



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 sit with their families or in the Prayer Ground. 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

Be Thou My Vision

arr. Larry Shackley

Welcome and Community Connections

***Passing of the Peace**

***Opening Song**

I Woke Up This Morning

NCH 85

***Call to Worship¹**

One: Siblings in Christ, let us gather in our full humanity

All: We remember and honor each other's humanity

One: We remember and honor our own humanity

All: Yearning for love and connection

One: Vulnerable, resilient, creative, and carrying pain

All: Dreaming of rest and ease and belonging

One: Under systems of cruelty and unlivable paces

All: We reach for humanity, within and around us

One: Fully Human, Fully Divine - God incarnate, come and lead us.

***Opening Prayer**

Spirit of Christ, you took on flesh like ours. You know the hunger pains felt across the globe. You know the fear of being targeted by state violence. You know the comforts and the risks of building community. When we struggle with how to manage our own humanity and that of our neighbors may we turn to your knowing presence. And may all who incarnate love in its fullest humanity - complex and messy as it is - guide our living, and guide our faith. Amen.

*** Hymn**

Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love

NCH 498, vss 1-3

HEARING THE WORD

First Bible Reading

Jeremiah 2:4-13

Special Music

Traumerei

Robert Schumann

Gospel Reading

Luke 14:1; 7-14

Message for All

Prayer of Jesus

¹ Adapted from "Liturgy That Matters Resource Collection," enfleshed, August 31, 2025, <https://enfleshed.com/liturgy-that-matters-subscription-library/>.

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 stay in worship. They may sit by their family in the sanctuary or at the Prayer Ground

Reflection

SHARING OUR LIVES

Call to Prayer

Our God is Holy

Sing! #54

Holy, our God is holy. Holy, our God is holy.

Holy, our god is holy. Holy, holy is our God.

Holy, our God is holy. Author of love and life.

Creator of all people. Holy, holy is our God.

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. She 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

GOING OUT TO THE WORLD

***Song for Going Out**

How Firm a Foundation

NCH 407

***Benediction**

***Postlude**

Promised Land

arr. John Carter

Worship Leaders: Jonathan Schroerlucke (Dir. of Music), Linda Brant (Pianist), and Pastor Kris Gorton

Ushers:

Media Room:

Fellowship:

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

I Woke Up This Morning

85

African-American traditional

Leader (Unison) *All (Harmony)*

1 I woke up this morn-ing with my mind stayed on
2 Sing-ing and pray-ing with my mind stayed on

Hal-le-lu - jah,

Je - sus, Woke up this morn-ing with my mind stayed on Je - sus,
Je - sus, Sing-ing and pray-ing with my mind stayed on Je - sus,

Woke up this morn-ing with my mind stayed on Je - sus,
Sing-ing and pray-ing with my mind stayed on Je - sus,

Hal-le-lu - jah,

Hal-le - lu, hal-le - lu, hal-le - lu - jah.
Hal-le, hal-le - lu - jah.

The spirituals that were passed down through the African-American oral tradition were not only enduring but also adaptable. During the civil rights movement of the 1960s this spiritual was sung as "Woke up this morning with my mind on freedom."

Tune: WOKE UP THIS MORNING Irr.
African-American spiritual
Arr. Jeffrey Radford, 1993

John 13:1-20; Gal. 5:13-14

Tom Colvin, 1969; rev. 1994

Refrain Unison

Je - su, Je - su, fill us with your love, show

us how to serve the neigh-bors we have from you.

1 Knelt at the feet of his friends, si - lent - ly wash - ing their
 2 Neigh-bors are rich and poor, var - ied in col - or and
 3 These are the ones we should serve, these are the ones we should
 4 Lov - ing puts us on our knees, show - ing our faith by our
 5 Kneel at the feet of our friends, si - lent - ly wash - ing their

feet, Je - su, you act - ed as ser - vant to them.
 race, neigh-bors are near and far a - way.
 love; all these are neigh-bors to us and you.
 deeds, serv - ing the neigh-bors we have from you.
 feet, this is the way we should live with you.

to Refrain

This African folk melody was presented to the Church at Chereponi, Northern Ghana, by Ghanaian musicologist, A. A. Mensah, when United Church of Christ missionaries, Al and Sue Krass were serving there. Like Tom Colvin, a Scottish missionary in neighboring Tamale, Al Krass was encouraging the making of hymns to indigenous melodies. Tom Colvin wrote these words to this adapted form of the melody in dedication to the Church at Chereponi.

*Tune: CHEREPONI Irr. with refrain
 Ghanaian folk song; adapt. Tom Colvin, 1969
 Arr. Jane Marshall, 1982*

How Firm a Foundation

Isa. 43:2-5; 2 Tim. 2:19; Heb. 13:5

"K" in John Rippon's Selection of Hymns, 1787; alt.

1 How firm a foun - da - tion for you has been laid,
 2 "Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dis - mayed,
 3 "When through the deep wa - ters I call you to go,
 4 "When through fi - ery tri - als your path - way shall lie,
 5 "The soul that on Je - sus has leaned for re - pose,

by God in the Word, in the sac - ri - fice paid!
 for I am your God, I will still give you aid;
 the riv - ers of woe shall not o - ver you flow;
 my grace all - suf - fi - cient shall be your sup - ply;
 I will not, I will not de - sert to its foes;

What more can God say than to you has been said,
 I'll strength - en you, help you, and cause you to stand
 For I will be with you, your trou - bles to bless,
 the flame shall not hurt you; for I have de - signed
 That soul, though all hell should en - deav - or to shake,

to you, who for ref - uge to Je - sus have fled?
 up - held by my gra - cious, om - ni - po - tent hand."
 de - liv - er - ing you from your deep - est dis - tress."
 your soul to make pure just as gold is re - fined."
 I'll nev - er, no nev - er, no nev - er for - sake!"

In 1787, John Rippon, English Baptist clergyman, identified the author of this hymn as "K"; no one has yet verified a complete name. The pentatonic melody has been known by several names

Tune: FOUNDATION 11.11.11.11.
 Early United States melody
 from Funk's Genuine Church Music, 1832