



For all who  
**exalt themselves**  
will be humbled,

Luke 14:11, NRSV

and those who  
**humble themselves**  
will be exalted.

**United Church of Christ  
Norwich, New York**



**THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL  
Norwich, New York 13815**



**An Open and Affirming Church**

**March 16, 2025**

**10:00 a.m**

**Second Sunday of Lent**

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**CHIMING OF THE HOUR**

**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

***GATHERING***

**SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT: Responsive Meditation**

**LENTEN SUNG RESPONSE**

*Just As I Am*

*#207 (verse 2)*

**UNISON PRAYER**

**Loving God, as we journey through this holy season of Lent, may we be open to your presence. Give us the strength to make the changes that are needed in our lives and the courage to take on the work of transforming the world. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

**\*OPENING HYMN** *Let There Be Light, O God of Hosts*  
*#589*

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*\*Please stand in body or in spirit.*

**Large Print Bulletins are available from the ushers.**

## ***TIME OF SHARING***

### **CHILDREN'S MOMENT**

Ericka Tyler

### **SPECIAL MUSIC**

David Burch

### **PASSING OF THE PEACE**

ONE: May the peace of Jesus Christ be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

*Please greet one another in a manner most comfortable to you.*

### **SUNG RESPONSE**

*Blessed Be the Tie That Binds*

#393 (verse 1)

*Children in grades 3 - 8 are invited upstairs for Sunday school at this time.*

### **SERMON** *Banquet Insights: Seating & Guests*

Rev. James K. Boodley

**SCRIPTURE** Luke 14:1, 7-14

Pew Bible NT p. 78

### **INTERLUDE**

### **INVITATION TO GENEROSITY**

### **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**Accept these gifts, we pray O God, as a sign we rely on you and look forward to celebrating your presence among us at the banquet to come. Bless and multiply these offerings to the glory of your Son's holy name. In his name we pray. Amen.**

### **SHARING OF JOYS/CONCERNS**

### **PASTORAL PRAYER**

March 16, 2025

## 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.

## COMMISSION AND BLESSING

### \*CLOSING HYMN

*Unite and Join Your Cheerful Songs*

#617

## BENEDICTION

## POSTLUDE



Link to Online Giving  
[www.uccnorwichny.org/give](http://www.uccnorwichny.org/give)

### PARTICIPANTS TODAY

**Ministers:** All the People

**Pastor:** Rev. James K. Boodley

**Director of Music Ministries:** Mary Williams

**Organist:** David Burch

**Director of Children's and Youth Ministries:** Ericka Tyler

**Livestream Director:** Jennifer Mallozzi

**Livestream Staff:** Chris McSweeney, Jessica Strough, Liam Hunter

**Sunday Sexton:** Mya Yantz

**Nursery:** Fiora Breese

**Liturgist:** Jessica Strough

**Usher:** Terri and Jacks Yantz

**Coffee Hour:** Jessica Strough

### UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST FIRST CONGREGATIONAL

11 West Main St., Norwich NY 13815

607-334-3434 - [office@uccnorwichny.org](mailto:office@uccnorwichny.org) - [www.uccnorwichny.org](http://www.uccnorwichny.org)

### CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Tuesday-Thursday

8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. (Closed 12 - 1 for lunch)

Friday

8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.



## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **WIFI IS AVAILABLE**

Network Name: UCC-Guest

Password: uccguest

**NURSERY** is available for children up to age 5, upstairs at the front of the church.

**APRIL NEWSLETTER** - The deadline to get articles and items to the church office for publication in the April Newsletter is Monday, March 24.

**BEGINNING APRIL 6**, we will be celebrating communion a bit differently. Bread and grape juice will be available, in addition to the communion kits we have been using. Those who wish, can come forward and dip a piece of bread into grape juice at the appropriate time. For those unable to come forward, communion elements will be brought to your seat.

**DEADLINE FOR SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS IS MARCH 30** for high school seniors and college students attending secondary education in the 2025-26 school year. Applications are available online at [www.uccnorwichny.org](http://www.uccnorwichny.org). - follow the link on the homepage. Or contact the church office.

**MUSIC IN OUR SCHOOLS MONTH CONCERT**, presented by Monday Evening Musical Club - March 17 at 7:00 p.m. in our Nave and on Facebook live - [Facebook.com/Mondayeveningmusicclub](https://www.facebook.com/Mondayeveningmusicclub). Free and open to the public. An offering will be taken to support the MEMC Scholarship Fund.

**POT LUCK LUNCH RE-SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 30.** Rev. Ryan Henderson from the New York Conference UCC will be with us. Bring a dish to pass. Table service and beverages provided. A sign up sheet for the luncheon is in the office.

**SIGN UP ON THE BULLETIN** board outside the church office if you are interested in volunteering in the community when opportunities arise.

**24 HOURS THAT CHANGED THE WORLD - Community Lenten Book Study.** Every Tuesday March 11 - April 8, at Christ Lutheran Church, 94 N. Broad St. (*Note new location.*) Books will be provided. Lite Lunch at 11:30 a.m., Study 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome. You don't have to attend every week - come when you can.

**WANT TO JOIN THE CHURCH?** The Church leadership is making an open invitation to a new member orientation process for anyone interested. This invitation is open to all ages who may want to officially become a member of the church or just renew their faith commitment. Details of exactly what this will entail is still in the works, but if there is any interest in becoming a new member or if you would like more information on what that may look like, speak to either Pastor J.K. or Pete Williams, Moderator.

## CALENDAR

*Chenango Muslim Community meets upstairs daily at 9:30 p.m. & Fridays at 1:30 p.m.*

### **SUNDAY, MARCH 16**

- 9:00 a.m. Nursery, upstairs
- 10:00 a.m. Worship, Nave - Sunday School grades 3-8 after the Children's Moment
- 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour, Mayflower Room
- 12:30 p.m. Youth Group, upstairs
- 1:30 p.m. Chenango Change, Founders Room

### **MONDAY, MARCH 17 - St. Patrick's Day**

- 9:00 a.m. AARP Tax Preparation, Founders Rm., Kitchen
- 2:00 p.m. Tai Chi, Mayflower Room
- 7:00 p.m. Monday Evening Musical Club Concert, see announcements.

### **TUESDAY, MARCH 18**

- 11:30 a.m. Lent Book Study, Christ Lutheran Church. See announcements for details.
- 1:00 p.m. Piecemakers Circle, Kitchen
- 5:15 p.m. Free Meal at St. Bart's Catholic Church (Doors open at 4:00 p.m.)
- 7:00 p.m. Executive Council Meeting, Chapel and Zoom

### **WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19**

- 9:00 a.m. AARP Tax Preparation, Founders Room, Kitchen
- 10:00 a.m. Prayer Circle, Zoom
- 4:00 p.m. Laundry Love, Byrne Dairy
- 6:00 p.m. Democratic Committee, Founders Room
- 7:00 p.m. Choir, Nave

### **THURSDAY, MARCH 20**

- 9:00 a.m. AARP Tax Preparation, Founders Room, Kitchen
- 5:00 p.m. Free meal at Emmanuel Episcopal Church
- 6:00 p.m. Helping Hands Give-away, YMCA

### **SATURDAY, MARCH 22**

- 9:00 a.m. Free Diaper Giveaway at First Baptist Church (until 11 a.m.)

### **SUNDAY, MARCH 23**

- 9:00 a.m. Nursery, upstairs
- 10:00 a.m. Worship, Nave - Sunday School grades 3-8 after the Children's Moment
- 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour, Founders Room
- 12:30 p.m. Youth Group, upstairs
- 5:00 p.m. Free Community Meal at Broad St. United Methodist

## **Luke 14:1**

**14** On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the Sabbath, they were watching him closely.

## **Luke 14:7-14**

<sup>7</sup> When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. <sup>8</sup> “When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host, <sup>9</sup> and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, ‘Give this person your place,’ and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. <sup>10</sup> But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, ‘Friend, move up higher’; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. <sup>11</sup> For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

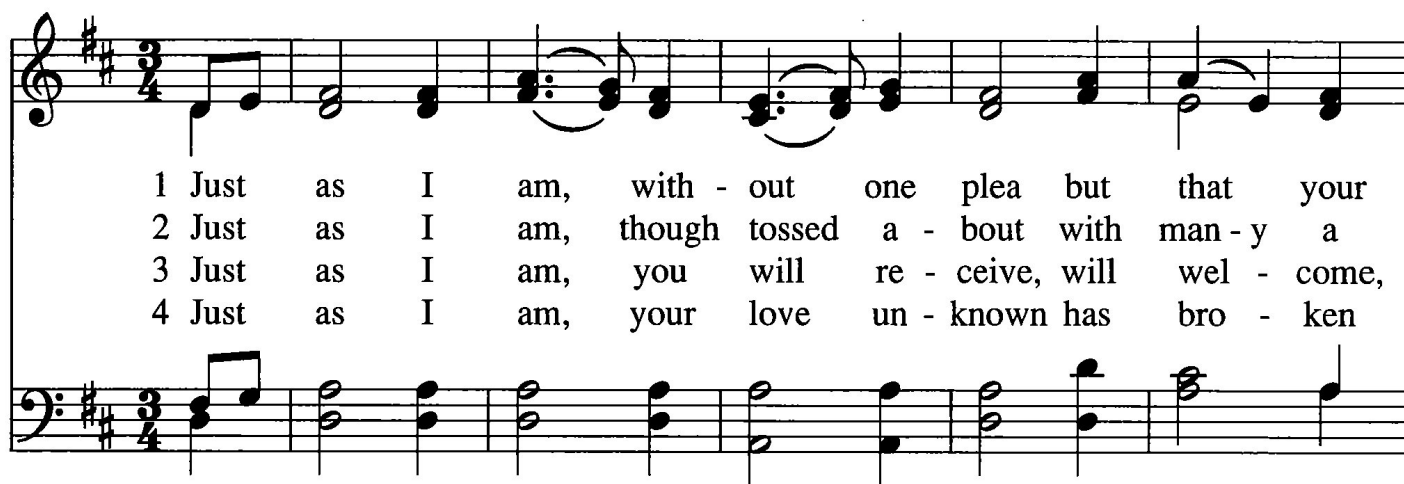
<sup>12</sup> He said also to the one who had invited him, “When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers and sisters or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. <sup>13</sup> But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. <sup>14</sup> And you will be blessed because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”

# Just as I Am

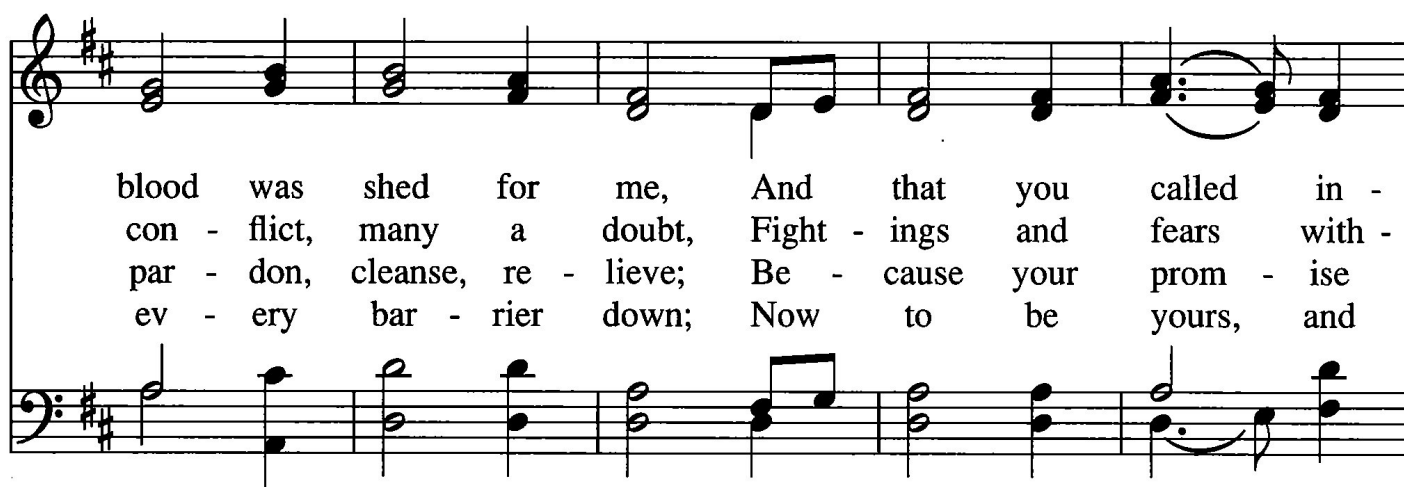
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Charlotte Elliott, 1836; alt.

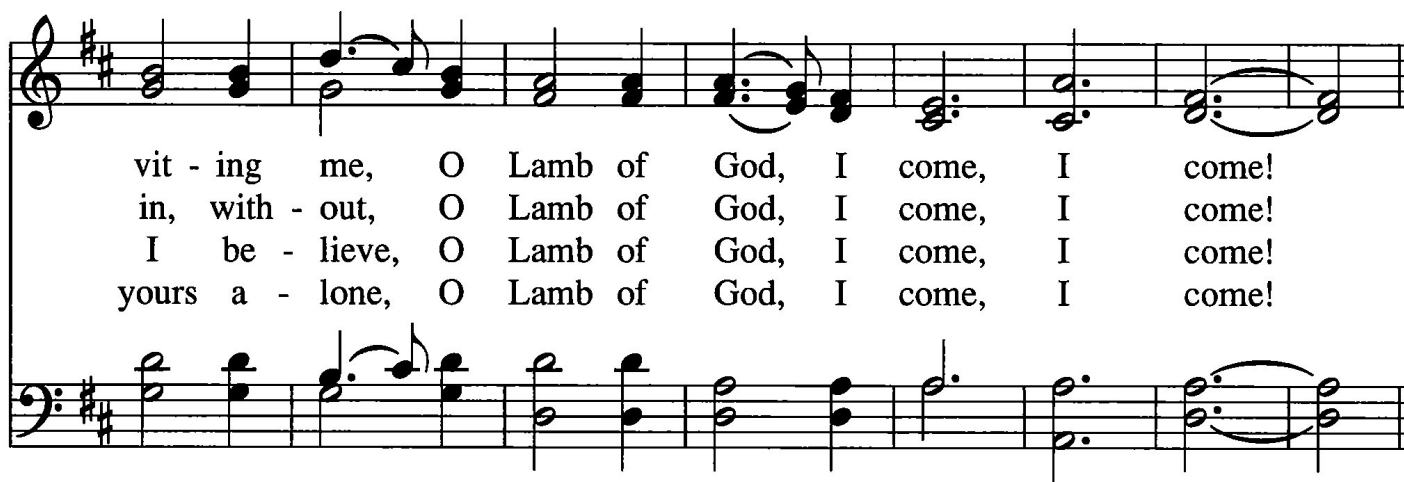
John 6:37; Eph. 2:14



1 Just as I am, with - out one plea but that your  
2 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout with man - y a  
3 Just as I am, you will re - ceive, will wel - come,  
4 Just as I am, your love un - known has bro - ken



blood was shed for me, And that you called in -  
con - flict, many a doubt, Fight - ings and fears with -  
par - don, cleanse, re - lieve; Be - cause your prom - ise  
ev - ery bar - rier down; Now to be yours, and



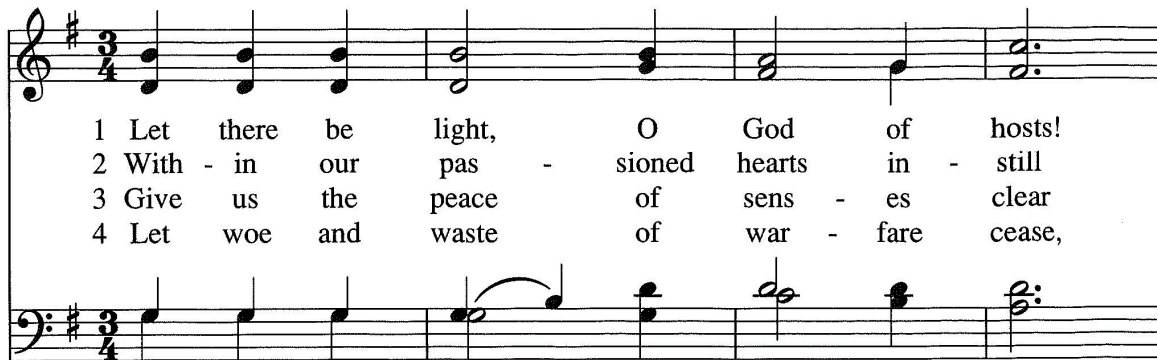
vit - ing me, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!  
in, with - out, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!  
I be - lieve, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!  
yours a - lone, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

*This text appeared in Charlotte Elliott's Invalid's Hymn Book, published in England in 1836. Disabled at age thirty, she continued a career of writing and editing. This hymn has been translated into many languages.*


Tune: WOODWORTH L.M.  
William B. Bradbury, 1849



## Let There Be Light, O God of Hosts

*William M. Vories, 1908; alt.*


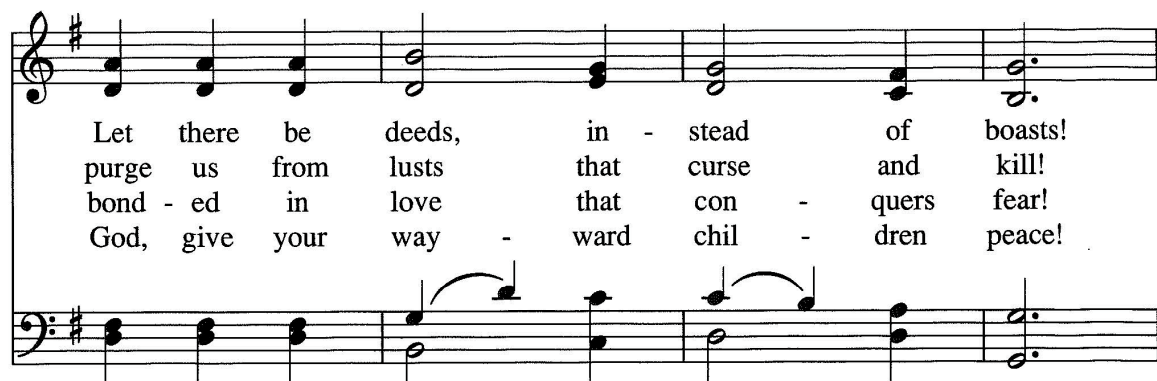
1 Let there be light, O God of hosts!  
 2 With - in our pas - sioned hearts in - still  
 3 Give us the peace of sens - es clear  
 4 Let woe and waste of war - fare cease,



Let there be wis - dom on the earth!  
 the calm that ends all strain and strife;  
 to know our neigh - bors' good our own;  
 that use - ful la - bor yet may build



Let broad hu - man - i - ty have birth!  
 Make us your min - is - ters of life;  
 To hope and suf - fer not a - lone,  
 Its homes with love and laugh - ter filled!



Let there be deeds, in - stead of boasts!  
 purge us from lusts that curse and kill!  
 bond - ed in love that con - quers fear!  
 God, give your way - ward chil - dren peace!

*William Vories, founder of the vast, interdenominational Omi Mission in Japan, wrote this hymn as a response to the rising threat of German militarism in 1908. It exemplifies the vision of world peace and unity Vories strove to promote through his lifelong missionary work.*

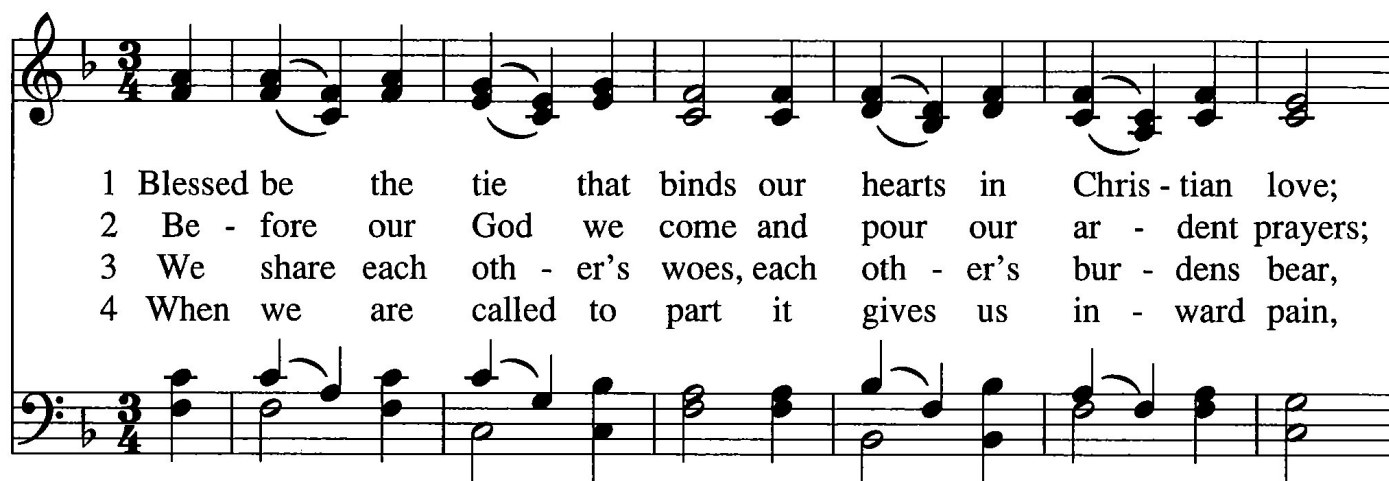
Tune: PENTECOST L.M.  
*William Boyd, 1864*

# Blessed Be the Tie That Binds

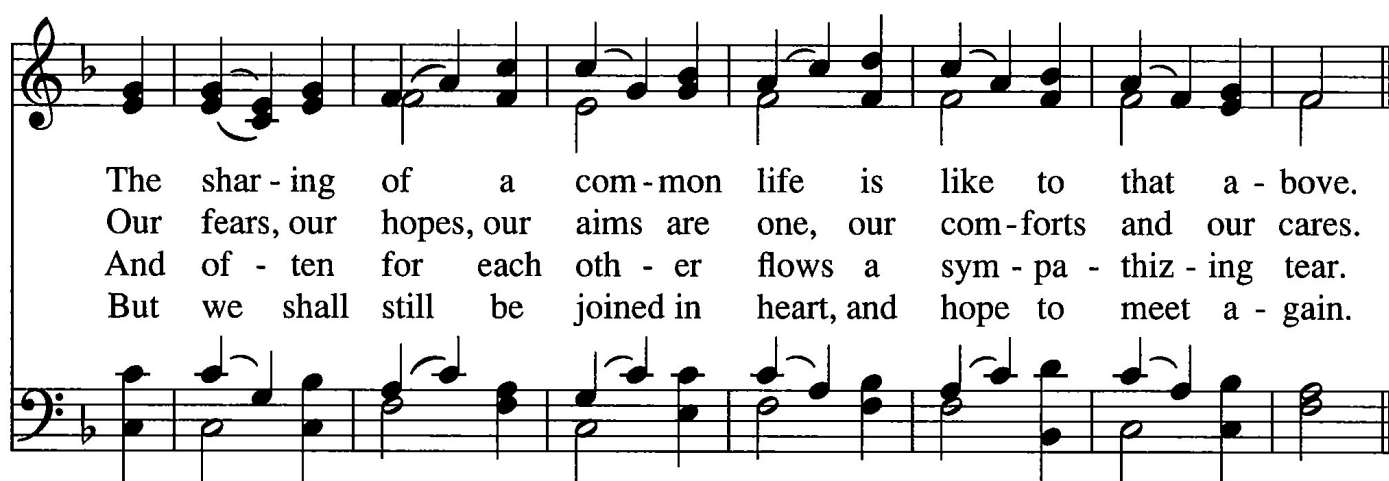
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*John Fawcett, 1782; alt.*

*Gal. 3:28; 6:2; Col. 3:13–15*



1 Blessed be the tie that binds our hearts in Chris - tian love;  
2 Be - fore our God we come and pour our ar - dent prayers;  
3 We share each oth - er's woes, each oth - er's bur - dens bear,  
4 When we are called to part it gives us in - ward pain,



The shar - ing of a com - mon life is like to that a - bove.  
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our com - forts and our cares.  
And of - ten for each oth - er flows a sym - pa - thiz - ing tear.  
But we shall still be joined in heart, and hope to meet a - gain.

*An English Baptist minister, John Fawcett published a number of poetic works. His entire ministry was spent at a church near Hebden Bridge, Yorkshire, where he wrote most of his hymns to follow his sermons.*

Tune: DENNIS S.M.  
Melody by Johann G. Nægeli (c. 1768–1836)  
Adapt. Lowell Mason, 1845

## Unite and Join Your Cheerful Songs

Rev. 5:9-14

Hymns and Spiritual Songs,  
ed. James O'Kelly, 1816; alt.

1 U - nite and join your cheer - ful songs, with  
 2 This is the way the church should strive, in  
 3 Wor - thy the Lamb, the an - gels say, to  
 4 As - sist us, all a - bove the sky, on

an - gels 'round the throne; Ten thou - sand thou - sand  
 har - mo - ny be - low; As mem - bers of one  
 be ex - alt - ed thus; A - men, a - men the  
 earth, and on the seas; U - nite and raise God's

are their tongues, yet all their joys are one.  
 bod - y live, one Sov - ereign shall you know.  
 saints re - ply, the Lamb was slain for us.  
 hon - ors high, in hymns of end - less praise.

*This hymn appears in Hymns and Spiritual Songs, a collection of hymn texts (without tunes), published in 1816 in Raleigh, North Carolina. It may have been written by the book's editor, James O'Kelly, an itinerant preacher who broke away from the Methodist Church because of its hierarchical government. O'Kelly founded the Christian Church in the southern United States in 1794. In 1931, the Christian Church merged with the Congregational Church to form a predecessor denomination of the United Church of Christ. The themes of unity and freedom appear throughout O'Kelly's collection of hymns.*

Tune: AMAZING GRACE (NEW BRITAIN) C.M.  
 from Columbia Harmony, Cincinnati, 1829  
 Arr. Edwin O. Excell, 1900  
 Alternate tune: LAND OF REST