

Road to
Freedom

Thank you for worshipping with us this morning. We extend a special welcome to our guests.

For Children: We have trained nursery staff (paid nursery attendant as well as adult volunteers) for ages 0-4. The nursery is located on the first floor outside of the Community Room (accessible by the stairs from the Church Street entrance or via the elevator). Children ages 5 and above are invited to stay and worship with their families. Children's programs, books, and crayons are in the rear of the sanctuary near the welcome table.

Hymn selections can be found in the black hymnals in the pew racks or printed in the bulletin. If you are visiting and did not stop at the welcome desk, please stop by after the service they would love to meet you or, please feel free to reach out to someone sitting near you and ask them questions about the service or church. Many of our visitors ask us about the time of offering. This is a time in our service when we respond to God's gifts of love by offering the gifts of our lives. For many of us, this is when we make a financial gift towards the ministries and programs of our church. We also use this time to ask God how we might use the gifts of our hands and hearts in sharing God's love. If you are visiting, there is no obligation to give a financial gift. We are just glad you are worshipping with us. Plates for offering are placed at the doors as you exit the sanctuary. Thank you.

We ask that you please silence your cell phones during our worship service. We also ask that you refrain from applause after our choirs sing and allow the music to resonate in the quiet of the sanctuary and in your hearts. Our musicians are playing and singing for the glory of God. They know you appreciate their efforts and their gift.

Rest rooms (equipped with changing stations) are located on the first floor of the church building and outside the Community Room and the Nursery.

There is much information about the church in this bulletin and our website: www.erucc.org.

Donate online by scanning this code:
or download the **GivePlus Church** application and
make your donation via the app. Thank you.



Ministers and Staff of Evangelical Reformed United Church of Christ

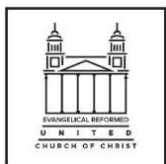
The Rev. Kirstin Shrom-Rhoads ~ *Associate for Faith Formation & Parish Life* ~ ksrhoads@erucc.org
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Kelly Esslinger ~ *Assistant Director for Bell Choirs & Children's Music*
Jenna Duranko ~ *Social Media Assistant* | Ashley Murphy ~ *Nursery Attendant*

The Rev. Dr. Barbara Kershner Daniel ~ *Pastor Emerita*
The Rev. Fred Wenner ~ *Pastor Emeritus*

Elders of Evangelical Reformed United Church of Christ

Marc Kline | Peter Brehm | Robin Cooney | Eric Weakly | Ave Barr | Matt Huetting

15 West Church Street, Frederick, MD 21701 • 301-662-2762 • www.erucc.org



EVANGELICAL REFORMED
United Church of Christ
– An Open and Affirming Congregation –



September 17, 2023

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

10:30 am

The numbered hymns are from The New Century Hymnal.

The hymns are included at the end of this bulletin.

*All who are able may stand

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONGREGATION CENTERING PRAYER

The York Family

As we journey through this time of transition, remembering our past and welcoming our future, we, the members of this congregation, seek to celebrate in word and deed the gospel of Jesus Christ by:

- **Nurturing spiritual growth through worship, study, and prayer;**
- **Caring for one another as God cares for us; and**
- **Proclaiming God's love for all people as we work to help our neighbors near and far.**

We commit ourselves to develop and implement specific programs to fulfill our missions, remembering the work of our ancestors, actively participating in our congregation's life, and laying a foundation for our generations to follow. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE CENTERING CANDLE

PRELUDE *How Can I Keep from Singing*

– arr. J. Honoré
Senior Choir

INTRODUCTION TO SERVICE

***CALL TO WORSHIP** *This is the Day*
(sung as call and response)

#84

***OPENING PRAYER** *Kum Ba Yah* – traditional folk spiritual, arr. J. Miller
Kum ba yah, my Lord, kum ba yah ...

Someone's singing, Lord, kum ba yah ...

Someone's praying, Lord, kum ba yah ...

***OPENING HYMN** *O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing* #43
stanzas 1, 2, 4

CALL TO CONFESSION Rev. Kirstin Shrom-Rhoads

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *Dear God, Embracing Humankind* #502
stanzas 1, 2

ASSURANCE OF PARDON *Blessed Assurance* #473
stanzas 1, 3

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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 debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.**

*Children ages 5 through 5th grade may be dismissed for Junior Church,
located in the Thomas Room, during the singing of the hymn.*

***HYMN** Robin A. Brady-Slifer
In the Bulb There is a Flower #433
stanzas 1, 3

THE SCRIPTURE

Psalm 150 OT page 583
Ephesians 5:15-20 NT page 195

Reader: The Word of God for the people of God.
All: **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN STORIES

Rob Smith and Robin Cooney

It Came upon the Midnight Clear

– arr. Kevin McChesney
Cambridge Handbell Choir

Precious Lord, Take My Hand

#472
stanzas 1, 3

MORNING PRAYERS

Rev. David Cooney

Spirit of the Living God

#283

IT'S COMING: CONSECRATION SUNDAY

Matt Hueting

OFFERING OF TITHES, GIFTS AND LIVES TO CHRIST'S SERVICE

OFFERTORY

Dan Ebersole

It is Well with My Soul

– arr. L. Langley
Senior Choir

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

***CLOSING HYMN** *Go, My Children, with My Blessing*

#82

BENEDICTION *The Lord Bless You and Keep You*

– P. Lufkin
Senior Choir

POSTLUDE *Joyful, Joyful (Hymn to Joy)* – Beethoven, arr. V. W. Stephenson
(please be seated) Cambridge Handbell Choir

The flowers on the altar this morning are in memory of loved ones by Jack Stush and Audrey Rayfield.

The yellow rose bud is presented in memory of Janet Curtis Martin by Larry and Sedonia Martin.

Attendance Last Sunday: 21 at 8:30 am, 132 at 10:30 am, and 43 online.

Watch
Worship
Live



Watch worship live every Sunday at 10:30 am or on-demand:

<https://sundaystreams.com/go/ERUCC>

Today: September 17, 2023

Scripture Reader: Robin Cooney
Deacons: Matt Davis, Harrison Fisher
Elder: Gerry Blessing
Greeters: Bob and Nancy Manthey
Rob Smith
Welcome: Holly Davis
Audio/Visual: Jeff Baker, Rodney Martin
Nursery: Emily Spear, Abby, Ben
Fellowship: Renae and Marc Kline

Next Week: September 24, 2023

Peter Brehm
Betsy Selby, Jim Brittain
Peter Brehm
Tom and Rachel Ford
Rob Smith
Thi Nguyen, Sue Pinner
Rodney Martin, Jeff Schaeberle
Larry Martin
Stephanie Fisher
Starr Schaeberle

FELLOWSHIP

Please join us for fellowship in the Community Room after worship to chat with friends, welcome our visitors, and enjoy a time of light refreshment.

The Community Room, located on the 1st floor, is accessible by stairs or elevator.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Worship Next Week: Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 16: 2-15 | Philippians 1: 21-30 | Matthew 20: 1-16

The Rev. Freeman L. Palmer, Conference Minister for the Central Atlantic Conference of the United Church of Christ, will be preaching and leading worship. The Senior Choir will be singing. We will honor milestone ordination anniversaries of Rev. Esther Ziegler, Rev. Dr. Robert Peters, and Rev. Dr. Barbara Kershner Daniel.

The Senior Choir will be singing.

HOSPITAL AND PRAYER LIST

We always ask permission before adding a name to be included in the prayer list or in the verbal announcements on a Sunday morning. There are many for whom we pray and visit whose names are not listed in the bulletin by their request.

Please remember the following people in your prayers:

June Brehm, Jason Rhoads, Nathan Cable, Ginny Peters, Meg Gessert (stepdaughter of Susan Kulp), James Miller (brother of Angela Brittain), Rob Peters, Hillal Eastburn, Barbara Rhoads, Pat Condo, Cathy Crome (sister of Nancy Jones), Greg Rhoads, Luke Chappell, Holly Davis, Mike Roberston (friend of Kathleen and Niel Jefferson), Marcia Eisenstein, Joyce Kallevang (sister-in-law of Jeanellen Kallevang), Derek C. Hupp (grandson of Beanie and Gaylon Cornell), Wayne Kolb (friends of Stefan and Judi Mach and Tony and Linda LaFianza), Conway Barnes (brother-in-law of George and Linda Kline), Pat Hevner, Jeannette Johnson, Jackie Keyser (sister-in-law of Betsy and Phil Selby), Tamara Tamas, Barbara Lee Crutchley (sister of Milt Crutchley), Marcy Channell (daughter of JoAnn Fritz), Paige Coffey, Jane Doll, Emogene Wyand, Fran Wenner, Bonnie Devilbiss, The McCarty family, Tina Prescott (daughter in law of Barbara and Bill Prescott), Mary Remsberg, Heleen (sister of Karin Mens), Kathy Blue Shores (friend of Jean Fish and Barb Biser), Gretchen Manuel (niece of Audrey Rayfield).

PASTORAL CARE

Evangelical Reformed UCC wants to be there for you when you're experiencing an illness, hospitalization, or other life-event for which you, or someone you love, may need a visit.

If emergency pastoral care is needed in the case of crisis, death, or severe illness, please first contact the church office at (301) 662-2762 or erucc@erucc.org. Outside of office hours, you may contact Nancy Manthey, pastoral care coordinator, at (240) 629-8030.

This Week at ERUCC

LET'S TALK - DISCUSSION OF FCPS POLICY 443

Sunday, September 17

Community Room

9:30 – 10:15 am

What is Policy 443 and Why Should We Care? God IS Still Speaking

We will discuss the work of Community FOR Frederick, an all-volunteer group of Frederick neighbors who, prompted by our former Senior Pastor Barbara Kershner Daniel, came together last year to push back against efforts to remove Frederick County Public School's Policy 443. Congregation member Colleen Baldree is the group's coordinator, and she will lead us in a discussion of what Policy 443 seeks to accomplish, the push back against the policy, and the efforts of the Community FOR Frederick group to uphold Policy 443.

GERMAN PARTNERSHIP 2024 HOSTING OPPORTUNITIES INFO MEETING

Sunday, September 17

Community Room

during Fellowship

Monday, September 18

Zoom

7:00 pm

Zoom: bit.ly/44sFKLO

Meeting ID: 834 3973 2166

Passcode: 002136

Have you ever wondered what's involved in hosting our German partners in your home when they come to Frederick? Whether you have hosted our partners before or you're curious about learning more about hosting responsibilities and the rewards, we encourage you to come to one of the informational sessions led by Renae and Marc Kline either during Fellowship on Sunday, September 17 or by Zoom on Monday, September 18. If hosting is not a good fit for you, there are also other opportunities to support this partnership. Come learn more!

We anticipate the summer 2024 exchange to start on or about June 23 and conclude around July 7, including some time when we bring the Germans away from Frederick to Bethany Beach and for other programming.

TUESDAY EVENING YOGA

Tuesdays, September 19 – October 24

Community Room

7:00 pm

Join your ERUCC friends for a new six-week cycle of Tuesday night yoga beginning September 19! You will need to bring yoga mats, blocks if used, and a water bottle. Space is limited to 20 participants. For more information or to sign up, contact Renae Kline, rdkline15@gmail.com. The 6-week session is just \$60! Payments should be marked "yoga."

YOU ARE WELCOME HERE

GREEN TEAM – POTOMAC RIVER CLEANUP AT C&O CANAL

Saturday, September 23 Canal Rd, Point of Rocks, MD, 21777 9:00 – 11:00 am



Join us for a Potomac Conservancy River Clean-up. We will pick up trash in the park and along the canal. Children and youth are invited to participate as well.

We suggest you wear long pants, sturdy shoes, and a hat. Bring gloves with you and maybe bug spray too! Trash bags will be provided.

Registration required: bit.ly/47N1Z1W

Weekly Education Opportunities for Adults

TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY with The Rev. Rebecca Shillingburg

Freeing Jesus: Rediscovering Jesus as Friend, Teacher, Savior, Lord, Way, and Presence

Tuesdays, September 12 – October 24 North Room / Zoom 11:00 am

Zoom: bit.ly/3TdUnOy

Meeting ID: 875 1423 3398

Passcode: 973365

In *Freeing Jesus*, Diana Butler Bass offers a refreshing take on the comprehensive, multi-faceted nature of Jesus, keeping his teachings relevant and alive in our daily lives. She challenges the idea that Jesus can only be understood in static, one-dimensional ways and asks us to instead consider a life where Jesus grows with us and helps us through life's challenges in several capacities: as Friend, Teacher, Savior, Lord, Way, and Presence.

Books are available now for \$10 on Sundays or in the church office.

Reading Schedule

September 19: Chapter 1 - Friend

September 26: Chapter 2 – Teacher

October 3: Chapter 3 - Savior

October 10: Chapter 4 - Lord

October 17: Chapter 5 - Way

October 24: Chapter 6 - Presence

LET'S STUDY THE BIBLE - WEDNESDAY EVENING EDITION

with The Rev. John Shillingburg

Wednesdays, September 13 – October 25 North Room / Zoom 7:00 – 8:15 pm

Zoom: bit.ly/ERwedstudy

Meeting ID: 892 1764 4500

Passcode: 848933

Like the Sunday morning class, this new evening class offers an opportunity to read and discuss the scriptures, looking at them in their original context, considering when and by whom they were written, and how they have been interpreted through the centuries. All you need is a Bible; no prior knowledge is necessary.

We will begin where the Sunday morning group did, with a seven-week basic introduction to the Bible: how it came down to us in the form we have it, how it's organized, the types of literature in it and what they mean for how we understand it. After that, we will focus on the foundational stories of the Bible in order, as the Sunday morning class is doing.

Upcoming at ERUCC

ERUCC BOOK GROUP

Tuesday, September 26

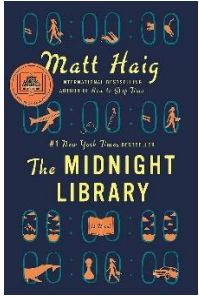
North Room / Zoom

7:00 pm

Zoom: bit.ly/ERUCCbooks

Meeting ID: 848 7056 7574

Passcode: 226669



The Midnight Library by Matt Haig. Somewhere out beyond the edge of the universe there is a library that contains an infinite number of books, each one the story of another reality. One tells the story of your life as it is, along with another book for the other life you could have lived if you had made a different choice at any point in your life. While we all wonder how our lives might have been, what if you had the chance to go to the library and see for yourself? Would any of these other lives truly be better?

In *The Midnight Library*, Matt Haig's enchanting new novel, Nora Seed finds herself faced with this decision. Faced with the possibility of changing her life for a new one, following a different career, undoing old breakups, realizing her dreams of becoming a glaciologist; she must search within herself as she travels through the Midnight Library to decide what is truly fulfilling in life, and what makes it worth living in the first place.

SCRIPTURE READING WORKSHOP

Sunday, October 1

Sanctuary

9:15 – 10:15 am

Interested in reading scripture in worship? Join us for a workshop to learn tips to make it come alive!

ERUCC HOSTING CENTRAL ATLANTIC CONFERENCE'S ANNUAL MEETING

Friday, October 13

Our congregation is hosting the Central Atlantic Conference UCC's Annual Meeting from October 12 – 14. On Friday, October 13, we will provide conference attendees with a lasagna dinner. Please review the food needs on the Signup Genius link and click on the button to sign up. Please label your contribution "Annual Meeting" and bring it to ERUCC by noon, October 12. Place everything in the walk-in refrigerator, including frozen lasagnas since they can gradually thaw for reheating on Friday. Help with set up, serving, and clean-up is also needed on Friday; a separate Signup Genius has been created for this. Thank you!

Food assistance needed: <https://bit.ly/1012lasagnas>

Serving assistance needed: <https://bit.ly/1012serving>

Children and Youth Ministry

JUNIOR CHURCH

Junior Church, a space to join in creative spiritual formation activities, meets on most Sundays, except the first Sunday of each month when we observe Communion. Children aged 5 – 5th grade may go to Junior Church in the Thomas Room after the Thought for the Day in the worship service. Parents should pick up children from Junior Church following service.

CHILDREN AND MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH MUSIC

Children ages 4 through 8th grade are invited to participate in **Children's Music and Movement**. The group rehearses each Sunday morning following Sunday School from 10:10–10:25 am in the Liz Coffey Room. Children will explore a variety of musical styles including the use of rhythm instruments, hand chimes, expression through movement, and vocal choirs.

Our **Chancel Handbell Choir**, open to elementary and middle school students, rehearses Sunday morning from 11:30 am – 12:00 pm in the Flora Room starting September 17. This choir provides music once a month during the 10:30 am worship service.

If you have any questions, please contact Trish Coffey, 301-455-8720 or trishcoffey1195@gmail.com.

TINY TOTS

Saturday, September 16

Location TBA

Time TBD

Save the date and join us for a fruit-picking experience! In Tiny Tots, we want to share growth experiences for our children aged Pre-K and younger with their families. Contact Pastor Kirstin with interest or to learn more.

KIDS' CREATION CARE CLUB – POTOMAC RIVER CLEANUP AT C&O CANAL

Saturday, September 23

Canal Rd, Point of Rocks, MD, 21777

9:00 – 11:00 am



Children's Ministry and Kids' Creation Care Club invite all children and families to join us on Saturday, September 23 for a Potomac River Cleanup in partnership with the Potomac Conservancy and St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Point of Rocks.

We can help make a huge difference for the Potomac River as we turn to the water for a safe, healthy place to recreate outdoors.

We suggest you wear long pants, sturdy shoes, and a hat. Bring gloves with you too! Trash bags will be provided. Contact Pastor Kirstin or Linda Coyle to know more!

Registration required: bit.ly/47N1Z1W

YOUTH GROUP

Sunday, September 24

Tree Trekkers

1:30 / 2:00 pm

We will enjoy an adventure together at Tree Trekkers! Either meet at ERUCC at 1:30 pm for a ride or meet us at Tree Trekkers, 9560 Old National Pike, at 2:00 pm.

GOD'S KIDS CLUB

Monday, September 25

Community Room

9:00 am – 3:00 pm

Save the date for God's Kids Club when FCPS schools are closed on Monday, September 25. More details coming soon!

Additional Announcements

ADVOCACY: ALL-ELECTRIC BUILDING CODES IN FREDERICK COUNTY

Frederick County may soon join our neighbors in Montgomery County, Howard County, and DC by introducing all-electric building codes for new construction! Please join the Multi-faith Alliance of Climate Stewards of Frederick County (MACS) and Interfaith Power & Light (DC.MD.NoVA) in advocating for safer and healthier homes and buildings by filling out the petition to Frederick County councilmembers.

Find the petition online at <https://tinyurl.com/ElectrifyFrederick> or by pointing your smartphone camera at the QR code on the right and following the link.



WATERCOLOR CLASSES WITH MARTI

Thursdays, September 14 – November 2

North Room

10:00 am – 12:00 pm



Fall is almost here and it's time to learn a new skill or polish up an old one. Come join the class starting September 14 through November 2 (no class October 12), Thursday mornings at 10:00 am in the North Room. Classes will include painting flowers, landscapes, trees, birds, oceans and many others. This is a great way to center yourself and let go of stress. The classes are \$35 each, with a minimum of four classes. You will receive lots of individual attention, and all skill levels are welcome.

For information & registration, call or text Marti Easton: (203) 249-9205.

CHURCH PARKING LOT REMINDERS

Please save spaces in our parking lot on Sunday mornings for people who have reduced mobility. City of Frederick public garage parking is free on Sunday from 8:00 am – 2:00 pm.

Kindly call the church office in advance at 301.662.2762 to confirm space is available before parking during the week.

DONATE TO FREDERICK FOOD BANK

The Department of Housing and Human Services (DHHS) Foodbank is requesting donations. The Foodbank recently expanded services and donations are needed to meet the growing need for services in our community. Donate through ERUCC by bringing items to the baskets located in the narthex of Main Sanctuary.

The Foodbank accepts the following donations:

- Non-perishable foods: canned fruits, canned peas, canned meats, pasta, peanut butter, rice, tomato sauce, and snack items.
- Hygiene items: toothbrushes, toothpaste, razors, shampoo, and shaving cream.
- Baby food: baby cereal, baby food jars, and infant formula.

CONSECRATION SUNDAY PRAYER CIRCLES

Please join our virtual Prayer Circles, led by The Rev. Suzanne Morris, our Consecration Sunday Prayer leader. We will pray for the Consecration Sunday program, its leadership team, and guest leader, and that all members of the congregation will seek God's will for them in coming to a faithful decision regarding what God is calling each to give.

Thursday, September 14, 7:00 pm

Zoom: [Prayer Circle #2](#)

Meeting ID: 761 4386 0810

Passcode: 1nwVYZ

Tuesday, September 19, 12:00 pm

Zoom: [Prayer Circle #3](#)

Meeting ID: 773 8556 3539

Passcode: L0jmu3

Thursday, September 28, 7:00 pm

Zoom: [Prayer Circle #4](#)

Meeting ID: 782 8252 0839

Passcode: gJ1gCw

Tuesday, October 3, 12:00 pm

Zoom: [Prayer Circle #5](#)

Meeting ID: 786 3534 7984

Passcode: W1Et4Z

Those interested in securing their final resting place here at ERUCC should contact the committee by email at columbarium@erucc.org or calling the office at 301-662-2762.

\$10,000 Top-tier Leadership niche (12"x12")

\$5,000 Standard niche (8"x8")

Each niche accommodates two urns.



Sunday Morning Schedule

8:30 – 9:15 am	Early Worship Service , Sanctuary
9:00 am	Coffee and Conversation , Kieffer Lobby, 2 nd Floor
9:00 – 10:15 am	Adult Education , Main Building, North Room, 2 nd Floor <i>Let's Study the Bible</i>
9:30 am – 12:00 pm	Nursery Care , , 1 st Floor
9:30 – 10:10 am	Sunday School <i>Pre-K – 2nd Grade</i> , Liz Coffey Room, 2 nd Floor <i>3rd – 5th Grade</i> , Thomas Room, 2 nd Floor <i>Youth (6th – 12th Grade)</i> , Clapp Conference Room, Church Office
10:10 – 10:25 am	Children's Music and Movement , Liz Coffey Room, 2 nd Floor
10:30 – 11:30 am	Worship , Sanctuary and Online at www.erucc.org Junior Church , Thomas Room, 2 nd Floor <i>Children are dismissed from the sanctuary after Thought for the Day during Worship</i>
11:30 am	Fellowship , Community Room, 1 st Floor Chancel Handbell Choir Rehearsal , Flora Room, 2 nd Floor

Stay Informed

SEPTEMBER TRINITY CHIMES

Read the ERUCC monthly newsletter, *Trinity Chimes*, in the back of the sanctuary or online by scanning the QR code or going to bit.ly/sept23chimes.



WEEKLY THURSDAY THOUGHTS EMAIL

Subscribe to receive our weekly email newsletter at <http://eepurl.com/gDNCu5> or by scanning the QR code!

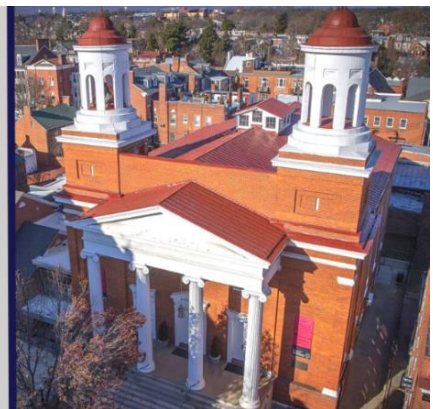


MISSION STATEMENT

We, the members of this congregation, seek to celebrate in word and deed the gospel of Jesus Christ, by nurturing spiritual growth through worship, study and prayer; by caring for one another as God cares for us; and by proclaiming God's love for all people as we work to help our neighbors near and far. We commit ourselves to develop and implement specific programs to fulfill our mission.



EVANGELICAL REFORMED UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



Worship services and events at Evangelical Reformed UCC are sometimes photographed and videotaped to document the vibrant life of our church. If you do not wish to be included in these recordings, please notify a deacon or the church office. Always seek permission prior to sharing images and video that includes minors on your personal social media.

Ps. 118:24; Luke 24:1-7; Acts 2:1-4

St. 1 paraphr. by Les Garrett, 1967; alt.

St. 2-3, traditional; alt.

Unison

E \flat *B \flat 7*

1 This is the day, this is the day that our God has made, that our
 2 This is the day, this is the day Je - sus rose a - gain, Je - sus
 3 This is the day, this is the day when the Spir - it came, when the

E \flat

God has made; we will re-joyce, we will re-joyce and be glad in it, and be
 rose a - gain; we will re-joyce, we will re-joyce and be glad in it, and be
 Spir - it came; we will re-joyce, we will re-joyce and be glad in it, and be

A \flat *E \flat* *A \flat*

glad in it. This is the day that our God has made, we will re-joyce and be
 glad in it. This is the day Je - sus rose a - gain, we will re-joyce and be
 glad in it. This is the day when the Spir - it came, we will re-joyce and be

E \flat *E \flat /B \flat B \flat 7 E \flat*

glad in it; This is the day, this is the day that our God has made.
 glad in it; This is the day, this is the day Je - sus rose a - gain.
 glad in it; This is the day, this is the day when the Spir - it came.

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

*Mal. 3:1; 2 Cor. 3:18; 5:17; Eph. 5:27**Charles Wesley, 1747; alt.*

1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, joy of heaven, on earth be found,
 2 Breathe, O breathe your lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - ery trou - bled breast;
 3 Come, al - might - y to de - liv - er, let us all your life re - ceive;
 4 Fin - ish, then, your new cre - a - tion; pure and spot - less may we prove;

Fix in us a hum - ble dwell - ing, all your faith - ful mer - cies crown;
 Let us all in you in - her - it, let us find your prom - ised rest;
 Sud - den - ly re - turn, and ne - ver, ne - ver - more your tem - ples leave.
 Let us see your great sal - va - tion per - fect - ly re - stored in you;

Je - sus, you are all com - pas - sion; pure, un - bound - ed love im - part.
 Take a - way our love of sin - ning; Al - pha and O - me - ga be;
 You we would be al - ways bless - ing, love you as your an - gels love,
 Changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry, till in heaven we take our place,

Vis - it us with your sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart.
 End of faith, as its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.
 Pray and praise for your un - fail - ing, wound - ed arms out - stretched a - bove.
 Crowned as saints, we ev - er shall be lost in won - der, love, and praise.

Dear God, Embracing Humankind

502

John Greenleaf Whittier, 1872; alt.

Mark 1:16-20; Matt. 14:22-23; 1 Kings 19:11-12

1 Dear God, em-brac - ing hu - man - kind, for - give our fool - ish
2 In sim - ple trust like theirs who heard, be - side the Syr - ian
3 O sab - bath rest by Gal - i - lee! O calm of hills a -
4 Drop your still dews of qui - et - ness, till all our striv - ings
5 Breathe through the puls - es of de - sire your cool - ness and your

ways; Re - clothe us in our right - ful mind, in
sea, The gra - cious call - ing of your word, let
bove! There Je - sus met you prayer - ful - ly: the
cease; Take from our souls the strain and stress, and
balm; Let sense be numb, let flesh re - tire; speak

pur - er lives your ser - vice find, in deep - er rev - erence, praise.
us, like them, by spir - it stirred, rise up and fol - lowers be.
si - lence of e - ter - ni - ty, in - ter - pret - ed by love.
let our or - dered lives con - fess the beau - ty of your peace.
through the earth - quake, wind, and fire, O still, small voice of calm.

Acts 17:30-31; Rev. 7:9-14

Fanny Crosby, 1873; alt.

1 Bless-ed as - sur - ance, Je - sus is mine! O what a
 2 Per - fect sub - mis - sion, per - fect de - light! Vi - sions of
 3 Per - fect sub - mis - sion, all is at rest, I in my

fore - taste of glo - ry di - vine! Heir of sal - va - tion, pur - chase of
 rap - ture now burst on my sight; An - gels de - scend - ing, bring from a -
 Sav - ior am hap - py and blessed; Watch - ing and wait - ing, look - ing a -

God, born of the Spir - it, washed in Christ's blood.
 bove ech - oes of mer - cy, whis - pers of love.
 bove, filled with God's good - ness, lost in Christ's love.

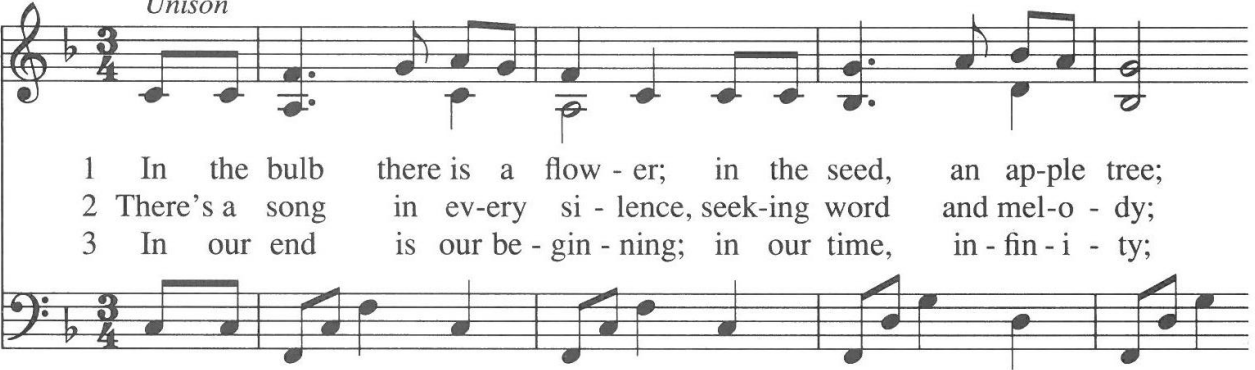
Refrain

This is my sto - ry, this is my song, prais - ing my Sav - ior all the day long;

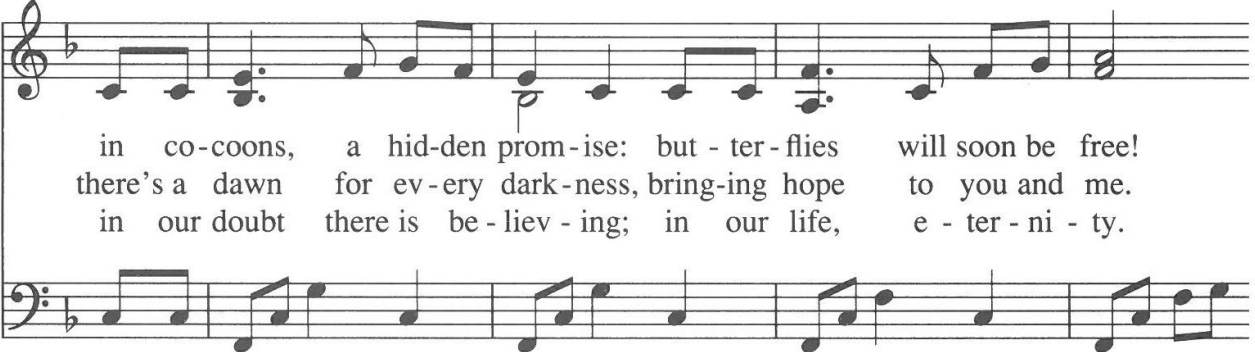
This is my sto - ry, this is my song, prais - ing my Sav - ior all the day long.

Natalie Sleeth, 1985

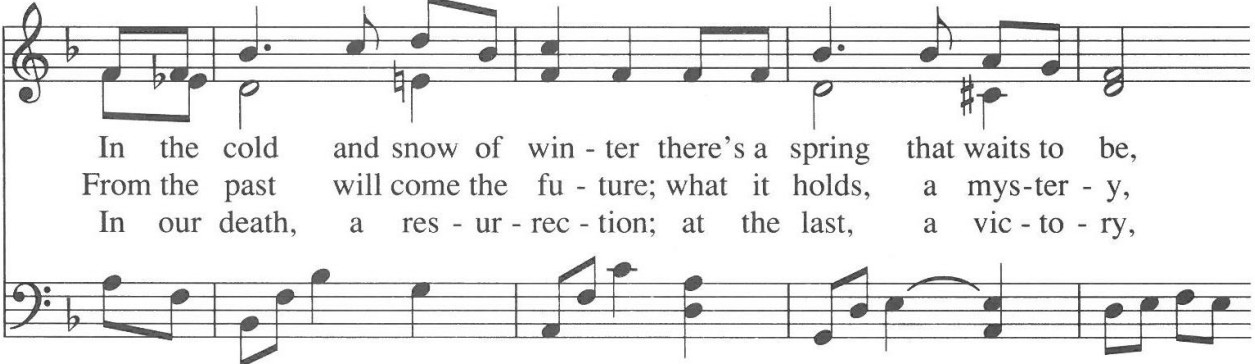
Unison



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

Precious Lord, Take My Hand

472

Thomas A. Dorsey, 1932; alt.

1 Pre-cious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand,
2 When my way grows drear, pre-cious Lord, lin-ger near,
3 When the shad - ows ap - pear and the night draws near,

I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;
when my life is al - most gone,
and the day is past and gone,

Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light:
Hear me cry, hear my call, hold my hand, lest I fall:
At the riv - er I stand, guide my feet, hold my hand:

Refrain

Take my hand, pre - cious Lord, lead me home.

Spirit of the Living God

283

Daniel Iverson, 1926

Acts 11:15; 2 Cor. 3:1-6; Gal. 5:25

F Gm D Gm F Dm C F

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me;

The first system of music is in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). It features a treble and bass staff. The treble staff has a melody line with notes and rests, and a chord line with chords indicated by letters above the staff. The bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and some moving lines.

F Gm D Gm F Bb/C C7 F

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me.

The second system continues the melody and accompaniment. The treble staff shows the continuation of the melody and chord line. The bass staff continues the accompaniment. The key signature remains one flat.

Bb F G7 C

Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.

The third system continues the melody and accompaniment. The treble staff shows the continuation of the melody and chord line. The bass staff continues the accompaniment. The key signature remains one flat.

F Gm D Gm F Dm C7 F

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me.

The fourth system concludes the piece. The treble staff shows the continuation of the melody and chord line. The bass staff continues the accompaniment. The key signature remains one flat.

Go, My Children, with My Blessing

Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1983, 1990; alt.

1 Go, my chil-dren, with my bless-ing, nev - er a - lone;
2 Go, my chil-dren, fed and nour-ished, clos - er to me;

Wak - ing, sleep-ing, I am with you, you are my own;
Grow in love and love by serv-ing, joy - ful and free.

In my love's bap - tis-mal riv - er I have made you mine for - ev - er,
Here my Spir - it's pow-er filled you, here with ten - der com-fort stilled you;

Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, you are my own.
Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour-ished, joy - ful and free.

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 17, 2023

Exodus 14:19-31

Road to Freedom *Just Peace Sunday*

Even if you have not spent much time in church or in Bible study, the story of the crossing of the Red Sea is probably a little familiar. Take a look at the story with new eyes today, reading it through a lens that is new to you. What new message or insight do you get from this story by reading it in this new way?

A **literary** reading considers the story from the point of view of literature. How does the plot arc and flow keep you, as the reader or listener, engaged? What are some of the literary devices, such as use of language? Who are the characters and how are they developed? What is your point of view as a reader or listener? How does the story change if you consider it from another point of view?

A **historical** reading considers the story from the point of view of its place in history. Take into account the place and time that the story takes place. What is the culture of God's people and of Pharaoh's people at the time? What are other forces at work in these societies?

Another way to read a Bible story is as a story of **God's work in the world**. In reading this way, pay attention to where God is and what God is doing. What is God like in this story and how does this compare to God's presence in other stories? How does God look and sound? In what ways does God circumvent expected or natural law in order to accomplish Divine goals?

You may also want to read a scripture story **devotionally**, as a way to intentionally deepen your walk with God. In reading this way, read the story slowly three times. The first time, pay attention to any words or phrases that jump out at you and make note of them. The second time, read while asking God to show you God's purpose in the world. The third time, read asking God to reveal something that you need for your own particular faith walk.

Yet another way to read the Bible, and perhaps a particularly helpful one on this Just Peace Sunday (<https://www.ucc.org/just-peace/>), is through a **liberation theology** lens. Liberation theology is based on the fundamental value that God's preference is always for the marginalized and oppressed. As you read this way, look for clues that God is working for freedom for the enslaved, and disruption of systems of oppression.



8 1/2" x 14" UCC SUNDAY BULLETIN SERVICE