



**Plymouth Church**  
UNITED CHURCH of CHRIST

2860 Coventry Road, Shaker Heights, Ohio 44120  
216.921.3510 • www.plymouthchurchucc.org

**Transgender  
Day of Remembrance  
Thanksgiving Sunday  
Twenty Fifth Sunday  
After Pentecost**

**November 19, 2023**

*“My house is a house of prayer for all people.” (Isaiah 56:7)*  
**Plymouth is A Just Peace Church and An Open and Affirming Congregation**

*Please scroll down for Hymns*

**Our Approach to God**

*Music calls us to worship so we may listen for God speaking to us.  
When the service begins, please silence your voices and devices.  
\*All are invited to rise in body or spirit*

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**Preparation Music** Toccata in G..... William Waland  
Thomas Clark-Jones Organ

**Welcome**

**Call to Worship, Repentance, and Remembrance** Leslie and Keith Szalay

ONE: Let us pray: Be with us, loving God, in all of our journeys.

**ALL: Be with us, compassionate God, in strength and weakness.**

ONE: Be with us, creative God, in all of our ways of being.

**ALL: Be with us, supporting God, in all of our actions.**

ONE: We confess, O God, that your people have resisted your vision of peace and dignity in society and in personal relationships.

**ALL: Like lost sheep, we have erred and strayed from your ways.**

ONE: We confess the discriminations we have inherited, and the systems of hierarchy that we allow to persist.

**ALL: We have left undone those things which we ought to have done.**

ONE: We confess to the church’s sin of failing to affirm your love for transgender neighbors and siblings, both in the church and in the wider human family.

**ALL: We have done those things which we ought not to have done.**

ONE: We confess to the church’s sin of justifying condemnation, exclusion, and harm, in the name of faith.

**ALL: Forgive us, and heal us from brokenness and sin.**

ONE: O God of creation, you have created all people in love.  
Bless your people, and make us new. Amen.

ONE: We confess to the church’s sin of justifying condemnation, exclusion, and harm, in the name of faith.

**ALL: Forgive us, and heal us from brokenness and sin.**

ONE: O God of creation, you have created all people in love.  
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### **Lighting of the Transgender Remembrance candle**

On this Transgender Day of Remembrance, we prayerfully remember those who have been killed or died because they have not conformed to the gender roles that society expects.

May God grant to them peace, and bring to those they leave behind comfort in the knowledge that all people, irrespective of gender identity or sexual orientation, are enfolded in the love of God, known to us in Jesus Christ and by the Holy Spirit.

### **Silent Reflection**

### **Words of Assurance**

ONE: Lift up your hearts!

**ALL: We lift them up to God!**

**\*Hymn of Praise #11** (Black hymnal) Bring Many Names (stanzas 1-6).....*Westchase*

### **\*Passing of the Peace**

ONE: The peace of Christ be with you!

**ALL: And also with you!**

### **Children's Message**

*Children in pre-school through 6<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to come forward for the Children's Message before they depart for Sunday School.*

## **The Proclamation of God's Word**

**Choral Anthem** Let All Things Now Living..... trad. Welsh melody, arr. Katherine K. Davis  
The Plymouth Choir

Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving to God the creator triumphantly raise, who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us, who guideth us on to the end of our days. His banners are o'er us, His Light goes before us, A pillar of fire shining forth in the night, till shadows have vanished and darkness is banished, as forward we travel from light into light!

His law he enforces, the stars in their courses, the sun in his orbit, obediently shine! The hills and the mountains, the rivers and fountains, the deeps of the ocean proclaim Him Divine. We, too, should be voicing our love and rejoicing, with glad adoration a song let us raise, till all things now living unite in thanksgiving to God in the highest, hosanna and praise!

**Scripture Reading** Matthew 25:14-30

**Sermon** The Way of the World, The Way of Jesus Rev. Dr. Matthew Wooster  
*Sermon Series: The Surprising Wisdom of Jesus, part 5*

**\*Hymn # 462** (Red hymnal) Come, Ye Thankful People, Come.....*St. George's Windsor*

### **Prayers of the People & the Lord's Prayer** (debts/debtors)

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.

**Choral Response** Come and Fill Our Hearts.....*Taizé*

# Living Out the Word of God

## Announcements of Church Life

### Call to Offering

**Offertory** All Good Gifts ..... Stephen Schwartz

Nate Bachofsky, soloist

We plow the fields and scatter the good seed on the land. But it is fed and watered by God's almighty hand. He sends us snow in winter, the warmth to swell the grain; The breezes and the sunshine, and soft refreshing rain. All good gifts around us are sent from heaven above. So thank the Lord, oh thank the Lord for all his love. We thank thee then, O Father, for all things bright and good: the seedtime and the harvest, our life, our health, our food. No gifts have we to offer for all thy love imparts but that which thou desirest, our humble thankful hearts!

**\*Doxology**.....*Old 100<sup>th</sup>*

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, you heavenly host:  
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

### **\*Prayer of Dedication**

God of generous grace, as you open your hands to us, our hands are open to you. Accept what we give—the fruits of our labor and our lives—that your name may be honored and your dominion grow in justice, peace and love. Amen.

**\*Hymn #21 (Red hymnal) We Gather Together** .....*Kremser*

### **\*Commission and Benediction**

**\*Congregational Response** Go Now in Peace ..... Natalie Sleeth

Go now in peace, go now in peace,  
may the love of God surround you  
everywhere, everywhere you may go.  
*(sung twice)*

**Voluntary** Praeludium I ..... Hermann Schroder

*Many in the congregation wish to remain seated for the Voluntary. If you choose to leave, please be aware of those still participating in this part of the service. The Voluntary is music for worship and we ask that all be respectful of one another's worship practices, including those participating via livestream. Following the Voluntary, you may greet the ministers.*

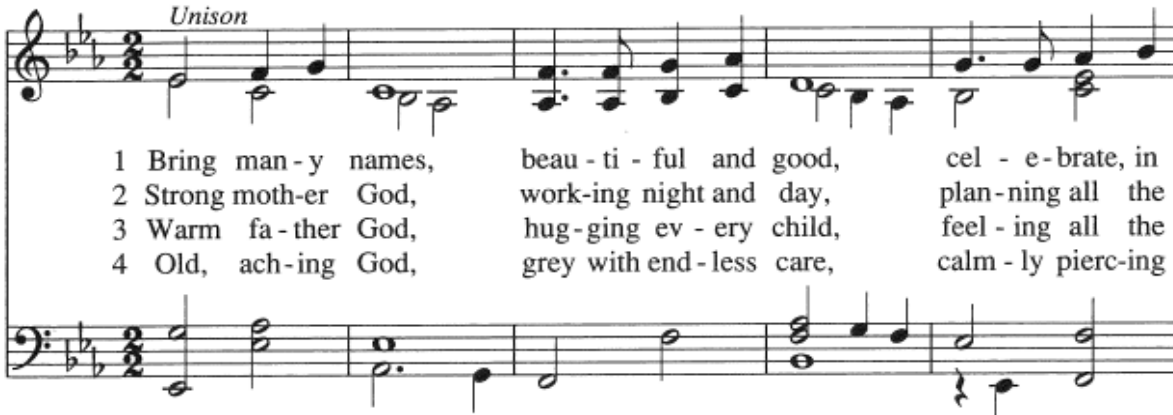
*Please scroll down for Hymns*

# Bring Many Names

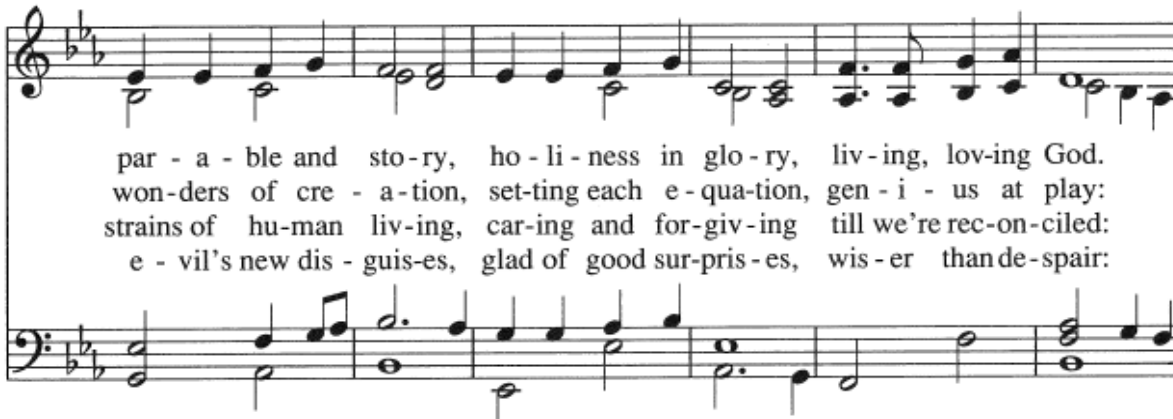
Brian Wren, 1989

Gen. 1:27

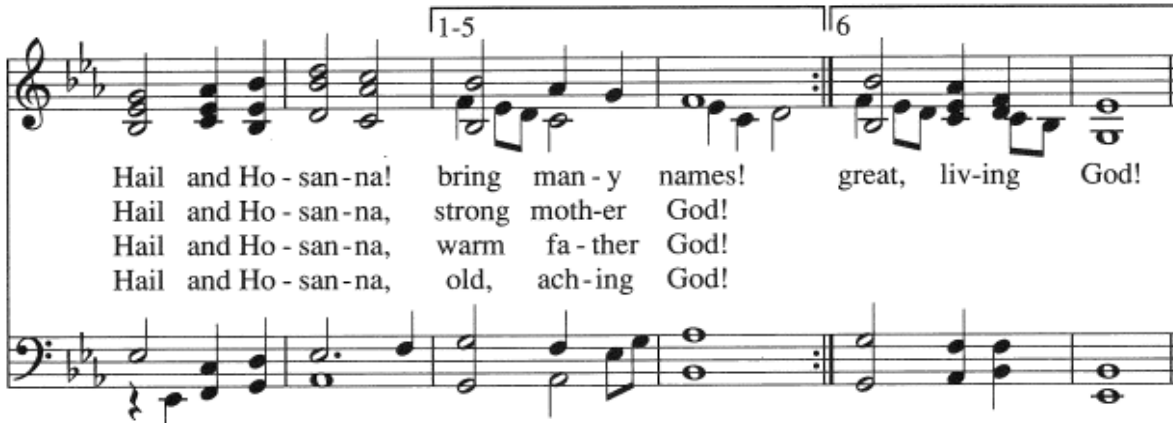
*Unison*



1 Bring man - y names, beau - ti - ful and good, cel - e - brate, in  
2 Strong moth - er God, work - ing night and day, plan - ning all the  
3 Warm fa - ther God, hug - ging ev - ery child, feel - ing all the  
4 Old, ach - ing God, grey with end - less care, calm - ly pierc - ing



par - a - ble and sto - ry, ho - li - ness in glo - ry, liv - ing, lov - ing God.  
won - ders of cre - a - tion, set - ting each e - qua - tion, gen - i - us at play:  
strains of hu - man liv - ing, car - ing and for - giv - ing till we're rec - on - ciled:  
e - vil's new dis - guis - es, glad of good sur - pris - es, wis - er than de - spair:



Hail and Ho - san - na! bring man - y names! great, liv - ing God!  
Hail and Ho - san - na, strong moth - er God!  
Hail and Ho - san - na, warm fa - ther God!  
Hail and Ho - san - na, old, ach - ing God!

5 Young, grow - ing God, ea - ger,  
on the move,  
say - ing no to false - hood and  
un - kind - ness,  
cry - ing out for jus - tice,  
giv - ing all you have:  
Hail and Ho - san - na,  
young, grow - ing God!

6 Great, liv - ing God, nev - er ful - ly known,  
joy - ful dark - ness far be - yond our see - ing,  
clos - er yet than breath - ing,  
ev - er - last - ing home:  
Hail and Ho - san - na,  
great, liv - ing God!

*The author states that aspects of the divine are revealed in our maleness, femaleness, youth, and age in a moving, growing matrix of life in God. The tune Westchase was composed especially for this text.*

Tune: WESTCHASE 9.10.11.9.  
Carlton Young, 1989

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# Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

462

*Henry Alford, 1810-1871*

*Anna L. Barbauld, 1743-1825, and others*

ST. GEORGE'S WINDSOR 7.7.7.7.D.

*George J. Elvey, 1816-1893*

1 Come, ye thankful people, come,  
    Raise the song of harvest home;  
All is safely gathered in  
    Ere the winter storms begin;  
God, our Maker, doth provide  
    For our wants to be supplied;  
Come to God's own temple, come,  
    Raise the song of harvest home.

2 All the blessings of the field,  
    All the stores the gardens yield,  
All the fruits in full supply,  
    Ripened 'neath the summer sky,  
All that spring with bounteous hand  
    Scatters o'er the smiling land,  
All that liberal autumn pours  
    From her rich o'er-flowing stores,

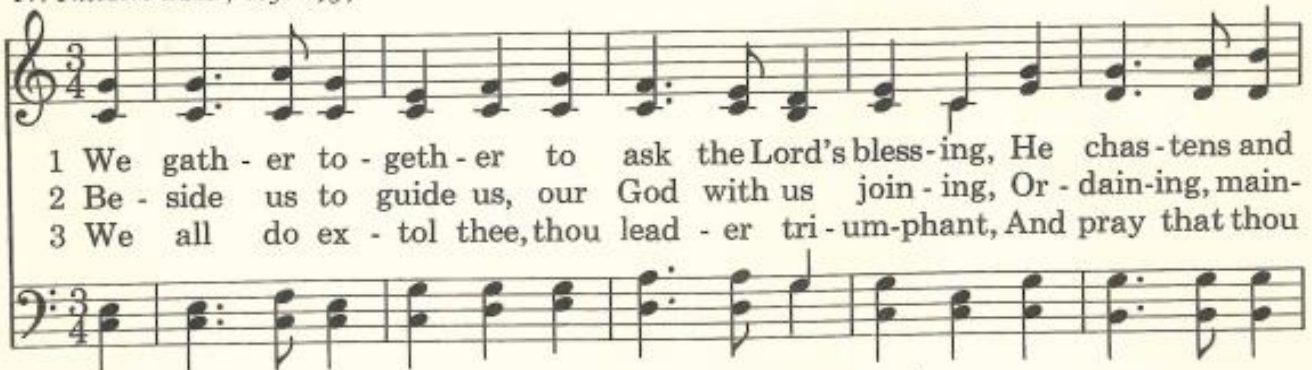
3 These to thee, our God, we owe,  
    Source whence all our blessings flow;  
And for these our souls shall raise  
    Grateful vows and solemn praise.  
Come, then, thankful people, come,  
    Raise the song of harvest home;  
Come to God's own temple, come,  
    Raise the song of harvest home. Amen.

*Please scroll down for Hymns*

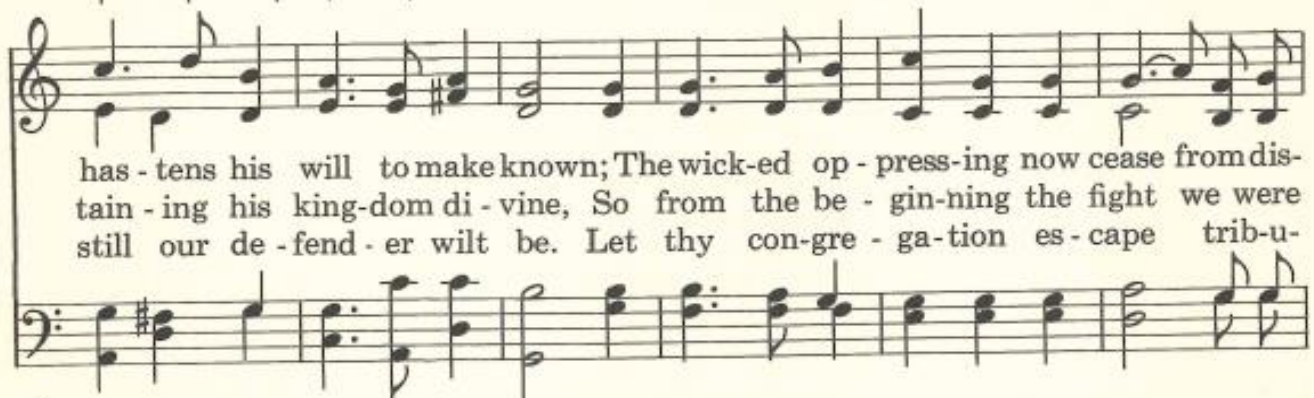
## We Gather Together

Netherlands Folk Song  
Tr. Theodore Baker, 1851-1934

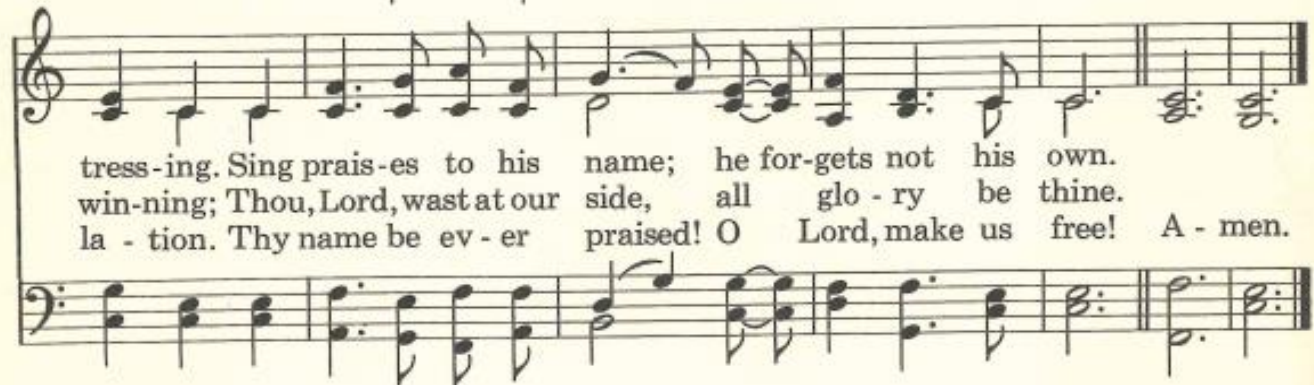
KREMSER 12.11.12.11.  
Netherlands Folk Song, 1626  
Arr. by Edward Kremser, 1838-1914



1 We gath - er to - geth - er to ask the Lord's bless - ing, He chas - tens and  
2 Be - side us to guide us, our God with us join - ing, Or - dain - ing, main -  
3 We all do ex - tol thee, thou lead - er tri - um - phant, And pray that thou



has - tens his will to make known; The wick - ed op - press - ing now cease from dis -  
tain - ing his king - dom di - vine, So from the be - gin - ning the fight we were  
still our de - fend - er wilt be. Let thy con - gre - ga - tion es - cape trib - u -



ress - ing. Sing prais - es to his name; he for - gets not his own.  
win - ning; Thou, Lord, wast at our side, all glo - ry be thine.  
la - tion. Thy name be ev - er praised! O Lord, make us free! A - men.