

Columbia United Church Of Christ

March 16, 2025

“For the Beauty of the Earth”



CUCC

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**



March 16, 2025

10:30 a.m.

"Fear"

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

*"... the LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?
The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?
-Psalm 27:1*

Welcome and Greetings

Pastor Rick

Prelude

"Contemplation on Passion Chorale"

Chapel Ringers
Sondra Tucker

Carrying in the Light of Christ

*Call to Worship

(based on Psalm 27)

Tricia Soncasie

God is our light; God is our Salvation.
God is the Stronghold of our lives; our refuge and strength.

**With God as our light and Salvation,
Whom shall we fear?**

**With God as our refuge and strength,
Of whom should we be afraid?**

We gather to seek God's goodness and grace;
That we may envelop ourselves with God's presence;
That we may hear God graciously answering us
When we cry out to God in desperation.

**We will sing and make melodies to God
With strong and courageous hearts.
Come, let us worship God!**

*Hymn

"Great is Your Faithfulness"

#423

*Opening Prayer

Tricia Soncasie

God of faith and inspiration; You give us Your good earth to steward and bless. You give us land and abundance, and challenge us to be good ancestors, caring for it for the sake of our children. Forgive us for the times we compromise your land instead of caring for it, when we exploit your Creation for our own gain and neglect to be good ancestors. Remind us always that everything we see, touch, taste, hear and smell belong to You and we are just stewards of it; including our relationships with each other. Remind us of our blessings, and our responsibilities. In Jesus' name we pray; Amen.

*Assurance of Blessing

Pastor Rick

The beauty of the earth and all that is on it is created by God and given to us to steward. But even when we forget this mandate, 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

“Jesus, Remember Me”

*Jesus, remember me,
when you come into your Kingdom;
Jesus, remember me,
when you come into your Kingdom.*

*Sharing God's Gift of Peace

May God's Peace be with you!

And also with you!

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!*

Mission Moment

“Good Dads”

D'Markus Thomas-Brown

Team Earth Moment

“Eco Footprint”

Mahree Skala

Old Testament Lesson

Genesis 15:1-7,17-18

Tricia Soncasie

God gives Abram the land to possess; but that “possession” has connotations of care and stewardship. God's focus is on Abram to care for the land for his descendants; to be a “good ancestor.” God's covenant with Abram is to share in the beauty of the earth, not destroy it. Page # 10

Gospel Lesson

Luke 13:10-21

Tricia Soncasie

Jesus heals a woman on the Sabbath, breaking the strict rules of orthodoxy. He is called out on it, and he challenges the perception that human rules can constrain God. He then tells two parables that focus on God's power corrupting human perceptions. Page #848

Anthem

“Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days”

Celebration Singers

Zebulon Highben

Sermon

“Good Ancestors”

Pastor Rick

*Hymn

“We Cannot Own the Sunlit Sky”

#563

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," "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 "O For a World" #575

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 "Mignon" Steve Jannetti
Robert Schumann

*Prayer of Dedication Tricia Soncasie

God, as we give our gifts to You we also give our hearts. In recognition of Your passion, we dedicate our lives to You. These offerings are just one example of that dedication. We pray that these may be used to serve Your children all over the world; to lift up and restore, to bring dignity to those who have lost. We have been blessed; through these gifts, we pray that we are blessings to the world. Amen.

*Benediction Pastor Rick

*Response: "God, Dismiss Us With Your Blessing"

***God, dismiss us with Your blessing;
Fill our hearts with joy and peace;
Let us each, Your love possessing,
Triumph in redeeming grace.***

***O refresh us, O refresh us,
Travelling through this wilderness.***

*Postlude "Gavotte II" Steve Jannetti
Johann Sebastian Bach

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

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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:	Tricia Soncasie
Ushers:	Llona Weiss & Mark Duncan
Greeters:	John & Brenda Muench
Technology:	Josh Muench & Judi Privitt
Council Stewards:	Tricia Price & Mark Duncan

NEXT SUNDAY IN WORSHIP:

Worship Leader:	Llona Weiss
Ushers:	Jim Loveless & Phillip Neale
Greeters:	Susan Dunham
Technology:	John Graves & Brent Marcks
Council Stewards:	Shelly Adams



Online giving

COLUMBIA UCC CHURCH COUNCIL

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Worship & Music:	Vacant	
Pastor:	Rev. Rick Oberle	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!

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

Wednesdays during Lent, Steve Jannetti will be leading us in Taizé worship. 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!

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS DUE 4/1

Scholarship applications for active members pursuing higher education are available in the church office for the 2025-2026 academic year. All applications are due by April 1. Copies of the application are available in the church office.

WORK DAY AT BLUE SPRINGS TERRACE 4/5

The Western Association is hosting a work day at Blue Springs Terrace on April 5, from 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. This is the annual Western Association fellowship gathering. All are invited to attend! We will be taking the church bus. To register, talk to Pastor Rick.

ERIC MOELLER IN CONCERT 4/4

Eric Moeller, an up and coming “Springsteen-like” pastor/musician will be offering a FREE concert here at CUCC on Friday, April 4 at 7:00 p.m. His genre is Progressive Christian Rock, and his songs highlight the social justice challenges and imperatives that face our world today. All are invited!

BRING A FRIEND SUNDAY 4/6

Did you know that 82% of “new” church members began attending because they were invited by a friend? All the marketing and advertising in the world can not make up for a personal invitation. Start thinking now about who you will bring to worship on 4/6. There will be lunch afterward— a Taco Bar hosted by the Membership & Care Ministry Team. Bring a friend on April 6!

THIS WEEK’S CALENDAR

Sun	3/16	Sunday School	9:00 a.m.
		Fellowship Time	10:00 a.m.
		Worship (in person and livestream)	10:30 a.m.
		Team Earth Lunch & Learn	12:00 p.m.
Mon	3/17	Loaves & Fishes	4:30 p.m.
		Scouting America	7:00 p.m.
Tue	3/18	Quilters	10:00 a.m.
		Staff Meeting	10:30 a.m.
		Church Council Meeting	6:30 p.m.
Wed	3/19	Taizé Service	5:30 p.m.
		Chapel Ringers/Celebration Singers	6:00/7:00 p.m.
Thu	3/20	Clergy Personnel Committee	6:30 p.m.
Sun	3/23	Sunday School	9:00 a.m.
		Fellowship Time	10:00 a.m.
		Worship (in person and livestream)	10:30 a.m.

Columbia UCC Prayer List

Please keep in your prayers this week . . .

Sharon Elliott... on hospice
Cheryl Cobb... on hospice (Carole Barner's sister)
Cas Burleson...health issues (Mahree's cousin)
Mahree Skala... health issues

Students and staff at Alpha Hart Lewis Elementary . . . our partnership friend
The people of Palestine, Israel, and Ukraine

Health Issues:

Eddie Diel, Lloyd Mickelson, Jim Elliott,
Mark Fairley & Connie Hackman Fairley
Kristan Whelihan (Russell Eveler's teacher)
Ann Wilke (Alethea's mother)
Stephanie Porter (Phillip Neale's niece), Jennifer (Eddie 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 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***

Great Is Your Faithfulness

Lam. 3:22-23

Thomas O. Chisholm, 1923; alt.

1 Great is your faith - ful - ness, O God, Cre - a - tor,*
 2 Sum - mer and win - ter, and spring - time and har - vest,
 3 Par - don for sin and a peace so en - dur - ing,

with you no shad - ow of turn - ing we see.
 sun, moon, and stars in their cours - es a - bove,
 your own dear pres - ence to cheer and to guide.

You do not change, your com - pas - sions they fail not;
 Join with all na - ture in man - i - fold wit - ness
 Strength for to - day and bright hope for to - mor - row,

all of your good - ness for - ev - er will be.
 to your great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy, and love.
 bless - ings all mine with ten thou - sand be - side.

*originally "my Father"

This hymn was one of a number sent by poet Thomas O. Chisholm to composer William M. Runyan for musical settings. It became a favorite of Will Houghton, president of Moody Bible Institute, whose enthusiasm helped establish its popularity.

Tune: FAITHFULNESS 11.10.11.10. with refrain
 William M. Runyan, 1923

Refrain

Great is your faith-ful-ness! Great is your faith-ful-ness! Morn-ing by

morn-ing new mer - cies I see; All I have need - ed your

hand has pro - vid - ed, Great is your faith - ful - ness, God, un - to me!

Genesis 15:1-7, 17-18

1 After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, “Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.”

2 But Abram said, “O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?”

3 And Abram said, “You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir.”

4 But the word of the LORD came to him, “This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir.”

5 He brought him outside and said, “Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your descendants be.”

6 And he believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

7 Then he said to him, “I am the LORD who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess.”

17 When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces.

18 On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, “To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates,

Luke 13:1-9

10 Now he was teaching in one of the synagogues on the sabbath.

11 And just then there appeared a woman with a spirit that had crippled her for eighteen years. She was bent over and was quite unable to stand up straight.

12 When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said, "Woman, you are set free from your ailment."

13 When he laid his hands on her, immediately she stood up straight and began praising God.

14 But the leader of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had cured on the sabbath, kept saying to the crowd, "There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be cured, and not on the sabbath day."

15 But the Lord answered him and said, "You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger, and lead it away to give it water?"

16 And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen long years, be set free from this bondage on the sabbath day?"

17 When he said this, all his opponents were put to shame; and the entire crowd was rejoicing at all the wonderful things that he was doing.

18 He said therefore, "What is the kingdom of God like? And to what should I compare it?"

19 It is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in the garden; it grew and became a tree, and the birds of the air made nests in its branches."

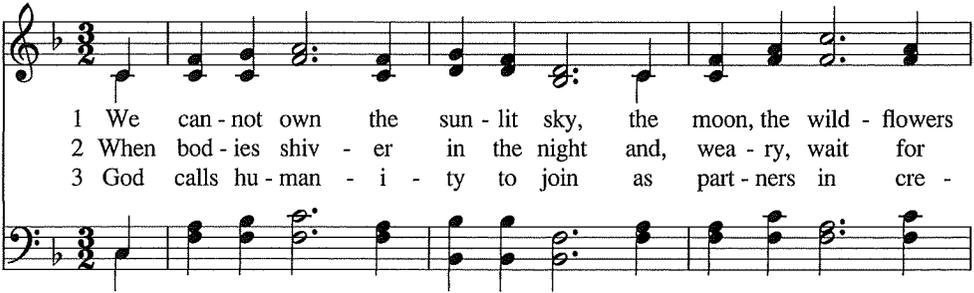
20 And again he said, "To what should I compare the kingdom of God?"

21 It is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened."

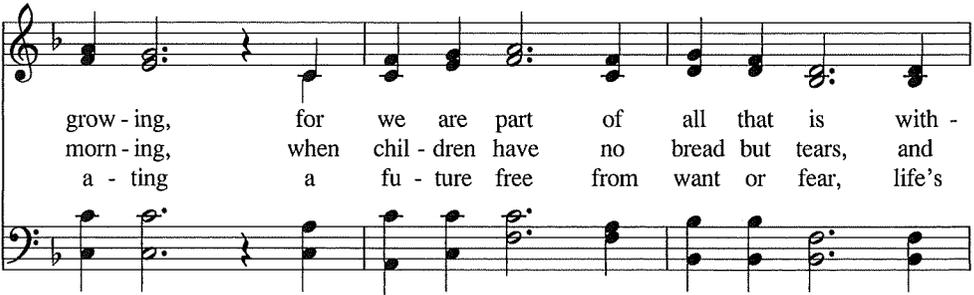
We Cannot Own the Sunlit Sky

John 10:10

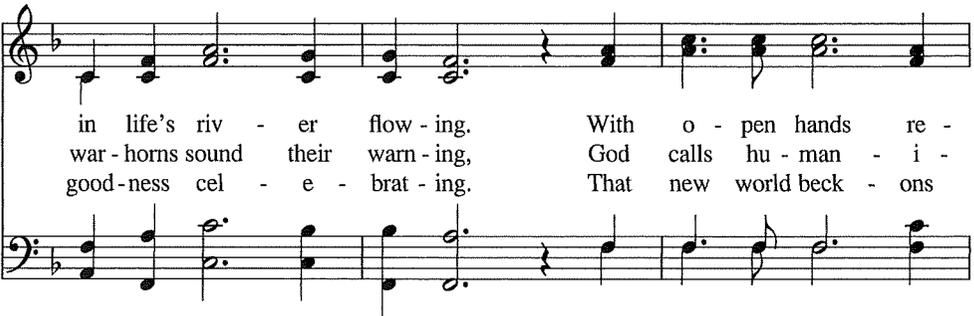
Ruth Duck, 1984; rev. 1989



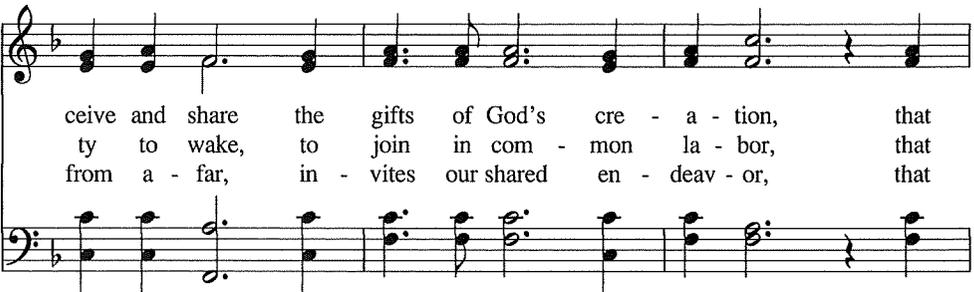
1 We can - not own the sun - lit sky, the moon, the wild - flowers
2 When bod - ies shiv - er in the night and, wea - ry, wait for
3 God calls hu - man - i - ty to join as part - ners in cre -



grow - ing, for we are part of all that is with -
morn - ing, when chil - dren have no bread but tears, and
a - ting a fu - ture free from want or fear, life's



in life's riv - er flow - ing. With o - pen hands re -
war - horns sound their warn - ing, God calls hu - man - i -
good - ness cel - e - brat - ing. That new world beck - ons



ceive and share the gifts of God's cre - a - tion, that
ty to wake, to join in com - mon la - bor, that
from a - far, in - vites our shared en - deav - or, that

Ruth Duck wrote this text while she was serving as a corporate member of the United Church Board for World Ministries. In it, she wanted to "emphasize humanity's shared partnership with God in caring for one another and the whole creation."

Tune: ENDLESS SONG 8.7.8.7.D.
Attrib. to Robert Lowry in Bright Jewels
for the Sunday School, New York, 1869



all may have a - bun-dant life in ev - ery earth - ly na - tion.
all may have a - bun-dant life in one-ness with their neigh-bor.
all may have a - bun-dant life and peace en - dure for - ev - er.



O for a World

575

Miriam Therese Winter, 1987

Acts 4:32–35; 1 Cor. 1:26–31; 1 Pet. 3:8–12



1 O for a world where ev - ery - one re - spects each oth - er's ways,
2 O for a world where goods are shared and mis - er - y re - lieved,
3 We wel - come one world fam - i - ly and strug - gle with each choice
4 The poor are rich, the weak are strong, the fool - ish ones are wise.
5 O for a world pre - par - ing for God's glo - rious reign of peace,



Where love is lived and all is done with jus - tice and with praise.
Where truth is spo - ken, chil - dren spared, e - qual - i - ty a - chieved.
That o - pens us to u - ni - ty and gives our vi - sion voice.
Tell all who mourn: out - casts be - long, who per - ish - es will rise.
Where time and tears will be no more, and all but love will cease.



Inspired by Charles Wesley's phrase "O for a thousand tongues" and the familiar tune Azmon, Miriam Therese Winter wrote this hymn envisioning a new world order for the Presbyterian Women's Triennial Conference in 1982. It was later recrafted and recorded by the Medical Mission Sisters.

Tune: AZMON C.M.

Carl G. Gläser, 1828

Adapt. Lowell Mason in Modern Psalmody, 1839