

Pastor: Kris and Koreen and Marina, will you encourage this child to learn from the wisdom of the prophets; doing justice, loving mercy, and walking humbly with her God? If so please say, “we will”

All: “we will”

Pastor: Kris and Koreen and Marina, will you be responsible for seeing that this child is brought up in the Christian faith, loving and serving her neighbors and understanding Jesus as a guide to how God would have us live? If so please say, “we will”. **All: “we will”**

Pastor: Kris and Koreen and Marina, will you teach this child to honor the faith questions that belong to her throughout her life? If so please say, “we will”. **All: “we will”**

Pastor: Kris and Koreen and Marina, will you journey with this child to discover the wonder of God’s love made manifest here this day? If so please say, “we will”. **All: “we will”**

Congregational Assent

Alan Smith, Deacon

Jesus calls us to welcome children into the full life of our community, opening our table and hearts to those most vulnerable, offering the wisdom of the ages to all who hunger for truth. Do you, who witness and celebrate this sacrament, promise your love, support, and care to this child being baptized as she lives and grows in this Christian community?

Congregation: *We promise our love support and care.*

Affirmation of Faith

Do you believe in God the Source, the fountain of life?

I believe in God.

Do you believe in Christ the Servant, embodied in Jesus of Nazareth and in the church?

I believe in Christ.

Do you believe in the Spirit the Guide, the liberating wellspring of life?

I believe in the Spirit.

Baptismal Prayer

Rev. Abby Gackenhaimer

We thank you, God, for the gift of creation made known to us in water and word. Before the world had shape and form, your Spirit moved over the waters....

ACT OF BAPTISM

Rev. Abby Gackenhaimer

By what name will your child be called? *Sylvia Noelle Grize*

Prayer of Dedication:

Alan Smith, Deacon

God of wonder and grace, we thank you for your love revealed here in this community, these parents, and this child come together making covenant promises. We pray that this community will have the grace to uphold the promises made here this day, providing a safe shelter of your love in which Sylvia may grow and play. We pray that Kris and Koreen may continue to feel the sweet wonder of your presence so transparent here today. We pray that Sylvia will bask in your love as she makes her own journey through this life. In your love we pray. Amen.

Presentation of the Child

Rev. Abby Gackenhaimer

Hymn

“Child of Blessing, Child of Promise”

New Century Hymnal #325

*Following the hymn, children and youth are welcome to leave for
Sunday School over in the Friendship Hall*

Scripture

Psalm 84

Jane Bernstein

Sermon

Rev. Abby Gackenhaimer

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.

Prayer Response

“Hear Our Prayer” by H.W. Teasdale

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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.

Reaffirming Our Open and Affirming Covenant

ONA Committee

See below for full covenant

*Hymn

“All Are Welcome” vs. 1, 4, 5

please see insert

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Benediction

Benediction Response

“Till We Gather Again” by Stephen F. Key

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Postlude

**The Bridgewater, CT Congregational Church,
United Church of Christ
Open and Affirming Covenant Statement**

*"I give you a new commandment: love each other. Just as I have loved you,
so you also must love each other" John 13:34*

We are all ONE. We celebrate everyone and affirm that every individual is a Beloved Child of God including people of all ages, shapes, races, cultures, sexual orientations, gender identities and expressions, family configurations, economic circumstances, physical, cognitive or emotional abilities, education, and spiritual and religious traditions. We cannot and will not be separated by our differences, we celebrate our similarities.

We were created as diverse pieces of the amazing puzzle of Life. With any one piece missing the puzzle would not be whole. Each of us is an essential element in the overall design. Each of us has been crafted by our Creator for different purposes. Together, as a whole, we work to bring God's Beauty, Peace, Justice and Healing into the world.

We, the members of The Bridgewater Congregational church, United Church of Christ, Bridgewater, Ct welcome ALL into our midst. We invite and welcome people of all ages to share in the full life and leadership, ministry, fellowship, worship, sacraments, responsibilities and blessings of participation in our congregation. We recognize that there are differences among us, and believe that we can love alike even though we may not think alike. We understand that our purpose is to love ALL of God's People and Creation itself.

We are an Open and Affirming community.

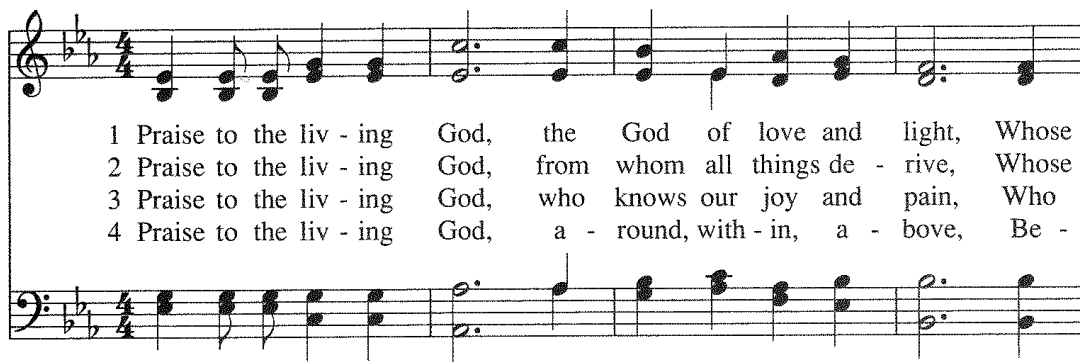
Respectfully Submitted,

Chris Smith, Alan Smith, Pamela Hochstetter, Jeanne Paparazzo, Rev. Abby
Gackenheime

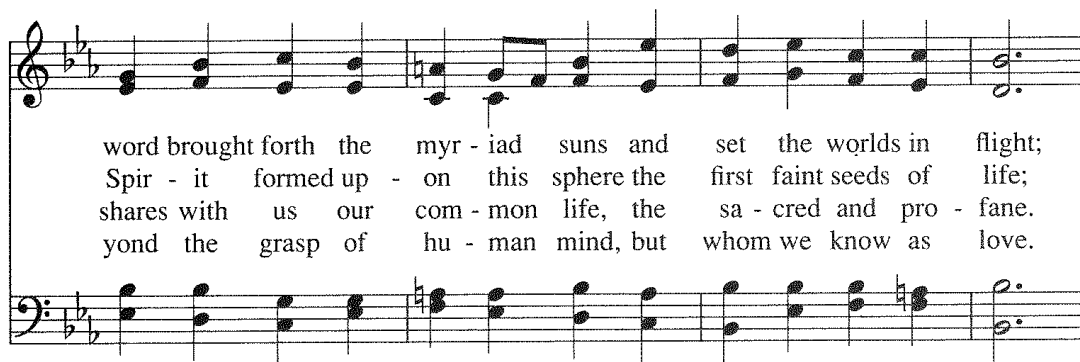
Praise to the Living God

Ps. 84:1-2

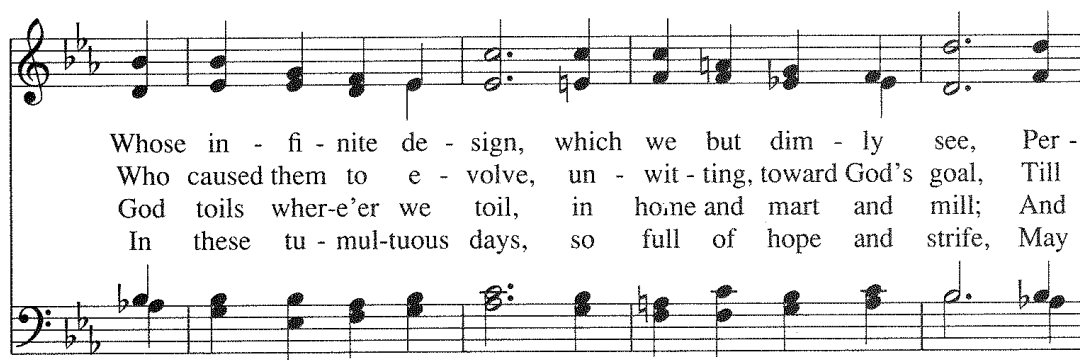
Curtis Beach, 1966; alt.



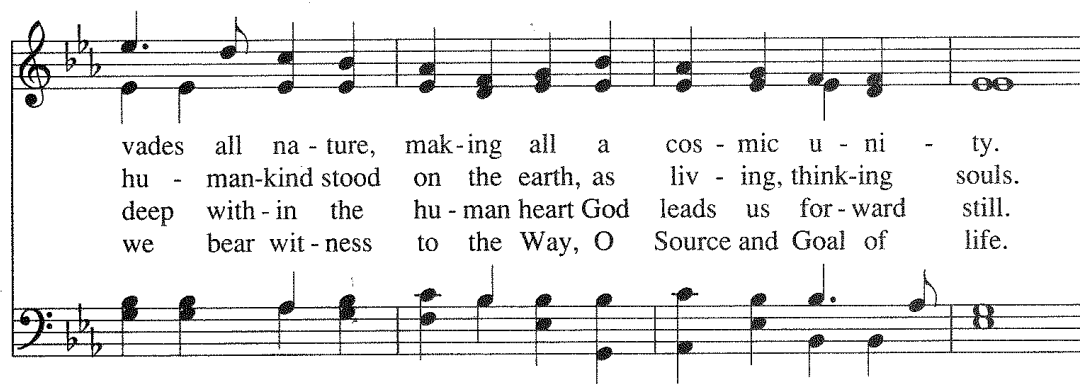
1 Praise to the liv - ing God, the God of love and light, Whose
 2 Praise to the liv - ing God, from whom all things de - rive, Whose
 3 Praise to the liv - ing God, who knows our joy and pain, Who
 4 Praise to the liv - ing God, a - round, with - in, a - bove, Be -



word brought forth the myr - iad suns and set the worlds in flight;
 Spir - it formed up - on this sphere the first faint seeds of life;
 shares with us our com - mon life, the sa - cred and pro - fane.
 yond the grasp of hu - man mind, but whom we know as love.



Whose in - fi - nite de - sign, which we but dim - ly see, Per -
 Who caused them to e - volve, un - wit - ting, toward God's goal, Till
 God toils wher-e'er we toil, in home and mart and mill; And
 In these tu - mul-tuous days, so full of hope and strife, May



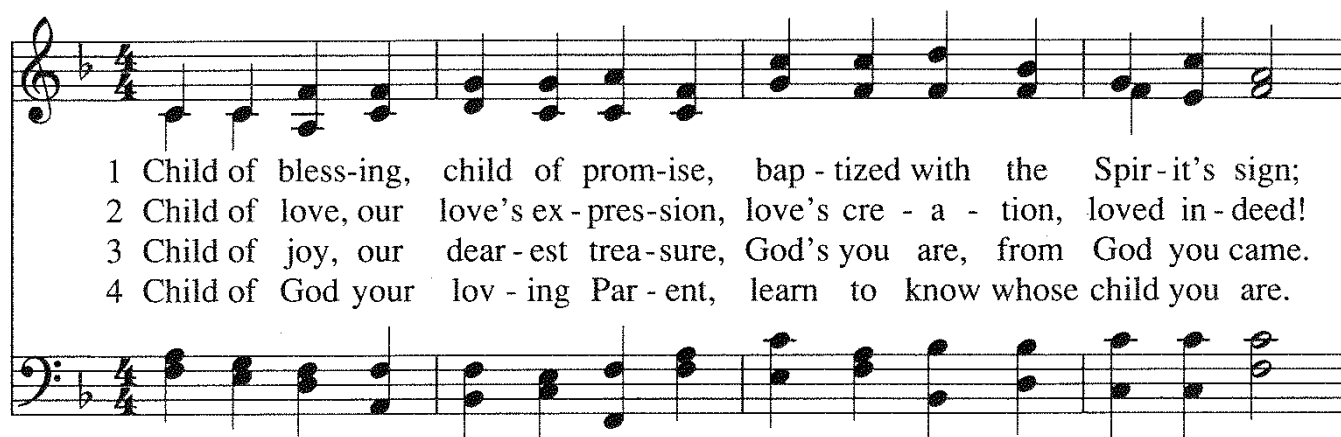
vades all na - ture, mak - ing all a cos - mic u - ni - ty.
 hu - man-kind stood on the earth, as liv - ing, think - ing souls.
 deep with - in the hu - man heart God leads us for - ward still.
 we bear wit - ness to the Way, O Source and Goal of life.

Curtis Beach, born into a family of several generations of ministers, was educated at Harvard University, the Boston University School of Theology, and the University of Southern California. A minister in the United Church of Christ, Beach authored *The Gospel of Mark: Its Making and Meaning*.

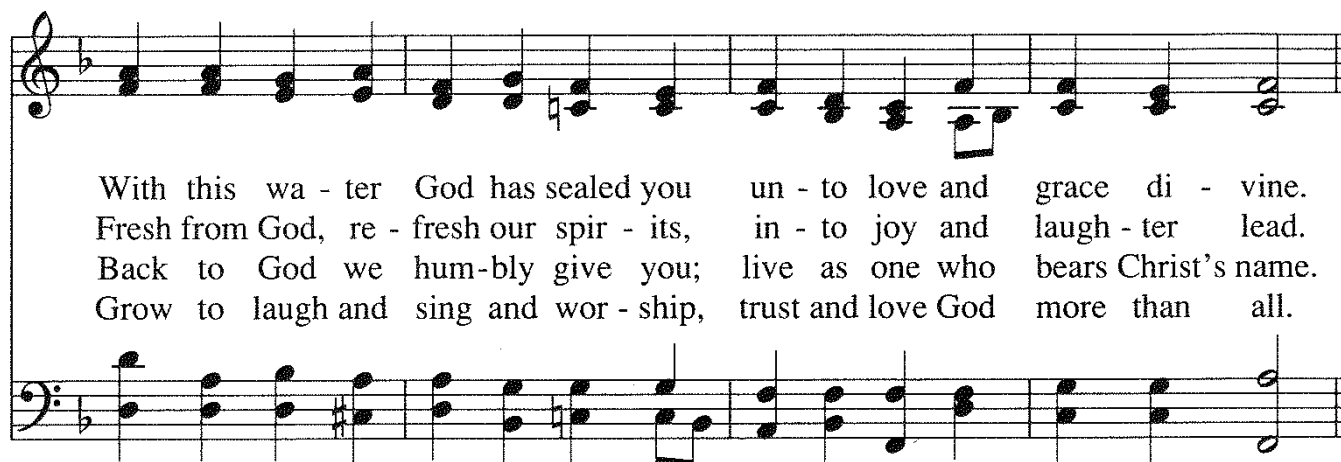
Tune: DIADEMATA S.M.D.
 George J. Elvey, 1868

Child of Blessing, Child of Promise

325

Ronald S. Cole-Turner, 1981


1 Child of bless-ing, child of prom-ise, bap - tized with the Spir-it's sign;
2 Child of love, our love's ex-pres-sion, love's cre - a - tion, loved in-deed!
3 Child of joy, our dear-est trea-sure, God's you are, from God you came.
4 Child of God your lov - ing Par - ent, learn to know whose child you are.



With this wa - ter God has sealed you un - to love and grace di - vine.
Fresh from God, re - fresh our spir - its, in - to joy and laugh - ter lead.
Back to God we hum-bly give you; live as one who bears Christ's name.
Grow to laugh and sing and wor - ship, trust and love God more than all.

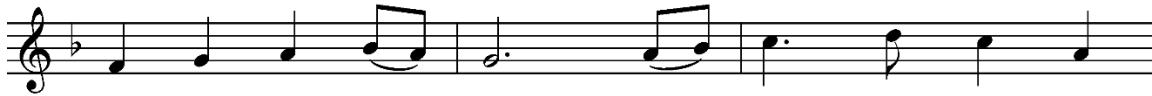
Ronald Cole-Turner, a teacher of theology, is an ordained minister of the United Church of Christ. He is an award-winning author on the interface of science and religion.

Tune: STUTTGART 8.7.8.7.
Attrib. to Christian F. Witt (1660–1716), in
Psalmodia Sacra, Gotha, 1715

All Are Welcome



1. Let us build a house where love can dwell And
 2. Let us build a house where proph - ets speak, And
 3. Let us build a house where love is found In
 4. Let us build a house where hands will reach Be -
 5. Let us build a house where all are named, Their



all can safe - ly live, A place where saints and
 words are strong and true, Where all God's chil - dren
 wa - ter, wine and wheat: A ban - quet hall on
 yond the wood and stone To heal and strength - en,
 songs and vi - sions heard And loved and treas - ured,



chil - dren tell How hearts learn to for -
 dare to seek To dream God's reign a -
 ho - ly ground, Where peace and jus - tice
 serve and teach, And live the Word they've
 taught and claimed As words with - in the



give. Built of hopes and dreams and vi - sions,
 new. Here the cross shall stand as wit - ness
 meet. Here the love of God, through Je - sus,
 known. Here the out - cast and the stran - ger
 Word. Built of tears and cries and laugh - ter,



Rock of faith and vault of grace; Here the
 And as sym - bol of God's grace; Here as
 Is re - vealed in time and space; As we
 Bear the im - age of God's face; Let us
 Prayers of faith and songs of grace, Let this



love of Christ shall end di - vi - sions:
 one we claim the faith of Je - sus:
 share in Christ the feast that frees us: All are wel-come,
 bring an end to fear and dan - ger:
 house pro-claim from floor to raft - er:



all are wel-come, all are wel-come in this place.