



**First Congregational Church UCC** - Founded 1812  
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ellsworthucc.org facebook.com/fccellsworth

*Come with hope or despair, expectation, or disappointment,  
and seek God even as God seeks you.*

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**ORDER OF WORSHIP  
SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

**September 17 2023**

**10 a.m.**

*Hearing devices and large print hymnals are available—  
please ask an usher if you require them.*

*Thank you for turning off electronic devices before worship begins.*

*\*Please stand if you are able.*

RINGING THE BELL

9:45 a.m.

LIGHTING THE CANDLES

PRELUDE

*Prayer for Peace  
My Jesus, I Love Thee / I Love You, Lord*

Taylor  
arr. Page

WELCOME

CHORAL INTROIT *Come Touch Our Hearts*

Light

Come touch our souls that we may know and love you,  
Your quiet presence all our fears dispel;  
Create a space for spirit to grow in us  
Let life and beauty fill us, come touch and bless our souls.

\*CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively)

Psalm 100

One: Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth.

**All: Serve the LORD with gladness; come into his presence with singing.**

One: Know that the LORD is God, it is he who made us, and we are his;

**All: We are his people and the sheep of his pasture.**

One: Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise.

**All: Give thanks to him; bless his name.**

One: For the LORD is good;

**All: His steadfast love endures forever and his faithfulness to all generations.**

\*HYMN

*O For a thousand tongues to sing*

5

\*OPENING PRAYER (unison)

from Ephesians 3:16-19

**O merciful and generous God, may we be strengthened in our inner being with power through your Spirit, may Christ dwell in our hearts through faith, may we be rooted and grounded in love, may we know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, may we be filled with all your fullness. Amen.**

CHILDREN'S TIME FOR ALL AGES

THE LORD'S PRAYER (unison)

**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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. 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 ANTHEM *Come, Follow Me* Kupferschmid

“Come, follow me,” said the Lord. “Be at peace within my care. Be as a child. Show me your need. Take my hand, and I will lead.”  
“Come, follow me,” said the Lord. “Leave your worldly cares behind. Free as a bird soaring above, filled with my forgiving love. And share the love you feel this day with all whose hurt you find. If all do so, then love will flow through all mankind.”

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison)

**O God, please open your Word to us this day, and open us to your Word. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Pentateuch	Genesis 50:15-21	p. 45 OT
Psalm	Psalm 103:6-13	p.517 OT
Gospel	Matthew 18:21-35	p.17 NT

SERMON **Forgive from Your Heart** Rev. Henry

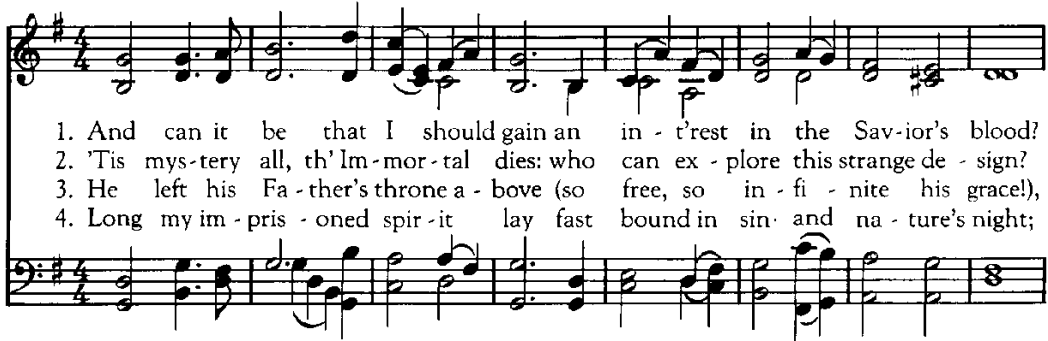
\*HYMN *And can it be that I should gain* bulletin p.4 →

# And Can It Be That I Should Gain

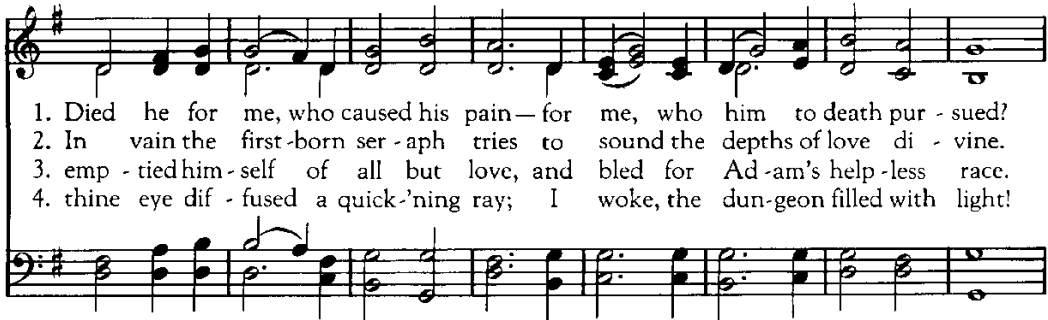
Second Tune.

SAGINA, 8.8.8.8.88 with refrain

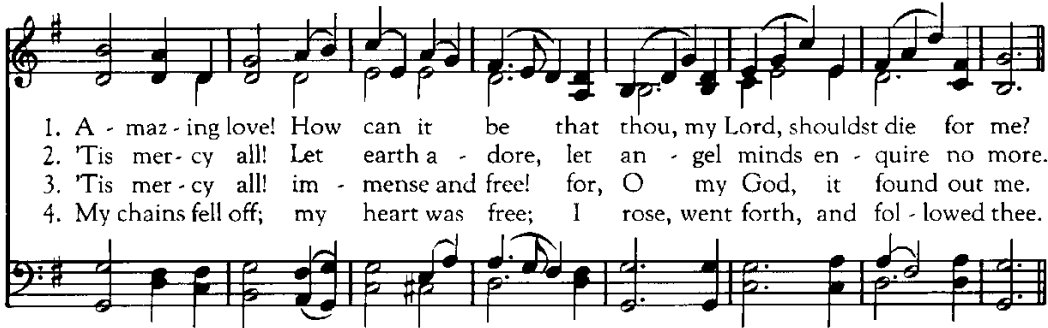
Thomas Campbell, 1825



1. And can it be that I should gain an in - t'rest in the Sav - ior's blood?  
2. 'Tis mys - tery all, th' Im - mor - tal dies: who can ex - plore this strange de - sign?  
3. He left his Fa - ther's throne a - bove (so free, so in - fi - nite his grace!),  
4. Long my im - pris - oned spir - it lay fast bound in sin - and na - ture's night;

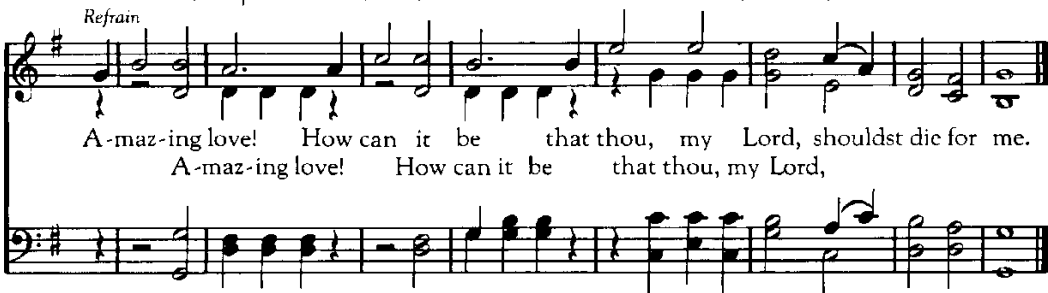


1. Died he for me, who caused his pain — for me, who him to death pur - sued?  
2. In vain the first - born ser - aph tries to sound the depths of love di - vine.  
3. emp - tied him - self of all but love, and bled for Ad - am's help - less race.  
4. thine eye dif - fused a quick - ning ray; I woke, the dun - geon filled with light!



1. A - maz - ing love! How can it be that thou, my Lord, shouldst die for me?  
2. 'Tis mer - cy all! Let earth a - dore, let an - gel minds en - quire no more.  
3. 'Tis mer - cy all! im - mense and free! for, O my God, it found out me.  
4. My chains fell off; my heart was free; I rose, went forth, and fol - lowed thee.

*Refrain.*



A - maz - ing love! How can it be that thou, my Lord, shouldst die for me.  
A - maz - ing love! How can it be that thou, my Lord,

5. No condemnation now I dread; Jesus, and all in him, is mine!  
Alive in him, my living Head, and clothed in righteousness divine,  
bold I approach th'eternal throne, and claim the crown, through Christ, my own.

## MORNING PRAYERS

Joys & Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

Prayer for those Celebrating Birthdays: Andy

Choral Response

*Amen*

Robinson

## OFFERING OUR GIFTS & TITHES

OFFERTORY

*My Life is in You, Lord*

Gardner

\*DOXOLOGY

46

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

\*HYMN

*They'll Know We Are Christians*

494

## BENEDICTION

CHORAL RESPONSE

*Depart in peace*

POSTLUDE

*To God Be the Glory*

arr. Krug

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*Come Touch Our Hearts*, words & music Gordon Light ©2002 Common Cup Company  
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*Come, Follow Me*, words & music Elly & Steve Kupferschmid © 1988 Harold Flammer Inc.  
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*And can it be*, words Charles Wesley 1738, tune SAGINA Thomas Campbell 1825 | Public Domain



Artist: Alexis  
Age: 15  
Congregation: Trinity United Church of Christ, St. Louis MO

# Behold!

*"God saw everything God made and behold, it was very good." Genesis 1:31*

## Mayflower United Church of Christ practices what it preaches.

It called for divestment from fossil fuels, and Mayflower Foundation became one of the first church organizations to invest in the Beyond Fossil Fuels fund of United Church Funds. It authored a resolution for General Synod that champions electrification to transition from fossil fuels to combat climate change, and it has committed itself to becoming a carbon neutral church by 2030. You can see the congregation's commitment to caring for God's creation in its 204 solar panels, its pollinator garden, its protests against fossil fuel pipelines, and its regard for Earth Sunday as a high holy day like Easter and Christmas. Get inspired by watching this video about Mayflower's commitments to creation justice: <https://bit.ly/MayflowerInspiration>



## Prayer

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Dear God,

Each day we behold the beauty and goodness of all that you have created.

Each day we breathe in your air, drink your water, and enjoy your fields of harvest.

We rejoice and give thanks for the gifts of your creation!

Amen.

## Litany of Wonder

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**Leader:** Let us behold the wonders of creation. Let us marvel at the infinite artistry of nature.

**People:** Let our senses take it all in: each tree, each flower, each blade of grass.

**Leader:** All around us are gifts that have been bestowed upon us by God.

**People:** Today, we renew our spirits and fill our hearts with gratitude

Behold!

**With your generous support, The United Church of Christ, thorough the **Neighbors in Need Special Mission Offering**, helps its members live out their beliefs via acts of service.**

**Please donate today!**

**For more resources and to share and learn best practices for environmental justice, visit**

**[ucc.org/nin](http://ucc.org/nin)**

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Two-thirds of your donations to NIN support advocacy, programming, and grants. One-third of your generous gifts directly support CAIM.

**[www.ucc.org/nin](http://www.ucc.org/nin). Thank You!**



*Our purpose,  
First Congregational Church, UCC, Ellsworth, Maine:  
To embrace the life, ministry and teachings of Jesus Christ  
In meaningful and dynamic ways through  
creative worship,  
supportive fellowship,  
compassionate outreach, and  
stimulating Christian education for all ages;  
To be a faithful community which, led by the Holy Spirit,  
expresses hospitality,  
nurtures spiritual growth, and  
promotes a deep sense of belonging;  
To strive to build on commonalities while seeking to  
understand, accept, and  
celebrate our differences;  
To stand as a beacon of hope in a hurting and troubled world by  
sharing the Good News of the Gospel, and  
practicing God's love as embodied by Jesus Christ.  
*We welcome all to walk with us on the journey of faith.**

*As adopted by the Congregation at its Annual Meeting – January 22, 2012*