

Columbia United Church Of Christ

May 7, 2023

"Faithful Apostles – Stephen"



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*



May 7, 2023

10:30 Worship

"Faithful Apostles"

*"... you are indeed my rock and my fortress;
For your name's sake, lead me and guide me ..."
Psalm 31:3*

Welcome and Greetings

Pastor Rick

Prelude

"A Psalm of Praise"

Chapel Ringers
arr. Paul McKlveen

Bringing in the Light of Christ

Call to Worship

(Based on Psalm 31)

Lena Muench

In You, O God, We seek refuge!
Do not let us be put to shame!

**God is a Rock and Refuge for us,
A strong fortress for Salvation!**

You are indeed our Rock and our Refuge;
You are our Fortress and Guide!

**Into God's Hands, we commend our Spirits;
God has Redeemed our Souls!**

You turn us away from the idols of the world;
You implore us to follow Your ways;

**We will put our trust in God
And rejoice in God's Steadfast Love!
Come, let us worship God!**

*Gathering Hymn "Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation" #400

*Opening Prayer Lena Muench

God of love and light, You call us to share your Good News with all the world and be agents of equity to your Creation. Empower us to do this work, and bless us with perseverance when the world tries to distract us. Keep us faithful, like Stephen, even in the midst of oppression. Teach us to be Your servant leaders, and forgive us for the times we let the stones of oppression hammer us into submission. We know that the way of Jesus is emblematic of Your way, one way to get closer to You. Help us, like Jesus, to be reflections of Your grace. In Jesus' name we pray; Amen.

*Assurance of Blessing

Pastor Rick

Faithful Stephen believed passionately in Jesus and his ministry, and he carried that passion through to death. Saul, in his complicity, contributed to that act. God was present in both Stephen and Saul, forgiving all their sins. Likewise, 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

Pastor Rick

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

Children's Time

Pastor Rick

Response:

"Halle-Hallelujah"

#236

(Sung as children return to their seats)

*Halle, Halle, Halle-luja!
Halle, Halle, Halle-luja!
Halle, Halle, Halle-luja!
Halleluja! Halleluja! (repeat)*

New Testament Lesson

Acts 7:54 - 8:3

Lena Muench

Stephen shares the Good News of Jesus' message with the people of Jerusalem, trying to bring equity between the Hellenistic Jews and the Orthodox Jews. Instead, he enrages both of them with his talk of equity, and they conspire to have him killed. Stephen becomes the first Christian martyr, and Saul/Paul endorses his death. Saul/Paul then begins a campaign of persecution against the followers of Jesus. (page # 891)

Gospel Reading

John 14:5-14

Lena Muench

After the Resurrection, Jesus appears to the gathered disciples, telling them that he is the way, the truth, and the life. This often-misunderstood scripture is not to say that Jesus is the way, but the way of Jesus is the way. Verse 9 clarifies this in saying Jesus is very much like God; therefore, being like Jesus leads us to God. (page # 877)

Anthem

"Jesus Christ Is the Way"

Celebration Singers
arr. Walter Hawkins

Sermon

“Reflections of God”

Pastor Rick

*Hymn

“God Reigns o’er All the Earth”

#21

Invitation to Communion

In Jesus, we see a perfect reflection of God, but Jesus expressed that, like him, we could also be reflections of God. Jesus saw God reflected in all of God’s children, even those rejected by others. When others turned them away, Jesus welcomed them. In like manner, all are welcome to partake in communion today, no matter who you are or where you are on life’s journey.

In this Easter Season, we walk closely with Jesus, embracing the stories of his Resurrection Visits. As we gather around the communion table this morning, we are reminded of Christ’s presence. We remember the Wisdom of Christ’s ministry that is represented by the bread and the promise of Eternal Living that is represented by the cup. As God’s children, let us gather together for this meal.

Communion Prayer

Pastoral Prayer & Silent Prayer

Invocation

Blessing the Children

“Come, Share the Lord”

(insert)

In the Sacrament of Communion, we most clearly see Jesus in our midst. Our desire to share this presence prompts us to celebrate with our children, granting them a special blessing, just as children were blessed by Jesus. During the hymn, our children are invited to come forward via the center aisle and receive a blessing from Pastor Rick.

Words of Institution

Fraction; Distribution

Communion Music “Air from Orchestral Suite #3”

Amy Crousore
J.S. Bach

*Prayer of Thanksgiving

Pastor Rick

God of new life and abundance, we give thanks for this meal. We pray that this Sacrament may reorient us to Your presence in our lives and that we may be reenergized to be blessings in Your world. Help us to be as faithful as Stephen, standing up for You no matter what the world has to say, and remind us that we are called to be mirrors reflecting Your presence and Jesus’ wisdom. Now we gather, Your people, praying the prayer Jesus taught us . . .

The LORD's Prayer (Sung by the congregation; led by Brandon Brown.)

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; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

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

"Prelude from Suite #5"

Amy Crousore
Henry Purcell

*Prayer of Dedication

Lena Muench

God of grace, these gifts are but a portion of what You have already given us. Take them and use them to serve Your children who are lost and alone, in need of Your presence. Through these gifts we reflect Your love. 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

"Thine"

Amy Crousore
Schalk/arr. Christiansen



*If you try to fit God into your life, You will
never have time for God.
If you try to fit your life into God, You will
always have time for what matters.*

Columbia United Church of Christ

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LODO Director:	Erika Maltsbarger	littleonesdayout@yahoo.com
Custodian:	Caleb Berry	calebprenticeberry@gmail.com
Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Fred Brandenburg		

TODAY IN WORSHIP:

Worship Leader:	Lena Muench
Ushers:	Fred & Carolyn Malicoat
Greeters:	Carol Duermeyer
Technology Booth:	Lori Dreier & Brent Marcks
Hospitality:	Judi Privitt
Council Stewards:	Tricia Price & Brent Marcks

NEXT SUNDAY IN WORSHIP:

Worship Leader:	Llona Weiss
Ushers:	Phillip Neale
Greeters:	Susan Dunham
Technology Booth:	Josh Muench & Ted Dachroeden
Hospitality:	Helen Schultz
Council Stewards:	Ted Dachroeden & Sue Ann Schaefer



Online giving

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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!

BRANDON'S MASTER'S CONDUCTING RECITAL – TODAY!

Come back at 3:00 p.m. for Brandon's Recital! Brandon's graduate conducting recital will be *today, May 7 at 3 p.m.* The Celebration Singers and Chapel Ringers will be performing. Amy will also be playing the Piano. They will be singing arrangements of Psalm texts. This will be a concert you don't want to miss! There will be a reception afterward.

TRIVIA NIGHT – 5/13

Ready for a night of fun? Ready to support the New Century Sanctuary Capital Campaign? Put together a team and join us! Our CUCC Trivia Night is Saturday, May 13 at 6 p.m. Sign-up today using the QR code to the right, or contact MJ in the church office.



Trivia Night

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING– 5/21

This year's Congregational Meeting will be May 21, and it will also be a celebration of our 100th anniversary! We will have several historical reflections as we celebrate our past, and embrace our future! There will be a pot-luck meal before the meeting, so bring your favorite dish. Business will include the election of new Council members and a Constitution Amendment.

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Sun	5/7	Sunday School	9:00 a.m.
		Fellowship Time	10:00 a.m.
		Worship (in person and livestream)	10:30 a.m.
		Brandon Brown's Master's Conducting Recital	3:00 p.m.
		Fellowship Hall/Sanctuary/Gathering Area Reserved	
Mon	5/8	Staff Meeting	10:30 a.m.
		Clergy Personnel Committee	6:30 p.m.
Tue	5/9	Quilters	10:00 a.m.
		Outreach & Advocacy Ministry Team	6:30 p.m.
Wed	5/10	Chapel Ringers/Celebration Singers Rehearsals	6:00/7:00 p.m.
		Prayer Shawl Team	6:00 p.m.
		Confirmation	6:30 p.m.
Thu	5/11	Women's Fellowship	9:30 a.m.
Fri	5/12	Pastor Rick's Day off	
		Brandon's Graduation	1:00 p.m.
Sat	5/13	Brandon's Graduation Party	12:00 p.m.
		TRIVIA NIGHT! (NCS Fundraiser)	6:00 p.m.
Sun	5/14	MOTHER'S DAY	
		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 . . .

Cliff Beckman . . . more health issues/pulmonary issues
The family of Tim Kirchhoff . . . on their loss (Barry's brother)
Jim Grady (friend of Dennis Froeschner) from Dallas . . . was in a bike accident
Alisa Lau Sieckman . . . anticipating surgery 5/10
Lynne Tsapelas . . . recovering from back surgery
Students and staff at Alpha Hart Lewis Elementary . . . our partnership friend
Sheila . . . challenges in life and faith
Terry & Mike Freeman . . . health issues (friends of the Remeikas)
The Koerkenmeier & Malicoat Families

Health Issues:

Glenn Duermeyer, Christine Mseke, Joan Bentlage,
John Adams, Neal Stumbo (Jean Strothmann's nephew)

Living in Care Facilities:

Bea Gordon, Neal Sprick, Gary Ehrhardt,
Mark Brumbach, Vernie Blank

Living in Independent Living Facilities:

Helen Graves

Serving us in the military:

Alexander & Christopher Tennill, Jeffrey Sanderson, Dane Wilson,
Aaron Dachroeden, James Walker (Don Helmreich's nephew)

Pregnancies in our church family:

Shelby Oberle & Ryan Furney



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*



A Word From Your Inclusion and Affirmation Ministry Team

WISE Congregation for Mental Health
(WISE: Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive, Engaged)

This is a UCC network structured much like the Open and Affirming covenant that we adopted. The steps are nearly identical. The goal in WISE is specific: to support individuals with mental health challenges.

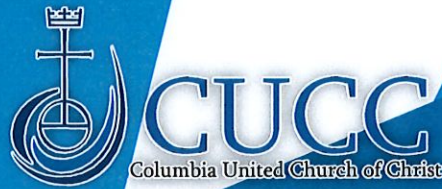
The WISE covenant of several churches that I noted on the UCC website are very similar:

- ◇ **Pledge to create a welcoming environment for people with mental health challenges**
- ◇ **Pledge to include people with mental health challenges in the life, work, and leadership of the congregation**
- ◇ **Pledge to engage with other organizations that work to intersect mental health with faith/spirituality/religion**
- ◇ **To empathize with and practice compassion towards “every single one,” including those in need of support due to mental illness or brain disorders**
- ◇ **To understand that worship is a place where mental health will be addressed**

Per the NIH, more than 1 in 5 Americans live with a mental health issue. For teenagers, the number is 1 of 2. One reason for these high numbers is the vast array of mental conditions that exist such as: depression, anxiety, schizophrenia, addictions of all sorts, PTSD, Alzheimers and other brain disorders, obsessive compulsive behavior, paranoia, eating disorders and the list goes on.

Thus, whether we know it or not, we worship each week with individuals that carry a mental health challenge in their daily lives.

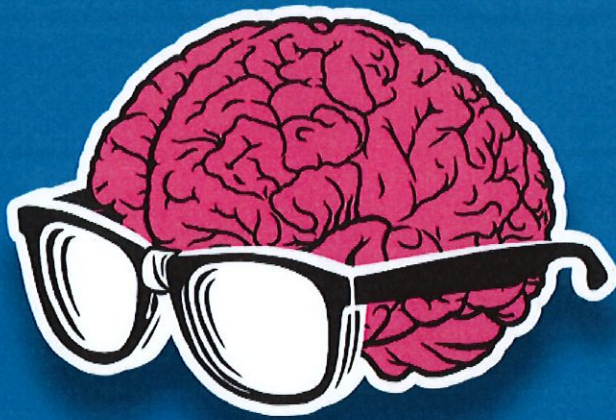
Our own Open and Affirming covenant does not specifically address mental health. Our line reads: “No matter your age, ability, health, relationship status, or family structure”. Perhaps that is enough, or maybe, when we review this in the future, we may want to tweak that line to specifically include mental health challenges.



TRIVIA NIGHT

Prizes Donated by

DOWNTOWN
Appliance Home Center



**\$75 a person
or
\$770 a table**

SAT. MAY 13

@ 6 P.M.

Book your spot
now by scanning
the QR code.
Need help with
booking? Contact
MJ in the office.



**We will be selling
Tea, Lemonade, and Water
with free Refills All Night
NO ALCOHOL**


All proceeds go to the New Century Sanctuary Capital Campaign.




Columbia United Church of Christ
3201 I-70 Dr. NW
Columbia, MO 65202
www.columbiaucc.com
573-445-7931





Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation

*Eph. 2:20-22; 1 Pet. 2:4-7**Latin, 6th-8th century**Transl. John Mason Neale, 1851; alt.**St. 3 adapt. Thomas H. Troeger, 1992*



1 Christ is made the sure foun - da - tion, Christ the head and cor - ner-stone,
 2 To this tem - ple, where we call you, come, O God of Hosts, to - day!
 3 Here re - new your ser - vants' vis - ion, that by faith they may at - tain




chos - en of our God and pre - cious, bind - ing all the Church in one;
 With your con - stant, lov - ing kind - ness hear your peo - ple as they pray.
 peace and hope, re - newed com - pas - sion, strength to com - fort those in pain,

Ho - ly Zi - on's help for - ev - er, and our con - fi - dence a - lone.
 Give your full - est ben - e - dic - tion: grace to fol - low Christ the Way.
 Tears and grief trans - formed to glad - ness in your ev - er - last - ing reign.



The hymn has its origins in an early Latin poem, Urbs beata Jerusalem, based on passages from Ephesians, 1 Peter, and Revelation. "Holy Zion" refers to the church transcendent, built of "living stones"—the saints of God.

Tune: REGENT SQUARE 8.7.8.7.8.7.


Henry T. Smart, 1867

Alternate tune: WESTMINSTER ABBEY


God Reigns o'er All the Earth

Jane Parker Huber, 1981

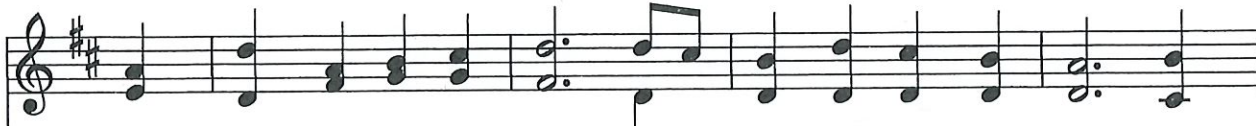
Isa. 52:7-10




1 God reigns o'er all the earth! Green hills and val-leys low, the
 2 God reigns o'er hu-man life! Through youth and ag-ing years, in
 3 God reigns o'er time and space! In his-tory's by-gone days, Christ's
 4 God reigns! Em-man - u - el! God with us ev-ery day, in



farms and towns in golds and browns God's grace and beau-ty show.
 death, in birth, in grief, in mirth, in all our hopes and fears.
 faith-ful folk in rev-erence spoke to bring God earn-est praise.
 all our past and to the last, our com-fort and our stay.



God reigns o'er all the earth! Stone banks and spread-ing plains, in
 God reigns o'er hu-man life! Our in-spi-ra-tion still. Through
 God reigns o'er time and space! O'er gal-ax-y and sun, through
 God reigns! Em-man - u - el! Let praise to Christ be sung! God's



rain-bow hues— reds, yel-lows, blues— of streams and coun-try lanes.
 all our schemes, in all our dreams, we see God's reign-ing will.
 time-less years the cos-mos hears the heaven-ly mu-sic run.
 pres-ence here makes all things dear. Let joy-ful bells be rung!

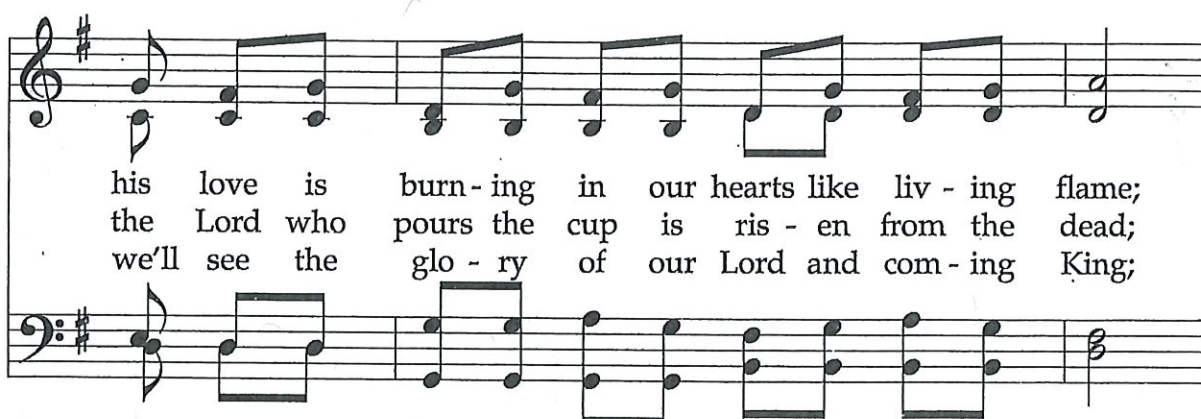
The author's notes on this text describe it as a progression of awareness of God's reign among us—in physical surroundings, in the various stages of life, in time and space, and supremely in

Tune: TERRA BEATA S.M.D.
 Traditional English melody
 Adapted Franklin I. Shannard 1915

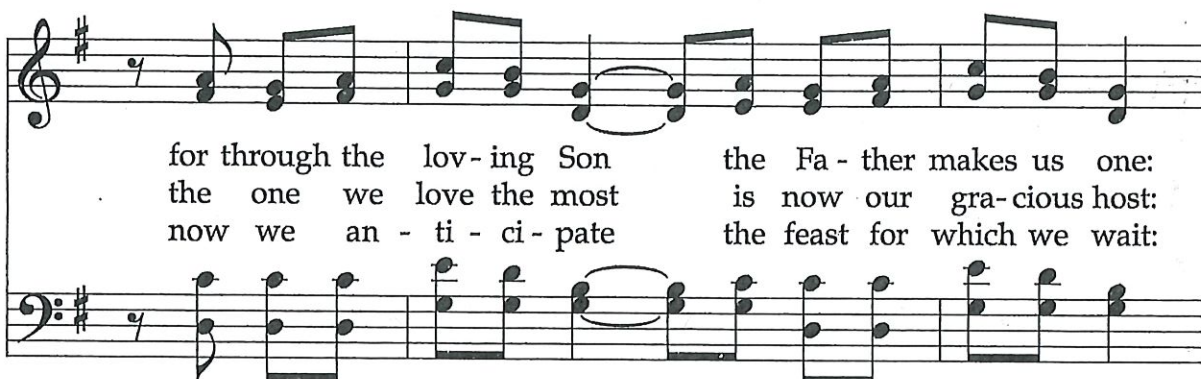
Come, Share the Lord

Refrain

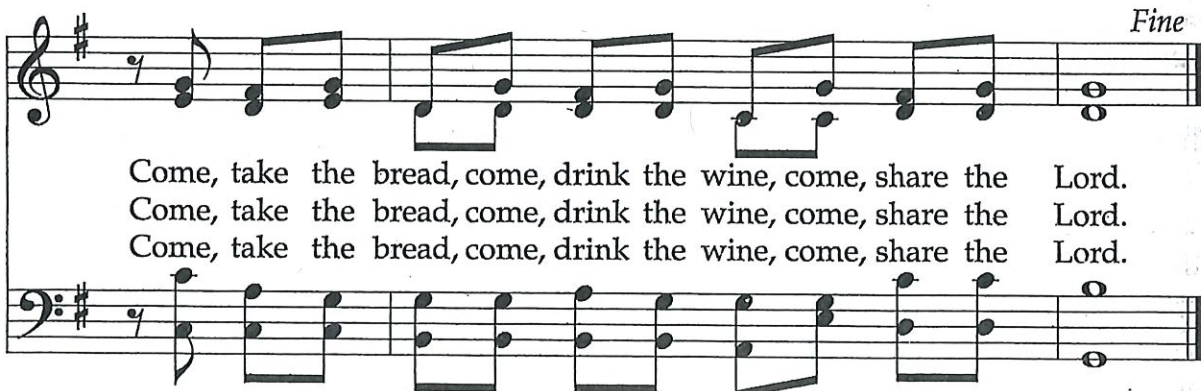

1. We gath - er here in Je - sus' name,
 2. He joins us here, he breaks the bread,
 3. We'll gath - er soon where an - gels sing;



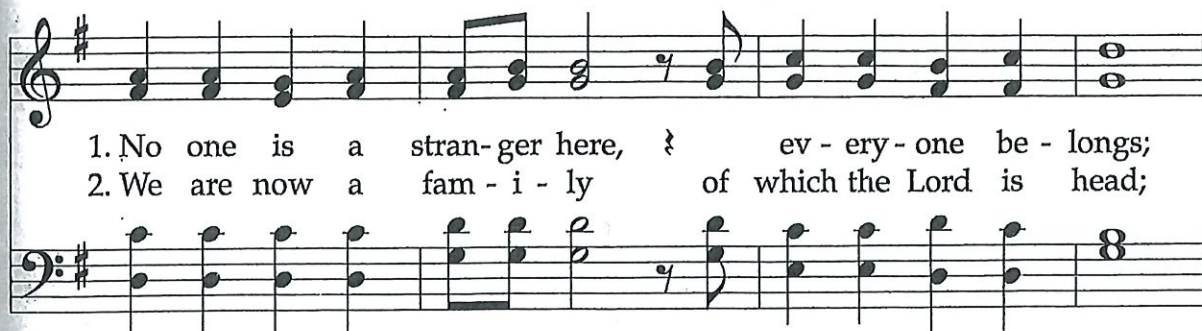
his love is burn - ing in our hearts like liv - ing flame;
 the Lord who pours the cup is ris - en from the dead;
 we'll see the glo - ry of our Lord and com - ing King;



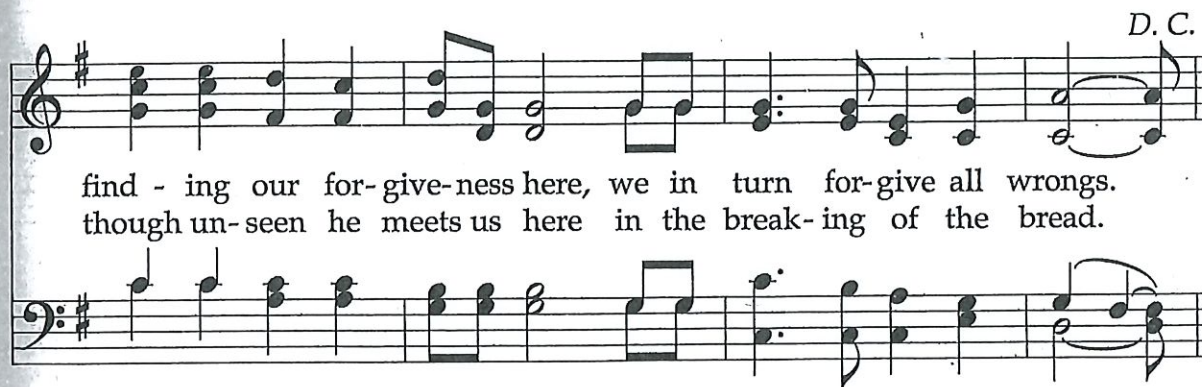
for through the lov - ing Son the Fa - ther makes us one:
 the one we love the most is now our gra - cious host:
 now we an - ti - ci - pate the feast for which we wait:



Fine
 Come, take the bread, come, drink the wine, come, share the Lord.
 Come, take the bread, come, drink the wine, come, share the Lord.
 Come, take the bread, come, drink the wine, come, share the Lord.



1. No one is a stran-ger here, & ev - ery - one be - longs;
2. We are now a fam - i - ly of which the Lord is head;

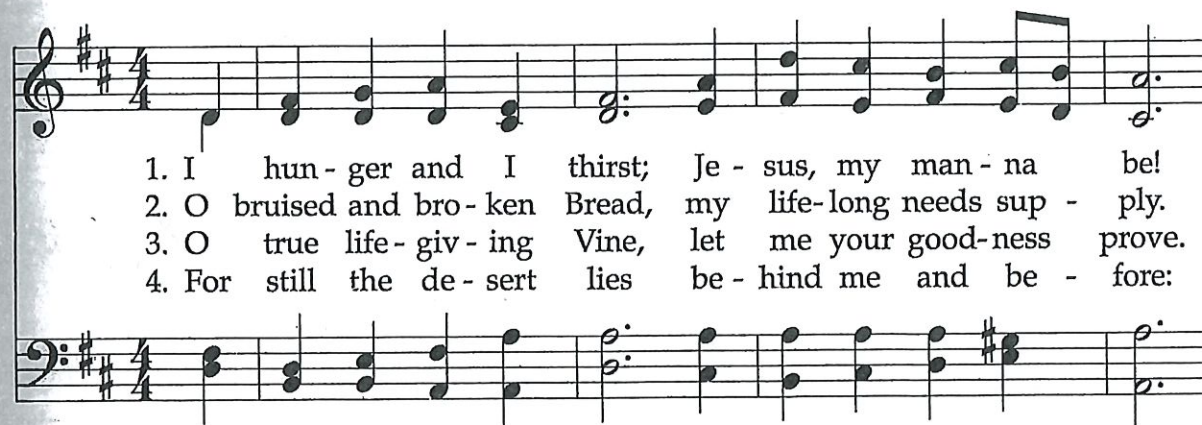


find - ing our for-give-ness here, we in turn for-give all wrongs.
though un-seen he meets us here in the break-ing of the bread.

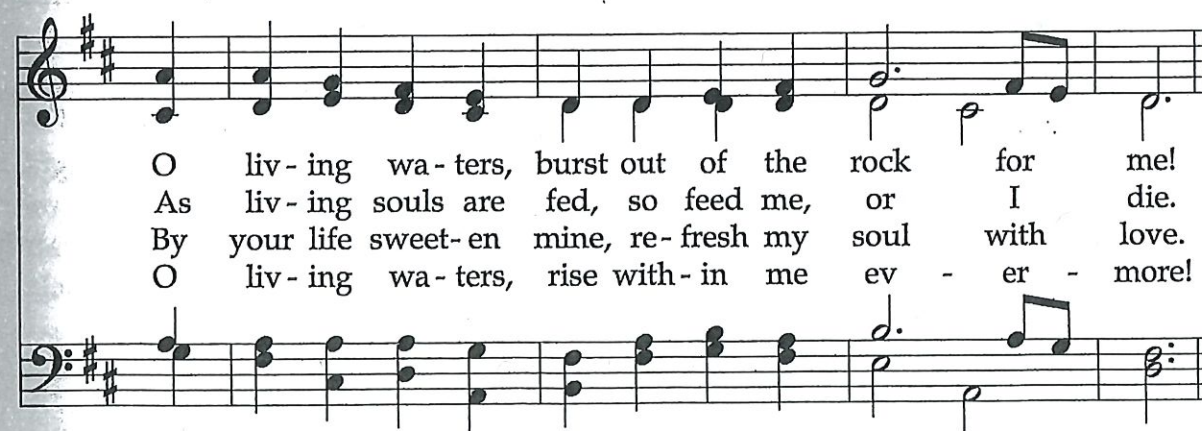
D. C.

I Hunger and I Thirst

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1. I hun - ger and I thirst; Je - sus, my man - na be!
2. O bruised and bro - ken Bread, my life-long needs sup - ply.
3. O true life - giv - ing Vine, let me your good-ness prove.
4. For still the de - sert lies be - hind me and be - fore:

Fine


O liv - ing wa - ters, burst out of the rock for me!
As liv - ing souls are fed, so feed me, or I die.
By your life sweet-en mine, re - fresh my soul with love.
O liv - ing wa - ters, rise with - in me ev - er - more!