

# The Service for the Lord's Day Third Sunday in Lent 8:45 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. Worship Services March 23, 2025

"United in Christ's love, we glorify God through worship, nurture, and service to all people."

### WE CELEBRATE GOD'S LOVE

Prelude Psalm 126 Diemer

The Lord has done great things for us; we are glad.

Welcome and Announcements

Choral Introit (11:00)

In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful

Berthier

In the Lord I'll be ever thankful, in the Lord I will rejoice!

Look to God, do not be afraid;

Lift up your voices, the Lord is near;

Lift up your voices, the Lord is near.

\* Call to Worship - from Psalm 130

ONE: We wait for the Lord; our souls wait, and in God's word we hope;

MANY: Our souls wait for the Lord, more than those who watch for the morning.

ONE: Hope in the Lord! For with the Lord there is steadfast love,

MANY: And with the Lord is great power to redeem.

ONE: Come, let worship God!

\* Hymn No. 643

Now Thank. We All Our God

NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT

Prayer of Confession

MANY: Ever-Present God,

you offer us restoration and wholeness, yet we resist you.

We reduce the purpose of this life to the amount of stuff we can retain, and we disregard the damage done to our planet, our neighbors, and to ourselves in the process.

We confess that we would rather remain as we are,

than risk the change that results from your presence in our lives.

In this season of lent, help us to realize just how much we depend on one another.

Guide us to reorient our lives towards your goodness and your joy.

And as you do, we ask that you would renew us,

restore us.

and remain with us,

as you always have.

Silent Prayer of Confession

Assurance of Pardon

ONE: The Lord has done great things for us. Through the grace and mercy of Jesus Christ we are renewed,

and we are made whole. Beloved children of God, know that you are forgiven, and be at peace.

MANY: Amen! The Lord has done great things for us! Thanks be to God.

#### WELCOME

Whether you are visiting for the first time, or are a long-time member, we are blessed to have you with us.

As a congregation, we seek to live as people united in Jesus Christ. Our church consists of people of all ages and stages on faith's journey, from those new to faith to those who have honed their faith for decades. We consider this one of Unity's greatest gifts. We see ourselves as an ever-widening family with room for everyone. We tend to worship in some pretty traditional ways. We study the scriptures and seek to understand the teachings and actions of Jesus. We sing many of the same hymns our grandparents sang. Yet, in our preaching and our prayers, we wrestle with the challenges of the modern world.

We hope your heart will hear something personal relevant and this morning - a word of comfort, a spur to action, a call to a deeper connection with the God who loves you! After the service, stick around for a few minutes. Introduce yourself to one of the pastors. If you cannot stay or are worshiping with us online, please visit our website. See if this is a place and a people that God is calling you to be a part of, a place and a people where you might invest yourself in the amazing work God is doing, a place and a people you just might call home.

\* Congregational Response No. 63

The Lord Is God (stanza 1)

The Lord is God, the Lord alone! Give honor, thanks and praise to God, the maker of all things and giver of our days.

# WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

First Reading Luke 13:1-9

Children's Time

Congregational Blessing

Go Now in Peace

Sleeth

Go now in peace, go now in peace, may the love of God surround you everywhere, everywhere you may go.

Second Reading Psalm 126

Sermon "The Lord Has Done Great Things for Us" Rev. Dr. Matt Rich

# WE RESPOND TO GOD'S CALL

\*Affirmation of Faith – from a Brief Statement of Faith

MANY: We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father. In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God's image, male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community. But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator. Ignoring God's commandments, we violate the image of God in others and ourselves, accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature, and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care. We deserve God's condemnation. Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation. In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth. Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage. Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant. Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still.

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

MANY: 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.

Moment for Stewardship - Megan Welfare, Victor Ernst, and London Coker

Offering

As we worship both at home and in the sanctuary, we pause in gratitude to God to prayerfully reflect on the response we make to God's amazing grace in Jesus Christ. Financial gifts can be shared online at <a href="https://onrealm.org/unityfortmill/give/now">https://onrealm.org/unityfortmill/give/now</a> through the mail, as the plates are passed, or in the mailbox in front of the Historic Sanctuary.



Offertory Anthem (8:45)

Be Thou My Vision Chris Routh, soloist arr. Henry

Zingarelli

Leading Worship this morning:

Rev. Dr. Matt Rich Senior Pastor

Rev. Molly Spangler Associate Pastor

Josephine Ryan Lay Worship Leader

Margaret Monroe Director of Music

> Acolytes: 8:45 a.m. Clara Bickett

> 11:00 a.m.

London Coker Bristol Miller

# Children's Ministry Staff:

Kathryn McGregor Director of Christian Education

# **Nursery Caregivers:**

Angie Benjamin Carolyn Blair Sylvia Coleman

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart; naught be all else to me, save that thou art; thou my best thought, by day or by night, waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true Word; I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord; thou my great Father and I thy true son, thou in me dwelling and I with thee one.

High King of Heaven, my victory won, may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun! Heart of my own heart, whatever befall, still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

(11:00)

Go Not Far from Me Chancel Choir

Chancel Choir

Go not far from me, O God; Cast me not away in the time of age: Forsake me not when my strength faileth me. O let my mouth be filled with thy praise: That I may sing of thy glory and honor all the day long.

\* Congregational Response For the Life That You Have Given BEACH SPRING For the life that you have given, for the love in Christ made known, with these fruits of time and labor, with these gifts that are your own: here we offer, Lord, our praises; heart and mind and strength we bring; give us grace to love and serve you, living what we pray and sing.

\* Prayer of Thanksgiving

\* Hymn No. 716 God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending BEACH SPRING

\* Charge and Benediction

\* Choral Response (11:00) Amen Pavlechko

\* Postlude Festive Processional on 'Nun Danket Alle Gott' Burkhardt

**Copyright permissions** - CCLI License #20674929, One License #A-727534

In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful – Text: Jacques Berthier, © 1991 Les Presses de Taizé (admin. GIA Publications).

The Lord Is God – Text: David Gambrell, © 2011 David Gambrell (admin. Presbyterian Publishing Corp.).

Go Now in Peace – Text: Natalie Sleeth, © 1976 Hinshaw Music, Inc.

For the Life That You Have Given – Text: Carl P. Daw, Jr., © 1990 Hope Publishing Company.

Unity Presbyterian Church 303 Tom Hall Street Fort Mill, SC 29715 803-547-5543 www.UnityFortMill.org

> Facebook: <u>@UnityFortMill</u>

> Instagram: <u>@UnityFortMill</u>

YouTube:
Unity Presbyterian Church
Fort Mill

<sup>\*</sup> As you are able in body or spirit, please stand.

**SANCTUARY FLOWERS** today are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Fran Webb by Jim Webb, Allison Webb Hudson, and Meredith Webb Bartkin.

**DEACONS SERVING** today at the 8:45 a.m. worship service are Kevin Pascal, Jennifer Smith, and Jill Grossoehme; at the 11:00 a.m. worship service are Norma Lester, Elizabeth Bowers, and Jim Smith.

**ASSISTED LISTENING DEVICES** are available at the Deacons desk in the Narthex of the Sanctuary.

# OPPORTUNITIES TO CONNECT, WORSHIP, GROW, AND SERVE

# Worship

**SANCTUARY WORSHIP IS LIVESTREAMED** - Please note that as you join us for worship in the Sanctuary, there is a possibility that you will be seen on the online livestream. If you have any questions or concerns, please let us know by contacting Dr. Matt Rich at the church office at 803-547-5543.

**CHILDREN OF ALL AGES** are welcome in worship. If you find that you need to leave the service to care for your child, Room M201 is open, and is connected to the sanctuary sound system. Ask an usher in the Narthex if you need directions.

**NURSERY IS AVAILABLE** during today's worship services in Room S104 for infants-18 months and S103 for toddlers/ preschoolers up through age 3. Both rooms are located on the bottom floor of the Sanctuary building. Our nursery is run by trained, paid staff with assistance from trained church volunteers. Age-appropriate Bible stories and activities are offered throughout the morning. Children may be dropped off up to 15 minutes prior to a worship service or may attend worship with you until the Children's Time, and then will be taken to nursery by our volunteers and staff. If your child plans to leave the service following Children's Time, please complete a bright yellow Child Identification Sticker, found in the pew rack. Place it on your child's back. Please check "nursery" on the sticker and add a cell phone number in case of an emergency.

CIW IS AVAILABLE during today's worship services. "Children in Worship" is a Montessori-based worship program for young children (those who turned 4 before September 1st, 2024, those who are Rising Kindergarten and 1st graders as well as those who have just completed 1st grade). They learn to worship in a way that corresponds to corporate worship yet addresses their needs as young children. Please bring your child with you to worship in the sanctuary and complete a Child Identification Sticker, found in the pew rack, and place it on your child's back. Check "CIW" on the sticker and add a cell phone number in case of an emergency. After the Children's Time, your child will be escorted to the CIW Room (M206) on the children's Sunday school wing.

# Children's Ministry

A FEW SPOTS ARE LEFT FOR VBS AND MISSION CAMP. REGISTER TODAY!

Registration is open for Unity families, grandchildren of Unity members, and Unity Preschool families. VBS will be Monday, June 9-Thursday, June 12 from 9:00 am – noon each day. This year's theme is Road Trip: On the Go With God. Based on Joshua 1:9, "The Lord your God is with you wherever you go," we will discover that God's presence is always near, no matter where the journey of life takes us. All children who will be 4 by August 31st, 2025 through Rising 4th grade are invited to join us on this exciting journey as we discover new places, new friends, and ways that we can discover God's goodness and presence everywhere. Rising 5th and 6th grades are invited to Mission Camp at



VBS, a fun-filled week of exploring the VBS Bible stories and seeing how those stories send us out to serve each day in our Fort Mill Community, which will run concurrently with VBS. If your child's age group is full, please choose Waitlist in the dropdown box for age group. **Scan the QR Code to register.** 

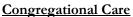
SHEPHERDS ARE NEEDED FOR VBS AND MISSION CAMP. SIGN UP NOW TO SERVE - Vacation Bible School will be held Monday, June 9th - Thursday, June 12th from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. for children in Rising 4K-4th grade. Mission Camp will be held concurrently for children currently in Rising 5th and 6th grade. This year's theme is Road Trip: On the Go With God. Sign up now to volunteer and help us make this summer the best VBS ever!: <a href="https://unityfortmill.org/ministries/children/events/vbs-2/">https://unityfortmill.org/ministries/children/events/vbs-2/</a>.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR GRANDS CAMP! Grands Camp will be held this summer Wednesday, July 23rd – Friday, 25th. Grands Camp provides a unique opportunity for intergenerational ministry. Grandparents and grandchildren, ages 4 – 5th grade will enjoy time together through games, crafts, stories, mission projects, LEGOS and more. Up to 2 grandchildren may attend with each grandparent. Have more grandchildren than that? Bring an additional grandparent, either related or surrogate, or contact Kathryn McGregor to find additional surrogate grandparents. Don't have grandparents or grandchildren who can participate with you? Email Kathryn McGregor at <a href="MMCGregor@UnityFortMill.org">MMCGregor@UnityFortMill.org</a> to sign up to be a surrogate grandparent or grandchild for another member of our congregation. Registration opens April 7th.

IT'S TIME TO PLAN FOR THE WAX MUSEUM! Children in 3rd-5th grades, if you have not been participating in faith formation at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday mornings, join us beginning today in Room M208 for three weeks while we prepare for our second annual wax museum. This was a fun, and interactive to learn more about someone in the Bible as you prepared to share their story during the Wax Museum for the congregation. The Wax Museum will be held at 10:00 a.m. on April 13th. All 3rd-5th graders are invited to participate, so come join us March 23rd, 30th, and April 6th to research your person and practice your presentation.

JOIN US FOR AN EASTER EGG HUNT! Third, Fourth and Fifth Graders are invited to register now for the Glow-in-the-Dark Egg Hunt & S'mores Event to be held Friday, April 4th, from 6:45 -8:15 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. RSVP by scanning the QR Code OR mark your calendars for our traditional Easter Egg Hunt for children of all ages on Saturday, April 5th, at 10:00 a.m. for all ages. No registration is necessary. Meet in the Fellowship Hall for games, activities, and an egg hunt.

GCS SPRING COOKOUT APRIL 13TH - All current 3rd, 4th and 5th graders are invited to our GCs Spring Cookout at the Springfield Pavilion on Sunday. April 13th from 5:00 - 6:30 p.m. A special invitation is issued to our current 3rd graders who will be moving up to GCs in the fall. Join us for this fun night out to see what GCs is all about. We will eat dinner, play games, and recognize all of our 5th graders who will be leaving children's ministry this summer and moving to youth group in the fall. Scan the QR Code and register by April 8th.



LUNCH BUNCH: MARCH 26TH AT NOON - Our speaker for March will be Captain Wendy C. Bell, Ph.D. who is an employee of the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (SLED). She currently serves as Captain of Forensic Operations. In her presentation, she will give an overview of the new Forensic Services Laboratory which was completed and occupied in the Fall of 2022. She will discuss the wide range of forensic services the laboratory proves for the citizens of SC and discuss some of the topics that most of us face daily: cyber attacks, phone scams, and identity theft. Please join us for this informative discussion on March 26th. Bring your salad or sandwich and connect with old and new Unity friends. Chips, drinks, and desserts are always available at no charge. Just come and join the fun!!

# Congregational Meeting

THE SESSION HAS CALLED A CONGREGATIONAL MEETING FOR SUNDAY, MARCH 30TH, immediately following both worship services to elect the 2025 Nominating Committee. Those who will be nominated to serve are: Peter Olinger (elder and chair); Krista Renken (elder); Judd Glasco (deacon); Elizabeth Bowers (deacon); Wyndie Havnaer (Women of Unity); Jim Boyd (Men's Ministry); Bella Cardozo (Youth); Ken Tysinger (at-large member); and Kathryn Glenn (at-large member).

# Easter Memorials & Honorariums

NEXT SUNDAY is the FINAL date for submitting EASTER MEMORIAL & HONORARIUM forms to the church office. Forms are available in the church office, are found in the Pews/Narthex, or can be downloaded from the church website at https://unityfortmill.org/give/easter-memorials-and-honorariums/. Please make your check payable to Unity and write 'Easter Memorial/Honorarium' on the memo line. The deadline for these gifts is Sunday, March 30th. A booklet listing these gifts will be available in the Narthex on April 13th.

# Endowment

AS YOU CONTEMPLATE YOUR LEGACY, please consider including Unity in your estate planning.

#### Faith Formation

MONDAY MUSINGS meets each Monday from 9:30 - 10:30 a.m. with the pastors in Room M201 for conversation about and study of Sunday's sermon and scripture texts.

SUNDAY MORNING FAITH FORMATION meets each Sunday at 10:00 a.m. There is a place for everyone! A list of all classes and room numbers are below. Scan the QR code to learn more about each adult offering and find the place that is right for you.

Children

Birth - 3 years: S103 & S104 4K – Kindergarten: M203 1st-2nd Grades: M205 3rd - 5th Grades: M208

Youth

6th - 7th Grades: M106 Confirmation (8th Grade): M107

High School: M108

Adults

As a Child: M312 Faith Connections: Historic Sanctuary

Fellowship: M201

Gospel of Matthew: M210

Unity: M102

**LENTEN PRAYER AND REFLECTION CONTINUES ON TUESDAYS** through April 15th at 7:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Whether you are choosing to use the Draw Near Lenten Devotionals this year or not, you are invited to come when you are able to a brief prayer and reflection service offered each week during Lent that will be guided by the Psalms in that week's Lenten devotions. Services will last no more than 30 minutes. Choose the time that best suits you. Join us in the Historic Sanctuary for prayer and quiet reflection on a Psalm each week. No registration is necessary.

**JOIN US APRIL 13th FOR A WAX MUSEUM AT 10:00 AM.** Our second annual Wax Museum will be performed by our 3rd-5th grade Sunday school class on Palm Sunday at 10:00 am in the Fellowship Hall. Children are spending this month in Sunday school researching the stories of Old Testament Heroes. They will present costumed first-person stories of these every-day heroes. The whole congregation is invited to come hear a familiar story or one you've never heard before from scripture about the faithful people of God.

**SPIRITUAL PILGRIMAGE TO SCOTLAND: SAVE THE DATE** - Thank you to all who have expressed interest in taking an international spiritual pilgrimage trip. A trip to Scotland generated the most interest, so **plans are underway for a trip April 17-25, 2026. Check your calendars and save the dates.** Watch for more information soon.

# Hospitality & Evangelism

**CONNECTIONS CLASS** - If you are curious about membership or have decided that this is the time for a commitment to Unity Presbyterian Church, please come to our **Connections Class, beginning Sunday, March 30th and continuing on Sunday April 6th**. Members of the H&E committee will welcome you in the **Fellowship Hall at 10:00 a.m.** The class will give you a brief overview of the many opportunities to participate in the life of Unity, a little introduction to our history, an opportunity to meet a few staff members, and ask any questions you may have about the church and our beliefs. If you have any questions, please contact Cathey Miller, Chair of the H&E committee, at (704)724-6813 or at <a href="mailto:cathey-nations-cathey-nations

#### Outreach

CHURCH WIDE SERVICE EVENT FOR ALL AGES! Did you miss the deadline to sign up for GO MAD (Go Make a Difference) Day? If you did, don't panic, we would still love to include you! Please contact the church office, or Pastor Molly directly using the number or email below to register. GO MAD is our intergenerational service event held on Saturday, March 29th, from 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. GO MAD Day is for people 4-100 years old and offers small group service projects appropriate for families with children, teens, and adults of all ages. We will be working with many of our local mission partners here in York County. We have projects lined up with Habitat for Humanity, The Fort Mill Care Center, The Isaiah 117 House, Pathways Community Center, Levine Children's Hospital, and many more. A nursery will be provided for children under age 4. If you have any questions, call the church office at 803-547-5544, or contact Molly Spangler at <a href="majorage-m

**ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING** - This offering began following World War II when Protestant churches in the United States made appeals for the relief and reconstruction of devastated areas, primarily in Europe and Asia. With the devastation occurring in Ukraine and other countries abroad, as well as the destruction occurring in the United States from severe storms, hurricanes, flooding, and blizzards, assistance continues to be needed. Each gift to OGHS supports efforts to relieve hunger through the Presbyterian Hunger Program, promote development through the Presbyterian Committee on Self-Development of People, and assist in areas of disaster through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. Unity will receive the **ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING offering on EASTER SUNDAY, April 20th**. For more information or to give, visit: <a href="https://unityfortmill.org/give/special-offering/">https://unityfortmill.org/give/special-offering/</a>.

#### **Stephen Ministry**

UNITY PRESBYTERIAN IS A STEPHEN MINISTER CHURCH - Stephen Ministers are members of Unity Presbyterian Church who have gone through 50 hours of training to provide confidential, one-on-one Christian care to people who are facing a crisis or simply going through a difficult time. A Stephen Minister meets with his or her care receiver once a week for around an hour to listen, care, pray, and provide emotional and spiritual encouragement. Men are matched with male Stephen Ministers, and women are matched with female Stephen Ministers. To find out more about how you or someone you know could be matched with a Stephen Minister, talk with Susan Mobley or Dave Johnson, via email at Stephenministryreferrals@unityfortmill.org or call Rev. Molly Spangler at (803) 547-5543.

#### **Stewardship**

**NEXT SUNDAY IS COMMITMENT SUNDAY.** If you need additional forms or a description booklet, they can be found in the cart in front of the Deacons' desk or can be printed from the Stewardship tab on Unity's website <a href="https://unityfortmill.org/give/stewardship/">https://unityfortmill.org/give/stewardship/</a>. If you are unable to attend next Sunday, commitments can be dropped off or mailed to the church office. If you prefer, you can communicate your choices online by logging into REALM. To indicate how you would like to serve, choose "Serving" and then browse "Opportunities". Click on items you are interested in and "Submit your Interest" directly to team leaders. You can also indicate your pledge through REALM by choosing "Giving" and then "Pledges" and clicking "+ Pledge".

# Women of Unity

**PLEASE KEEP IN TOUCH** with all things happening with the Women of Unity by sending an email to wouministry@gmail.com. We would love to add you to our communications! Follow us on Instagram: @woufortmill.

#### Worship & Music

2025 FLOWER CALENDAR - Would you like to honor a family member, friend, or a special group of people? Placing fresh flowers in the sanctuary to the glory of God is a perfect way to remember and celebrate a special person/s or occasion in your life. You may order flowers from a local florist or provide your own arrangement with flowers from your yard or another place of business that sells fresh-cut flowers. Your name along with the name or occasion being honored will be printed in the church bulletin. You may visit <a href="https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C094CA5A729A0FCC25-53403724-unity#/">https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C094CA5A729A0FCC25-53403724-unity#/</a> and complete the steps for selecting your choice of Sunday(s). All instructions are included. If you have questions, please contact Michaela Braswell at <a href="mbraswell@UnityFortMill.org">mbraswell@UnityFortMill.org</a> or 803-547-5543 ext. 130). Early sign-up is recommended to ensure the Sunday of your choice.

**YOUTH HANDBELLS** - All Youth grades 6-12 are invited to participate in a handbell choir just for you! We will rehearse after 11:00 worship on the following Sundays: April 6th, April 13th, April 27th, and May 4th. We will then play in worship on Sunday, May 11th at both services. We'll go over basic note reading and ringing techniques. Please **sign up using the QR code** to reserve your spot, or contact Margaret Monroe at <a href="mailto:mmonroe@UnityFortMill.org">mmonroe@UnityFortMill.org</a> or 803-547-5543.

**CHILDREN'S CHOIR** - The next session of children's choir begins **TODAY**, with both choirs meeting together at 3:00 p.m. All children 4K-grade 5 are invited to participate. We will rehearse for three Sundays, and then finish the choir year by singing in worship on Palm Sunday, April 13th. Parents, please register any children singing for the first time this school year **using the QR code** (returning singers do not need to register again). Contact Margaret Monroe at <a href="mmonroe@UnityFortMill.org">mmonroe@UnityFortMill.org</a> or 547-5543 with any questions.

#### Youth Ministry

MIDDLE SCHOOL OUTREACH PROJECT AT ADULT ENRICHMENT CENTER TODAY! All middle school youth are invited to meet at Adult Enrichment Center (105 Lestina Ct) from 3:00-4:00 p.m. TODAY.

**REGISTRATION FOR SUMMER TRIPS CLOSES ON APRIL 1ST!** There are countless opportunities for middle and high school youth to engage in meaningful outreach and faith formation trips this summer. High schoolers are headed to St. Simons Island and Montreat Youth Conference and middle schoolers at headed to Massanetta Middle School Conference! Save your spot by registering now on Realm.

**SIGN-UP FOR UNITY YOUTH BOWLING ON MARCH 30TH FROM 3:30-5:30 PM!** Join is at Lake Wylie Pins n' Wins (formerly Lake Wylie Bowl n' Bounce) for a fun afternoon of bowling. **Scan the QR code to register now!** 

# Hymns for March 23, 2025 8:45 & 11:00 a.m.

Hymn

Now Thank We All Our God

NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT

Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices, who wondrous things hath done, in whom this world rejoices; who, from our mothers' arms, hath blessed us on our way with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us, with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us; and keep us in God's grace, and guide us when perplexed, and free us from all ills in this world and the next.

All praise and thanks to God, who reigns in highest heaven, to Father and to Son and Spirit now be given: the one eternal God, whom heaven and earth adore, the God who was, and is, and shall be evermore.

Hymn

God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending

**BEACH SPRING** 

God, whose giving knows no ending, from your rich and endless store, nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom, costly cross, grave's shattered door: gifted by you, we turn to you, offering up ourselves in praise; thankful song shall rise forever, gracious donor of our days.

Skills and time are ours for pressing toward the goals of Christ, your Son: all at peace in health and freedom, races joined, the church made one. Now direct our daily labor, lest we strive for self alone. Born with talents make us servants fit to answer at your throne.

Treasure, too, you have entrusted, gain through powers your grace conferred: ours to use for home and kindred, and to spread the gospel word. Open wide our hands in sharing, as we heed Christ's ageless call, healing, teaching, and reclaiming, serving you by loving all.

Copyright permissions - CCLI License #20674929, One License #A-727534

God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending – Text: Robert L. Edwards, © 1961, ren. 1989 The Hymn Society (admin. Hope Publishing Company).