

# Columbia United Church Of Christ

December 14, 2025

“Advent III – Joy”



# 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 United Church Of Christ



December 14, 2025

10:30 a.m.

"Joy"

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

*"All the trees of the forest shall sing for joy before the LORD;  
for he is coming! -Psalm 96:12*

Welcome and Greetings

Pastor Rick

Prelude "Prepare the Royal Highway" Chapel Ringers  
Kara Balthrop, Oboe; Sara Young & Katie Jones, Percussion  
*Arr. Carthy Moglebust*

Carrying in the Light of Christ

\*Call to Worship (based on Psalm 96) Sue Ann Schaefer

*Sue Ann:* Sing to God a new song;  
Sing to God, people of the earth!

*Cherubim:* **Proclaim God's glory among the nations.**

*Seraphim:* **Sing praises about God's marvelous work.**

*Sue Ann:* God made the heavens and the earth;  
God deserves our reverence and praise.

*Cherubim:* **The trees of the forest sing for joy.**

*Seraphim:* **All of creation proclaims God's presence.**

*Sue Ann:* Let the heavens be glad and the earth rejoice;  
Let the sea roar, and all that fills it.

*Cherubim:* **God's gift of Creation is our blessing.**

*Seraphim:* **God's presence is always with us.**

*All:* **Come, let us worship God!**

\*Hymn "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You" #4

\*Opening Prayer Sue Ann Schaefer

**God of joy; we hear the story of Your servant, Mary, accepting Your challenge and call. Upon accepting this role, she was overcome with joy. Often our joyless lives are the result of turning away from You and Your call in our lives. Remind us of the joy You have to offer, and open our hearts to the paths You intend for us. Help us to embrace the joy of Your holy light this Advent Season. In Jesus' name we pray; Amen.**

\*Assurance of Blessing

Pastor Rick

God sent God's son to share Wisdom with us, offering us Hope, Peace, Love and Joy. But even when we forget these gifts, God still loves us and forgives us. Through our repentance and God's grace we are forgiven, beloved and blessed. Praise be to God!

\*Prayer Response "Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus"

*Turn your eyes upon Jesus;  
Look full in his wonderful face!  
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim  
In the light of his glory and grace!*

\*Sharing God's Gift of Peace

May God's Peace be with you!

**And also with you!**

Children's Time & Lighting the Advent Candle

Pastor Rick

"Like A Child"

*(Sung as children return to their seats)*

*Like a Child, love would send to reveal and to mend,  
Like a child and a friend, Jesus comes!*

*Like a child we may find claiming heart, soul, and mind,  
Like a child, strong and kind, Jesus comes!*

Mission Moment

"The Joy of Christmas"

Mahree Skala

Gospel Lesson

Luke 1:39-56

Sue Ann Schaefer

*Mary goes to visit Elizabeth, and they are both amazed at the election they have been granted. Elizabeth reflects that Mary is blessed among women, and Mary sings a song of praise, reflecting on her role in the birth of our Savior.*

*Page # 831*

\*Hymn:

"My Soul Gives Glory to My God"

#119

## **2025 Advent Cantata**

### **"Preparing the Way for Jesus"**

Directed by Mike Pierson

Connie Loveless & Gina Pierson, Accompanists

Featuring the Celebration Singers and Chapel Ringers

With Kara Balthrop & Christian Henry, Oboe;

Linda Neale, Flute; Katie Jones & Sarah Young, percussion

Reflection "Emmanuel" Pastor Rick

Song: "Veni, Emmanuel" Celebration Singers  
Arr. Zachary Steele

*Veni, Veni Emmanuel  
Captivum solve Israel,  
Oui gemit in excilio  
Privatus Dei filio  
Gaude! Gaude! Emmanuel  
Nascetur pro te, Israel!*

Reflection "Mary's Joy" Pastor Rick

Song: "Breath of Heaven" Celebration Singers  
Solo: Sarah Young Arr. Lloyd Larson

Reflection: "Prepare the Way" Pastor Rick

Song: "Prepare, Make Room" Celebration Singers  
Arr. Michael Barrett

Scripture: Luke 2:1-14 Pastor Rick

*"In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no place in the guest room.*

*Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,*

*Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
And on earth, peace among those whom he favors!*

Song: "He is Born" Celebration Singers  
Solo: Katie Jones Arr. Dan Forrest

## Community Prayer & Silent Prayer

### The LORD's Prayer

*In an effort to encourage inclusion, we suggest using "Creator God" in our recitation of The Lord's Prayer. You are welcome to say "Our Father" or "Our Mother" 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 of Community Life

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](http://www.columbiaucc.com)*

Offertory

**"Come, Thou Long- Expected Jesus"** Gina Pierson  
*Wesley & Prichard*

\*Prayer of Dedication

Sue Ann Schaefer

**God, we give these gifts with joy in our hearts. As we do, we pray that they may be used to share Your joy with all the world. Take them and multiply them that they may bless Your world as You have blessed us. 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

**"O, How Joyfully"**

Gina Pierson  
*Arr. Cindy Berry*

# Columbia United Church of Christ

3201 1-70 Drive NW; Columbia, MO 65202

**Phone:** 573-445-7931

**Pastor's cell:** 573.241.2027

**Website:** [www.columbiaucc.com](http://www.columbiaucc.com)

<b>Pastor:</b> Rev. Richard Oberle	<a href="mailto:rick@columbiaucc.com">rick@columbiaucc.com</a>
<b>Admin. Assistant:</b> Alexandra Roper	<a href="mailto:office@columbiaucc.com">office@columbiaucc.com</a>
<b>Moderator:</b> Jerry Kiesling	<a href="mailto:rollzierp50@gmail.com">rollzierp50@gmail.com</a>
<b>Music Coordinator:</b> Mike Pierson	<a href="mailto:mike.pierson.1969@gmail.com">mike.pierson.1969@gmail.com</a>
<b>Organist/Accompanist:</b>	
<b>LODO Director:</b> Sara Koenig	<a href="mailto:lodo.sara.koenig@gmail.com">lodo.sara.koenig@gmail.com</a>
<b>Custodian:</b> Caleb Berry	<a href="mailto:calebprenticeberry@gmail.com">calebprenticeberry@gmail.com</a>
<b>Pastor Emeritus:</b> Rev. Fred Brandenburg	

## TODAY IN WORSHIP:

Worship Leader:	Sue Ann Schaefer
Song Leader:	Sara Young
Ushers:	Llona Weiss & Christine Staelens
Greeters:	Jessica Lucas
Technology:	Josh Muench & Lorry Dreier
Council Stewards:	Christine Staelens & Ashley Ramirez



Online Giving

## NEXT SUNDAY IN WORSHIP:

Worship Leader:	Tricia Soncasie
Song Leader:	Mike Pierson
Ushers:	Pat Forward & Mahree Skala
Greeters:	Carol Duermeyer
Technology:	Carissa Graves & John Graves
Council Stewards:	Jerry Kiesling & Mahree Skala

## COLUMBIA UCC CHURCH COUNCIL

<b>Moderator:</b>	Jerry Kiesling	<a href="mailto:rollzierp50@gmail.com">rollzierp50@gmail.com</a>
<b>Vice Moderator:</b>	Corinne Remeika	<a href="mailto:remeikas@tranquility.net">remeikas@tranquility.net</a>
<b>Secretary:</b>	Alethea Tennill	<a href="mailto:atennill108@gmail.com">atennill108@gmail.com</a>
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Deborah Birkes	<a href="mailto:dlong@elon.edu.com">dlong@elon.edu.com</a>
<b>Recording Treasurer:</b>	Christine Staelens	<a href="mailto:tigersfour@gmail.com">tigersfour@gmail.com</a>
<b>Building &amp; Grounds:</b>	Ted Dachroeden	<a href="mailto:gpadoc4gd@gmail.com">gpadoc4gd@gmail.com</a>
<b>Fellowship &amp; Hospitality:</b>	Mary Lorber	<a href="mailto:eldercow@gmail.com">eldercow@gmail.com</a>
<b>Finance &amp; Stewardship:</b>	<i>Vacant</i>	
<b>Inclusion &amp; Affirmation:</b>	Ashley Ramirez	<a href="mailto:ashknight0628@gmail.com">ashknight0628@gmail.com</a>
<b>Little One's Day Out:</b>	Kristin Veteto	<a href="mailto:kristinnoelveteto@gmail.com">kristinnoelveteto@gmail.com</a>
<b>Membership &amp; Care:</b>	Judi Privitt	<a href="mailto:judiprivitt811@gmail.com">judiprivitt811@gmail.com</a>
<b>Nurture &amp; Education:</b>	Lena Muench	<a href="mailto:cfg323@yahoo.com">cfg323@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Outreach &amp; Advocacy:</b>	Mahree Skala	<a href="mailto:skalamahree@yahoo.com">skalamahree@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Worship &amp; Music:</b>	Edie Diel	<a href="mailto:edie@thedandegroup.com">edie@thedandegroup.com</a>
<b>Pastor:</b>	Rev. Rick Oberle	<a href="mailto:rick@columbiaucc.com">rick@columbiaucc.com</a>

**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!

### **POINSETTIA ORDERS DUE TODAY**

If you would like to designate a poinsettia in honor or memory of a loved one, you can do so using the envelopes in the bulletin, or by emailing Alexandra in the church office. Please be sure to note whether it is in honor or memory of your loved one. Poinsettias are \$10 each.

### **PAUSE TO COLOR - 12/16**

Come rest and meditate for a while; pause to color! Our Pause To Color group will be meeting this Tuesday at 1:00 p.m. upstairs in The Gathering Area. Bring your own coloring materials or use what we have.

### **LODO CHRISTMAS PROGRAM- 12/18**

You are invited to share the joy of our Little One's Day Out preschool ministry with their Christmas Program this Thursday! The program starts at 6:00 p.m. and is over by 6:30 p.m. Come watch our Littles celebrate Christmas joy!

### **OBERLE OPEN HOUSE - 12/20**

Pastor Rick and Kim will have their annual Open House on Saturday, December 20 from 3:00-7:00 p.m.! Come and go as you wish, and share the spirit of the season! Our address is: 3905 Snow Leopard Drive 65202

### **CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES- 12/24**

Christmas Eve services this year will be at 7:00 & 10:00 p.m. Both services will feature communion and "Silent Night" sung by candlelight. Come join us to celebrate the joy of our Savior's birth!

### **THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR**

Sun	12/14	<i>Advent Cantata/Banquet</i>	
		Bible Study & Sunday School	9:00 a.m.
		Fellowship	10:00 a.m.
		Worship (in person and livestream)	10:30 a.m.
		Advent Banquet	12:00 p.m.
Mon	12/15	Loaves & Fishes	4:30 p.m.
		Scouting America	7:00 p.m.
Tue	12/16	Quilters	10:00 a.m.
		Staff Meeting	10:00 a.m.
		Pause to Color	1:00 p.m.
		Council Executive Team	5:30 p.m.
		Council Meeting	6:30 p.m.
Wed	12/17	Pastor Rick leads worship at The Bluffs	10:00 a.m.
		VAC work at Columbia Mall	10:00 a.m.
		Confirmation Class	7:15 p.m.
Thu	12/18	LODO Christmas Program	6:00 p.m.
Sat	12/20	Oberle Holiday Open House	3:00 p.m.
Sun	12/21	Bible Study & Sunday School	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 . . .*

Ann Wilke... more health issues, hospitalized this week (Alethea's mother)

Cliff Beckman... recovering well at Columbia Post-Acute

Roger Meers... recovering from hip surgery

Karleen Martindale... health issues (Kasper's Mother)

Cindy Deegan's family... on the loss of her brother, Brian

Pam & Jim Kahler... health issues and challenges (Lyn Eggemeyer's friends)

Phillip Neale's Niece... awaiting liver transplant

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

Recipients of our VAC Christmas donations

Owen Ramsingh and family

## *Health Issues:*

Rev. Jim Elliott, Harold Hackman, Barry Kirchhoff, Glenn Duermeyer,

Julie Roper (Alexandra's Mother), Ronald Remika (Joe Remika's Brother),

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

Jim Posz (Allen's Father), Claudia Hutcherson (Ron Tennill's Sister),

Fred & Ann Wilke (Alethea's Parents), Julia Marsh (Donna Marsh's Daughter),

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

Linda Hancik and Beverly Wilcox (Corinne Remeika's friends)

## *Challenges in Life:*

Sheila, The Koerkenmeier & Malicoat Families, Kieran Armstrong

## *Living in Care Facilities:*

Gary Ehrhardt, Vernie Blank, Harold Hackman,

## *Living in Independent Living Facilities:*

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

## *Serving us in the military:*

Christopher Tennill, Dane Wilson, Aaron Dachroeden

*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](mailto:melbamaes@gmail.com)*

*Or Tricia Soncasie (314) 374-7477 [tsoncasie@aol.com](mailto:tsoncasie@aol.com)*

***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***



## **Luke 1:39-56**

39 In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country,  
40 where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.  
41 When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth  
was filled with the Holy Spirit  
42 and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the  
fruit of your womb.  
43 And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me?  
44 For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for  
joy.  
45 And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was  
spoken to her by the Lord." 46 And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord,  
47 and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
48 for he has looked with favor on the lowly state of his servant. Surely from now on  
all generations will call me blessed,  
49 for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name; 50 indeed,  
his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.  
51 He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the imagination  
of their hearts.  
52 He has brought down the powerful from their thrones and lifted up the lowly; 53 he  
has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty.  
54 He has come to the aid of his child Israel, in remembrance of his mercy,  
55 according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his  
descendants forever."  
56 And Mary remained with her about three months and then returned to her home.

## **Luke 2:1-14**

2 In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered.

2 This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria.

3 All went to their own towns to be registered.

4 Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David.

5 He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.

6 While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child.

7 And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no place in the guest room.

8 Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night.

9 Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.

10 But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people:

11 to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.

12 This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger."

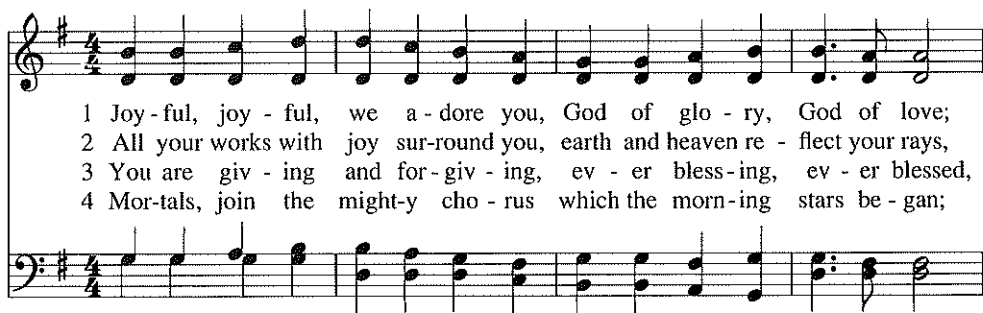
13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

14 "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!",

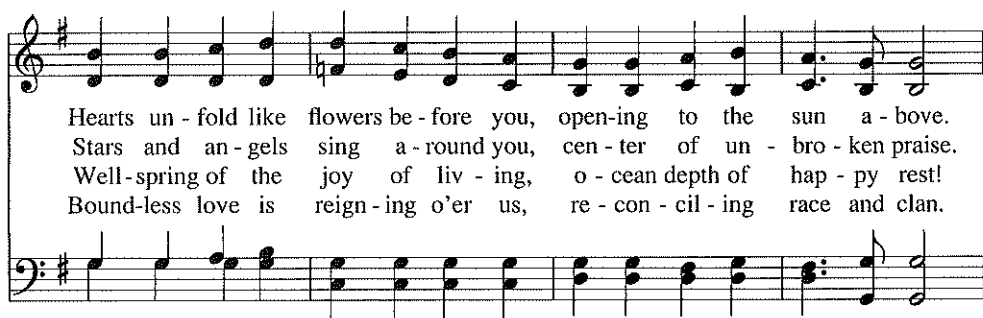
## Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You

Ps. 145:10; Isa. 49:13

Henry van Dyke, 1907; alt.



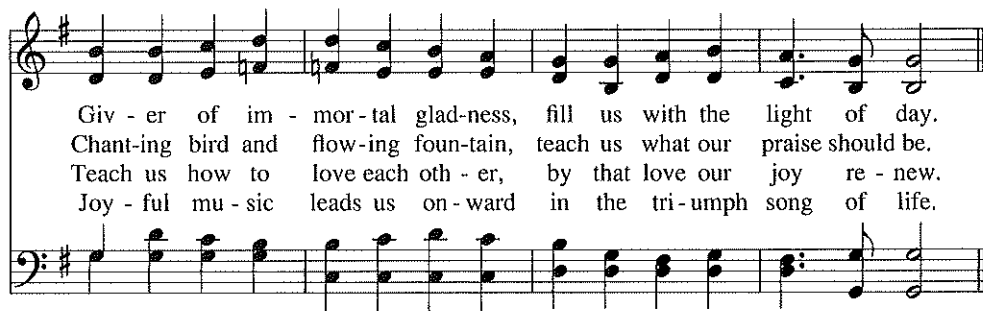
1 Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore you, God of glo - ry, God of love;  
 2 All your works with joy sur-round you, earth and heaven re - flect your rays,  
 3 You are giv - ing and for-giv - ing, ev - er bless-ing, ev - er blessed,  
 4 Mor-tals, join the might-y cho - rus which the morn-ing stars be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

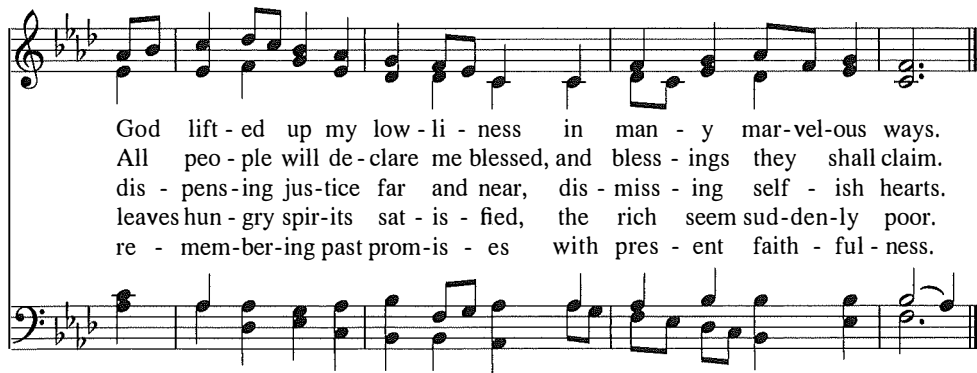
Tune: HYMN TO JOY 8.7.8.7.D.  
 Ludwig van Beethoven, 1824  
 Adapt. and harm. Edward Hodges, 1846

# My Soul Gives Glory to My God

119

*Miriam Therese Winter, 1987**Luke 1:46b-55; 1 Sam. 2:1-10*

1 My soul gives glo - ry to my God. My heart pours out its praise.  
2 My God has done great things for me: yes, ho - ly is God's name.  
3 From age to age, to all who fear, such mer - cy love im - parts,  
4 Love casts the might-y from their thrones, pro-motes the in - se - cure,  
5 Praise God, whose lov - ing cov - e - nant sup-ports those in dis - tress,



God lift - ed up my low - li - ness in man - y mar-vel-ous ways.  
All peo - ple will de - clare me blessed, and bless - ings they shall claim.  
dis - pens-ing jus-tice far and near, dis - miss - ing self - ish hearts.  
leaves hun - gry spir-its sat - is - fied, the rich seem sud-den-ly poor.  
re - mem-ber-ing past prom-is - es with pres - ent faith - ful - ness.

*This New Testament canticle, with its mosaic of liberation motifs that proclaim the justice of God, is known as the "Magnificat," the opening word of its Latin translation.*

Tune: MORNING SONG C.M.  
Melody from Kentucky Harmony, 1816  
Harm. C. Winfred Douglas, 1940