

*Columbia
United Church
Of Christ*

March 22, 2020

10:30 Worship

"Vision in Stressful Times"

*"... [God] restores my soul..."
-Psalm 23:3*

Welcome and Greetings

Prelude

Amy Crousore

Carrying in the Light of Christ

Call to Worship *(adapted from Psalm 23)*

God, You are our Shepherd; we want for nothing.
You bring us pastoral peace and comfort!

**God brings us blessings and Salvation,
Restoring our souls!**

You lead us through the depths of despair;
Through the darkest valleys of life.

**We do not fear misery or evil;
For God is with us, guiding us and protecting us!**

You shower us with abundant blessings;
Healing and restoring us, we are forever yours!

**God's Goodness and Mercy will pursue us always;
And we will endeavor to dwell in God's House forever!
Come, let us worship God!**

Opening Hymn

"The Church's One Foundation"

#386

Opening Prayer

God of transformation; you see us in times of distress and open us up to new ways of being. In your blessed name we are called together to proclaim your glory through gracious deeds and illuminating word. Forgive us for the times when we are blind to your intercession in our lives. Forgive us when we cannot see the miracles in our midst, and attribute them instead to falsehoods and misdeeds. Teach us to love fully and extravagantly, that we may always recognize your blessing when we are confronted with them every day. In Jesus' name we pray; Amen.

Assurance of Blessing

Pastor Rick

Just as Jesus transforms the blind man in our scripture today by restoring his sight, God offers us transformation and new sight as well. We pray that our eyes may be opened to the miracles all around us. Praise be to God, who offers us gracious love and forgiveness!

Prayer Response "Jesus, Remember Me"
Jesus, Remember me...When you come into your Kingdom.
Jesus, Remember me...When you come into your Kingdom.

Children's Time

Response "This Little Light of Mine" #525
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!

Living our Mission "One Great Hour of Sharing"

Anthem Kristin Veteto

Gospel Lesson: John 9:1-34
A blind man has his sight restored by Jesus. He is able to see the divinity of Jesus, but nobody else can. His neighbors, his parents and the Pharisees deny the divinity of Jesus, even when Jesus' works are right in front of them. They are so blind they expel the formerly blind man from their community. His sight is restored, but they choose to remain blind.

Sermon: "Souls Restored" Pastor Rick

Meditation Hymn "My Shepherd is the Living God" #247

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

Stewardship Moment

Presenting our Gifts Amy Crousore
"Were You There" John Carter

*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*

*Response "We Praise You, O God"
**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!**

#420

*Prayer of Dedication
God of love; we give these gifts so that eyes may be opened all over your world. Take them and use them to glorify your name. Through these gifts, we accept our role as blessed and beloved servants of yours; through these gifts, we pray that the world may be blessed. 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

"Grand Epilogue"

Amy Crousore
Broughton

The Church's One Foundation

*Eph. 2:13-22; 4:4-6; 1 Cor. 3:11**Samuel J. Stone, 1866; alt.*

1 The church's one foun - da - tion is Je - sus Christ our Lord;
 2 E - lect from ev - ery na - tion, yet one o'er all the earth,
 3 'Mid toil and trib - u - la - tion, and tu - mult of our war,
 4 Yet we on earth have un - ion with God, the Three-in - One,

we are Christ's new cre - a - tion by wa - ter and the word;
 one char - ter of sal - va - tion, one God, one faith, one birth,
 we wait the con - sum - ma - tion of peace for - ev - er - more;
 and mys - tic sweet com - mu - nion with those whose rest is won.

From heaven Christ came and sought us in love to set us free;
 One name to - geth - er bless - ing, one ho - ly food we share,
 Till with the vi - sion glo - rious, our long - ing eyes are blessed,
 O hap - py ones and ho - ly! God, give us grace that we,

with pre - cious blood Christ bought us for all e - ter - ni - ty.
 to one hope we are press - ing, at one in work and prayer.
 and the great church vic - to - rious shall be the church at rest.
 like them, the meek and low - ly, may live e - ter - nal - ly.

Like the writings of Ambrose many centuries earlier, this hymn was born out of a doctrinal dispute. The young priest Samuel J. Stone composed twelve hymns on the articles of the Apostles' Creed in support of those reacting against nontraditional views of biblical scholarship. This hymn is based on article nine, "the holy Catholic Church."

Tune: AURELIA 7.6.7.6.D.
Samuel S. Wesley, 1864

My Shepherd Is the Living God

Ps. 23; John 10:11, 27-30

Composite from Thomas Sternhold, 1549, and Isaac Watts, 1719; alt.

C G C G7 C F G F C

1 My shep-herd is the liv - ing God, I there-fore noth-ing need;
 2 When I walk through the shades of death, your pres-ence is my stay;
 3 The sure pro - vi - sions of my God at - tend me all my days;

Am G C F G Am G7 C G C

In pas - tures fair, near pleas - ant streams you set - tle me to feed.
 A word of your sup - port - ing breath drives all my fears a - way.
 O may your house be my a - bode, and all my work be praise.

C F C Dm G C Am Dm Am FM7

You bring my wan-dering spir - it back when I for-sake your ways,
 Your hand, in sight of all my foes, does still my ta - ble spread;
 There would I find a set - tled rest, while oth - ers come and go—

Em C Am Dm Am Em C G7 C

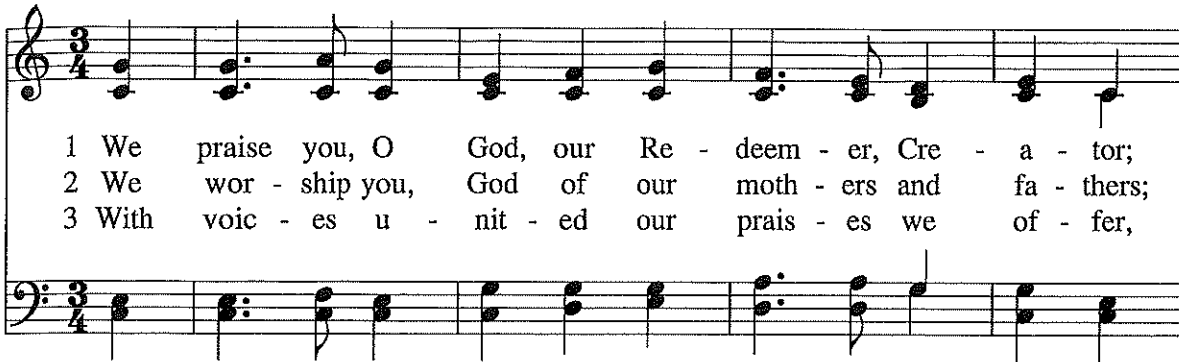
And lead me for your mer - cy's sake in paths of truth and grace.
 My cup with bless-ings o - ver-flows, your oil a - noints my head.
 No more a strang-er or a guest, but like a child at home.

Isaac Watts, London's leading Congregational minister, wrote more than 600 hymns. His paraphrase of Psalm 23 has been altered here by combining a few phrases from Thomas Sternhold, a sixteenth-century English hymnwriter who also wrote metrical psalm texts.

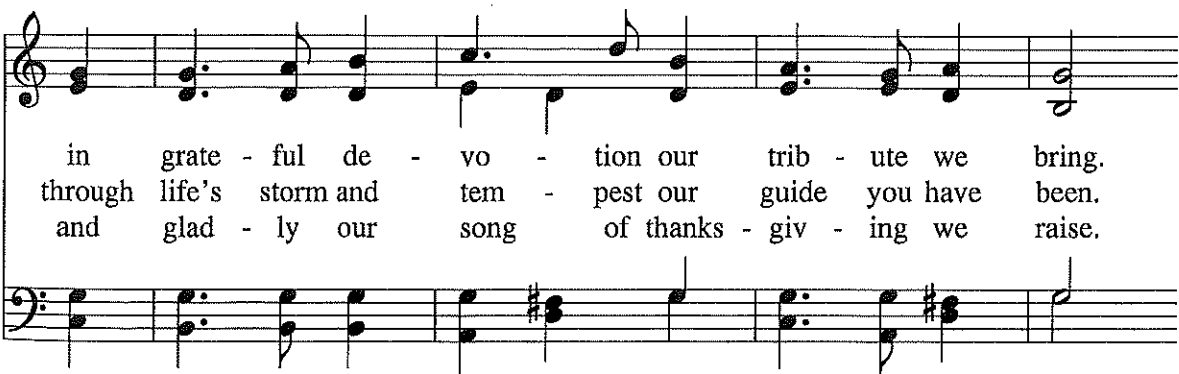
Tune: CONSOLATION C.M.D.
 Southern Harmony, 1835
 Harm. Erik Routley, 1976
 Alternate tune: CRIMOND (Each stanza
 above becomes two stanzas.)

We Praise You, O God

420

Julia C. Cory, 1902; alt.


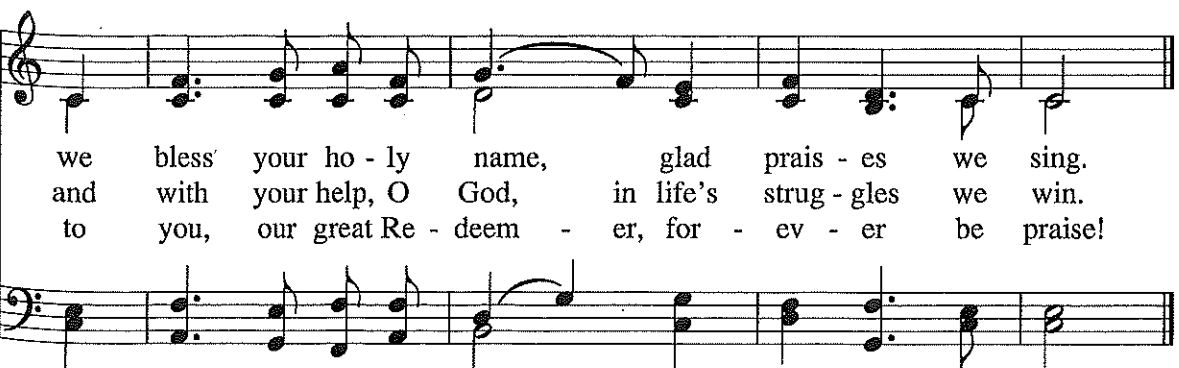
1 We praise you, O God, our Re - deem - er, Cre - a - tor;
 2 We wor - ship you, God of our moth - ers and fa - thers;
 3 With voic - es u - nit - ed our prais - es we of - fer,



in grate - ful de - vo - tion our trib - ute we bring.
 through life's storm and tem - pest our guide you have been.
 and glad - ly our song of thanks - giv - ing we raise.



We lay it be - fore you, we kneel and a - dore you;
 When per - ils o'er - take us, you nev - er will for - sake us,
 Our sins now con - fess - ing, we pray for your bless - ing;



we bless your ho - ly name, glad prais - es we sing.
 and with your help, O God, in life's strug - gles we win.
 to you, our great Re - deem - er, for - ev - er be praise!

Julia Bulkley Cady Cory wrote this hymn for Thanksgiving in 1902 at the invitation of the organist of New York's Brick Presbyterian Church who felt that the familiar words to Kremser contained too much militaristic imagery.

Tune: KREMSEK 12.11.12.11.
 Valerius, Nederlandsch Gedenkclanck, 1626