

The poster features a central white sign with a black border. The sign is set against a background of stylized trees with green foliage and colorful vertical stripes in shades of orange, yellow, green, blue, purple, pink, and light blue. At the top center, a black silhouette of a church steeple with a weather vane is visible. The sign itself contains the text 'JAZZ VESPER'S' in large, bold, red letters. Below this, it says 'Friday Evening' and 'May 9th, 2025 at 6PM' in black. To the right of the text is a stylized illustration of a saxophone in yellow and red. To the left of the saxophone are three black musical notes. Below the saxophone, the text 'Free Parking Available!' is written in black. At the bottom of the sign, there are three white arched shapes. The entire poster is framed by a thick green border.

JAZZ VESPER'S

Friday Evening
May 9th, 2025 at 6PM



Free Parking Available!

United Church on the Green
unitednewhaven.org

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 9, 2025

6:00pm

Jazz Vespers

Prelude

Old-Time Religion
with *Swing Low, Sweet Chariot*

arr. Mark Hayes

Welcome

Rev Dr Stephen G Ray Jr

Interlude

Amazing Grace

arr. Mark Hayes

HYMN #493

In the Bulb There Is a Flower

PROMISE

1. In the bulb there is a flow - er; in the seed, an ap - ple tree;
2. There's a song in ev - ery si - lence, seek - ing word and mel - o - dy;
3. In our end is our be - gin - ning; in our time, in - fin - i - ty;

in co - coons, a hid - den prom - ise; but - ter - flies will soon be free!
there's a dawn in ev - ery dark - ness, bring - ing hope to you and me.
in our doubt there is be - liev - ing; in our life, e - ter - ni - ty.

In the cold and snow of win - ter there's a spring that waits to be,
From the past will come the fu - ture; what it holds, a mys - ter - y,
In our death, a res - ur - rec - tion; at the last, a vic - to - ry,

un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.

Interlude*A Mi Madre* Jesus "Chucho" Valdés

In honor of all mothers on this Mother's Day Weekend. This piano jazz by Chucho Valdés has three distinct moods: a warm melody that envelops us like a mother's hug, a Latin-inspired rhythm full of joy, and some crazy avant-garde improvs that speak to the complex relationships between parent and child.

Reading*Dark Testament Verse 8*

Pauli Murray

Hope is a crushed stalk
Between clenched fingers
Hope is a bird's wing
Broken by a stone.
Hope is a word in a tuneless ditty —
A word whispered with the wind,
A dream of forty acres and a mule,
A cabin of one's own and a moment to rest,
A name and place for one's children
And children's children at last . . .
Hope is a song in a weary throat.
Give me a song of hope
And a world where I can sing it.
Give me a song of faith
And a people to believe in it.
Give me a song of kindness
And a country where I can live it.

Anna Pauline "Pauli" Murray was an American civil rights activist, women's rights activist, lawyer, Episcopal priest, and author. Drawn to the ministry, in 1977 Murray became the first black woman to be ordained as an Episcopal priest and she was among the first group of women to become priests in that church. As a lawyer, Murray argued for civil rights and women's rights. In addition to her legal and advocacy work, Murray published two well-reviewed autobiographies and a volume of poetry. One of Yale's newest residential colleges is named after her.

Meditation*In Limine*

Ludovico Einaudi

Einaudi's music straddles the line between ambient music and jazz, giving us all a chance to be quiet with our thoughts as we stand "on the threshold".

Reading*"Hope" Is the Thing with Feathers*

Emily Dickenson

"Hope" is the thing with feathers -
That perches in the soul -
And sings the tune without the words -
And never stops - at all -

And sweetest - in the Gale - is heard -
And sore must be the storm -
That could abash the little Bird
That kept so many warm -

I've heard it in the chillest land -
And on the strangest Sea -
Yet - never - in Extremity,
It asked a crumb - of me.

This enigmatic New England poet, living much of her life in seclusion, is an incredible word-artist, enabling us to break through to new ways of looking at and thinking about the world.

HYMN #426

I've Got Peace Like a River

PEACE LIKE A RIVER

1. I've got peace like a riv - er, I've got peace like a
 2. I've got joy like a foun-tain, I've got joy like a
 3. I've got love like an o - cean, I've got love like an
 4. I've got faith like an an - chor, I've got faith like an

1.
 riv - er, I've got peace like a riv - er, in - a my
 foun-tain, I've got joy like a foun-tain, in - a my
 o - cean, I've got love like an o - cean, in - a my
 an - chor, I've got faith like an an - chor, in - a my

2.
 soul. I've got riv - er in - a my soul.
 soul. I've got foun-tain in - a my soul.
 soul. I've got o - cean in - a my soul.
 soul. I've got an - chor in - a my soul.

Benediction

Rev Dr Stephen G Ray Jr

Postlude

Poor Wayfaring Stranger

arr. Mark Hayes

Musicians for Today's Service:
Caesar Storlazzi, piano; Arti Dixson, percussion;
and Jim Andrews, bass

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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