

# Columbia United Church Of Christ

April 6, 2025  
"Lazarus Sunday"



# 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*



*April 6, 2025*

*10:30 a.m.*

*"Joyful"*

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

*"...yes, the LORD has done great things for us; and we are overjoyed!"  
-Psalm 126:3*

Welcome and Greetings

Pastor Rick

Prelude

Ciaconna

Steve Jannetti  
*Arr. Robert Fielding*

Carrying in the Light of Christ

\*Call to Worship

*(based on Psalm 126)*

Kennedy Lucas

With patience, we remember the many ways God blessed us.  
From generation to generation, we have been blessed!

**God knows the desires of our hearts.  
God knows what we dream of most!**

Even in exile, we are not lost;  
Even in the wilderness, we are never alone.

**God fills our mouths with laughter;  
God sills our tongue with shouts of joy!**

Those who go out weeping, bearing seed for sowing  
Will have good fortune restored by God's grace.

**May those who sow in tears, reap with shouts of joy!  
Come, let us worship God!**

\*Hymn

"Praise to the Living God"

#8

\*Opening Prayer

Kennedy Lucas

**God of new life; remind us that eternal living is not reserved for one day far away. Even today, we can decide to live eternally by embracing Your wisdom and presence. Forgive us for the times we let the way of the world interfere with our eternal living. Open our eyes to the beauty of Your creation all around us and the ways You call us to join creation in praising You. In this season of new life and renewal, as we see Your creation come to life all around us, remind us of Your eternal living promises. Remind us again of the joy that is in store for us when we walk closely with You. In Jesus' name we pray; Amen.**

\*Assurance of Blessing

Pastor Rick

The beauty of the earth and all that is on it is created by God and given to us to steward. But even when we forget this mandate, God loves us and forgives us. Through our repentance and God's grace we are forgiven, beloved, and blessed. Praise be to God!

\*Prayer Response

“Jesus, Remember Me”

*Jesus, remember me,  
when you come into your Kingdom;  
Jesus, remember me,  
when you come into your Kingdom.*

\*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!*

Mission Moment

“One Great Hour of Sharing”

Pastor Rick

Old Testament Lesson

Isaiah 43:16-21

Kennedy Lucas

*The prophet speaks of God doing a new thing in the life of Israel. Just as God led them out of slavery in Egypt, God is now leading them out of captivity in Babylon. He is imploring them to be as bold as their ancestors were in the wilderness, and look for God's guidance through this new understanding of wilderness.*

Page #586

Gospel Lesson

John 11:1-44

Choral Reading

*The story of the raising of Lazarus. How did Lazarus practice faithful stewardship? He and his sisters were exemplary stewards of all they had been given.; and they receive great blessings because of their faith. It was hard for Mary to imagine what was possible when her brother died; but the raising of Lazarus fulfilled her wildest dreams. What joy can we imagine together?*

Page #873

Anthem

“Take Up Your Cross, The Savior Said”

Celebration Singers

Arr. John Leavitt

Sermon

“Eternal Living”

Pastor Rick

\*Hymn

“Beneath the Cross of Jesus”

#190

## Invitation to Communion

*Jesus reached across human borders and boundaries, seeing in everyone a common heritage as a child of God. Whether they were a child, a tax collector, a Samaritan, or a leper, even when others turned them away, Jesus welcomed them. In like manner, all are welcome to partake in communion today, no matter who you are or where you are on life's journey.*

As we gather around the communion table, God's love is gloriously revealed most clearly to us. We remember the Wisdom of Christ's ministry that is represented by the bread and the promise of Eternal Living that is represented by the cup. As God's children, let us gather together for this meal.

## Communion Prayer, Pastoral Prayer, & Silent Prayer; Invocation

Blessing the Children      "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"      #43

*In the Sacrament of Communion, we most clearly see Jesus in our midst. Our desire to share this presence prompts us to celebrate with our children, granting them a special blessing. During the hymn, our children are invited to come forward via the center aisle and receive a blessing from Pastor Rick.*

## Institution; Fraction; Distribution

Communion Music      "King of My Heart"      Steve Jannetti  
Arr. Greg Walton

\*Prayer of Thanksgiving      Pastor Rick

**God of joy, as we come to this table we reflect on the blessings You have given us and the call You place before us to serve, we pray that this meal might energize us, so we can go out into Your world and be effective stewards of Your Creation. Fire us up and send us forth from this table, speaking Your word and doing Your work. Open our eyes to Your blessings and remind us of what truly matters in life; glorifying You. Now we gather, Creator God, as one family, singing the prayer that You taught us,**

\*The LORD'S Prayer      (sung by the congregation, led by Casey Wood)

**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.**

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

"Reconciliation"

Steve Jannetti  
*Arr. Max Reger*

\*Prayer of Dedication

Kennedy Lucas

**God of new life and new beginnings, You fill us up with life and hope; and as an expression of the new life within us, we give our offerings to You. We pray these offerings may bring new life to Your children who are hurting and alone. Through these gifts we seek to heal your hurting world as we give back to You. Amen.**

\*Benediction

Pastor Rick

\*Response: "God, Dismiss Us With Your Blessing"

***God, dismiss us with Your blessing;  
Fill our hearts with joy and peace;  
Let us each, Your love possessing,  
Triumph in redeeming grace.***

***O refresh us, O refresh us,  
Travelling through this wilderness.***

\*Postlude

"Barcarolle"

Steve Jannetti  
*Arr. Charles Valentin-Alkan*

One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) is a vital special mission offering of the United Church of Christ. It connects you to disaster relief, refugee assistance, and development efforts around the globe. When disasters strike, or when individuals are displaced due to violence or poverty, OGHS ensures immediate response and ongoing recovery.

Through your support, OGHS funds comprehensive development programs in areas such as healthcare, education, agriculture, food security, microfinancing, and women's empowerment. By partnering with Global Ministries and international response networks, OGHS maximizes its impact. Your contributions help meet urgent needs while addressing the root causes of vulnerability, ensuring long-term, sustainable solutions for affected communities.

# Columbia United Church of Christ

3201 1-70 Drive NW; Columbia, MO 65202

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<b>Organist/Accompanist:</b> Steve Jannetti	<a href="mailto:steve.jannetti@yahoo.com">steve.jannetti@yahoo.com</a>
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<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:	Kennedy Lucas
Ushers:	Jim Loveless & Phillip Neale
Greeters:	Pat Forward
Technology:	Sam Byerly & Brent Marcks
Council Stewards:	Mary Lorber

## NEXT SUNDAY IN WORSHIP:

Worship Leader:	Pat Forward
Ushers:	Brenda & John Muench
Greeters:	Anne Heine
Technology:	Mike & Gina Pierson
Council Stewards:	Kurt Heine



Online giving

## COLUMBIA UCC CHURCH COUNCIL

<b>Moderator:</b>	Kurt Heine	<a href="mailto:heinekurt@gmail.com">heinekurt@gmail.com</a>
<b>Vice Moderator:</b>	Jerry Kiesling	<a href="mailto:rollzierp50@gmail.com">rollzierp50@gmail.com</a>
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<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>

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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!

### **TAIZÉ WORSHIP DURING LENT**

Wednesdays during Lent, Steve Jannetti will be leading us in Taizé worship. Each Wednesday thru April 16 we will gather at 5:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary for a half hour of meditation and reflection. All are invited!

### **CLEAN UP COLUMBIA 4/12**

This Saturday is the City of Columbia's annual Clean Up Columbia event. Join us in cleaning up our corner of Columbia! Vests, gloves, and trash bags will be provided; wear weather appropriate attire. Contact Mahree Skala for more information.

### **HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE**

Holy Week is almost upon us. Sunday, 4/13, is Palm/Passion Sunday, where our youth will host a palms parade to commemorate Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. Friday, 4/18, is Good Friday. We will have a 7:00 p.m. Tenebrae worship service. On Easter, 4/20, we will have our Easter Sunrise service at 6:30 a.m. followed by a breakfast provided by Men's Fellowship. A youth Easter Egg hunt and games will start around 9:00 a.m. We will conclude with our 10:30 a.m. worship service. We hope to see you on Easter!

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

Sun	4/6	<b><i>Bring a Friend Sunday</i></b>	
		Men's Fellowship	7:30 a.m.
		Sunday School	9:00 a.m.
		Fellowship Time	10:00 a.m.
		Worship (in person and livestream)	10:30 a.m.
		Taco Bar	12:00 p.m.
Mon	4/7	Scouting America	7:00 p.m.
Tue	4/8	Quilters	10:00 a.m.
		Staff Meeting	10:30 a.m.
		Finance & Stewardship Ministry Team	6:30 p.m.
Wed	4/9	Taizé Service	5:30 p.m.
		Prayer Shawl Group	6:00 p.m.
		Chapel Ringers/Celebration Singers	6:00/7:00 p.m.
Thu	4/10	Women's Fellowship	9:30 a.m.
		LODO Literacy Night	6:00 p.m.
Sat	4/12	Clean Up Columbia	9:00 a.m.
Sun	4/13	<b><i>Palm/Passion Sunday</i></b>	
		Sunday School	9:00 a.m.
		Fellowship Time	10:00 a.m.
		Worship (in person and livestream)	10:30 a.m.

# Columbia UCC Prayer List

*Please keep in your prayers this week . . .*

Sharon Elliott... on hospice

Cheryl Cobb... on hospice (Carole Barner's sister)

Eloy Montenegro... loving his mother in her final days

Jerry Kiesling... mourning the loss of his father

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

The people of Palestine, Israel, and Ukraine

## *Health Issues:*

Eddie Diel, Lloyd Mickelson, Lauren Helmreich

Mark Fairley & Connie Hackman Fairley

Kristan Whelihan (Russell Eveler's teacher)

Ann Wilke (Alethea's mother)

Stephanie Porter (Phillip Neale's niece), Jennifer (Eddie Diel's niece),

Julia Marsh (Donna Marsh's Daughter), Joanne Good (Sue Beckman's friend),

Marilyn Coronado (Corinne Remeika's friend)

## *Challenges in Life:*

Sheila, The Koerkenmeier & Malicoat Families

## *Living in Care Facilities:*

Gary Ehrhardt, Vernie Blank, Helen Graves, Sharon Elliott, Harold Hackman

## *Living in Independent Living Facilities:*

Don Privitt, Alice Moon

## *Serving us in the military:*

Christopher Tennill, Dane Wilson, Aaron Dachroeden

*Did you know we have a Prayer Team here at CUCC, lifting up the prayer concerns of our congregation? 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@google.com](mailto:melbamaes@google.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***



## Praise to the Living God

Ps. 84:1-2

Curtis Beach, 1966; alt.

1 Praise to the liv - ing God, the God of love and light, Whose  
 2 Praise to the liv - ing God, from whom all things de - rive, Whose  
 3 Praise to the liv - ing God, who knows our joy and pain, Who  
 4 Praise to the liv - ing God, a - round, with - in, a - bove, Be -

word brought forth the myr - iad suns and set the worlds in flight;  
 Spir - it formed up - on this sphere the first faint seeds of life;  
 shares with us our com - mon life, the sa - cred and pro - fane.  
 yond the grasp of hu - man mind, but whom we know as love.

Whose in - fi - nite de - sign, which we but dim - ly see, Per -  
 Who caused them to e - volve, un - wit - ting, toward God's goal, Till  
 God toils wher - e'er we toil, in home and mart and mill; And  
 In these tu - mul - tuous days, so full of hope and strife, May

vades all na - ture, mak - ing all a cos - mic u - ni - ty.  
 hu - man - kind stood on the earth, as liv - ing, think - ing souls.  
 deep with - in the hu - man heart God leads us for - ward still.  
 we bear wit - ness to the Way, O Source and Goal of life.

Curtis Beach, born into a family of several generations of ministers, was educated at Harvard University, the Boston University School of Theology, and the University of Southern California. A minister in the United Church of Christ, Beach authored *The Gospel of Mark: Its Making and Meaning*.

Tune: DIADEMATA S.M.D.  
 George J. Elvey, 1868

## **Isaiah 43:16-21**

16 Thus says the LORD, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters,

17 who brings out chariot and horse, army and warrior; they lie down, they cannot rise, they are extinguished, quenched like a wick:

18 Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old.

19 I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.

20 The wild animals will honor me, the jackals and the ostriches; for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people,

21 the people whom I formed for myself so that they might declare my praise.

## **John 11:1-44**

1 Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha.

2 Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill.

3 So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill."

4 But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it."

5 Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, 6 after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

7 Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again."

8 The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?"

9 Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world.  
10 But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them."  
11 After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him."  
12 The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right."  
13 Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep.  
14 Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. 15 For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him."  
16 Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."  
17 When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. 18 Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away,  
19 and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother.  
20 When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home.  
21 Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. 22 But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him."  
23 Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." 24 Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day."  
25 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live,  
26 and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"  
27 She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world."  
28 When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you."  
29 And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. 30 Now

Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him.

31 The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there.

32 When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died."

33 When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved.

34 He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." 35 Jesus began to weep. 36 So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!"

37 But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

38 Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it.

39 Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days."

40 Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?"

41 So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me.

42 I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me."

43 When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!"

44 The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

## Beneath the Cross of Jesus

*Isa. 32:2; Gal. 6:14**Elizabeth C. Clephane, 1872; alt.*

1 Be - neath the cross of Je - sus I glad - ly take my stand,  
 2 Up - on the cross of Je - sus with - in my mind I see  
 3 I take, O cross, your shad - ow for my a - bid - ing place;

the shad - ow of a might-y rock with - in a wea - ry land;  
 the ver - y dy - ing form of One who suf - fered there for me;  
 I ask no oth - er sun - shine than the sun - shine of Christ's face;

A home with-in the wil - der-ness, a rest up - on the way,  
 And from my griev-ing heart with tears two won - ders I con - fess—  
 Con - tent to let the world go by, to know no gain or loss,

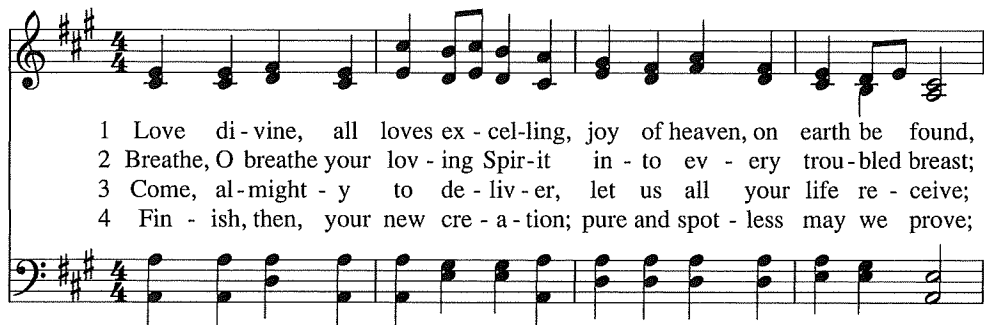
from the burn-ing of the noon-tide heat, and the bur - den of the day,  
 the won-ders of Christ's glo - rious love and my un - wor - thi - ness.  
 my sin - ful self my on - ly shame, my glo - ry all the cross.

*Elizabeth Clephane was known during her short lifetime for her charitable work in her hometown of Melrose, Scotland. After her death, this hymn was compiled from several stanzas of a longer poem that had appeared in a popular Scottish religious magazine.*

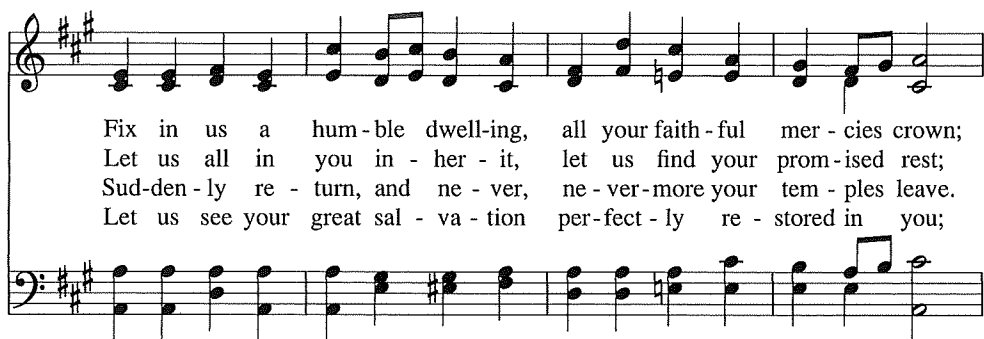
Tune: ST. CHRISTOPHER 7.6.8.6.8.6.8.6.

*Frederick C. Maker, 1881*

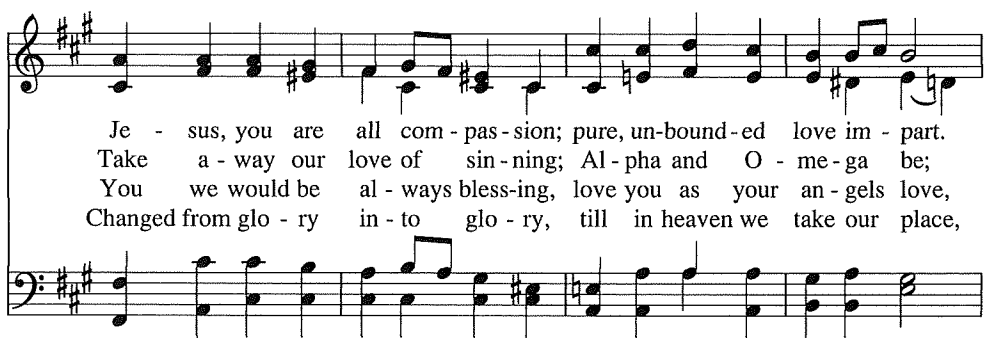
## Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

*Mal. 3:1; 2 Cor. 3:18; 5:17; Eph. 5:27**Charles Wesley, 1747, alt.*


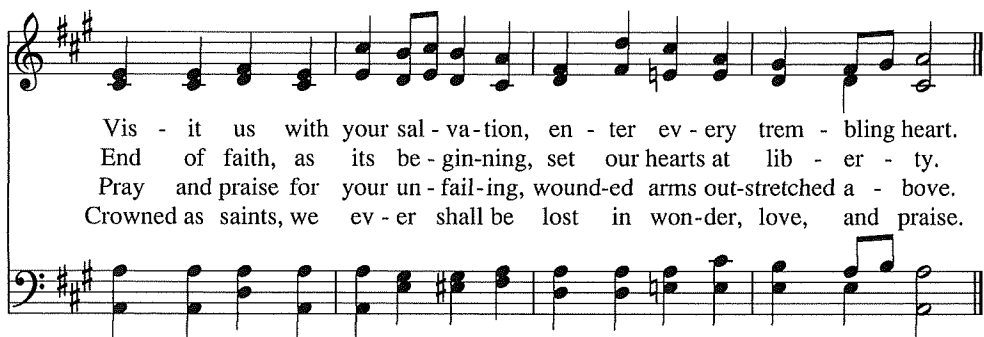
1 Love di-vine, all loves ex-cel-ling, joy of heaven, on earth be found,  
 2 Breathe, O breathe your lov-ing Spir-it in-to ev-ery trou-bled breast;  
 3 Come, al-might-y to de-liv-er, let us all your life re-ceive;  
 4 Fin-ish, then, your new cre-a-tion; pure and spot-less may we prove;



Fix in us a hum-ble dwell-ing, all your faith-ful mer-cies crown;  
 Let us all in you in-her-it, let us find your prom-ised rest;  
 Sud-den-ly re-turn, and ne-ver, ne-ver-more your tem-ples leave.  
 Let us see your great sal-va-tion per-fect-ly re-stored in you;



Je-sus, you are all com-pas-sion; pure, un-bound-ed love im-part.  
 Take a-way our love of sin-ning; Al-pha and O-me-ga be;  
 You we would be al-ways bless-ing, love you as your an-gels love,  
 Changed from glo-ry in-to glo-ry, till in heaven we take our place,



Vis-it us with your sal-va-tion, en-ter ev-ery trem-bling heart.  
 End of faith, as its be-gin-ning, set our hearts at lib-er-ty.  
 Pray and praise for your un-fail-ing, wound-ed arms out-stretched a-bove.  
 Crowned as saints, we ev-er shall be lost in won-der, love, and praise.

*This hymn is said to have been suggested by a "Song of Venus" from Dryden's King Arthur. It is one of 6,500 written by Charles Wesley, the "sweet singer of Methodism," who was skilled at interweaving literary and scriptural images.*

Tune: BEECHER 8.7.8.7.D.

John Zundel, 1855

Alternate tune: HYFRYDOL

For another harmonization, see 368, 495