

## United Church of Christ



## *An Open & Affirming Congregation*



**NORTH HAVEN CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

**Sunday, July 27, 2025**

**9:30 a.m.**

**Seventh Sunday after Pentecost - Proper 12  
Service of Farewell and Release from Covenant**

**GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRELUDE:** Suite Four

JCF Fischer

**\*OPENING HYMN:** "Come, O Fount of Every Blessing" V 559

**\*THE CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Leader: Praise be to God, who reigns above the heavens.

**PEOPLE: Praise be to God, who dwells within our hearts.**

Leader: Let the majesty of creation worship in reverence.

**PEOPLE: Let each man, woman, and child pray in faith**

**ALL: Praise be to God.\*\*** *Maren C. Tirabassi*

**\*LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF PEACE ~unison**

Good and Gracious God, Grant us courage to serve others;

For in service there is true life.

Free us to pray for others; For You are present in every person.

Bring forth song and celebration so that the spirit will be  
alive among us.

And let us never tire of the struggle for justice,

let us never tire of the work for peace.## Amen. *Cesar Chavez*

**\*THE GLORIA PATRI**

**P513**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,

World without end. Amen. Amen.

**PRAYER OF INVOCATION:~unison**

Gracious God, we thank you that we can rest in you, secure amid the conflict and confusion of life. We thank you that you provide for our needs and that you have trusted us to one another's care. Free us to receive with humility and to give with joy. Open our hands to share what we have without fear of tomorrow. Anoint your people as peacemakers and justice makers, that one day humanity may choose bread over weapons and fairness over greed.\*\* Amen. *Ruth C. Duck*

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER** (*trespasses*)

Choral Amen

Our Father, 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.

## **MESSAGE FROM THE CHILDREN:** Children & Faith Formation Team

### **THE FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON:** Genesis 18:20-32      Page 14

Then the Lord said, "How great is the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah and how very grave their sin! I must go down and see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry that has come to me, and if not, I will know."

So the men turned from there and went toward Sodom, while Abraham remained standing before the Lord. Then Abraham came near and said, "Will you indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked? Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city; will you then sweep away the place and not forgive it for the fifty righteous who are in it? Far be it from you to do such a thing, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that from you! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?" And the Lord said, "If I find at Sodom fifty righteous in the city, I will forgive the whole place for their sake." Abraham answered, "Let me take it upon myself to speak to my lord, I who am but dust and ashes. Suppose five of the fifty righteous are lacking? Will you destroy the whole city for lack of five?" And he said, "I will not destroy it if I find forty-five there." Again he spoke to him, "Suppose forty are found there." He answered, "For the sake of forty I will not do it." Then he said, "Oh, do not let my lord be angry if I speak. Suppose thirty are found there." He answered, "I will not do it, if I find thirty there." He said, "Let me take it upon myself to speak to my lord. Suppose twenty are found there." He answered, "For the sake of twenty I will not destroy it." Then he said, "Oh, do not let my lord be angry if I speak just once more. Suppose ten are found there." He answered, "For the sake of ten I will not destroy it."

**HERE ENDS THE READING. THANKS BE TO GOD.**

\* **HYMN:** "This Is My Song"

Insert

He was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.” So he said to them, “When you pray, say:

Father, may your name be revered as holy.

May your kingdom come.

Give us each day our daily bread.

And forgive us our sins,

for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us.

And do not bring us to the time of trial.”

And he said to them, “Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say to him, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves of bread, for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before him.’ And he answers from within, ‘Do not bother me; the door has already been locked, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything.’ I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything out of friendship, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs.

“So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. Is there anyone among you who, if your child asked for a fish, would give a snake instead of a fish? Or if the child asked for an egg, would give a scorpion? If you, then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”

**HERE ENDS THE READING. THANKS BE TO GOD.**

## **GIFT OF MUSIC:** *How Lovely Is Thy Dwelling Place*

Text from Psalms 84 & 23

Tune by James Leith Macbeth Bain

Sung by the Chancel Choir

How lovely is thy dwelling-place, O Lord of hosts, to me! The  
tabernacles of Thy Grace how pleasant, Lord, they be! The  
tabernacles of Thy Grace how pleasant, Lord, they be!

Behold, the sparrow findeth out  
an house wherein to rest;  
the swallow also for herself  
hath found her place to nest;  
the swallow also for herself  
hath found her place to nest.

Ev'n thine own altars, where they build a nest to bear their young,  
The Holy One with heavenly Grace, to whom our praise is sung.  
The Holy One with heavenly Grace, to whom our praise is sung.

The Lord will hold back no good thing from those who justly live;  
for all who live with Grace divine  
will every blessing give.

For all who live with Grace divine  
will every blessing give.

Goodness and mercy all my life  
shall surely follow me,  
and in God's house forevermore  
my dwelling place shall be;  
and in God's house forevermore  
my dwelling place shall be.

**MEDITATION:** "Relief, Reassurance, Confidence"      Scott Morrow

## **PASTORAL CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS**

### **PASTORAL PRAYER**

Choral Response

## **THE OFFERTORY**

\*Doxology

Tune: Old Hundredth

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

\*Prayer of Dedication

## **GREETING OF PEACE ~unison**

*May the peace of God in Jesus Christ be with you always!*

## **GIFT OF MUSIC: *The Farthest Field***

David Dodson

Carol Amico, Jeffrey Hutchins, Heather Meachen, vocalists

There is a land high on a hill

Where I am going, there is a voice that calls to me

The air is sweet, the grasses wave

The wind is blowing away up in the farthest field.

Refrain: Walk with me and we will see the mystery revealed

When one day we wend our way up to the farthest field

The sun will rise, the sun will set

Across the mountains and we will live with beauty there

The fragrant flowers, the days and hours

Will not be counted, and peaceful songs will fill the air

Refrain

I know one day I'll leave my home

Here in the valley and climb up to that field so fair

And when I'm called and counted in

That final tally, I know that I will see you there

Refrain

Oh my dear friends, I truly love

To hear your voices lifted up in radiant song

Though through the years we all have made

Our separate choices, we've ended here where we belong

Refrain x 2

## **SERVICE OF FAREWELL AND RELEASE FROM COVENANT**

Greeting

Ending an Authorized Ministry

Recognition of the End

Vows of Release

Witness of the Conference

**\*CLOSING HYMN:** "I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry" V644

**\*THE BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE:** *Christ is Made the Sure Foundation* Humphrey Turner

\*Those who are able, please stand.

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**Co-Deacons** is Nancy Mahoney, and Jim Bennett. **Scripture Reader** is Carol Amico. **Greeter** is Beth Anderson.

**Please join us after worship for one last fellowship hour** with Pastor Scott and Carol Amico hosted by Women’s Fellowship.

**Today’s flowers** are given by Scott Morrow and Carol Amico with love and gratitude for our North Haven Congregational UCC church family.

**In Our Prayers This Week are:** Linda Rankin, Linda Shannon, Marlene Bellonio, Meg Adams, Herb & Ann Schneider, Charlotte Shea, and the Family of Curtis Andrews, Sr..

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS\***

|                  |             |                                                          |                                                                                                                      |
|------------------|-------------|----------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Sunday</b>    | <b>7/27</b> | <b>9:30 a.m.</b>                                         | <b>WORSHIP:</b> Seventh Sunday after Pentecost, Rev. Scott’s last Sunday                                             |
| <b>Monday</b>    | <b>7/28</b> | <b>10:00 a.m.</b><br>1:00 p.m.                           | <b>Funeral – Curtis Andrews, Sr.</b><br>FOOD PANTRY OPEN                                                             |
| <b>Tuesday</b>   | <b>7/29</b> | <b>9:30 a.m.</b><br>10:00<br>10:30<br>12:00 p.m.<br>7:00 | <b>Music Together (DBL)</b><br>Al-Anon (K)<br>Music Together (DBL)<br>PLP (Library)<br>Music Under the Stars (Green) |
| <b>Wednesday</b> | <b>7/30</b> | <b>10:00 a.m.</b>                                        | <b>FOOD PANTRY OPEN</b>                                                                                              |
| <b>Thursday</b>  | <b>7/31</b> |                                                          |                                                                                                                      |
| <b>Friday</b>    | <b>8/1</b>  | <b>9:00 a.m.</b><br>10:00                                | <b>WELCOME TO REV. CINDY</b><br>FOOD PANTRY OPEN                                                                     |
| <b>Saturday</b>  | <b>8/2</b>  | <b>9:30 a.m.</b><br>11:30                                | <b>Music Together (DBL)</b><br>Rhythm Kids (DBL)                                                                     |
| <b>Sunday</b>    | <b>8/3</b>  | <b>9:30 a.m.</b>                                         | <b>WORSHIP:</b> Eighth Sunday after Pentecost, Rev. Cindy’s first Sunday                                             |

\*Small print indicates non-Church function  
Bold print starts new day.

# **Liturgy of Farewell & Release from Covenant**

*From the UCC Book of Worship*

## **Greeting**

*Church Leader:* Our church community is constantly changing. People come and go. Babies are born. Children grow up. People commit themselves to one another. Loved ones and friends among us come to the end of their lives. Individuals move into our community and church life. Others leave us, growing toward new places, new experiences, new opportunities. It is important and right that we recognize these times of passage, of endings and beginnings. Today we share a farewell with our pastor, Scott Morrow and his wife, Carol Amico.

*Departing Members:* We give thanks to God for the ways you have welcomed us, supported our family and journeyed with us as disciples of Christ. We pray for God's blessing upon you.

## **Ending of Authorized Ministry**

*Conference Rep.:* On August 21, 1994, this congregation called Scott Morrow to serve as Pastor of North Haven Congregational Church.

*Pastor:* I thank North Haven Congregational Church, its members and friends, for the love, kindness and support shown me these last thirty years. I ask forgiveness for the mistakes I have made. I am grateful for the ways my leadership has been encouraged and accepted. As I leave, I carry with me all that I have learned here.

**Congregation: We receive your thankfulness, offer forgiveness, and accept that your time with us is ending. We express our gratitude for your ministry among us. We ask your forgiveness for our mistakes. Your influence on our faith and faithfulness will not leave us at your departure.**

*Pastor:* I forgive you and accept your gratitude, trusting that our time together and our parting are pleasing to God.

## **Vows of Release**

*Conference Rep.:* Do, you, the members and friends of North Haven Congregational Church, release Pastor Scott from the duties of Pastor of North Haven Congregational Church?

**Congregation: We do, with the help of God.**



*Conference Rep.:* Do you offer him your encouragement as his life and ministry unfolds in new ways?

**Congregation: We do, with the help of God.**

*Conference Rep.:* Do you, Scott, release North Haven Congregational Church from turning to you and depending on you?

*Pastor:* I do, with the help of God.

*Conference Rep.:* Do you offer your encouragement for the continuing ministry here and on the relationship with another who will come to serve?

*Pastor:* I do, with the help of God.

*Conference Rep.:* On behalf of the New Haven East Consociation of the Southern New England Conference of the United Church of Christ, I witness to the words spoken: words of thankfulness, forgiveness and release. The member churches of our association and conference hold each of you in prayer. We pledge our support in the transitions signified in this service.

## **Prayer**

*Church Leader:* Let us pray:

**All: O God, we give thanks for remembered times, when we, together, have shared this life of faith. We thank you for the moments we have shared with Scott in worship, in prayer, and in presence. We pray that Scott and Carol will always be aware of your Spirit's guidance in their life and ministry. Help each of us to trust the future which rests in your care. Guide us as we hold these cherished memories but move in new directions, until that time to come when we are completely one with you and with each other. In the name of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.**

Participants in the Service of Farewell & Release from Covenant

Sandy Carter, Moderator

Rev. Scott Morrow

Carol Amico

Rev. Margret Hofmeister, Area Conference Minister

Nancy Mahoney, Deacon

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY:** James Shea 07/27, Kristin Lynch 07/29, Peter Fomet 07/31.

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY:** Jim & Leslie Dockendorff 08/01.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Food Pantry – Items needed** – please bring canned vegetables (peas, beets, mixed vegetables, carrots, and peas & carrots) and hearty soups – other than chicken soup, and place them in the basket in the Narthex.

Thank you to Pastor Scott for his donation of children’s books to the Children’s Library. They all have beautiful pictures and stories about Christmas, adventure and children’s classics. It is an everlasting gift to the young members in our Church.



## **MISSION**

Our church's mission is to bind ourselves with Jesus Christ in:

- Worship together;
- Nurture of Christian discipleship; and
- Compassionate service to our community and beyond.

## **VISION**

We are a hub for the larger community as a church of action:

- Conducting regular, robust worship in a responsible and relevant way in an ever changing and challenging world;
- Welcoming all people from different and diverse backgrounds to become a community of disciples together; and
- Involved in purposeful action and activities through the structure of self-directed Mission Teams.

## **VALUES**

We:

- Pray together, encourage each other, and trust one another;
- Take personal responsibility for fellowship and our community; and
- Celebrate with honored traditions.

**Church Staff:** All the Members, Ministers to the World  
The Reverend Scott G. Morrow, Senior Pastor  
Karlee Etter, Ministry Coordinator for Children  
Jeffrey Hutchins, Director of Music  
Heather Meachen, Organist  
Julie Schweickert, Office Manager  
Dave Nelson, Sexton

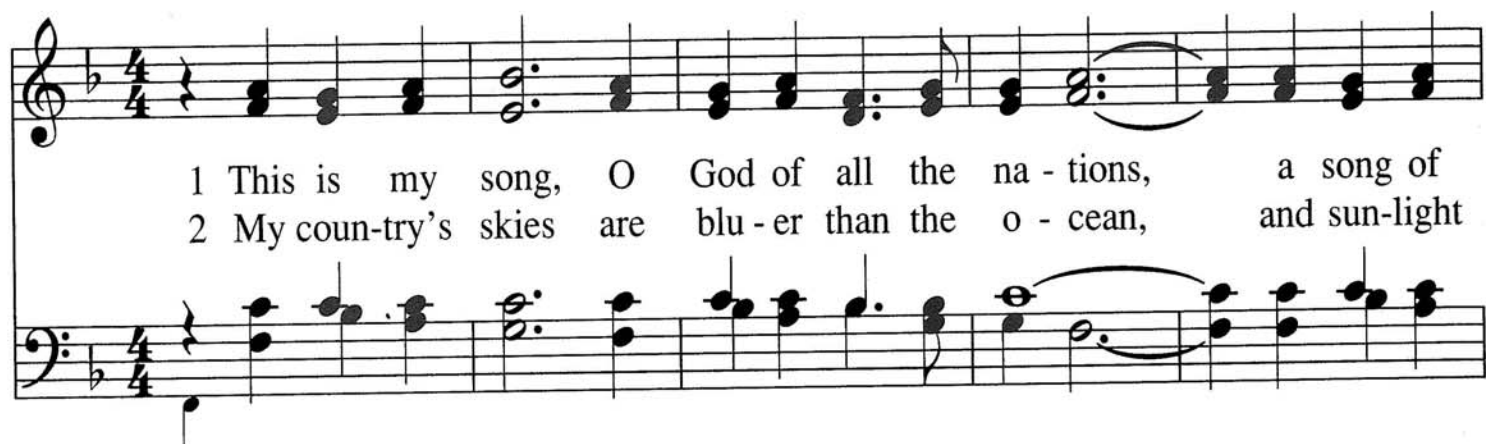
## V 559

D A D G D A7 D  
 1 Come, O Fount of ev - ery bless - ing, tune my heart to sing your grace;  
 2 Here I pause in my so - journ - ing, giv - ing thanks for hav - ing come,  
 3 O, to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I am drawn a - new!  
 D A D G D A7 D  
 streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing call for songs of end - less praise.  
 come to trust, at ev - ery turn - ing, God will guide me safe - ly home.  
 Let that grace now, like a fet - ter, bind my wan - dering heart to you.  
 D G D G D G D G D F#m G A7 D  
 Teach me some me - lo - dious son - net, sung by flam - ing tongues a - bove.  
 Je - sus sought me when a strang - er, wan - dering from the fold of God,  
 Prone to wan - der, I can feel it, wan - der from the love I've known:  
 D A D G D A7 D  
 Praise the mount; I'm fixed up - on it, mount of God's un - fail - ing love.  
 came to res - cue me from dan - ger, pre - cious pres - ence, pre - cious blood.  
 here's my heart, O, take and seal it, seal it for your ver - y own.

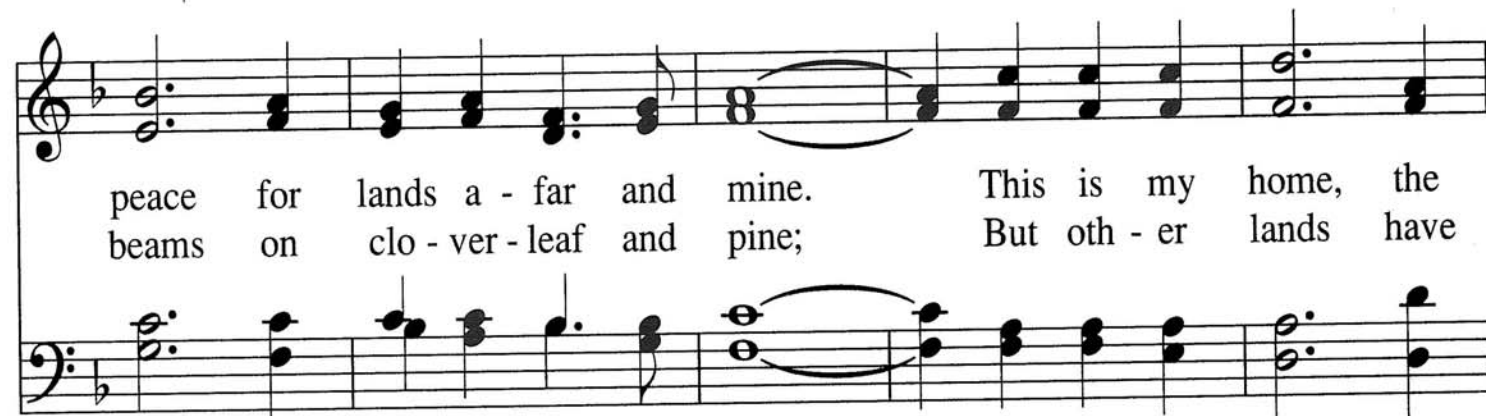


\* HYMN: "This Is My Song"

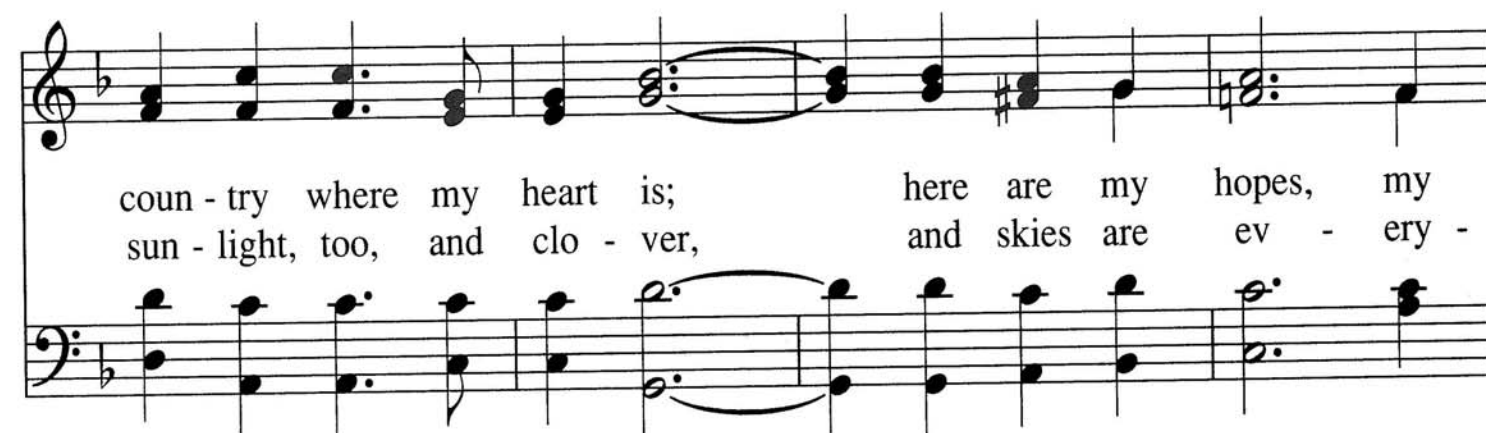
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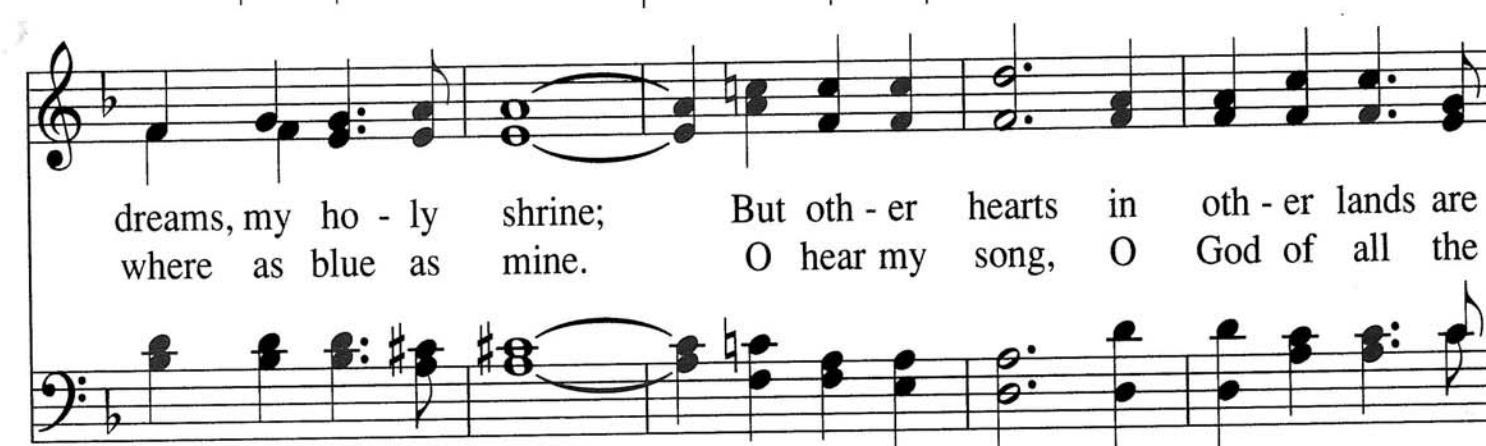
1 This is my song, O God of all the na - tions, a song of  
2 My coun-try's skies are blu - er than the o - cean, and sun-light



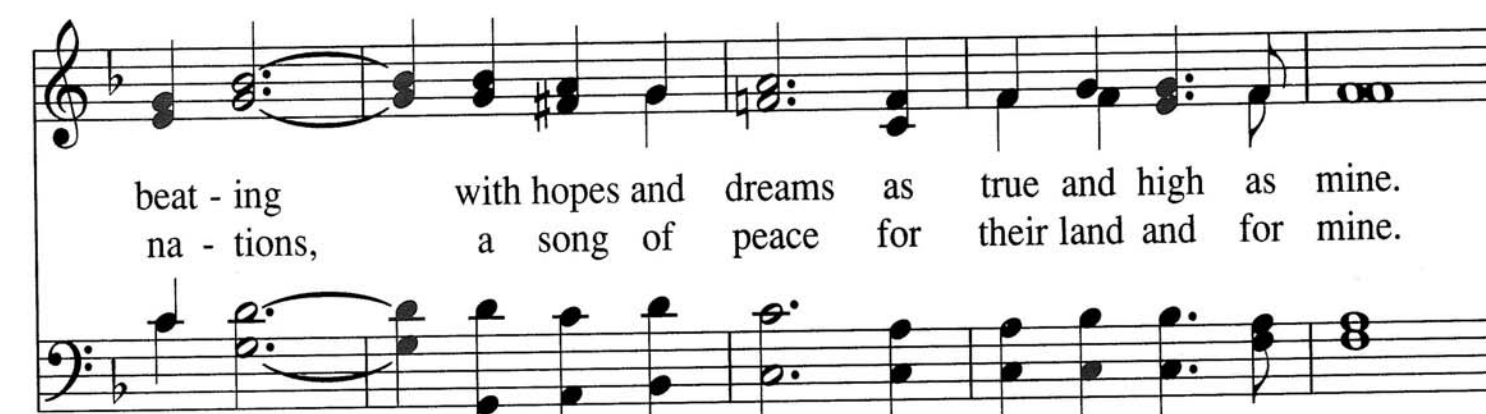
peace for lands a - far and mine. This is my home, the  
beams on clo - ver - leaf and pine; But oth - er lands have



coun - try where my heart is; here are my hopes, my  
sun - light, too, and clo - ver, and skies are ev - ery -



dreams, my ho - ly shrine; But oth - er hearts in oth - er lands are  
where as blue as mine. O hear my song, O God of all the



beat - ing with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.  
na - tions, a song of peace for their land and for mine.

\*CLOSING HYMN: "I Was There to Hear Your Boring Cry" V644

Unison

all men 1 3 5 7 ALL

1 I was there to hear your born - ing cry, I'll be  
3 When you heard the won - der of the word, I was  
5 In the mid - dle a - ges of your life, not too  
7 I was there to hear your born - ing cry, I'll be

there when you are old. I re - joiced the day you  
there to cheer you on; you were raised to praise the  
old, no long - er young. I'll be there to guide you  
there when you are old. I re - joiced the day you

were bap - tized, to see your life un - fold.  
liv - ing Lord, to whom you now be - long.  
through the night, com - plete what I've be - gun.  
were bap - tized, to see your life un - fold.

2 I was there when you were but a child, with a  
4 If you find some - one to share your time and you  
6 When the eve - ning gent - ly clos - es in and you

Fine

Am D G G/B C

faith to suit you well; in a blaze of light you  
 join your hearts as one, I'll be there to make your  
 shut your wea - ry eyes, I'll be there as I have

G A7 D D.C.

wan - dered off to find where de - mons dwell.  
 vers - es rhyme from dusk till ris - ing sun.  
 al - ways been with just one more sur - prise.



