

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.

May 5, 2024

10:00AM

Easter 6B

We Gather as Church

PRELUDE

We Shall Overcome

Adolphus Hailstork

WORDS OF WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Peace be with you... **And also with you...**

One: The Lord is Risen!

People: ***We come to our God with praise!***

One: We come to celebrate victory of Life over every power of death

People: ***We come to celebrate the Resurrection of Christ***

One: We come to celebrate the victory of Hope over despair

People: ***We come to proclaim New Life for all!***

One: We celebrate you our Risen Lord as you bring glad tidings that our God has place for us all in eternity

People: ***We come to our God with hope***

One: We give thanks that your ministry of hope and healing for all, particularly the last and least, has found vindication

ALL: We give thanks that you, Jesus Christ have given unto us this ministry and will walk in joy and hope this day and forever more!

*Please stand as you are able

*HYMN #175

O Sing a Song of Bethlehem

KINGSFOLD

1 O sing a song of Beth-le-hem, of shep-herds watch-ing there,
2 O sing a song of Naz-a-reth, of days of joy and sun,
3 O sing a song of Gal-i-lee, of lake and woods and hill,
4 O sing a song of Cal-va-ry, its glo-ry and dis-may,

and of the news that came to them from an-gels in the air:
O sing of fra-grant flo-wers' breath, and of the sin-less One:
of One who walked up-on the sea and bade its waves be still:
of One who hung up-on the tree, and took our sins a-way:

The light that shone on Beth-le-hem fills all the world to-day;
For now the flowers of Naz-a-reth in ev-ery heart may grow;
For though, like waves on Gal-i-lee, rough seas of trou-ble roll,
For Christ who died on Cal-va-ry is ris-en from the grave;

of Je-sus' birth and peace on earth the an-gels sing al-way.
now spreads the fame of Je-sus' name on all the winds that blow,
when faith has heard the Sav-ior's word, falls peace up-on the soul.
God's sov-ereign Child, who rec-on-ciled, is might-y now to save.

*Please stand as you are able

GATHERING PRAYER (Unison)

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

Rev. Ray invites all children to the playground for a brief time of greetings and prayer. After which children are invited to join teacher Rebecca Baisden in the children's room downstairs for a time of structured play or to stay in the pew with their parents.

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, you cause rain to fall on the just and unjust. Sometimes we are part of the just, and sometimes we are part of the unjust. You have given us incredible gifts of soil, water, and air that sustain our entire lives. When we are ungrateful, forgive us. When we forget to take care of those resources, forgive us. When we hoard these resources and keep them from others who need them, forgive us. Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us to refresh us and renew us so that we can use the gifts you have given in us to care for each other and our earth. Amen.

Brief period of silence

*Please stand as you are able

Loving God, you restore us to each other and to you, mending our hearts and repairing the world. Through the power of your Spirit, you shape us to be for others what Christ is for us: pardon and peace, new life and blessing. We give you thanks for your love, forgiveness, and constant presence. Amen.

*Please stand as you are able

HYMN 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.

*Please stand as you are able

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: With calming words, with a peaceful Spirit, with overflowing love and hope, our God forgives us and fills us with faith.

Many: Our God affirms us for who we are— those whose brokenness is made whole, whose sin is forgiven, whose lives overflow with faith. Thanks be to God! Amen.

We Listen for God's Word

SCRIPTURE

Acts 10:44-48

Benjamin Gyadu

⁴⁴ While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word.

⁴⁵ The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the gentiles, ⁴⁶ for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, ⁴⁷ "Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" ⁴⁸ So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

*Please stand as you are able

***HYMN #476**

We Shall Overcome

MARTIN

The musical score is written in 4/4 time. It consists of three systems of music, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The lyrics are: "1. We shall o - ver - come, we shall o - ver - come, we shall o - ver - come some day; Oh, deep in my heart, I do be - lieve, we shall o - ver - come some day." The score includes various musical notations such as eighth notes, quarter notes, and rests. There are also triplets indicated by a '3' over a group of notes.

- 2. We'll walk hand in hand.
- 3. We are not afraid . . . today.
- 4. God will see us through.
- 5. Truth shall make us free.
- 6. We shall live in peace.

REFLECTION

Rev. Dr. Stephen G. Ray Jr.

ANTHEM

I Sat Down under God's Shadow

C. Edward Bairstow

I sat down under God's shadow with great delight, and God's fruit was sweet to my taste. God brought me to the banqueting house, and God's banner over me was love.

*Please stand as you are able

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

We join our voices to pray and rejoice to celebrate the good things of our life together and those who are celebrating their birthdays this week, including: David French, Catie Schneider, George Peterman, + Jesse Balkcom.

We lift our voices and pray for the innocent who suffer in Gaza and Israel

We pray the young people on campuses around our nation whose cries for justice rekindle anew the call of conscience

We pray for our kin suffering under the many systems of oppression

We open our hearts to all those whose suffering of the ravages of Climate Change is magnified by these systems

We pray that all of this world's peoples might know peace

We pray for immigrants and refugees seeking sanctuary and safe harbor and for our nation, that we not lose regard for human dignity and worth

We lift up our children that they may know hope and peace

We pray for the teachers, staff and schools that incubate our future

We pray for those suffering the plague of gun violence

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

For those suffering grief and loss in the passing of loved ones

For ourselves, that we may ever live in the power of Hope.

SILENT PRAYER

PASTORAL PRAYER

*Please stand as you are able

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

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION & LORD'S PRAYER

One: God of love, give us a deep love for you, so that we can see the world as you see it, feel the compassion you feel, and be a people whose lives mediate your love to others. God in your mercy.

Many: Hear our prayer

One: Open our eyes that we might see what the Good Samaritan saw. Grant us the insight to see the need in others, the wisdom to know what to do, and the will to do it. God in your mercy.

Many: Hear our prayer

One: We pray for all those people, who in many and various ways, have been stripped, beaten, and left for dead. We pray for children who are growing up in the most awful of circumstances, especially for those starved of love or food, shelter, or security. May they receive the future you have planned for them. God in your mercy.

Many: Hear our prayer

One: We pray for those we might cross the road to avoid, those who have been excluded socially because of their race, financial status, or history. May the dignity that is theirs be restored to them. God in your mercy.

*Please stand as you are able

Many: Hear our prayer

One: God give us a deep love for you, that we might see your love at work in this world, and that we might go and do likewise. God in your mercy.

Many: Hear our prayer

One: We prayer with the prayer taught to us by Jesus, saying...

Many: 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.

*Please stand as you are able

HYMN #311

Let Us Break Bread Together

LET US BREAK BREAD

1. Let us break bread to- geth-er on our knees; (on our knees)
 2. Let us drink wine to- geth-er on our knees;
 3. Let us praise God to- geth-er on our knees;

Let us break bread to- geth-er on our knees; (on our knees)
 Let us drink wine to- geth-er on our knees;
 Let us praise God to- geth-er on our knees;

Refrain

When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris- ing sun,

O Lord, have mer- cy on me. (on me)

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

*Please stand as you are able

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

CALL TO OFFERING

*Please stand as you are able

OFFERTORY

Ave Verum Corpus

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.

***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.**

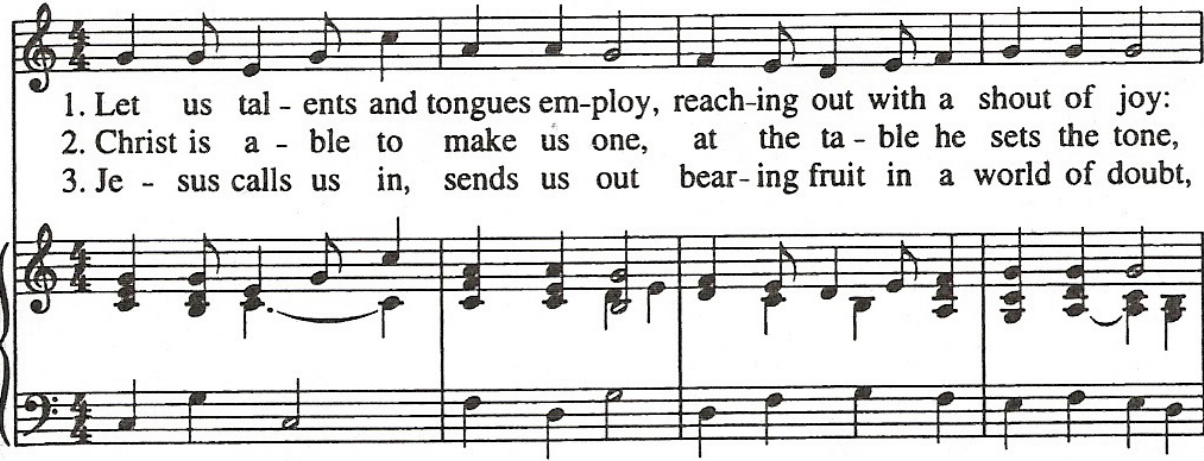
*Please stand as you are able

We Are Sent Out

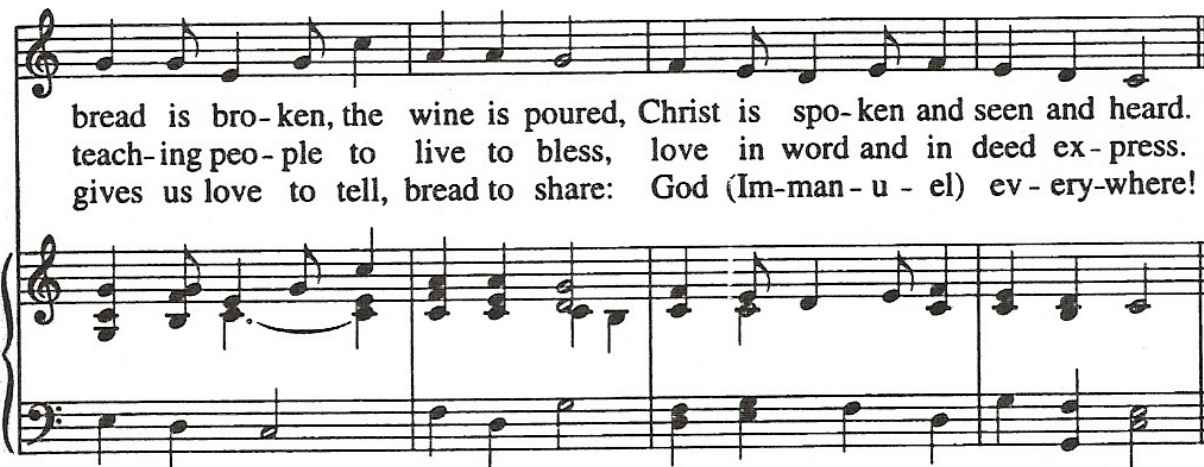
*HYMN #316

Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

LINSTEAD

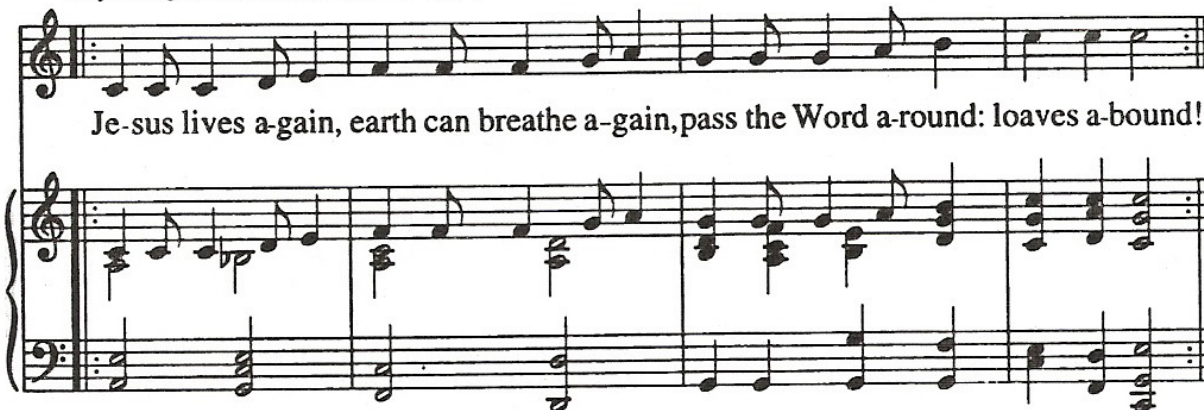


1. Let us tal - ents and tongues em - ploy, reach - ing out with a shout of joy:
2. Christ is a - ble to make us one, at the ta - ble he sets the tone,
3. Je - sus calls us in, sends us out bear - ing fruit in a world of doubt,



bread is bro - ken, the wine is poured, Christ is spo - ken and seen and heard.
teach - ing peo - ple to live to bless, love in word and in deed ex - press.
gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Im - man - u - el) ev - ery - where!

Refrain (first time p, second time f)



Je - sus lives a - gain, earth can breathe a - gain, pass the Word a - round: loaves a - bound!

*Please stand as you are able

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 your heart.

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 you may reach out your hand to comfort them and turn their pain to joy.

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

Toccata on "Great Day" Adolphus Hailstork

Our Worship Has Ended. Let Our Service Begin!

Please join us at Coffee Hour after Worship

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

If you are new to United, or feeling new, we'd love to keep in touch with you. If you wish, please share your contact information and prayer requests at

<http://unitednewhaven.org/connect-with-us>.

*Please stand as you are able

THIS WEEK'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Senior Pastor	Rev. Dr. Stephen G. Ray Jr.
Director of Music	Caesar Storlazzi
United Church Choir	
Digital Deacons	Worship & Music Ministry Team
Coffee Hour Hosts	Dale + June Richards
	George C. Lindsay
Head Sexton	William Henton
Sexton	Raymond O'Connor

THIS WEEK AT UNITED CHURCH

- May 5th:** 10:00AM Worship at the Meeting House– Hybrid
11:15AM “What Do We Believe?” Second Hour - Hybrid
- May 8th:** 1:00PM United Staff Meeting – Online
- May 9th:** 5:30PM Bible Study – Online
- May 10th:** 6:00PM YHHAP Soup Kitchen – Take Out Only
- May 11th:** 6:00PM YHHAP Soup Kitchen – Take Out Only

CHURCH NOTES

Christian Copyright Licensing International Number: 11242315
Permission to podcast / stream the music in this service obtained from
ONE LICENSE, License # A-736676. All rights reserved.

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*

pastor@unitednewhaven.org

music@unitednewhaven.org

media@unitednewhaven.org

office@unitednewhaven.org

nancyalupi@gmail.com

operations@unitednewhaven.org

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*

323 Temple St., New Haven, CT 06511

tel 203.787.4195

www.unitednewhaven.org

www.facebook.com/unitednewhaven

[@unitednewhaven](https://www.instagram.com/unitednewhaven)

