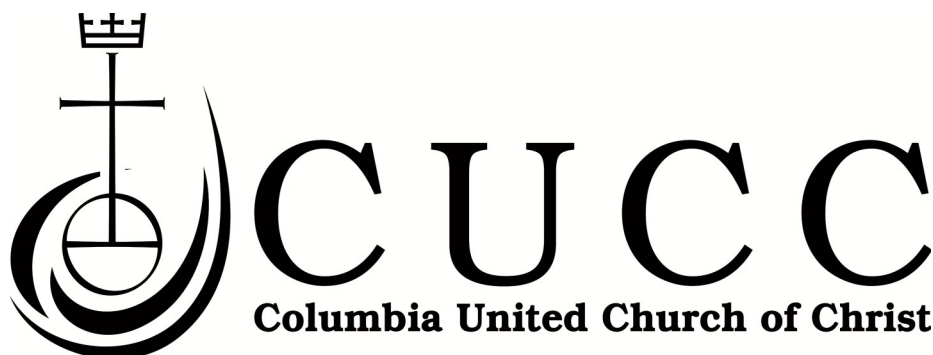


Columbia United Church Of Christ

August 23, 2026
"Rally Day"



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**



August 23, 2026

10:30 a.m.

"Rally Day"

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

*"Our help is in the name of the LORD,
Who made heaven and earth." -Psalm 124:8*

Welcome and Greetings

Pastor Rick

Prelude

"Morning Has Broken"

Arr. Derek Haydn

Linda Neale & Lena Muench, flute; Jo Ellen Grace, piano

Carrying in the Light of Christ

*Call to Worship

(based on Psalm 124)

Ashley Ramirez

Challenges sweep over us; destruction all around.

We cry out; where is God in the midst of this?

**Our help is in the name of the LORD,
Who made heaven and earth!**

Stresses of the world threaten to overcome us;

Yet we escape, as a bird escaping the snare of the fowlers.

**Our help is in the name of the LORD,
Who made heaven and earth!**

Bless God's Holy name, present among us!

Bless God's Steadfast presence, on our side always!

**Our help is in the name of the LORD,
Who made heaven and earth!**

Come, let us worship God!

*Hymn

"We Gather Together"

#421

*Opening Prayer

Ashley Ramirez

God of all things new and challenging, we come to You today anticipating another academic year. We stand ready to embrace the joy and the trials this academic year brings us. As we do, we pray that we may be open to embracing all the gifts You have given us, and use them to Your glory. Forgive the times we fall short in that endeavor. Remind us that everyone we meet as we go about our year is a child of Yours; and help us to see You reflected in the presence of each one. We have been blessed; remind us always to be blessings in Your world. In Jesus' name we pray; Amen.

*Assurance of Blessing

Pastor Rick

God gifts us each with many blessings, and calls us to use them in Their service. But even when we fail to do so, 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

“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!***

*Sharing God's Gift of Peace

Pastor Rick

May God's Peace be with you!

And also with you!

Children's Time

Pastor Rick

“This Little Light of Mine”

#524

(Sung as children return to their seats)

***This little light of mine; I'm gonna let it shine!
This little light of mine; I'm gonna let it shine!
This little light of mine; I'm gonna let it shine!
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine!***

Mission Moment “MO Reading and Writing Kits”

Mark Duncan

Blessing the New School Year

*Everyone involved in Academic Instruction
will be invited to stand to receive a blessing
on their involvement in the new school year.
Administrators, Faculty and Staff of all districts
will be asked to stand first to receive a blessing;
then we will invite the students to come forward
and join Pastor Rick on the chancel for their blessing.*

Exhortation; Blessings;

Prayer; Sending Forth

New Testament Lesson

Romans 12:3-8

Ashley Ramirez

The Apostle Paul, writing to the church in Rome, appeals to each member to embrace their individual gifts. They all have their strengths and he implores them to use those strengths to their ability and not try to do things that do not speak to their strength. In essence, he is telling them to know their job and do it well.

Page #922

Jesus asks his disciples who others say he is. Using this line of questioning, the disciples come to their own conclusions about his identity. Jesus encourages them to live into their identity as children of God as well. "Who do YOU say I am?"

Page #798

Anthem

"Wake Up Church, Wake Up" Celebration Singers
Pepper Choplin

Sermon

"Who do YOU say I am?"

Pastor Rick

*Hymn

"Now, in the Days of Youth"

#350

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.

*Hymn

"God, Speak to Me that I May Speak"

#531

Sharing our Announcements

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

Tim Guillaume

*Prayer of Dedication

Ashley Ramirez

Thank you, God, for the gifts You have given us and for consecrating us to be Your servant leaders in the world. Take these talents that we offer you today. May they be used to embrace Your children, to change Your world for the better, and to bring about Your Kingdom of hope, peace and 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

Tim Guillaume

CROP WALK 2026

No one in this world should be hungry. That's why the CROP Hunger Walk is more than just a yearly gathering. It's a movement that is 57 years strong, made up of compassionate people in more than 500 communities across the U.S. We, in Columbia, are in good company. The funds we raise together will provide lifesaving support including emergency food and resources, along with the seeds, tools and programs that will help families feed themselves.

The Columbia CROP WALK will be September 20 at The Gordon Shelter in Stephens Lake Park. Registration starts at 12:30 p.m. The walk will start at 1:00 p.m. At 1:30 p.m. a reception will begin.

Join the Columbia UCC Team by scanning the QR code below or going to <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/chw/cucc-office>. Select “Join our Team” and follow the instructions from there. You are also able to donate directly to the CROP Walk on this site- showing in real time how much Columbia UCC is raising for our local and global neighbors!

For help or if you have any questions, contact Barry Kirchhoff or the church office.



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

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: Ashley Ramirez

Song Leader: Mike Pierson

Ushers: Joe & Corinne Remeika

Greeters: Jessica Lucas

Technology: John Graves & Carissa Graves

Council Stewards: Christine Staelens & Mary Lorber

NEXT SUNDAY IN WORSHIP:

Worship Leader: Judi Privitt

Song Leader: Sarah Young

Ushers: John & Brenda Muench

Greeters: Kitty Rogers

Technology: Doug Privitt & Lorry Dreier

Council Stewards: Aimee Andersen & Judi Privitt

Online Giving



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

Pastor:

Rev. Rick Oberle

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

YOUTH GATHERING - 8/23

CUCC Youth will be gathering at Pastor Rick's house today for a pizza and games party from 4:00-7:00 p.m.! Youth in 6th-12th grades are welcome. Talk to Pastor Rick for more information!

FOOD BANK RESUMES - 8/25

After a summer hiatus, our monthly service date at the Food Bank resumes this week! We will be serving on 8/25 starting at 5:30 p.m. To register, check out the link on the Friday email, or talk to Mahree Skala.

YOUNG ADULT/COLEGE MINISTRY BEGINS - 8/30

A new CUCC Young Adult/College Ministry faith formation program will be starting up on 8/30! We will gather on that day for a backyard BBQ at Rev. Mike & Lilly Williams' house. For info, talk to Rev. Mike Williams!

TIDES COLLEGE COLLECTIVE

TIDES College Collective is a group of progressive, inclusive college ministries at local churches working together to live out our love for everyone. This fall, we are coming together once a month for worship, rotating among our different churches. If you are curious about different worship traditions, looking for community, or just want to meet new people TIDES is for you! The first worship gathering is 9/1 at 7:00 p.m. Questions? Talk to Pastor Rick.

LABOR DAY OPEN HOUSE AT THE OBERLE'S - 9/7

You are invited to a Labor Day open house on Monday, 9/7, from 12:00-4:00 p.m. at Pastor Rick and Kim's house! We will be grilling brats and chicken, and will have a few sides. Feel free to bring a side dish, fruit, or dessert if you wish. We will have yard games along with food. 3905 Snow Leopard Drive.

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Sun	8/23	<i>RALLY DAY!</i>	
		Bible Study/Sunday School	9:00 a.m.
		Fellowship	10:00 a.m.
		Worship (in person and livestream)	10:30 a.m.
		Fellowship Meal	12:00 p.m.
		Youth Group at Pastor Rick's house	4:00 p.m.
Mon	8/24	Scouts BBQ	6:00 p.m.
Tue	8/25	Quilters	10:00 a.m.
		Staff Meeting	10:00 a.m.
		Food Bank	5:30 p.m.
		Finance & Stewardship Ministry Team	5:45 p.m.
Wed	8/26	Chapel Ringers/Celebration Singers	6:00/7:00 p.m.
		Confirmation Class	7:15 p.m.
Sun	8/30	Bible Study/Sunday School	9:00 a.m.
		Fellowship	10:00 a.m.
		Worship (in person and livestream)	10:30 a.m.
		Young Adult/College Ministry BBQ	5:00 p.m.

Columbia UCC Prayer List

Please keep in your prayers this week . . .

Jan (Donna's Friend)... health issues

Gary Ehrhardt... recovering from surgery

Alethea Tennill... recovering from broken leg

Fred Wilke... on hospice (Alethea's Father)

Rev. Carolyn Held.... Health issues (Edie's niece)

Joyce Andersen... health issues (Aimee Andersen's mother-in-law)

Kenny Holtgrewe... recovering well from surgery (Marsha Posz's Father)

Mary Jane Johnson... health issues (Joe Remeika's Sister)

Cassandra Gartner... health issues (Edie's friend)

The people of Colombia... recovering from disaster

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

All those whose lives are affected by state sanctioned terrorism including:

Owen Ramsingh and family,

The families of Renee Good, Alex Pretti, Lorenzo Salgado, Sebastian Guerrero,
Jack and Claudia (Pastor Rick's friends), and so many others

Our US Military... deployed in the Middle East

Health Issues:

Jeff Kies, Barry Kirchhoff, Glenn Duermeyer, Evie Marcks,

Julia Marsh (Donna Marsh's Daughter),

Kenny & Jane Holtgrewe (Marsha Posz's parents),

Mark & Connie Fairley, Cody Kile, Dr. Ryan Link;

Martha (friend of the Veteto family), Ken (Adam Veteto's Cousin);

Marilyn Coronado & Beverly Wilcox (Corinne Remeika's friends)

Challenges in Life:

Sheila, The Koerkenmeier & Malicoat Families

Living in Assisted Living Facilities:

Gary Ehrhardt, Vernie Blank, Julie Roper, Dean & Jan Barry

Living in Independent Living Facilities:

Don Privitt, Sue Beckman, Linda Evans, Walter & Patty Schroeder

Serving us in the military:

Christopher Tennill, Dane Wilson, Aaron Dachroeden

Garrett Holtgrewe... (Marsh Posz's Nephew)

Pregnancies in our Church Family:

Kristin & Adam Veteto

*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*

Romans 12:3-8

3 For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned.

4 For as in one body we have many members and not all the members have the same function,

5 so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another.

6 We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; 7 ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching;

8 the encourager, in encouragement; the giver, in sincerity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

Matthew 16:13-20

13 Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?”

14 And they said, “Some say John the Baptist but others Elijah and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”

15 He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” 16 Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.”

17 And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you but my Father in heaven.

18 And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it.

19 I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”

20 Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.,

We Gather Together

Netherlands folk hymn, 16th century

Transl. Theodore Baker, 1894

Adapt. Lavon Bayler, 1992

1 We gath-er to-geth-er
to ask for God's bless-ing,
to live in com-mu-ni-ty,
seek-ing God's will.
We come now, as sis-ters
and broth-ers, con-fess-ing
the sins that di-vide
and the wrong in us still.

2 Be-side us, for-giv-ing,
en-a-bling, sus-tain-ing,
you call us, O Sav-ior,
to life that is new.
You draw us a-way
from self-cen-tered com-plain-ing.
You lead us and guide us
in ways that are true.

3 All praise to the Spir-it,
pro-vid-er, de-fend-er.
You of-fer us free-dom,
to fol-low or stray,
Em-pow-er-ing all by
the hope you en-gen-der.
Grant wis-dom and cour-age
to fol-low your way.

The original text of this hymn was one of thanksgiving for The Netherlands' independence from Spanish domination in the sixteenth century. It has been reinterpreted for contemporary congregations by United Church of Christ minister and writer Lavon Bayler.

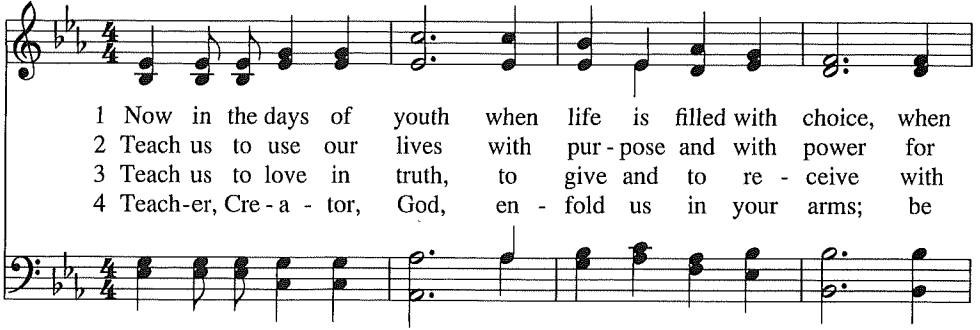
Tune: KREMSER 12.11.12.11.
16th-century Dutch melody
Arr. Edward Kremser, 1877

Now in the Days of Youth

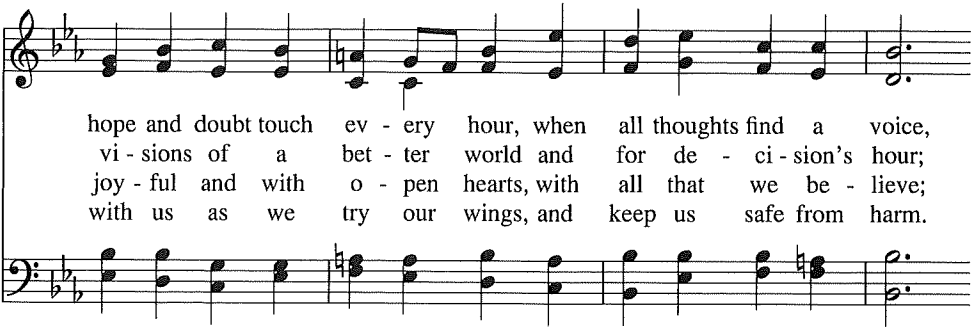
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Walter J. Mathams, 1913; alt.
Adapt. Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1992

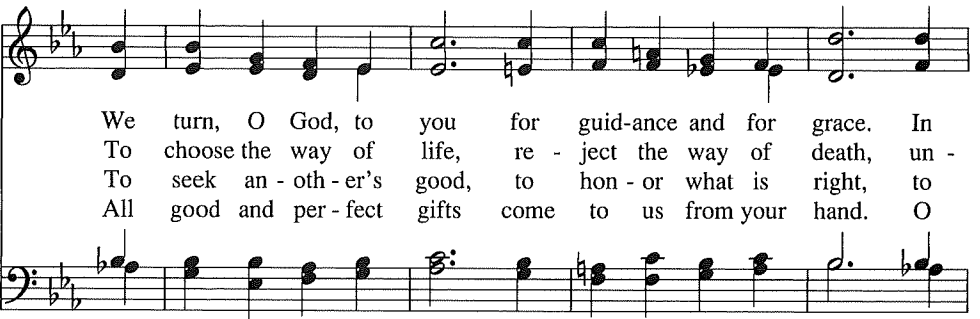
Eccles. 12:1; 1 Cor. 16:13; Deut. 30:19-20



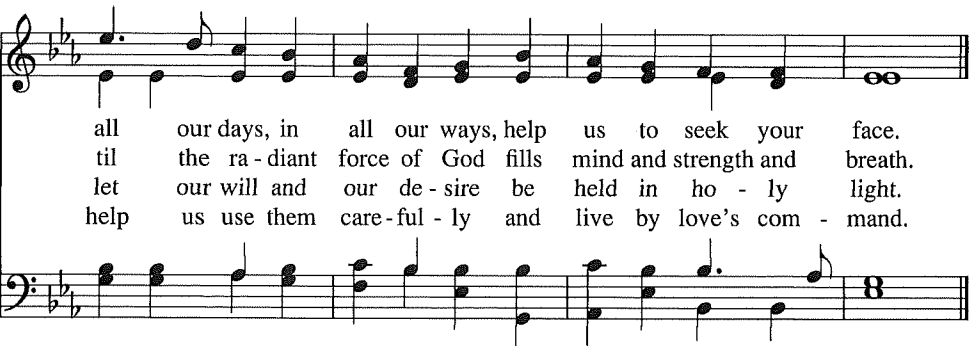
1 Now in the days of youth when life is filled with choice, when
2 Teach us to use our lives with pur - pose and with power for
3 Teach us to love in truth, to give and to re - ceive with
4 Teach-er, Cre - a - tor, God, en - fold us in your arms; be



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 - dant 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.

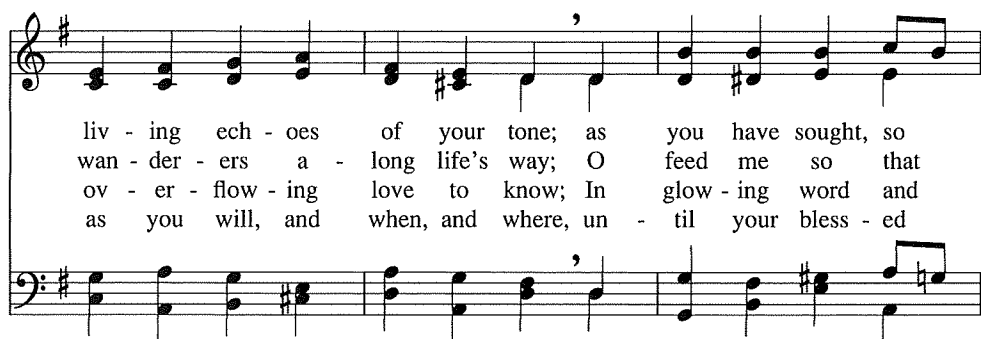
When the Rev. Walter J. Mathams of London wrote this hymn for use at Christian Endeavor and Sunday School conventions, he did not realize it would receive wide circulation. It was introduced in the United States in 1913 in Worship and Song.

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

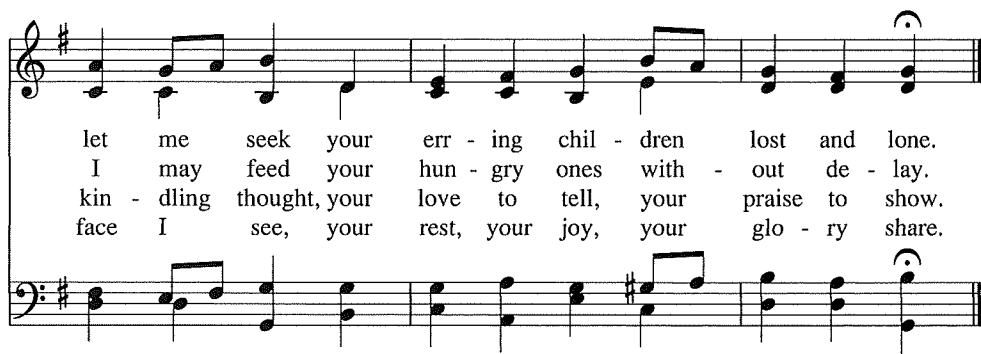
God, Speak to Me, That I May Speak

Frances Ridley Havergal, 1872; alt.


1 God, speak to me, that I may speak in
 2 O lead me, God, that I may lead some
 3 O fill me with your full - ness, God, your
 4 O use me, God, use ev - en me just



liv - ing ech - oes of your tone; as you have sought, so
 wan - der - ers a - long life's way; O feed me so that
 ov - er - flow - ing love to know; In glow - ing word and
 as you will, and when, and where, un - til your bless - ed



let me seek your err - ing chil - dren lost and lone.
 I may feed your hun - gry ones with - out de - lay.
 kin - dling thought, your love to tell, your praise to show.
 face I see, your rest, your joy, your glo - ry share.

Daughter of the English hymnwriter William H. Havergal, Frances Ridley Havergal was a gifted poet and student of several languages, including Hebrew and Greek. She also composed several hymn tunes. Canonbury was adapted from one of Robert Schumann's piano pieces.

Tune: CANONBURY L.M.
Arr. from Robert Schumann, 1872



Missouri Reading and Writing Pack

2,116 requested versus 1,299 shared in 2024

Estimated
Pack Value | **\$15**

Instructions: Place smaller items in the pencil holder and place in a 2-2.5 gallon zipper storage bag. Place completed packs in boxes labeled with **“Missouri Reading and Writing Pack”** and the quantity on the exterior.

- | | |
|--|--|
| ☐ 6 new pencils with erasers | ☐ 1 zipper pencil holder |
| ☐ 1 box of 10 markers (only 10) | ☐ 4 folders with pockets |
| ☐ 1 pair of child-sized metal scissors | ☐ 1 large eraser |
| ☐ 1 box of 24 crayons (only 24) | ☐ 2 ink pens (medium point) |
| ☐ 1, 12-inch ruler | |
| ☐ 2, 70 or 80 page spiral or tape bound notebooks | |



SEPTEMBER

20

2026

**CROP
HUNGER
WALK**

**Collecting food can donations
September 6 - 20.**

Bring cans to church on Sundays to give to Church World Service's CROP Hunger Walk. Columbia's walk will be at Stephens Lake Park at Gordon Shelter. Registration opens at 1:00 p.m. and the welcome program begins at 1:30 p.m. After the walk, there will be snacks, activities, and celebration!

Sign up here to walk!



CWS

Church World Service