



August 23, 2020

9:30 Worship

"Who Am I?"

*\* indicates those who are comfortably able may stand*

*"...our help is in the name of the LORD, who made heaven and earth..."*

*-Psalm 124:8*

Gathering Music

Amy Crousore

Welcome and Greetings

Pastor Rick

Prelude

"First Arabesque"

Amy Crousore  
Claude DeBussy

Carrying in the Light of Christ

\*Call to Worship

*(adapted from Psalm 124)*

Lauren Helmreich

Flood waters sweep over us; raging waters seeking to destroy.  
We cry out; who is God in the midst of this?

**Our help is in the name of the LORD,  
Who made heaven and earth!**

Death and destruction threaten to swallow us up;  
Yet we escape, as a bird escaping the snare of the fowlers.

**Our help is in the name of the LORD,  
Who made heaven and earth!**

Bless God's Holy name, present among us!  
Bless God's Steadfast presence, on our side always!

**Our help is in the name of the LORD,  
Who made heaven and earth!**

**Come, let us worship God!**

\*Opening Hymn

"Here I Am, Lord"

*(insert)*

\*Opening Prayer

Lauren Helmreich

**God of provision; the stories of our traditions create for us an identity that helps us understand your nature more clearly; yet often we create false identities that are unlike your true nature. We illustrate your identity with the words that we say and the deeds that we do; and often those images are not very faithful. Forgive us, Steadfast God, when we fail to live up to your expectations in this way. Teach us to construct our lives based on Jesus' question, 'who do you say I am?' and live lives that speak to your true nature. We pray that our lives may be living examples of your presence within us; inspiring us, leading us, educating us. We pray that we may live lives more closely structured around the life of our Savior; for it is in Jesus' name we pray; Amen.**

\*Assurance of Blessing

Pastor Rick

Who do you say Jesus is? Who do you say God is? As Christians, we are living proclamations of God's identity; and often we fall short of this ideal. Yet even when we do, God understands. God, who became one of us, understands our human failings, and forgives us. We are all God's children, blessed and beloved, forgiven and free! Praise be to God!

\*Prayer Response

"Spirit of the Living God"

NCH #283

**Spirit of the Living God, Fall afresh on me!**  
**Spirit of the Living God, Fall afresh on me!**  
**Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me!**  
**Spirit of the Living God, Fall afresh on me!**

Children's Time  
Response

Pastor Rick

"This Little Light of Mine"

**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!**

Reception of New Members

Invitation & Questions of the Candidates

Pastor Rick

\*Welcoming Our Newest Members

James Melton

By God's grace, you have always been one with us in the body of Christ, the church universal. Today we rejoice in your pilgrimage of faith that has brought you to this time and place. We give thanks for every community of faith that has been your spiritual home, and we celebrate your presence in this family of faith. Let us, the members of Columbia United Church of Christ, stand and express our welcome:

**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, 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.**

Welcome and Presentation

Pastor Rick

Anthem

Shelby Oberle & Harry Beckett

New Testament Lesson: Romans 12:1-8

Lauren Helmreich

*In Paul's letter to the Christian Church in Rome, he talks about how everyone has different gifts to offer, but they all can be used to glorify God. The Body of Christ is exemplified in this analogy; many diverse gifts.*

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 16:13-20

Lauren Helmreich

*Jesus asks his disciples, "who do you say I am?" Today, we can use this wisdom mto ask ourselves, "who do we say Jesus is, by our words and our actions?"*

Sermon:

"Who Am I?"

Pastor Rick

\*Meditation Hymn

“Take My Life, and Let it Be”

NCH #448

\*Blessing the New School Year

Exhortation; Blessings; Prayer; Sending Forth

Community Prayer & Silent Prayer

The LORD's Prayer

**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. Lead  
us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For  
Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory,  
forever. Amen.**

Prayer Response

“Grant Us Peace”

**Hear our Prayer, O Lord!  
Hear our prayer, O Lord!  
Hear our Prayer, O Lord!  
And Grant us Thy Peace! A-men!**



Sharing our Announcements of Community Life

Pastor Rick

Presenting our Gifts

“Minuet/Air”

Lucy Smith  
Henry Purcell

*To give online text “GIVE” to 573.240.4041  
and follow the prompts*

*You can also give online by visiting our website:*

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

\*Response

“We Praise You, O God”

NCH #420

**We praise you, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;  
In grateful devotion our tribute we bring.  
We lay it before you, we kneel and adore you;  
We bless your Holy name, glad praises we sing!**

\*Prayer of Dedication

Lauren Helmreich

**God of love and justice; as your body, active in the  
world, we each have gifts that differ according to the  
grace given us. Today we give our gifts according to  
that grace. The gifts we give speak of your blessings  
in the world; and we pray they may be multiplied to  
an abundance. Take them, and use them to share  
your Good News with all the world; the news of your  
gracious and steadfast love. 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

"Classical Postlude"

Amy Crousore  
Robert Hughes

### **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.

*CUCC celebrates God's boundless love by:*  
*Welcoming all God's People;*  
*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*

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Here I Am, Lord

*Unison*

1. I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my peo-ple cry.  
 2. I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my peo-ple's pain.  
 3. I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.

All who dwell in deep - est sin my hand will save.  
 I have wept for love of them, they turn a - way.  
 I will set a feast for them, my hand will save.

I who made the stars of night, I will make their dark-ness bright.  
 I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love a - lone.  
 Fin-est bread I will pro-vide till their hearts be sat - is - fied.

WORDS: Daniel L. Schutte, 1981  
 MUSIC: Daniel L. Schutte, 1981; harm. James Snyder, 1994

HERE I AM, LORD  
 77.74 w. refrain

Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?  
 I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?  
 I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?

*Harmony*

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you call-ing in the

night. I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will

hold your peo-ple in my heart. heart.  
 heart, in my heart.  
 heart,in my heart.

*Refrain*

I do not know how long 'twill be, nor what the fu - ture holds for me,

But this I know, if Je - sus leads me, I shall get home some day.

Composer Charles A. Tindley, a prolific writer of gospel hymns, was a highly respected African-American Methodist minister in Philadelphia. It is Rev. Tindley whom Thomas Dorsey, perhaps the most famous gospel songwriter, credited as his influential predecessor.

Tune: SOME DAY 7.7.7.8.8.9.6. with refrain  
Charles Albert Tindley, c. 1906  
Transcribed by F. A. Clark, 1906

## Take My Life, God, Let It Be

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Frances R. Havergal, 1874; alt.

Rom. 12:1

1 Take my life, God, let it be con - se - crat - ed faith - ful - ly.  
2 Take my spir - it, let it move at the im - pulse of your love.  
3 Take my will; your will be done! Make your will and mine be one.  
4 Take my love and help it grow; let my lov - ing ov - er - flow.

Take my mo - ments and my days, let them flow in cease - less praise.  
Take my in - tel - lect and use all its pow - ers as you choose.  
Take my heart, and by your grace make of it your dwell - ing place.  
Take me now, and help me be part of Christ's com - mu - ni - ty.

Frances R. Havergal wrote her hymn following a visit to Areley House in Worcestershire, England. Among the ten persons at the house were "some unconverted . . . some converted but not rejoicing." Before she left, "everyone had got a blessing."

Tune: VIENNA 7.7.7.7.  
Justin H. Knecht, 1797  
Alternate tune: HENDON