



Open and Affirming Sunday

August 23, 2026 10:30 a.m.



GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

RINGING THE BELL

WELCOME AND MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

PRELUDE "Sinfonia to Cantata No. 106" J.S. Bach

() Indicates that all are invited to stand*

*CALL TO WORSHIP (1)

One: God has shown us what is good, and what then is required of us?

All: To act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with our God.

One: Jesus says: Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me,

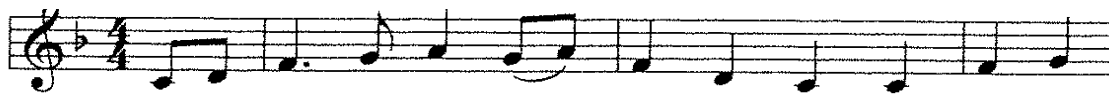
All and anyone who welcomes me welcomes the One who sent me.

One: The Spirit says, "Come." Let each one who hears the Spirit say,

All: "Come," for all are welcome here.

One: Let us worship our welcoming God!

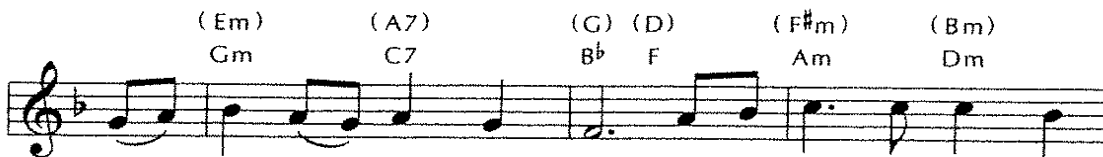
*GATHERING HYMN: "Let Us Build a House" #301 *Glory to God Hymnal vv.1-4 only*



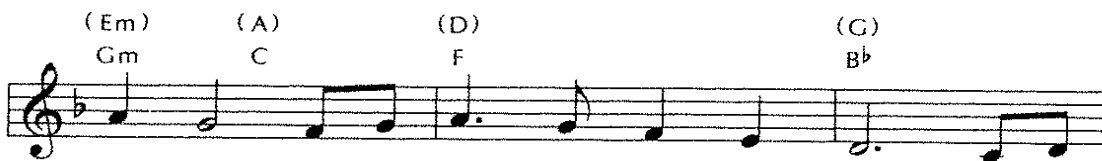
1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can
 2 Let us build a house where proph - ets speak, and words are
 3 Let us build a house where love is found in wa - ter,
 4 Let us build a house where hands will reach be - yond the
 5 Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and



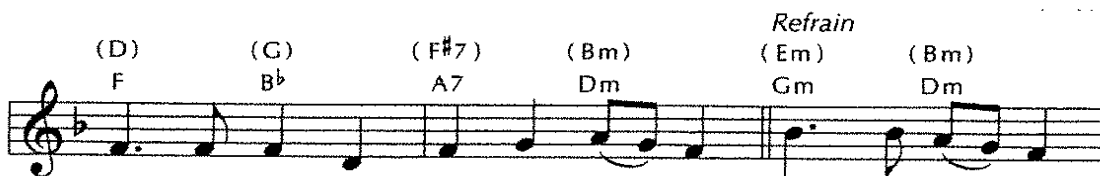
safe - ly live, a place where saints and chil - dren tell
 strong and true, where all God's chil - dren dare to seek
 wine, and wheat; a ban - quet hall on ho - ly ground
 wood and stone to heal and strength-en, serve and teach,
 vi - sions heard and loved and trea - sured, taught and claimed



how hearts learn to for - give. Built of hopes and dreams and
 to dream God's reign a - new. Here the cross shall stand as
 where peace and jus - tice meet. Here the love of God, through
 and live the Word they've known. Here the out - cast and the
 as words with - in the Word. Built of tears and cries and



vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the
 wit - ness and as sym - bol of God's grace; here as
 Je - sus, is re - vealed in time and space; as we
 strang - er bear the im - age of God's face; let us
 laugh - ter, 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 raf - ter:



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

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION (2)**

Loving God,

Sometimes we have dishonored ourselves and others in our longing to fit in and to be accepted.

Sometimes we have rejected the individuality of others.

Sometimes we have been silent when we have witnessed people being dishonored because of their truth.

Help us remember each person is a unique and beautiful expression of your divine light and love. (*silent confession*)

***WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

Hear the good news! God forgives us of all of our wrongdoings— those we commit consciously and unconsciously. Let us forgive others as God continuously forgives us.

Thanks be to God!

***RESPONSE OF PRAISE “Let Us Build a House” v.5**

**Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and visions heard
And loved and treasured, taught and claimed as words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter, prayers of faith and songs of grace;
Let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:
all are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.**

***PASSING THE PEACE**

CONVERSATION WITH OUR CHILDREN

SOLO

LISTENING

God speaks to us in the Word proclaimed.

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING Exodus 3:1-15

Pew Bible p.

A Word of God that is still speaking,

Thanks be to God!

SERMON

SILENT MEDITATION

HYMN OF REFLECTION “Won’t You Let Me Be Your Servant”#539 *New Century Hymnal*
(For full music, the *New Century Hymnal* is located in each pew rack)

**Won’t you let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you?
Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant, too.**

**We are pilgrims on a journey, we are travelers on the road;
We are here to help each other go the mile and bear the load.**

**I will hold the Christ-light for you in the shadow of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.**

**I will weep when you are weeping; when you laugh, I’ll laugh with you.
I will share your joy and sorrow till we’ve seen this journey through.**

**When we sing to God in heaven we shall find such harmony,
Born of all we’ve known together of Christ’s love and agony.**

**Won’t you let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you?
Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant, too.**

RESPONDING

We respond to God’s Word through our prayers and our gifts.

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: RENEWAL OF OPEN AND AFFIRMING COVENANT**

Led by Alice Karcher and Camille Mulhall

Adopted by Hope UCC Congregation August 29, 2010

Leader 1 : No matter where you are on life’s journey, you are invited to enter the big red doors of Hope United Church of Christ.

All: We are an open and affirming congregation.

Leader 2: We believe that every person is a child of God and all are welcome, regardless of race, economic background, marital status,

All: gender, gender identities and expression, sexual orientation, age,

Leaders: physical or mental ability, nationality or faith history.

All: It is our mission, inspired by God’s Holy Spirit, to engage persons in living out the gospel of Jesus Christ. Please come, for all things are ready.

NAMING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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 forever. Amen.

OFFERTORY "Lord of Glory, Who Has Bought Us" Paul Manz
(A QR code at the end of the bulletin is available for online giving.)

* DOXOLOGY

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

COMMISSIONING HYMN:

COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Improvisation on "All Glory Be to God on High" Michael Burkhardt

Worship Endnotes

2. Adapted from www.openandaffirming.org

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