

October 18, 2020

10:30 Worship

"Children's Sabbath"

** indicates those who are comfortably able may stand*

"...unless the LORD builds the house, those who build it labor in vain..."

-Psalm 127:1

Today is Children's Sabbath Sunday.

Sponsored by the Children's Defense Fund, the National Observance of Children's Sabbaths weekend unites faith communities of every religious tradition across the nation to:

- Raise awareness of problems facing children and families in our nation (such as poverty, violence, and lack of health care)*
- Explore the texts and teachings in religious traditions that call us to nurture and protect children with love and justice*
- Engage people of faith in immediate and long-term action to nurture, protect, and seek justice for children*

By participating in this multi-faith, nationwide celebration, people of faith gain the inspiration of participating in a larger movement for children and help amplify the voice of our faith communities calling for justice.

Note: The Children's Sabbath is different than a Children's Day, Youth Sunday, Tot Shabbat, or other occasions you may already celebrate. The Children's Sabbath distinctly focuses on urgent problems facing children in our nation, intergenerational participation, action-oriented follow-up, and linking places of worship across traditions nationwide. (From the Children's Sabbath website)

Gathering Music

Amy Crousore

Welcome and Greetings

Pastor Rick

Prelude

"Gypsy Dance"

Pierre McGarvey

Franz Josef Haydn

Carrying in the Light of Christ

*Call to Worship *(adapted from the Children's Defense Fund Resources)*

Pat Forward

We come with hopes;

Hopes for our children and for ourselves.

We come with hurts;

Our own and the wounds of so many children and families.

We come with faith;

We are loved by God as beloved and blessed children.

We come with doubts;

We wonder how such suffering can exist in our world.

We come for challenge;

We seek renewed vision and bold commitment to bring justice to all children.

We come to pray;

To pray for children wounded by violence and the injustice of poverty, and to pray for ourselves, for the strength to respond.

We come to praise;

To praise the Holy for the gift of children.

Come, let us celebrate the Children's Sabbath.

Come, let us worship God!

*Opening Hymn

"Now, In the Days of Youth"

NCH #350

*Opening Prayer

(adapted from the Children's Defense Fund Resources)

Pat Forward

Creator God, eternal source of love and justice, we gather here from many places, different traditions, and diverse experiences. We give you thanks for the richness of our diversity and the treasured uniqueness of each one here. We also gather here, brought together by what unites us and makes us one: concern for children in need; those left behind by inequitable education, pressed down by poverty, passed over for health care, pushed along a pipeline to prison. We give you thanks for planting in each of us a heart that cares for your most vulnerable children and a passion for justice so that every child may grow and flourish. We give you thanks for our shared concern and commitment. Use us now, we pray, to seek justice and protect children so that each is educated and encouraged, prepared for a future bright with promise. We ask these prayers in Jesus' name; Amen.

*Assurance of Blessing

Pastor Rick

Jesus teaches us that the most vulnerable, least regarded, overlooked and oppressed ones are lifted up in God's Kingdom; yet children in our society are still fighting every day for justice and dignity. Even so, God forgives our sins of commission and omission. We are all God's children, blessed and beloved, forgiven and free! 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!**

Children's Time

Pastor Rick

Response

"I Have Decided to follow Jesus"

**I have decided to follow Jesus!
I have decided to follow Jesus!
I have decided to follow Jesus!
No turning back, no turning back.
The world behind me, the cross before me
The world behind me, the cross before me
The world behind me, the cross before me
No turning back, no turning back.**

Living our Mission “Festival of Sharing” Mahree Skala

Stewardship Moment “Youth and Leaders at CUCC” Pat Forward

Anthem “God Who Touches Earth with Beauty” Ed Rollins
Butler

Old Testament Lesson: Joshua 1:1-9 Pat Forward
After the death of Moses, young leader Joshua takes over as leader of the Israelites; and he leads them into the Promised Land.

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 18:1-14 Pat Forward
Jesus uses children as a sermon illustration, telling his disciples that they must change and become like children to become truly great in the world. He also challenges them to lift up the oppressed, for to them belongs the Kingdom of Heaven.

Sermon: “A Just World for All: Children” Pastor Rick

*Meditation Hymn “I Come with Joy a Child of God” NCH #349
In recognition of Children’s Sabbath Sunday, our children and youth will be accompanying the congregation, playing the tune for our hymn on the bells.

Community Prayer & Silent Prayer *(adapted from the Children’s Defense Fund Resources)*

The LORD’s Prayer

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

Prayer Response “Grant Us Peace”
**Hear our Prayer, O Lord!
Hear our prayer, O Lord!
Hear our Prayer, O Lord!
And Grant us Thy Peace! A-men!**

Sharing our Announcements of Community Life Pastor Rick

Presenting our Gifts “Mysterious Ballet” Felix McGarvey
Nancy Faber

*To give online text “GIVE” to 573.240.4041
and follow the prompts
You can also give online by visiting our website:
www.columbiaucc.com*



*Response “For the Fruit of All Creation” NCH #425
**For the Fruit of all Creation, Thanks be to God!
For God’s gifts to every nation, Thanks be to God!
For the wonders that astound us,
for the truths that still confound us,
Most of all that love has found us, Thanks be to God!**

*Prayer of Dedication

Pat Forward

God of love; you tell us that our call is to serve the least, the lost, the forgotten and the oppressed. You challenge us to be servants of all. In that manner, we offer our gifts today. We pray that these gifts may be used to lift up all of your children, restoring their dignity and affirming their value; bringing your kingdom to reality here on earth. 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

"Rejoice in the LORD"

Amy Crousore
James Mansfield

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.


*CUCC celebrates God's boundless love by:
Welcoming all God's People;
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*

Now in the Days of Youth



350

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

I Come with Joy

Brian Wren, 1968; rev. 1982, 1994

Unison

1 I come with joy, a child of God, for - giv - en, loved, and
 2 I come with Chris - tians far and near to find, as all are
 3 As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share, each proud di - vi - sion
 4 And thus we meet, and bet - ter know the Pres - ence, ev - er
 5 To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound, in friend - ship we will

free, The life of Je - sus to re - call, in
 fed, The new com - mu - ni - ty of love in
 ends. The love that made us, makes us one, and
 near, And join our hearts and sing with joy that
 stay, And go with joy to love the world and

love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.
 Christ's com - mu - nion bread, in Christ's com - mu - nion bread.
 strang - ers now are friends, and strang - ers now are friends.
 Christ is ris - en here, that Christ is ris - en here.
 live the way we pray, and live the way we pray.

One of Brian Wren's most widely published texts, this hymn was originally written to "sum up a series of sermons on the meaning of communion. It tries to use simple words to suggest important theological themes."

Tune: DOVE OF PEACE 8.6.8.6.6.
 Southern Harmony, 1835
 Arr. Austin Lovelace, 1977