

Columbia United Church Of Christ

May 18, 2025
Congregational Meeting



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**



May 18, 2025

10:30 a.m.

"True Love"

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

*"Praise God! Praise God from the highest heavens!
Praise God in the heights!" -Psalm 148:1*

Welcome and Greetings

Pastor Rick

Prelude

"How Great Thou Art"

Chapel Ringers
Cynthia Dobrinski

Carrying in the Light of Christ

*Call to Worship

(adapted from Psalm 148)

Audrey Lasley

Sing Praise to God from the heavens, from all Creation!
All the angels praise God; all the heavenly host!

**The Sun and Moon and shining stars all proclaim God's glory;
The highest heavens and deepest oceans roar with God's praise!**

Sing songs of God's wondrous Creation;
The beauty of the earth and the majesty of the heavens.

**Mountains and trees; animals and cattle,
Creeping things and flying birds all sing of God's glory.**

Youth and those advanced in years; the powerful and the meek;
People of all races, ethnicity, expression and identity praise God!

**God's name is exalted in all of Creation!
Let all the people praise God!
Come, let us worship God!**

*Hymn

"They'll Know We Are Christians"

(insert)

*Opening Prayer

Audrey Lasley

God of love; in Jesus, You give us a new commandment, to love one another. Just as Jesus first loved us, we should love one another; and all the world will know we are his disciples by our love. We know that justice is love in action; and that so many times in our world, our society has fallen short of that mandate. Forgive us for the times we fail to love in action. Remind us of Your Holy Presence, inspiring us to be Your hands and feet in the world, glorifying You by loving your children. In Jesus' name we pray; Amen.

*Assurance of Blessing

Pastor Rick

Jesus calls on us to be examples of his love; God calls us to be love in action. But even when we forget these mandates, 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

"Sanctuary"

*Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary
Pure and holy; tried and true
With thanksgiving, I'll be a living
Sanctuary for you.*

*Sharing God's Gift of Peace

May God's Peace be with you!
And also with you!

Children's Time

Pastor Rick

"Halle, Halle, Halle"
(Sung as children return to their seats)

*Halle, Halle, Halle-lu-ja!
Halle, Halle, Halle-lu-ja!
Halle, Halle, Halle-lu-ja!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!*

Team Earth Moment

"Composting Workshop"

Shelly Adams

Anthem

"Rejoice, the Lord is King"

Chapel Ringers
Ron Mallory

New Testament Lesson

Acts 11:1-18

Audrey Lasley

The story of Peter sharing the Good News with the Gentiles. God commands Peter to do so, but the leaders of the movement were aghast. They did not expect or want the Gospel to be shared with non-Jews. This is the beginning of the Christian movement that brought God out of Israel, into the rest of the world.
Page #895

Gospel Lesson

John 13:34-35

Audrey Lasley

Jesus talks about glorifying God and our call to love. He gives the Great Commandment: that we love one another, just as Jesus first loved us. Jesus tells us that they will know we are Jesus' disciples by our love.
Page #877

Anthem

"Fairest Lord Jesus"

Celebration Singers
Mark Hayes

Sermon

"Love in Action"

Pastor Rick & Shelly Adams

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.

*Meditation Hymn “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

#43

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

“Duetto”

Steve Jannetti
Stephen Heller

*Prayer of Dedication

Audrey Lasley

Merciful God, we give these gifts to You today to do Your work here on earth. Through them, we pray that we may be Your hands and feet working in the world, loving as You first loved us. Take these gifts and use them to Your will. Amen.

*Benediction

Pastor Rick

*Response

“God the Spirit, Guide and Guardian”

***Christ, our Savior, sovereign, shepherd,
Word made flesh, love crucified,
Teacher, healer, suffering servant,
Friend of sinners, foe of pride;
Give to those who lead Your people
Fresh anointing of Your grace;
Send us forth as bold apostles
To Your church in every place.***

*Postlude

“Melody”

Steve Jannetti
Moritz Moskowski

CUCC STRATEGIC PLAN FOR 2025 (and beyond)

CARING FOR EACH OTHER

- Advocate for policies that provide support for others
- Incorporate everyone's talents into the work and life of the church
- Formulate support & education classes for parents and children
- Improve staff training and professional development
- Ensure that our staff are paid just wages
- Discern and address the needs of our older members
- Strive to meet the needs of our members where they are

ESTABLISHING OUR IDENTITY

- Increase public awareness of our mission and location
- Increase our advertising/marketing efforts
- Consistently canvass the neighborhood north of the church
- Attract more members, focusing on youth and diversity
- Strive for intentionality incorporating youth and young adults into the life of the church
- Strive for intentionality incorporating a diverse community into the life of the church

DEVELOPING OUR FACILITY

- Continue to modernize and maintain our building and grounds
- Develop a comprehensive maintenance manual with records, goals and strategies for modernization and maintenance
- Seek out new ways to utilize our building to enhance our ministry and generate income
- Establish financial security for our ongoing ministry programs
- Establish our facility as a host site for music groups, choirs, concerts, lecturer series, and other public events

SERVING GOD'S WORLD

- Partner with other agencies that share our goals & interests
- Create a fulfilling, engaging, inclusive Sunday morning experience
- Develop partnerships with others to share our facility
- Strive for intentionality in connecting children, youth and adults to outreach and service opportunities
- Look for ways to reach out to other UCC congregations and work together for justice
- Strive to identify ways that we can be socially responsible and educated in areas of ecological justice, international mission, and other justice issues at home and abroad

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

Student Pastor: Shelly Adams

shellyraeadams@gmail.com

Admin. Assistant: Alexandra Roper

office@columbiaucc.com

Moderator: Kurt Heine

heinekurt@gmail.com

Music Coordinator: Casey Wood

caseyseanwood@gmail.com

Organist/Accompanist: Steve Jannetti

steve.jannetti@yahoo.com

LODO Director: Erika Maltsbarger

littleonesdayout@yahoo.com

Custodian: Caleb Berry

calebprenticeberry@gmail.com

Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Fred Brandenburg

TODAY IN WORSHIP:

| | |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| Worship Leader: | Audrey Lasley |
| Ushers: | Llona Weiss & Pat Forward |
| Greeters: | Carol Duermeyer |
| Technology: | Doug & Judi Privitt |
| Council Stewards: | Tricia Price & Judi Privitt |

NEXT SUNDAY IN WORSHIP:

| | |
|-------------------|------------------------------|
| Worship Leader: | Llona Weiss |
| Ushers: | Mary Lorber |
| Greeters: | Susan Dunham |
| Technology: | Carissa Graves & John Graves |
| Council Stewards: | Kristin Veteto |



Online giving

COLUMBIA UCC CHURCH COUNCIL

| | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Moderator: | Kurt Heine |
| Vice Moderator: | Jerry Kiesling |
| Secretary: | Alethea Tennill |
| Treasurer: | Deborah Birkes |
| 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: | Edie Diel |
| Pastor: | Rev. Rick Oberle |

| |
|--|
| heinekurt@gmail.com |
| rollzierp50@gmail.com |
| atennill108@gmail.com |
| dlong@elonedu.com |
| tigersfour@gmail.com |
| gpadoc4gd@gmail.com |
| eldercow@gmail.com |
| shellyraeadams@gmail.com |
| tricialprice@gmail.com |
| kristinnoelveteto@gmail.com |
| judiprivitt811@gmail.com |
| cfg323@yahoo.com |
| markduncan2@mchsi.com |
| edie@thedandegroup.com |
| rick@columbiaucc.com |

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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!

BIBLE STUDY THIS MAY– THE BOOK OF ACTS

Tuesdays in May (May 13, 20 & 27), from 12:30-1:30 p.m., Pastor Rick will be hosting a Bible Study on the Book of Acts. We will talk about Peter, Paul, Stephen, Lydia and the other early disciples who expanded the message of Jesus into the first century world. Feel free to bring your lunch!

WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT TRIP 5/19 - 9:30 a.m.

Prepare to be flushed with excitement! Join us for a tour of the Columbia Wastewater Treatment Plant! We promise it's not a draining experience, and you'll leave with a full understanding of how we keep Columbia clean. Meet at Church at 9:30 and take the bus, or meet us there– 4900 W. Gillespie Bridge Rd.

WORSHIP TIME CHANGE– 9:30 5/25-9/7

Starting next Sunday, we will observe our summer hours; Bible Study will be at 8:30 a.m. and Worship at 9:30 a.m. There will be no Sunday School for the younger ones, but the nursery will be staffed from 9:00-11:00 a.m. We will observe this schedule thru Labor Day weekend, and resume our academic year schedule starting on Rally Day, September 7.

COMPOSTING WORKSHOP- 6/1

Stick around after worship on June 1 for a composting workshop! We are partnering with the City of Columbia to offer this workshop at 11:00 a.m. on that day. All who attend receive a free composting bin!

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

| | | | |
|-----|------|---|----------------|
| Sun | 5/18 | <i>Annual Congregational Meeting and Potluck</i> | |
| | | Sunday School | 9:00 a.m. |
| | | Fellowship Time | 10:00 a.m. |
| | | Worship (in person and livestream) | 10:30 a.m. |
| | | Annual Congregational Meeting and Potluck | 12:00 p.m. |
| Mon | 5/19 | Wastewater Treatment Plant Tour | 9:30 a.m. |
| | | Loaves & Fishes | 4:30 p.m. |
| | | Scouting America | 7:00 p.m. |
| Tue | 5/20 | Quilters | 10:00 a.m. |
| | | Staff Meeting | 10:30 a.m. |
| | | Bible Study | 12:30 p.m. |
| | | Pause to Color | 1:00 p.m. |
| | | Church Council Meeting | 6:30 p.m. |
| Wed | 5/21 | Pastor Rick leads worship at The Bluffs | 10:00 a.m. |
| | | Chapel Ringers/Celebration Singers | 6:00/7:00 p.m. |
| Thu | 5/22 | Inclusion & Affirmation Ministry Team | 5:00 p.m. |
| Sun | 5/25 | <i>Worship moves to 9:30 a.m. - Outside</i> | |
| | | Bible Study | 8:30 a.m. |
| | | Worship (in person and livestream) | 9:30 a.m. |

Columbia UCC Prayer List

Please keep in your prayers this week . . .

Sharon Elliott... on hospice

Kieran Piersee... challenges in life

Glenn Duermeyer... healing from broken hip

Martha... health issues (friend of the Veteto family)

Ken... health issues (Adam Veteto's cousin)

Linda Hancik and Beverly Wilcox... health issues (friends of Corinne Remeika)

Lyn Eggemeyer... grieving the loss of family

Lortisha Powell... health issues (Dorothy Vetter's friend)

Joan Grout... health issues (Sue Ann Schaefer's cousin)

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

The people of Palestine, Israel, and Ukraine

Health Issues:

Lloyd Mickelson, Lauren Helmreich, Barry Kirchhoff, Walter Schroeder

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),

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

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***

They'll Know We Are Christians

Guitar capo: 1; play Em

Unison

Em

1. We are one in the Spir - it, we are one in the Lord,
 2. We will walk with each oth - er, we will walk hand in hand,
 3. We will work with each oth - er, we will work side by side,
 4. All praise to the Fa - ther, from whom all things come,

Am

Em

we are one in the Spir - it, we are one in the Lord,
 we will walk with each oth - er, we will walk hand in hand,
 we will work with each oth - er, we will work side by side,
 and all praise to Christ Je - sus, God's on - ly Son,

Am

Em

and we pray that all u - ni - ty may one day be re - stored:
 and to - geth - er we'll spread the news that God is in our land:
 and we'll guard each one's dig - ni - ty and save each one's pride:
 and all praise to the Spir - it, who makes us one:

Refrain

C

G

C

G

Em

Am

And they'll know we are Chris - tians by our love, by our love,

Em

Am

Bm

Em

yes, they'll know we are Chris - tians by our love.

Acts 11:1-18

1 Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God.

2 So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, 3 saying, “Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?”

4 Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying,

5 “I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me.

6 As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. 7 I also heard a voice saying to me, ‘Get up, Peter; kill and eat.’

8 But I replied, ‘By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.’

9 But a second time the voice answered from heaven, ‘What God has made clean, you must not call profane.’

10 This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven.

11 At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were.

12 The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man’s house.

13 He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, ‘Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter;

14 he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.’

15 And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning.

16 And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, ‘John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’

17 If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in

the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?”

18 When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying,
“Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life.”

John 13:34-35

34 I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.

35 By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

Deut. 33:27

Elisha A. Hoffman, 1887; alt.

1 What a *cov - e - nant, what a joy di - vine, lean - ing on the ev - er -
 2 Oh, how sweet to walk in this pil - grim way, lean - ing on the ev - er -
 3 What have I to dread, what have I to fear, lean - ing on the ev - er -

last - ing arms. What a bless - ed - ness, what a peace is mine, lean - ing
 last - ing arms. Oh, how bright the path grows from day to day, lean - ing
 last - ing arms? I have bless - ed peace with my Sav - ior near, lean - ing

Refrain

on the ev - er - last - ing arms.
 on the ev - er - last - ing arms. Lean - ing, lean - ing, safe and se - cure from
 on the ev - er - last - ing arms.

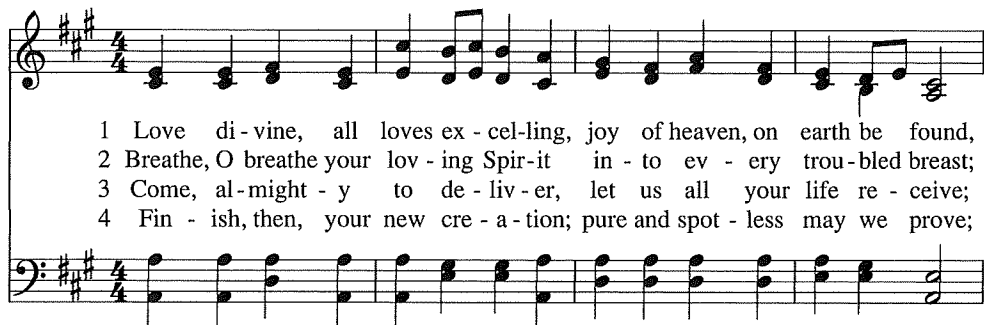
all a - larms; lean - ing, lean - ing, lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.

*Or, "fellowship"

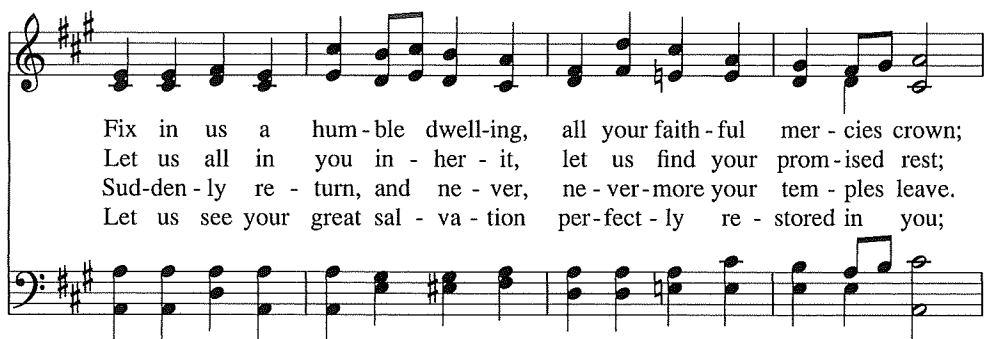
In a letter to two grieving friends, A. J. Showalter quoted Deuteronomy 33:27, "... underneath are the everlasting arms." Showalter then wrote this music and the refrain and sent them to E. A. Hoffman to provide the stanzas.

Tune: LEANING 5.5.9.D. with refrain
 Anthony J. Showalter, 1887

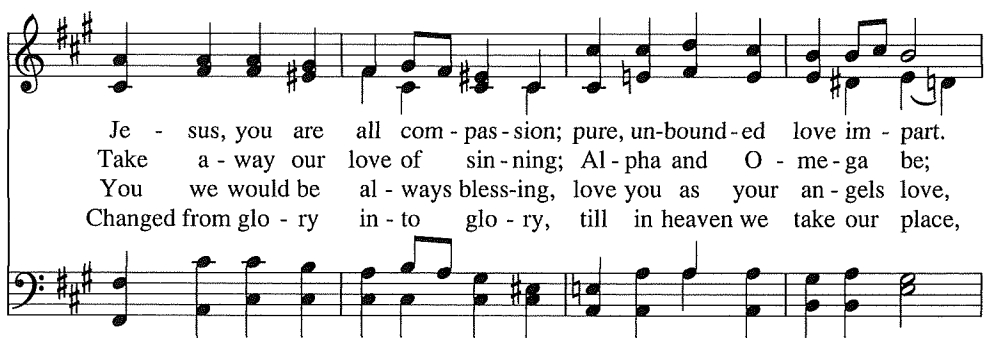
Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

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


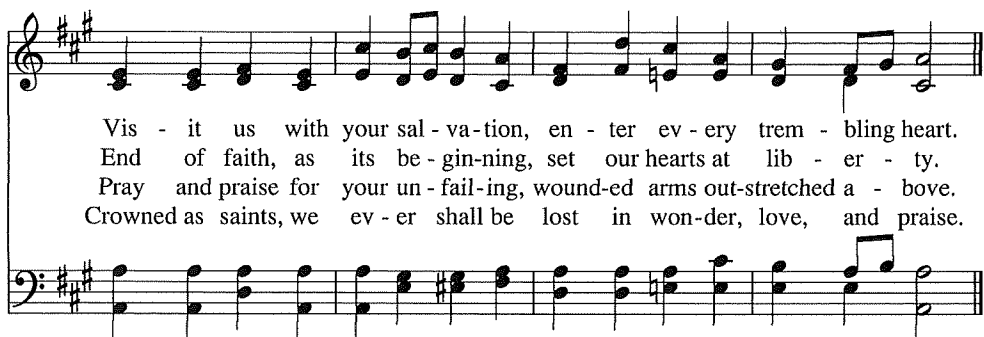
1 Love di-vine, all loves ex-cel-ling, joy of heaven, on earth be found,
 2 Breathe, O breathe your lov-ing Spir-it in-to ev-ery trou-bled breast;
 3 Come, al-might-y to de-liv-er, let us all your life re-ceive;
 4 Fin-ish, then, your new cre-a-tion; pure and spot-less may we prove;



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

Team Earth - Endangered Species

In continuing our observation of Endangered Species Day, below are common products that are contributing to the decline of multiple species (some are surprising):

- 🌍 **Sunscreen-** Many sunscreens contain Oxybenzone (BP-13) which is highly toxic to corals and marine life. It is found in over 3,500 skincare products.

? What to do? Read the label. There are sustainable sunscreens without this chemical.

- 🌍 **Palm Oil-** This product is found in hundreds of food items such as breads, cookies, granola bars, soap, ice cream and more. Its harvesting is destroying rainforests which are essential for the oxygen that sustains life on earth. Multiple animals die from the fires created by harvesting palm oil. Orangutans are particularly harmed.

? What to do? Buy only products that have 'sustainable palm oil' certification.

- 🌍 **Red Meat-** Raising livestock is the leading cause of deforestation around the world.

? What to do? Seek out sustainably raised beef, eat less meat and/or switch to vegetarian options for your burger.

- 🌍 **Mass-produced jeans-** Production requires large volumes of highly toxic chemicals to stain the denim. Those toxins are then released into waterways making them uninhabitable to all wildlife.

? What to do? There are more than 200 major brands belonging to the Sustainable Apparel Coalition which promote environmentally sound manufacturing. Buy from Patagonia, or similar brands, that enforce safety standards.

- 🌍 **Commercial Seafood-** According to the UN, more than 90% of the world's fish populations are overfished because of lack of marine regulations and/or enforcement. This is leading to the wholesale slaughter of dolphins, porpoises, sea turtles, and whales due to discarded fishing nets.

? What to do? Look for 'line-caught' on fish labels.

- 🌍 **Plastic straws-** Americans use 500 million plastic straws every year. Most of these straws end up in landfills or waterways harming marine life, especially turtles.

? What to do? There are eco-friendly paper straws available. If you prefer straws for yourself or your children, there are also reusable metal straws that come in travelling cases.

(Source: globalcitizen.org)