



## **UNITED CHURCH ON THE GREEN**

In the Heart of New Haven, open to all Seekers  
An Open and Affirming Congregation of the  
United Church of Christ

In a world where Christianity is too often associated with intolerance, exclusion, and hate, the mission of United Church on the Green is to proclaim Christ through faith, hope, and love. We are a community of many races, ethnic backgrounds, religious experiences, ages, sexual orientations, and gender identities. No matter where you are on your journey of faith, you will have a home here at United Church on the Green.

January 18, 2026

10:00AM

Epiphany 2A

**We Gather as Church**

\*Please stand as you are able

**PRELUDE**

*Let Us Cheer the Weary Traveler*  
*I'm Troubled in My Mind*  
*I Know the Lord Has Laid His Hands on Me*  
From *Ten Spirituals for Piano Solo*

Florence B. Price

(1887-1953)

**WORDS OF WELCOME**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: As we come today to worship and to remember

**All: We ask that your spirit of justice and mercy would be in this place.**

One: As we celebrate the memory of one who came as a voice in the wilderness proclaiming hope and jubilee in a dark time of oppression.

**All: We ask that your spirit of courage and hope would be in this place.**

One: Recalling his clarion call that we be drum majors of justice and peace.

**All: We ask that your spirit which calls us to the struggle of good against the powers of evil in our world.**

One: Answering your call to all people of goodwill to seek a better world.

**All: We speak the name Martin Luther King, Jr. May his memory be a blessing bringing courage and strength.**

**Amen.**

\*HYMN AAHH#405

*Keep Hope Alive*

Donald Vails

The musical score consists of four staves of music. The top two staves are in treble clef, and the bottom two are in bass clef. The key signature is three flats. The time signature is 3/4. The lyrics are integrated into the music, appearing below the notes. The first section of lyrics is "Keep hope a - live!". The second section starts with "Keep hope a -" followed by a repeat sign. The third section continues with "live!" and ends with "Don't let the dream". Measure numbers 1, 2, 3, and 4 are indicated above the staves. Measure 1 starts with a dotted half note. Measures 2 and 3 begin with a dotted half note. Measure 4 starts with a dotted half note. Measure 5 starts with a dotted half note. Measures 6 and 7 begin with a dotted half note. Measure 8 starts with a dotted half note. Measures 9 and 10 begin with a dotted half note. Measure 11 starts with a dotted half note. Measures 12 and 13 begin with a dotted half note. Measure 14 starts with a dotted half note. Measures 15 and 16 begin with a dotted half note. Measure 17 starts with a dotted half note. Measures 18 and 19 begin with a dotted half note. Measure 20 starts with a dotted half note. Measures 21 and 22 begin with a dotted half note. Measure 23 starts with a dotted half note. Measures 24 and 25 begin with a dotted half note. Measure 26 starts with a dotted half note. Measures 27 and 28 begin with a dotted half note. Measure 29 starts with a dotted half note. Measures 30 and 31 begin with a dotted half note. Measure 32 starts with a dotted half note. Measures 33 and 34 begin with a dotted half note. Measure 35 starts with a dotted half note. Measures 36 and 37 begin with a dotted half note. Measure 38 starts with a dotted half note. Measures 39 and 40 begin with a dotted half note. Measure 41 starts with a dotted half note. Measures 42 and 43 begin with a dotted half note. Measure 44 starts with a dotted half note. Measures 45 and 46 begin with a dotted half note. Measure 47 starts with a dotted half note. Measures 48 and 49 begin with a dotted half note. Measure 50 starts with a dotted half note. Measures 51 and 52 begin with a dotted half note. Measure 53 starts with a dotted half note. Measures 54 and 55 begin with a dotted half note. Measure 56 starts with a dotted half note. Measures 57 and 58 begin with a dotted half note. Measure 59 starts with a dotted half note. Measures 60 and 61 begin with a dotted half note. Measure 62 starts with a dotted half note. Measures 63 and 64 begin with a dotted half note. Measure 65 starts with a dotted half note. Measures 66 and 67 begin with a dotted half note. Measure 68 starts with a dotted half note. Measures 69 and 70 begin with a dotted half note. Measure 71 starts with a dotted half note. Measures 72 and 73 begin with a dotted half note. Measure 74 starts with a dotted half note. Measures 75 and 76 begin with a dotted half note. Measure 77 starts with a dotted half note. Measures 78 and 79 begin with a dotted half note. Measure 80 starts with a dotted half note. Measures 81 and 82 begin with a dotted half note. Measure 83 starts with a dotted half note. Measures 84 and 85 begin with a dotted half note. Measure 86 starts with a dotted half note. Measures 87 and 88 begin with a dotted half note. Measure 89 starts with a dotted half note. Measures 90 and 91 begin with a dotted half note. Measure 92 starts with a dotted half note. Measures 93 and 94 begin with a dotted half note. Measure 95 starts with a dotted half note. Measures 96 and 97 begin with a dotted half note. Measure 98 starts with a dotted half note. Measures 99 and 100 begin with a dotted half note.

die!

Got to keep hope a - live!

*Last time*

*Last time*

### GATHERING PRAYER (Unison)

Pastor Ray

We give thanks to you, Oh God, for you are good; for your steadfast love endures forever. You have redeemed us from trouble and gathered us in from the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south. When we cry to you in trouble, you bring us out of our distress.

We thank you God for your steadfast love, for your wonderful works to humankind. We lift up your name here in the congregation of the people and praise you in the assembly of the elders. We worship you here, today, together. Amen.

## CHILDREN'S GATHERING

*All children are invited to come to the front for a brief time of greeting and prayer. Afterward, children are invited to go to the children's room, or children may stay with their parents.*

### Children's Sermon and Sing-Along

if you promise to be welcoming  
then you are welcome here!  
if you keep an open heart  
an open mind and open ears!  
if you know that folks are different  
and it's nothing to fear  
then I promise you will always be  
welcome here!

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Abram Guerra

**Gracious God, you tell us to love one another—to love others the way we so naturally love ourselves. Yet each of us must admit that we have failed to do so. Jesus taught us to love our neighbors even if they don't look like us, even if they don't think like us, even if they don't love like us, even if they don't pray like us, even if they don't speak like us, even if they don't vote like us. But we have failed to love one another with no exceptions.**

*Brief period of silence*

**Forgive us Holy One, and make us again in your image of Love. Blot out our sins, renew our minds, rekindle our hearts, and guide us by Your Holy Spirit into the Love that is your will. Amen.**

## RESPONSE

*There's a Spirit of Love in This Place*

MEDEMA



1. There's a spir - it of love in this place, there's a  
(2. There's the) pres - ence of peace in this room, there's the



spir - it of love in this place. You can't  
pres - ence of peace in this room. In God's



see it, but it's there just as pre-cious as the air. There's a  
ten-der-ness is found peace that pass - es hu-man bounds. There's the



spir - it of love in this place. O al - le -  
pres - ence of peace in this room.



lu - ia, sing al - le - lu - ia! We bless your ho - ly



name. O al - le - lu - ia, sing al - le - lu - ia! There's a



spir - it of love in this place. 2. There's the place.

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Siblings in Christ, God's Spirit did not leave us after that first Pentecost. The Spirit is still with us, empowering us to know mercy and grace, forgiveness and service. In this Spirit, and through Christ, we proclaim the Good News:

**All: We are forgiven Alleluia! Amen.**

## We Listen for God's Word

### SCRIPTURE

*Amos 5:21-25*

Dan Rausch

<sup>21</sup> I hate, I despise your festivals, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.

<sup>22</sup> Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them, and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals I will not look upon. <sup>23</sup> Take away from me the noise of your songs; I will not listen to the melody of your harps. <sup>24</sup> But let justice roll down like water and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream. <sup>25</sup> Did you bring to me sacrifices and offerings the forty years in the wilderness, O house of Israel?

## \*HYMN AAHH#143

*His Eye Is on the Sparrow*

SPARROW



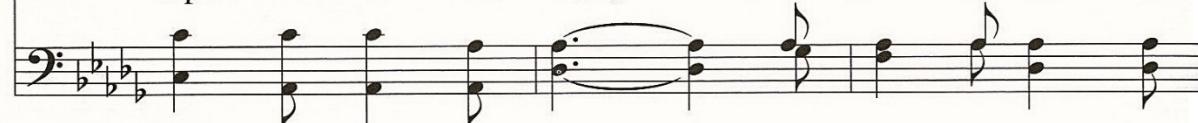
1. Why should I feel dis - cour - aged, Why should the shad - ows  
 2. "Let not your heart be trou - bled," His ten - der word I  
 3. When ev - er I am tempt - ed, When ev - er clouds a -



come, Why should my heart be lone - ly, And  
 hear, And rest - ing on His good - ness, I  
 rise, When songs give place to sigh - ing When



long for heav'n and home; When Je - sus is my  
 lose my doubts and fears; Though by the path He  
 hope with - in me dies, I draw the clos - er



por - tion? My con - stant Friend is He:  
 lead - eth, But one step I may see; His  
 to Him, From care He sets me free;



eye is on the spar - row, And I know He watch - es  
 me; His eye is on the spar - row, and I  
 know He watch - es me. I sing be-cause I'm  
 hap - py, I sing be-cause I'm free; For His  
 eye is on the spar - row, And I know He watch - es me.

SERMON

Rev. Dr. Stephen G Ray, Jr

**ANTHEM***Shelter in the Storm*

arr. Joel Raney

There's a shelter in the storm,  
There's a light in the darkest night.  
There's a rock that will stand through the ages.  
There's a shelter in the storm.

Precious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, help me stand;  
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.  
Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light.  
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**The Lord be with you... And also with you... Let us pray...**

**We join our voices to pray, rejoice and celebrate the good things of our life together and those who are celebrating their birthdays including Rev Frederick "Jerry" Streets, Angelyn Singer, Freddy Cuadrado + Tony Morales.**

**As we journey into a new year, we pray that justice and peace might rule while we are yet in the land of the living.**

**We pray for the unhoused in our own city that they might find shelter and welcome.**

**We lift special prayers for those suffering famine in our land and across the world.**

**We pray that all will see the full humanity of Your beloved children. Immigrants. Refugees. Our Queer and trans siblings.**

**We pray for our world, suffering the ravages of Climate Change.**

**Standing expectantly before an uncertain future, we pray for our children, their teachers, school staffs and administrators that they may together learn to dream of a different world.**

**We pray for our society that has so badly lost its way and that the current reign of evil will be broken.**

**We pray that as Your Church we will be a place of refuge that ever lives in the power of Hope.**

## SILENT PRAYER

## PASTORAL PRAYER

Let us join in singing with the words you taught us to pray:

### LORD'S PRAYER

**Mark Miller**

*mp*

Our God, in hea - ven, ho - ly is your name, your

*slower*

reign come, your will done, on earth as in hea - ven.

*mf*

Give us to-day our dai - ly bread, and help us for- give, as we have been for - giv - en.

In the time of tri - al lead us in - to light, for yours is the kin - dom, and the

*f*

*mp*

po - wer, and the glo - ry, for - e - ver. Our God, in

heav - en, ho - ly is your name, ho - ly is your name.

## SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

*We invite you to greet one another with signs of peace*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## CALL TO OFFERING

**OFFERTORY**      *I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me*

arr. David Pote and Allen Pote

I'm gonna live so God can use me,  
Anywhere, Lord, anytime.  
I'm gonna work so God can use me,  
Anywhere, Lord, anytime.  
I'm gonna pray so God can use me,  
Anywhere, Lord, anytime.  
I'm gonna sing so God can use me,  
Anywhere, Lord, anytime.

**\*DOXOLOGY**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;  
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

God, thank you, thank you, thank you – for your grace, for this community of faith, for the gifts of our lives. Bless these offerings today that they might be used to further your reign of righteousness here and now. Work through each of us and through the ministries of this congregation that we might glorify you in all we do. Amen.

# We Are Sent Out

## 2. Ain't Gonna Let Nobody Turn Me 'Round

African-American Spiritual; arr. J. David Moore  
Minneapolis, MN | 2017

Made Possible by Westminster Presbyterian Church, Minneapolis

Justice Choir Songbook, Volume 1

With resolve ( $\text{♩} = 88$ )

Leader:  $\text{E}$   $\text{Am}$   $\text{E7}$

SA:  $\text{Am}$   $\text{E7}$

B:  $\text{Am}$   $\text{E7}$

1. Ain't gon-na let no-bod-y turn me 'round, turn me 'round,  
Turn me 'round, turn me 'round,  
turn me 'round. Ain't gon-na let no-bod-y turn me 'round, I'm gon-na keep on a-walk-in',  
turn me 'round. Turn me 'round, keep on a-walk-in',  
keep on, keep on a-  
keep on a-talk-in', march-ing up to free-dom land. 2. Ain't gon-na  
keep on a-talk-in', march-ing up to free-dom land.  
walk-in', keep on a-march-ing up to free-dom land.

Lyric Suggestions: 2. Ain't gonna let segregation (*turn me 'round...*)  
(or make up your own) 3. Ain't gonna let racism (*turn me 'round...*)  
4. Ain't gonna let no hatred (*turn me 'round...*)  
5. Ain't gonna let nobody (*turn me 'round...*)

Always include arranger's name when posting recordings. Link to this PDF: <http://songs.justicechoir.org/AintGonna>



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## **COMMISSION AND BLESSING**

May God bless you with discomfort at easy answers, half-truths, and superficial relationships,  
**so that we may seek truth boldly and love deep within our hearts.**

May God bless you with anger at injustice, oppression and exploitation of people,  
**so that we may work for justice, freedom and peace.**

May God bless you with tears to shed for those who suffer pain, rejection, starvation, and war,  
**so that we may reach out our hands to comfort them.**

And may God bless you with enough foolishness to believe that you can make a difference in this world,  
**so that we can do what others claim cannot be done.**

***Amen, Ameen, and Ashe!***

**POSTLUDE**

*Joshua Fit de Battle of Jericho*

F. B. Price

**Our Worship Has Ended. Let Our Service Begin!**

Please join us at Coffee Hour after Worship

<https://unitednewhaven.org/this-weeks-worship>

Scan the QR Code to Sign Up for our Weekly Newsletter



## THIS WEEK'S WORSHIP LEADERS

<b>Senior Pastor</b>	Rev. Dr. Stephen G. Ray, Jr.
<b>Director of Music</b>	Caesar Storlazzi
<b>UCG Choir:</b>	Cher Balkcom, Judith Carlson, Grecia Hernandez Hontz, Thomas Hernandez Hontz, Tess Klibanoff, Christopher Leimgruber, Julia Blue Raspe, Daniel Rausch, Connor Reese, Mary Scanlon and Jean Welty
<b>Digital Deacons</b>	Worship & Music Ministry Team
<b>Coffee Hour Coordinator</b>	Dale Richards
<b>Head Sexton</b>	William Henton

## THIS WEEK AT UNITED CHURCH

**Jan 18th:** 10:00AM Sunday Worship - Meeting House and Online

**Jan 19th:** **MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY - OBSERVED**

**Jan 20th:** 12Noon Staff Meeting – Online

**Jan 22nd:** 6:00PM Bible Study – Online

For Our Full Calendar, go to: [www.calendarwiz.com/unitednewhaven](http://www.calendarwiz.com/unitednewhaven)

## CHURCH NOTES

### **Musical Permissions**

**CCLI: 11242315, One License: A-736676**

**CCS WorshipCast: 22251728 All rights reserved.**

## MEETING HOUSE WIFI INFORMATION

WiFi Network: UCG Meetinghouse

WiFi Password: 2037874195

## **INCLEMENT WEATHER PROTOCOL**

If there is a Parking Ban in New Haven, we will close. If we are having online church services during a closing, the Pastor will notify members and friends, via the eBlast and Text in Church.

### **YEAR-ROUND NARTHEX FLORAL DISPLAY**

The Sacred Spaces Committee would like you to know that you don't have to wait until Easter or Christmas to remember or honor someone with Narthex Flowers.

The Committee would like to open this opportunity to our church members and friends. You can bring the floral arrangements yourself, or provide a monetary donation. Suggested donation is \$40. Use a Flower Dedication Form, a Flower Offering Envelope or pay online

<https://unitednewhaven.org/donate>

### **CALL TO SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

**Sunday January 25, 2026 – 11:15AM**

A Special Congregational Meeting will be held immediately after worship on Sunday, January 25th. There will be a brief presentation on the advisability of incorporating the church, followed by a vote on the matter.

**At United Church on the Green, we seek to Do Justice, Love Mercy and Walk Humbly with God, following the footsteps of Jesus.** We are also a Progressive Protestant Christian Church, a member of the Nationwide United Church of Christ (UCC).

**We have a long history.**

- Established 1742. Meetinghouse was built in 1815.
- The Amistad Incident? Abolition of slavery? The 1970 Black Panther trials? Divestment in South Africa? United was there.

**We believe God is still speaking to the world today... and we're trying to listen.**

- Not a "The Bible says it. I believe it. That settles it." kind of church. Questions encouraged. (Actually, they're necessary.)
- "Open and Affirming" of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people since 1989.

**We are working with God to build a better future.**

- Not interested in "saving souls" or "converting the heathen." God's love is for all.
- Trying to "connect the dots" to grow peace, justice, and compassion in the world.

**Staff Contacts**

**Rev. Dr. Stephen G. Ray Jr., senior pastor**

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**Jack Russell, director of operations**

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**Rev. Louise B. Higginbotham, minister emerita**

**Rev. Dr. Bonnie Scott, minister emerita**

**United Church on the Green, UCC**

**Meeting House, corner of Temple & Elm**

**Parish House office, corner of Temple & Wall**

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[www.unitednewhaven.org](http://www.unitednewhaven.org)

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