



### Welcome Visitors

**Guide to the bulletin:** An asterisk (\*) indicates an invitation to rise in body and/or spirit. Text printed in **BOLD** indicates everyone says them together. **NCH** is the New Century Hymnal under your pew chair.

**Children:** Children are always welcome here. We know youth grow – in the love of God and the love of others – when they have opportunities to worship in community. That is why we are excited to have children of all ages with us throughout the service on the first Sunday of each month. On other Sundays, children are invited to attend Sunday School following the message for all—though they are still welcome in worship. If the youth in your family would like to stay in worship there are a variety of quiet activities and fidgets the youth (and adults!) can do available by the sanctuary doors. You and/or your children are welcome to get up during the service to select something to do. If you want to have your younger children (ages 0-4) taken care of during the service, we have a nursery available at 9:30 am.

### GATHERING TOGETHER

Prelude

*He Lives! Sound Praises!*

Lani Smith

### Welcome and Community Connections

Introit

#### **\*Call to Worship<sup>1</sup>**

**One:** When we arrived in this world, we wondered...

**All:** ...**from where will I get my sustenance and care?**

**One:** When we were children, we wondered...

**All:** ...**who will I become on this adventure called life?**

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<sup>1</sup> 1. Marcia McFee, "Worship Design Studio 3.0," Worship Design Studio, accessed April 10, 2024, <https://www.worshipdesignstudio.com/>.

**One:** Change can make us feel awkward and fragile, and we wonder...

**All:** ...how can I move through this change with grace?

**One:** When we give ourselves permission to dream big dreams, we wonder...

**All:** ...how can I realize that vision?

**One:** Then the love of the Divine reminds us,

**All:** "You too are my child. You can emerge to renewed life. Again and again."

**\*Opening Prayer<sup>2</sup>**

**Creative One, come and open our hearts, our minds, and our shared sense of possibility. Help us to perceive the multitude of opportunities to live out your desires for us. As a community, fill us with passion for discerning your will and living it out with courage. Amen.**

**\*Hymn**

*Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

NCH 43, vss 1 & 2

**HEARING THE WORD**

**Luke Book 2 – Part One**

**Acts 8:26-31 (NIV)**

**Special Music**

**Luke Book 2 – Part Two**

**Acts 8:26-32**

**Message for All**

Rebecca Malke

**Reflection**

Claiming New Possibilities

Pastor Kris

**SHARING OUR LIVES**

**Call to Prayer**

**Prayers of the People**

Pastor Kris

*During our online worship service, we invite you to type your prayers in the comments section on your screen. Or you can text prayers to Pastor Kris at 608-571-5870. Pastor Kris will collect the petitions and read them during the service. Know that prayers shared this day are public. If you have prayer request you would like to remain private, you may email them to: [pastorkris@memorialucc.org](mailto:pastorkris@memorialucc.org)*

**Prayer of Jesus**

**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. Amen.**

**Offering: Extravagant Generosity**

**Offertory**

*Sarabande from 3rd Cello Suite*  
Melissa Gregory Simon

JS Bach

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<sup>2</sup> "Liturgy That Matters Resource Collection." enflashed, May 2, 2021. <https://enflashed.com/liturgy-that-matters-subscription-library/>.

**\*Doxology**

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God, for all that love has done;  
Creator, Christ and Spirit, One. Amen.*

**\*Prayer of Dedication<sup>3</sup>**

**Spirit of Joy, we bring our gifts with gratitude for your sustenance. No matter the barriers, keep us steady in the promises we make to each other and our neighbors through proclamations of love and symbols of solidarity. With our time, our material resources, our hearts and our imaginations - may it be so. Amen.**

**GOING OUT TO... CO-CREATION, CONVERSATION, and the WORLD**

**\*Song for Going Out** *Christ is Made the Sure Foundation* NCH 400 (all verses)

**\*Benediction** Pastor Kris

**\*Postlude** *He Lives! Sound Praises!* Lani Smith

**\*Don't Go! As church leaders set up for their presentation, this is a great time for a short wellness break:**

- *Enjoy the food provided by the Green Team. Get some water or a warm beverage. You are welcome to bring your drink into the sanctuary for the meeting*
- *Take a bio break (i.e., stop at the bathroom)*
- *Do some simple stretches. This is a no judgement zone!*
- *Practice mindfulness, deep breathing, make time for prayer*

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**Worship Leaders:** Jonathan Schroerlucke (Dir. of Music), Jeff Darwin (Pianist), Rebecca Malke (Dir of Faith Development), and Pastor Kris Gorton

**Readers:** John Dipko and Susan Webb

**Ushers:** Roger Elver and Jeanne Prueher

**Media Room:** Jordan Baumgart

**Fellowship:** Green Team

Memorial UCC uses photographs and video for social media communication with our members and friends. If someone does not wish to be photographed or in a video, ushers will help them find a seat out of camera view.

Memorial UCC's ONE LICENSE for streaming: #A-711042



**Hearing Loop and Listening Devices:** For those who have hearing aids, Memorial UCC has a t-coil compatible hearing loop. Listening devices are also available for people who are hard of hearing. See an usher if you need assistance.

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<sup>3</sup> Adapted from "Liturgy That Matters Resource Collection." enfleshed, May 21, 2021. <https://enfleshed.com/liturgy-that-matters-subscription-library/>.

**Bathrooms:** There are two bathrooms near the main entrance of the church. A third Gender Neutral and Accessible bathroom is in the hallway by the nursery. If you need assistance finding the restrooms, an usher will gladly help you!



**Giving Options—Ever-Widening Opportunities:** Checks can be mailed directly to the church or dropped off during office hours. Please indicate any special designation in the memo line. You can give securely via PayPal with your credit card, debit card, or direct withdrawals. Giving online through PayPal is fast and secure, and you do not need a PayPal account to make one-time or recurring donations. Visit [memorialucc.org](http://memorialucc.org) and click the "giving" link in the upper right-hand corner or scan the QR code here. If you are interested in monthly automatic withdrawals, please email Cathy Halpin at [halpincjo@gmail.com](mailto:halpincjo@gmail.com), and she will get you signed up.

**Want to Know More About Us?** Pastor Kris would be happy to set up a time to chat further. Feel free to contact her at [pastorkris@memorialucc.org](mailto:pastorkris@memorialucc.org). You don't need to be a formal member to get involved here. There is a lot of information on our website at [www.memorialucc.org](http://www.memorialucc.org). You can also follow us on Facebook (@FitchburgMemorialUCC), Twitter (@MemUCC), or join our Facebook group Memorial UCC: Ever-Widening Circles.

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### TODAY

**INFORMATIONAL MEETING:** Our church is growing in many exciting ways with new members, active participation of our friends from Arbor Covenant and furthering our *Ever-Widening Circles* mission with initiatives like Arbor Good Neighbor House. All of this creates both challenges and opportunities to:

- Strengthen Congregational Care,
- Grow Community and Neighborhood Outreach,
- Explore new youth and faith development programs and
- Ensure Continuing Vitality of the Church and Congregation.

Today, the Council will present a forward-looking plan to address these needs by creating a 2nd minister position and extending a Call to Rev. Peter Morris to serve MUCC with Pastor Kris. This is a unique opportunity made possible by the joining of Arbor Covenant Church with MUCC and transferring its significant financial resources to help fund the new position without impacting MUCC's current operating budget. The meeting is for information and discussion and will take place immediately after the worship service. No vote or official action will be taken.

### COMING SOON

#### CHURCH GROUNDS SPRING CLEAN UP DAY

**Saturday, May 4, from 8 am - noon**

On Saturday, May 4, the Building and Grounds Committee will be hosting our annual church grounds spring cleanup day. In addition to general sprucing up of the yard, this year we would also like to do some work on the trails in the woods. Come and join us, even if you can only make it for part of the time, to help freshen up our church grounds in time for summer. All are welcome and kids are encouraged to come. Please bring gardening tools, yard tools, pruners, and gloves if you have them. For questions or to RSVP, please contact Wade Kuhl at [wade.kuhl@fabickcat.com](mailto:wade.kuhl@fabickcat.com) or (608) 516-2464.

## 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-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,



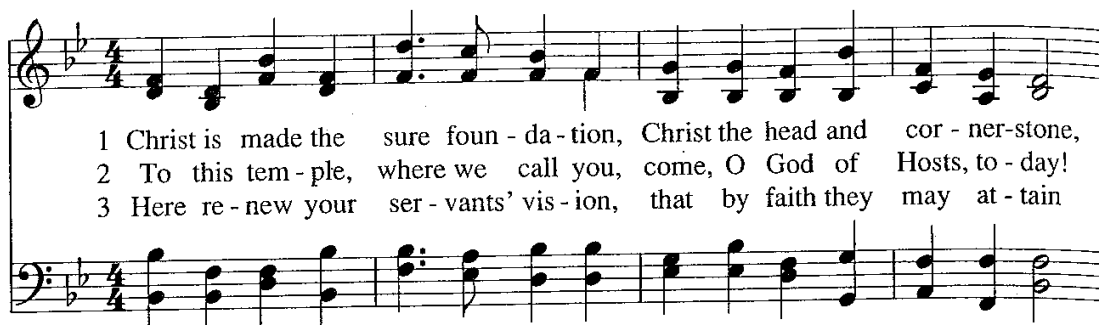
Vis-it us with your sal-va-tion, en-ter ev-ery trem-bling heart.  
 End of faith, as its be-gin-ning, set our hearts at lib-er-ty.  
 Pray and praise for your un-fail-ing, wound-ed arms out-stretched a-bove.  
 Crowned as saints, we ev-er shall be lost in won-der, love, and praise.



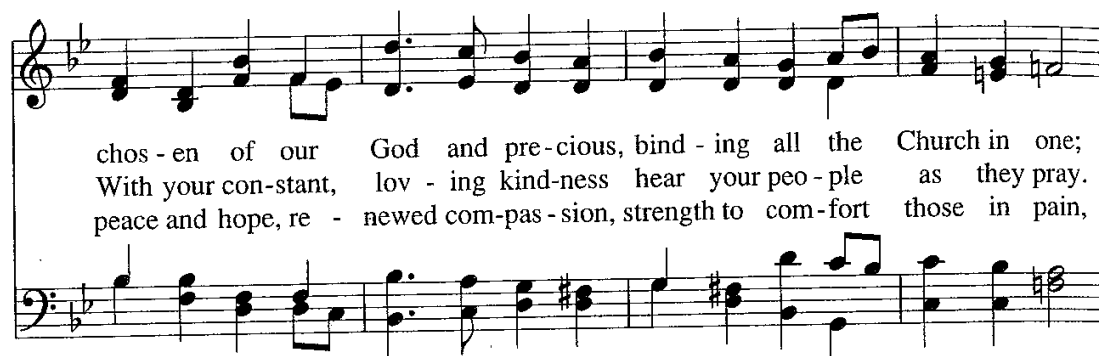
*This hymn is said to have been suggested by a "Song of Venus" from Dryden's King Arthur. It is one of 6,500 written by Charles Wesley, the "sweet singer of Methodism."*

Tune: BEECHER 8.7.8.7.D.  
 John Zundel, 1855

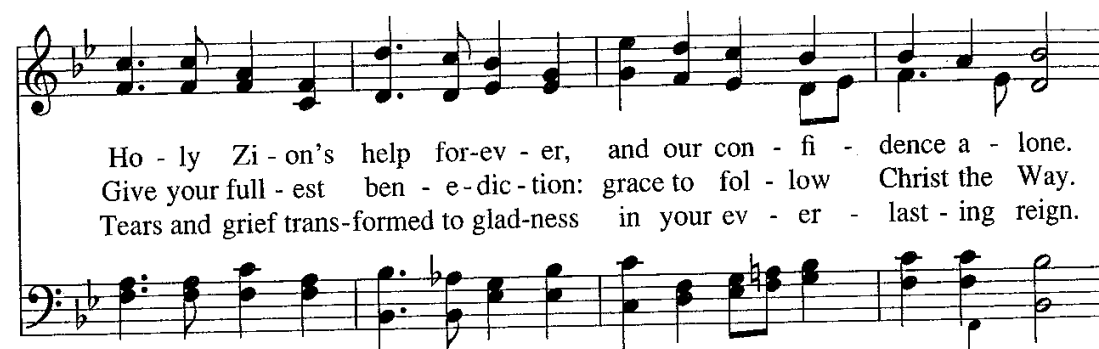
## Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation

*Eph. 2:20-22; 1 Pet. 2:4-7**Latin, 6th-8th century  
Transl. John Mason Neale, 1851; alt.  
St. 3 adapt. Thomas H. Troeger, 1992*


1 Christ is made the sure foun - da - tion, Christ the head and cor - ner - stone,  
2 To this tem - ple, where we call you, come, O God of Hosts, to - day!  
3 Here re - new your ser - vants' vis - ion, that by faith they may at - tain



chos - en of our God and pre - cious, bind - ing all the Church in one;  
With your con - stant, lov - ing kind - ness hear your peo - ple as they pray.  
peace and hope, re - newed com - pas - sion, strength to com - fort those in pain,



Ho - ly Zi - on's help for - ev - er, and our con - fi - dence a - lone.  
Give your full - est ben - e - dic - tion: grace to fol - low Christ the Way.  
Tears and grief trans - formed to glad - ness in your ev - er - last - ing reign.

*The hymn has its origins in an early Latin poem, Urbs beata  
Jerusalem, based on passages from Ephesians, 1 Peter, and  
Revelation. "Holy Zion" refers to the church transcendent, built  
of "living stones"—the saints of God.*

Tune: REGENT SQUARE 8.7.8.7.8.7.  
Henry T. Smart, 1867  
Alternate tune: WESTMINSTER ABBEY