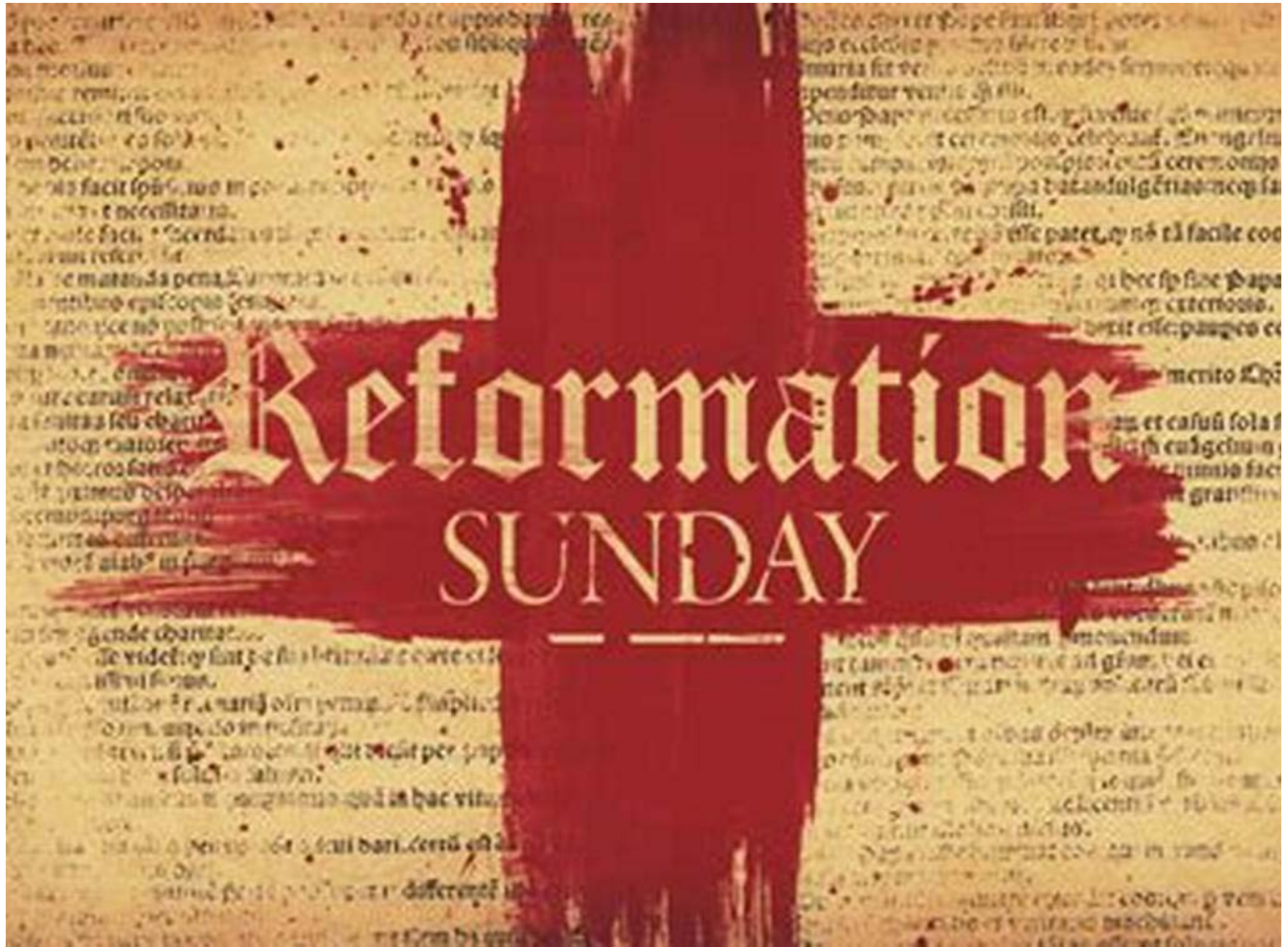


FOUNDED 1716
North Haven
Congregational Church
United Church of Christ



North Haven, Connecticut
An Open & Affirming Congregation

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

Sunday, October 26, 2025

9:30 a.m.

**Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost - Proper 25
Reformation Sunday**

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE: *C Major Moderato*

by C. Ett

***OPENING HYMN:** “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”

VU 262

***THE CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Leader: This is the day the Lord has made:

People: a day for grace and prayer; a day for gratitude and generosity.

Leader: This is the day the Lord has given to us:

People: a time for singing and silence; a time for speaking and listening.

Leader: This is the life to which God calls us:

People: a life of humility and service; a life of faith and trust.

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

Almighty God, guide the nations of the world into ways of justice and truth, and establish among them that peace which is the fruit of righteousness and the sharing of grace, that they may become the kingdom of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Let the design of your great love shine on the waste of our wraths and sorrows. Give peace to your Church, peace in our homes, and peace in our hearts, through your dear Son.

Amen.##

***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

We give you thanks for all the ways that you bless our lives: the beauty and abundance of nature, the love of family and friends, the joy of knowing you and hearing your word. Send Your Spirit during this time of worship so that we might dream your dreams and see visions of the world as you created it to be. Guide our thoughts and actions. Bring us closer to you so that we might do your will and abide with you forever. Amen.

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.

PRESENTATION OF BIBLES

Rev. Cindy and Karlee Etter

SEASON OF GENEROSITY MESSAGE

Victor Maldonado

THE FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON: Psalm 84: 1-7

Page 535

The Joy of Worship in the Temple

To the leader: according to The Gittith. Of the Korahites. A Psalm.

¹ How lovely is your dwelling place,
O Lord of hosts!

² My soul longs, indeed it faints,
for the courts of the Lord;
my heart and my flesh sing for joy
to the living God.

³ Even the sparrow finds a home
and the swallow a nest for herself,
where she may lay her young,
at your altars, O Lord of hosts,
my King and my God.

⁴ Happy are those who live in your house,
ever singing your praise. *Selah*

⁵ Happy are those whose strength is in you,
in whose heart are the highways to Zion.

⁶ As they go through the valley of Baca,
they make it a place of springs;
the early rain also covers it with pools.

⁷ They go from strength to strength;
the God of gods will be seen in Zion.

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

***HYMN:** “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

VU 333

THE SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON: Luke 18:9-14

Page 1226

The Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector

⁹ He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt: ¹⁰ “Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹ The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. ¹² I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.’ ¹³ But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven but was beating his breast and saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’ ¹⁴ I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other, for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted.”

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

GIFT OF MUSIC: “*We Walk In Love*”

Words: Deanna Witkowski

Sung by the Chancel Choir

& Lemuel Colon

Music: Deanna Witkowski (2017)

SERMON: “Justified”

Rev. Cindy

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.

***Prayer of Dedication**

***CLOSING HYMN:** “The Church’s One Foundation”

VU 331

***THE BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE: *Sonata (abridged)*

by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

*Those who are able, please stand.

** Thom Shuman, Bearers of Grace and Justice

Adapted from prayers of Peace Lutheran Church of Grass Valley,
retrieved 10/21/2025 <http://peacelutherangv.org/2017/07/03/happy-independence-day/>

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Deacon is Jim Bennett. **Greeter** is Beth Anderson. **Please join us for Fellowship Hour in Carroll Hall immediately following the service.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Food Pantry needs

The Food Pantry is in need of canned meals: Beefaroni, Spaghetto's, Beef stew, Chili and Chili with beans. Please bring to the church.

November 1, 2025 - The Women's Fellowship Harvest Fair!

Join us on Saturday November 1st from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00. You will find a wide variety of items available including hand crafted items, baked delicacies, the Cookie Walk, treasures in Grandma's Attic, a Christmas Room, RADA Knives, and bargains in the Nearly New Room. For the children, Face Painting, games and activities. Coffee & in the morning and lunch have returned in a new area in Carroll Hall. A variety of Raffle Baskets add to the fun. Come and do some early Christmas shopping. You may find just what you've been looking for! See you at the Fair.

All Saints Rememberance: November 2, 2025

Please contact the Church Office by Wednesday, October 29th to include the names of your loved ones that have passed in the last year.

Save the date:

The Women's Fellowship and the Lions Club will hold a Military Whist Card Game on Friday, November 7. Tickets are available for purchase at Fellowship Hour (\$12 per person). Singles, couples, and teams of four are welcome. Please call or text Carol Mitchell at 203-668-0608 or email cdmitchell60@yahoo.com information. Light refreshments will be served. There will be a variety raffle prizes and a 50/50 raffle! This

fundraiser will help support church projects, local organizations, and the Lions Club in their mission. Doors will open at 5:45 p.m. and the game begins at 6:30 p.m. It's fun and easy to play. Come join the fun! Bring a friend!

In Our Prayers This Week are: The Rev. Deb Ruotolo, Lee Guckert and her Family, Linda Rankin, Linda Shannon, Marlene Bellonio, Meg Adams, Herb & Ann Schneider, and Charlotte Shea.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY: Betsey Reid 10/28, Dan Lafleur 11/01, Laura Alden 11/02, Cheryl Bogert 11/02.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY: Daniel & Paige Mickolyzck 11/01.

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 Cindy Stasko, Bridge Pastor
Karlee Etter, Ministry Coordinator for Children
Jeffrey Hutchins, Director of Music
Heather Meachen, Organist
Julie Schweickert, Office Manager
Dave Nelson, Sexton

CALENDAR OF EVENTS*

Sunday	10/26	9:30 a.m. 2:00 p.m. 2:30	PARKING LOT REPAVING WORSHIP: Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost Tibetan American (K,CR) Halloween Hoot (CH)
Monday	10/27	9:30 a.m. 1:00 p.m.	PARKING LOT REPAVING Music Together (DBL) FOOD PANTRY OPEN
Tuesday	10/28	9:30 a.m. 10:00 10:30 12:00 p.m. 3:30 4:30 6:00	PARKING LOT REPAVING Music Together (DBL) Al-Anon (K) Music Together (DBL) PLP (Library) United Girl’s Choir (CH, K, Sanct) Ukulele (DBL) BIBLE STUDY (Zoom)
Wednesday	10/29	9:30 a.m. 10:00 1:00 p.m.	PARKING LOT REPAVING WINDOW MAILING Music Together (DBL) FOOD PANTRY OPEN Danish Sisterhood (L)
Thursday	10/30	4:30 p.m. 7:00	PARKING LOT REPAVING Ukulele (DBL) CHANCEL CHOIR REHEARSAL
Friday	10/31	9:30 a.m. 10:00 10:30	PARKING LOT REPAVING Music Together (DBL) FOOD PANTRY OPEN Music Together (DBL)
Saturday	11/1	7:30 a.m. 9:00 9:30 10:30	PARKING LOT REPAVING MENS FELLOWSHIP (CH) HARVEST FAIR (CH) Music Together (DBL) Music Together (DBL)
Sunday	11/2	9:30 a.m. 11:30 2:00 p.m.	PARKING LOT REPAVING WORSHIP: Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost BAPTISM (Sanct.) Tibetan American (K,CR)

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

Descant

4 That word a - bove all earth - ly powers, no thanks to

1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a bul - wark nev - er
2 Did we in our own strength con - fide, our striv - ing would be
3 And though this world, with dev - ils filled, should threat - en to un -
4 That word a - bove all earth - ly powers, no thanks to them, a -

them, a - bid - eth; the Spir - it and the gifts are ours

fail - ing; our help - er sure a - mid the flood of
los - ing, were not the right man on our side, the
do us, we will not fear, for God hath willed the
bid - eth; the Spir - it and the gifts are ours through

through Christ, who with us sid - eth; let goods and kin - dred go,

mor - tal ills pre - vail - ing: for still our an - cient foe doth
man of God's own choos - ing: dost ask who that may be? Christ
truth to tri - umph through us: the prince of dark - ness grim, we
Christ, who with us sid - eth: let goods and kin - dred go, this

mor - tal life al - so; the bod - y they may kill:

seek to work us woe; with power and mal - ice great, and
Je - sus, it is he; Lord Sab - a - oth his name, from
trem - ble not for him; his rage we can en - dure, for
mor - tal life al - so; the bod - y they may kill: God's

God's truth a - bid - eth still, God's king - dom is for - ev - er.

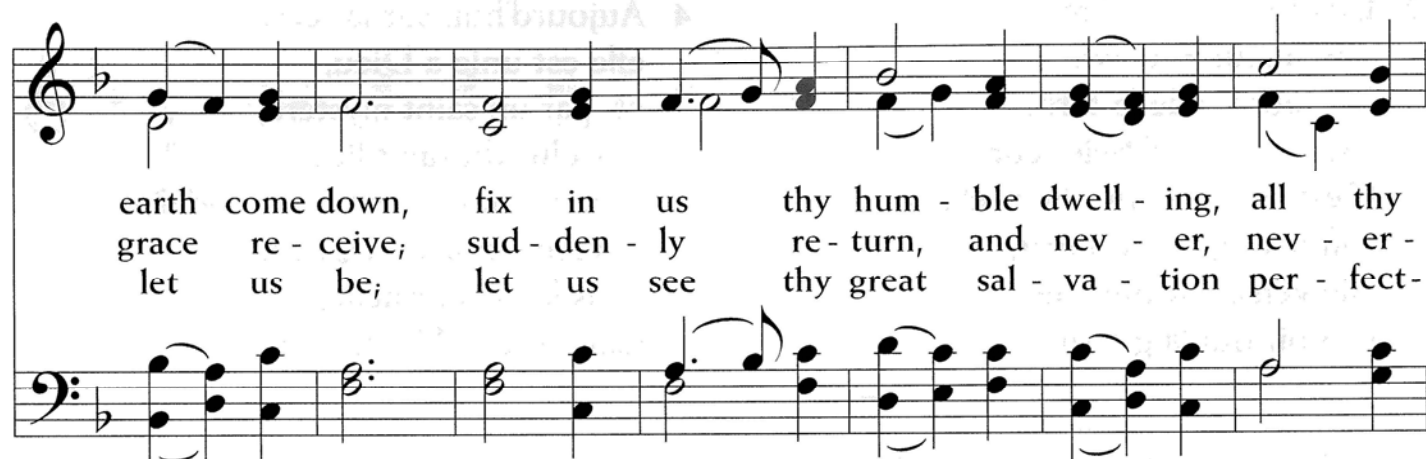
armed with cru - el hate, on earth he has no e - qual.
age to age the same, and he must win the bat - tle.
lo! his doom is sure, one lit - tle word shall fell him.
truth a - bid - eth still, God's king - dom is for ev - er.

***HYMN: "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"**

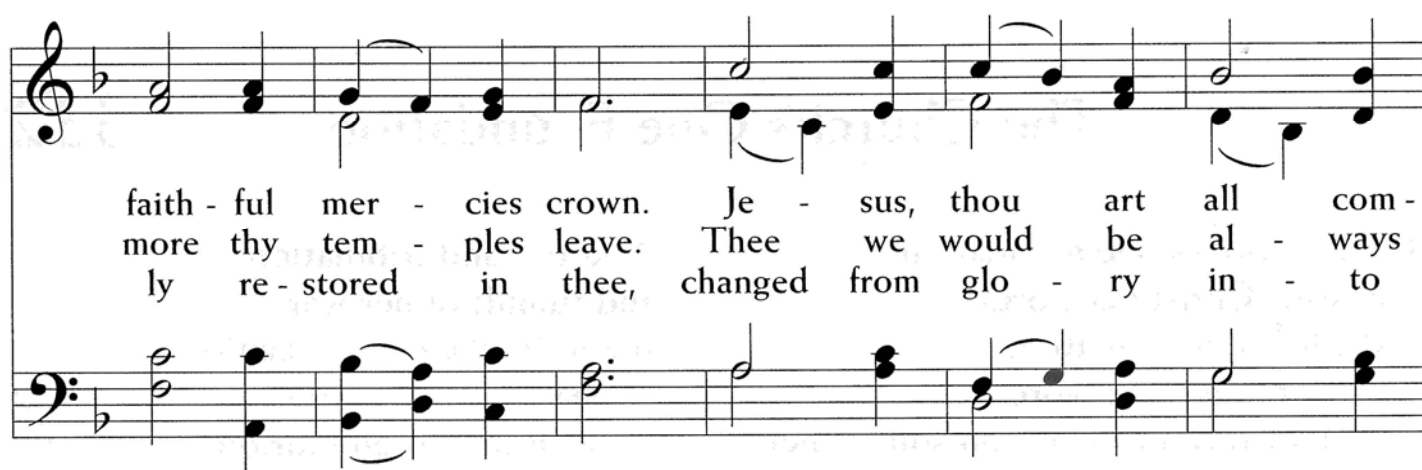
VU 333



1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, joy of heaven to
 2 Come, al - might - ty to de - li - ver; let us all thy
 3 Fin - ish, then, thy new cre - a - tion; pure and spot - less



earth come down, fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing, all thy
 grace re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er -
 let us be; let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect -



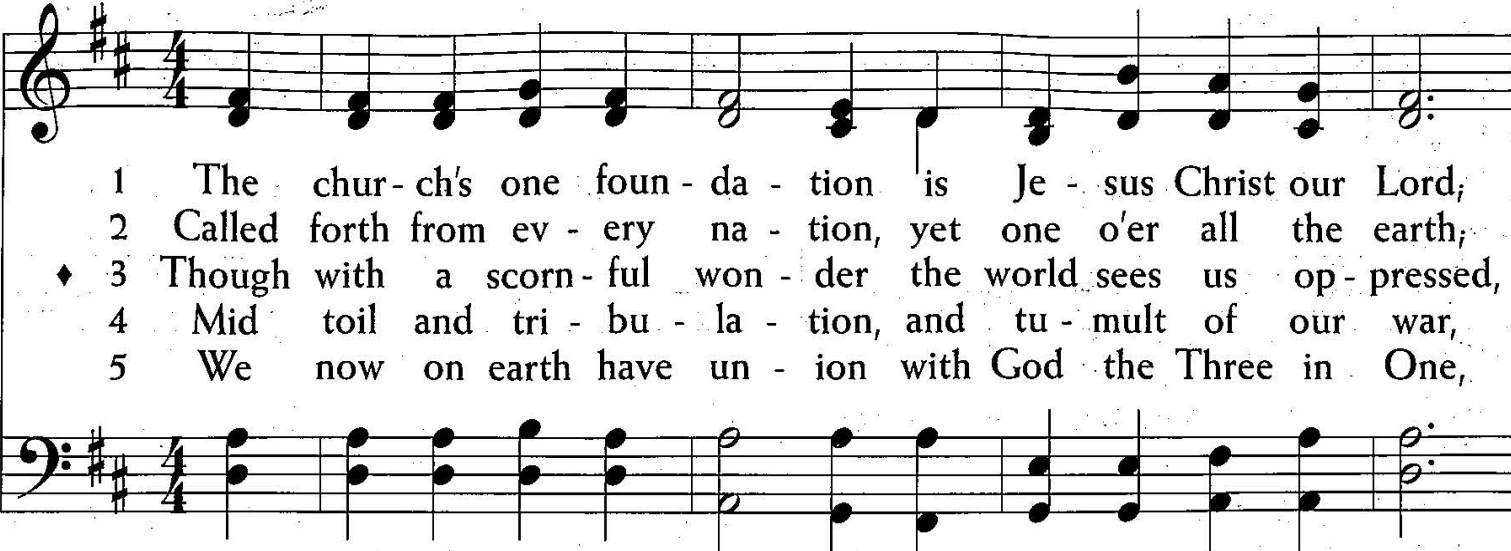
faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com -
 more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - ways
 ly re - stored in thee, changed from glo - ry in - to



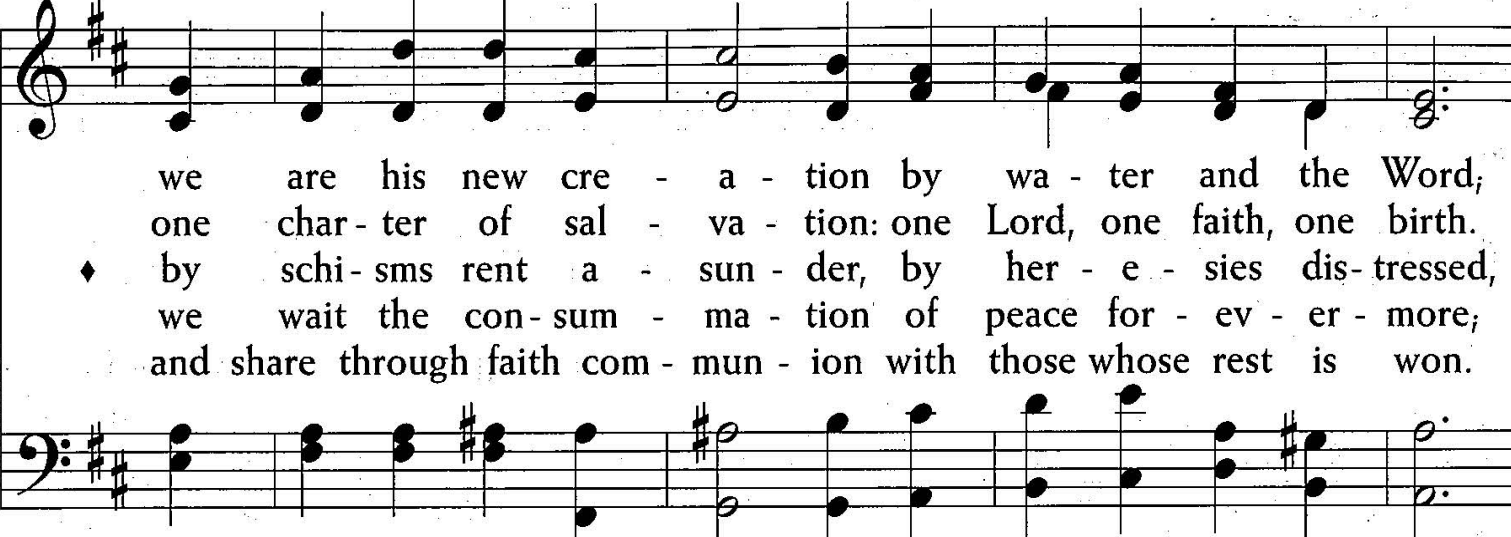
pas - sion, pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it
 bless - ing, serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and
 glo - ry, till in heaven we take our place, till we



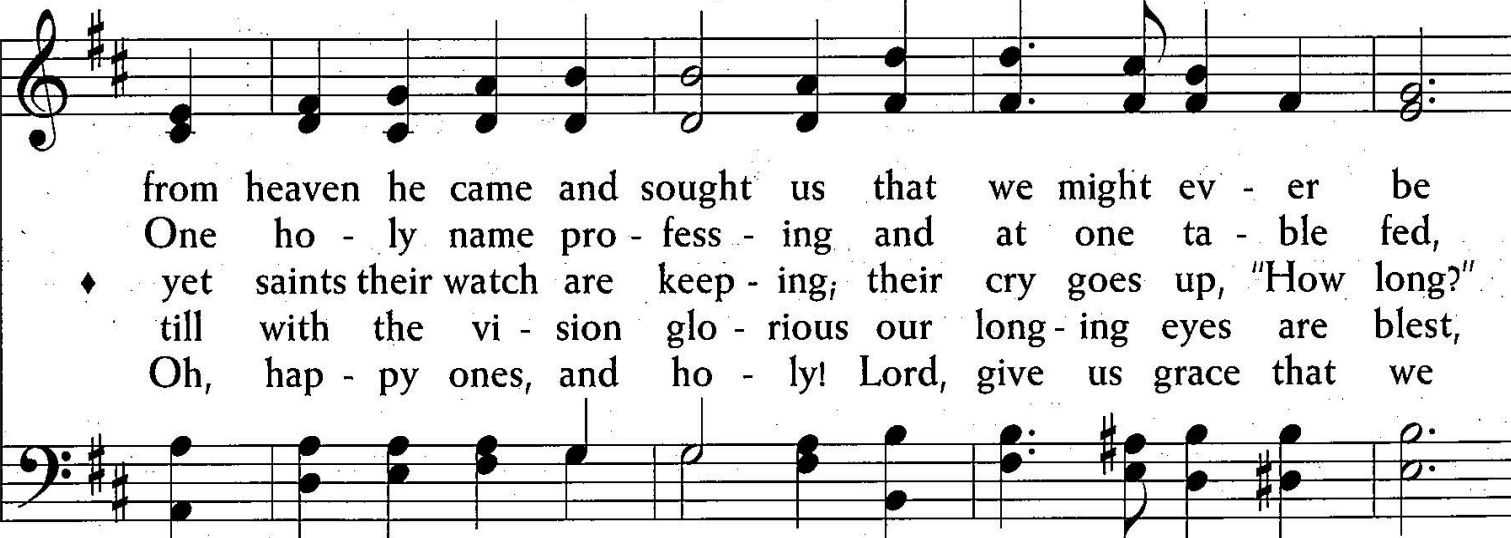
us with thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart.
 praise thee, with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.
 cast our crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise.



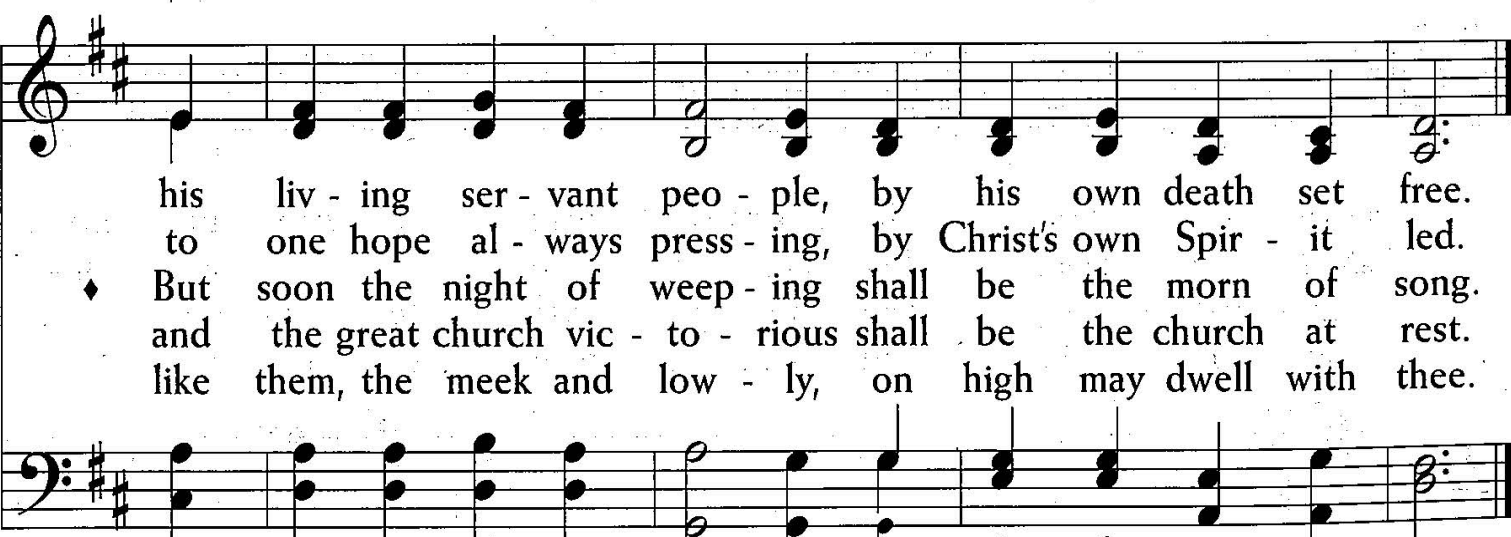
1 The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ our Lord;
 2 Called forth from every nation, yet one o'er all the earth;
 ♦ 3 Though with a scornful wonder the world sees us oppressed,
 4 Mid toil and tribulation, and tumult of our war,
 5 We now on earth have union with God the Three in One,



we are his new creation by water and the Word;
 one charter of salvation: one Lord, one faith, one birth.
 ♦ by schisms rent asunder, by heresies distressed,
 we wait the consummation of peace forevermore;
 and share through faith communion with those whose rest is won.



from heaven he came and sought us that we might ever be
 One holy name professing and at one table fed,
 ♦ yet saints their watch are keeping; their cry goes up, "How long?"
 till with the vision glorious our longing eyes are blest,
 Oh, happy ones, and holy! Lord, give us grace that we



his living servant people, by his own death set free.
 to one hope always pressing, by Christ's own Spirit led.
 ♦ But soon the night of weeping shall be the morn of song.
 and the great church victorious shall be the church at rest.
 like them, the meek and lowly, on high may dwell with thee.

The Church as Innkeeper

"All humanity are our neighbors."
St. Augustine of Hippo

The familiar Parable of the Good Samaritan tells the story of the Priest and the Levite who walked past a person in the ditch and the Good Samaritan who stopped to help. We often overlook another character in the story: the innkeeper. The Good Samaritan brought the wounded person to the inn, where the innkeeper nursed them to health until the Good Samaritan returned.

Saint Augustine, reflecting on this parable, highlights the unique role of the innkeeper, who provided a place where healing could happen. What would it mean to understand our congregation as an "inn" for Good Samaritan work? Can we see our community as a place where healing happens?

The innkeeper's role included managing resources, ensuring the inn's readiness, and extending mercy and help – roles we mirror when we care for one another and open ourselves up to caring for those in our community.

Focusing on the innkeeper can also challenge the ways we operate our building. Having a building is not the point of church. Rather, the building serves as a tool of our ministry. A church facility matters only because it can *facilitate our mission*.

Your gifts to our congregation help us provide a place of healing in our community, an "inn" where Good Samaritan ministry can happen.

CONSIDER YOUR PLEDGE AS A PERCENT OF YOUR MONTHLY INCOME.

Annual Income	Monthly Income	2%	3%	4%	5%	10%
20,000	1,667	33	50	67	83	167
25,000	2,083	42	63	83	104	208
30,000	2,500	50	75	100	125	250
35,000	2,917	58	88	117	146	292
40,000	3,333	67	100	133	167	333
45,000	3,750	75	113	150	188	375
50,000	4,167	83	125	167	208	417
60,000	5,000	100	150	200	250	500
75,000	6,250	125	188	250	313	625
100,000	8,333	167	250	333	417	833
125,000	10,417	208	313	417	521	1042
150,000	12,500	250	375	500	625	1250
200,000	16,667	333	500	667	833	1667

On average, Americans give 2% of their income to charity.
Giving even 1% more of annual income to charity would be transformative for our congregation and other organizations doing good in our community.