

June 29, 2025

9:30 am
3rd Sunday after Pentecost



God is Here

FINDING OUR
SACRED CENTER*

*HENRI NOUWEN

~ 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 next to 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. After the Message for All, children are welcome to join in Sunday Funday activities. There are a variety of quiet activities and fidgets the youth (and adults!) can do available by the sanctuary doors. There is also a **Prayer Ground** set up at the front of the sanctuary. There are several quiet activities prepared for children. We know many of us need to wiggle a bit to be comfortable. Kids do too!!! Adults are welcome to sit in this area as well! #ChildofGod. You and/or your children are welcome to get up during the service to select something to do.

GATHERING TOGETHER

Prelude

Air

JS Bach

Welcome and Community Connections

* Call to Worship¹

One: Your way, O God, is holy. What god is so great as our God?

Many: You work wonders and display your glory. How great is our God!

One: Your way, O God, is holy. What god is so merciful as our God?

Many: You redeem your people from generation to generation. How merciful is our God!

One: Your way, O God, is holy. What god is so just as our God?

Many: You hear the cries of the troubled and move in righteousness.

How just is our God!

* Opening Prayer

God who journeys with us, we gather together as we follow you. You have made rough ways smooth. You have parted seas. You have given us strength to climb mountains and courage to traverse valleys. We open ourselves to the heartbreak of caring for the world that you love. We claim hope and joy as our inheritance and portion. We remember that you are with us and give you thanks for the journey. Hallelujah and amen.

* Hymn

Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life

NCH 543 vss 1, 2, 3, & 6

HEARING THE WORD

Epistle Lesson

Galatians 5: 1, 13-25

Special Music

Amazing Grace

arr. Mark O'Connor

Gospel Reading

Luke 9: 51-62

Message for All

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.

After the Message for All, children are invited to participate in Sunday Funday, sit by their family in the sanctuary, or at the Prayer Ground

Prayer of Transformation

¹ Call to Worship & Opening Prayer from UCC Worship Ways website

Words of Grace

Reflection

SHARING OUR LIVES

Call to Prayer

I Need You Every Hour

NCH 517 vss 1 & 2

I need you every hour, O God of grace;
The peace your voice affords, I now embrace.
I need you how I need you! Every hour I need you;
O bless me now, my Savior; I come to you.

I need you every hour, in faith or fear;
Temptations lose their power when you are near.
I need you how I need you! Every hour I need you;
O bless me now, my Savior; I come to you.

Prayers of the People

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 608-438-6307 or Pastor Peter at 608-338-2268. They 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 and/or pastorpeter@memorialucc.org

GOING OUT TO THE WORLD

*Song for Going Out

Free Us God, from Past Mistakes

see insert

*Benediction

*Postlude

Variations on "Germany"

Robert W. Thygerson

Worship Leaders: Jonathan Schroerlucke (Dir. of Music), Jeff Darwin (Pianist), Pastor Kris Gorton, and Pastor Peter Morris

Special Music: Lynn Hilgers

Readers: Jan Klawitter and John Rosch

Ushers: Steve Gorton

Media Room: Jeffrey Lipford

Fellowship: Karen and Michael Bryant

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.

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

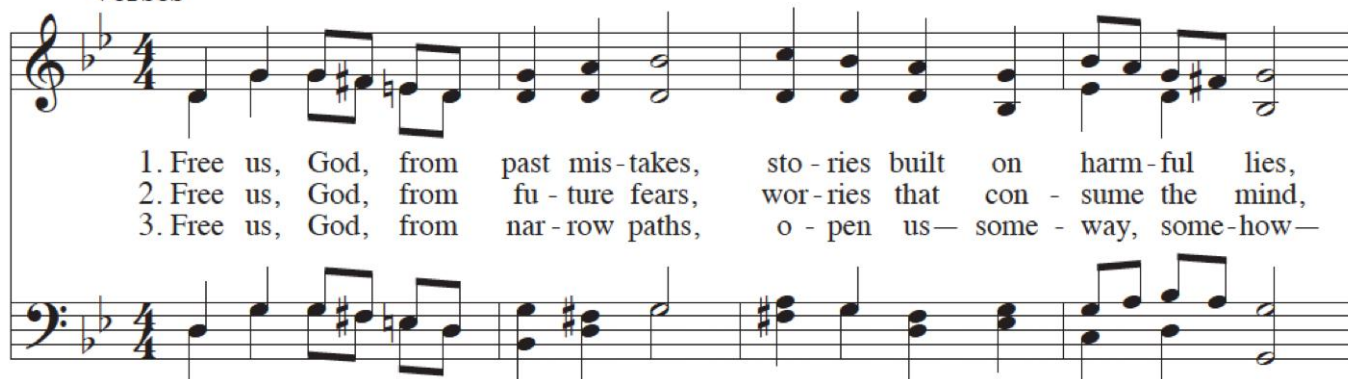
Giving Options—Ever-Widening Opportunities: Checks can be mailed directly to the church or dropped off during office hours. Please indicate any special designation in the memo line. You can give securely via PayPal with your credit card, debit card, or direct withdrawals. Giving online through PayPal is fast and secure, and you do not need a PayPal account to make one-time or recurring donations. Visit memorialucc.org 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, and she will get you signed up.



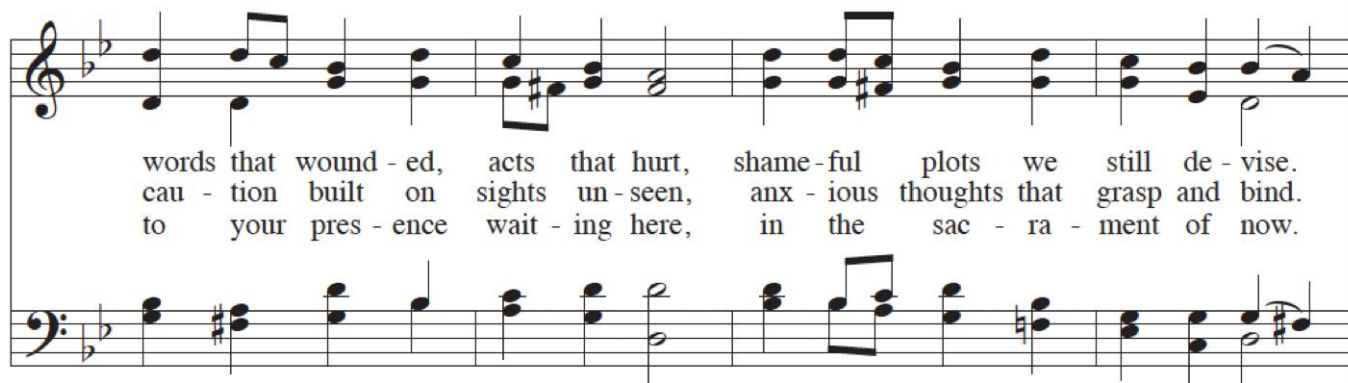
Want to Know More About Us? Co-pastors Kris and Peter would be happy to set up a time to chat further. Feel free to contact either of them at pastorkris@memorialucc.org or pastorpeter@memorialucc.org. You don't need to be a formal member to get involved here. There is a lot of information on our website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

Free Us, God, from Past Mistakes

Verses

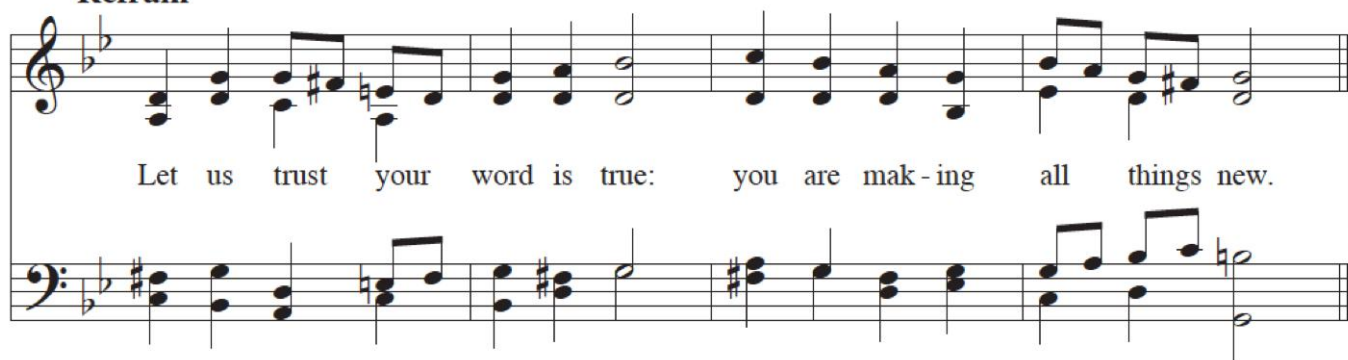


1. Free us, God, from past mis-takes, sto - ries built on harm-ful lies,
2. Free us, God, from fu - ture fears, wor - ries that con - sume the mind,
3. Free us, God, from nar - row paths, o - pen us— some - way, some-how—



words that wound - ed, acts that hurt, shame-ful plots we still de - vise.
cau - tion built on sights un - seen, anx - ious thoughts that grasp and bind.
to your pres - ence wait - ing here, in the sac - ra - ment of now.

Refrain



Let us trust your word is true: you are mak - ing all things new.

Text: David Bjorlin, b.1984; © 2018 GIA Publications, Inc.
Music: ARFON; French and Welsh melody; arr. Hugh Davies, 1844–1907