

## FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH “Center Church”



United Church of Christ - ONA  
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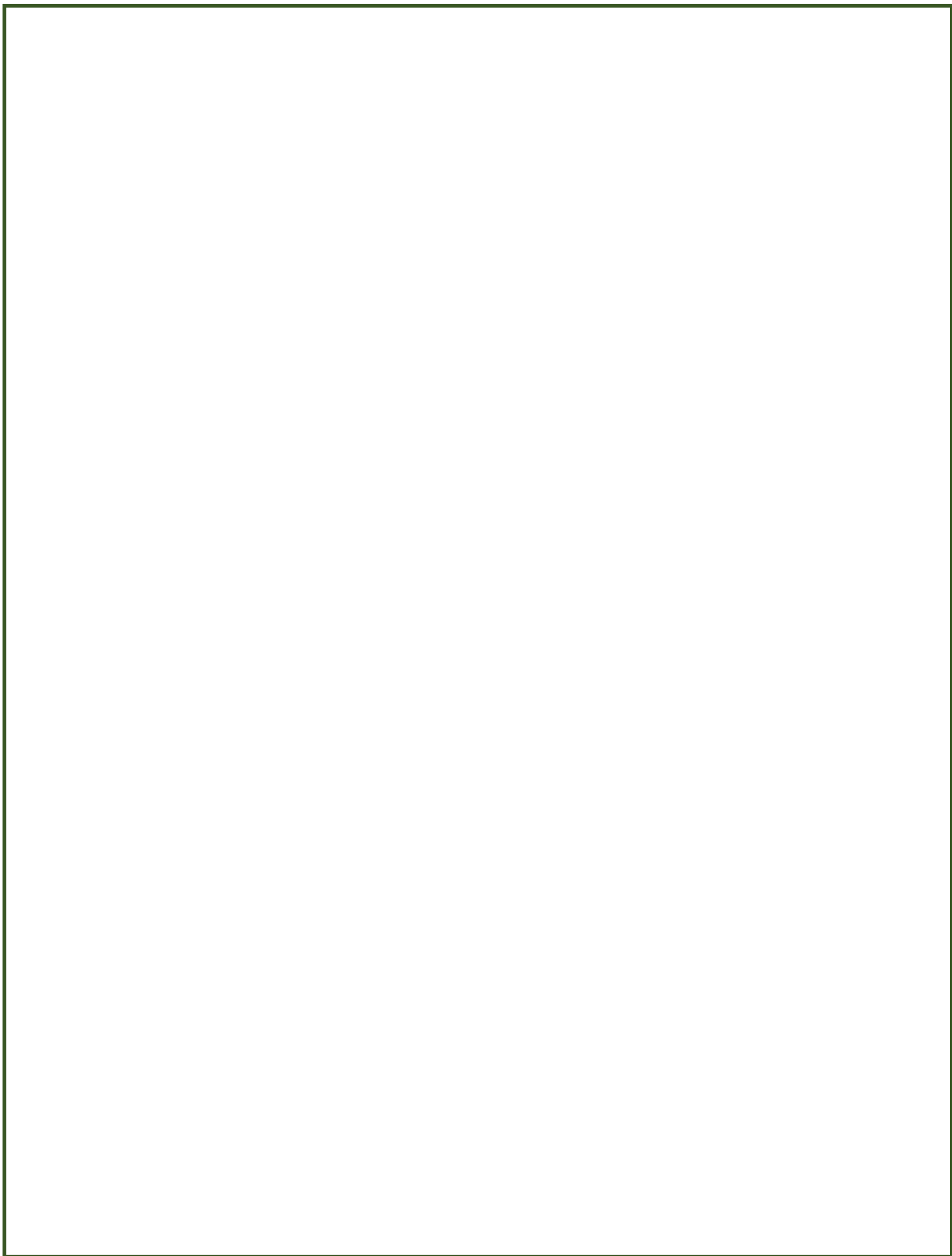
Facebook: Center Church of South Hadley MA

Instagram: @centerchurchsouthhadley

*We, the congregation of the First Congregational Church of South Hadley, MA, UCC, also known as Center Church, declare ourselves to be Open and Affirming. Our congregation is welcoming to all, embracing those of differing sexual orientation, transgender/gender identity and expression, marital status, age, mental and physical health and ability, racial and cultural background/identity, and educational/socioeconomic status. We are open to all to share in Christ's bountiful love through life, leadership, ministry, fellowship, worship, sacraments, responsibilities, blessings, and joys. In the spirit of Paul in Galatians, we celebrate the diversity in which God has created us!*



**\*\* The two center sections of the sanctuary are equipped with a hearing loop.  
Turn on the T-coil in your hearing aid and sit in one of these sections  
for better hearing**



**March 17, 2024**

*Persistence and resilience only come from having been given the chance to work through difficult problems.* Gever Tulley

**PRELUDE**

*Ville du Havre  
Slane  
Passion Chorale*

R. Lau  
C. Christiansen  
T. Flynn

*We light the Good News Candle for Estelle Anderson, age 100, who has already begun her year-long knitting of the children's hats and mittens which she donates each year at Christmas time to area elementary schools. We light the candle as well for the ending of the brutalities in Israel and Palestine, and for the many, many places, such as Sudan, where civilians are dying needlessly from war and people are on the brink of starvation. We continue to pray as well, for peace and resilience in Ukraine.*

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PASSING OF THE PEACE**

**INTROIT**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: Come to worship God, who is making a new covenant with us.

**People: "I will write my laws on your hearts," God says.**

Leader: "I will be your God. You will be my people" says God.

**People: We will not have to teach one another about God.**

Leader: For we will all know God, from the greatest to the least.

**People: Let us come and worship God, who forgets our wrongs and forgives our sins.**

**\*HYMN** *O God, How We Have Wandered* black # 202  
*At the conclusion of the hymn, the children will leave to go to "The Promised Land " as the congregation sings the first verse of On River Jordan's Banks I Stand.*

*On River Jordan's banks I stand, and cast a wishful eye,  
Upon the fair and happy land where my possessions lie;  
I am bound for the promised land, I am bound for the promised land,  
Oh, who will come and go with me? I am bound for the promised land.*

**JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE PEOPLE**

## MORNING PRAYERS

### Prayer of Confession

**Merciful God, we act as if we are still wandering in the wilderness, getting distracted and looking out just for ourselves. Forgive us, we pray. Amen**

### Assurance of Forgiveness

The Creator does forgive us, and through the Holy Spirit, nourishes us into life.

### Pastoral Prayer

#### Silence

### Lord's Prayer (debts)

*Our Creator/Father/Mother, who art in heaven, hallowed be your name.*

*Your Kingdom come; your 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 yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen*

### Congregational Response



**READING FROM THE SCRIPTURES** Jeremiah 31:31-34 page 680

**SERMON COVENANT: MORE THAN A CHURCHY TERM**

**\*HYMN**

*Restless Weaver* (from the Chalice hymnal #658)  
(found on last page of Announcements)

**OFFERING**

**Invitation**

**Offertory**

*Be Thou My Vision*

arr. Marie Pooler

**\*Doxology**

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow,***

***Praise Christ the Word in flesh born low,***

***Praise Holy Spirit evermore,***

***One God triune whom we adore. Amen***

**Prayer of Dedication**

**\*HYMN**

*Be Thou My Vision*

black #451

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE**      *Threefold Amen*

**POSTLUDE**

*Toccata-Chorale on Slane*

A. Jordan

*We invite you to remain quietly and celebrate the conclusion of worship in the postlude.*

*\*Please stand if you are comfortable.*



*We hope that you find your worship experience meaningful.  
If you are new to the community, we invite you to make this your church home.*

*Please stay after worship for refreshments and fellowship  
downstairs in the Fellowship Hall.*

### **In our Service Today**

<b>Preacher:</b>	Rev. Lori J. Souder
<b>Scripture Reader:</b>	John Anz
<b>Message for All:</b>	Kate Hoffman
<b>Organist:</b>	Larry Schipull
<b>Choir Director:</b>	Mallory Coakley
<b>Deacon:</b>	Randy Hyvonen



If you are visiting with us today, **WELCOME**. At the close of the service, please take a small welcome gift found in the baskets located at the sanctuary narthex and crossway doors. It is our token of saying “thank you for sharing worship with us, we truly feel blessed and we hope to see you again soon.”

**Palm Sunday Worship next week, (March 24), will begin in the Sanctuary at 10am. We will NOT gather on the Common this year.**

## PLEASE KEEP THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS

### Continual:

Don Donihue  
Joan Duffy  
Muriel Graham, on hospice  
Martha Guild's mother, June  
Eileen Halkyard  
Tom Hazen  
Eunice Howes  
Virginia Johnston  
Phyllis Lacoste  
Fay Paquette  
Anna Sibley, on Hospice  
Art Stanley  
Nikki Wolf, Linda's granddaughter  
Those struggling with addiction



*We keep our Member-in-Discernment,  
Emily Carle, in our prayers, in her seminary  
studies at Louisville Seminary.*

*Prayers for all those in Ukraine.  
and those who have fled for safety and for the  
victims of the Israel-Palestine conflict.*

### Situational:

Family and friends of Ruth Cowan,  
who passed away February 28  
Peg Dumbaugh  
The Graham family, on the sudden death of  
Don's wife, Barbara Loh (Smokey)  
Audrey Heaphy  
Ryan Moore, Deb Moore's son  
Leila Mulder, attending a new school  
3 year old Bryson, battling cancer  
Kay Pryor, with cancer, family friend  
of Karen and Estelle Anderson  
Charlie DeNagy, friend Peg Wesolowski  
Joanne Santos grandfather, Edwardo,  
with cancer  
Kendall Williams, Preston Smith's  
daughter, with cancer.

**If you have submitted one of these  
requests for prayer please let us know  
when it is time to remove someone's  
name from the list.**

**Last gathering of March Bible Study** We will study three different emotions that we all encounter: anxiety, fear, and anger. No matter our age, these emotions can trip us up. What does scripture have to say about them? How do they make an impact on us individually, within community, or globally? During Lent we seek to reset how we live. Join us for an hour discussion in the Conference Room at Loomis from 10-11am.

**March 21: Anger - Proverbs 19:11, Ecclesiastes 7:9,  
Colossians 3:8, James 1:19-20, 4:1-2**

**New Bible Study begins April 11<sup>th</sup>**



## Center Church Announcements

**Please sign up to read Scripture during Sunday worship.** There is a sign-up sheet on the table in the Bock Crossway (out the door at the front of the Sanctuary). Also, please consider being a greeter as folks come into the Sanctuary – signup sheet also in Bock Crossway.



**Interfaith Iftar, March 21, Islamic Society of WMA.** Iftar begins at 6pm. If you wish to carpool to the service, let Lori know, and be at the Center Church parking lot to depart at 5:15 (note earlier time!).



Registration for **United Church of Christ summer camp at Silver Lake Camp and Retreat Center** is now open! Silver Lake offers one week "sleep away" camp sessions for 4<sup>th</sup> grade through high school, & half week family camp programs. More information on camp sessions and registration is available at [www.silverlakeect.org](http://www.silverlakeect.org). Center Church members Julie Burke & Brian Lapis are Silver Lake parents and are happy to discuss their summer camp experience. A limited number of \$200 Silver Lake "camperships" are available for Center Church families. Contact Pastor Lori or Thia in the church office, for more info.



**A celebration of Life Service for Don Sibley**, will be held at Loomis Village on March 30, 2024, at 1:00 pm - a zoom link will be available a day before the celebration for those who want to appear remotely. Email: [donsibleymemories@gmail.com](mailto:donsibleymemories@gmail.com) to RSVP for the zoom link, or state if you will appear in person.



**A Memorial Service for Ruth Cowan** will be held here at Center Church on Saturday April 6<sup>th</sup> at 11am.



Check out the **Fellowship Hall Store – Easter and Spring items available for purchase** – Honor system - so leave your payment in the basket!



**Humor Sunday is coming soon, so....** Send Lori any funny Church jokes or puns you may have stored in your humor box.

Anne Capra, the Planning Director for the Town of South Hadley, wants to meet with members of Center Church to talk about the changing climate and how it impacts you. **Please join the conversation in person on March 19 at 11am in the Meeting House Room.** She is aware we are invested in making wise choices, when it comes to our environment.



*Ms Capra wrote, I'm working on a project to gather information on the conditions in people's lives that create vulnerabilities to climate change. Through this information gathering, we will identify a project to address some vulnerability or impact that will strengthen resilience to climate change (improve the communities ability to respond to some aspect of climate change). This project is focused on community members that may be disproportionately affected by the impacts of climate change due to factors such as an inability to have safe and secure housing, fewer or lower paid job opportunities, lack of transportation, social isolation, physical disabilities, food insecurity, or similar challenges. I'm trying to line up meetings with community members in their neighborhoods to hear from them directly so I would be interested in coming to you for this conversation.*



**Palm Sunday    March 24**

**Worship 10am**

**NO PRIOR GATHERING ON THE COMMON**

**Maundy Thursday    March 28**

Service at Church of Christ, Granby 6:30pm

**Good Friday    March 29**

Sanctuary open Noon – 1pm for silent time

**Easter Sunday    March 31**

**This Week at Center Church**

Tuesday	Climate Conversation 11am
Thursday	<b>Bible Study at Loomis 10am</b> AA 1:30pm
	Dance Lessons 6pm
Friday	NA 7:30pm
Sunday	<b>Worship 10am    Palm Sunday</b>





## EASTER FLOWERS



Once again, we will celebrate the Easter season by decorating our sanctuary with Easter Lilies, Tulips and Daffodils. If you would like to participate, **the deadline for placing your order is MARCH 20.** Plants will be \$10 each.

Please make your check payable to **“First Congregational Church”** and note **“Easter flower”** in the memo.

Please leave your completed form and your check at the church office or place in the Offering plate before the deadline.



Number of plants you wish to order: Lilies \_\_\_\_\_ Tulips \_\_\_\_\_ Daffodils \_\_\_\_\_  
Total payment enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

In loving memory of      or      In honor of      (circle one)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(name(s))

\_\_\_\_\_  
(name(s))

Please check one of the following choices:

\_\_\_\_\_ I will pick up after church on Easter Sunday

\_\_\_\_\_ I will pick up after Easter

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like my plant delivered to a shut-in

Given by \_\_\_\_\_



## THE MINISTRY AT CENTER CHURCH

<b>Ministers:</b>	All Church Members
<b>Senior Minister:</b>	Rev. Lori J. Souder
<b>Member in Discernment:</b>	Emily Carle

### Christian Education Program

**Children:** Kate Hoffman and Chelsea Korzeniowski

**Youth:** Kayla Scott-McDowell

### Music

<b>Organist:</b>	Larry Schipull
<b>Choir Director:</b>	Mallory Coakley
<b>Associate in Music:</b>	Cynthia Morrell

<b>Office Administrator:</b>	Cynthia Jubinville
<b>Sexton:</b>	Robert Farman

The South Hadley Chorale will present its annual concert on Sunday, March 24, 2024, at 3:00 p.m. in Abbey Memorial Chapel at Mount Holyoke College, South Hadley, Massachusetts. The program will feature Gabriel Fauré's *Requiem* and Paul Basler's *Missa Kenya* plus works by Alice Parker and Anita Anderson Cooper. The Harris Brook Elementary School Chorus, from Ludlow, under the direction of Melanie Sroka, will also perform.

Anita Anderson Cooper will conduct. Ms. Anderson Cooper is a well-known area musician, conductor, teacher, and composer. She received degrees from Westminster College, Boston University, and Delta State University. She also directs the chorus of the Paul R. Baird Middle School in Ludlow and conducts the Smith College Handbell Choir.

Tickets may be purchased at the door for \$25 general admission, \$20 for senior citizens, and \$5 for students and children. Tickets may also be purchased prior to the concert day from Chorale members; at the Odyssey Bookshop, South Hadley; or online at [www.eventbrite.com](http://www.eventbrite.com) for \$20, \$15, and \$5.

This program is supported in part by a grant from the South Hadley Cultural Council, a local agency that is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council. For further information, please visit [www.southhadleychorale.org](http://www.southhadleychorale.org) or call 413-533-3833.

## SOUTH HADLEY CHORALE

**Gabriel Fauré *Requiem***

**Paul Basler *Missa Kenya***

**Soloists: George Eisenhauer, vocal; Jean Jeffries, horn**

additional works by

**Anita Anderson Cooper**

and

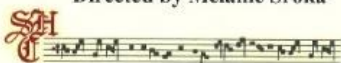
**Alice Parker**

**Anita Anderson Cooper, Conductor**

With selections by

**the Harris Brook Elementary Chorus**

**Directed by Melanie Sroka**



Gen. Admission \$25.00; Seniors \$20.00; Students/Children 12 and under \$5.00  
(Pre-Sale from Chorale Members or Odyssey Bookstore: \$20; \$15; \$5)

Tickets also at the door, Odyssey Bookstore-South Hadley and [www.eventbrite.com](http://www.eventbrite.com)



This program is supported in part by a grant from the South Hadley Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency

**Sunday, March 24, 2024 – 3 p.m.**  
**Abbey Memorial Chapel**  
**Mount Holyoke College**

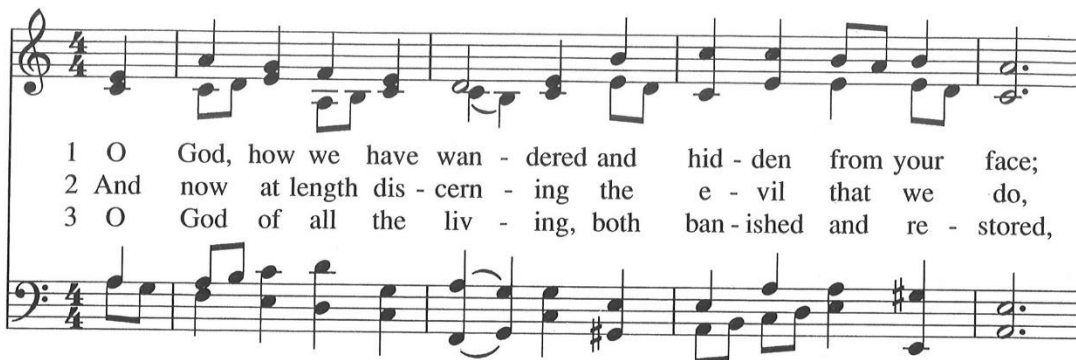
LENT

## O God, How We Have Wandered

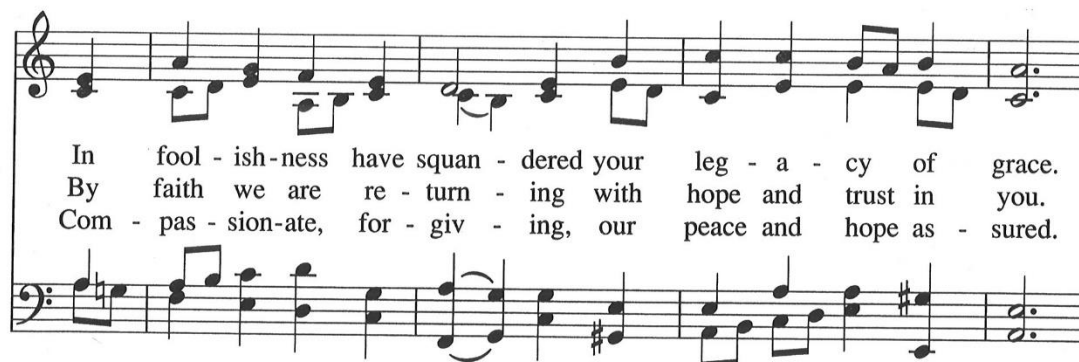
202

Kevin Nichols, 1980; alt.

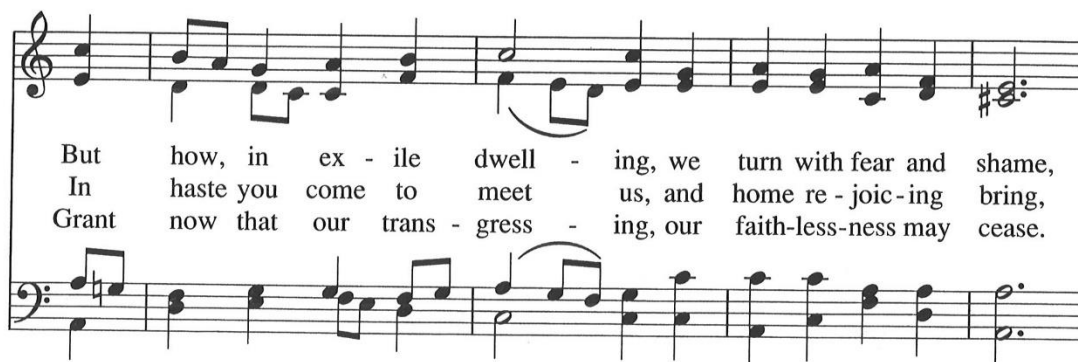
Luke 15:11-32; 2 Cor. 5:16-20



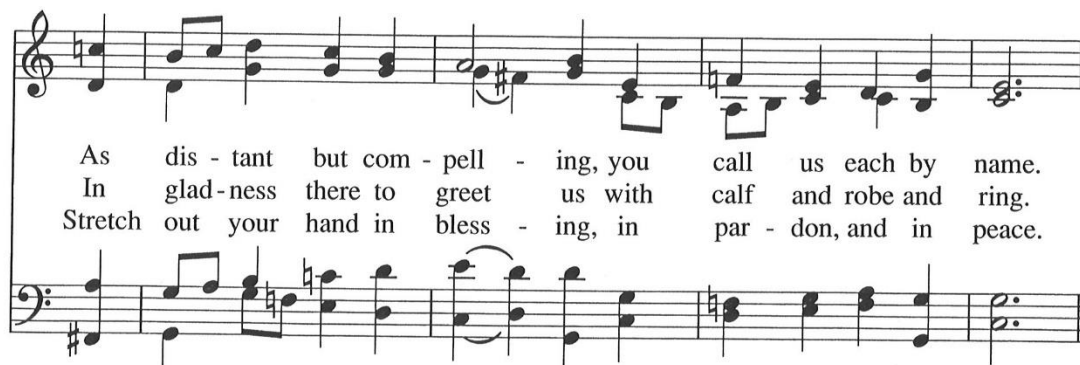
1 O God, how we have wan - dered and hid - den from your face;  
 2 And now at length dis - cern - ing the e - vil that we do,  
 3 O God of all the liv - ing, both ban - ished and re - stored,



In fool - ish-ness have squan - dered your leg - a - cy of grace.  
 By faith we are re - turn - ing with hope and trust in you.  
 Com - pas - sion-ate, for - giv - ing, our peace and hope as - sured.



But how, in ex - ile dwell - ing, we turn with fear and shame,  
 In haste you come to meet us, and home re - joic - ing bring,  
 Grant now that our trans - gress - ing, our faith-less-ness may cease.



As dis - tant but com - pell - ing, you call us each by name.  
 In glad-ness there to greet us with calf and robe and ring.  
 Stretch out your hand in bless - ing, in par - don, and in peace.

The tune for this contemporary text appears five times in J. S. Bach's St. Matthew Passion, and first appeared as a hymn setting in the early 1800s. It has an ecumenical history reaching back many centuries. Originally it was a German love song.

Tune: PASSION CHORALE 7.6.7.6.D.  
 (HERZLICH TUT MICH VERLANGEN)

Melody by Hans Leo Hassler, 1601

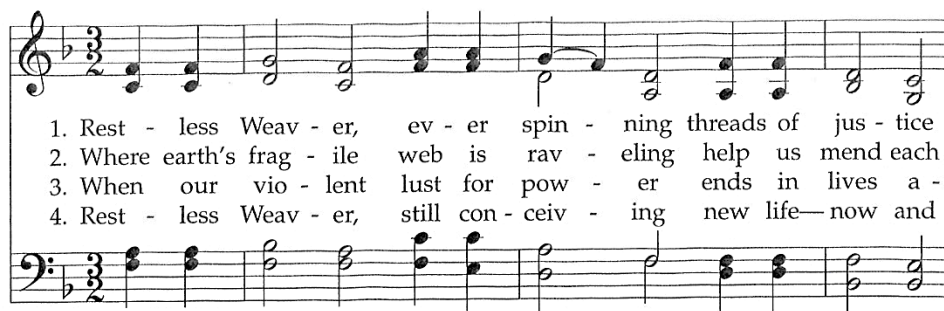
Harm. J. S. Bach, 1729

For another harmonization, see 179

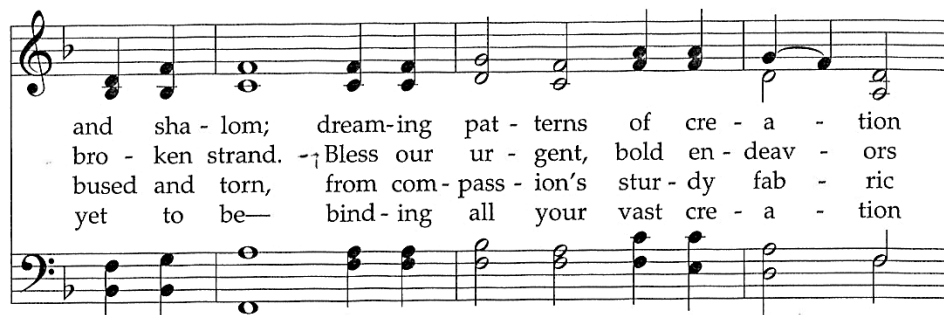


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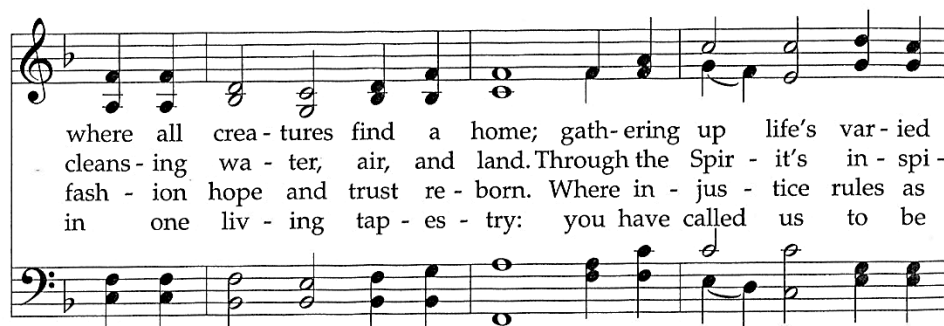
## Restless Weaver



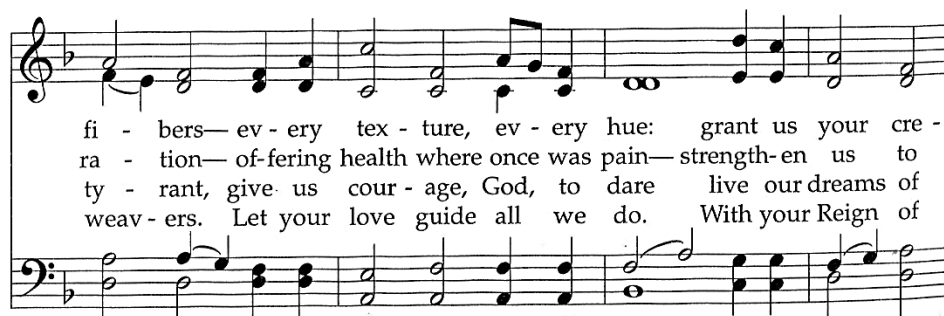
1. Rest - less Weav - er, ev - er spin - ning threads of jus - tice  
 2. Where earth's frag - ile web is rav - eling help us mend each  
 3. When our vio - lent lust for pow - er ends in lives a -  
 4. Rest - less Weav - er, still con - ceiv - ing new life—now and



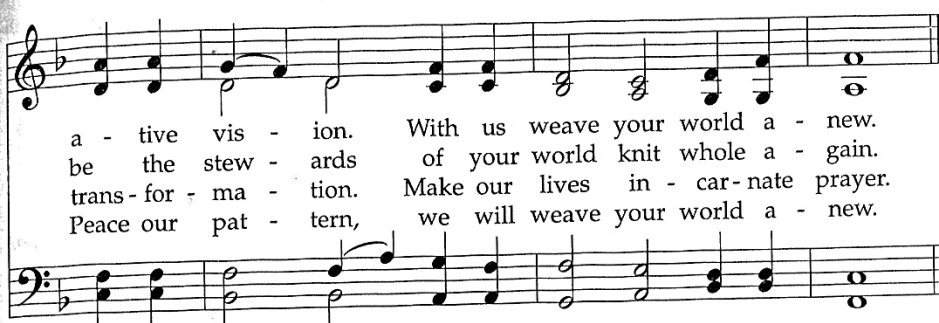
and sha - lom; dream-ing pat - terns of cre - a - tion  
 bro - ken strand. — Bless our ur - gent, bold en - deav - ors  
 bused and torn, from com - pass - ion's stur - dy fab - ric  
 yet to be— bind - ing all your vast cre - a - tion



where all crea - tures find a home; gath - ering up life's var - ied  
 cleans - ing wa - ter, air, and land. Through the Spir - it's in - spi -  
 fash - ion hope and trust re - born. Where in - jus - tice rules as  
 in one liv - ing tap - es - try: you have called us to be



fi - bers—ev - ery tex - ture, ev - ery hue: grant us your cre -  
 ra - tion—of - fer - ing health where once was pain—strength - en us to  
 ty - rant, give us cour - age, God, to dare live our dreams of  
 weav - ers. Let your love guide all we do. With your Reign of



a - tive vis - ion. With us weave your world a - new.  
 be the stew - ards of your world knit whole a - gain.  
 trans - for - ma - tion. Make our lives in - car - nate prayer.  
 Peace our pat - tern, we will weave your world a - new.

WORDS: O. I. Cricket Harrison, 1986, rev. 1993  
 MUSIC: Attr. B. F. White, 1844; harm. Ronald A. Nelson, 1978  
 Words © 1995 Chalice Press; harm. © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship,  
 used by permission of Augsburg Fortress

BEACH SPRING  
 87.87D  
 0=70-74

## Be Now My Vision

Ancient Irish text, c. 8th century; transl. Mary E. Byrne, 1905  
Versified by Eleanor H. Hull, 1912; adapt.

Unison

1 Be now my vi - sion, O God of my heart;  
2 Be now my wis - dom, and be my true word;  
3 Rich - es I need not, nor life's emp - ty praise,  
4 Sov - ereign of heav - en, my vic - to - ry won,

noth - ing sur - pass - es the love you im - part—  
ev - er with - in me, my soul is as - sured;  
you, my in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways;  
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heav - en's Sun!

You my best thought, by day or by night,  
Moth - er and Fa - ther, you are both to me,  
You and you on - ly are first in my heart,  
Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

wak - ing or sleep - ing, your pres - ence my light.  
now and for - ev - er your child I will be.  
great God, my trea - sure, may we nev - er part.  
still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

Dating from the eighth century or earlier, this Irish hymn was translated into prose by Mary Byrne. It was then versified by Eleanor Hull, author of several books on Irish literature and history. David Evans arranged the Irish melody for this text in 1927.

Tune: SLANE 10.10.9.10.  
Traditional Irish melody  
Harm. David Evans, 1927