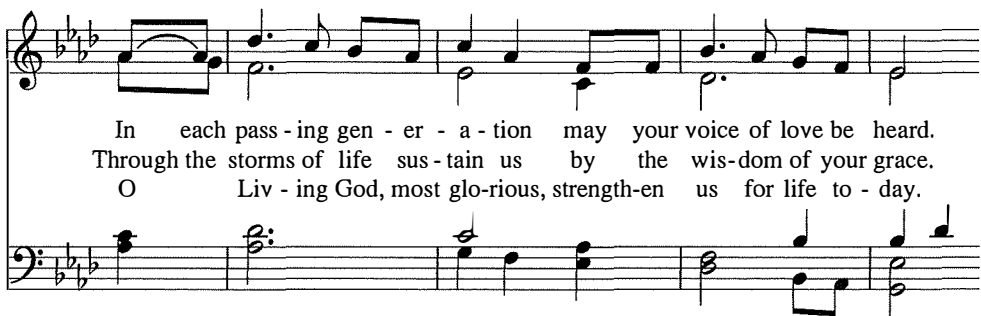
James F. D. Martin, 1992



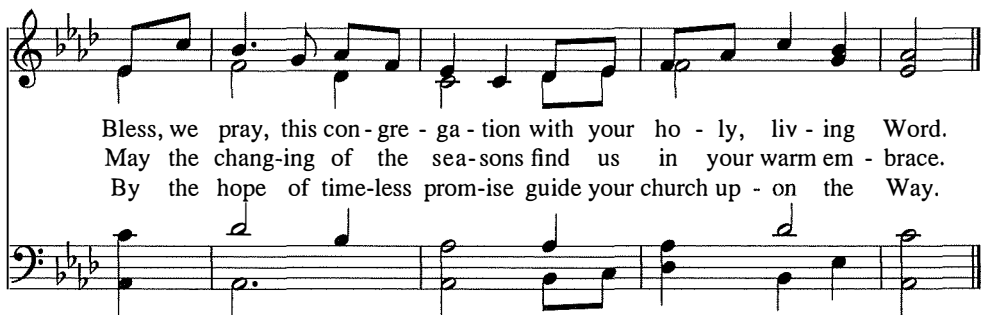
1 Like a tree be-side the wa-ters, nur-tured by your lov-ing care,
 2 Like a tree be-side the riv-er, draw-ing life from ho-ly streams,
 3 We, be-side the liv-ing wa-ters, drink from your e-ter-nal life.



We, O God, your lov-ing child-ren, your en-dur-ing wit-ness bear.
 Fill us with your love for-ev-er; re-cre-ate our hopes and dreams.
 Give to all, your lov-ing child-ren, faith that ris-es o-ver strife.



In each pass-ing gen-er-a-tion may your voice of love be heard.
 Through the storms of life sus-tain us by the wis-dom of your grace.
 O Liv-ing God, most glo-rious, strength-en us for life to-day.



Bless, we pray, this con-gre-ga-tion with your ho-ly, liv-ing Word.
 May the chang-ing of the sea-sons find us in your warm en-brace.
 By the hope of time-less prom-ise guide your church up-on the Way.

James Martin wrote this text at the invitation of Campbellsport (Wisconsin) United Church of Christ for the celebration of its 125th anniversary year in 1993. Ordained to the United Church of Christ in 1980, Martin has served as pastor to churches in Wisconsin.

Tune: SILVER CREEK 8.7.8.7.D.

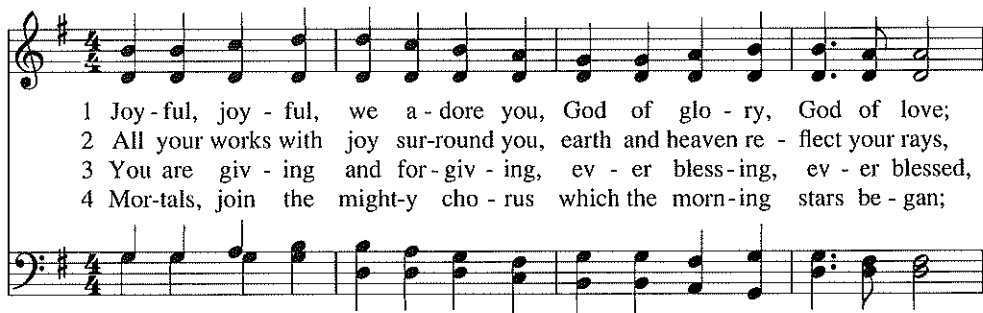
Roy Hopp, 1989

Alternate tune: HYFRYDOL

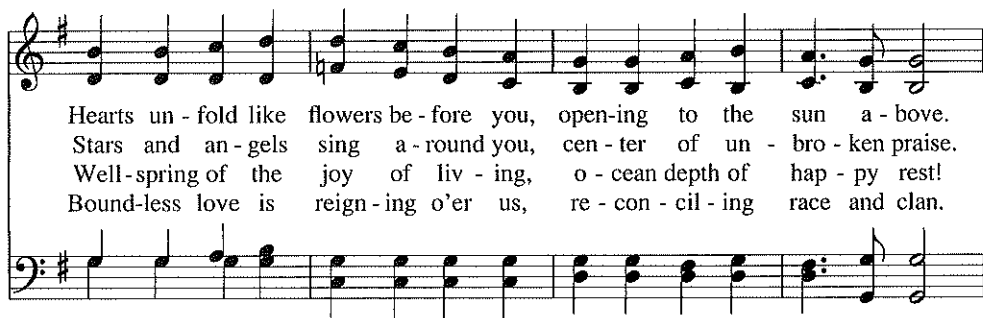
Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You

Ps. 145:10; Isa. 49:13

Henry van Dyke, 1907; alt.



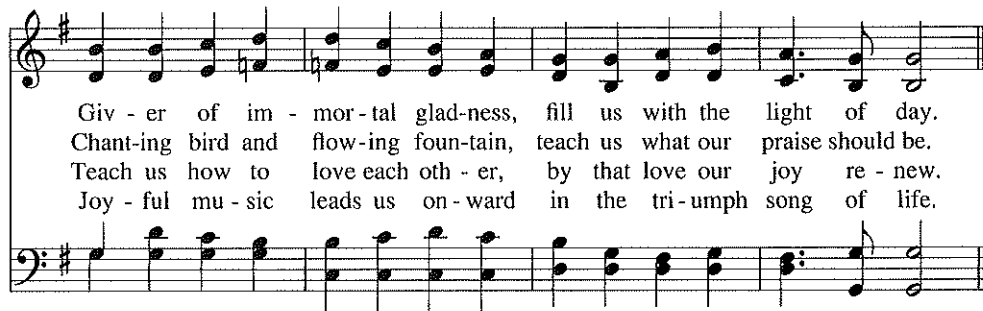
1 Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore you, God of glo - ry, God of love;
 2 All your works with joy sur-round you, earth and heaven re - flect your rays,
 3 You are giv - ing and for-giv - ing, ev - er bless-ing, ev - er blessed,
 4 Mor-tals, join the might-y cho - rus which the morn-ing stars be - gan;



Hearts un - fold like flowers be - fore you, open-ing to the sun a - bove.
 Stars and an - gels sing a - round you, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
 Well-spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean depth of hap - py rest!
 Bound-less love is reign-ing o'er us, re - con - cil - ing race and clan.



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, drive the storms of doubt a - way;
 Field and for - est, vale and moun-tain, flower-y mead-ow, flash-ing sea,
 Lov-ing Spir - it, Fa - ther, Moth - er, all who love be - long to you;
 Ev - er sing-ing, move we for - ward, faith - ful in the midst of strife,



Giv - er of im - mor-tal glad-ness, fill us with the light of day.
 Chant-ing bird and flow-ing foun-tain, teach us what our praise should be.
 Teach us how to love each oth - er, by that love our joy re - new.
 Joy - ful mu - sic leads us on - ward in the tri - umph song of life.

Henry van Dyke was a noted church leader, U.S. ambassador, Navy chaplain, and prolific writer. Many people associate this hymn with Beethoven's ninth symphony, but few are aware of the original poem by the German classicist F. Schiller (1759–1805) that inspired Beethoven.

Tune: HYMN TO JOY 8.7.8.7.D.
 Ludwig van Beethoven, 1824
 Adapt. and harm. Edward Hodges, 1846