



~ 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. Following the Message for All children are invited to participate in Sunday School—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. 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. 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

Jesus Calls Us

Lani Smith

Welcome and Community Connections

***Opening Song** *They'll Know We Are Christians* vss 1-2 (in bulletin)

***Call to Worship¹**

One: Praise be to the caregivers— the hair combers, the bath-givers,

ALL: the grocery-list makers,

One: the clothing menders,

ALL: the household organizers.

One: Praise be to the cleaning staff,

ALL: the food harvesters,

One: the early childhood educators,

ALL: the home health aides.

One: Praise be those artful in their hospitality,

ALL: compassionate in their caring,

One: warm in their welcome,

ALL: expansive in their invites.

One: Do you remember when Mary told her son and the serving staff to turn water into wine— this is the story of God's generous love, from the back of the house.

***Prayer for Illumination**

Two: Washing the dishes is like bathing a baby Buddha.

The profane is the sacred. — Thích Nhất Hạnh

ALL: Christ Child, through our mindful living, may we practice caregiving as a foundational art of our holy interdependence. Create with us communities centered around compassionate caregiving.

Structure with us societies where no caregiver is exploited, overworked, and underpaid. May every elder, child, disabled person, neighbor, more-than-human, household, body of water, and swath of land receive the tender care of which they are inherently worthy.

Amen.

¹ Molly Bolton, "Liturgy That Matters," enfleshed, January 11, 2025, <https://enfleshed.com/>.

***Hymn**

They'll Know We Are Christians

vss 3-4 (in bulletin)

HEARING THE WORD

First Bible Reading

1 Corinthians 12:1-11

Special Music

Amazing Grace

arr. Mark O'Connor

Lynn Hilgers

The Good News

John 2:1-11

Message for All

Pastor Kris

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.

Reflection

Pastor Kris

SHARING OUR LIVES

Call to Prayer

There Is a Balm in Gilead

NCH 553, vs 1

**There is a balm in Gilead, to make the wounded whole,
There is a balm in Gilead, to heal the sin-sick soul.
Sometimes I feel discouraged, and think my work's in vain,
But then the Holy Spirit revives my soul again.
There is a balm in Gilead, to make the wounded whole,
There is a balm in Gilead, to heal the sin-sick soul.**

Prayers of the People – based on Psalm 36

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

Offering: Invitation to Generosity

Offertory

Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus

Lloyd Larson

***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 Thanksgiving and Dedication**

To a safe world, oh God of Justice; to a gentle world, oh Christ Child; to a world where the wisdom of caregiving is revered—this is how we dedicated our offerings. May it be so. Amen.

GOING OUT INTO THE WORLD

Hymn

God of Change and Glory

NCH 177, vss 1-3

***Benediction**

*** Postlude**

Postlude in D

Austin North

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

Readers: Marty Smith and Sonjia Short

Ushers: John Rosch and Becky Kuhl

Media Room: Scott Oebser

Youth Programming Leader: Mo Foster

Fellowship: Cindy and John Rosch

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

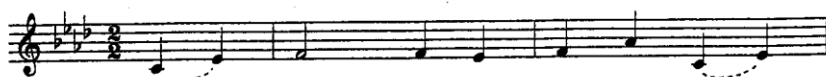
one-time or recurring donations. Visit memorialucc.org and click the "giving" link in the upper right-hand corner or scan the QR code here. If you are interested in monthly automatic withdrawals, please email Cathy Halpin at halpincjo@gmail.com, and she will get you signed up.

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.

SAVE THE DATE: MUCC ANNUAL MEETING: JANUARY 26, 2025

Immediately following worship. We will be holding our Annual Meeting in person and on Zoom following a 45-minute worship service (around 10:15 am). If you are a member of the congregation, we encourage you to attend. **CHURCH POTLUCK-FINGER FOOD!** Between worship and the Annual Meeting, join us in the space outside the sanctuary for this month's potluck! We ask that you bring an appetizer or other finger food to share, if you are able, but please know that all are welcome. There is always plenty of delicious food! We will eat *and* do the work of the Church!

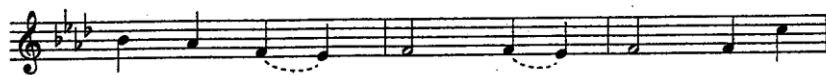
They'll Know We Are Christians



1. We are one in the Spir - it, we are
 2. We will walk with each oth - er, we will
 3. We will work with each oth - er, we will
 4. All praise to the Fa - ther, from



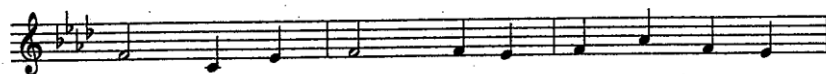
one in the Lord, We are one in the
 walk hand in hand, We will walk with each
 work side by side, We will work with each
 whom all things come, And all praise to Christ



Spir - it, we are one in the Lord, And we
 oth - er, we will walk hand in hand, And to -
 oth - er, we will work side by side, And we'll
 Je - sus, his on - ly Son, And all



pray that all u - ni - ty may one day be re -
 geth - er we'll spread the news that God is in our
 guard hu - man's dig - ni - ty and save hu - man's
 praise to the Spir - it, who makes us



stored:
 land: And they'll know we are Chris - tians by our
 pride:
 one:



love, by our love, Yes, they'll know we are



Chris - tians by our love.

1 Cor. 12:4-27

C G C F G C

1 God of change and glo - ry, God of time and space,
 2 God of man - y col - ors, God of man - y signs,
 3 Fresh-ness of the morn - ing, new-ness of each night,

E Am D7 G

when we fear the fu - ture, give to us your grace.
 you have made us dif - ferent, bless - ing man - y kinds.
 you are still cre - at - ing end - less love and light.

G7 C F C G7 C G C

In the midst of chang - ing ways give us still the grace to praise.
 As the old ways dis - ap - pear, let your love cast out our fear.
 This we see, as shad - ows part, man - y gifts from one great heart.

Refrain
C F G C F C

Man - y gifts, one Spir - it, one love known in man - y ways.

Al Carmines, composer, playwright, performer, and teacher, has served as minister for two United Church of Christ congregations in New York City. This hymn, commissioned in 1973, was one of the first modern texts to claim diversity as a gift from God.

Tune: KATHERINE 6.5.6.5.7.7.
 Al Carmines, 1973