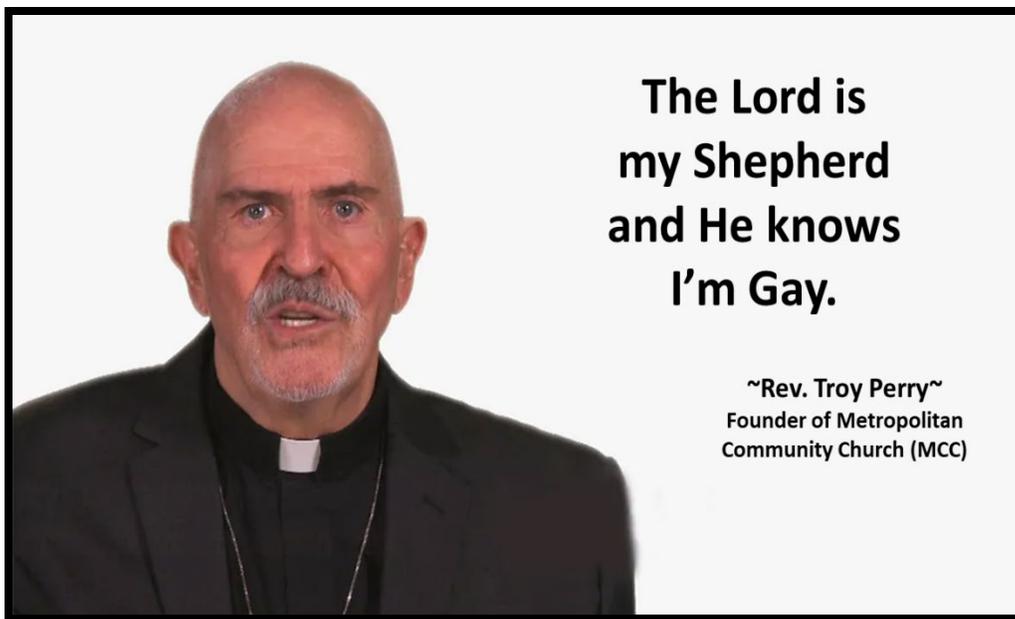


ZION REFORMED

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost ☛ September 25th, 2022 ☛ 11 A.M.



WORSHIP GUIDE

Scattering Seeds of Hope

WE GATHER TO PRAISE GOD

Congregational Responses are in **Bold**.

Please silence all mobile devices.

✦ Indicates Music Selection.

↑ An invitation to stand.

Gathering Music ✦

"Passacaglia in C-Minor"

Ringing of the Bells ✦

Prelude to Worship

"In Thee is Joy"

Words of Welcome

↑ Call to Community

All who delight in the Sacred Strange, let us worship the Radical Creator.

Thanks be to God who blesses the peculiar, the stranger and the rejected... and rejoices in the uniqueness of every body and being.

The Holy takes on flesh – all are one in Christ Jesus!

Every race and ability, every gender and sexual orientation – each embodied difference is a glimpse of Holy Wonder.

Blessed are those who search for God among the lives of the oppressed, the betrayed, the turned-away, and the condemned.

Blessed are those who receive with joy the gifts of God enfleshed among us.

The Sacred is with us. Let us worship and be transformed.

↑ Opening Hymn ✦

"God of Grace and God of Glory"
TNCH #436 (Black Hymnal)

Opening Prayer

Beloved One, your embrace is a refuge from violence and hatred. Those who have been turned away, forgotten, or persecuted find belonging in you. We hope to embody such love in this place. May we be a sanctuary, a shelter, a safe place to turn. May we endeavor to learn from each other and grow together in love that protects and uplifts. Amen.

Children's Time ✦

Fall Leaves
Rae Smith

Introduction of Our Guest

Michael Jones

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Gospel Reading: *Disputes*

John 8:21-32 (NIV)
Rev. Harry Stock

Once more Jesus said to them, "I am going away, and you will look for me, and you will die in your sin. Where I go, you cannot come." This made the Jews ask, "Will he kill himself? Is that why he says, 'Where I go, you cannot come'?" But he continued, "You are from below; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world. I told you that you would die in your sins; if you do not believe that I am he, you will indeed die in your sins." "Who are you?" they asked. "Just what I have been telling you from the beginning," Jesus replied. "I have much to say in judgment of you. But he who sent me is trustworthy, and what I have heard from him I tell the world." They did not understand that he was telling them about his Father. So Jesus said, "When you have lifted up^[a] the Son of Man, then you will know that I am he and that I do nothing on my own but speak just what the Father has taught me. The one who sent me is with me; he has not left me alone, for I always do what pleases him." Even as he spoke, many believed in him.

To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

The Message by Reverend Harry Stock

Homophobia & the Bible: A Deadly Combination

RESPONDING IN LOVE

Invitation to Give

Since its beginning, the church was meant to be a place of chosen family - a community of outcasts and outlaws, dreamers, prophets, and humble disciples of Love. In the company of Divine Presence, we create belonging and nurture justice. With gratitude for the Sacred Labors of Love in this place, let us bring our offerings to God and one another.

Offertory ✧

"Adagio in G-Minor"

Offertory Response ✧

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God above ye heavenly host.
Praise Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost.
O Praise God
O Praise God
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia!

(To the tune of "All Creatures of Our God", TNCH# 17)

Blessing Our Gifts

God of Justice, even as we celebrate your love for the LGBTQ community today, we remember the church has not always done so. We acknowledge the harm that continues to be done in your name today. As we bring our offerings, we bring also a renewed commitment to interrupting prejudice and practicing solidarity. We press on together until people of every sexual orientation and gender identity can live freely and without fear, receiving the love and support all people deserve. Thanks be to you, our guide and our help in making it so. Amen.

↑ Koinonia Hymn ✧

"Alleluia! Hear God's Story"
Rear of Bulletin

What We Believe – United Church of Christ Statement of Faith

We believe in you, O God, Eternal Spirit, God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God, and to your deeds we testify:

You call the worlds into being, create persons in your own image, and set before each one the ways of life and death.

You seek in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.

You judge people and nations by your righteous will declared through prophets and apostles.

In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Savior, you have come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to yourself.

You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.

You call us into your church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be your servants in the service of others, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory.

You promise to all who trust you forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, your presence in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in your realm which has no end.

Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you. Amen.

Prayer of Our Savior

**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,
Forever and ever. Amen.**

MOVING TOWARDS PEACE ON EARTH

↑ Closing Hymn ✨

"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"
TNCH #43 (Black Hymnal)

Sending Forth

As the light of God, we shine.
As the love of God, we embrace.
As the power of God, we stand in truth.
As the presence of God, we radiate love.
Wherever we are, God is, and all is well.
Go forth in peace: Shine, embrace, stand in truth, and love!

Prelude to Service ✨

"Toccatà"

GO FORTH IN PEACE & SERVE!

SHINE //
EMBRACE
LOVE
and stand for **Truth!**

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Week of September 25th

Welcome Reverend Harry Stock



Welcome Reverend Harry Stock from Scrolls Revealed Ministries! Rev. Stock facilitated yesterday's seminar and will continue the message of the seminar in today's message as our Guest Preacher. The in-depth study he provided at the seminar was a phenomenal study for which we are grateful! Please be sure to extend a warm welcome to him today!

Neighbors in Need Special Offering – Next Sunday

Next week, we celebrate World Communion Sunday as remember of our unity in Christ. This Sunday is also designated as the *Neighbors In Need (NIN)* special offering Sunday within the United Church of Christ. NIN supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. This offering helps support the Council for American Indian Ministry and the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) such as justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through denominational grants. In 2022, the Neighbors in Need "BEHOLD!" offering focuses on economic justice. With inflation impacting all of our households, we wanted to provide a way to discuss this topic through a faith lens. Please prayerfully consider making an offering to this important special offering.

Mummers' Parade Seats Available

The Mummers' Parade is back this year after a couple years off due to the pandemic and is scheduled for Oct 29th at 6pm. The Christian Education department will be selling seats for parade attendees to watch the parade as it goes by in front of the church. Seats will be \$6.00 for street-side seats and \$5.00 for wall seats. Concessions will be available for purchase too! All proceeds go to Christian Education activities. Sales are open to the church now, and will open to the public on Oct 1st. See Rae Smith to purchase your tickets today or email zionrucc@myactv.net.

Dinner Theater Rehearsals Update

Dinner Theater rehearsals are postponed until October 9th due to schedule conflicts of some of the cast. The Dinner Theater performance will be November 19th. Tickets will go on sale soon!

Community Yard Sale Cancelled

The Community Yard Sale scheduled for October 15th has been cancelled. If anyone is interested in planning a spring yard sale instead, please talk to Pastor Katie.

A Constant Reminder



On Rally Day, we built our own sand art jar that now sits on our altar. This wasn't just any sand art jar but a beautiful symbol of our faith with each color of sand representing a different aspect:

Brown – Foundation of Faith
Blue – Peace
Purple - Forgiveness

White – Faith/Spirit
Green -Creation/God
Orange – Service/Mission

Yellow – Hope
Pink – Love

Mark Your Calendar and Spread the News!

Our annual Pet Blessing service will be held October 9th during normal worship time in the parking lot. Bring your leashed or caged pet (or a picture of him/her) to be blessed.

Our Joys & Concerns

Praying with One Another



Prayer is one of the most important spiritual disciplines of our faith, promoting communication with God, and love for God and neighbor. Submit your prayer requests to the church office to be included on the prayer list. Join with us in prayer as we pray for all those in our communities that we have touched or that have touched us and those that simply crossed our paths. Let us also remember to pray for peace and safety in Ukraine and around the world and to pray with and for our Zion siblings: [Eric B.](#), Holly Bell, [Naomi Brackett](#), Jeff Cannedy, [Linda Cantilena](#), Richard Cantilena, [Cisco](#), Clear Spring Community and the Josenhans, Knode, and Shives' families, [Kim & Bill Cook](#), Carol Garland, [Michael Graff Jr. \(son of Sue and Mike\)](#), Beth Gross, [Jim & Donna Hatfield](#), Sherry Hockman, [Lyn Hoffmaster](#), Jane Hollabaugh, [Paul Hose](#), Ann Kalinoski, [Rhondda Kane](#), Alyssa Kline, [Dee Krause](#), Susan LaBombard, [Sofia Martinez](#), Dee McGlauckin, Barry & Amy Newlin, Annie Penick, James Penick, Colleen Rand, [David Ridenour](#), Betsy Roulette, [Claudia Ruth](#), Norm & Lori Schmidt, [Ralph & Scherry Sellers](#), Staci Shafer, [Thelma Summers](#), Tracy Roach Walls, [Eleanor Wible](#), Eric Wolbring, [Robert Yeoman](#), and Mia.

**Prayer Requests remain active on the prayer list for 4-weeks unless renewed.*

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Happy Birthday to **Naomi Brackett** (Sep 15th), **Kara Hoover** (Sep 15th), and **Richard Lohman** (Sep 17th). May this year of your life/lives be filled with happiness as we celebrate the gift of YOU. We hope and pray that this year of your life is filled with an abundance of blessings, and for any times of trial that may arise may you find the perseverance and strength in Christ to prevail.



Lector Ministry Schedule

This Week (Sep 25th): Carol Mooers

Next Week (Oct 2nd): Jean Simmons

Face Masking and Social Distancing Guidelines



Please continue to socially distance when interacting with those outside of your immediate family, sit in alternating pews as indicated, and mask when not seated for worship. These actions help show our love for one another in action and keeps our doors open for all.

Daily COVID Rate in Wash. Co: 13.51% as of Aug 22nd (*[Wash Co. Coronavirus Dashboard](#))

7-day COVID average for Wash. Co: 15.8% with 6 hospitalizations as of Sep 7th (*[Meritus Health](#))

Human MonkeyPox Emergency: 571 cases throughout the state of MD (*[MD Health Dept](#))

Important Dates This Week

Outreach Team Meeting – September 26th at 12:30pm

Christian Ed Team Meeting – September 26th at 4pm

Tuesday's Supper & 1-Stop Shop – September 27th from 5-6:30pm (Fellowship Hall)
Dine-in and carry-out options available!

Properties Team Meeting – September 28th at 4pm

Thursday Lunch Bunch – September 29th at 11:30am (Hybrid)
www.zionreformed.church/thursday

Staff Team Meeting – September 29th at 12:30pm (Hybrid)

Executive Team Meeting – September 29th at 2pm (ZOOM)

4-H Club – September 29th at 4:30pm (ZOOM)

Returning to in-person meetings at the church in October. See Kim Ridenour for more information

Helping Our Neighbors

We love to help our neighbors locally and globally with love, prayers, and action. Please remember the following continual giving campaigns that help us show our love in addition to our tithes and offerings.



Help us collect food for our Micah's Backpack program. Below is the list by month. Any and all donations are greatly appreciated! Thank you for your help in this outreach ministry.

September	Vienna sausages
October	Single serve (7.5 oz) cups of pasta meals. Spaghetti O's, Mac & Cheese, Lasagna, etc.
November	Individual packages of Oatmeal
December	Hot Chocolate and Apple Cider individual packages
January	Soup, Vegetable, Chicken Noodle, etc.
February	Peanut Butter
March	Pudding and Jell-O cups
April	Juice Boxes
May	Granola Bars



A \$1 donation to the Tri-State Medical Debt Relief Campaign, on average, abolishes \$100 of medical debt. Donate today and help relieve medical debt across Maryland, West Virginia, and Pennsylvania. Donations can be made through our RIP Medical Debt campaign page at <https://ripmedicaldebt.org/campaign/tri-state-debt-relief/> or through the church in-person, or on the church website at www.zionreformed.church/give by marking your gift for "Medical Debt Relief".



Zion's Ukrainian Relief Fund provides monetary support to the World Central Kitchen's Ukrainian relief efforts and to the UCC's ACT Alliance which directly supports Ukrainian relief efforts. Monies raised will be split equally between both of these vital outreach organizations providing much needed humanitarian assistance such as food, shelter, training, and more. Please prayerfully consider making a donation to the church marked "Ukrainian Relief Fund" and drop it in the Ukrainian Relief Fund donation box, by mail, or online at www.zionreformed.church/give. Let us also continue to pray with our Ukrainian siblings for peace and safety in Ukraine and around the world.

Behold!

Behold, the wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, are crying out against you... James 5:4

A Neighbors In Need Scripture Study to help you prayerfully consider donating to this special mission offering and realize struggles of many of our neighbors.

Mini Scripture Study: Luke 10: 25-37 (NRSV) and/or James 5:4 (NRSV)

Prayer of Illumination: Creator God, we welcome you in this space. May your liberating Spirit saturate and transform this space and enliven our Covenant. Open our hearts and minds to receive, reflect, and redress. Engage our senses. Engage our bodies. Engage our souls. We are yours. Transform us together now and always, in community we pray, Amen.

Discussion Questions:

- Who is Our neighbor?
- Who is our family?
- What is happening to them as they travel life's roads, i.e., the Good Samaritan?
- What are some economic challenges affecting people? What about the fraud in James 5:4?

Additional Material to Better Integrate this Lesson:

- a) Wage Theft/fraud – Unfortunately it is quite common for employers to steal wages from workers, that is to fail to pay employees all they earn. Up to two-thirds of workers in low-wage industries are victims of wage theft each week. Failure to pay for all hours worked or for overtime are just some examples of the ways employers steal wages. . Learn more. View and discuss "Know Your Rights in the Workplace: Wage Theft"
- b) Work to end wage theft in your community. Learn more. Low-wage workers are high-value people, created in the image of God. All jobs must provide fair wages, benefits, and working conditions. Workers must be able to support themselves and their families and live with dignity the life of wholeness that God intends for all. God's reign does not stop at the door to the workplace but extends to all aspects of life including our work lives.

Action Items:

- What is God calling you and your faith community to do?
- What are your goals and timeline for completion?

With your generous support, the United Church of Christ, through the Neighbors in Need Special Mission Offering helps its members live out their beliefs via acts of service. Please prayerfully consider donating to this special mission offering next week during worship or online at www.zionreformed.church/give and choose Neighbors in Need.

God of Grace, and God of Glory

The New Century Hymnal #436 (Black Hymnal)

1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on your peo - ple
2 From the e - vils that sur - round us and as - sail the
3 Cure your chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to
4 Set our feet on loft - y plac - es; gird our lives that
5 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils

pour your power; crown your an - cient church - 's sto - ry;
Sav - ior's ways, from the fears that long have bound us—
your con - trol. Shame our reck - less, self - ish glad - ness,
they may be ar - mored with all Christ - like grac - es,
we de - plore; let the search for your sal - va - tion

bring its bud to glo - rious flower. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
free our hearts for faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
in the fight to set us free. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
be our glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,

for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.
for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.
make our bro - ken spir - its whole, make our bro - ken spir - its whole.
in the quest for lib - er - ty, in the quest for lib - er - ty.
serv - ing you whom we a - dore, serv - ing you whom we a - dore.

Tune: "CWM Rhondda" by John Hughes (1907), ©Public Domain.

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Lyric alterations by The New Century Hymnal, ©1995 by The Pilgrim Press.

One License Song# 97297

<https://hymnary.org/hymn/NCH1995/436>

Alleluia! Hear God's Story

Chalice Hymnal #330

G D G G/B C D7 G

1. Al - le - lu - ia! Hear God's sto - ry, still un - fold - ing with each dawn.
 2. Al - le - lu - ia! Sing the sto - ry; God's great faith - ful - ness pro - claim.
 3. Al - le - lu - ia! Dance the sto - ry; ev - 'ry sin - ew now en - gage.

D7 G D7 G G/B C D7 G

Taste the wine and bod - y bro - ken: God's cre - a - tive love lives on.
 Tell of proph - ets and a - pos - tles; sing the pow'r of Je - sus' name.
 Teth - ered close in truth - ful wor - ship, bold - ly face the com - ing age.

C Am D Bm Em Am Dsus D

Who the neigh - bor? Who the hun - gry? Who is thirst - y for sha - lom?
 Who the neigh - bor? Who the list - 'ner? Who has ears to hear our song?
 Who the neigh - bor? Who the watch - ful? Who will wel - come life's em - brace?

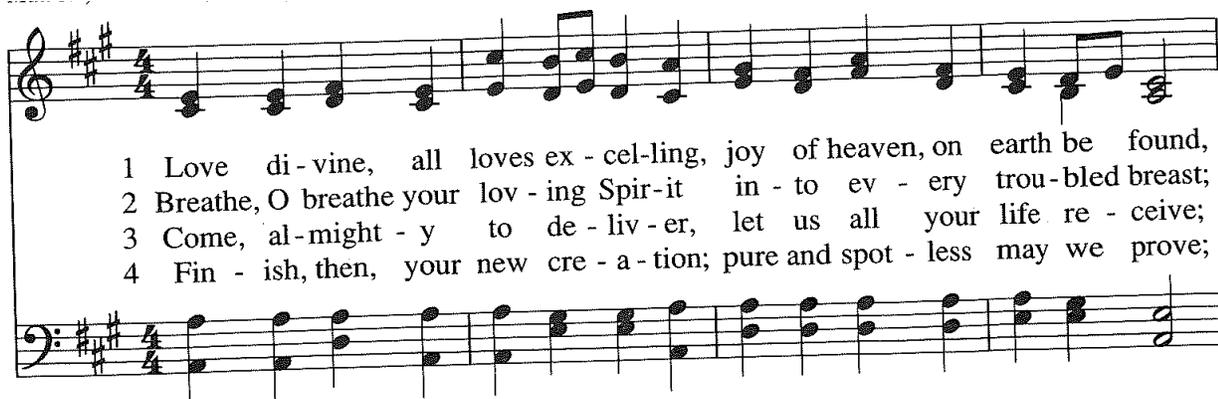
G Am D7 Em Bm G/B C G/D D7 G

God of jour - ney, in your sto - ry; lead us, with the neigh - bor, home.
 God of his - t'ry, tune our voic - es, make our hope - ful wit - ness strong.
 God of gos - pel, tell the sto - ry through our danc - ing of your grace.

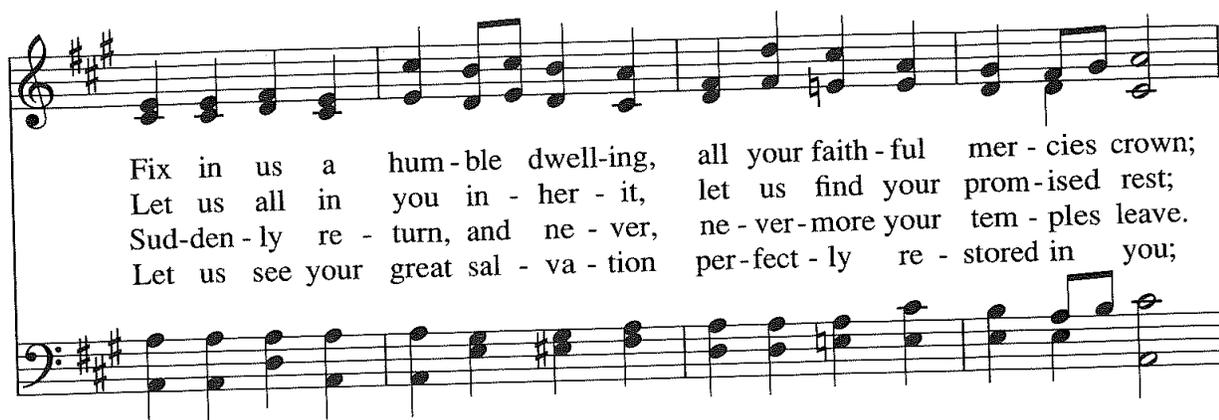
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Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

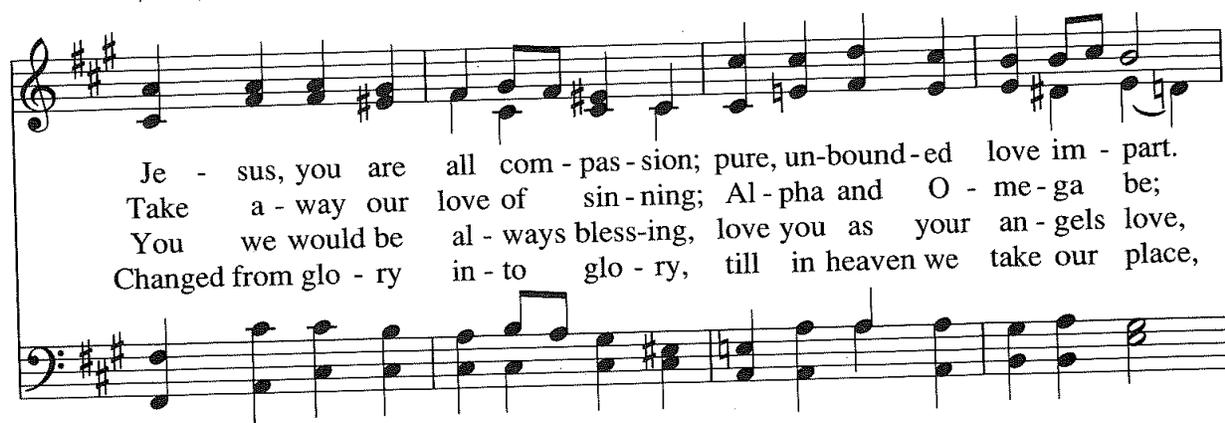
Chalice Hymnal Song #43 (Black Hymnal)



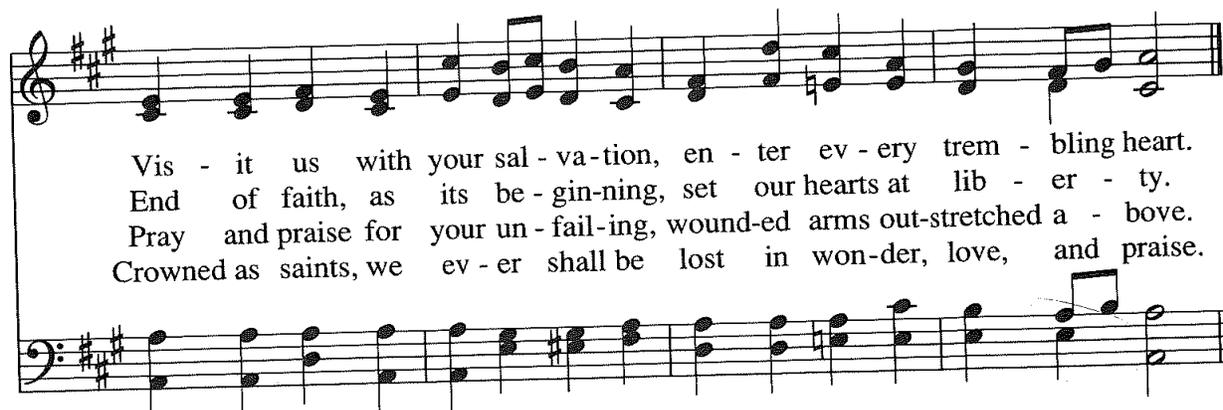
1 Love di-vine, all loves ex-cel-ling, joy of heaven, on earth be found,
2 Breathe, O breathe your lov-ing Spir-it in-to ev-ery trou-bled breast;
3 Come, al-might-y to de-liv-er, let us all your life re-ceive;
4 Fin-ish, then, your new cre-a-tion; pure and spot-less may we prove;



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-mega 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.

Tune: "Beecher" by John Zundel (1855), ©Public Domain.

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Offertory Response: "*Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*" – CCLI Song# 7106190 – Tune, "*Lasst Uns Erfreuen*" by Anonymous (17th-century) and arranged by Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958), ©Public Domain. Lyrics by Anonymous (17th-century) and adapted by Thomas Ken (1674), ©Public Domain. (*The Celebration Hymnal* #166). Performed by C. M. Moblard (organist) of Zion Reformed UCC. *Source(s): [Hymnary](https://hymnary.org) (hymnary.org) and [CCLI Song Select](https://songselect.ccli.com) (songselect.ccli.com).

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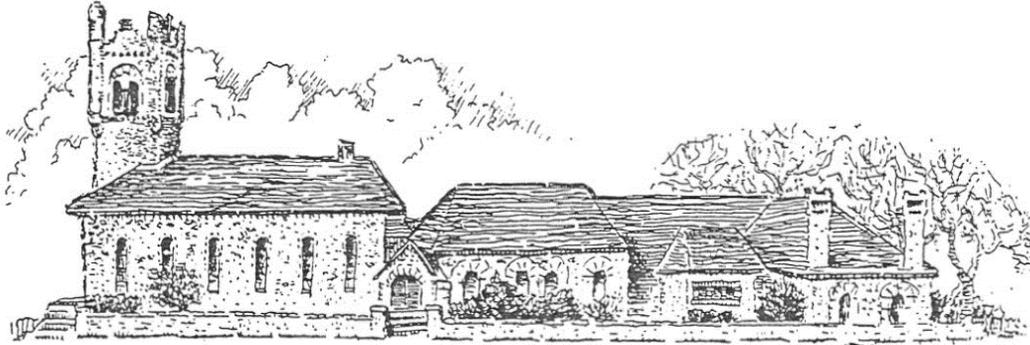
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