

First Congregational Church, UCC

*Remembering
the Saints*

Karen Chadwick

Donald Duffey, Jr.

Joyce Johnson

Phyllis Laurin

Frank Sundquist

John Whitlock

Mary Williams

Sunday, November 1, 2026

10:30 am

**TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
REMEMBERING THE SAINTS
November 1, 2026**

WELCOME AND NEWS OF THE COMMUNITY

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

PRELUDE

From *Sonata No. 2*, by Felix Mendelssohn: "Adagio"

Britta Portenga, *Violin*

Jacob Halmich, *Cello*

GATHERING PRAYER

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

**Jesus, You are the Incarnate One,
The Resurrection and the Life!**

You entered our time and space,

And you are with us always,

As we encounter mysteries,

Of this life, and life beyond.

Enhance our trust in You,

In the ALREADY-NOT-YET,

We are anchored in You.

You give us beauty for ashes,

The oil of gladness, instead of mourning,

And a garment of praise,

Instead of a spirit of despair.

You are Glory and Lifter of our heads.

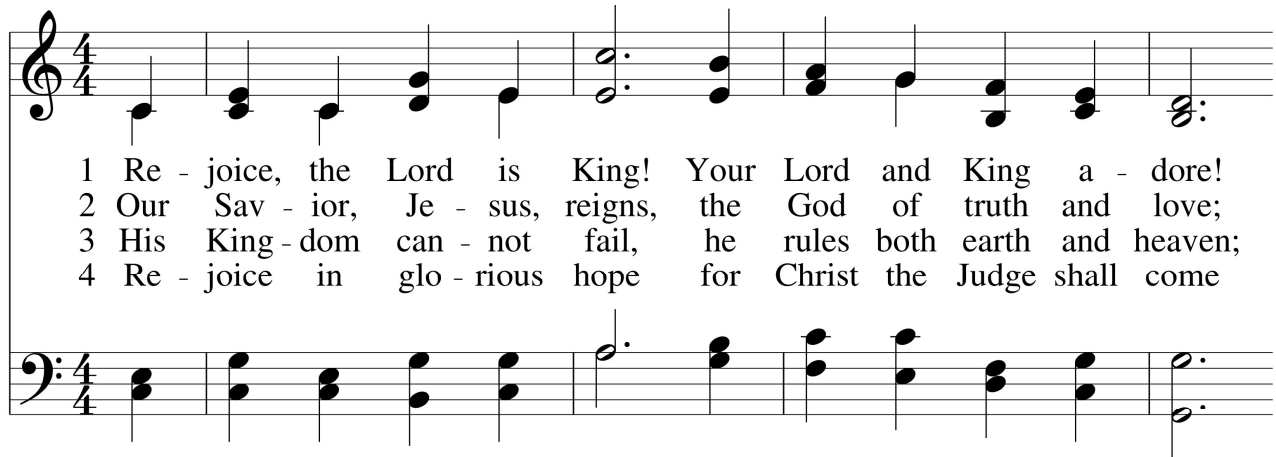
Amen!

Those who wish may stand

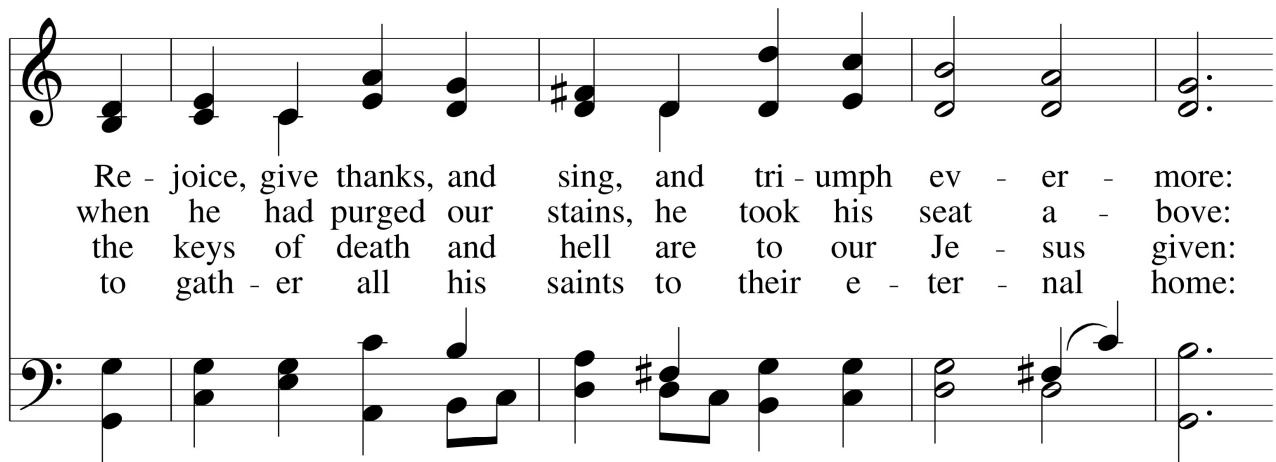
OPENING HYMN

Rejoice, the Lord is King

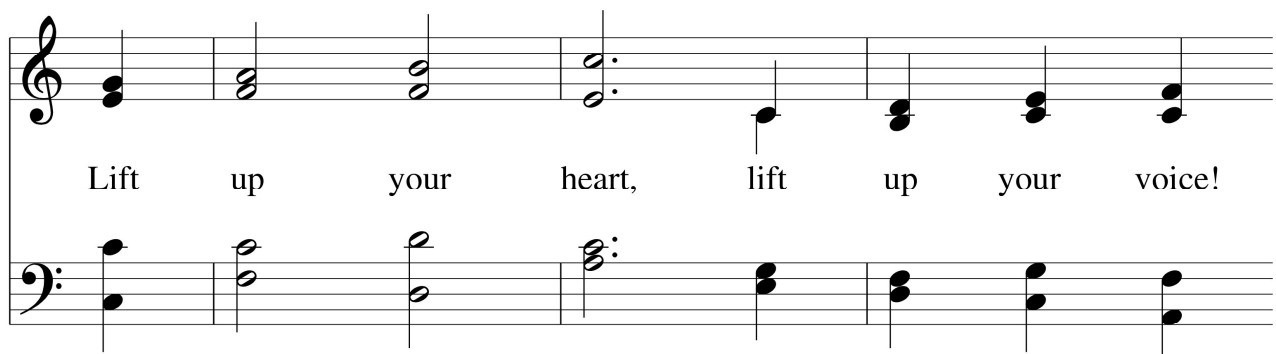
Those who wish may stand



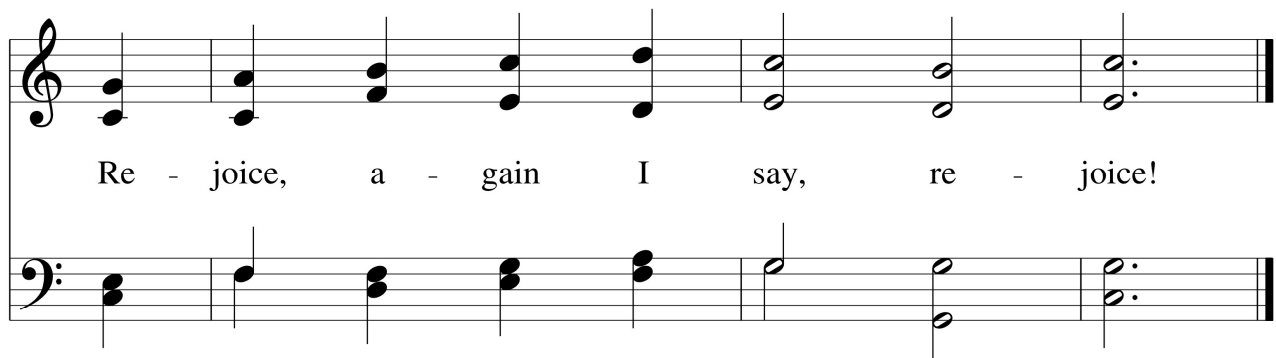
1 Re - joice, the Lord is King! Your Lord and King a - dore!
2 Our Sav - ior, Je - sus, reigns, the God of truth and love;
3 His King - dom can - not fail, he rules both earth and heaven;
4 Re - joice in glo - rious hope for Christ the Judge shall come



Re - joice, give thanks, and sing, and tri - umph ev - er - more:
when he had purged our stains, he took his seat a - bove:
the keys of death and hell are to our Je - sus given:
to gath - er all his saints to their e - ter - nal home:



Lift up your heart, lift up your voice!



Re - joice, a - gain I say, re - joice!

CELEBRATING THE SAINTS

At this time we remember all those who have gone before us,
along with the members of this congregation who have died
this past year. We see that we are indeed surrounded by a "great cloud of
witnesses." With love they are remembered, and in memory they live.

**Karen Chadwick
Donald Duffey, Jr.
Joyce Johnson
Phyllis Laurin
Frank Sundquist
John Whitlock
Mary Williams**

In the rising of the sun and in its going down
in the blowing of the wind and in the chill of winter,

in the opening buds and in the rebirth of spring,
in the blueness of the sky and in the warmth of summer,

in the rustling of leaves and in the beauty of autumn,
in the beginning of the year and when it ends,

when we are weary and in need of strength,
when we are lost and sick at heart,

when we have joys we yearn to share,
so long as we live, they too shall live, as we remember them.

May those we remember today be united
with the One who is life eternal.

May the nobility in their lives and the high ideals
they cherished endure in our thoughts and live in our deeds.
And carrying on their work, may we hold to redeem
your promise, O God, that life shall yet prevail.

Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Hebrews 11:39-12:3

Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had provided something better so that they would not, apart from us, be made perfect.

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such hostility against himself from sinners, so that you may not grow weary in your souls or lose heart.

Revelation 7:9-10

After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. They cried out in a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne and to the Lamb!"

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

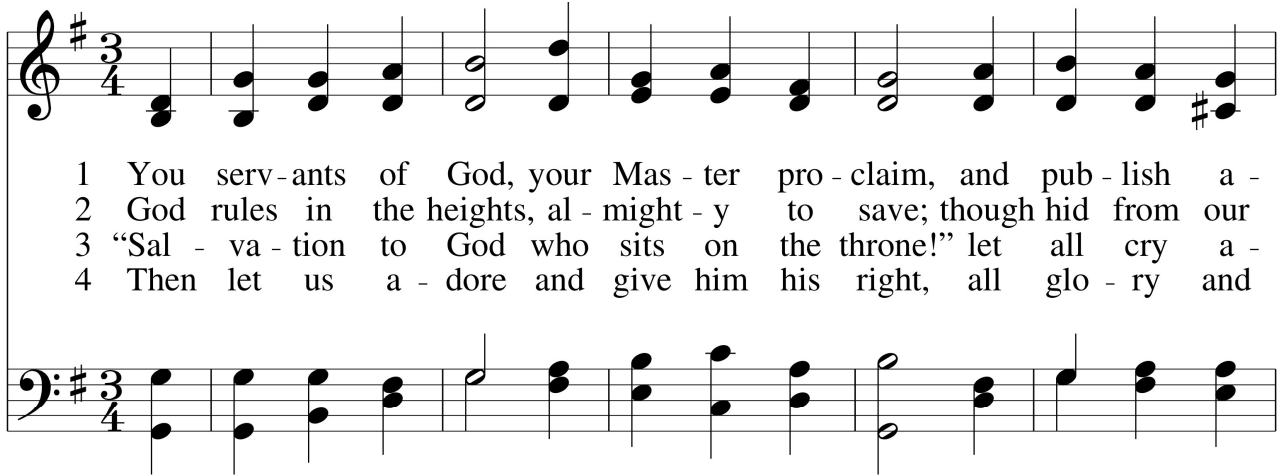
Sacred Spaces and Thin Veils

Those who wish may stand

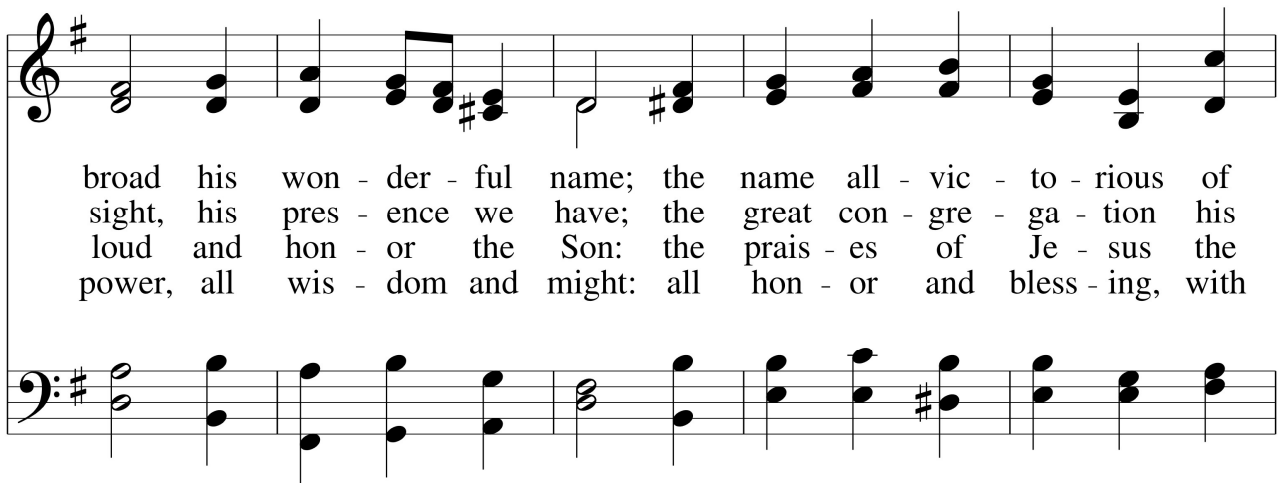
HYMN

Those who wish may stand

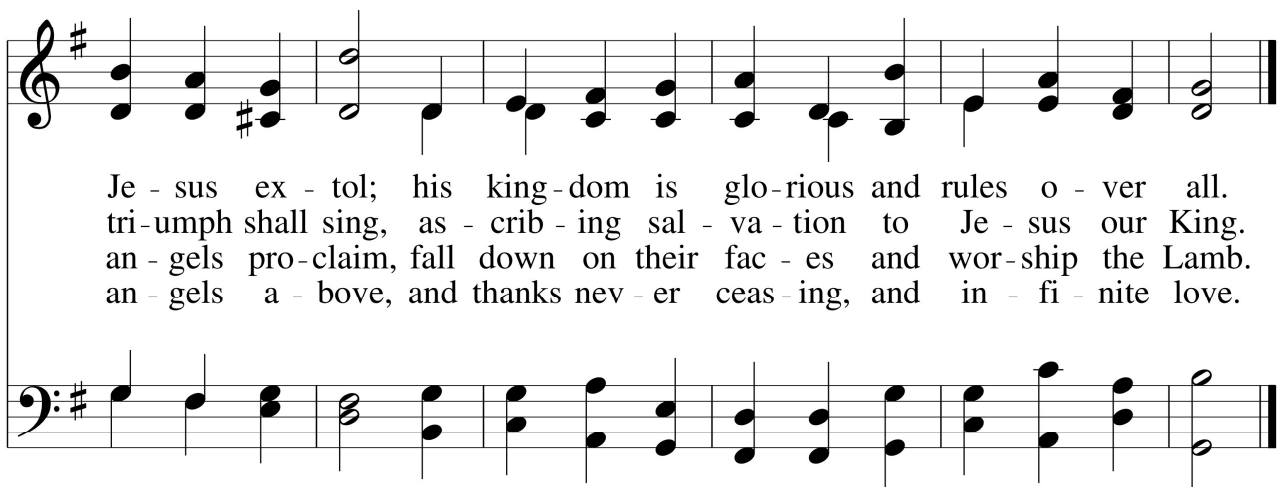
You Servants of God



1 You serv-ants of God, your Mas-ter pro-claim, and pub-lish a-
2 God rules in the heights, al-might-y to save; though hid from our
3 "Sal-va-tion to God who sits on the throne!" let all cry a-
4 Then let us a-dore and give him his right, all glo-ry and



broad his won-der-ful name; the name all-vic-to-rious of
sight, his pres-ence we have; the great con-gre-ga-tion his
loud and hon-or the Son: the prais-es of Je-sus the
power, all wis-dom and might: all hon-or and bless-ing, with



Je-sus ex-tol; his king-dom is glo-rious and rules o-ver all.
tri-umph shall sing, as-crib-ing sal-va-tion to Je-sus our King.
an-gels pro-claim, fall down on their fac-es and wor-ship the Lamb.
an-gels a-bove, and thanks nev-er ceas-ing, and in-fi-nite love.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERTORY INVITATION

OFFERTORY MUSIC

Shall We Gather at the River, Arr. by Jennaya Robison

Britta Portenga, *Violin*

Jacob Halmich, *Cello*

Shall we gather at the river, where bright angel feet have trod,
with its crystal tide forever flowing by the throne of God?
Yes, we'll gather at the river, the beautiful, the beautiful river;
gather with the saints at the river that flows by the throne of God.

On the margins of the river, lay we every burden down;
grace our spirits will deliver and provide a robe and crown.
Yes, we'll gather at the river, the beautiful, the beautiful river;
gather with the saints at the river that flows by the throne of God.

Soon we'll reach the shining river; soon our pilgrimage will cease;
soon our happy hearts will quiver with the melody of peace.
Yes, we'll gather at the river, the beautiful, the beautiful river;
gather with the saints at the river that flows by the throne of God.

Shall we gather at the throne of God?

© 2025 MorningStar Music Publishers, Inc.

DOXOLOGY

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below!
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father (*Creator*), Son (*Christ*), and Holy Ghost.
Amen.**

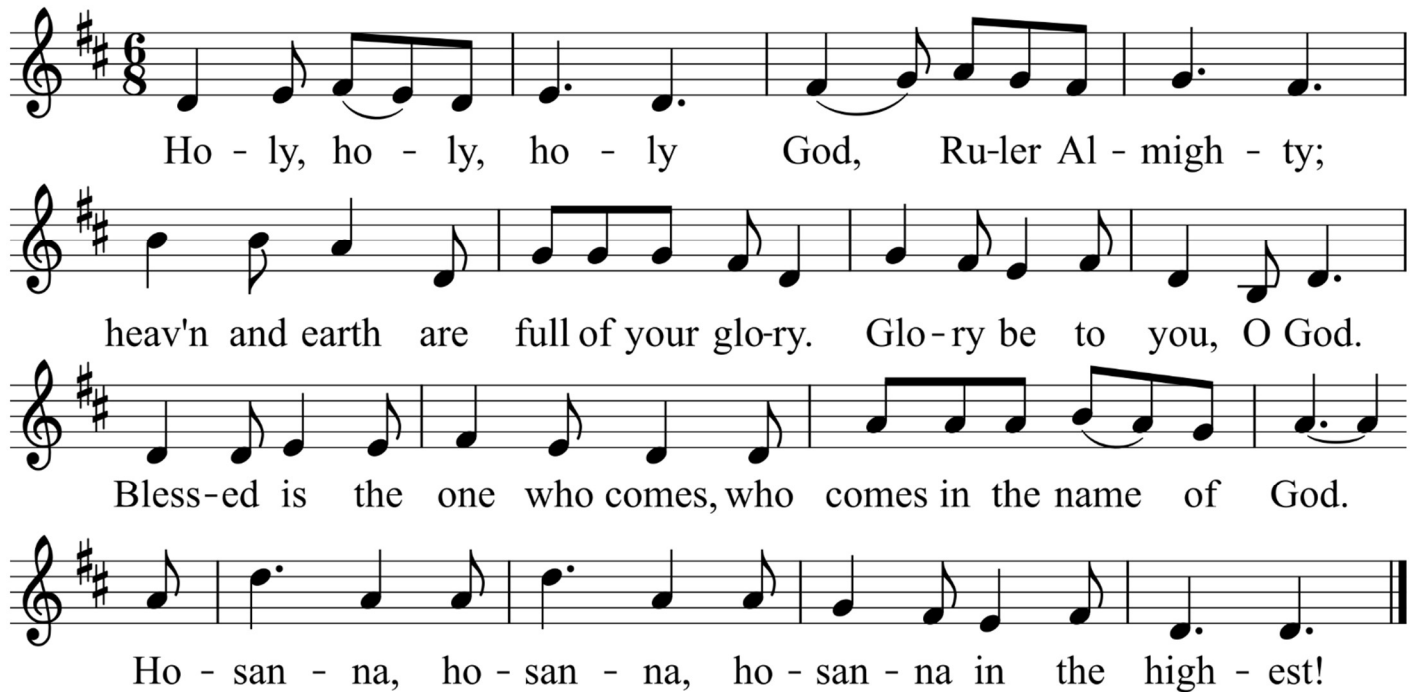
PRAYER OF DEDICATION

THE LORD'S SUPPER

Meaning of the Sacrament

Communion Prayer

It is truly fitting and right...



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly God, Ru-ler Al - migh - ty;
heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Glo-ry be to you, O God.
Bless-ed is the one who comes, who comes in the name of God.
Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est!

Music © 1991 Martha McMane

And now as Christ our Savior taught us, we are bold to say,

**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.

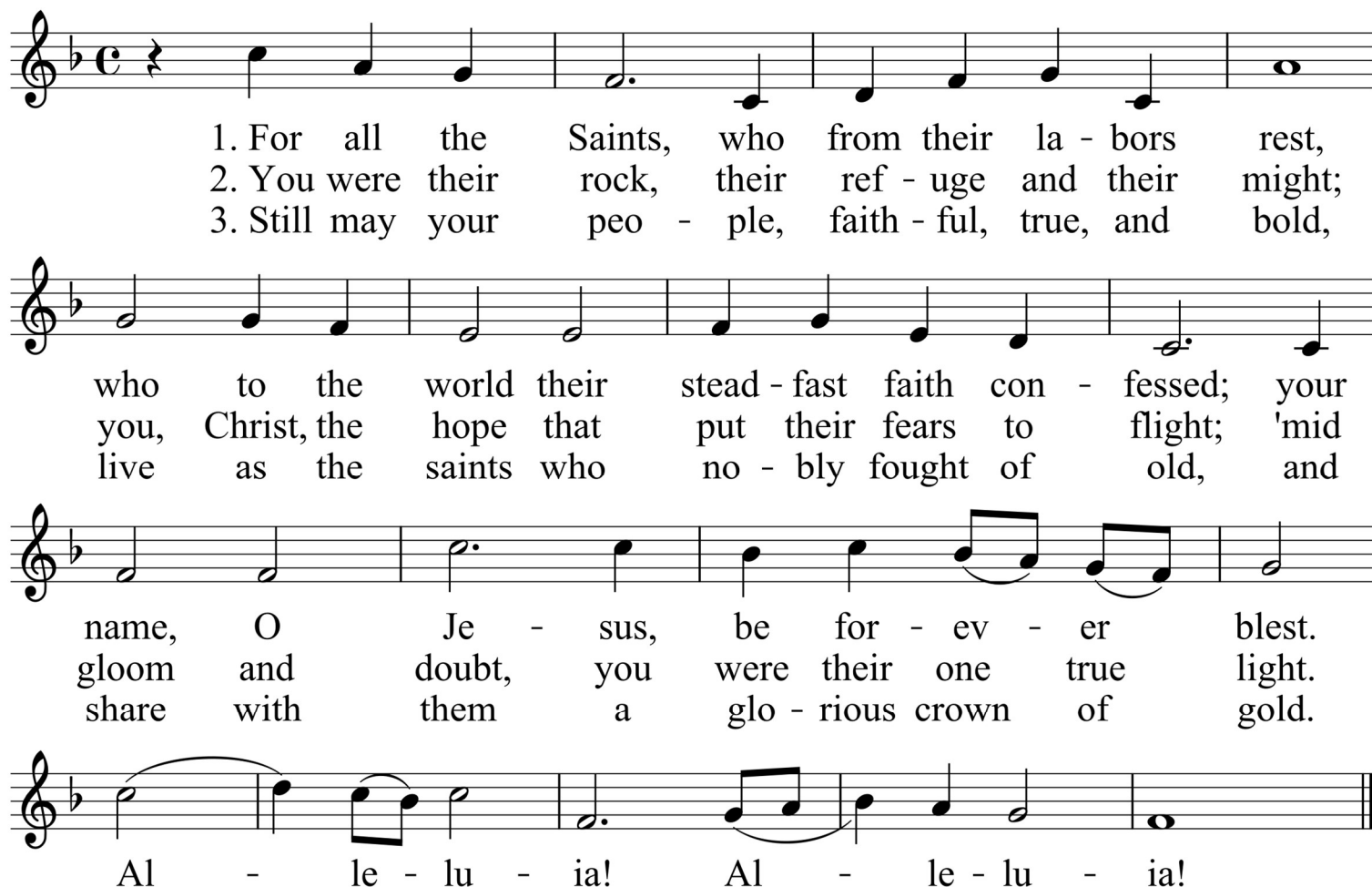
Sharing the Bread and Cup

Those who wish may stand

CLOSING HYMN

Those who wish may stand

For All the Saints



1. For all the Saints, who from their la - bors rest,
2. You were their rock, their ref - uge and their might;
3. Still may your peo - ple, faith - ful, true, and bold,
who to the world their stead - fast faith con - fessed; your
you, Christ, the hope that put their fears to flight; 'mid
live as the saints who no - bly fought of old, and
name, O Je - sus, be for - ev - er blest.
gloom and doubt, you were their one true light.
share with them a glo - rious crown of gold.
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: William W. How, 1864; alt, Tune: SINE NOMINE, Ralph Vaughan Williams, © Oxford University Press, 1906

BLESSING AND SENDING

POSTLUDE

From *Sonata No. 2*, by Felix Mendelssohn:
"Allegro maestoso e vivace"

Today's Service

Rev. Becky Emerson
Dr. Michael Match
John Mattson
The Motet Choir
Roy Portenga
Britta Portenga
Jacob Halmich
Blake Filius
Communion Servers

Senior Minister
Music Director
Organist
Leaders of Song
Liturgist/Prayers of the People
Violinist
Cellist
Audio and Video
Tom, Denise, Donna

All music reprinted by permission under ONELICENSE #A-727828

We invite you to stay for **coffee and fellowship** in the Fellowship Hall.

Child Care is available on the second floor for infants and toddlers.

Life-Long Learning-Starting today Rev. Becky will lead a 3-part series that considers the interplay among 3 key elements of our transition. Today's topic is "A pastoral approach to the wider norms of transitions." We will meet in the library right after the service.

Women's Single Group will meet for lunch at 1 pm on Tuesday, November 3 at Pints and Quarts. Please sign up at the Welcome Center or call Judy D. 734-478-3716 to RSVP.

Sunday, December 6th is our **Annual Candlelight Concert** at 4:00 pm.
It is a perfect way to celebrate the holiday season.

Thanksgiving Feast will be on Sunday, November 22, following worship service and will be catered. Suggested donation is \$28 per person/\$55 per family of 3+. We are also asking for dessert donations. Please sign up at the Welcome Center for both.

Reservations are needed by Sunday, November 8th.

Donations to our Mission of the month may also be done online through the donation button.

Are you on our **Thursday email list**? This is a way to keep up to date with FCC events and information as well as a direct link to our on-line worship service. Just email michaelm@fccmuskegon.org and ask to be put on our Thursday email.

On the First Saturday of every month FCC hosts a **Mobile Food Pantry** in the parking lot. Volunteers are always needed to help unload the Feeding America Truck & dispense the food. Please show up by 9 a.m. wearing comfortable shoes and outdoor clothes.

Thank you to all our volunteers who participated in the Trunk or Treat on 10/27/26.

Coat Drive continues through November.

Meijer Simply Give donations are tripled on Saturday, Dec. 12 at the Holton Rd Meijer. Our pantry benefits from this program. Details at the Welcome Center.

Wed. Exercise & Thur. Drumming classes are taking a break until Dec. 2 & 3.

Westshore GSA Youth Group for Middle School and High School meet Mondays at 7 pm.

First Congregational Church, UCC is an Open and Affirming Community

"We, the people of First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, of Muskegon, care for the welfare of our community and welcome everyone, no matter who you are or where you are on life's journey. We welcome into our community people of every age, race, nationality, mental and physical ability, economic and social status, faith background, marital standing, family structure, gender identity and expression, and sexual orientation. We also invite you to share in the life, leadership, worship, fellowship, sacraments, responsibilities, blessings, and joys of our congregation as we seek to grow together in faith and love." *Adopted by congregational vote 10/17/21*