

Columbia United Church Of Christ

July 27, 2025
“Seek and Find”



C U C C

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**



July 27, 2025

9:30 a.m.

“Seek and Find”

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

*“Let me hear what the LORD will speak;
For They will speak peace to Their people.”
Psalm 85:8*

Welcome and Greetings

Pastor Rick

Prelude

“Elegy”

Steve Jannetti
Alexander Goedicke

Carrying in the Light of Christ

***Call to Worship**

(based on Psalm 85)

Lydia Whitacre

God has looked favorably upon us,
Forgiving our inequities and pardoning our sins.

**Restore us again, God of our Salvation!
Look upon us kindly and grant us Your peace.**

In prayer we come to you, O God;
Asking for mercy and searching for the way.

**Show us Your Steadfast Love, O God;
And Grant us your Salvation.**

Let us hear what God will speak;
For God will speak Peace to God’s people.

**Steadfast Love and Faithfulness will meet;
Righteousness and peace will kiss each other.
Faithfulness will spring up from the ground;
Come, let us worship God!**

***Hymn**

“Bring Many Names”

#11

***Opening Prayer**

Lydia Whitacre

God of love and hope; we are often lost in life, seeking something that will feed our souls and wondering what that may be. We forget Your constant presence, and that all we need to do is actively seek You in order to find You. Forgive our forgetfulness, gracious God. Remind us to be seekers of increasing knowledge, wisdom, and love. When we wonder why the door is not yet open, remind us to knock. In Jesus’ name we pray; Amen.

*Assurance of Blessing

Pastor Rick

God tells us that when we seek, we will find Them; when we knock, the door will be opened. Yet even when we forget this lesson, 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

“Seek Ye First”

***Seek Ye first the kingdom of God
And God's righteousness;
And all these things shall be added unto you.
Allelu, alleluia!***

***Ask, and it shall be given unto you;
Seek and you shall find,
Knock and the door shall be opened unto you.
Allelu, alleluia!***

*Sharing God's Gift of Peace

May God's Peace be with you!

And also with you!

Children's Time

Lena Muench

“Tell me the Stories of Jesus”

(Sung as children return to their seats)

***Tell me the stories of Jesus I love to hear;
Things I would ask him to tell me, if he were here.
Words full of kindness, deeds full of grace,
All in the love light of Jesus' face!***

Mission Moment

“The Christmas Fund”

Pastor Rick

New Testament Lesson

Colossians 2:6-7,16-19

Lydia Whitacre

The Apostle Paul continues his letter to the church in Colossae, telling them not to be concerned with the criticism of those who are wrapped up in exclusive doctrine and dogma. The Good News of Jesus has given them a more inclusive relationship with God's children that is something to celebrate.

Page #957

Gospel Lesson

Luke 11:1-13

Lydia Whitacre

Jesus encourages seekers to continue seeking God's Kingdom; for only by seeking will one actually find. Nobody has all the answers because they recite a certain creed or make certain promises; only those who continue to seek will find.

Page #845

Anthem

“Soon and Very Soon”

Crouch

Presented by: Edie Diel, Mike Pierson, Alan Posz, Adam Veteto

Sermon

“Knock, knock!”

Pastor Rick

*Hymn

“Like a Tree Beside the Waters”

#313

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,” “Trespasses” 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

“What a Covenant”

#471

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

“Prayer”

Steve Jannetti
Reinhard Glière

*Prayer of Dedication

Lydia Whitacre

God, take these gifts and use them to continue to bless Your world. Through them, may seekers and searchers find You, the source of all compassion. 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

“Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring”

Steve Jannetti
Johann Sebastian Bach

THE CHRISTMAS FUND

UCC NATIONAL MISSION OFFERING

To be collected next Sunday (7/27) or before

A Tribute to the work of The Christmas Fund by Rev. Cathy Barker

“My father, a UCC minister, died of cancer at age 54, just after Thanksgiving. I was fourteen; my brother and sister were grown and had to go back to their homes. Mom and I were lonely, confused about the future, and our financial picture was very shaky. Further, we faced a bleak Christmas . . . we didn’t even want to think about that.”

“Then came a check from the Christmas Fund. We were both deeply touched that our National Church somehow knew that we were in need and gave us this gift. It didn’t solve all our troubles, but it made it possible for us to have Christmas. We felt the love behind the gift, and that was transformative.”

“Throughout my mother’s long life, she gave faithfully and gratefully to the Christmas Fund, and I have done the same through the churches I have served as pastor. I’ve often told our story, because I want people to know how important it is to reach out in this way.”

-Rev. Cathy Barker

Last Fiscal Year (2023), gifts to The Christmas Fund enabled:

- Monthly pension supplementation for 210 retired clergy and lay employees (\$1,007,289)
- Health premium supplementation for 82 retired clergy and lay employees (\$173,745)
- Emergency grants for 67 individuals and families (\$155,992)
- Christmas “Thank You” gift checks to 511 retired clergy and lay employees (\$255,500)

We will be collecting our Christmas Fund offering next Sunday, July 27; but you can contribute any time between now and then by clicking the donation tab on our CUCC Website and selecting “The Christmas Fund” from the dropdown menu; by texting the word “GIVE” to 573.240.4041 and following the prompts, by dropping a check in the offering plate, or by mailing a check to the church office.

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

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: Steve Jannetti

steve.jannetti@yahoo.com

LODO Director: Sara Koenig

littleonesdayout@yahoo.com

Custodian: Caleb Berry

calebprenticeberry@gmail.com

Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Fred Brandenburg

TODAY IN WORSHIP:

Worship Leader: Lydia Whitacre
Ushers: Pat Forward & Mark Duncan
Greeters: Sue Ann Schaefer
Technology: Doug & Judi Privitt
Council Stewards: Lena Muench & Judi Privitt

NEXT SUNDAY IN WORSHIP:

Worship Leader: Judi Privitt
Ushers: Brenda & John Muench
Greeters: Donna Marsh
Technology: Adam Veteto
Council Stewards: Judi Privitt & Jerry Kiesling



Online Giving

COLUMBIA UCC CHURCH COUNCIL

Moderator: Jerry Kiesling
Vice Moderator: *Vacant*
Secretary: Alethea Tennill
Treasurer: Deborah Birkes
Recording Treasurer: Christine Staelens
Building & Grounds: Ted Dachroeden
Fellowship & Hospitality: Mary Lorber
Finance & Stewardship: *Vacant*
Inclusion & Affirmation: Ashley Ramirez
Little One's Day Out: Kristin Veteto
Membership & Care: Judi Privitt
Nurture & Education: Lena Muench
Outreach & Advocacy: Mahree Skala
Worship & Music: Edie Diel
Pastor: Rev. Rick Oberle

rollzierp50@gmail.com

atennill108@gmail.com

dlong@elon.edu.com

tigersfour@gmail.com

gpadoc4gd@gmail.com

eldercow@gmail.com

ashknight0628@gmail.com

kristinnoelveteto@gmail.com

judiprivitt811@gmail.com

cfg323@yahoo.com

skalamahree@yahoo.com

edie@thedandegroup.com

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!

VBS– JULY 28-30

We are looking to borrow some items to decorate our space! If you would like to donate suitcases, backpacks, coolers, “cozy coupe” cars, license plates, tires, street signs, or other “car/trip” items, please bring them to the coat room today! Please label all items and they will be returned. If you would like to help with VBS, talk to Lena or Gina!

COLUMBIA OLDER ADULTS MINISTRY

COAM is celebrating its 20th Anniversary this year with a party and a new logo reveal on July 31, 2025 at Love Coffee from 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. All are invited. RSVP to Sally @ 573-819-5043 or Sally@olderadultministry.org. COAM serves residents at Bluff Creek Terrace, The Bluffs, Lenoir Woods, The Neighborhoods, Tiger Place, Colony Pointe, The Arbors, Westbury Senior Living, and The Terrace; Rev. Sally Robinson is the Executive Director.

NEW NAMETAGS

The Membership & Care and Inclusion & Affirmation Ministry Teams have worked together this summer to roll out new nametags for the congregation! If you do not have a nametag, fill out a form by the wicker basket near the coatroom. We have many “new” folks in our community, so it is more important than ever to wear your nametag! Be sure to wear yours each Sunday!

MUSICAL TALENTS OPPORTUNITY

Share your talents this summer! Our Music Coordinator, Mike Pierson, is looking for folks to offer anthems this summer. Quartets, trios, duets, solos, whatever– we need you! To sign up, talk to Mike Pierson. (If you would like Steve Jannetti to accompany you, talk with him well in advance!) Our choirs will begin rehearsing again August 20, and will join us in worship August 24.

RALLY DAY WILL BE HERE SOON!

Mark your calendars– Rally Day will be September 7! We will kick off the new program year with Sunday School Classes, a return to our Academic Year Schedule (Sunday School at 9:00 a.m., Worship at 10:30 a.m.) communion, and a great fellowship event after church that day.

THIS WEEK’S CALENDAR

Sun	7/27	Bible Study	8:30 a.m.
		Fellowship	9:00 a.m.
		Worship (in person and livestream)	9:30 a.m.
		Pastor Rick leads worship at Lenoir	6:00 p.m.
Mon-Wed		Vacation Bible School	5:15 p.m.
Thu	7/31	Columbia Older Adult Ministries @ Love Coffee	3:00 p.m.
Sun	8/3	Bible Study	8:30 a.m.
		Fellowship	9:00 a.m.
		Worship (in person and livestream)	9:30 a.m.

Columbia UCC Prayer List

Please keep in your prayers this week . . .

Dr. Ryan Link... health issues; prayers for him and his family
Tiffany Greene... health issues
Harold Hackman... health issues
Ruth... health issues (Edie's Cousin)
Fred Wilke... health issues (Alethea's Father)
Julie Barry... health issues (Jan & Dean's Daughter)
Mark Wilson... hand injury
Cody Kile... recovery from accident
The family of Mark Hooibrink... on their loss
The family of Dylan Bracken... on their loss (James Melton's Brother-in-law)
Students and staff at Alpha Hart Lewis Elementary . . . our Partner in Education
The people of Palestine, Israel, Iran, and Ukraine
Flood victims in Texas... on their loss

Health Issues:

Glenn Duermeyer, Lloyd Mickelson, Marsha Posz, Barry Kirchhoff
Mark Fairley & Connie Hackman Fairley, Rachel Demand,
Kristan Whelihan (Russell Eveler's teacher), Ann Wilke (Alethea's Mother)
Stephanie Porter (Phillip Neale's Niece), Jennifer (Edie Diel's Niece),
Julia Marsh (Donna Marsh's Daughter),
Martha (friend of the Veteto family), Ken (Adam Veteto's Cousin),
Linda Hancik and Beverly Wilcox (friends of Corinne Remeika),
Lortisha Powell (Dorothy Vetter's friend)

Challenges in Life:

Sheila, The Koerkenmeier & Malicoat Families, Kieran Piersee

Living in Care Facilities:

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

Living in Independent Living Facilities:

Don Privitt, Alice Moon, Cliff & Sue Beckman, Linda Evans

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 tsoncasi@aol.com*

Bring Many Names

Brian Wren, 1989

Gen. 1:27

Unison

1 Bring man - y names, beau - ti - ful and good, cel - e - brate, in
 2 Strong moth - er God, work - ing night and day, plan - ning all the
 3 Warm fa - ther God, hug - ging ev - ery child, feel - ing all the
 4 Old, ach - ing God, grey with end - less care, calm - ly pierc - ing

par - a - ble and sto - ry, ho - li - ness in glo - ry, liv - ing, lov - ing God.
 won - ders of cre - a - tion, set - ting each e - qua - tion, gen - i - us at play:
 strains of hu - man liv - ing, car - ing and for - giv - ing till we're rec - on - ciled:
 e - vil's new dis - guis - es, glad of good sur - pris - es, wis - er than de - spair:

Hail and Ho - san - na! bring man - y names! great, liv - ing God!
 Hail and Ho - san - na, strong moth - er God!
 Hail and Ho - san - na, warm fa - ther God!
 Hail and Ho - san - na, old, ach - ing God!

5 Young, grow - ing God, ea - ger,
 on the move,
 say - ing no to false - hood and
 un - kind - ness,
 cry - ing out for jus - tice,
 giv - ing all you have:
 Hail and Ho - san - na,
 young, grow - ing God!

6 Great, liv - ing God, nev - er ful - ly known,
 joy - ful dark - ness far be - yond our see - ing,
 clos - er yet than breath - ing,
 ev - er - last - ing home:
 Hail and Ho - san - na,
 great, liv - ing God!

The author states that aspects of the divine are revealed in our maleness, femaleness, youth, and age in a moving, growing matrix of life in God. The tune Westchase was composed especially for this text.

Tune: WESTCHASE 9.10.11.9.
 Carlton Young, 1989

Colossians 2: 6-7,16-19

6 As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to walk in him,
7 rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

16 Therefore, do not let anyone condemn you in matters of food or drink or of observing festivals, new moons, or Sabbaths.

17 These are only a shadow of what is to come, but the body belongs to Christ.

18 Do not let anyone disqualify you, insisting on self-abasement and worship of angels, initiatory visions, puffed up without cause by a human way of thinking,

19 and not holding fast to the head, from whom the whole body, nourished and held together by its ligaments and tendons, grows with a growth that is from God.

Luke 11:1-13

1 He was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.”

2 So he said to them, “When you pray, say: Father, may your name be revered as holy. May your kingdom come. 3 Give us each day our daily bread.

4 And forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us. And do not bring us to the time of trial.”

5 And he said to them, “Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say to him, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves of bread,

6 for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before him.’

7 And he answers from within, ‘Do not bother me; the door has already been locked, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything.’

8 I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything out of friendship, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs.

9 “So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you.

10 For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.

11 Is there anyone among you who, if your child asked for a fish, would give a snake instead of a fish? 12 Or if the child asked for an egg, would give a scorpion?

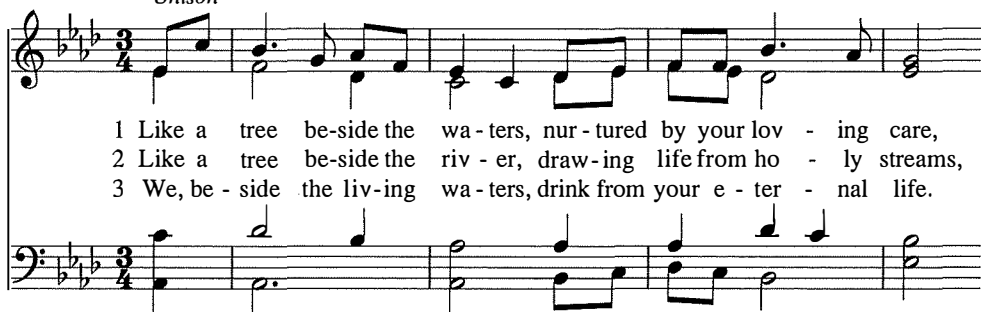
13 If you, then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”

Like a Tree beside the Waters

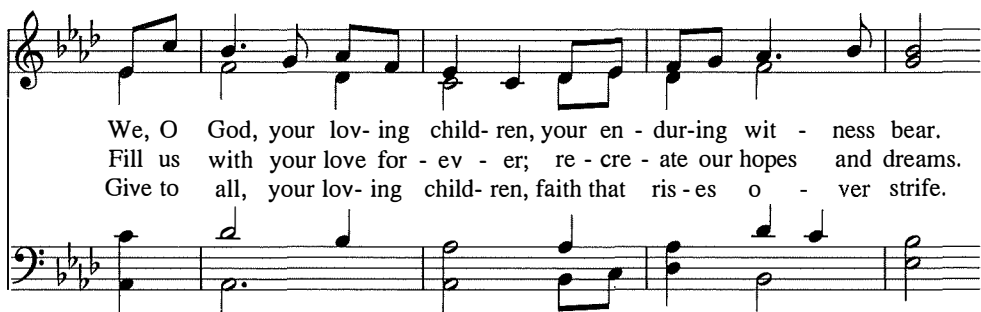
Jer. 17:7-8

Unison

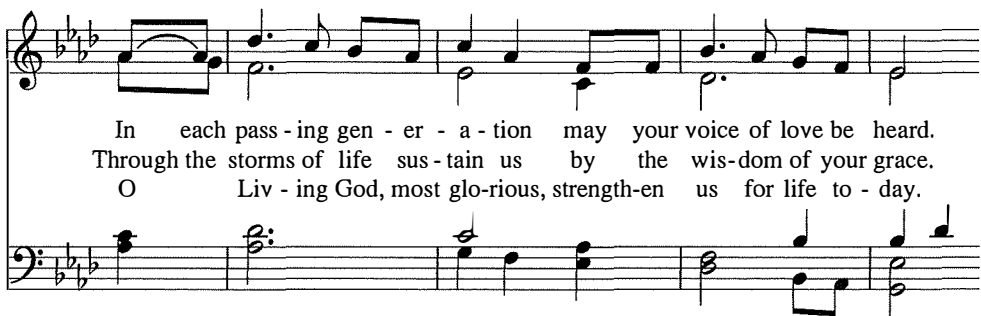
James F. D. Martin, 1992



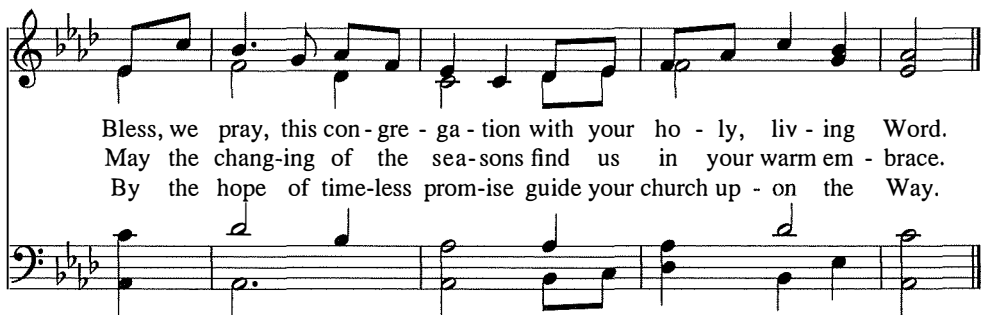
1 Like a tree be-side the wa-ters, nur-tured by your lov-ing care,
 2 Like a tree be-side the riv-er, draw-ing life from ho-ly streams,
 3 We, be-side the liv-ing wa-ters, drink from your e-ter-nal life.



We, O God, your lov-ing child-ren, your en-dur-ing wit-ness bear.
 Fill us with your love for-ev-er; re-cre-ate our hopes and dreams.
 Give to all, your lov-ing child-ren, faith that ris-es o-ver strife.



In each pass-ing gen-er-a-tion may your voice of love be heard.
 Through the storms of life sus-tain us by the wis-dom of your grace.
 O Liv-ing God, most glo-rious, strength-en us for life to-day.



Bless, we pray, this con-gre-ga-tion with your ho-ly, liv-ing Word.
 May the chang-ing of the sea-sons find us in your warm en-brace.
 By the hope of time-less prom-ise guide your church up-on the Way.

James Martin wrote this text at the invitation of Campbellsport (Wisconsin) United Church of Christ for the celebration of its 125th anniversary year in 1993. Ordained to the United Church of Christ in 1980, Martin has served as pastor to churches in Wisconsin.

Tune: SILVER CREEK 8.7.8.7.D.

Roy Hopp, 1989

Alternate tune: HYFRYDOL

Deut. 33:27

Elisha A. Hoffman, 1887; alt.

1 What a *cov - e - nant, what a joy di - vine, lean - ing on the ev - er -
 2 Oh, how sweet to walk in this pil - grim way, lean - ing on the ev - er -
 3 What have I to dread, what have I to fear, lean - ing on the ev - er -

last - ing arms. What a bless - ed - ness, what a peace is mine, lean - ing
 last - ing arms. Oh, how bright the path grows from day to day, lean - ing
 last - ing arms? I have bless - ed peace with my Sav - ior near, lean - ing

Refrain

on the ev - er - last - ing arms.
 on the ev - er - last - ing arms. Lean - ing, lean - ing, safe and se - cure from
 on the ev - er - last - ing arms.

all a - larms; lean - ing, lean - ing, lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.

*Or, "fellowship"

In a letter to two grieving friends, A. J. Showalter quoted Deuteronomy 33:27, "... underneath are the everlasting arms." Showalter then wrote this music and the refrain and sent them to E. A. Hoffman to provide the stanzas.

Tune: LEANING 5.5.9.D. with refrain
 Anthony J. Showalter, 1887