# Columbia United Church Of Christ

February 23, 2025
"The End To All Things"



#### **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



February 23, 2025

10:30 a.m.

"Revelation"

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

"Trust in the Lord and do good; Take delight in the Lord, and They will give you the desires of your heart."

-Psalm 37:3

Welcome and Greetings

Pastor Rick

Prelude

"Precious Lord, Take My Hand"

Chapel Ringers arr. Doug Wagner

Carrying in the Light of Christ

\*Call to Worship

(based on Psalm 37)

Jessica Lucas

Do not worry concerning those who do evil; Do not fret about those whose ambitions are impure.

They will soon fade like the grass, and wither like the green herb.

Put your trust in God; Continue to be God's voice for justice.

Take delight in God's wisdom and presence; They will give you the desires of your heart.

Commit yourself to God's will and God's ways; Be patient, awaiting God's ways.

Our steps are made firm by the LORD. Though we stumble, we will not fall, For God holds us by the hand. Come, let us worship God!

\*Hymn

"Called as Partners in Christ's Service"

#495

\*Opening Prayer

Jessica Lucas

God of love, You call us to be humble, not arrogant; meek, not aggressive. You call us to forgive one another and above all, live lives filled with grace. We don't see this exemplified much in our current world. Forgive us for the times we embody the ways of the world over the ways of Jesus. Teach us to put aside those whose ambitions are impure, and embrace the loving ways You intend for us; that we may glorify you in all that we do. In Jesus' name we pray; Amen.

\*Assurance of Blessing

Pastor Rick

God's Holy Spirit shows us the possibilities of what could be if we just trusted God. But even when are blind to this revelation, 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

"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

"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

"Seminary Sunday"

Shelly Adams

New Testament Lesson

Revelation 21:1-14, 22-27

Jessica Lucas

The book of Revelation is a message of hope for the early Christian Church. As the long vision concludes, Jesus reveals to John what life could be like if people would turn away from the excesses and oppression of the Roman Empire and turn towards the teachings of Jesus. God's Kingdom could be realized on earth if they would only listen.

Page #1007

Gospel Lesson

Luke 6:27-38

Jessica Lucas

The author of the Gospel attributed to Luke continues his version of the Sermon on the Mountain, given by Jesus. This section is about forgiveness, humility, mercy and grace. He implores his listeners not to judge or condemn others and assures them that much more will be given to them when they show mercy to others.

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Anthem

"Come Christians, Join to Sing" Celebration Singers

Craig Curry

0.41.8 011

Sermon

"The End to All Things"

Pastor Rick

\*Hymn

"Be Now My Vision"

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#### 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," "Trespasses" 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.

\*Meditation Hymn "To You, O God, All Creatures Sing" (Verses 1-4 only)

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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

"I Need Thee in Every Hour"

Steve Jannetti arr. Lowry / Keveren

\*Prayer of Dedication

Jessica Lucas

God of love; we give these gifts to You to advance Seminary education, to heal the sick, to work miracles in Your world. Through these gifts, we are Your servant leaders in the world; and for that opportunity, we give thanks. Amen.

\*Benediction

Pastor Rick

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\*Response:

"Jesus, the Light of the World" (verse 3 only)

Christ, by highest heaven adored; Jesus, the Light of the World; Christ, the everlasting Word, Jesus, the Light of the World.

> We will follow the light, beautiful light, Come where the dew drops of mercy are bright, Shine all around us by day and by night, Jesus, the light of the world.

\*Postlude

"Grand Sortie"

Steve Jannetti Arr. Andrew Fletcher

#### **EDEN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**

Eden Theological Seminary was established in the summer of 1850 in Marthasville, Missouri, to fit the needs of frontier churches. These Evangelical congregations required better-educated pastors, who were less focused on European traditions and more suited to North American religious life.

An ecumenical spirit lies at the heart of Eden, the seeds of which were planted from the very start. A Methodist and Mennonite joined six Evangelicals to form the very first graduating class of Eden. The hard work of that first class laid the foundation for Eden to branch out west of St. Louis, serving more frontier congregations and in turn recruiting new students.

Since 1850, Eden has actively pursued the Progressive Christian Movement. To fit the growing urbanization of the country, Eden moved to the outskirts of St. Louis in 1883. The Seminary's first African American student enrolled in 1933. Eden Seminary was the only Seminary at this time affiliated with the Evangelical Synod. In 1934, Eden also became part of the Evangelical And Reformed Church through the merger of the Evangelical Synod of North America, which it served, and the Reformed Church in the United States. Eventually this partnership and a continued focus on ecumenical discussion, conversations which included Eden President Samuel D. Press, lead to the formation of the United Church of Christ in 1957.

Now and throughout its history, Eden affirms that Christian faith and critical scholarship are compatible and dedicated discipleship is neither alien nor hostile to the truth of love. Faith is nurtured and openly affirmed at Eden, and we feel these discussions will serve us well into spreading the greater good into the twenty-first century and beyond.

#### SCOUTING AMERICA AND CUCC

CUCC is the Charter Organization for four Scouting America units, over 150 children, youth, and adult volunteers. These units are:

- Cub Scout Pack 5183 The younger group of Scouts, with boys and girls from kindergarten age through 5th grade. They meet every other Monday.
- **Scouting America Troop 4475** The girls troop. They are a very active troop of girls from 6th-12th grades. They meet every Monday.
- **Scouting America Troop 708** The boys troop. They are from 6th-12th grades and are very active. They meet every Monday, too.
- **Venture Crew 5334** This is a focused co-educational group of older youth, from High School through college age.

As the Charter Organization for these four units, they are a part of us and we are a part of them. "They are our scouts, and we are their church." Working together, in covenant, we will share the joys of common life and enhance one another's mission, all to the glory of God.

#### Columbia United Church of Christ

3201 1-70 Drive NW; Columbia, MO 65202

Pastor's cell: 573.241.2027 **Phone:** 573-445-7931

Website: www.columbiaucc.com

Pastor: Rev. Richard Oberle **Student Pastor:** Shelly Adams Admin. Assistant: Alexandra Roper

Moderator: Kurt Heine

Music Coordinator: Casey Wood Organist/Accompanist: Steve Jannetti LODO Director: Erika Maltsbarger

Custodian: Caleb Berry

rick@columbiaucc.com shellyraeadams@gmail.com office@columbiaucc.com heinekurt@gmail.com

caseyseanwood@gmail.com steve.jannetti@yahoo.com littleonesdayout@yahoo.com calebprenticeberry@gmail.com

Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Fred Brandenburg

#### **TODAY IN WORSHIP:**

Worship Leader: Jessica Lucas

Mark & Jane Duncan Ushers: Carol Duermeyer Greeters:

Technology: Doug Privitt & Judi Privitt Kristin Veteto & Judi Privitt Council Stewards:

#### NEXT SUNDAY IN WORSHIP:

Worship Leader: Lena Muench Ushers: Jerry Kiesling Greeters: Jolene Kirchhoff

Brent Marcks & Judi Privitt Technology:

Council Stewards: Lena Muench



Online giving

#### COLUMBIA UCC CHURCH COUNCIL

Moderator: Kurt Heine Jerry Kiesling Vice Moderator: Alethea Tennill Secretary: Deborah Birkes Treasurer: **Recording Treasurer:** Christine Staelens **Building & Grounds:** Ted Dachroeden Fellowship & Hospitality: Mary Lorber Finance & Stewardship: Shelly Adams Inclusion & Affirmation: Tricia Price **Little One's Day Out:** Kristin Veteto Membership & Care: Judi Privitt Nurture & Education: Lena Muench **Outreach & Advocacy:** Mark Duncan Worship & Music: Jedd Schneider Pastor: Rev. Rick Oberle

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

#### **ONA CONVOCATION 3/1**

This Saturday is the annual Open and Affirming Convocation in St. Louis! This event will feature several workshop options, and a very interesting guest speaker. If you would like to attend, we will be taking the church bus! You have to register ahead of time; talk to Pastor Rick or Tricia Price.

#### STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY 3/2- POTLUCK MEAL!

Bring your favorite dish on March 2 for Stewardship Sunday! We will celebrate everyone's talents by sharing a meal together. We also will have, as our special guest, professor Kristin Leslie from Eden Seminary, who will share the joy of church with us. Don't miss celebrating with your church family on March 2!

#### **FASTNACHT IS COMING UP FAST-3/4**

Fastnacht will be here before you know it! "The feast before the fast" will be on Tuesday, March 4; right before Ash Wednesday. German food, German music, and lots of fun! Don't miss it! Talk to Mary Lorber for more details. Sign up using the link in the Friday Email or the sign up sheets in the coat room.

#### ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP-3/5

We will gather for worship next week as we welcome the season of Lent. Ash Wednesday worship will be Wednesday, March 5 at 7:00 p.m. We will celebrate communion and the traditional imposition of ashes, symbolizing the season of penance. As we do, we invite you to walk even more closely with Jesus to Jerusalem and the events of Holy Week.

#### TAIZÉ WORSHIP RESUMES DURING LENT 3/12-4/16

For the six Wednesdays of Lent, Steve Jannetti will be leading us in Taizé worship once more. Each Wednesday from March 12-April 16 we will gather at 5:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary for a half hour of meditation and reflection. All are invited to join us for these special Lenten services.

#### THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

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Sun	2/23	Sunday School Fellowship Time Worship (in person and livestream)	9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m.
Tue	2/24	Quilters Staff Meeting	10:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m.
Wed	2/25	Chapel Ringers/Celebration Singers	6:00/7:00 p.m.
Fri	2/28	Pastor Rick's day off	
Sat	3/1	ONA Convocation in St. Louis	
Sun	3/2	Stewardship Sunday/Pot Luck Sunday School Fellowship Time Worship (in person and livestream) Potluck Luncheon	9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 12:00 p.m.

# **Columbia UCC Prayer List**

Please keep in your prayers this week . . .

Sharon Elliott... on hospice
The Family of Neal Sprick... on their loss
The Family of Howard Lavely... on their loss (Gene's father)
The Family of Hale Schroer... on their loss (Pastor Rick's mentor)
The Family of Mary Jean King... on their loss (MJ King's grandma)
Cas Burleson...health issues (Mahree's cousin)

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

The people of Palestine, Israel, and Ukraine

Health Issues:

Edie Diel, Lloyd Mickelson, Bryan Crousore, Jim Elliott, Cheryl Cobb, Mark Fairley & Connie Hackman Fairley Kristan Whelihan (Russell Eveler's teacher) Ann Wilke (Alethea's mother)

Stephanie Porter (Phillip Neale's niece), Jennifer (Edie 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

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 <u>whals@centurytel.net</u> Or Tricia Soncasie (314) 374-7477 <u>tsoncasie@aol.com</u>

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

Jane Parker Huber, 1981 John 15:12-17; Gal. 6:2; Eph. 2:14-22 Christ's ser-vice, called to min-is-tries of grace, 1 Called as part-ners in 2 Christ's ex - am - ple, Christ's in spir-ing, Christ's clear call to work and worth, Thus new pat-terns for Christ's mis-sion, in a small or glob-al sense, God grant us for mor-row wavs to or - der hu - man life We re-spond with deep com-mit-ment fresh new lines of faith to trace. fal-tering, rec - on - cil - ing Let us fol - low, nev - er folk on earth. oth - er's bur-dens, break-ing down each Help us bear each wall or fence. That sur-round each per - son's sor-row with a calm that con - quers strife. May we learn the of shar-ing, side by side and friend with friend, art Men and wom-en, rich - er, poor-er, all God's peo - ple, young and old, Words of com-fort, words of vi-sion, words of chal-lenge, said with care, Make us part-ners in liv - ing. our com - pas - sion to in - crease. our ful - fill God's cho - sen end. E - qual part - ners our car-ing in to Blend-ing hu - man skills to - geth-er gra-cious gifts from God un - fold. Bring new power and strength for ac-tion, make us col-leagues, free and fair. Mes - sen - gers of faith, thus giv-ing hope and con - fi - dence and peace.

One of Jane Parker Huber's most widely sung texts, this hymn was originally written for a women's breakfast at the 1981 Presbyterian General Assembly meeting to celebrate the partnership of women and men in service of the church.

Tune: BEECHER 8.7.8.7.D.

John Zundel, 1855

For another key, see 43, 368

# Revelation 21:1-14;22-27

- 1 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more.
- 2 And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.
- 3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them as their God; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them;
- 4 he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away."
- 5 And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true."
- 6 Then he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life.
- 7 Those who conquer will inherit these things, and I will be their God and they will be my children.
- 8 But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the polluted, the murderers, the fornicators, the sorcerers, the idolaters, and all liars, their place will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death."
- 9 Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and said to me, "Come, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb."
- 10 And in the spirit he carried me away to a great, high mountain and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God.

- 11 It has the glory of God and a radiance like a very rare jewel, like jasper, clear as crystal.
- 12 It has a great, high wall with twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and on the gates are inscribed the names of the twelve tribes of the Israelites;
- 13 on the east three gates, on the north three gates, on the south three gates, and on the west three gates.
- 14 And the wall of the city has twelve foundations, and on them are the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.
- 22 I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb.
- 23 And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb.
- 24 The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. 25 Its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there.
- 26 People will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations.
- 27 But nothing unclean will enter it, nor anyone who practices abomination or falsehood, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.

# Luke 6:27-38

- 27 "But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, 28 bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you.
- 29 If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt.
- 30 Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. 31 Do to others as you would have them do to you.
- 32 "If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them.
- 33 If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same.
- 34 If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again.
- 35 But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked.
- 36 Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.
- 37 "Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven;
- 38 give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back."

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## Be Now My Vision



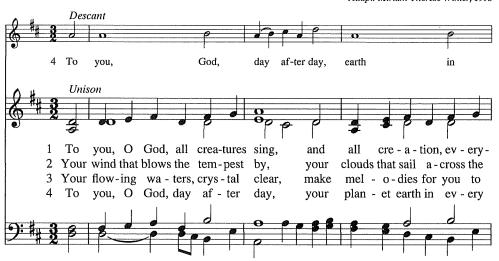
Dating from the eighth century or earlier, this Irish hymn was translated into prose by Mary Byrne. It was then versified by Eleanor Hull, author of several books on Irish literature and history. David Evans arranged the Irish melody for this text in 1927.

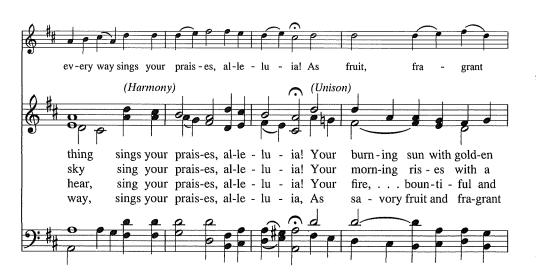
Tune: SLANE 10.10.9.10. Traditional Irish melody Harm. David Evans, 1927

### 17 Ps. 148

## To You, O God, All Creatures Sing

St. Francis of Assisi, 1225 Adapt. Miriam Therese Winter, 1993





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 also 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



- 5 Now we who are of ten-der heart, for-giv-ing oth-ers, take our part, sing your prais-es, al-le-lu-ia!

  To you we lift our pain and care, re-ceive the bur-dens that we bear, sing-ing prais-es, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.
- 6 In you, a kind and gen-tle death pre-pares to hush our fi-nal breath, sing-ing prais-es, al-le-lu-ia!
  Christ goes be-fore us to re-new the way that leads us home to you.
  Hear our prais-es, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.