

HARVESTING HOPE

March 23rd
2025



Rev. Dr. Tanya Sadagopan, Minister

South Congregational Church, UCC
27 Pleasant St. Concord, NH 03301
603-224-2521
www.southchurchconcord.org

*Welcome to South Congregational Church, United Church of Christ!
Whoever you are, whatever your faith tradition, whatever creed you
profess, whatever your age, ability, race, sexual orientation or gender
expression: You Are Welcome Here!*

PRELUDE

There Is a Balm in Gilead

arr. Bill Ingram
Memorial Bells

WORDS OF WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Sally Bird

When the seeds once planted finally sprout and mature,
then it is time for the harvest.

We are ready to gather the abundance shared with us.

What shall we do with the bounty God has provided for us?

**We will enjoy what we have been given and share our
plenty with others.**

The harvest reminds us to work, to enjoy, and then to rest.

**God provides us with enough so that we can let love
rise!**

*HYMN #238

Now the Green Blade Rises (v. 1, 3, 4)

Now the Green Blade Rises

238

John M. C. Crum, 1928; alt.

Matt. 27:57-28:7; Luke 23:50-24:12

1 Now the green blade ris - es from the bur - ied grain;
2 In the grave they laid their Love whom hate had slain,
3 Christ came forth at Eas - ter, like the ris - en grain,
4 When our hearts are win - try, griev - ing, or in pain,

Wheat that in dark earth for man - y days has lain;
Think - ing that their Love would nev - er wake a - gain,
Je - sus, who for three days in the grave had lain,
Christ's warm touch can call us back to life a - gain,

Love lives a - gain, that with the dead has been:
Laid in the earth like grain that sleeps un - seen:
Quick from the dead the ris - en One is seen:
Fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been:

Refrain
Love is come a - gain like wheat that ris - es green.

UNISON PRAYER

Sally Bird

Generous God, we confess that we enjoy the fruits of the harvest but we forget that abundance comes from You. We acknowledge the times when we have become full and satisfied but we ignored those in need around us. We recognize that it is easy for us to become tempted to store up more than we need. God of the Harvest, remind us that You provide us with a generous portion of all that we need. As we harvest the grains of what will become the bread of life, we ask You to bless our work here together. If our pantries are full, then help us to share with others in need. If we are hungry, either in body or spirit, then fill us with all good things. Let this time of worship be like manna from heaven for our wounded souls and a reminder of the abundance of Your crops in our lives. In Jesus' name. Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

May the peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**
Let us pass the peace of Christ to one another.

CHORAL ANTHEM

Come and Share Our Bread

by Tom Council

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Exodus 16:2-6 (p. 55)

Sally Bird

SCRIPTURE LESSON Exodus 16:2-6 (p. 55) Sally Bird

A MESSAGE FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN

SCRIPTURE LESSON Ruth 2:1-12; 17-20 (p. 211)

SERMON Harvesting Hope

*HYMN #425 For the Fruit of All Creation (v. 1-3)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father-Mother in Heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Yours is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

AN INVITATION TO GENEROSITY

Virtual offering plate: bit.ly/SouthUCC. Other options include using the "Donate" button on the website, or mailing/dropping off a check to the office. Thinking of remembering your church in your estate? Please contact Planned Giving.

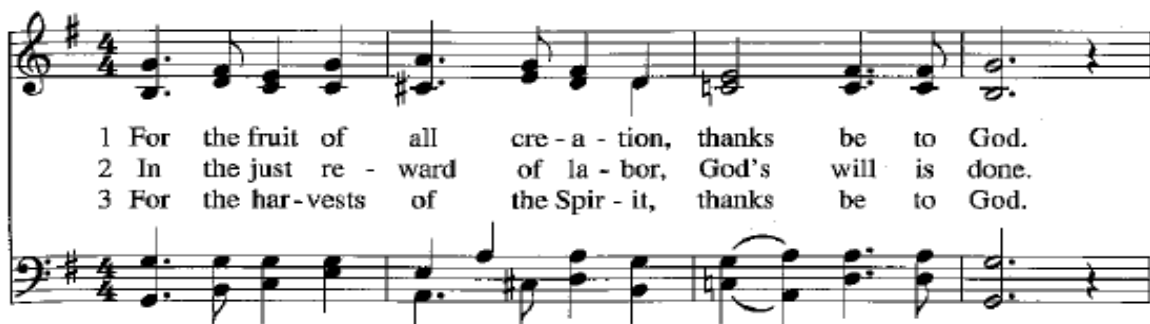


OFFERTORY Quiet Reflection by Jason W. Krug
Memorial Bells

For the Fruit of All Creation

425

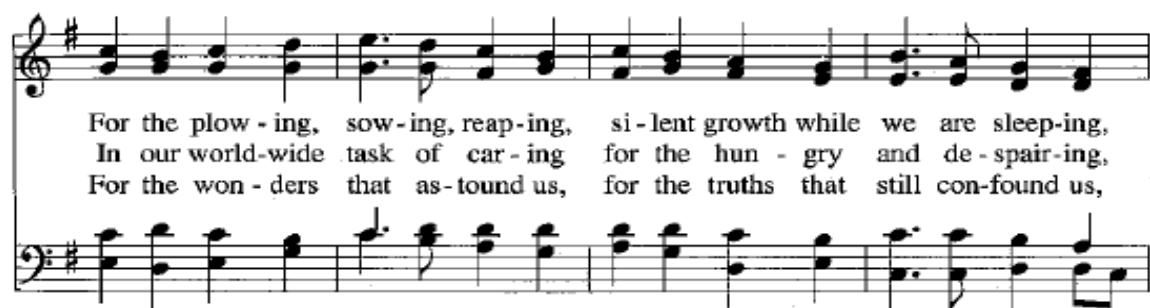
Fred Pratt Green, 1970



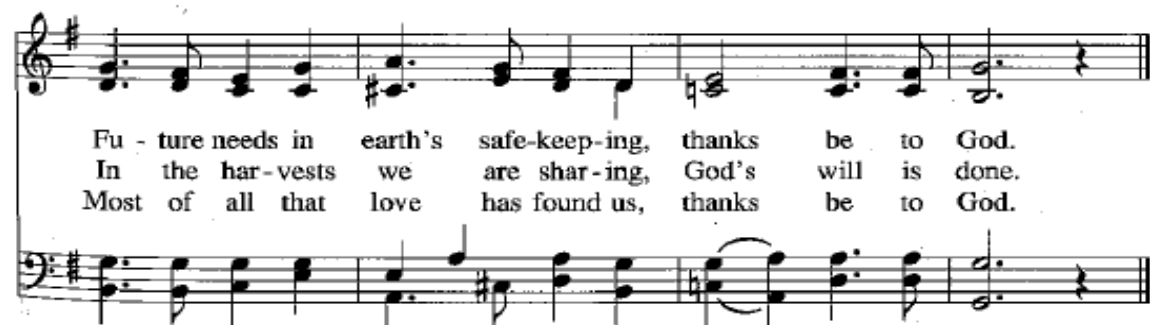
1 For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.
2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will is done.
3 For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God.



For God's gifts to ev - ery na - tion, thanks be to God,
In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will is done.
For the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God.



For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are sleep - ing,
In our world - wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry and de - spair - ing,
For the won - ders that as - tound us, for the truths that still con - found us,



Fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.
In the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will is done.
Most of all that love has found us, thanks be to God.

Sois la Semilla

(You Are the Seed)

Matt. 13:24-30, 33, 36-43; 5:13-16; 28:18-20

Cesáreo Gabaráin, 1979; alt.

Transl. Raquel Gutiérrez-Achón and Skinner Chávez-Melo, 1987; alt.

Unison D A7 Bm D

1 Sois la se - mi - lla que ha de cre - cer, sois es -
 Sois la ma - ña - na que vuel - ve a na - cer sois es -
 1 You are the seed that will grow a new sprout; you're a
 You are the dawn that will bring a new day; you're the

G G6 A7 D A

tre - lla que ha de bri - llar. Sois le - va - du - ra, sois
 pi - ga que em - pie - za a gra - nar. Sois a - gui - jón y ca -
 star that will shine through the day; You are the yeast and a
 wheat that will bear gold - en grain; You are a sting and a

Bm G D G6 A7 D

gra - no de sal, an - tor - cha que de - be a - lum - brar.
 ri - cia a la vez, tes - ti - gos que voy a en - viar.
 small grain of salt, a bea - con to glow in the night.
 soft, gen - tle touch, my wit - ness - es wher - e'er you go.

Estrillo (Refrain) A D G A7

Id, a - mi - gas, por el mun - do, a - nun - cian - do el a -
 Sed, a - mi - gos, mis tes - ti - gos de mi re - su - rec -
 Go, my friends, go to the world, pro - claim - ing love to
 Be, my friends, a loy - al wit - ness, from the dead I a -

mor, men - sa - je - ras de la ví - da,
ción. Id lle - van - do mi pre - sen - cia;
all, mes - sen - gers of my for - giv - ing peace,
rose; "Lo, I'll be with you for - ev - er,

de la paz y el per - dón. con u - ste - des es - toy.
e - ter - nal love. till the end of the world."

- 3 You are the life that will nur-ture the plant;
you're the waves in a tur-bu-lent sea;
yes-ter-day's yeast is be-gin-ning to rise,
a new loaf of bread it will yield.
There is no place for a cit-y to hide,
nor a moun-tain can cov-er its might;
may your good deeds
show a world in de-spair
a path that will lead all to God.

Refrain

Minister: Rev. Dr. Tanya Sadagopan
Pianist: Abigail Charbeneau
Music Director: Sue Berlenbach
Memorial Bells Director: Carlene Ruesenberg
Zoom Technician: Sarah DeFreitas
Sexton: Walt Irvine

Today's Participants

Ushers: Lorens Jorgensen and Clara Jorgensen,
Diana Zeller-Norris
Lay Leader: Sally Bird
Counting and Deposits: Tom Fahey and Lorens Jorgensen
Assistive Listening Technician: Suzanne Winchester

Pastoral Care Phone: 603-513-8331

Assistive Listening: Having difficulty hearing in the sanctuary? An Assistive Listening Assistant is at the back of the sanctuary and would be glad to help.

REMINDER: Using your hearing aids and “Listen Everywhere” smartphone app? Turn your Hearing Aid volume DOWN and Phone volume UP.

Office Hours: 9:00am-5:00pm,
Monday through Friday.

If you have Prayer Requests, please fill out the yellow bookmarks in the pew in front of you. These can be placed in the basket next to the pulpit.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Moment for Mission: The Faith in Action Ministry has chosen **Thrive Survival Support Center** (formerly The Crisis Center) for the March Moment for Mission. Thrive provides life-changing services throughout Merrimack County to survivors of domestic and sexual violence, abuse, stalking, and human trafficking.

Faith in Action is seeking donations of the following items for Thrive: **feminine hygiene products, razors, and shaving cream.** The Thrive collection box can be found in the front of the sanctuary. Thank you!

Become a Climate Hope Affiliate!: The UCC is launching new chapters (Climate Hope Affiliates) to help accelerate both local and national action on the interconnected crises of climate change and societal injustice. On **Monday, March 24th from 7:00-8:30pm**, learn about this initiative at the NHCUCC Conference Center in Pembroke, NH, from UCC Eco-Justice Minister Rev. Dr. Brooks Berndt. For more information or to RSVP, please call Sue Moore at *(508) 735-7820*.

CFCS Annual Members' Dinner: The Concord Female Charitable Society (CFCS) will have its annual dinner on **Tuesday, April 8th at 5:30pm** in Boscawen, NH. This event is open to CFCS members and their partners—**join CFCS for just \$1 for a year, or \$10 for a lifetime membership!** Tickets cost \$25 and include a full turkey dinner and musical entertainment by the Ukulele Sisters. Please RSVP with Eileen Jones by **April 1st** by calling her at *(603) 731-0302*.

Celebrating 100 Years of The Keene Women's Fellowship: The Women's Fellowship of the United Church of Christ in Keene, NH, is proud to be celebrating its first centennial! For 100 years, the Fellowship has made it its mission to promote Christian Fellowship and to unite women in effective work for the Church, the community, and the world.

On Sunday, May 11th at 10am, all are invited to a special worship service and reception conducted exclusively by the women of the Church, featuring hymns of praise by female composers. For more information, visit *ucckeene.org*

Finding Inner Peace in Tumultuous Times: Sponsored by the Worship and Spiritual Life Committee, Wisdom Way creates a space of quiet and reflection for individuals to find solace amidst a tumultuous, clamorous world. The group will convene from **10am to 11:30am** for silent sitting and walking meditations, followed by mindful conversation about “how is it with your soul.” Gatherings are every fourth Friday beginning on **March 28th** in the library in the church basement; all are welcome.

Craft a Part of South Church!: If you have some basic woodworking skills and equipment, the Guild and Worship & Spiritual Life ministries would like your help crafting communion cup holders to be attached to the pews. 3-4 people are needed to each make 20-25 cup holders. All you need is a hobbyist's skill level to participate and a willingness to source your own materials. For details and specifications, please contact Lynne Morgan at *ldarcymorgan@gmail.com*.

Registration Open For Star Island: Star Island, a beautiful isle located off the coast of Rye, NH, is now accepting registrations for its summer conferences and gatherings! Star Island offers individuals and families a broad array of workshops, outdoor programs, and recreational activities, as well as three UCC conferences. For more information on dates and pricing, please visit www.starisland.org.