

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.

March 15, 2026

10:00AM

Lent 4A

We Gather as Church

*Please stand as you are able

PRELUDE

*On Bended Knees
and A New Hiding-Place*

Harry T. Burleigh
(1866-1949)

WORDS OF WELCOME

OPENING PRAYER

One: For Rahab's red cord and for all who risk their lives to give refuge to your people,

All: We thank you, O God.

One: For Ruth's loyalty and Esther's courage, and for all who serve you in foreign lands,

All: We thank you, O God.

One: For Deborah's leadership and Miriam's dance and for all who break glass ceilings,

All: We thank you, O God.

One: For Sarah's faithfulness and Jael's fierceness and for all who take things into their own hands,

All: We thank you, O God.

One: For Hagar and all the unnamed women who survived to do your will in the wilderness,

All: We thank you, O God.

One: For the Alabaster Jar Woman and for all who flout convention in your name,

All: We thank you, O God.

One: For Mary Magdalene's heart and for all who linger at the cross,
All: We thank you, O God.

One: For all the grace-filled women who cross borders and dismantle
fences, who face down soldiers and walk picket lines, who like Mary the
Mother of Jesus carry your love into the world,
All: We thank you, O God.

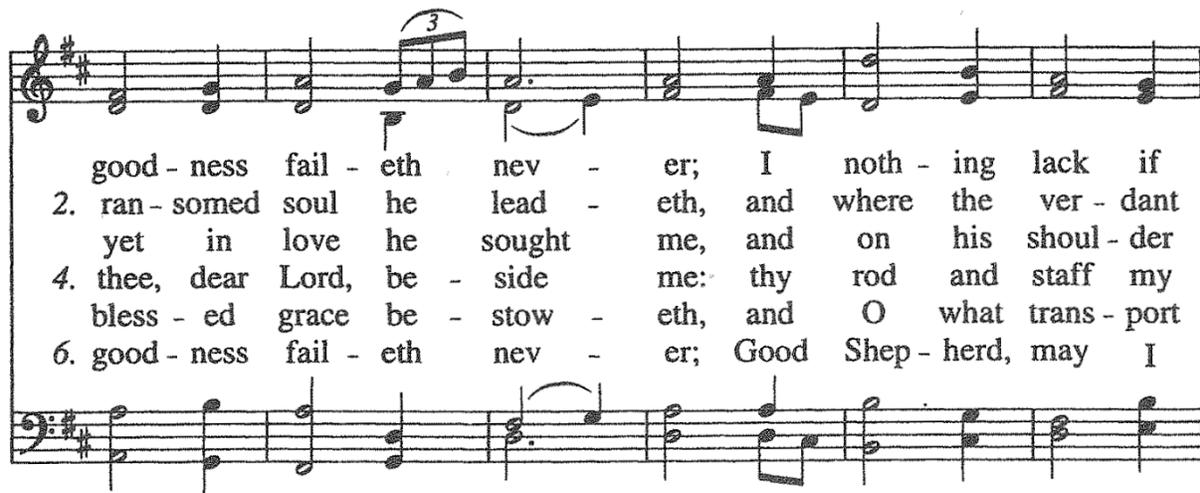
*HYMN #87

The King of Love My Shepherd Is

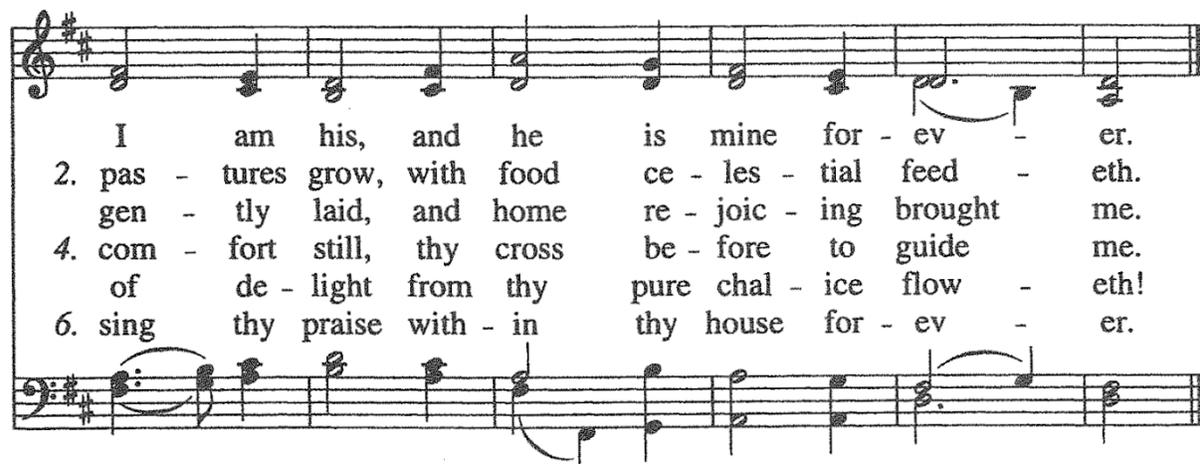
ST. COLUMBA



1. The King of love my shep - herd is, whose
2. Where streams of liv - ing wa - ter flow, my
3. Per - verse and fool - ish oft I strayed, but
4. In death's dark vale I fear no ill, with
5. Thou spread'st a ta - ble in my sight, thy
6. And so through all the length of days thy



good - ness fail - eth nev - er; I noth - ing lack if
2. ran - somed soul he lead - eth, and where the ver - dant
yet in love he sought me, and on his shoul - der
4. thee, dear Lord, be - side me: thy rod and staff my
bless - ed grace be - stow - eth, and O what trans - port
6. good - ness fail - eth nev - er; Good Shep - herd, may I



I am his, and he is mine for - ev - er.
2. pas - tures grow, with food ce - les - tial feed - eth.
gen - tly laid, and home re - joic - ing brought me.
4. com - fort still, thy cross be - fore to guide me.
of de - light from thy pure chal - ice flow - eth!
6. sing thy praise with - in thy house for - ev - er.

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.

HYMN RESPONSE

Holy, Holy, Holy

HTL #287

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly. My heart, my heart a - dore you! My
San - to, san - to, san - to. ¡Mi co - ra - zón te a - do - ra! Mi
heart knows how to say to you: you are ho - ly, Lord!
co - ra - zón te sa - be de - cir: ¡San - to e - res Señ - or!

The musical score is written in 4/4 time. The first system consists of a treble clef staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a bass clef staff. The lyrics are placed between the two staves. The second system continues the melody and accompaniment, ending with a double bar line and a fermata over the final chord.

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

Ephesians 5:8-14

Darnell Ray, Jr.

⁸for once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Walk as children of light, ⁹for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. ¹⁰Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness; rather, expose them. ¹²For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly, ¹³but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, ¹⁴for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, "Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

*HYMN #459

Jesu, Jesu

CHEREPONI

Je - su, Je - su, fill us with your love, show

Fine

us how to serve the neigh-bors we have from you.

1. Kneels at the feet of his friends, si - lent - ly wash - es their
2. Neigh - bors are wealth - y and poor, var - ied in col - or and
3. These are the ones we would love, these are the ones we would
4. Lov - ing puts us on our knees, thank - ful and hum - ble and

D.C.

feet, Je - sus, our broth - er, a hum - ble man.
race; neigh - bors are near and far a - way.
serve; all these are neigh - bors, your child - ren, too.
true; this is the way we would live with you.

SERMON

Freddie Swindal-Endres
UCG Member/YDS Student

ANTHEM

Wondrous Love

Paul Christiansen
(1914-1997)

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O
my soul!

What wondrous love is this, O my soul,
That caused the Lord of life

To bear the heavy cross,

What wondrous love is this, O my soul!

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O
my soul!

What wondrous love is this, O my soul,

That Christ should lay aside His crown

That Christ should lay aside His crown for
my soul!

What wondrous love is this, O my soul!

What wondrous love, O my soul!

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 Dee Dee Rogers.

As we celebrate Women's History Month, we speak words of remembrance and gratitude for courage and persistence.

We pray that we might keep faith with those who struggled for all to see the full humanity of Your beloved children.

Of every hue. Of every race. Of every culture and tongue.

Immigrants. Refugees. Our Queer and trans siblings.

We pray for those who have lost their lives bearing witness to the humanity, dignity, and value of our siblings and kin.

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 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 teach us to dream of a different world.

We pray for those challenged by physical and mental illness and for we who love them.

We pray that wisdom and courage might lead those with plenty, to help make a better world for all.

We pray for our nation as we stumble into yet another ill-conceived war and the lives that will be broken because of it.

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 together and sing with the words you taught us:

Lord's Prayer

Mark Miller

mp
Our God, ___ in hea-ven, ___ ho - ly is your name, ___ your
reign come, ___ your will done, ___ on earth as in hea-ven. ___

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

mf
In the time of tri - al ___ lead us in - to light, ___ for yours is ___ the kin - dom, and the
po - wer, ___ and the glo - ry, ___ for - e - ver. Our God, ___ in
hea - ven, ___ 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

Blessed Are the Peacemakers

Will Todd
(b. 1970)

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

from Matthew 5:9 (NRSV)

***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

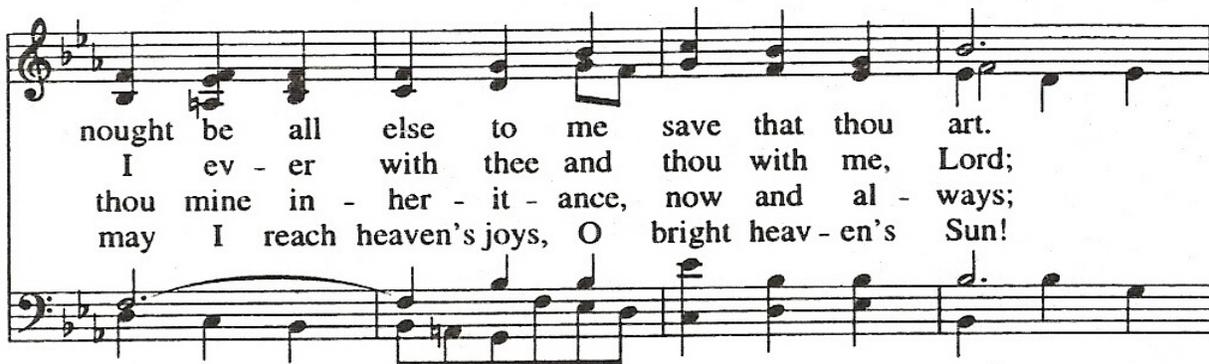
*HYMN #445

Be Thou My Vision

SLANE



1. Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
2. Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;
3. Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,
4. High King of heav - en, my vic - to - ry won,



nought be all else to me save that thou art.
I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord;
thou mine in - her - it - ance, now and al - ways;
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heav - en's Sun!



Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
thou my Re - deem - er, my love thou hast won;
thou and thou on - ly, first in my heart,
Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,



wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
thou in me dwell - ing, and I with thee one.
Rul - er of heav - en, my treas - ure thou art.
still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

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

A Jubilee

Harry T. Burleigh

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

Senior Pastor	Rev. Dr. Stephen G. Ray, Jr.
Guest Speaker - YDS Student	Freddie Swindal-Endres
Director of Music	Caesar Storlazzi
UCG Choir:	Cher Balkcom, Judith Carlson, Delaney Fox, Grecia Hernandez Hontz, Thomas Hernandez Hontz, Tess Klibanoff, Christopher Leimgruber, Julia Blue Raspe, Daniel Rausch, Connor Reese, and Mary Scanlon
Digital Deacons	Worship & Music Ministry Team
Coffee Hour Coordinator	Dale Richards
Head Sexton	William Henton

THIS WEEK AT UNITED CHURCH

Mar 15th: 10:00AM Sunday Worship - Meeting House and Online

Mar 17th: 12Noon Staff Meeting – Online

Mar 19th: 6:00PM Bible Study – Online

Mar 20th: 7:00PM Bach in the Subway - Meeting House

For Our Full Calendar, go to: www.calendarwiz.com/unitednewhaven

CHURCH NOTES

Musical Permissions

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MEETING HOUSE WIFI INFORMATION

WiFi Network: UCG Meetinghouse

WiFi Password: 2037874195

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*

Caesar Storlazzi, *director of music*

Maxim Schmidt, *digital media administrator*

Nicole René Atchison, *church administrator*

Nancy Lupi, *financial secretary*

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

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