

United Church of Christ ~ California, Missouri

Rev. Michael Matheny

Pastor

Mrs. Beth Dampf

Organist

September 27, 2026 – Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

**All those who are able, please stand.*

The Bell

The Prelude

Lighting of the Candles Brynna Hall & Georjie Peck

Choral Opening God's Singers

Welcome and Announcements

*Call to Worship

Leader: Come! Now is the time to worship!

People: We come to worship God who loves us.

Leader: When the Israelites grumbled and quarreled when there was no water to drink, God miraculously produced water to show them God's faithfulness and love.

People: When we question and accuse God, God responds by showing us love.

Leader: When the chief priests and elders questioned Jesus' authority, Jesus answered them with a story about the righteousness of doing God's will instead of paying lip service to God's will.

People: When we test and interrogate God, God responds by pointing us back to love.

Leader: By answering our quarrelling and questioning with love, God teaches us how to love God, neighbor, self, and all creation.

People: When we love as God loves, we respond to testing and accusing by living the faith and sharing God's love.

Leader: Come! Now is the time to worship!

People: We come to worship God who loves us for the long haul.

***Hymn No. 22 “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”**

***Invocation (unison)**

In the dry wildernesses of our lives, in the days of heat and thirst, you offer us living water, Thank you, gracious and generous God.

When we begin to doubt your presence, and grumble that your love is unreliable, you offer us living water, Thank you, gracious and generous God.

When life’s regrets and the bad choices we have made leave us feeling excluded and unworthy, you offer us living water, Thank you, gracious and generous God.

When circumstances, or the inhumanity of others, have left us alone and wounded, you offer us living water, Thank you, gracious and generous God.

**We thank you and praise you, O God, that how ever we may thirst, what ever we may need to satisfy our souls, you offer it freely and abundantly in Christ; So, we drink deep of the living water and, as we draw from your wells, we seek to pass the cup to others, who, like us, are thirsty for your grace.
Amen.**

*** Call to Praise**

O Lord, open our lips!

And our mouths shall show forth your praise!

***Act of Praise – “*Gloria Patri*” (printed on laminated card in hymnal)**

Time of Greeting

Invitation to Children’s Time

Hymn for Children “Jesus Loves the Little Children” p.166
*Jesus loves the little children, all the children of the world,
All the children of the earth, they are precious from their birth,
Jesus loves the little children of the world.*

Children’s Time

Puppets

Scripture Lessons

Susan Burger

First Lesson: Exodus: 17:1-7 p. 60

Second Lesson: Psalms: 78:1-4, 12-16 p. 507

Third Lesson: Matthew 21:23-32 p. 855

Anthem

“Sandy Land”

God’s Singers

Sermon Text: Philippians 2: 1-12 p. 1023

Sermon **Radical Humility**

Hymn No. 408 “What a Friend We Have in Jesus”

Silent Prayer

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord’s Prayer (*debts and debtors*) unison

Invitation to the Offering

***Response** “*Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow*”

*Prayer of Dedication

*Hymn No. 178 “All Glory, Laud, and Honor”

*Benediction

We gathered to worship God who responds to our grumbling with grace-filled, sustaining love. So now go from this time and place guided by our loving God who leads you to respond to the quarreling and questioning of the world with a living faith and abundant love. Amen.

*Congregational Response

“God Be with You Till We Meet Again” – p.580

*God be with you till we meet again;
By His counsels guide, uphold you,
With His sheep securely fold you:
God be with you till we meet again.*

*Extinguishing of the Candles

*Postlude

~~~~~  
Ushers: Jim Deeken & Doug Dampf

Greeters: Morgan & Bryce Opie



**Pastor Matheny 414-241-6648**

*rhonda@calmo-ucc.org / Church office: 573-796-4885*

*Website: www.calmo-ucc.org*

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| <p><b>Acolyte Training</b> - Today, following worship. If you are interested and can't make it, please contact Courtney Cassil at 573-680-5347 or let the Church office know.</p> |
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| <p>Today – 3 to 5 pm-Middle School Youth Back to School Party here at the Church. If you have questions, see Connie or Tammy.</p> |
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Activities Calendar: September 27, 2026 ~ October 4, 2026

Sunday, September 27

9:30 a.m. – Sunday School

10:30 a.m. – Worship

Monday, September 28

7:00 p.m. – Brotherhood

Tuesday, September 29

9:00 a.m. – Prayer Cell

Wednesday, September 30

6:00 – Wednesday Night Meal/Confirmation

6:30 – R.O.K. and God's Singers/Bell Choir

7:30 – Sr. Choir

Sunday, October 4

9:30 a.m. – Sunday School

10:30 a.m. – Worship

*Looking ahead ~*

Monday, October 5<sup>th</sup> – Sunday School Teacher and Officer Meeting

Tuesday, October 6<sup>th</sup> – Quilters meet

Sunday, October 11<sup>th</sup> – R.O.K. Sunday and Sunday School Fall Party

Monday, October 12<sup>th</sup> – Consistory

Wednesday, October 21 – Guild

Monday, October 26 – Brotherhood

Saturday, October 31 – Fall VeggieTales

**Wednesday Evening Meals Have Begun!**  
**There are still spots available to help bring desserts or help provide the meal. Sign up on the bulletin board.**

**If you are coming to a meal, Please sign up** on the clip board at the office window or at the back of the sanctuary. Or by 4:00 Monday: Call the church office (796-4885) Email Rhonda: [rhonda@calmo-ucc.org](mailto:rhonda@calmo-ucc.org)

**Sept. 30 - 6:00 p.m.**

This week's menu is: **Pulled Pork, Baked Beans, Mac and Cheese, Bread**

## Food Pantry Items Needed

Each month the Food Pantry is requesting a different food item. For the **month of September, Tuna** is the food item requested. There is a box in the downstairs foyer to place your food items.

**October 4, 2026,** will be the 48th anniversary of Rev. Matheny's ordination ceremony. Please join us that day for a "Camp Meeting Sunday" service to celebrate the anniversary. The choir will perform a medley of songs of significance to Rev. Matheny. We will be joined by guest speaker John Schindler as well as the Matheny's son.

### **Rev. John Schindler**

Our special soloist for Sunday, October 4<sup>th</sup> is Rev. John Schindler. John grew up in Liberia, West Africa, a son of missionary parents. Upon returning to the states his family settled in Stevensville, a small community in southwest Michigan. After high school John attended Taylor University and Trinity Seminary. He then served as a church planting pastor in Milwaukee, Wisconsin where he met Pastor Matheny. During his years of ministry he has traveled throughout much of the United States, Liberia and other African nations plus to other countries overseas. His rich dynamic voice and messages in song will be an inspiration to you. Plan to come and invite a friend to come with you.

A Nursery is available in the upstairs hallway, just outside the sanctuary. The nursery attendant is **Emma Bestgen**. There are activity bags at the back of the sanctuary for children that stay in the worship service.

**Need some help with hearing?** See an usher at the back of the sanctuary to check out a hearing assisted unit for your personal use in the sanctuary and in the Friendship Hall. We have new units available.

**Notice the "Connection Cards" in the pews.** They are for our guests or anyone that has a prayer request or needs more information about the church. Please place it in the offering plate.

Please join the Women's Guild in supporting the

# **Festival of Sharing**

The Women's Guild invites you to put together one of the kits that are most needed in Missouri. Please deliver your kit to the church no later than

**October 1, 2026.** Monetary gifts are also appreciated. Please indicate on check or envelope that your donation is for Festival of Sharing. All will be delivered to the Sharefest Location on **October 17, 2026.**

We thank you for prayerfully considering to help our group!





## Missouri Paper Product Pack

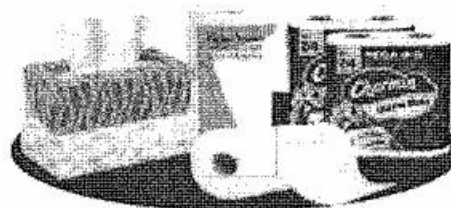
3,379 requested versus 576 shared in 2025

Estimated  
Pack Value

\$23

**Instructions:** Place all items in a tall-sized kitchen trash bag. Label the trash bag "Missouri Paper Products Pack."

- ☐ 2 facial tissue (large rectangle boxes)
- ☐ 2 rolls paper towels (good quality)
- ☐ 12 double/mega rolls of toilet paper as 3 packages of 4 or 2 packages of 6 (unable to receive 12 rolls in one pack)



## Missouri Personal Hygiene Pack

4,024 requested versus 1,884 shared in 2025

Estimated  
Pack Value

\$30

**Instructions:** Tighten lids and place all items in a large zipper storage bag (2-2.5 gallon). Place completed packs in boxes labeled with "Missouri Personal Hygiene Packs" and the quantity on the exterior.

- |                                                                |                                                                |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 fluoride toothpaste (6 oz. or more) | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 hand towel                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 toothbrush (in original package)    | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 deodorant                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 bottle of body wash (15-22 oz.)     | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 razors (disposable)                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 bottle shampoo (12-16 oz.)          | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 comb (large) OR brush               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 washcloth                           | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 bottle travel skin lotion (1-3 oz.) |



## Missouri Family Food Box

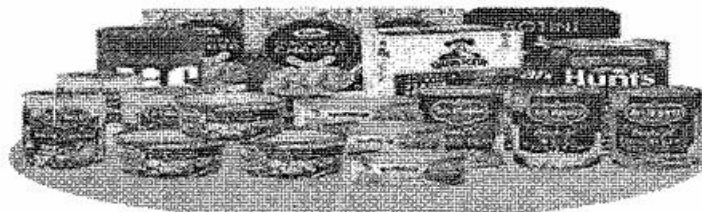
5,695 requested versus 1,983 shared in 2025

Estimated  
Pack Value

\$27

**Instructions:** Place items in a sturdy box, tape and label "Missouri Family Food Box." Please purchase low sodium/low sugar when possible. Include no more than two food box packs per box due to weight.

- |                                                                         |                                                    |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3 pkgs. macaroni & cheese                      | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 pound pasta             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3 different cans of vegetables                 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 cans tuna               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 jar peanut butter                            | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 cans chicken            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 can pasta sauce                              | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 different cans of fruit |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 box of oatmeal packets (10 count any flavor) |                                                    |



## *Please pray for these . . .*

Love & Justice in God's World

Family and Friends of: Eileen Crawford, Johnny Ashal

**Confirmands:** Weston Brandes, William Kissick,  
Maci Kueffer, Camden Lawson and Sophia Miller

### **All Those Who Need Our Prayers, including:**

Janice Anderson, Alan Meyer, Anjanette Volkart, Becky Zuidervaat,  
Alan Chambers, Joyce Rohrbach, Cindy Ash, Jackie Heather

**California Care:** Jimmy Ford, Amanda Volkart, Ida Barry

**Valley Park:** Jane Burger, Carole Schroeder, Patricia Friedrich

**Heisinger Bluffs:** Charles Goode

**Tipton Oaks:** Jo Suggs

### **All Those Serving in the U.S. Military, including:**

Martin Knipker (*son of Kenny Knipker, Naval Base, San Diego, CA*)

Dwight Bowlin (*grandson of the late Jack & Carole Bowlin, Fort Campbell, KY*)

Madelynn Perry (*granddaughter of Jan Anderson, army – Europe*)

Derek Meyer (*grandson of Elaine & Eldred Proctor, Army, Italy*)

Blake Street (*grandson of Jenine Baker, Army, Ft. Drum, NY*)

Cory Friedmeyer (*grandson of Charles Goode, Marine Reserves, St. Louis*)

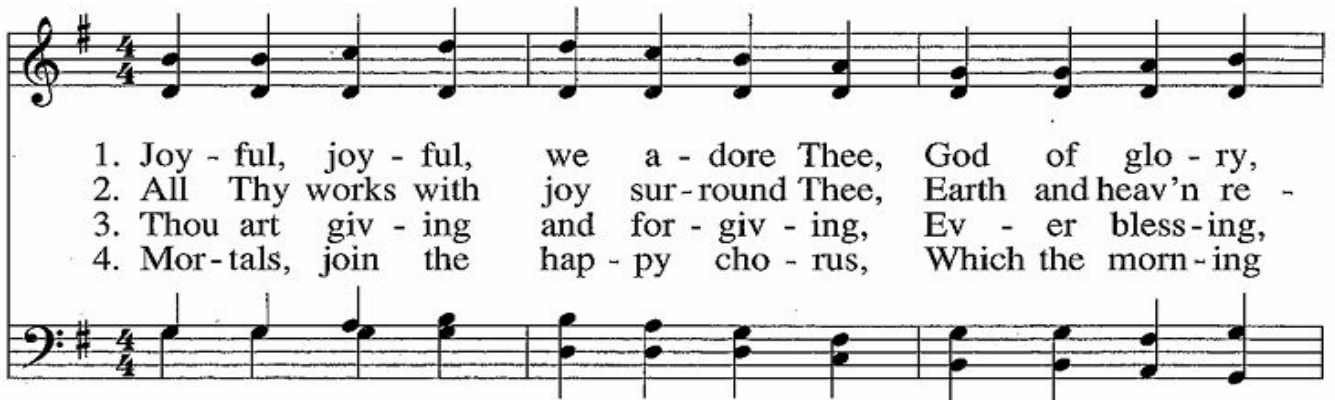
Tucker Friedmeyer (*grandson of Charles Goode, Army, Kentucky*)

Walker Friedmeyer (*grandson of Charles Goode, Air Force, Germany*)

### **Prayer from the Search Committee...**

Lord, we ask for someone who will equip and empower us to carry out Your mission in our community. Lord, bless our search process and open doors to reveal the right candidate. May Your will be done in all things. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

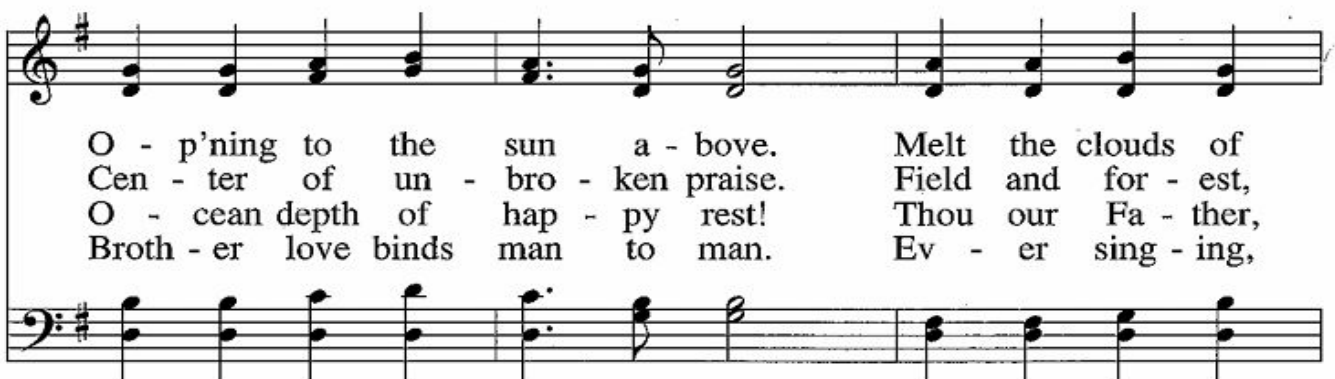
# Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee



1. Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore Thee, God of glo - ry,  
 2. All Thy works with joy sur-round Thee, Earth and heav'n re -  
 3. Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, Ev - er bless-ing,  
 4. Mor-tals, join the hap - py cho - rus, Which the morn-ing



Lord of love; Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore Thee,  
 flect Thy rays, Stars and an - gels sing a - round Thee,  
 ev - er blest, Well-spring of the joy of liv - ing,  
 stars be - gan; Fa - ther love is reign - ing o'er us,



O - p'ning to the sun a - bove. Melt the clouds of  
 Cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise. Field and for - est,  
 O - cean depth of hap - py rest! Thou our Fa - ther,  
 Broth - er love binds man to man. Ev - er sing - ing,



sin and sad - ness, Drive the dark of doubt a - way;  
 vale and moun - tain, Flow - ery mead - ow, flash - ing sea,  
 Christ our Broth - er, All who live in love are Thine;  
 march we on - ward, Vic - tors in the midst of strife,

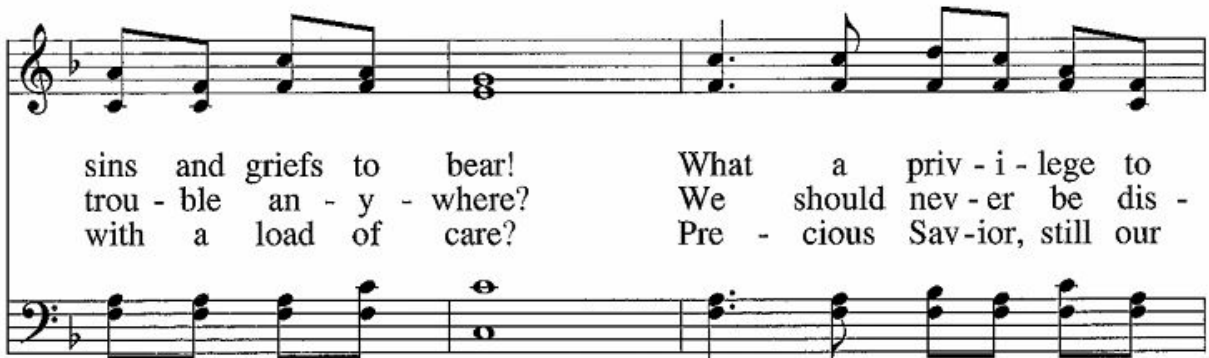
Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness,  
 Chant - ing bird and flow - ing foun - tain,  
 Teach us how to love each oth - er,  
 Joy - ful mu - sic leads us sun - ward

Fill us with the light of day!  
 Call us to re - joice in Thee.  
 Lift us to the joy di - vine.  
 In the tri - umph song of life. A - men.

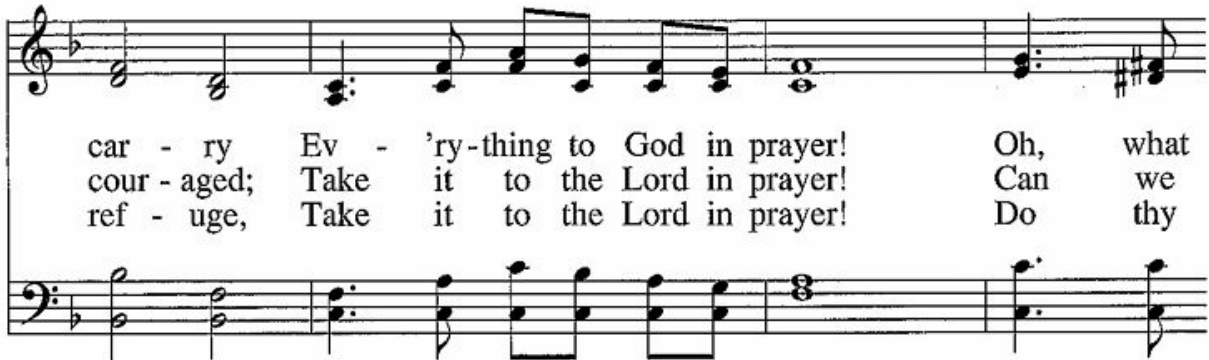
# What a Friend We Have in Jesus



1. What a friend we have in Je - sus, All our  
 2. Have we tri - als and temp - ta - tions? Is there  
 3. Are we weak and heav - y la - den, Cum - bered



sins and griefs to bear! What a priv - i - lege to  
 trou - ble an - y - where? We should nev - er be dis -  
 with a load of care? Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our



car - ry Ev - 'ry - thing to God in prayer! Oh, what  
 cour - aged; Take it to the Lord in prayer! Can we  
 ref - uge, Take it to the Lord in prayer! Do thy

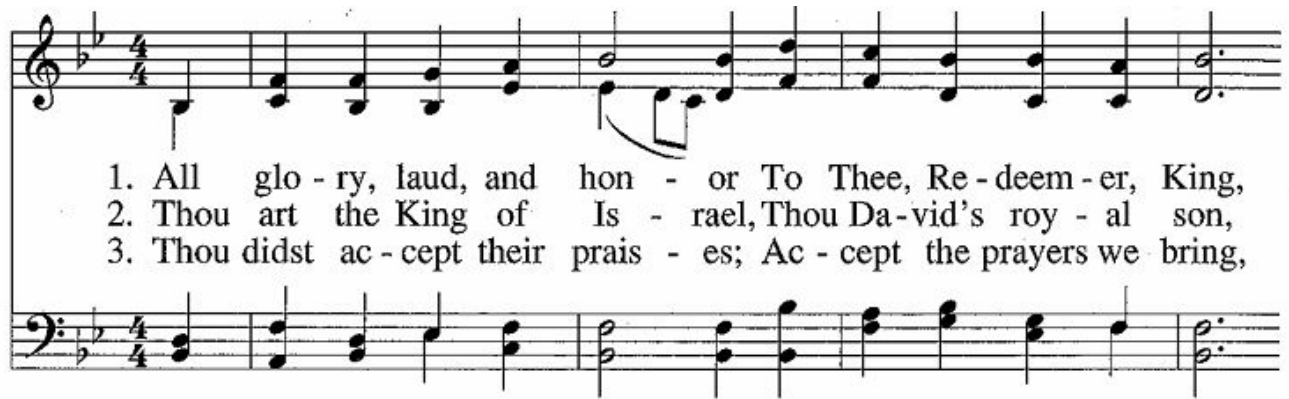


peace we of - ten for - feit, Oh, what need - less pain we  
 find a friend so faith - ful, Who will all our sor - rows  
 friends de - spise, for - sake thee? Take it to the Lord in

bear, All be - cause we do not car - ry  
 share? Je - sus knows our ev - 'ry weak - ness;  
 prayer! In His arms He'll take and shield thee,

Ev - 'ry - thing to God in prayer!  
 Take it to the Lord in prayer!  
 Thou wilt find a sol - ace there. A - men.

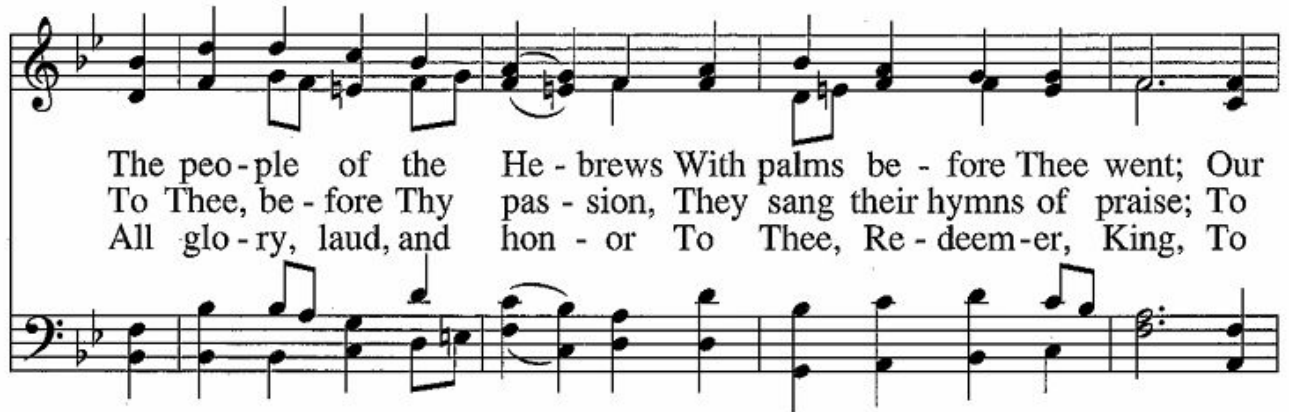
# All Glory, Laud, and Honor



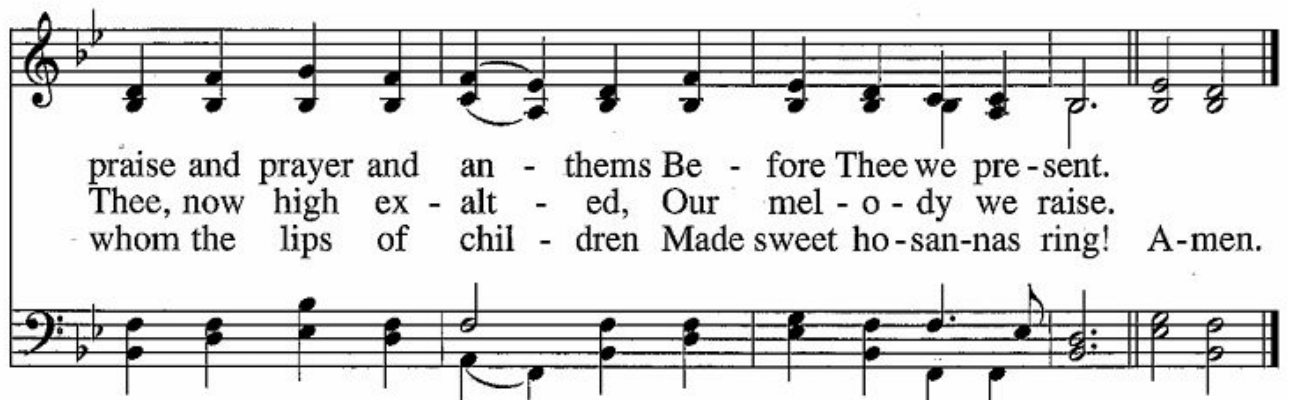
1. All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or To Thee, Re - deem - er, King,  
2. Thou art the King of Is - rael, Thou Da - vid's roy - al son,  
3. Thou didst ac - cept their prais - es; Ac - cept the prayers we bring,



To whom the lips of chil - dren Made sweet ho - san - nas ring!  
Who in the Lord's name com - est, The King and bless - ed One;  
Who in all good de - light - est, Thou good and gra - cious King.



The peo - ple of the He - brews With palms be - fore Thee went; Our  
To Thee, be - fore Thy pas - sion, They sang their hymns of praise; To  
All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or To Thee, Re - deem - er, King, To



praise and prayer and an - thems Be - fore Thee we pre - sent.  
Thee, now high ex - alt - ed, Our mel - o - dy we raise.  
whom the lips of chil - dren Made sweet ho - san - nas ring! A - men.

## THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God the Father Almighty,  
Maker of heaven and earth:

And in Jesus Christ, his only begotten Son,  
our Lord: who was conceived by the Holy  
Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary; suffered  
under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead,  
and buried; he descended into hell; the  
third day he arose again from the dead; he  
ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the  
right hand of God the Father Almighty;  
from thence he shall come to judge the  
quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit; the one  
Holy universal Christian Church; the  
communion of saints; the forgiveness of  
sins; the resurrection of the body; and the  
life everlasting. Amen.



## GLORIA PATRI

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,  
And to the Holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning, is now,  
and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen. Amen.

## THE 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 for ever. Amen.



## DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from Whom all blessings  
flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.



## KYRIE

*Minister: Lord, have mercy upon us.*  
**Congregation: Lord, have mercy upon us.**  
*Minister: Christ, have mercy upon us.*  
**Congregation: Christ, have mercy upon us.**  
*Minister: Lord, have mercy upon us.*  
**Congregation: Lord, have mercy upon us.**