

Sunday, September 6th, 2026
Service of Holy Communion

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

Jane Storrs

We gather as a community of compassion and hope.

Jesus calls us to care for each other tenderly and willingly.

By this caring and sharing we will be known as followers of Jesus.

By our example others may be led to lives of peace.

Holy One, open our hearts and minds this day to your word.

Teach us to serve you with all our gifts and talents. Amen.

***Hymn**

“Come, Teach Us, Spirit of Our God”

NCH#287

Contributors: Shirley Erena Murray; Tune Arthur G. Clyde © 1992 by Hope Publishing, Co. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Music © 1993 The Pilgrim Press. Reprinted/Streamed with permission under One License #739919-A. All rights reserved.

Prayer for Illumination

Jane Storrs

Lord of summer sunshine and autumn harvest, be with us this day as we gather to encounter your word and your way for us. Remind us that we can place our trust in your eternal love. Enable us to be more effective in our witness to that love by word and deed. Guide our steps and pick us up when we falter. Dust us off and place us on the pathways of grace and service. These things we pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.

Communion Hymn

“As We Gather at Your Table”

NCH#332

Contributors: Carl P Daw © 1989, Hope Publishing Company. Harmonization © 1992 The Pilgrim Press. Reprinted and streamed with permission under One License #739919-A. All rights reserved.

Celebration of Holy Communion

Invitation to the Table

God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up as one.

Let us give God our thanks.

It is good and joyful to praise the living God!

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Holy God... So now we join the faithful in every time and place as one voice we sing our song of unending praise.

Holy, holy, holy God of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of Your glory.

Blessed is the one who comes in Your name, O God. Hosanna in the highest!

On the night you were betrayed and deserted, you wrapped a towel around your waist and showed us how to serve one another, and commanded us to love one another.

Blessed is the one who loves in your name.

You modeled for us a love stronger than death, and a way for us to gather around tables throughout time, in communion with people the world over, and to remember the fullness of love.

We remember how Jesus gathered stranger and friend alike, gave thanks to God and offered them the bread of life and the cup of blessing.

Remembering the wonder of Jesus' life, the agony of his death and the resurrection of his Spirit, we unite in the friendship born of this table and proclaim the mystery of our faith...

Christ has died. Christ has risen. Christ is with us now!

The bread...

Prayer & Sharing the Elements *(We will share the GF bread and juice together)*

Prayer of Thanksgiving

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Scripture

Romans 12:9-21

Jane Storrs

Sermon

Rev. Abby Gackenhimer

Music of Reflection

Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer

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.

Call to Offering

Offertory

**Doxology Pilgrim Hymnal #515 *[alternative words]*

Praise God from whom all blessings flow

Praise Him [God], all creatures here below

Praise Him [God] above, ye heavenly host

Praise Father [Creator], Son [Christ], and Holy Ghost. Amen

***Unison Prayer of Dedication**

God, we offer you these gifts, and pray that you would take this offering and turn it into ministry. Use these gifts to transform the world we live in to better reflect the home you have envisioned for us—a home of peace, a home built on the foundation of love.

Gratefully we pray, amen.

***Hymn**

"Take My Life, God, Let It Be"

New Century Hymnal #448

Contributors: Frances R. Havergal, 1874, Tune: Justin H. Knecht, 1797. Public Domain. Word alt. © 1995, Pilgrim Press, The. Reprinted/Streamed with permission under One License #739919-A. All rights reserved.

Benediction

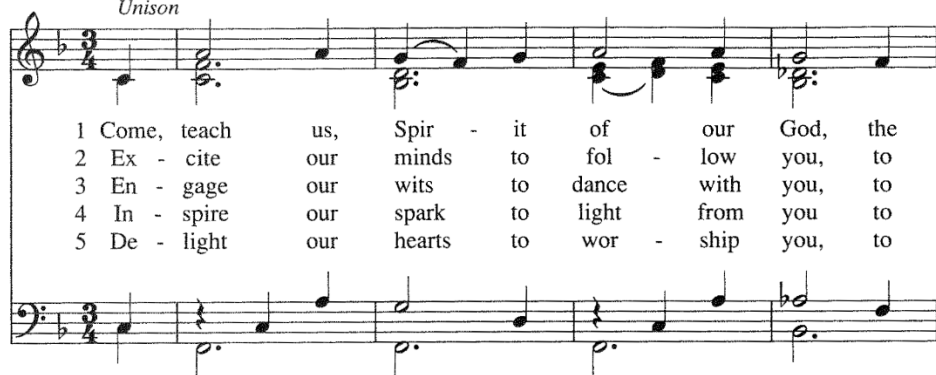
Postlude

Call to Worship and Prayer: Nancy C Townley https://ministrymatters.com/2020-07-18_worship_connection_proper_17_a/
Communion Service adapted from “The Feast of Our Lives,” the Rev. Dr. June Goudy and the UCC Book of Worship. Pilgrim Press.

Come, Teach Us, Spirit of Our God

Shirley Erena Murray, 1990

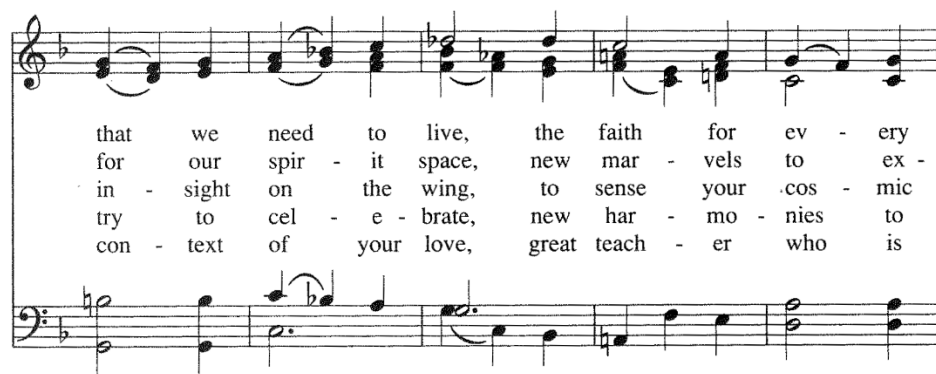
Unison



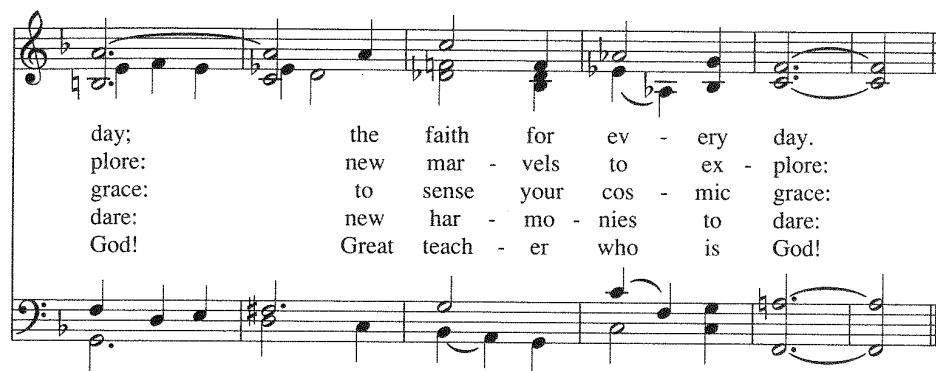
1 Come, teach us, Spir - it of our God, the
 2 Ex - cite our minds to fol - low you, to
 3 En - gage our wits to dance with you, to
 4 In - spire our spark to light from you to
 5 De - light our hearts to wor - ship you, to



lan - guage of your way, the les - sons
 trace new truths in store, new flight paths
 leap from log - ic's base, to cap - ture
 catch cre - a - tion's flair, new ar - tis -
 learn com - pas - sion's code, to live in



that we need to live, the faith for ev - ery
 for our spir - it space, new mar - vels to ex -
 in - sight on the wing, to sense your cos - mic
 try to cel - e - brate, new har - mo - nies to
 con - text of your love, great teach - er who is

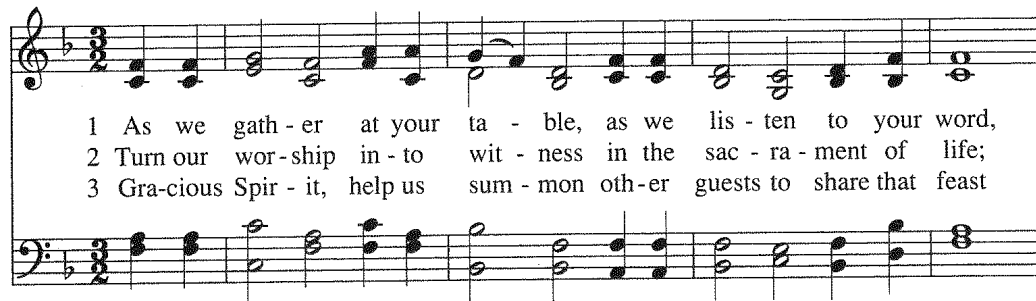


day; the faith for ev - ery day.
 plore: new mar - vels to ex - plore:
 grace: to sense your cos - mic grace:
 dare: new har - mo - nies to dare:
 God! Great teach - er who is God!

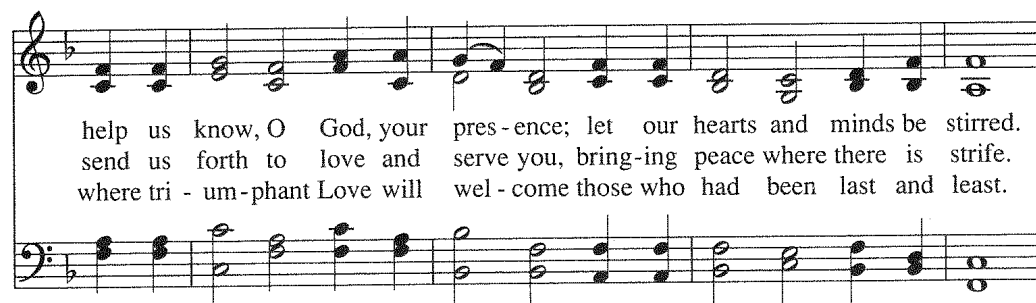
As We Gather at Your Table

Matt. 22:1-10; Luke 14:16-24

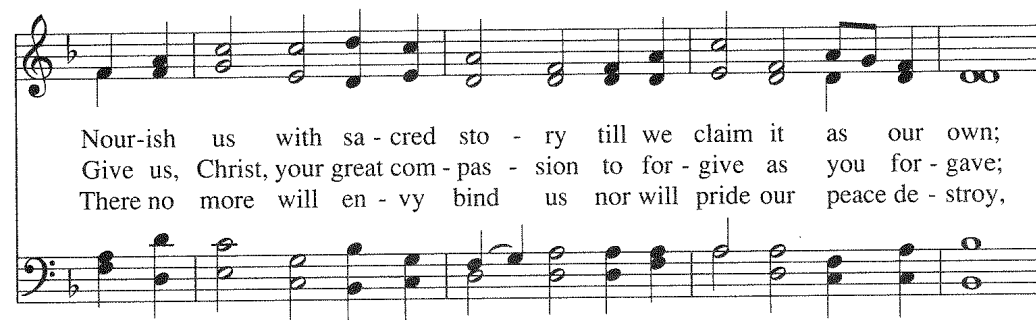
Carl P. Daw, Jr., 1989



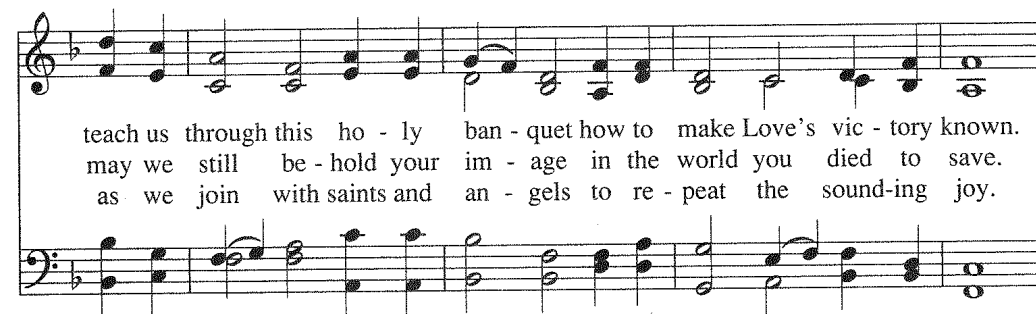
1 As we gath - er at your ta - ble, as we lis - ten to your word,
 2 Turn our wor - ship in - to wit - ness in the sac - ra - ment of life;
 3 Gra - cious Spir - it, help us sum - mon oth - er guests to share that feast



help us know, O God, your pres - ence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.
 send us forth to love and serve you, bring - ing peace where there is strife.
 where tri - um - phant Love will wel - come those who had been last and least.



Nour - ish us with sa - cred sto - ry till we claim it as our own;
 Give us, Christ, your great com - pas - sion to for - give as you for - gave;
 There no more will en - vy bind us nor will pride our peace de - stroy,



teach us through this ho - ly ban - quet how to make Love's vic - tory known.
 may we still be - hold your im - age in the world you died to save.
 as we join with saints and an - gels to re - peat the sound - ing joy.

In this hymn, commissioned by an Episcopal parish in Virginia for the celebration of its tricentennial, Carl P. Daw, Jr., utilized a familiar phrase from Isaac Watts' "Joy to the World," which was the motto for the celebration: "Repeat the sounding joy."

Words Copyright © 1989 by Hope Publishing Company

Tune: BEACH SPRING 8.7.8.7.D.
 The Sacred Harp, 1844
 Harm. The New Century Hymnal, 1992

Take My Life, God, Let It Be

448

Frances R. Havergal, 1874; alt.

Rom. 12:1

1 Take my life, God, let it be con - se - crat - ed faith - ful - ly.
2 Take my spir - it, let it move at the im - pulse of your love.
3 Take my will; your will be done! Make your will and mine be one.
4 Take my love and help it grow; let my lov - ing ov - er - flow.

Take my mo - ments and my days, let them flow in cease-less praise.
Take my in - tel - lect and use all its pow - ers as you choose.
Take my heart, and by your grace make of it your dwell-ing place.
Take me now, and help me be part of Christ's com - mu - ni - ty.

Frances R. Havergal wrote her hymn following a visit to Areley House in Worcestershire, England. Among the ten persons at the house were "some unconverted . . . some converted but not rejoicing." Before she left, "everyone had got a blessing."

Tune: VIENNA 7.7.7.7.
Justin H. Knecht, 1797
Alternate tune: HENDON