



May 9th, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.

6th Sunday of Easter

Rural Life Sunday/Mother's Day

Union Congregational Church

United Church of Christ

*An Open and Affirming, Earthwise,
Progressive Christian Congregation*

Elk River, Minnesota 763-441-1203

www.elkriverucc.org / churchoffice@elkriverucc.org

Welcome!

Union Congregational Church, United Church of Christ welcomes everyone, no matter who you are or where you are on your faith journey.

During this time of social distancing due to the COVID-19 virus, we are conducting worship via Facebook Live broadcasts. You can watch it live, or at any time after the service.

Please contact the church at any time if you need to reach out. We are here – just a safe distance away.

We will continue to assess the situation and listen to the advice from the Minnesota Department of Health and the Minnesota UCC Conference office in making decisions on how to move forward. Please pay attention to your email for further updates.

Grace and Peace to all.



VISION

God has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

(Micah 6:8, (NIV))

Union Congregational Church, United Church of Christ Mission Statement



God calls us to minister to each other. This ministry goes beyond our congregation into the community, wider world, and to the earth itself. We seek to reach those in the margins of society, to empower the powerless, and to leave this earth a better place than when we each arrived.

PRELUDE

WORDS OF CENTERING

"Abide with me Lord, with me abide;
When other helpers fail, and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me."

- Henry F. Lyte

LIGHTING THE CANDLES and WELCOME

We invite you to click a Reaction button on Facebook to let us know you are with us.

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP 236 Halleluja

Halleluja 236

Traditional

Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja.

Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le - lu-ja, hal - le - lu - ja.

CALL TO WORSHIP

(PLEASE JOIN IN CALL AND RESPONSE)

One: We come to praise the God who inhabits our world and indwells our lives.

Many: We need not look up to find God, we need only look around: within ourselves, beyond ourselves, into the eyes of another.

One: We need not listen for distant thunder to find God, we need only listen to the music of life, the words of children and elders, the questions of the curious, the rhythm of a heartbeat.

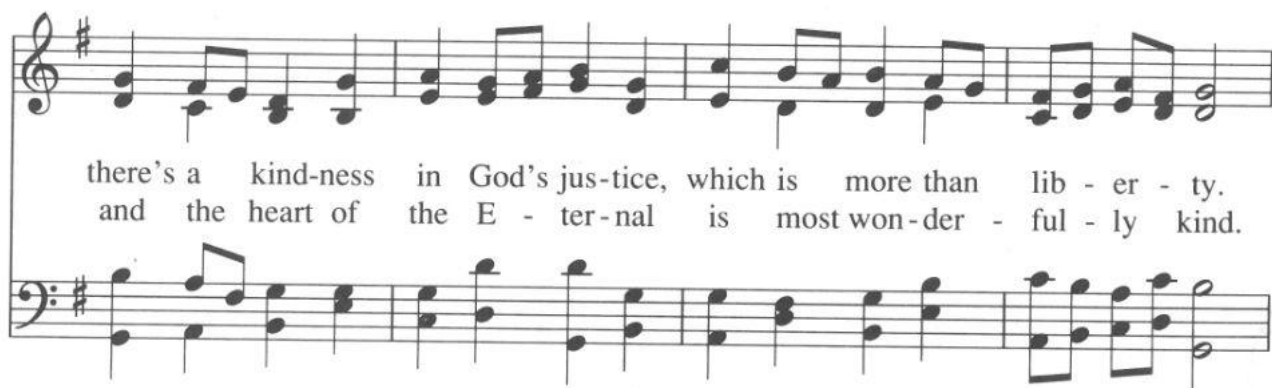
Many: We come to praise the God who inhabits our world and who indwells our lives.

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

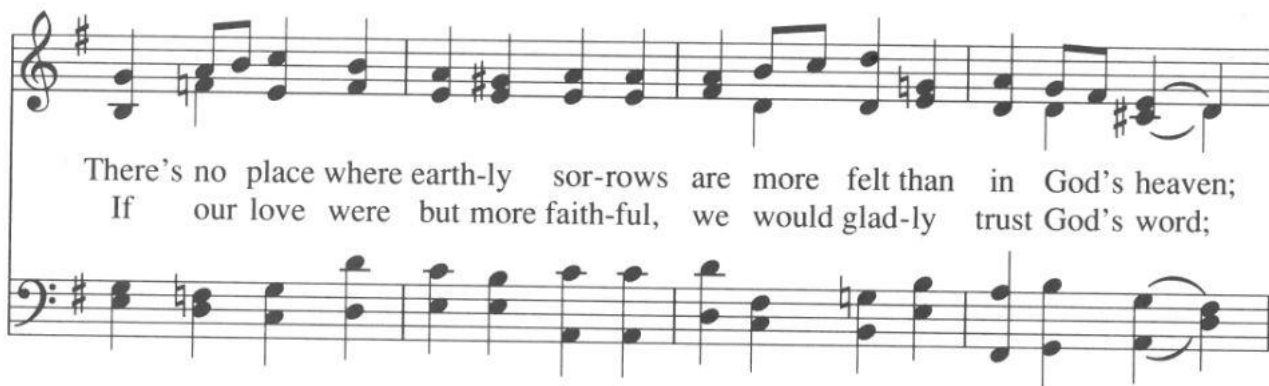
23

Frederick William Faber, 1854; alt.

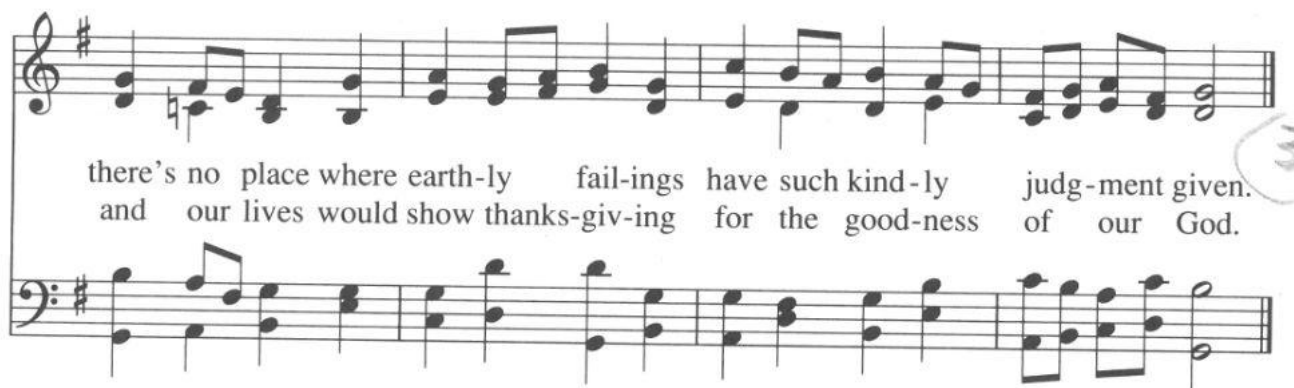
1 There's a wide-ness in God's mer-cy, like the wide-ness of the sea;
2 For the love of God is broad-er than the mea-sures of our minds;



there's a kind-ness in God's jus-tice, which is more than lib - er - ty.
and the heart of the E - ter-nal is most won-der - ful - ly kind.



There's no place where earth-ly sor-rows are more felt than in God's heaven;
If our love were but more faith-ful, we would glad-ly trust God's word;



there's no place where earth-ly fail-ings have such kind-ly judg-ment given.
and our lives would show thanks-giv-ing for the good-ness of our God.

LIGHTING THE PEACE CANDLE & PEACE PRAYER

*GREETING OF PEACE

In the same spirit in which we receive the unconditional love of God in Jesus Christ, let us offer to one another our own sign of peace.

One: The Peace of Christ be with you.

Many: And also with you.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Gigi

TIME WITH CHILDREN

SCRIPTURE READING

John 15: 9-17

9 As my Abba has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. 10 And you will abide in my love if you keep my commandments, just as I abide in Abba God's love and have kept God's commandments. 11 I tell you all this that my joy may be yours, and your joy may be complete. 12 This is my commandment: love one another as I have loved you. 13 There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends. 14 And you are my friends, if you do what I command you. 15 I no longer speak of you as subordinates, because a subordinate doesn't know a superior's business. Instead I call you friends, because I have made known to you everything I have learned from Abba God. 16 It was not you who chose me; it was I who chose you to go forth and bear fruit. Your fruit must endure, so that whatever you ask of Abba God in my name God will give you. 17 This command I give you: that you love one another.

REFLECTION

Abiding

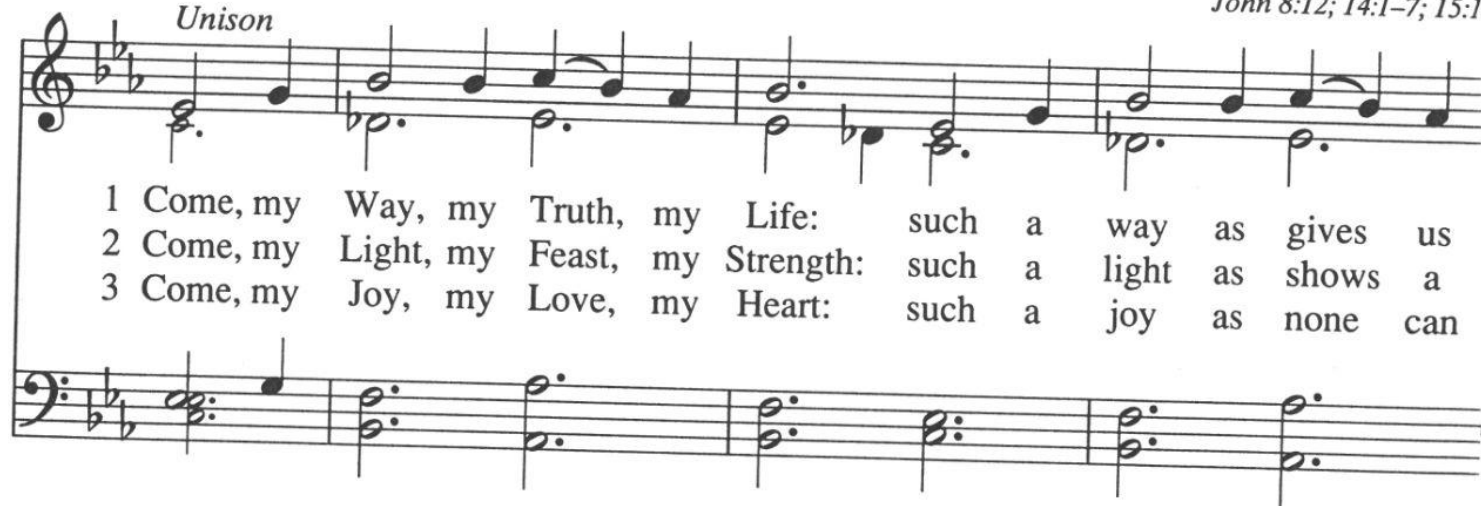
Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life

331

George Herbert, 1633; alt.

John 8:12; 14:1-7; 15:1

Unison



1 Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life: such a way as gives us
 2 Come, my Light, my Feast, my Strength: such a light as shows a
 3 Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart: such a joy as none can



breath; Such a truth as ends all strife;
 feast; Such a feast as mends in length;
 move; Such a love as none can part;



such a life as con- - - quers death.
 such a strength as makes . . . a guest.
 such a heart as joys . . . in love.

OUR TIME OF SHARING JOYS & CONCERNS, ANNOUNCEMENTS & PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY

THE PRAYER THAT JESUS TAUGHT (let us pray together)

Our Creator 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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.

Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

For yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO GIVE/RECEIVING OUR GIFTS

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (let us pray together)

Gracious God of all the earth, you have breathed life into us, and called us to be your people. We are captivated by your grace and motivated by your love. In response we offer our gifts, contributing to the work and play of the living church. Accept our gifts and our giving. Amen.

Called as Partners in Christ's Service

495

Jane Parker Huber, 1981

John 15:12-17; Gal. 6:2; Eph. 2:14-22



1 Called as part-ners in Christ's ser-vice, called to min-is-tries of grace,
 2 Christ's ex-am-ple, Christ's in-spir-ing, Christ's clear call to work and worth,
 3 Thus new pat-terns for Christ's mis-sion, in a small or glob-al sense,
 4 So God grant us for to-mor-row ways to or-der hu-man life



We re-pond with deep com-mit-ment fresh new lines of faith to trace.
 Let us fol-low, nev-er fal-tering, rec-on-cil-ing folk on earth.
 Help us bear each oth-er's bur-dens, break-ing down each wall or fence.
 That sur-round each per-son's sor-row with a calm that con-quests strife.



May we learn the art of shar-ing, side by side and friend with friend,
 Men and wom-en, rich-er, poor-er, all God's peo-ple, young and old,
 Words of com-fort, words of vi-sion, words of chal-lenge, said with care,
 Make us part-ners in our liv-ing, our com-pas-sion to in-crease,



E - qual part-ners in our car-ing to ful-fill God's cho-sen end.
 Blend-ing hu-man skills to-geth-er gra-cious gifts from God un-fold.
 Bring new power and strength for ac-tion, make us col-leagues, free and fair.
 Mes-sen-gers of faith, thus giv-ing hope and con-fi-dence and peace.



BENEDICTION

One: Go in peace, my friends. Celebrate the wonders of creation and know that in all the seasons of our lives God is with us.

Many: May we listen to the songs of the spring birds, and the hymns of the trees. May we touch the earth with love and respect.

One: May God bless us and hold us gently as we seek to do God's work in this world. Our service has ended, our service begins. Amen.

POSTLUDE

Elk River Union Congregational Church, United Church of Christ

Pastor: Rev. Robin Raudabaugh

Director of Faith Formation:

Gigi Nauer

Office Administrator:

Rylie Anderson

Piano & Organ: Carson Schneider

Handbell and Chorister Director:

Gigi Nauer

Choir Director: Sam Eckberg

Liturgist: John Olson

Cantor: Gigi Nauer

Announcements

Office Hours

Office hours for the church this week are Monday through Wednesday, 9:00am to 1:00pm. Rev. Robin is available by appointment or can always be contacted during the day, evenings & weekends via phone or text at 651.216.9012 or email revrobin@elkriverucc.org. Call the church at (763) 441-1203 to talk with Rylie about access to the building or answering general questions. You can always email the church office at churchoffice@elkriverucc.org.

Pastoral Emergencies

In the event of an emergency, an accident, or a death, please call the church office or contact Rev. Robin Raudabaugh directly via phone or text at 651.216.9012 or revrobin@elkriverucc.org.

Church Materials

Copies of the Sunday sermon are available via Facebook and UCC Squared Newsletter (email).

KEPT IN OUR PRAYERS

Please keep in your prayers our congregation members: Ella Rivers, Donna Church, Musz Bailey, Jim Babcock, Shelley Sherper, Bobbie Berg, Susan Olsen, Jackie Schuelein, Carol Lloyd, Dave Leland, Joanne Burdick, Ruby Cawthra, Jane Houlton, baby James Bowman, Marion Marcott, Cheryl Wold, Judy Halgren, Amy Britt, Bailey Rosdahl, Jimmy Stevens, Dee & Jim Stevens (Jimmy's parents), Dave Foley, John Olson, Nicole [Kilber] Teske, Linda Fenton, Dave Halgren, Diane Narr, Joan Axen and Nancy Andersen

SCHEDULE FOR THE COMING WEEKS

Sunday, May 9th, 2021

**10:00 a.m. Worship Service via
Facebook Live**

Liturgist: John Olson

**1:00p.m. Pastor in the Parking Lot
(Weather Permitting)**

Monday, May 10th, 2021

9:30 a.m. SARI Meeting

6:30 p.m. Bible Study (Virtual)

Tuesday, May 11th, 2021

**6:30 p.m. Discernment for Faith
Formation**

**6:30 p.m. Outside Group (Female
Scouts)**

Wednesday, May 12th, 2021

**3:45 SARI Protest Sherburne County
Gov't center**

6:00 p.m. Handbell Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, May 13th, 2021

1:00 p.m. O&J Ministry Team Meeting

6:00 p.m. Outside Group (Girl Scouts)

Sunday, May 16th, 2021

**10:00 a.m. Worship Service via
Facebook Live**

Liturgist: Su Arnold

**1:00p.m. Pastor in the Parking Lot
(Weather Permitting)**

Tuesday, May 18th, 2021

6:30 p.m. Bible Study (virtual)

**6:30 p.m. Outside Group (Female
Scouts)**

Wednesday, May 19th, 2021

**3:45 SARI Protest Sherburne County
Gov't center**

6:30 p.m. Confirmation

Thursday, May 20th, 2021

6:00 p.m. Outside Group (Girl Scouts)

6:30 p.m. Diaconate Meeting

Friday, May 21st, 2021

6:00 p.m. Outside Group (Girl Scouts)