

Columbia United Church Of Christ

November 23, 2025
"Thanksgiving"



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**



November 23, 2025

10:30 a.m.

"Thanksgiving"

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

*"Enter God's gates with Thanksgiving;
Give thanks to God; bless God's name!"
-Psalm 100:4*

Welcome and Greetings

Pastor Rick

Prelude

"Come, Ye Thankful People, Come"

Arr. Al Terego

Lea Marienfeld, Lena Muench, & Linda Neale

Carrying in the Light of Christ

*Call to Worship

(based on Psalm 100)

Confirmation Class

Make a joyful noise to God!

All the earth, worship God with glad hearts!

**We celebrate the joys of God's Kingdom;
A passion for Justice, Righteousness and Shalom!**

We know that God has made us, and we belong to God.
God is our hope and our Salvation.

**We are God's people,
The sheep of God's pasture.**

Let us enter God's gates with Thanksgiving in our hearts!
Let us enter God's courts with praise.

**God's Steadfast Love endures forever;
God is faithful to all generations.
Come, let us worship God!**

*Hymn

"Come, O Thankful People, Come"

#422

*Opening Prayer

Confirmation Class

God of blessings and abundance; we gather here today focused on Your presence in our lives and the many ways You bless us. We know that the best way to thank You is to give back to others; but often we forget. Forgive us for the times when we are thankless and appear ungrateful for all You have done. Remind us of Your call to be servant leaders and forgive us for the times when we serve ourselves instead of You. Teach us to be thankful, and fill us with Your joy. In Jesus' name we pray; Amen.

*Assurance of Blessing

Pastor Rick

God challenges us to be thankful for all They created, the earth and all that dwells upon it. But even when we forget this call, 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

“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

May God's Peace be with you!

And also with you!

Children's Time

Pastor Rick

“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*

Reception of New Members

Invitation & Questions to New Members

Pastor Rick

*Welcoming Our Newest Members

Jerry Kiesling

We welcome you with joy into the common life of this church. We give thanks to every church that has been your home on your spiritual journey and for the formation they have given you. We promise you our friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit, may we all continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love.

Mission Moment

“Solar Power”

Mahree Skala

New Testament Lesson

Philippians 4:4-9

Confirmation Class

In Paul's letter to the church in Phillipi, he encourages them to be joyful in all that they do. He tells them not to be anxious about anything, but be grateful for all their blessings. “Rejoice in the Lord always, again I say, rejoice; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

Page # 955

Jesus calls himself the “bread of life” and relates to them the story of God giving the Israelites manna from heaven when they were wandering in the wilderness. His message is not about bread, but about blessing, encouraging them to be thankful for all the blessings God has given them.
Page # 867

Anthem

“Call to Thanksgiving”

Celebration Singers
Joseph Martin

Sermon:

“Believing and Beloving”

Pastor Rick

*Hymn

“Now Thank We All Our God”

#419

*A Thanksgiving Prayer Litany (from ucc.org ‘Worship Ways’)

On this day, O God, we give thanks
in all kinds of communities, or even in solitude.
Our desire in this moment is to come before You
with our prayers of thanksgiving.

**For some of us the words we offer will flow easily from our lips.
For others, trying to name our blessings may prove difficult.**

This year may be very different from previous years;
a new table at which to sit,
new persons sitting with us, a dear one absent,
or worries crowding out our sense of blessing.

**These realities may reshape our prayers from years past.
Seeking joy may lead us through heartbreak.**

Whatever our reality, O God, we ask that You refine our focus;
That we worry not so much on material things,
their abundance or scarcity,
but rather on how we are living our lives.

**Help us recognize all the ways You are present
in our lives this year.**

**Help us gather the strength we need for today
and for all of our tomorrows.**

Grant us the satisfaction of intimacy with Jesus,
Your great gift to us,
through whom you offer Living Water, Bread of Life,
more than we can ask or imagine.

**Help us to extend our prayers of thanksgiving to You
with joyful spirits all year long.**

**We know we are beloved and blessed;
and for that we are thankful. Amen.**

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.

*Hymn "For the Fruit of All Creation" #425

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*

Offertory Piano Solo Dennis Froeschner

*Prayer of Dedication Confirmation Class

We thank You, God, by giving back a portion of all the blessings You have given us. Take these gifts and let them be used to share Your love with everyone; that all may know the joys of thanksgiving that we have already realized in our lives. 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 "Now Thank We All Our God" Gina Pierson
Arr. by 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

Pastor: Rev. Richard Oberle

rick@columbiaucc.com

Admin. Assistant: Alexandra Roper

office@columbiaucc.com

Moderator: Jerry Kiesling

rollzierp50@gmail.com

Music Coordinator: Mike Pierson

mike.pierson.1969@gmail.com

Organist/Accompanist:

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:	Confirmation Students
Song Leader:	Mike Pierson
Ushers:	Deborah Long Birkes & Keith Birkes
Greeters:	Donna Marsh
Technology:	Judi Privitt & Doug Privitt
Council Stewards:	Christine Staelens & Judi Privitt



Online Giving

NEXT SUNDAY IN WORSHIP:

Worship Leader:	Pat Forward
Song Leader:	Mike Pierson
Ushers:	Christine Staelens & Mary Lorber
Greeters:	Jessica Lucas
Technology:	Josh Muench
Council Stewards:	Christine Staelens & Mary Lorber

COLUMBIA UCC CHURCH COUNCIL

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

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!

DECK THE HALLS - 11/30

Stick around after worship on 11/30; we will be decorating the Sanctuary for the Advent/Christmas season! Join in the festive fun with your church family!

VAC FAMILY DONATIONS DUE 12/7

Most of our families have been “adopted” and now it is time to bring in the gifts! All VAC donations (gifts and monetary) are due by 12/7 for distribution to the Voluntary Action Center that week.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING AFTER WORSHIP - 12/7

The Church Council is calling a special congregational meeting for after worship on December 7 to talk about the possibilities of investing in solar power for our congregation. The details were presented to the congregation at our Lunch and Learn last Sunday, and in our special forum this morning. This is a great opportunity for our congregation! Questions? Talk to Jerry Kiesling.

ADVENT BANQUET - 12/14

This years Advent Cantata and Banquet will be on Sunday, 12/14! Come and hear our Celebration Singers and Chapel Ringers share the sounds of the season as they offer a “sermon in song;” and then stay for a delicious catered Advent meal with your church family! We do need an accurate meal count for the caterer; RSVP in the rear of the Sanctuary or talk to Mary Lorber!

COOKIES BY THE POUND - 12/14

Be prepared to donate and purchase your homemade Christmas Cookies at our annual Cookies by the Pound fundraiser! Tables will be set up in the Gathering Space, and it is first come, first serve! All proceeds go to our Nurture & Education Designated Fund. Please have all cookie donations here by 9:00 a.m.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES - 12/24

We will have two Christmas Eve services this year, at 7:00 & 10:00 p.m., both featuring the birth narratives of Jesus, and “Silent Night” sung by candlelight. Plan on attending one to celebrate the joy of the world, born in our midst!

THIS WEEK’S CALENDAR

Sun	11/23	Bible Study & Sunday School	9:00 a.m.
		Solar information discussion in Fellowship Hall	9:00 a.m.
		Fellowship	10:00 a.m.
		Worship (in person and livestream)	10:30 a.m.
		Quorus Rehearsal	7:00 p.m.
Mon	11/24	Scouting America	7:00 p.m.
Tue	11/25	Quilters	10:00 a.m.
Thu/Fri	11/27-28	Church office closed; Happy Thanksgiving!	
Sun	11/30	Bible Study & Sunday School	9:00 a.m.
		Fellowship	10:00 a.m.
		Worship (in person and livestream)	10:30 a.m.
		Decorating the Sanctuary	12:00 p.m.
		Quorus Rehearsal	7:00 p.m.

Columbia UCC Prayer List

Please keep in your prayers this week . . .

Owen Ramsingh and family

Cliff Beckman... health issues, hospitalized this week

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

Roger Meers... recovering from surgery

The family of Jennifer Held... on their loss (Edie Diel's Niece)

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

Phillip Neale's Niece... awaiting liver transplant

Jim Decker and family... as he transitions to the next life (Pastor Rick's friend)

Jeff Remelius and his family... as he loves his father in his final days

Our Organist/pianist/accompanist search here at CUCC

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

Health Issues:

Julie Roper (Alexandra's Mother), Rev. Jim Elliott, Ronald Remika (Joe Remika's Brother), Jim Posz (Allen's Father), Mike Gregory, Tiffany Greene, Harold Hackman, Glenn Duermeier, Barry Kirchhoff, Claudia Hutcherson (Ron Tennill's Sister), Mark Fairley & Connie Hackman Fairley, Cody Kile, Dr. Ryan Link; Fred & Ann Wilke (Alethea's Parents), Stephanie Porter (Phillip Neale's Niece), Julia Marsh (Donna Marsh's Daughter), Martha (friend of the Veteto family), Peri Ann Gulerson; 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, Walter & Patty Schroeder

Living in Independent Living Facilities:

Don Privitt, Cliff & Sue Beckman, Linda Evans

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

Or Tricia Soncasie (314) 374-7477 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***

Come, O Thankful People, Come

*Exod. 23:16**St. 1, Henry Alford, 1844; alt.**St. 2, Anna Laetitia Aiken Barbauld, 1772; alt.**St. 3, composite of Alford and Barbauld; alt.*

Descant

3 These to you, our God, we owe, source from whom all bless-ings flow;

1 Come, O thank-ful peo-ple, come, raise the song of har-vest home;

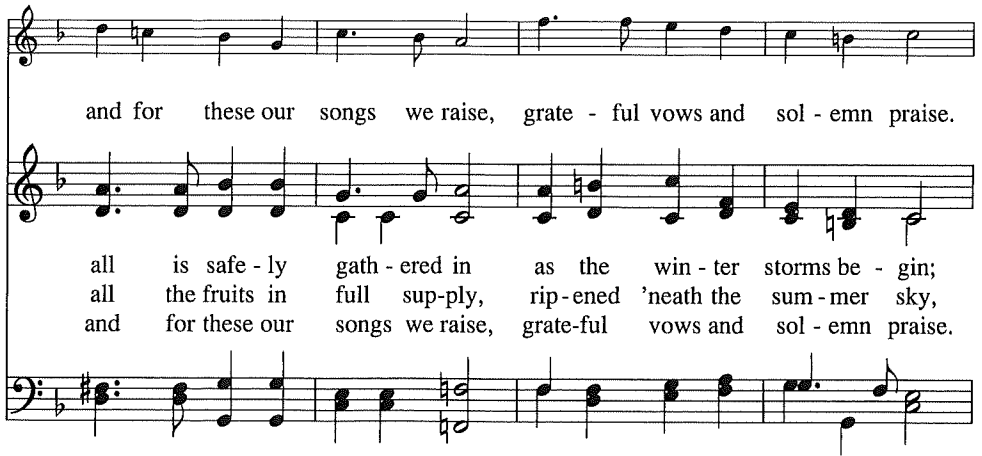
2 All the bless-ings of the field, all the stores the gar-dens yield,

3 These to you, our God, we owe, source from whom all bless-ings flow;

This hymn represents the joining of two Thanksgiving hymns by nineteenth-century poet Henry Alford and eighteenth-century poet Anna Laetitia Aiken Barbauld. The creator of this combined form, which appeared early in the twentieth century, is not known.

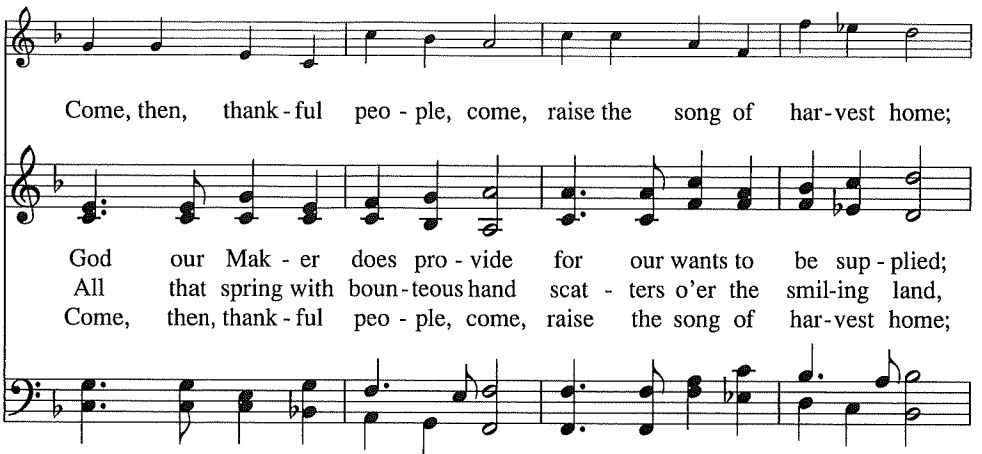
Tune: ST. GEORGE'S WINDSOR 7.7.7.7.D.

*George J. Elvey, 1858**Descant: H. A. Chambers, 1931*



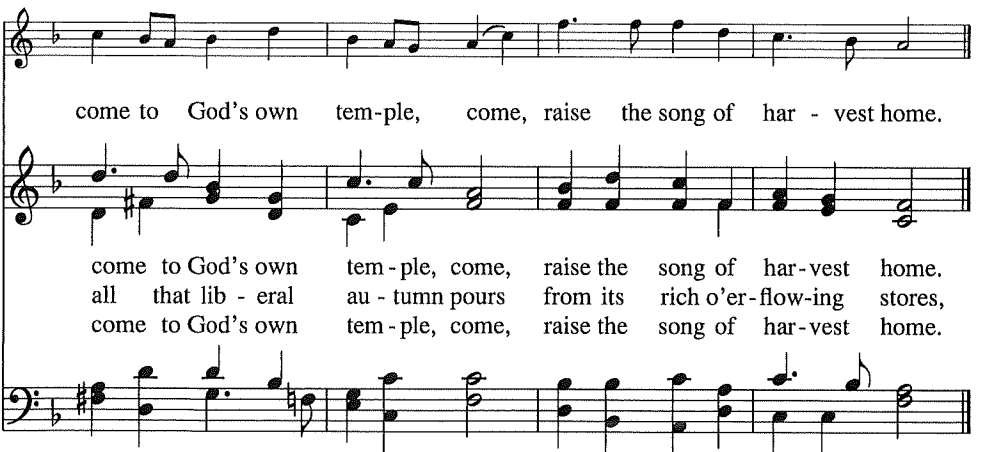
and for these our songs we raise, grate - ful vows and sol - emn praise.

all is safe - ly gath - ered in as the win - ter storms be - gin;
all the fruits in full sup - ply, rip - ened 'neath the sum - mer sky,
and for these our songs we raise, grate - ful vows and sol - emn praise.



Come, then, thank - ful peo - ple, come, raise the song of har - vest home;

God our Mak - er does pro - vide for our wants to be sup - plied;
All that spring with boun - teous hand scat - ters o'er the smil - ing land,
Come, then, thank - ful peo - ple, come, raise the song of har - vest home;



come to God's own tem - ple, come, raise the song of har - vest home.

come to God's own tem - ple, come, raise the song of har - vest home.
all that lib - eral au - tumn pours from its rich o'er - flow - ing stores,
come to God's own tem - ple, come, raise the song of har - vest home.

Nun danket alle Gott

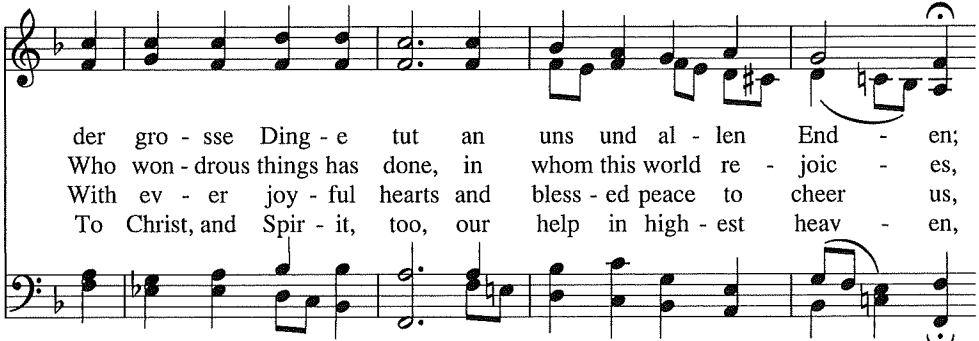
(Now Thank We All Our God)

Sir. 50:20-24; 39:35; Ps. 67

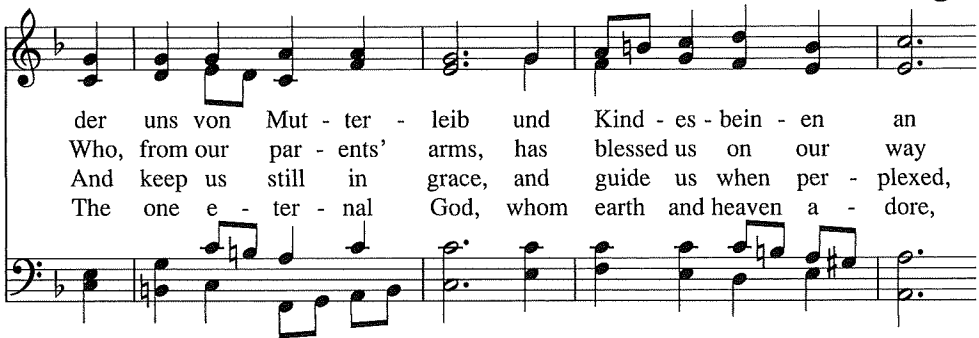
Martin Rinkart, 1647; transl. Catherine Winkworth, 1858; alt.



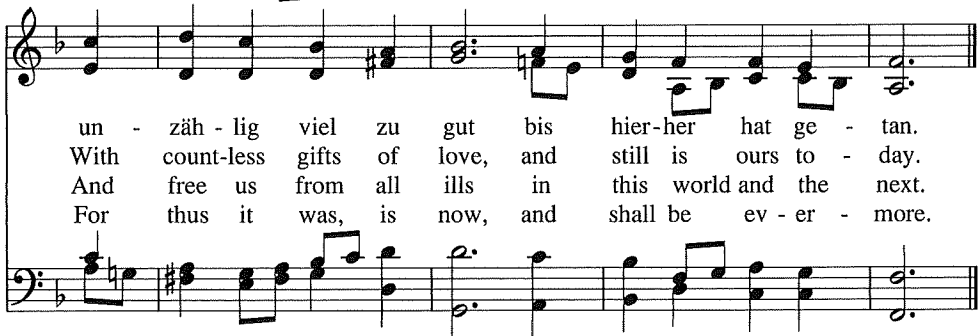
1 Nun dank - et al - le Gott, mit Herz - en, Mund und Händ - en,
 1 Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voic - es,
 2 O may this boun-teous God through all our life be near us,
 3 All praise and thanks to God our Mak - er now be giv - en,



der gro - sse Ding - e tut an uns und al - len End - en;
 Who won - drous things has done, in whom this world re - joic - es,
 With ev - er joy - ful hearts and bless - ed peace to cheer us,
 To Christ, and Spir - it, too, our help in high - est heav - en,



der uns von Mut - ter - leib und Kind - es - bein - en an
 Who, from our par - ents' arms, has blessed us on our way
 And keep us still in grace, and guide us when per - plexed,
 The one e - ter - nal God, whom earth and heaven a - dore,



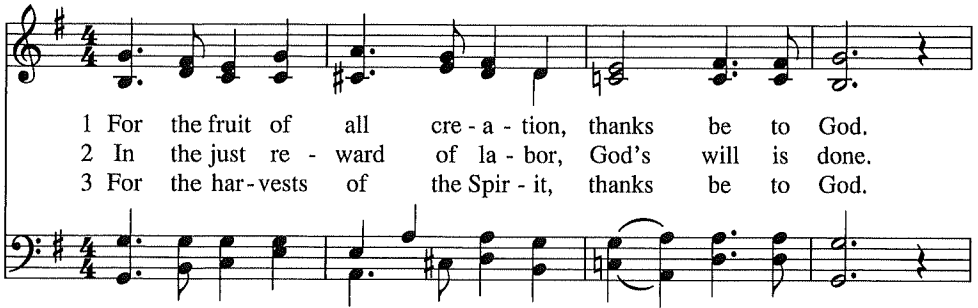
un - zäh - lig viel zu gut bis hier-her hat ge - tan.
 With count-less gifts of love, and still is ours to - day.
 And free us from all ills in this world and the next.
 For thus it was, is now, and shall be ev - er - more.

For much of his life, German Lutheran pastor and musician Martin Rinkart ministered to the walled city of Eisleben amidst the horrors of the Thirty Years' War. This hymn has become one of the most widely used hymns of the church.

Tune: NUN DANKET 6.7.6.7.6.6.6.6.
 Johann Crüger, 1647
 Harm. Felix Mendelssohn, 1840

For the Fruit of All Creation

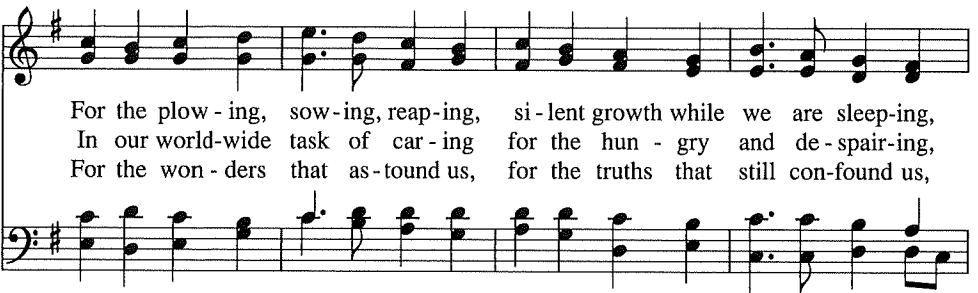
425

Fred Pratt Green, 1970


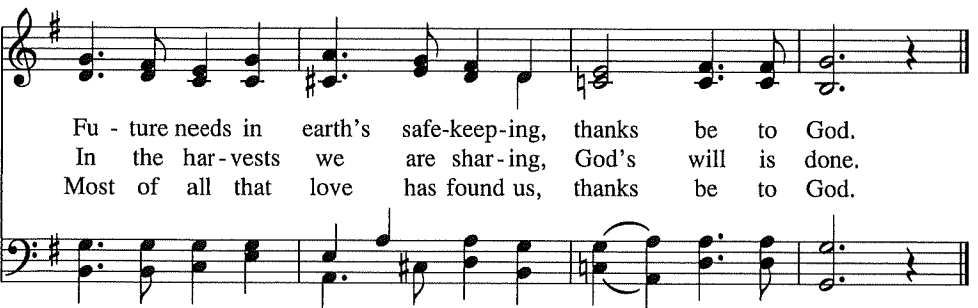
1 For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.
 2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will is done.
 3 For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God.



For God's gifts to ev - ery na - tion, thanks be to God.
 In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will is done.
 For the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God.



For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are sleep - ing,
 In our world - wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry and de - spair - ing,
 For the won - ders that as - tound us, for the truths that still con - found us,



Fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.
 In the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will is done.
 Most of all that love has found us, thanks be to God.

This text was written in response to a request for a new harvest hymn for an existing tune. After its publication in England in 1970, it became popular in many countries and can be found set to various tunes.

Words Copyright © 1970 by Hope Publishing Company

Tune: AR HYD Y NOS 8.4.8.4.8.8.8.4.
 Welsh traditional melody
 Musical Relicks of the Welsh Bards, Dublin, 1784
 Harm. L. O. Emerson, 1906
 For another harmonization, see 82

Philippians 4:4-9

4 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.,

5 Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near.

6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

8 Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

9 As for the things that you have learned and received and heard and noticed in me, do them, and the God of peace will be with you.

John 6:25-35

25 When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, “Rabbi, when did you come here?”

26 Jesus answered them, “Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for me not because you saw signs but because you ate your fill of the loaves.

27 Do not work for the food that perishes but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal.”

28 Then they said to him, “What must we do to perform the works of God?”

29 Jesus answered them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.”

30 So they said to him, “What sign are you going to give us, then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing?”

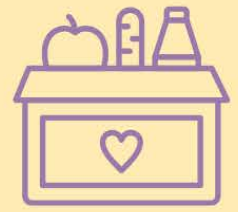
31 Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, as it is written, ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’ ”

32 Then Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven.

33 For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.” 34 They said to him, “Sir, give us this bread always.”

35 Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.

HELP US FEED LOCAL FAMILIES



TOGETHER, WE CAN PUT FOOD ON THE TABLE

HOW YOU CAN HELP:

- Drop off non-perishable food items in the box at sign-in kiosk
- Donate a monetary contribution by placing money in an envelope and writing LODO Food Drive (all money will go to a local food pantry)



WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT

Every day, families in our community go to bed hungry. Your donation helps us provide fresh meals and groceries to those who need it most.

MOST NEEDED FOOD ITEMS:

- Canned vegetables, beans & soup
- Rice, pasta & cereal
- Shelf-stable milk & baby formula
- Peanut butter & canned protein
- Cooking oil & spices



HUNGER AFFECTS 1 IN 7 PEOPLE

DROP OFF LOCATION:

Little One's Day Out
From 11/1- 11/25

STEVEN YEUN GINA RODRIGUEZ ZACHARY LEVI KEEGAN-MICHAEL KEY KELLY CLARKSON
PATRICIA HEATON KRISTIN CHENOWETH AND TRACY MORGAN TYLER PERRY OPRAH WINFREY

THE STAR

THE STORY OF THE FIRST CHRISTMAS



Little One's Day Out
Presents: The Star
Date: December 9th
Time: 6:00 PM
Entry Fee: \$5 per person
(limited to 50 people)

Snacks and drinks will be
available for purchase.
Bring your comfortable
seating, blankets, and pillows
for a cozy evening as we
enjoy this family-friendly film
together!



SWANK
MOVIE LICENSING USA