Columbia United Church Of Christ

November 8, 2026
"Veterans Day"

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

November 8, 2026 ***10:30 a.m.*** ***"Devotion"***

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

"Give ear, O my people, to my teaching.
Incline your ear to the words of my mouth.
I will open my mouth in a parable."-Psalm 78:1-2

Welcome and Greetings — Pastor Rick

Prelude — "God's Gracious Love" — Tim Guillaume
Annmarie Murdock

Carrying in the Light of Christ

*Call to Worship *(based on Psalm 78)* — Llona Weiss

Incline your ears to God's Teaching.
Open your ears to the Wisdom of God's mouth.

God speaks to us in parable and story,
Bringing Wisdom to us through parables of old.

Things that we have heard and known,
Wisdom that our ancestors have shared with us,

We will share this Wisdom with our children as well.
We will tell God's parables to future generations.
Come, let us worship God!

*Hymn — "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise" — *#1*

*Prayer — Llona Weiss

God of service and devotion; we come to You today celebrating the devotion our ancestors in faith have exhibited in their service to You. Forgive us for the times we fail to exemplify this same devotion in our lives. Remind us of Your presence and provision, and inspire us to always devote ourselves to Your cause of justice, righteousness, and Shalom. In Jesus' name we pray; Amen.

*Assurance of Blessing Pastor Rick

God's devotion fills us up and inspires us; and God calls us to exemplify this devotion as well. 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 "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 Pastor Rick

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

Children's Time "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 Veterans Administration Katie McDannald

Old Testament Lesson Joshua 24:14-25 Llona Weiss

This is the end of the book of Joshua. After conquering Caanan and invading Jericho, the land is divided among the twelve tribes of Israel. In this chapter, the twelve tribes renew their covenant with God.
Page #188

Gospel Lesson Matthew 25:14-30 Llona Weiss

Jesus tells the parable of the talents. In this parable, he is encouraging them to use their gifts and talents they have received to glorify God, not hide their talents out of fear. *Page #807*

Anthem "Arise, O Church, Arise" Celebration Singers
Pepper Choplin

Sermon "Choose Whom You Will Serve" Rev. Mike Williams

*Hymn "Great Is Your Faithfulness" *#423*

Recognition of Servanthood - Veterans Day

After the video, Veterans will be invited to stand (if comfortably able).

Prayer Litany honoring Veterans Day Rev. Mike Williams

Loving God, the framers of our Declaration of Independence claimed that You have endowed us with inalienable rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Yet, there are those who would take these from us. Today, we remember the men, women, and others who have served in our country's armed forces to preserve the freedoms You have granted us. For all who have served in the Air Force, Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Space Force, and Coast Guard,

We ask Your blessing.

For the families who made great sacrifices to make it possible for service members to be on watch at home or around the world or to go into harm's way,

We ask Your blessing.

For the Veterans who bear scars in their bodies and spirits,

We ask Your blessing.

For Veterans who came home but couldn't "fit in" with their families or communities anymore,

We ask Your blessing.

For Veterans who have been excluded from community because of race, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or any other oppressive factor,

We ask Your blessing.

Ever present God, keep all our Veterans in Your care today. Grant them the peace they sought to preserve for others. As we honor our Veterans, we also pray for peace. Teach all Your people the ways of peace, that those who have sacrificed so much for peace and freedom will not have done so in vain. We pray all these things in the name of Your son, our savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Community Prayer & Silent Prayer Pastor Rick

The LORD'S Prayer

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.

*Hymn "You Servants of God" *#305*

Sharing our Announcements of Community Life Pastor Rick

Misson Moment "VAC Holiday Program" Mahree Skala

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 Tim Guillaume

*Prayer of Dedication Llona Weiss

God of love, take the gifts that we offer today and let them be used to work for justice in Your world. As we give, we honor those who have sacrificed so much for our benefit. May these gifts reflect our commitment to do the same. 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 Tim Guillaume

Columbia United Church of Christ
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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:	Llona Weiss
Song Leader:	Sarah Young
Ushers:	Pat Forward & Phillip Neale
Greeters:	John & Brenda Muench
Technology:	Lorry Dreier & Josh Muench
Council Stewards:	Sue Ann Schaefer & Allen Posz

NEXT SUNDAY IN WORSHIP:

Worship Leader:	Sue Ann Schaefer
Song Leader:	Katie Jones, Sarah Young, Killian Boyd, Kai White
Ushers:	Christine Staelens & Llona Weiss
Greeters:	Sue Ann Schafer & Carol Duermeyer
Technology:	Carissa Graves & John Graves
Council Stewards:	Christine Staelens & Mahree Skala

COLUMBIA UCC CHURCH COUNCIL

Moderator:	Jerry Kiesling
Vice Moderator:	Corinne Remeika
Secretary:	Tricia Soncasie
Treasurer:	Aimee Andersen
Recording Treasurer:	Christine Staelens
Building & Grounds:	Allen Posz
Fellowship & Hospitality:	Mary Lorber
Finance & Stewardship:	Sue Ann Schaefer
Inclusion & Affirmation:	Ashley Ramirez
Little One's Day Out:	Darla Privitt
Membership & Care:	Judi Privitt
Nurture & Education:	Jessica Lucas
Outreach & Advocacy:	Mahree Skala
Worship & Music:	Kitty Rogers

Online Giving

NURSERY CARE is available for children in kindergarten and younger in the educational wing. If you need help finding it, ask an usher!

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM REHEARSALS BEGIN

It's your time to shine! We're organizing the Sunday School Christmas Program, which will be December 20 during worship, and would love to have your help! Rehearsals will be every Sunday at 9:00 a.m. during the Sunday School hour.

YOUNG ADULT TACO BAR - 11/8

All Young Adults are invited to the Oberle house for a Taco Bar tonight from 5:00-8:00 p.m.! We will have food, fun, fellowship and faith formation. For more information, talk to Pastor Rick.

LENTEN PSALMS PROJECT

This year, we will be using Psalms as a focus for our Lenten Devotions- based on reflections we are asking ***YOU*** to write! To select a psalm and sign up, check out the display in the rear of the Sanctuary. If you want to choose a different psalm than the ones suggested, that is okay, too! Questions? Ask Pastor Rick.

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Sun	11/8	Veterans Breakfast	9:00 a.m.
		Bible Study/Sunday School	9:00 a.m.
		Fellowship	10:00 a.m.
		Worship (in person and livestream)	10:30 a.m.
		Outreach & Advocacy Team Meeting	12:00 p.m.
		Young Adult Group at Oberle House	5:00 p.m.
Mon	11/9	Scouting America	7:00 p.m.
Tue	11/10	Quilters	10:00 a.m.
		Prayer Shawl Group	10:00 a.m.
		Staff Meeting	10:00 a.m.
Wed	11/11	Nurture & Education Ministry Team	6:00 p.m.
		Chapel Ringers/Celebration Singers	6:00/7:00 p.m.
		Confirmation	7:15 p.m.
Thu	11/12	Women's Fellowship	9:30 a.m.
Sat.	11/14	Quilts of Valor	12:00 p.m.
		Interfaith Meal	5:00 p.m.
Sun	11/15	Bible Study/Sunday School	9:00 a.m.
		Fellowship	10:00 a.m.
		Worship (in person and livestream)	10:30 a.m.

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Columbia UCC Prayer List

Please keep in your prayers this week . . .

The family of Mark Shaffer…on their loss
The Veteto Family… welcoming baby boy Caladen Veteto!

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

All those whose lives are affected by state sanctioned terrorism...

Our US Military... deployed in the Middle East

In Hospice Care:
Joyce Andersen (Aimee's mother-in-law),
Julie Roper (Alexandra's mother), Fred Wilke (Alethea's father)

Health Issues:
Jeff Kies, Barry Kirchhoff, Glenn Duermeyer, Evie Marcks, Jan Barry
Julia Marsh, Becky Weston, Connie Fairley, Cody Kile, Dr. Ryan Link,
Kenny & Jane Holtgrewe (Marsha Posz's parents), Rev. Dale Parson
Cassandra Gartner (Edie's friend), Rev. Carolyn Held (Edie's niece),
Martha (friend of the Veteto family), Ken (Adam Veteto's cousin),
Mary Jane Johnson (Joe Remeika's sister), Kay Kanger (Edie Diel's friend),
Betty Modesty (Ashley Ramirez's grandmother),
Jan Keithley (Donna Marsh's friend)

Challenges in Life:
Sheila, The Koerkenmeier & Malicoat Families

Living in Assisted Living Facilities:
Dean & Jan Barry, Vernie Blank, Gary Ehrhardt

Living in Independent Living Facilities:
Sue Beckman, Linda Evans, Don Privitt, Walter & Patty Schroeder

Serving us in the military:
Aaron Dachroeden, Christopher Tennill, Dane Wilson,
Garrett Holtgrewe… (Marsha Posz's nephew)

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

Joshua 24:14–25
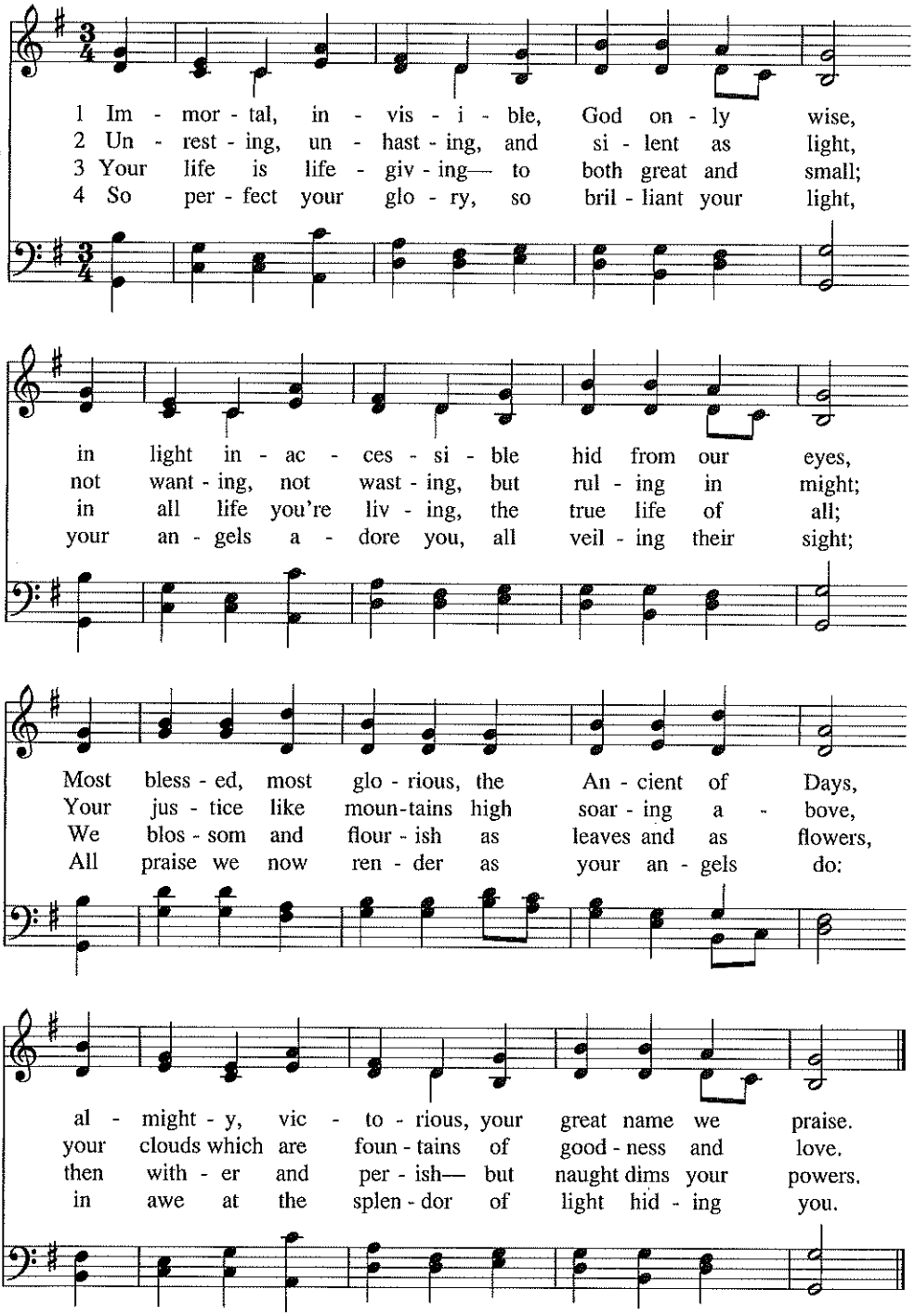
14 “Now, therefore, revere the LORD and serve him in sincerity and in
faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the
River and in Egypt and serve the LORD.
15 Now if you are unwilling to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you
will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond
the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living, but as
for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.”
16 Then the people answered, “Far be it from us that we should forsake the
LORD to serve other gods,
17 for it is the LORD our God who brought us and our ancestors up from
the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs
in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went and among all
the peoples through whom we passed,
18 and the LORD drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who
lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the LORD, for he is our God.”
19 But Joshua said to the people, “You cannot serve the LORD, for he is a
holy God. He is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions or
your sins.
20 If you forsake the LORD and serve foreign gods, then he will turn and do
you harm and consume you, after having done you good.”
21 And the people said to Joshua, “No, we will serve the LORD!”
22 Then Joshua said to the people, “You are witnesses against yourselves
that you have chosen the LORD, to serve him.” And they said, “We are
witnesses.”
23 He said, “Then put away the foreign gods that are among you, and
incline your hearts to the LORD, the God of Israel.”
24 The people said to Joshua, “The LORD our God we will serve, and him
we will obey.”
25 So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day and made statutes
and ordinances for them at Shechem.

Matthew 25:14-30

14 “For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and
entrusted his property to them; 15 to one he gave five talents, to another
two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. At
once 16 the one who had received the five talents went off and traded with
them and made five more talents. 17 In the same way, the one who had the
two talents made two more talents. 18 But the one who had received the
one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s
money. 19 After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled
accounts with them. 20 Then the one who had received the five talents
came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, ‘Master, you handed over
to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.’ 21 His master said to
him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in
a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of
your master.’ 22 And the one with the two talents also came forward,
saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two
more talents.’ 23 His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy
slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of
many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ 24 Then the one who had
received the one talent also came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew that you
were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow and gathering where you
did not scatter, 25 so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the
ground. Here you have what is yours.’ 26 But his master replied, ‘You
wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow
and gather where I did not scatter? 27 Then you ought to have invested my
money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was
my own with interest. 28 So take the talent from him, and give it to the one
with the ten talents. 29 For to all those who have, more will be given, and
they will have an abundance, but from those who have nothing, even what
they have will be taken away. 30 As for this worthless slave, throw him into
the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise 1

Walter C. Smith, 1867; alt. *1 Tim. 1:17; Ps. 36:6*
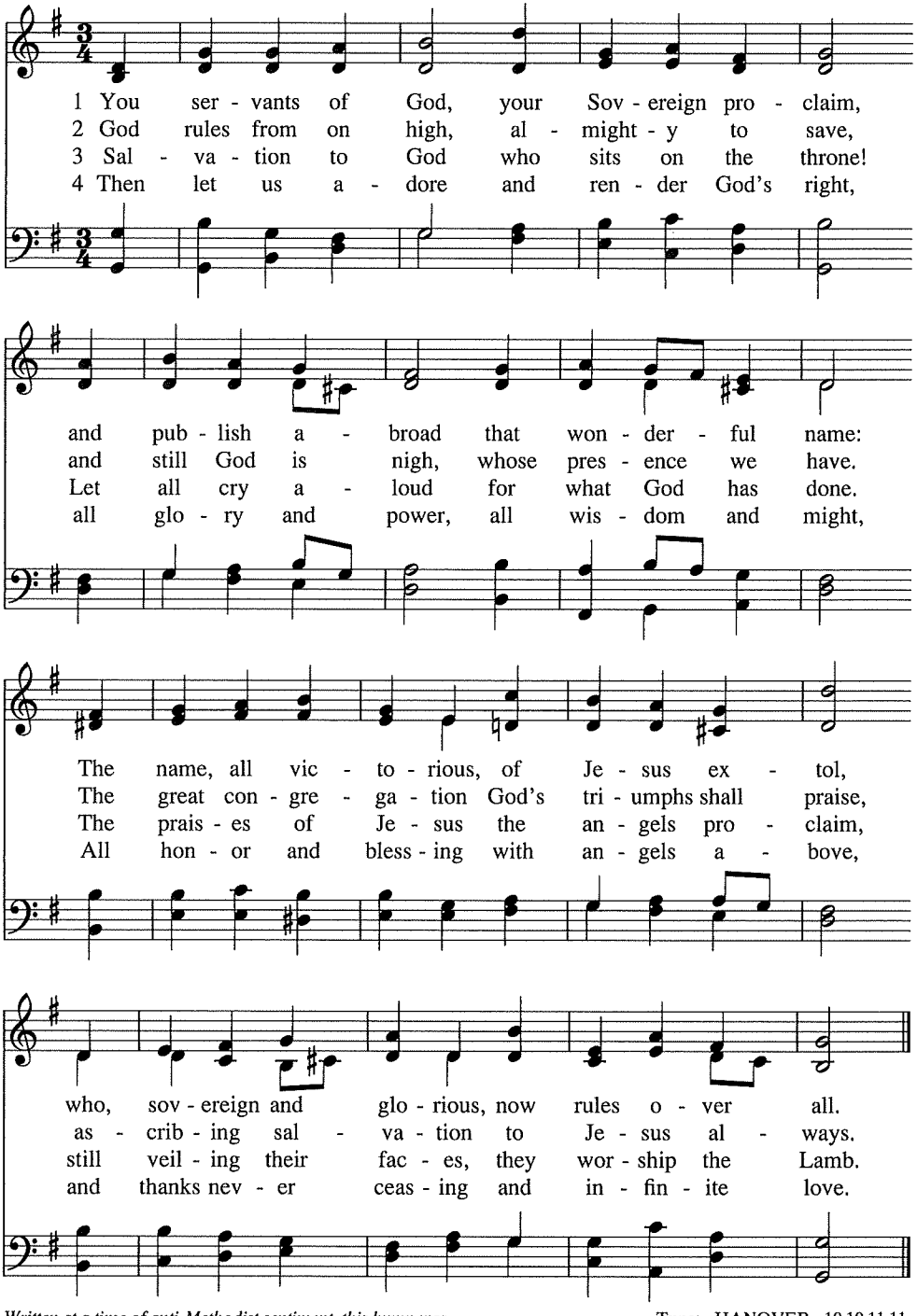


Walter C. Smith, minister of the Free Church of Scotland and later moderator of the Assembly, wrote poetry as a retreat from work and to say what could not be fully expressed in the pulpit.

Tune: ST. DENIO 11.11.11.11.
Adapt. from a Welsh ballad in John Roberts' Caniadaeth y Cysegr, *1839*

305 You Servants of God, Your Sovereign Proclaim

Rev. 4:9–11; 5:11–14 — *Charles Wesley, 1744; alt.*
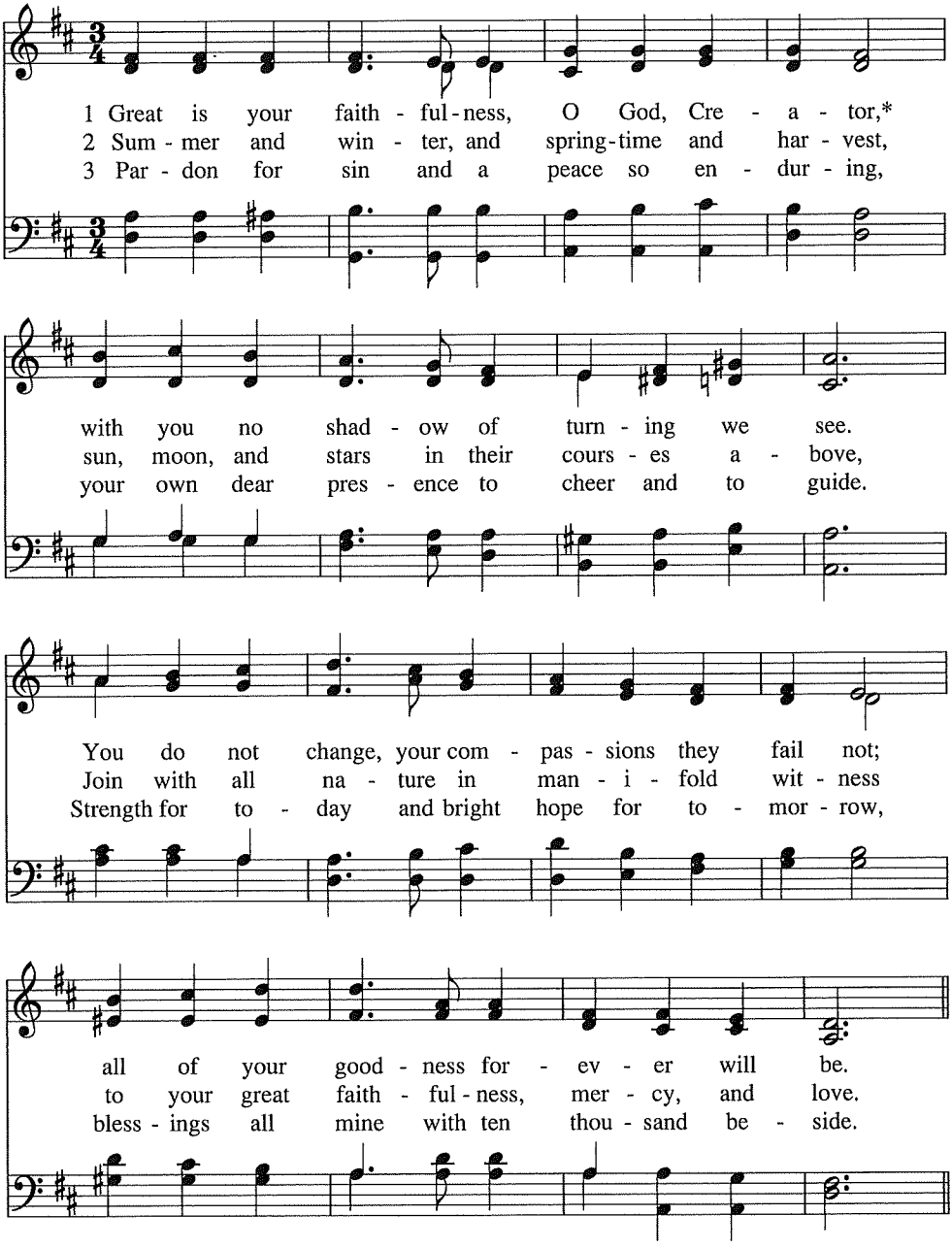


Written at a time of anti-Methodist sentiment, this hymn was included in Charles Wesley's Hymns for Times of Trouble and Persecution. *The tune is attributed to William Croft, composer at England's Chapel Royal and organist at Westminster Abbey.*

Tune: HANOVER 10.10.11.11.
Attrib. to William Croft, 1708

423 Great Is Your Faithfulness

Lam. 3:22–23

Thomas O. Chisholm, 1923; alt.
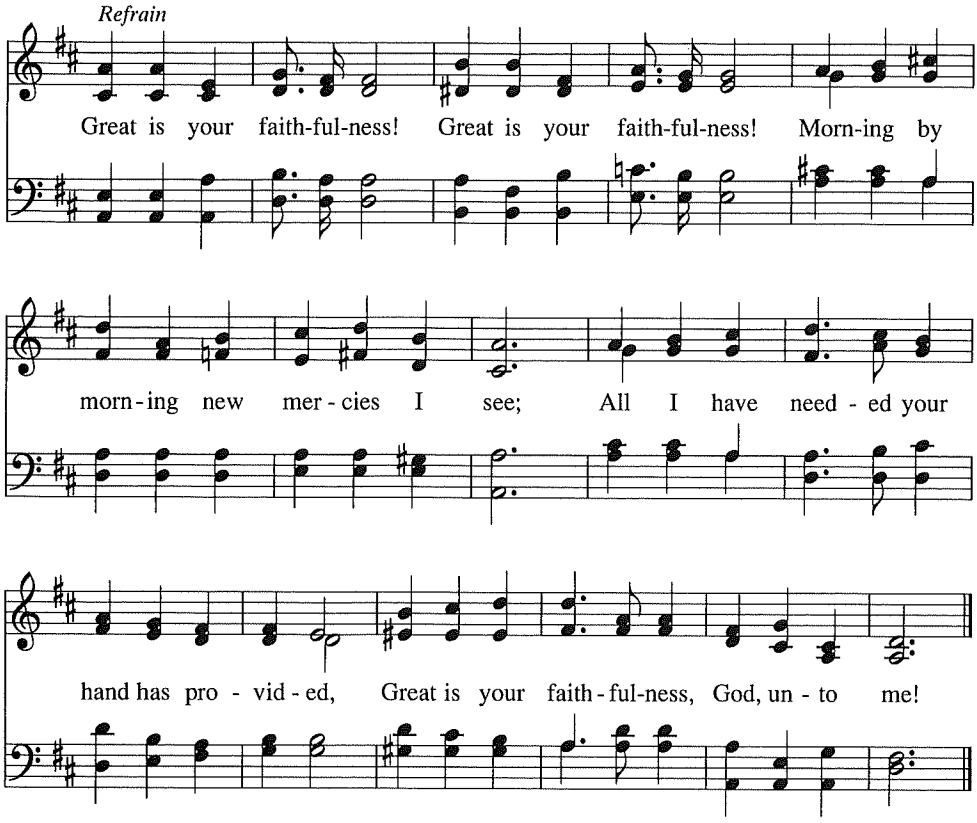


*originally "my Father"

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

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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!