

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH “Center Church”



United Church of Christ - ONA
One Church Street
South Hadley, Massachusetts 01075
(413) 532-2262

email: centerchurch@verizon.net

website: www.centerchurchsouthhadley.org

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**

May 5, 2024

PRELUDE

*Slane
St. Christopher
Leoni*

C. Tambling
W. Held
F. Peeters

We light the Good News Candle for Gwoup Konbit in Haiti, a model of community-led development to implement in Cité Soleil (Site Solèy), one of the most marginalized areas of Haiti. Konbit is the practice of supporting your fellow community members through collective action, especially during tough times. Together, the members of Konbit Solèy Leve cleaned up canals, planted trees, painted homes, and covered public areas in graffiti depicting positive images and messages—all efforts not only to make Cité Soleil a better place to live, but one its residents could take pride in. Now, leaders across the country are also being trained in Konbit practices to help their communities. We light the candle for an end to gang violence in Haiti, for the ending of brutalities in Israel and Palestine and for peace and resilience in Ukraine.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

CHORAL INTROIT

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Bless the Sovereign at all times.

People: Salvation belongs to our God.

Leader: The Sovereign heard our cry and delivered us from our fear.

People: Salvation belongs to our God.

Leader: No one who takes refuge in the Sovereign will be condemned.

All: Salvation belongs to our God.

***HYMN**

The God of Abraham Praise

black # 24

RECOGNITION OF GRADUATES

At the conclusion of the recognition, 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 (unison)

Oh God, the world you have made is powerful and dangerous, diverse and beautiful. By praising your goodness in all creation, we creatures learn our place and know our strength. Open us here to recognize the One you sent into this complicated world, Jesus – Holy One, Human One, Vulnerable Child – At home wherever there is rejoicing, or struggle, or anguish, or hope. Teach to follow Jesus along the paths of praise and service which lead to You, and forgive us when we stray from these paths.

Assurance of Forgiveness

God is the one who dwells within all. We are ever grateful and only need to accept God and God's incredible forgiveness. Amen

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 Isaiah 40:6-8 Mark 8:27-35

page 619 875

SERMON

KEPT ALIVE BY HOPE

*HYMN

Before Your Cross, O Jesus

black # 191

OFFERING

Invitation

Offertory

For Where Love Is, There is God

D. Wagner

***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**

Jesus Took the Bread

black # 343

COMMUNION

Invitation

Communion Prayer

Words of Institution

Distribution of the Bread and Cup

*It is our tradition to hold each of the elements until all are served
so that we may partake together.*

[Rice cake pieces are offered for those with allergies to gluten.]

Prayer of Thanksgiving (unison)

**We are thankful for how the bread and cup make a way
for transformation. We no longer have to be stuck, but
rejuvenated through Jesus. Thanks be to God.**

***HYMN**

Be Now My Vision

black #451

BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

Threefold Amen

POSTLUDE

Leoni

R. Proulx

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

Preacher:	Rev. Randall Hyvonen
Liturgist:	Rev. Lori J. Souder
Scripture Reader:	Lynne Bertram
Organist:	Larry D. Schipull
Choir Director	Mallory Coakley
Deacon:	Karen Anderson

PLEASE KEEP THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS

Continual:

Don Donihue
Joan Duffy
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.*

*Prayers for the victims
of the Israel-Palestine conflict.*

Situational:

Pricilla Finn's brother, Zach
Family and friends of Muriel Graham,
who passed away on April 22nd
Audrey Heaphy
Family and friends of Don Hooton,
who passed away on April 21st
Ryan Moore, Deb Moore's son
Family and friends of Allen Morrison,
Alisa's husband, who passed away Wednesday
Leila Mulder, attending boarding school
Kay Pryor, with cancer, family friend
of Karen and Estelle Anderson
Charlie DeNagy, friend Peg Wesolowski
Joanne Santos grandfather, Edwardo,
with cancer
Kendall Johnson-Smith, 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.**

This Week at Center Church

Tuesday	Church Council 7pm
Wednesday	Conversation/Breakfast @ Iona's Kitchen 8am Trustees 7pm
Thursday	AA 1:30pm Dance Lessons 6pm
Friday	NA 7:30pm
Saturday	English Spring Tea - Seatings from 11:30 - 2:30

Join Lori at Iona's Kitchen, Main Street in SH - May 8 - 8am - enjoy
breakfast or just a cup of coffee and join in discussion of current events.
This week's topic is Christian Nationalism.



**A reminder that May 15th is the deadline for Peterson Memorial
Scholarship Fund applications!**

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. Also, please consider being a greeter as folks come into the Sanctuary – sign up sheet also in Crossway.



This morning, we recognize and honor our graduating Seniors. Our Youth Leader, Kayla Scott-McDowell, will graduate from Mount Holyoke College on May 19th. Our Highschool graduates are Drew Alley, Quinn Francis, and Alina Sokop.

Kayla is from Astoria, Queens - New York City, and was a double major in Biochemistry and sociology at MHC. As of right now, she plans on working at Envisagenics as a research scientist, doing Oncology research, before going to school for her Medical Degree, or going into a PhD program for biomedical science.

Drew has lived in South Hadley her whole life, with her moms, Rachel and Greer, and her older brother, Jonas. She has always had family close by and supportive of all her adventures. Drew has worked at McCrays, the Boathouse, and the SH Rec. Department. She enjoys many sports including basketball, soccer, and snowboarding. As a senior at SH High, she led both her soccer and basketball teams to state finals. She has had a solid group of great friends since preschool, who love hanging out together. Drew is pursuing a career in nursing and deciding between James Madison University and the University of South Carolina.

Quinn will be graduating this spring from South Hadley High School. He will be attending The University of Vermont in the fall. Quinn plans to study Psychology. He looks forward to exploring Burlington and continuing to play guitar.

Alina will graduate from Northampton High. After graduation, she will travel to Canada with her family. She is presently looking for a fall job and is considering continuing her education the following fall.

First Congregational Church of
South Hadley Presents

English Spring Tea

*Saturday, the 11th of May,
at half past 11 o'clock*

1 Church Street, South Hadley, Ma



Final seating at 2:30pm

Ticket Prices:
\$20 Adult and \$10 Children ages 10 and under.

A small spring market will be available for perusal.

For any questions please call (413)532-2262



Hampshire Association
of the
United Church of Christ
Southern New England Conference

Greetings to the churches and ministers of the Hampshire Association, SNEUCC,

Amherst
First
South
Belchertown
Chester
Chesterfield
Cummington
Easthampton
Granby
Hadley
First
North
Hatfield
Haydenville
Leverett
Northampton
First
Edwards
Plainfield
Southampton
South Hadley
First (Center)
West Cummington
Westhampton
Williamsburg
Worthington

At the request of
First Congregational Church of South Hadley
(Center Church)
1 Church Street
South Hadley, MA 01075

and the Committee on Church & Ministry,
the Hampshire Association is hereby called to meet as an
Ecclesiastical Council to examine

Emily Carle

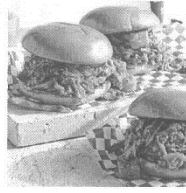
as to her fitness to be ordained to the Christian Ministry.
Ministerial members of the Association and Churches represented by
Authorized Ministers and Delegates are urged to be present at:

6:00pm on Thursday, June 6, 2024

This Ecclesiastical Council will be conducted in-person, with the
option of delegates and visitors participating via Zoom.
Connection details to be shared soon.

Representation from eight (8) churches that are members of the Hampshire Association
will constitute a quorum. Non-voting visitors are also welcome to attend. Please
distribute Emily Carle's ordination paper to all clergy and delegates in your congregation.

In Peace & Covenant,
Judy Stone, Scribe
Rev. Chris Mereschuk, Moderator (*Term ends June 2, 2024*)
Rev. Randy Calvo, Committee on Church & Ministry, Chair



So. Hadley Methodist Church
30 Carew St.
So. Hadley, MA

Grab & Go

**Polynesian Pulled Pork
Sandwich**

May 17 5:00 to 5:30 p.m.
\$12.00

Menu: **Polynesian Pulled Pork Sandwich**
Chocolate Trifle Beverage

To order: call: 413 532-0500
text 413 695-1212
email: office@UMCSouthHadley.org

Notify us if anyone in your party has a food allergy.

Meal will be delivered to your car.
Pull into the church driveway and
you will be directed on where to line up,
pay for your order and it will be brought to your car.



THE MINISTRY AT CENTER CHURCH

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

Christian Education Program

Children: Kate Hoffman and Chelsea Korzeniowski
Youth: Kayla Scott-McDowell

Music

Organist: Larry Schipull
Choir Director: Mallory Coakley
Associate in Music: Cynthia Morrell
Office Administrator: Cynthia Jubinville
Sexton: Robert Farman



2024 registration is open!

[Look through all the camp sessions](#) or [Download the 2024 summer schedule](#)

We run 1-week sessions (Sunday-Saturday) for campers entering grades 4-12. Plus, half-week family camp programs for all ages. [Learn more about summer camp at Silver Lake.](#)

[Open House](#) - Sunday, May 19, 1-5pm - [register now](#)

View the [2024 Summer Camp Information Guide](#) - For more information about rules and what to expect, including a [sample schedule](#) and a [packing list](#).

Summer Staff - 2024 [summer staff](#) applications are open!

Volunteers - Learn more about being a volunteer [Dean](#) or [bunkroom Counselor](#) and complete the [Summer Camp Volunteer Application](#) to indicate your interest in volunteering.

[Silver Lake Camp & Retreat Center](#) slcrc@sneucc.org

A Ministry of the [Southern New England Conference UCC](#)

223 Low Road | Sharon, CT 06069 | 860.364.5526 | Fax: 860.364.1000



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 4th grade through high school, & half week family camp programs. More information on camp sessions and registration is available at 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.

"Someday, Somewhere..."

~ The Music of Johnny Anz / CD Release Concert

Saturday, June 15, 2024 - 6:30 pm (doors open at 6)

Center Church

Tickets / Reservations go on sale April 1st with special pricing for church members:

* \$22.50 (general admission)

* \$90 (2 VIP / Preferred reserved seats, plus a CD)

Reservations w/ payment can be made through the church office or directly with John Anz (checks payable to Center Church).

And, if you are interested in helping the night of the concert, please contact John at anzfam4@gmail.com.

MUSIC at the **CENTER**
presents a
JAZZ Productions
CD release and live performance for
Someday, Somewhere...
The Music of Johnny Anz
featuring
The Benny Benack Band
Benny Benack III (t, v), Alex Claffy (b), Joe Peri (d), Miki Yamanaka (p)

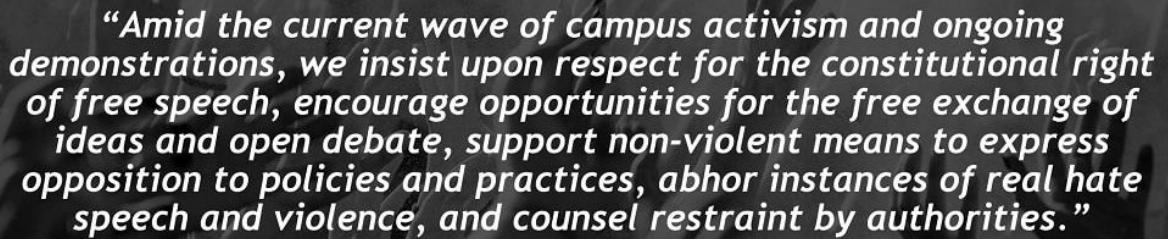
with very special guest, Anais Reno (v)

Saturday, June 15, 2024
Center Church | One Church Street | South Hadley, MA

Doors open at 6:00 pm
Concert at 6:30 pm

Admission:
\$25 in advance
\$30 at the door

Advance individual & preferred package ticket sales at:
www.eventbrite.com



“Amid the current wave of campus activism and ongoing demonstrations, we insist upon respect for the constitutional right of free speech, encourage opportunities for the free exchange of ideas and open debate, support non-violent means to express opposition to policies and practices, abhor instances of real hate speech and violence, and counsel restraint by authorities.”

-Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson
General Minister and President / CEO

-Rev. Shari Prestemon
Acting Associate General Minister

UCC Officers issue statement amid ongoing unrest on college campuses; offer continued solidarity with partners and people in the Middle East

by [Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia A. Thompson, UCC Officers](#) | published on Apr 30, 2024

The United Church of Christ continues to walk in solidarity with our partners in the Middle East through prayer, public witness, advocacy, and support for their critical response to the needs in their communities. Israel’s declared war on Gaza has continued for more than 200 days. In this time, over 34,000 people have been killed and tens of thousands more injured, while practically all of the Palestinian people of Gaza face starvation. The violence must end. We are confounded by how this assault on the Palestinian people in Gaza can be permitted to happen, and deeply regret and oppose the role the U.S. has played in enabling Israel’s campaign through diplomatic cover and a steady stream of military aid and materiel. This includes the approval of tens of billions of dollars more in aid to Israel by Congress this past week.

We hear the cries of our partners in the Middle East and the Palestinian people. We pray to God that this war will cease and the people in Gaza be relieved of their suffering. We press for a permanent ceasefire, the delivery of abundant medical and humanitarian aid, the immediate release of all hostages and prisoners, and resolution to the core issues so that a lasting and just peace may prevail.

Global opposition to the Israeli military campaign has been widespread. For months, millions of people in cities around the world have demonstrated against this war. On U.S. college and university campuses in recent weeks, students and faculty have been especially active and outspoken, calling for an immediate ceasefire and the divestment of their educational institutions’ assets from companies that profit from this violence, including the arms manufacturing industry. They are also calling for these institutions of learning to be transparent about funds received from Israel and how these funds are used.

Unfortunately, the discourse and coverage of the campus protests have been particularly reductive. Frequently characterized as hate speech or antisemitism, this framing ignores the fact that a vocal portion of the protesters are Jewish. Among them are students with Jewish Voice for Peace, who have joined with Students for Justice in Palestine and others

to call for peace. Many groups have erected tents on campus, evoking how 1.7 million Palestinians in Gaza are forced to live, having been displaced from their homes and communities. Students and faculty are also cognizant of the fact that schools and universities in Gaza have not been operational during this current academic year. Many have been destroyed altogether, including the Gaza branch of our partner, Dar al-Kalima University, which has been reduced to rubble.

As they rally for peace, students on campuses nationwide have been subject to beating, expulsion, and arrest by campus security and local police for their generally non-violent protests and their attempts to assert their first amendment right to free speech. The 34th General Synod of the United Church of Christ gathering in 2021 adopted a resolution which “affirm[ed] the First Amendment constitutional right to freedom of speech and assembly to protest the actions of the State of Israel and to uphold the rights of Palestinians, including the use of economic measures to support justice as a First Amendment right.” It rejected the notion that any criticism of the State of Israel is automatically antisemitic and it opposed government efforts “to limit free speech on university campuses and to restrict or ban support of the international Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions movement.”

The General Synod further called on the church to offer its:

support and encouragement to college students and faculty members as well as the human rights groups (including Students for Justice in Palestine, Jewish Voice for Peace, American Muslims for Palestine, and many other allied groups), whose freedom to speak, witness and advocate on university campuses is threatened in any way by state or local governments, or by college administrators.

Amid the current wave of campus activism and ongoing demonstrations, we insist upon respect for the constitutional right of free speech, encourage opportunities for the free exchange of ideas and open debate, support non-violent means to express opposition to policies and practices, abhor instances of real hate speech and violence, and counsel restraint by authorities.

And we recognize the necessity to keep our focus on the most vulnerable - the Palestinian people of Gaza, including its women and men, its children and its students, who seek justice and a dignified life. Instead of working to silence the voices of those who cry for peace, we call on the leaders of academic institutions and of government to focus their efforts and energy on the promotion of an immediate peace and a just world for all.

May God have mercy on all who suffer so grievously from violence and injustice, and may God grant us all the courage to lift our voices for the cause of peace with justice.

Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson
General Minister and President / CEO
Rev. Shari Prestemon
Acting Associate General Minister

Yigdal Elohim Chai

(The God of Abraham Praise)

Gen. 12:1; 17:15-16; Exod. 3:14; Isa. 44:6; Rev. 4:8

Moses Maimonides, 12th century

Versification attrib. to Daniel ben Judah, c. 1400

Transl. Max Landsberg and Newton Mann, 1884; alt.

1 Yig - dal e - lo - him chai v' - yish - ta - bach,
 1 The God of A - braham praise, all prais - es to God's name,
 2 God's spir - it free - ly flows, high surg - ing where it will;
 3 God has e - ter - nal life im - plant - ed in the soul;
 4 The God of Sar - ah praise, all prais - es to God's name,

nim - tza v' - ein eit el m' - tzi - u - to
 who was and is and is to be, for - e'er the same!
 God spoke of old in proph - et's word; that word speaks still.
 God's love shall be our strength and stay, while a - ges roll.
 who was and is and is to be, for - e'er the same!

E - chad v' - ein ya - chid k' - yi - chu - do,
 The one e - ter - nal God, be - fore what now ap - pears;
 Es - tab - lished is God's law, and change - less it shall stand,
 All praise the liv - ing God! Ex - tol that hal - lowed name,
 The one e - ter - nal God, be - fore what now ap - pears;

ne - lam v' - gam ein sof I' - ach - du - to.
 the First, the Last: be - yond all thought through time - less years!
 deep writ - ten on the hu - man heart, in ev - ery land.
 who was, and is, and ev - er shall be still the same!
 the First, the Last: be - yond all thought through time - less years!

LENT

Before Your Cross, O Jesus

191

Ferdinand Q. Blanchard, 1929; alt.

Mark 8:34; Gal. 6:14; Phil. 1:27; 3:7-10

- 1 Be-fore your cross, O Je-sus,
our lives are judged to-day;
the mean-ing of our ea-ger strife
is test-ed by your way.
A-cross our rest-less liv-ing
the light streams from your cross,
and by its clear, re-veal-ing beams
we mea-sure gain and loss.
- 2 The hopes that lead us on-ward,
the fears that hold us back,
our will to dare great things for God,
the cour-age that we lack,
The faith we keep in good-ness,
our love, as low or pure,
on all, the judg-ment of the cross
falls stead-y, clear, and sure.
- 3 Yet hum-bly, in our striv-ing,
we rise to face its test.
We crave the power to do your will
as once you did it best.
On us let now the heal-ing
of your great Spir-it fall,
and make us brave and full of joy
to an-swer to your call.

Ferdinand Q. Blanchard, moderator of the General Council of Congregational Churches (1942-1944), was active in missions and was a leading advocate of educational opportunity for African-Americans. This hymn was written for Euclid Avenue Congregational Church in Cleveland, Ohio, which he served for forty years.

Tune: ST. CHRISTOPHER 7.6.8.6.8.6.8.6.
Frederick C. Maker, 1881

Jesus Took the Bread

Matt. 26:26-28; Luke 9:16; 22:19; 24:30

Ruth Duck, 1982

Unison D A F#m Bm Em7 D/A A7

1 Je - sus took the bread, dai - ly gift of God,
 2 Je - sus blessed the bread, thanked the God of grace,
 3 Je - sus broke the bread; then he poured the wine.
 4 Je - sus gives the bread at our ta - ble still,

Bm Bm7 GM7 C Em7 A7

formed of wheat and sweat and toil, sun, rain, and sod.
 thanked the One who made all worlds, all time, all space.
 Bro - ken bod - y, life poured out, God gives as sign.
 gives the cup to those who seek God's lov - ing will.

D A Bm Em F#m GM7 A7

In our hands we take gifts of bread and wine,
 Bless - ing, hon - or, praise, all to God be - long.
 Weak, a - fraid, and lost: that is when we're healed.
 Let us go in peace; let us free - ly give,

D A F# Bm Em A7 D

gath - ered from the fields of earth, signs of love di - vine.
 Let us lift our hearts to God in a thank - ful song.
 In our hu - man bro - ken - ness: there God is re - vealed.
 shar - ing love with all the world dai - ly as we live.

Ruth Duck wrote this hymn emphasizing the actions of communion—taking, blessing, breaking, and giving the bread—following a summer study of liturgy at the University of Notre Dame. It was first used at New Hope United Church of Christ in Milwaukee.

Tune: NEW HOPE 10.11.10.12.
 Ruth Duck, 1982
 Arr. Randall Sensmeier, 1982

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*