

Columbia United Church Of Christ

May 4, 2025

“Graduate Recognition”



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 4, 2025

10:30 a.m.

"Graduation"

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

"... Give thanks to God's Holy Name" -Psalm 30:4

Welcome and Greetings

Pastor Rick

Prelude

"Minuet"

Steve Jannetti

George Frederic Handel

Carrying in the Light of Christ

*Call to Worship

Lena Muench

Sing Praise to God!

Give thanks to God's Holy Name!

God's favor is with us all of our lives.

Weeping may linger for the night;

But God brings joy with the morning.

In our prosperity, we often turn our backs on God;
Not remembering all our strength comes from God.

But soon we remember;

God is the source of all our joy.

God has turned our mourning into dancing;

God has clothed us with joy, so that our souls may praise God.

We will give thanks to God forever!

Come, let us worship God!

*Hymn

"Alleluia! Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven"

#243

*Opening Prayer

Lena Muench

O God of justice and passion; in our world, we often face obstacles that seem insurmountable. From the pressures of academic achievement to the oppression of systemic injustice, it is easy for us to let the fears of our world overpower us. But we know that You are with us, giving us hope, strength, and the ability to persevere. Remind us of Your love for all creation, and the ways You call us to embody Your joy. Teach us to be students of the light, that we may shine that light for others to see. We are Your disciples; give us the courage to live into that discipleship. In Jesus' name we pray; Amen.

*Assurance of Blessing

Pastor Rick

Jesus calls on us to be shepherds of God's sheep; God calls us to proclaim God's joy. But even when we forget these mandates, 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

“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

May God's Peace be with you!

And also with you!

Children's Time

Pastor Rick

“Halle, Halle, Halle”

(Sung as children return to their seats)

*Halle, Halle, Halle-lu-ja!
Halle, Halle, Halle-lu-ja!
Halle, Halle, Halle-lu-ja!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!*

Mission Moment

“Church World Service Blankets”

Mark Duncan

Recognition of Graduates

Lena Muench

High School:

*Abby Dennis, Liam Johnson, Zabibu Kibaro,
Kennedy Lucas, Addison Melton, Brandon Schoeneberg*

College:

*Hayley Dennis, Marcella Dolezal Hope Keithahn,
Shelby Oberle, Ember Piersee, Casey Wood*

Recognition of 2025 Scholarship Recipients

Jerry Kiesling

*Kaden Lucas (Mizzou),
Ember Piersee (Missouri State University)*

The CUCC Scholarship Fund was originally established in 1972 as the Memorial Education Fund, honoring the lives of Professor H. H. Krusekopf, Nancy Krusekopf, Elsa Nagel, and in later years Seth Brandenburg, Wesley Kirchhoff, and Rachel Kirchhoff. The purpose was to support the education and training of ministerial students, teachers, and leaders of Christian Education. In October, 2019, this fund was reestablished as The CUCC Scholarship Fund to expand the scope of awards to continuing education in general, beyond formal ministry training.

New Testament Lesson

Acts 9:1-22

Lena Muench

Paul, the man who persecuted the Jews but would soon become an Apostle, lived on the dark side of the force. But Jesus appeared in a blinding light and appealed to his faith; and Paul soon became an agent of the light side of the force, proclaiming Jesus' wisdom and converting many to become followers of The Way.

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Gospel Lesson

John 21:15-17

Lena Muench

In a post-Resurrection visit, Jesus appears on the beach and hosts a beach party BBQ for his friends. After they ate, Jesus asks Peter three times about his love, and commands Peter to feed his sheep. This command is repeated three times to convey the importance of this directive. We call Jesus the Good Shepherd, but we are also called to be shepherds.

Page #884

Anthem

"I Trust in Thee"

Celebration Singers

Casey Wood

Sermon

"A New Hope"

Pastor Rick

*Hymn

"Now, in the Days of Youth"

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Invitation to Communion

Jesus reached across human borders and boundaries, seeing in everyone a common heritage as a child of God. Whether they were a child, a tax collector, a Samaritan, or a leper, even 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.

As we gather around the communion table, God's love is gloriously revealed most clearly to us. 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. During the hymn, our children are invited to come forward via the center aisle and receive a blessing from Pastor Rick.

Institution; Fraction; Distribution

Communion Music

"Etude in G Minor"

Steve Jannetti
Moritz Moszkowski

*Prayer of Thanksgiving

Pastor Rick

God of joy; as we come to this table, we reflect on the blessings You have given us, and the call You place before us to serve. We pray that this meal might energize us, so we can go out into Your world and be effective stewards of Your Creation. Fire us up and send us forth from this table, speaking Your word and doing Your work. Open our eyes to Your blessings, and remind us of what truly matters in life; glorifying You. Now we gather, Creator God, as one family, singing the prayer that You taught us,

*The LORD's Prayer *(sung by the congregation, led by Casey Wood)*

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

"Evening Song"

Steve Jannetti
Aram Khachaturian

*Prayer of Dedication

Pastor Rick

*Benediction

Pastor Rick

*Response

"God the Spirit, Guide and Guardian"
***Christ, our Savior, sovereign, shepherd,
Word made flesh, love crucified,
Teacher, healer, suffering servant,
Friend of sinners, foe of pride;
Give to those who lead Your people
Fresh anointing of Your grace;
Send us forth as bold apostles
To Your church in every place.***

*Postlude

"Marche"

Steve Jannetti
Lefebure-Wely

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
Student Pastor: Shelly Adams shellyraeadams@gmail.com
Admin. Assistant: Alexandra Roper office@columbiaucc.com
Moderator: Kurt Heine heinekurt@gmail.com
Music Coordinator: Casey Wood caseyseanwood@gmail.com
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: Lena Muench
Ushers: Keith Birkes & Deborah Long Birkes
Greeters: Pat Forward
Technology: Lorry Dreier & Brent Mareks
Council Stewards: Lena Muench & Kristin Veteto

NEXT SUNDAY IN WORSHIP:

Worship Leader: Lindsey Oberle
Ushers: Corinne & Joe Remika
Greeters: Donna Marsh
Technology: Josh Muench & Ted Dachroeden
Council Stewards: Mary Lorber



Online giving

COLUMBIA UCC CHURCH COUNCIL

Moderator: Kurt Heine heinekurt@gmail.com
Vice Moderator: Jerry Kiesling rollzierp50@gmail.com
Secretary: Alethea Tennill atennill108@gmail.com
Treasurer: Deborah Birkes dlong@elonedu.com
Recording Treasurer: Christine Staelens tigersfour@gmail.com
Building & Grounds: Ted Dachroeden gpadoc4gd@gmail.com
Fellowship & Hospitality: Mary Lorber eldercow@gmail.com
Finance & Stewardship: Shelly Adams shellyraeadams@gmail.com
Inclusion & Affirmation: Tricia Price tricialprice@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: Mark Duncan markduncan2@mchsi.com
Worship & Music: Edie Diel edie@thedandegroup.com
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!

TEAM EARTH LUNCH AND LEARN 5/4

Our next Team Earth Lunch and Learn will be TODAY at noon! Our speaker will be talking about importance of water, how climate change is affecting it, concerns with diminishing the safety regulations regarding safe drinking water, changes regarding wastewater, etc.

HOW TO FIGHT RACISM– UNIT THREE IN MAY

We will conclude our study of the Jemar Tisby book, “How to Fight Racism” Sundays in May. We will be looking at chapters 8, 9 & 10 in the unit on “Commitment.” We will meet in the Fellowship Hall May 4, 11, & 18 at 9:00 a.m. Even if you have not read the book, come anyway! We will watch a video that covers most of the information, and have very rich discussion.

BIBLE STUDY THIS MAY– THE BOOK OF ACTS

Tuesdays in May (May 6, 13, 20 & 27), from 12:30-1:30 p.m., Pastor Rick will be hosting a Bible Study on the Book of Acts. We will talk about Peter, Paul, Stephen, Lydia and the other early disciples who expanded the message of Jesus into the first century world. Feel free to bring your lunch!

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING AND POT LUCK 5/18

Our Annual Congregational Meeting and Potluck will be May 18 at noon! Bring a dish to share, and come see what fun the Council is planning. We will vote on the new Council slate for 2025-2026 and hear about exciting new programs. Join us on May 18!

THIS WEEK’S CALENDAR

| | | | |
|-----|------|------------------------------------|----------------|
| Sun | 5/4 | Sunday School | 9:00 a.m. |
| | | Book Study- “How to Fight Racism” | 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 | 5/5 | Membership & Care Ministry Team | 5:00 p.m. |
| | | Scouting America | 7:00 p.m. |
| Tue | 5/6 | Quilters | 10:00 a.m. |
| | | Staff Meeting | 10:30 a.m. |
| | | Bible Study | 12:00 p.m. |
| | | Outreach & Advocacy Ministry Team | 6:30 p.m. |
| Wed | 5/7 | Chapel Ringers/Celebration Singers | 6:00/7:00 p.m. |
| Thu | 5/8 | Women’s Fellowship | 9:30 a.m. |
| Sun | 5/11 | <i>Mother’s Day</i> | |
| | | Sunday School | 9:00 a.m. |
| | | Book Study- “How to Fight Racism” | 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

Eloy Montenegro... mourning the loss of his mother

Jerry Kiesling... mourning the loss of his uncle

Walter Schroeder... health issues

Barry Kirchhoff... health issues

Joan Grout... health issues (Sue Ann Schaefer's cousin)

Students and staff at Alpha Hart Lewis Elementary . . . our partnership friend

The people of Palestine, Israel, and Ukraine

Health Issues:

Lloyd Mickelson, Lauren Helmreich

Mark Fairley & Connie Hackman Fairley

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), 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, Harold Hackman

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***

Alleluia! Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven


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*Christopher Wordsworth, 1872; alt.**Matt. 28:5-8; Rom. 5:21; 6:4-11; 1 Cor. 15:20-22*



1 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Hearts to heaven and voic - es raise;
 2 Now the i - ron bars are bro - ken, Christ from death to life is born;
 3 Christ is ris - en, we are ris - en; shed up - on us heav - en - ly grace,
 4 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Glo - ry to the God of joy;



Sing to God a hymn of glad - ness, sing to God a hymn of praise.
 Glo - rious life, and life im - mor - tal on this ho - ly Eas - ter morn;
 Rain and dew, and gleams of glo - ry from the bright - ness of your face;
 Al - le - lu - ia to the Sav - ior who came death's bonds to de - stroy;



Je - sus on the cross as Sav - ior for the world's sal - va - tion bled;
 Christ has tri - umphed, and we con - quer by God's lib - er - at - ing deed;
 That we, with our hearts in heav - en, here on earth may fruit - ful be,
 Al - le - lu - ia to the Spir - it, Fount of love and sanc - ti - ty;



But the cru - ci - fied Re - deem - er now is ris - en from the dead!
 Now the Christ with us a - bid - ing to e - ter - nal life shall lead.
 And by an - gel hands be gath - ered, and be yours e - ter - nal - ly.
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! To the Tri - une Maj - es - ty.

Christopher Wordsworth, gifted nephew of poet William Wordsworth, served the Church of England successively as canon at Westminster, parish priest in Berkshire, and, finally, bishop of Lincoln. This Easter hymn is one of his most enduring.

Tune: WEISSE FLAGGEN 8.7.8.7.D.
 Tochter Zion, Cologne, 1741
 Alternate tune: HYFRYDOL

Acts 9:1-22

1 Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest

2 and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.

3 Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him.

4 He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?"

5 He asked, "Who are you, Lord?" The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting.

6 But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do."

7 The men who were traveling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one.

8 Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus.

9 For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

10 Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." He answered, "Here I am, Lord."

11 The Lord said to him, "Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying,

12 and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight."

13 But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem;

14 and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name."

15 But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before Gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel;

16 I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.”

17 So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, “Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.”

18 And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized,

19 and after taking some food, he regained his strength. For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus,

20 and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, “He is the Son of God.”

21 All who heard him were amazed and said, “Is not this the man who made havoc in Jerusalem among those who invoked this name? And has he not come here for the purpose of bringing them bound before the chief priests?”

22 Saul became increasingly more powerful and confounded the Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that Jesus was the Messiah.

John 21:15-17

15 When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my lambs.”

16 A second time he said to him, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Tend my sheep.”

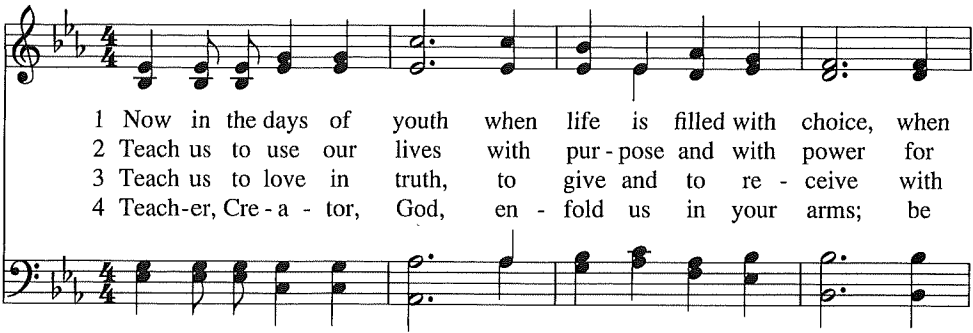
17 He said to him the third time, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, “Do you love me?” And he said to him, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep.

Now in the Days of Youth

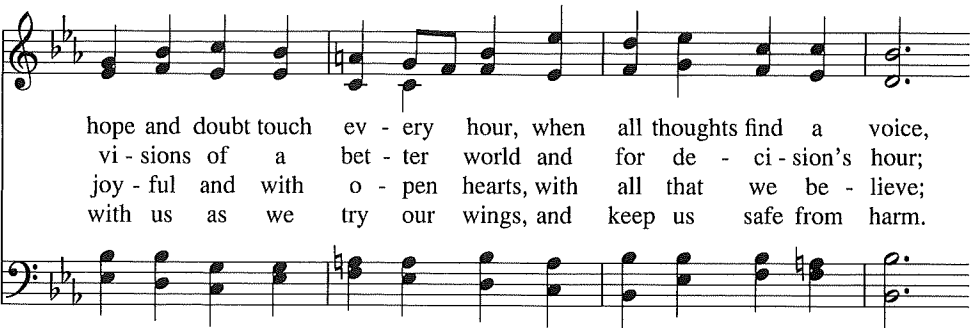
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Walter J. Mathams, 1913; alt.
Adapt. Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1992

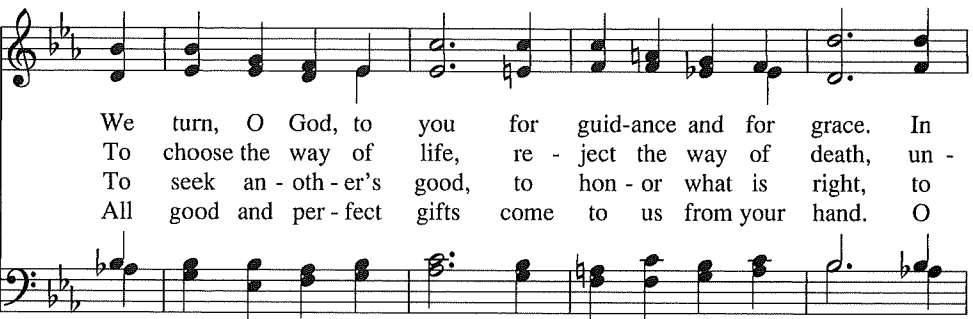
Eccles. 12:1; 1 Cor. 16:13; Deut. 30:19-20



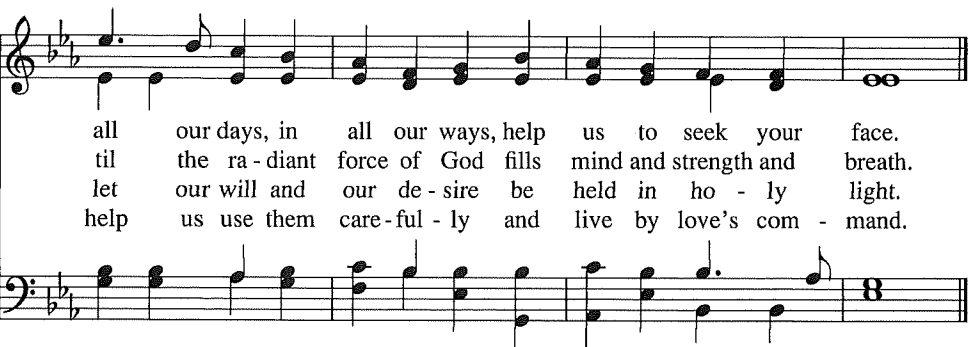
1 Now in the days of youth when life is filled with choice, when
2 Teach us to use our lives with pur - pose and with power for
3 Teach us to love in truth, to give and to re - ceive with
4 Teach-er, Cre - a - tor, God, en - fold us in your arms; be



hope and doubt touch ev - ery hour, when all thoughts find a voice,
vi - sions of a bet - ter world and for de - ci - sion's hour;
joy - ful and with o - pen hearts, with all that we be - lieve;
with us as we try our wings, and keep us safe from harm.



We turn, O God, to you for guid-ance and for grace. In
To choose the way of life, re - ject the way of death, un -
To seek an - oth - er's good, to hon - or what is right, to
All good and per - fect gifts come to us from your hand. O



all our days, in all our ways, help us to seek your face.
til the ra - dian - t force of God fills mind and strength and breath.
let our will and our de - sire be held in ho - ly light.
help us use them care - ful - ly and live by love's com - mand.

When the Rev. Walter J. Mathams of London wrote this hymn for use at Christian Endeavor and Sunday School conventions, he did not realize it would receive wide circulation. It was introduced in the United States in 1913 in Worship and Song.

Tune: DIADEMATA S.M.D.
George J. Elvey, 1868

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:

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.

Fine



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.



Green Team - Endangered Species

May 16 is Endangered Species Day. Around the world, people recognize this day by learning about and taking actions to protect threatened and endangered species. As part of Columbia UCC's recognition of this day, we will have bulletin inserts, regarding animals, every Sunday this month.

Today we have a history lesson on zoos. The word 'zoo' is short for 'zoological park'. People have kept wild animals for thousands of years; those collections did not resemble what we think of zoos today. Indeed, the first zoos were created as private collections by the wealthy to show their power. Lions were often the kingpin of these menageries.

Unfortunately, there was no concept of conservation back then. The natural world was considered 'inexhaustible' and thus little care was taken as to the health and wellbeing of the confiscated wildlife. It wasn't until after WWII that zoos began to transform into what we consider a zoo to be today. Realization had set in that nature was not inexhaustible. Conservation became important and facilities began researching and educating themselves and the public on proper housing, food, medical attention, and general care of the zoo inhabitants. (Source:noahsarkzoofarm.co.uk)

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

JULY 28-30
5:15-8:15 PM

ATTENDEES:
AGES 3 THROUGH
FINISHING 5TH GRADE

VOLUNTEERS:
FINISHING 6TH GRADE
THROUGH ADULT

**WE'LL
TAKE
CARE OF
DINNER!**

T-SHIRTS!!!
(REGISTER BY 7/1)

CUCC.MYCOKESBURYVBS.COM

