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

www.unitednewhaven.org
www.facebook.com/unitednewhaven
@unitednewhaven

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.

November 1st, 2026	10:00AM	Pentecost 23A

We Gather as Church

*Please stand as you are able

PRELUDE *Elevation #16 by Dom Paul Benoit, O.S.B*. Preformed by Daniel Kendzior

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We come, God of the Journey, a people from different places, different histories, different lifestyles.

All: We come hoping to find companionship for the journey, solidarity for the struggle.

One: We gather, God of Hospitality, around your "welcome table, a table not yet round, but rounding.

All: We gather seeking to become a "'round-table people, welcoming of all, with no preferred seating, no firsts and no lasts and no corners for 'the least of these.'

One: We yearn, God of the Rainbow, for a new way of living and relating as neighbors not strangers, as siblings and kin not 'them and us.'

All: We yearn to live fully celebrating both the diversity of our human family, and the unity of our call to love and justice.

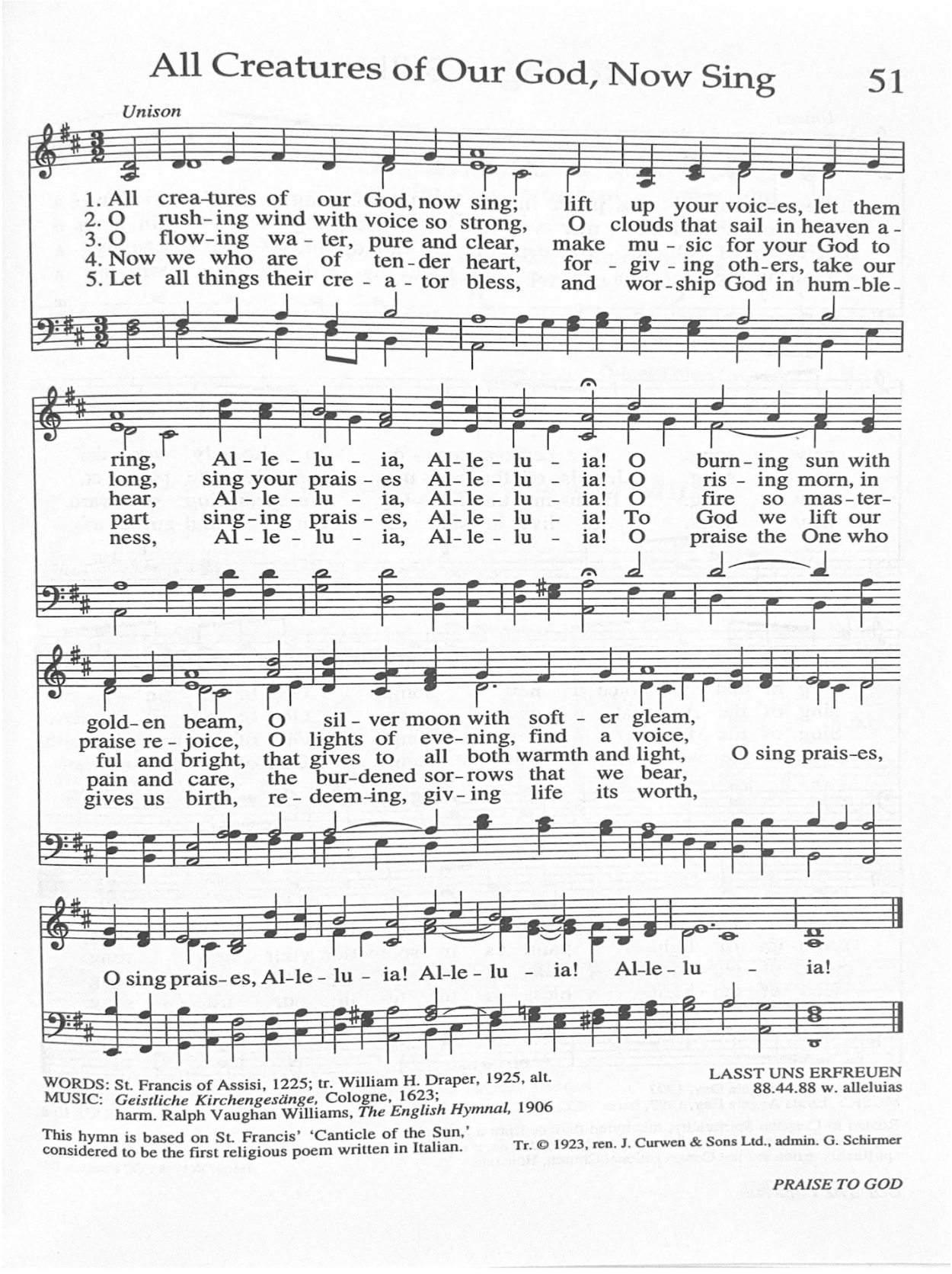
One: We hunger, God of Abundant Life, for lives that have meaning and integrity, and for relationships grounded in mutuality and respect.

All: We thirst for places to bring our doubts, our fears; places to express honestly who we are. We thirst for hope and encouragement as we struggle to follow Jesus in the way of life-risking love.

One: With the gift of your grace we are nourished.

All: With the promise of your presence may we be strengthened to be faithful. Amen.

***HYMN #51** All Creatures of Our God, Now Sing LASST UNS ERFREUE



WORDS: St. Francis of Assisi, 1225; tr. William H. Draper, 1925, alt.
MUSIC: *Geistliche Kirchengesänge,* Cologne, 1623;
harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams, *The English Hymnal,* 1906

LASST UNS ERFREUEN
88.44.88 w. alleluias

This hymn is based on St. Francis' 'Canticle of the Sun,' considered to be the first religious poem written in Italian.

Tr. © 1923, ren. J. Curwen & Sons Ltd., admin. G. Schirmer

PRAISE TO GOD

GATHERING PRAYER (Unison) Rev. Nathan Patti

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.

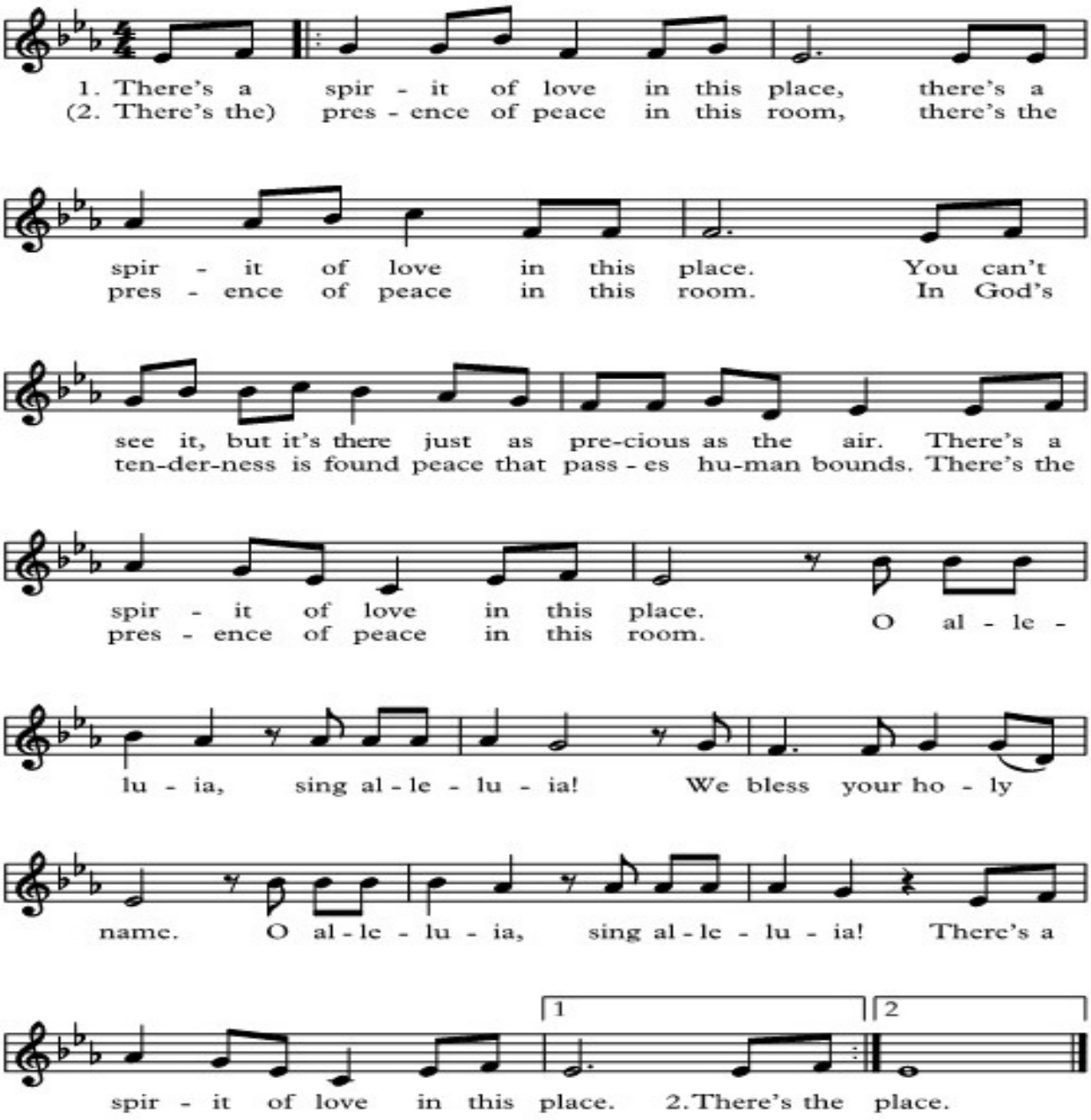
Children's Sermon and Sing-Along
All things bright and beautiful
All creatures great and small
All things wise and wonderful
The Lord God made them all

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 *Spirit of Love in This Place* MEDEMA



ASSURANCE OF PARDON

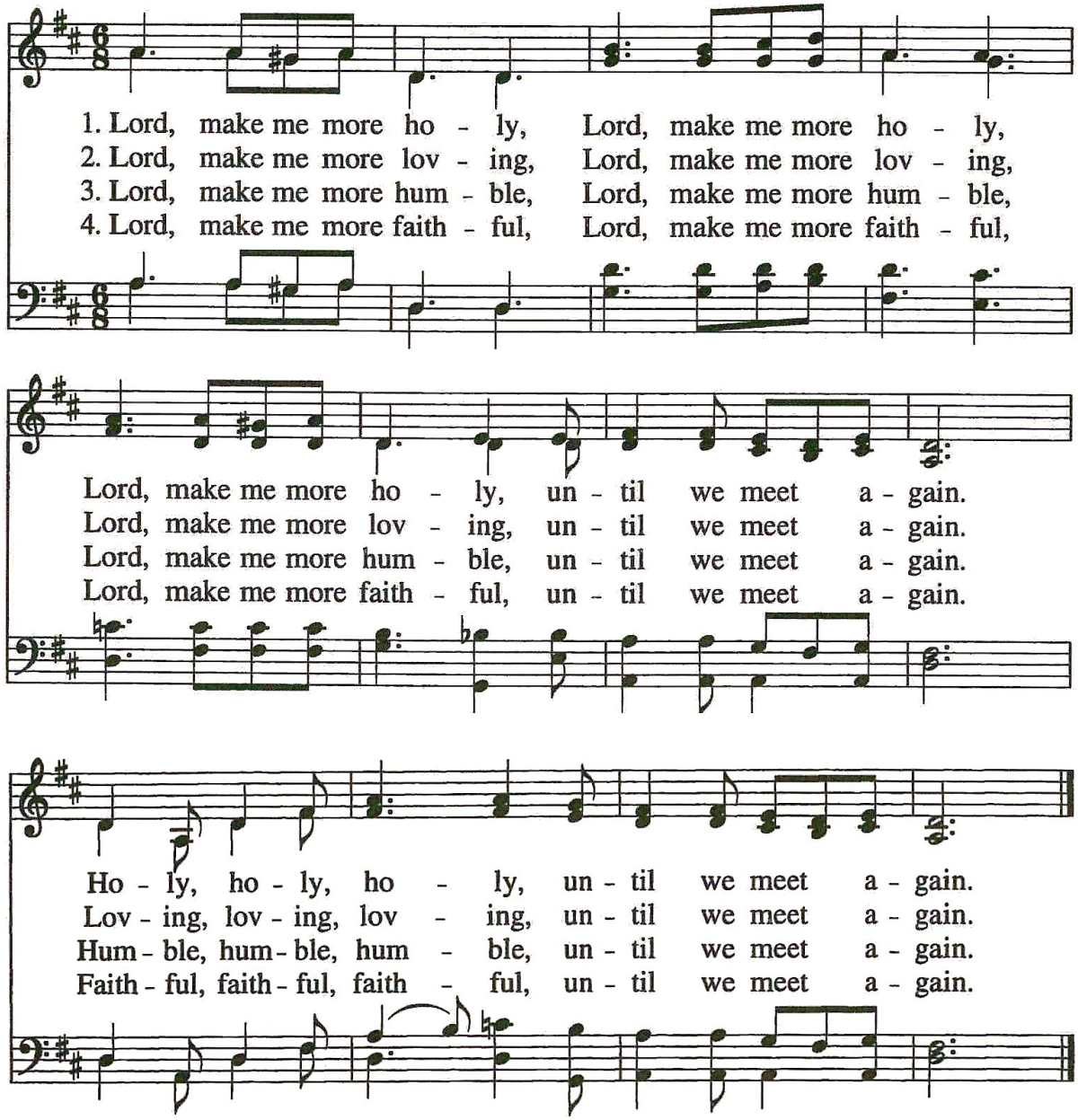
One: Siblings in Christ, God's Spirit did not leave us after that first Pentecost. The Spirit is still with us, empowering us to know mercy and *grace, forgiveness and service. In this Spirit, and through Christ, we* proclaim the Good News:
All: We are forgiven Alleluia! Amen.

We Listen for God's Word

SCRIPTURE *Deuteronomy 34:1-5* Chanal Lobdell

34 Then Moses went up from the plains of Moab to Mount Nebo, to the top of Pisgah, which is opposite Jericho, and the Lord showed him the whole land: Gilead as far as Dan, 2 all Naphtali, the land of Ephraim and Manasseh, all the land of Judah as far as the Western Sea, 3 the Negeb, and the Plain—that is, the valley of Jericho, the city of palm trees—as far as Zoar. 4 The Lord said to him, "This is the land of which I swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, saying, 'I will give it to your descendants.' I have let you see it with your eyes, but you shall not cross over there." 5 Then Moses, the servant of the Lord, died there in the land of Moab, at the Lord's command.

***HYMN #348** Lord, Make Me More Holy LORD, MAKE ME MORE HOLY



SERMON Rev. Nathan Patti

MUSICAL REFLECTION *Ave Verum* by Stephanie Martin

Ave, verum corpus natum
ex Maria Virgine:
vere passum, immolatum
in cruce pro homine:
cuius latus perforatum
unda fluxit et sanguine:
esto nobis praegustatum,
in mortis examine.

Hail the true body, born
of the Virgin Mary:
You who truly suffered and
were sacrificed
on the cross for our sake.
From whose pierced flank
flowed water and blood:
Be a foretaste for us
in the trial of death.

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 this week Julia Blue Raspe and Teisha Pittman.

Our prayers begin with rejoicing that in Your love and creativity you have made us a rainbow. Made us in Your image that is multi-splendored and too rich for simple definitions.

We give thanks for the Holy Spirit that is with Us, filling our hearts with hope and power.

With Us your children. Of every hue. Of every race. Of every culture and tongue.

Immigrants. Refugees. Queer. Trans. All of your children; especially those who need special care and protection in these times.

We pray for the many whose lives are being lost in senseless wars. For everyone but especially for the children. May their light not be extinguished because of cruelty and malice but continue to shine in our hearts.

We pray for our world, suffering the ravages of Climate Catastrophe. 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 the unhoused in our own city who now face uncertainty with weather changes and their numbers growing.
We lift special prayers for those suffering hunger anywhere in the world.
We pray for a time when food and housing will no longer be deemed as luxuries by those in power.
We pray that wisdom and courage might lead those with plenty, to help make a better world for all.
We pray for those challenged by physical and mental illness and for we who love them.
We pray that as Your Church we will be a place of refuge that ever lives in the power of Hope.

SILENT PRAYER

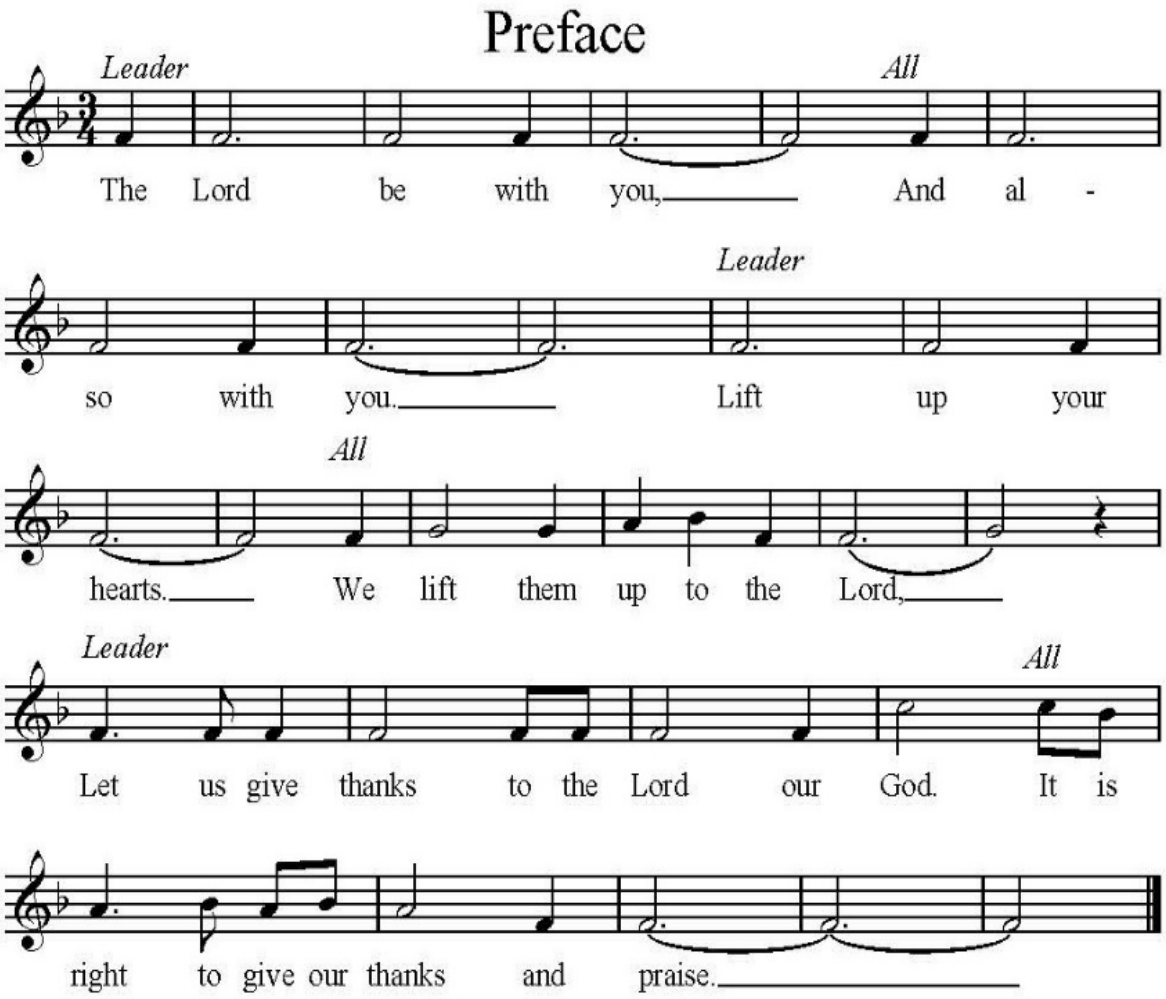
PASTORAL PRAYER

COMMUNION

At United Church on the Green, we believe the communion table is truly open. This means that we invite people of all ages and denominations to partake of the sacrament. This is Christ's table, not ours. And so, we invite you to join us in this meal. But it is up to you to decide whether or not you wish to receive the bread and the cup. God loves you regardless.

INVITATION

PREFACE



WORDS: From *The United Methodist Hymnal*
MUSIC: Mark A. Miller

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Source: *The Faith We Sing,* no. 2257a.

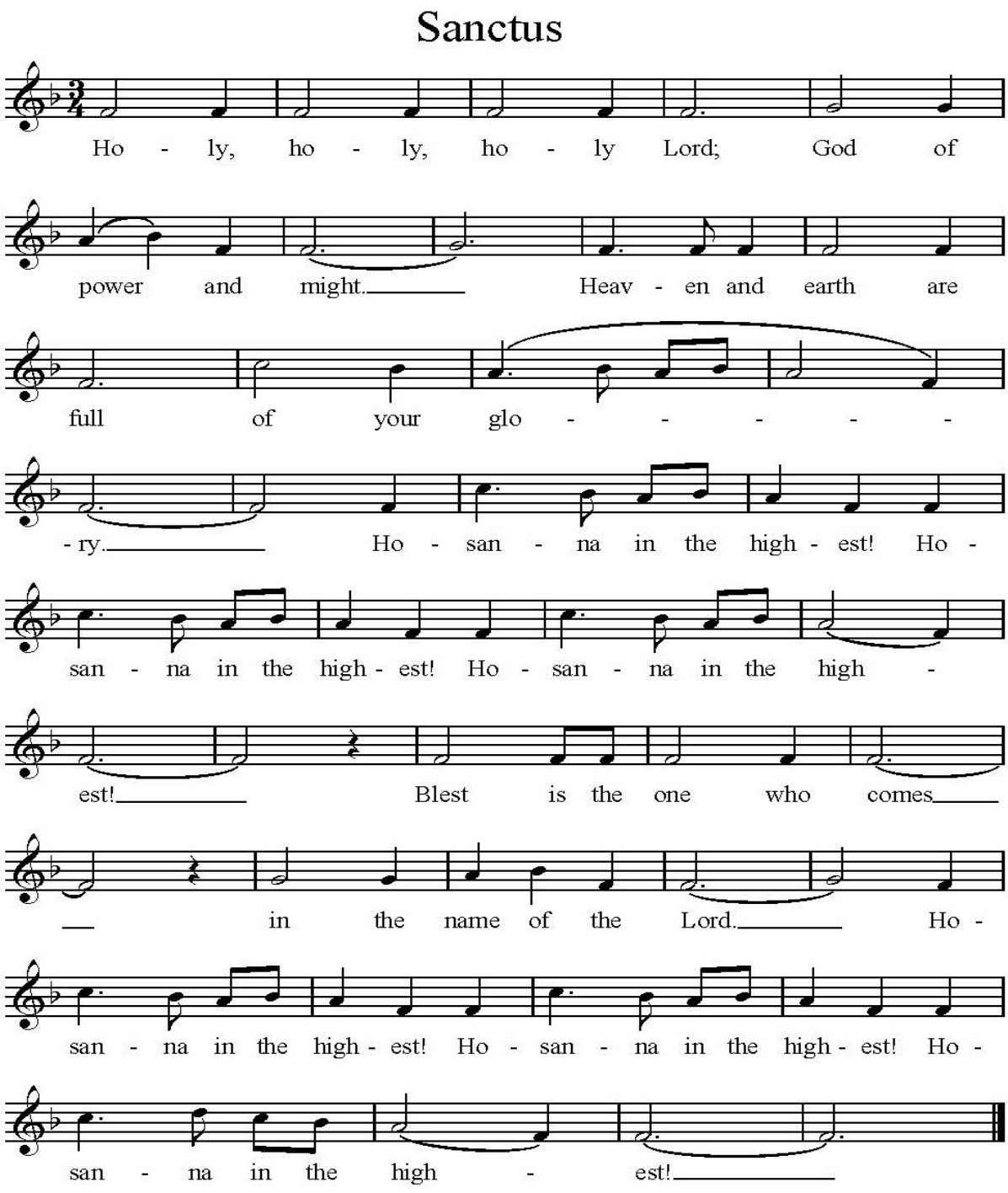
Beloved children of God, as we gather here this morning, we are the church! In this moment, we respond to the words of Jesus, who tells us: "…where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."
And it is with the power of Christ that we proclaim that this table is open to all people — no matter who you are or what you believe or what you've been told.
Here at the Lord's table we remember the simple gathering of a chosen family that came together for a meal that proclaimed a new way of being in this world.
We remember God's radically inclusive love made real in the life, ministry, death, and resurrection of Jesus.
We remember the One who befriended the forgotten, embraced the outcast, and saw the Image of God in all people.
We remember the One who confronted every power that disconnected, marginalized, oppressed, and "other-ed."
It is here at this table that we find hope and imagination to see God's dream and promise of a world of wholeness, and it is here that we receive the nourishment and strength to continue on the paths of justice.
We recall that on the night he was betrayed, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body that is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."
In the same way he took the cup, saying, "This is my blood, my very life, poured out for you. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

God, we thank you for breathing this world into existence and proclaiming from its birth: "It is good."
We come to you with gratitude for the endless blessings that we see, feel, and know on our journeys of life.
We celebrate the rich diversity of your creation — every beautiful body, every shade of skin, every expression of love.

Through your Spirit, open our hearts to the joy we can find in the midst of life's challenges.
Remind us that we are loved — fiercely and forever.
And however the world may try to hold us down or tell us who to be, remind us that nothing can separate us from your presence.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your name:

SANCTUS



WORDS: From *The United Methodist Hymnal* (Isa. 6:3; Matt. 21:9)
MUSIC: Mark A. Miller

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Source: *The Faith We Sing*, no. 2257-b.

And so, as we stand before this feast, we pray with the words you taught us to pray:
Our Father/Mother/God/Creator, 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SHARING OF THE MEAL
Today we will share the meal together by individually taking the bread and cup and returning to our seat. We will then eat and drink communion as one community. During Communion, we serve grape juice. Gluten free bread is available.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION
From these simple gifts of grape and grain, you have consecrated us as your children, called and sent to share your extravagant love with others. Open our eyes that we might see you near us. Open our lives that we might be agents of hope and love for our world. When we forget our holy calling, speak anew to our hearts, and draw us back. This is our prayer in the name of all that is holy. Amen.

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST
We invite you to greet one another with signs of peace

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERING

OFFERTORY *With A Voice of Singing* by Martin Shaw

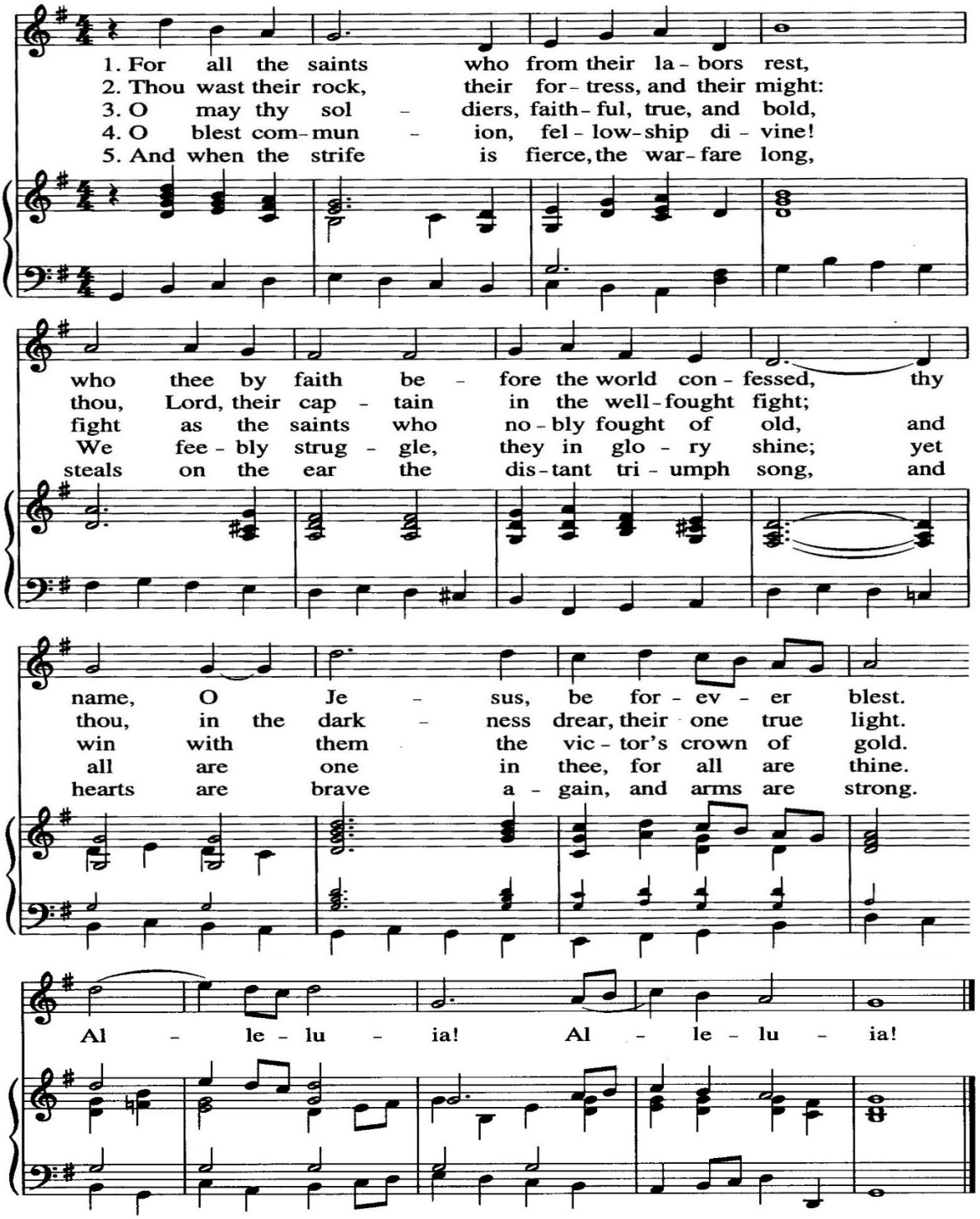
With a voice of singing declare ye this,
And let it be heard, Alleluia!
Utter it even unto the ends of the earth.
The Lord hath delivered all people, Alleluia!
O be joyful in God, all ye lands,
O sing praises to the honor of God's name,
Make all praise to be glorious.

***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 #486** For All the Saints SINE NOMINE



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 *The God of Abraham Praise* by Fritz Lubrich
Preformed by Daniel Kendzior

Our Worship Has Ended. Let Our Service Begin!

Please join us at Coffee Hour after Worship
https://unitednewhaven.org/this-weeks-worship

THIS WEEK'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Guest Pastor	Rev. Nathan Patti
Senior Pastor	Rev. Dr. Stephen G. Ray, Jr.
Director of Music	Caesar Storlazzi
Interim Choir Director	Grace Currie
Guest Musicians	Daniel Kendzior
UCG Choir	Cher Balkcom, Judith Carlson, Tess Klibanoff, Chris Leimgruber, Ava Paul, Julia Blue Raspe, Daniel Rausch, Connor Reese, Mary Scanlon
Digital Deacons	Worship & Music Ministry Team
Coffee Hour Coordinator	Dale Richards
Head Sexton	William Henton

THIS WEEK AT UNITED CHURCH

November 1st: 10:00AM Worship Service – Online + Meeting House
November 5th: 6:00PM Bible Study – Online
For Our Full Calendar, go to: www.calendarwiz.com/unitednewhaven

CHURCH NOTES

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MEETING HOUSE WIFI INFORMATION

WiFi Network: UCG Meetinghouse
WiFi Password: 2037874195

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. 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

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

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Bailey Murphy, *church secretary*	office@unitednewhaven.org

Rev. Louise B. Higginbotham, *minister emerita*
Rev. Dr. Bonnie Scott, *minister emerita*

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Parish House office, *corner of Temple & Wall*
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