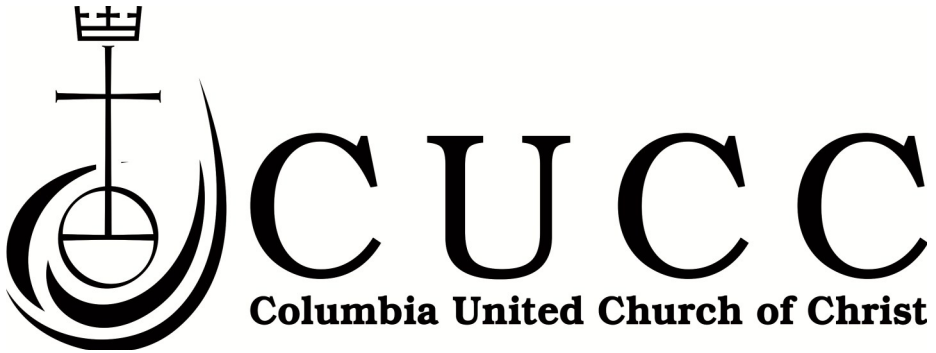


Columbia United Church Of Christ

November 16, 2025
“Creation Care”



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**



November 16, 2025

10:30 a.m.

"Creation Care"

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

*"For I am about to create new heavens and a new earth;
Be glad and rejoice forever in what I am creating!"*

-Isaiah 65:17-18

Welcome and Greetings

Pastor Rick

Prelude

"Prelude in C"

Connie Loveless
J.S. Bach

Carrying in the Light of Christ

*Call to Worship

(based on Psalm 65)

Jessica Lucas

Praise is due to You, O God;
You who answers our prayers!

**By awesome deeds and Gracious Love God answers us;
God of our Salvation!**

O God, by Your strength You established the mountains;
You silence the roaring of the seas and the tumult of Your people.

**We will be satisfied by the goodness of God's House;
Happy are those who choose to be near God.**

God, You crown the year with Your bounty;
Your wagon tracks overflow with richness.

**The bounty of the earth is immeasurable;
God is awesome in deeds among mortals!
Come, let us worship God!**

*Hymn

"For the Beauty of the Earth"

#28

*Opening Prayer

Jessica Lucas

God of all creation; You create each one of us in Your image, and set before us the ways of life and death. The wonders of creation and the laws of nature all shout praises to Your holy name. Yet we have a tendency to forget Your creative ways, and embrace the fickle nature of humanity instead. Our choices harm Your creation, and our policies are unjust. Forgive our careless choices, loving God. Remind us again to embrace Your creation, and care for all. In Jesus' name we pray; Amen.

*Assurance of Blessing

Pastor Rick

God challenges us to be loving stewards of all They created; including each other. But even when we forget this call, God still 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!

Anthem

“Each New Day”

Children's Choir

Dir. by Sarah Young; Linda Neale, flute

Natalie Sleeth

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*

Old Testament Lesson

Isaiah 65:17-25

Jessica Lucas

The author of this section of the book of Isaiah is writing in a time after the Israelites have returned from exile. He is giving them a vision how wonderful things can be in their future if they focus on caring for God's creation, and each other.

Page # 607

Gospel Lesson

Luke 21:5-19

Jessica Lucas

Jesus talks about the fleeting nature of earthly things, and warns his friends of putting faith in them. He tells them that if they continue to do his work in the world, they will be persecuted by those who favor earthly things over heavenly things. They will be hated by all, because they stand up for God's will; but God will not let them perish. God will protect them.

Page # 857

Anthem

“Creation Will Be at Peace”

Celebration Singers

Anna Laura Page

Sermon:

“Planting Vineyards”

Pastor Rick

*Prayer Litany for Creation Care

(written by Rev. Fran Pratt)

Creator God, whose art and beauty are evident in every molecule of creation, You made the universe; planets and solar systems, plants and creatures; and called it good.

You made human life the pinnacle of that work, even choosing to incarnate that work in the Person of Jesus.

You also gave humanity the great and terrible gifts of choice and dominion.

Receive our confession now.

We have regarded your Creation only as a resource to be spent, not as a gift to be stewarded. Where we should have stewarded, we exploited. Where we should have protected, we left vulnerable. Where we should have respected, we chose to disregard.

Grant that we may come to a new hope and understanding of Your Creation, our relationship with it, and our role within it.

Grant that we may find ways to participate in its healing and renewal.

Grant that we may become willing to develop new habits and ways of interacting with the world, that consider its beauty and welfare.

Grant that we may re-imagine prosperity, economy, and civilization in light of stewardship of Creation.

Grant that we may more deeply understand Your nature through your Creation.

Grant that we may more deeply understand the interdependence of humanity and earth.

Grant that we may extend the work of Christ on the cross to a creation groaning and waiting expectantly.

Grant that we may have a renewed hope for the future of Creation; redeemed, reconciled, restored to its proper place and function.

May gratitude and the love of Christ govern our every interaction with humans, creatures, and the earth. Amen.

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.

*Hymn	“To You, O God, All Creatures Sing” <i>(verses 1-4)</i>	#17
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Misson Moment VAC Christmas Drive Llona Weiss

To give online text "GIVE" to 573.240.4041
You can also give online by visiting our website:
www.columbiaucc.com

*Prayer of Dedication Jessica Lucas

*Benediction Pastor Rick

*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!*

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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
Admin. Assistant: Alexandra Roper	office@columbiaucc.com
Moderator: Jerry Kiesling	rollzierp50@gmail.com
Music Coordinator: Mike Pierson	mike.pierson.1969@gmail.com
Organist/Accompanist:	
LODO Director: Sara Koenig	lodo.sara.koenig@gmail.com
Custodian: Caleb Berry	calebprenticeberry@gmail.com
Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Fred Brandenburg	

TODAY IN WORSHIP:

Worship Leader:	Jessica Lucas
Song Leader:	Killian Boyd
Ushers:	Llona Weiss & Jim Loveless
Greeters:	John Muench
Technology:	Ted Dachroeden & Adam Veteto
Council Stewards:	Ted Dachroeden & Kristin Veteto



Online Giving

NEXT SUNDAY IN WORSHIP:

Worship Leader:	Confirmation Students
Song Leader:	Mike Pierson
Ushers:	Deborah Long Birkes & Keith Birkes
Greeters:	Donna Marsh
Technology:	Judi Privitt & Doug Privitt
Council Stewards:	Christine Staelens & Judi Privitt

COLUMBIA UCC CHURCH COUNCIL

Moderator:	Jerry Kiesling	rollzierp50@gmail.com
Vice Moderator:	<i>Vacant</i>	
Secretary:	Alethea Tennill	atennill108@gmail.com
Treasurer:	Deborah Birkes	dlong@elon.edu.com
Recording Treasurer:	Christine Staelens	tigersfour@gmail.com
Building & Grounds:	Ted Dachroeden	gpadoc4gd@gmail.com
Fellowship & Hospitality:	Mary Lorber	eldercow@gmail.com
Finance & Stewardship:	<i>Vacant</i>	
Inclusion & Affirmation:	Ashley Ramirez	ashknight0628@gmail.com
Little One's Day Out:	Kristin Veteto	kristinnoelveteto@gmail.com
Membership & Care:	Judi Privitt	judiprivitt811@gmail.com
Nurture & Education:	Lena Muench	cfg323@yahoo.com
Outreach & Advocacy:	Mahree Skala	skalamahree@yahoo.com
Worship & Music:	Edie Diel	edie@thedandegroup.com
Pastor:	Rev. Rick Oberle	rick@columbiaucc.com

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!

TEAM EARTH LUNCH AND LEARN: SOLAR - TODAY

We will be looking at the scriptural basis for environmental stewardship and learn about the Solarize Columbia project. Columbia UCC has an opportunity to install solar panels at a deeply discounted rate through this city-sponsored program. Come learn more details and enjoy a delicious lunch.

PAUSE TO COLOR - 11/18

Come join us for a few hours of meditative fun! We will be coloring in the gathering area for a few hours starting at 1:00 p.m. on 11/18. Bring your own coloring supplies, or just bring yourself– we have supplies to share!

LODO FOOD DRIVE ENDS 11/23

Bring your donations to church thru 11/23! All donations will be taken to The Food Bank for distribution to those in need. The need is great!

DECK THE HALLS - 11/30

Stick around after worship on 11/30; we will be decorating the Sanctuary for the Advent/Christmas season! Join in the festive fun with your church family!

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING AFTER WORSHIP - 12/7

The Church Council is calling a special congregational meeting for after worship on December 7 to talk about the possibilities of investing in solar power for our congregation. More details to come– but save the date!

ADVENT BANQUET - 12/14

Save the date for this year’s Advent Banquet! RSVP online or in the Sanctuary!

THIS WEEK’S CALENDAR

Sun	11/16	Bible Study & Sunday School	9:00 a.m.
		Fellowship	10:00 a.m.
		Worship (in person and livestream)	10:30 a.m.
		Team Earth Lunch and Learn: Solar	12:00 p.m.
		Quorus Rehearsal	7:00 p.m.
Mon	11/17	Loaves & Fishes	4:30 p.m.
		LODO Ministry Team	6:00 p.m.
		Scouting America	7:00 p.m.
Tue	11/18	Quilters	10:00 a.m.
		Staff Meeting	10:00 a.m.
		Pause to Color	1:00 p.m.
		Church Council Meeting	6:30 p.m.
Wed	11/19	Pastor Rick leads worship at The Bluffs	10:00 a.m.
		Chapel Ringers & Celebration Singers	6:00/7:00 p.m.
		Confirmation Class	7:15 p.m.
Sun	11/23	Bible Study & Sunday School	9:00 a.m.
		Solar information discussion in Fellowship Hall	9:00 a.m.
		Fellowship	10:00 a.m.
		Worship (in person and livestream)	10:30 a.m.
		Quorus Rehearsal	7:00 p.m.

Columbia UCC Prayer List

Please keep in your prayers this week . . .

Owen Ramsingh and family

The family of Jennifer Held... on their loss (Edie Diel's Niece)

Pam & Jim Kahler... health issues and challenges (Lyn Eggemyer's friends)

Phillip Neale's Niece... awaiting liver transplant

Jim Decker and family... as he transitions to the next life (Pastor Rick's friend)

Jeff Remelius and his family... as he loves his father in his final days

Our Organist/pianist/accompanist search here at CUCC

Students and staff at Alpha Hart Lewis Elementary . . . our Partner in Education

Those experiencing humanitarian crisis due to war, violence, and displacement

Health Issues:

Julie Roper (Alexandra's Mother), Rev. Jim Elliott, Ronald Remika (Joe Remika's Brother), Jim Posz (Allen's Father), Mike Gregory, Tiffany Greene, Harold Hackman, Glenn Duermeyer, Barry Kirchhoff, Claudia Hutcherson (Ron Tennill's Sister), Mark Fairley & Connie Hackman Fairley, Cody Kile, Dr. Ryan Link; Fred & Ann Wilke (Alethea's Parents), Stephanie Porter (Phillip Neale's Niece), Julia Marsh (Donna Marsh's Daughter), Martha (friend of the Veteto family), Peri Ann Gulerson; Ken (Adam Veteto's Cousin); Linda Hancik and Beverly Wilcox (Corinne Remeika's friends)

Challenges in Life:

Sheila, The Koerkenmeier & Malicoat Families, Kieran Armstrong

Living in Care Facilities:

Gary Ehrhardt, Vernie Blank, Harold Hackman, Walter & Patty Schroeder

Living in Independent Living Facilities:

Don Privitt, Cliff & Sue Beckman, Linda Evans

Serving us in the military:

Christopher Tennill, Dane Wilson, Aaron Dachroeden

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@gmail.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***

Isaiah 65:17-25

17 For I am about to create new heavens and a new earth; the former things shall not be remembered or come to mind.

18 But be glad and rejoice forever in what I am creating, for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy and its people as a delight.

19 I will rejoice in Jerusalem and delight in my people; no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it or the cry of distress.

20 No more shall there be in it an infant who lives but a few days or an old person who does not live out a lifetime, for one who dies at a hundred years will be considered a youth, and one who falls short of a hundred will be considered accursed.

21 They shall build houses and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit.

22 They shall not build and another inhabit; they shall not plant and another eat, for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be, and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands.

23 They shall not labor in vain or bear children for calamity, for they shall be offspring blessed by the LORD— and their descendants as well.

24 Before they call I will answer, while they are yet speaking I will hear.

25 The wolf and the lamb shall feed together; the lion shall eat straw like the ox, but the serpent—its food shall be dust! They shall not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, says the LORD.

Luke 21:5-19

5 When some were speaking about the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and gifts dedicated to God, he said,

6 “As for these things that you see, the days will come when not one stone will be left upon another; all will be thrown down.”

7 They asked him, “Teacher, when will this be, and what will be the sign that this is about to take place?”

8 And he said, “Beware that you are not led astray, for many will come in my name and say, ‘I am he!’ and, ‘The time is near!’ Do not go after them.

9 “When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified, for these things must take place first, but the end will not follow immediately.”

10 Then he said to them, “Nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom;

11 there will be great earthquakes and in various places famines and plagues, and there will be dreadful portents and great signs from heaven.

12 “But before all this occurs, they will arrest you and persecute you; they will hand you over to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors because of my name.

13 This will give you an opportunity to testify. 14 So make up your minds not to prepare your defense in advance,

15 for I will give you words and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to withstand or contradict.

16 You will be betrayed even by parents and siblings, by relatives and friends, and they will put some of you to death. 17 You will be hated by all because of my name.

18 But not a hair of your head will perish. 19 By your endurance you will gain your souls.

To You, O God, All Creatures Sing

Ps. 148

St. Francis of Assisi, 1225

Adapt. Miriam Therese Winter, 1993

Descant



4 To you, God, day af-ter day, earth in

Unison



1 To you, O God, all crea-tures sing, and all cre-a-tion, ev-ery-
 2 Your wind that blows the tem-pest by, your clouds that sail a-cross the
 3 Your flow-ing wa-ters, crys-tal clear, make mel-o-dies for you to
 4 To you, O God, day af-ter day, your plan-et earth in ev-ery



ev-ery way sings your prais-es, al-le-lu-ia! As fruit, fra-grant

(Harmony)



(Unison)



thing sings your prais-es, al-le-lu-ia! Your burn-ing sun with gold-en
 sky sing your prais-es, al-le-lu-ia! Your morn-ing ris-es with a
 hear, sing your prais-es, al-le-lu-ia! Your fire, . . . boun-ti-ful and
 way, sings your prais-es, al-le-lu-ia, As sa-vory fruit and fra-grant



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

flower show forth glo - ry and power, sing - ing prais - es, al - le -

(Harmony)

beam, your sil - ver moon with soft - er gleam sing your prais-es,
 song, and lights of eve - ning sing a - long, sing your prais-es, al - le -
 bright, re - mem - bering your warmth and light, sings your prais-es, al - le -
 flower show forth your glo - ry and your power, sing - ing prais-es,

lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

(Unison)

lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

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.

Praise to God, Your Praises Bring

430

William C. Gannett, 1872; alt.



- 1 Praise to God, your prais-es bring; hearts bow down and voic-es sing
2 Praise God for the bud-ding green, A - pril's res - ur - rec - tion scene;
3 Praise God for the sum-mer rain, feed - ing, day and night, the grain;
4 Praise God for the gar - den root, mead-ow grass, and or - chard fruit:



- Prais-es to the glo-rious One, all God's year of won-der done.
Praise God for the shin-ing hours, star-ring all the land with flowers.
Praise God for the ti-ny seed, hold-ing all the world shall need.
Praise for hills and val-leys broad, each the ta-ble of our God.



- 5 Praise God for the win-ter's rest,
snow that falls on na-ture's breast;
Praise for hap-py dreams of birth,
brood-ing in the qui-et earth.

- 6 For God's year of won-der done,
praise to the all-glo-rious One!
Hearts bow down and voic-es raise
songs of thanks for all God's days.

Most of William C. Gannett's hymns were written for special occasions, including this one for a harvest festival in St. Paul, Minnesota. Gannett and Frederick L. Hosmer, both Unitarian ministers, edited The Thought of God in Hymns and Poems.

Tune: SAVANNAH 7.7.7.7.
The Foundry Collection, 1742

For the Beauty of the Earth

*St. 1-3, Folliot S. Pierpoint, 1864; alt.**St. 4, Miriam Therese Winter, 1993*

1 For the beau-ty of the earth, for the splen-dor of the skies,
 2 For the won-der of each hour of the day and of the night,
 3 For the joy of hu-man love, broth-er, sis-ter, par-ent, child,
 4 For the good that love in-spires, for a world where none ex-clude,

For the love which from our birth o-ver and a-round us lies,
 Hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light,
 Friends on earth, and friends a-bove, for all gen-tle thoughts and mild,
 For a faith that nev-er tires, and for ev-ery heart re-newed,

Refrain

God of all, to you we raise this our hymn of grate-ful praise.

Folliot S. Pierpoint, author of numerous hymns, penned these verses near his native city of Bath, England, on a late spring day when flowers were in full bloom and all the earth seemed to rejoice.

Tune: DIX 7.7.7.7, with refrain

Conrad Kocher, 1838

Adapt. William H. Monk, 1861