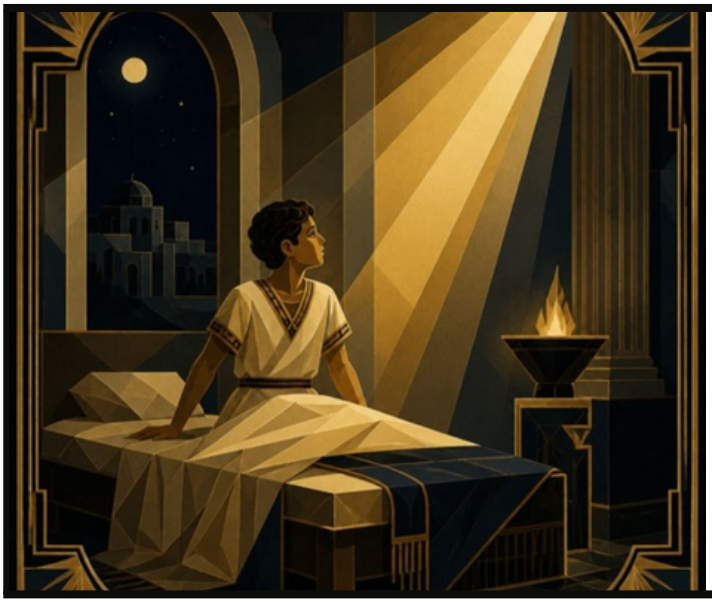


October 18, 2026

"Callings – Invitations to Reveal"

Welcome!
We encourage wearing name tags.
Restrooms: main level (exit front left), lower level (at foot of entry stair/elevator)

Gathering Music

Ringing of the Bell

Prelude & Candle Lighting "I Lift My Hands" *Tomlin/Giglio/Maker*
...quietly acknowledging the light of Christ among us

Words of Welcome & Announcements

One Whoever we are and wherever we are on our life journey –
All **We are welcome here – beloved within the body of God**

Singing Bowl *...centering ourselves in stillness and breath*

Opening Words from a Neighbor

**indicates sitting or standing*
NCH = New Century Hymnal SPP = Sing! Prayer and Praise

***Gathering Prayer** (*responsive*)

Something made the hairs stand up on our necks. Was it you, O God?
Was it you that we saw blowing over the water?

Was it you that we heard in those steps?
Was it you that we felt in the beating of our own hearts?

Was it you that called our names?
Come, O God. Come to search us. Come to know us again.

We were knit in your womb. We have tried to count your works.
Come, O God, so that we can hear you calling our names. Here and now. Amen.

***Opening Hymn (NCH #495)** "Called as Partners in Christ's Service"

Prayer of Confession and Longing (*unison*)

God of all, we recognize that we hurt others and ourselves, that we avoid confronting uncomfortable realities, that we inflict hurt in reaction to our own hurt. We confess our sins, knowing we sometimes miss the mark of love.

Even as we confess our failures, we feel your loving presence continuing to fill our lives. Wash over us with your Spirit. Make us strong and tender – that we may live more fully as you would have us live. In the name of Jesus, your Christ, we pray. Amen.

Musical Interlude *...to accompany our quiet prayers*

Assurance of Grace

The peace of Christ be with you! **And also with you!**

Passing the Peace *(seated)*

...smiles and gestures of peace - to those online and seated near us

Solo "Beautiful City" *Stephen Schwartz*

Sung Invitation *...as young people come forward*

This little light of mine...

Singing "Happy Birthday"

BJ Stokes (10/18), **Kaira** Bettin (10/18), **Sarah** Thorson (10/19),
Finley Hintze-Graf (10/21 - 7 yrs), **Walter** Richey (10/21), **Chris** Bordeaux (10/21)

Wondering Together

Blessing One Another *...with arms wide open*

Young Ones: God be with you **All: And also with you**

Sung Affirmation *...as young people depart or return to families*

Ev'rywhere I go...

Sunday School | *Children (age 3 - gr. 4) can go downstairs with Mary*
Youth Group | *Youth (gr. 5-12) can go with Eli'jah to our downstairs Youth Room*
Nursery | *Families with infants & toddlers are welcome to use the downstairs nursery*
We welcome the sounds and movements of children who stay in worship!

Reading from the Old Testament | *NRSV, p. 247* 1 Samuel 3:1-21

Ancient words can speak to us today. **We listen for our still speaking God.**

Contemporary Reading | *Kate Lore* "What Are We So Afraid Of?"

God speaks wisdom through our neighbors. **May we be moved by what we hear.**

Morning Message "Callings - Invitations to Reveal"

Prayer Song (insert) "O Come, Take Heart"

Prayers of the People

We share aloud prayers for ourselves, others, and parts of the world
Please tell Pastor Clare if you prefer yours not be added to our printed Prayer Corner

...God, in your love **Hear our prayer**

Prayer of Jesus

We use several versions of this prayer, faithfully expressed across the ages

O Great Spirit, our Parent from above, your name is sacred and holy.
Bring your good road to us, where the beauty of your ways
in the spirit-world above is reflected in the earth below.
Provide for us day by day — the elk, the buffalo, and the salmon.
The corn, the squash, and the wild rice.
All the things we need for each day.
Release us from the things we have done wrong,
in the same way we release others for the things done wrong to us.
Guide us away from the things that tempt us to stray from your good road. Amen.

Shared Ministry Inventory

We invite all members and friends into this inventory as an annual practice.
Place your inventory in a basket at either exit as you depart. Thank you!

Invitation to the Offering

We give by cash, check, or electronically (scan the QR code)
Blue electronic giving cards are in pew pockets

We can hover a hand over the plate as it passes - to bless gifts of time, talent and money

Offertory "What Gift Can We Bring" *Marshall*

***Song of Thanks**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God above, you heavenly host;
Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***Prayer of Dedication**

***Closing Hymn (SPP #123)** "Draw the Circle Wide"

***Benediction**

***Sending Song** *...forming a circle*

"Carry This All" *by Alexandra Blakely*

sung three times

You do not carry this all alone.
No, you do not carry this all alone.
This is way too big for you to carry this on your own,
So, you do not carry this all alone.

***Parting Music** *...as we greet one another*

Today following worship:
all are welcome to longer for refreshments and good company!



Adult Forum

TODAY | 11 am

This morning, we begin a study of Christians in Palestine, "A Moment of Truth--Faith in a Time of Genocide." Come join us and learn about the descendents of the first church.

PRAYER CORNER

*With Wendy Heurung, we pray for the **local 11-year old boy** who is in critical condition after an accident between his electric scooter and a car.

*With Pastor Clare, prayers for **Sam Gromoll** as he adjusts to new back and ACL braces. May he continue to be blessed with resilience and strength of spirit as he faces these challenges.

*With Sheryl Anderson, prayers for the family of grand-goddaughter, **Monica Joy**, who was killed 3 years ago due to gun violence. For comfort as they remember, miss, and celebrate her life.

*With Sharri Kinkead, gratitude for the beautiful service last Saturday to celebrate the life of **Delores Davis**.

Neighbors in Need Special Offering

October 11 - 25th

Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a Special Mission Offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion in the United States.

The Neighbors in Need offering supports ministries of justice and compassion, with one-third of the offering given to the Council for American Indian Ministries and the remaining two-thirds supporting UCC justice ministries. In 2025 the Neighbors in Need Offering supported 26 grant recipients across the UCC who were engaged in projects of direct service and advocacy.

Envelopes available in your bulletin, or in the entryway.

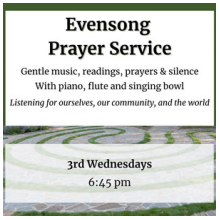


Connecting with the Word - *"Callings" is our Oct. worship theme!*

Wednesday, Oct. 21st | 11 am *@ church & Zoom*

Come any Wednesday to explore the biblical and contemporary readings for the coming Sunday. We examine each passage, wonder about its meaning, and discover connections to our own faith journeys.

Please let Pastor Clare know if you plan to Zoom.



Evensong Service

Wednesday, Oct. 21st | 6:45 pm *@ church*

Gentle music, readings, prayers & silence
With piano, flute and singing bowl
Listening for ourselves, our community, and the world



Conversations from the Heart

Thursday, Oct. 22nd | 10 am & 6:30 pm *@ church*

The Welcome and Care Team invites you to an opportunity to get to know fellow St. Croix United Church friends on Thursday, Oct. 22nd at 10 am and 6:30 pm.

Join us for a time of conversation and chance to foster deeper personal connections within our church community. All are welcome!



Congregational Forum - Properties

Sunday, Nov. 1st | 11 am

Members of St. Croix United Church are invited to attend an informational meeting regarding our church properties on November 1 at 11:00 a.m. in the church basement.

Representatives from Flourish Placemaking Collective (our consultant) and our Church Properties Task Force will be present to share the results of the recent congregational survey, provide updates on their work, and answer questions from members of the congregation.

Please note that this meeting is for informational purposes only. No proposal will be presented, and no vote will be taken at this meeting. An official congregational meeting, at which a proposal will be presented and a congregational vote conducted, will be scheduled for a later date.

We strongly encourage all interested members to attend, learn more about the survey findings and building-related discussions, and participate in the question-and-answer session.



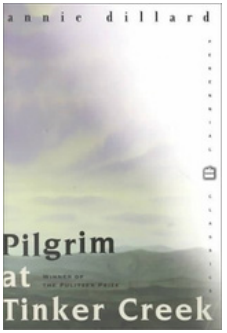
Vigil for Our Democracy - *mark your calendar*

Monday, November 2nd

Gather with neighbors in our Sanctuary on the eve of Election Day. We will lift up the well-being of our democracy through music, spoken word, and resource sharing.

A light reception will follow in the Fellowship Hall.

Contact Pastor Clare to help with music, reading, or hospitality.



Faith & Spirit Book Club - *mark your calendar*

Thursday, November 12th | 6 pm

Pilgrim at Tinker Creek by Annie Dilliard

"A personal narrative highlighting one year's exploration on foot in the author's own neighborhood in Tinker Creek, VA. In the summer, Dillard stalks muskrats in the creek & contemplates wave mechanics; in the fall she watches a monarch butterfly migration & dreams of Arctic caribou. She tries to con a coot; she collects pond water & examines it under a microscope. She unties a snake skin, witnesses a flood, & plays 'King of the Meadow' with a field of grasshoppers."

Valley Bookseller in Stillwater has copies for 15% off!



Week at a Glance

Connecting With the Word | **Oct. 21, 11 am** | @ Church & Zoom
FREE Community Meal | **Oct. 21, 5:30 pm** | @ Church
Teen Time | **Oct. 21, 6 pm** | @ Church
Evensong Service | **Oct. 21, 6:45 pm** | @ Church

Conversations from the Heart| **Oct. 22, 10 am** | @ Church
Conversations from the Heart | **Oct. 22, 6:30 pm** | @ Church



All Saints Sunday - *mark your calendar for* **November 1st**

We're collecting names of those we want to honor on All Saints Day during worship. We will say and light a candle for each name.

Please email Megan with names you'd like to remember during this special service by Tuesday, Oct. 27th.

Thank you to today's partners: Sharon Neuenfeldt (Worship Accompanist), Lori Mildon (flute), David Kirstein & Gary Piasecki (ushers), Sharri Kinkead (greeter & altar flowers), Cheri Schwartz (liturgist), Betsy Runke (soloist), St. Croix United Choir, Gina Buberl, Arly Fuhr & Sarah Thorson (fellowship), Paul Spilseth, Bob Dickie & Mark Stephan (tech team), Jackie Savage (sanctuary organizer), Mary Piasecki (children's activity)

St. Croix United Church
www.stcroixunitedchurch.org @SCUCBayport

Pastor Clare Gromoll
pastor@stcroixunitedchurch.org, (651) 600-6409

Megan Adams | Office Coordinator
office@stcroixunitedchurch.org, (651) 439-5667
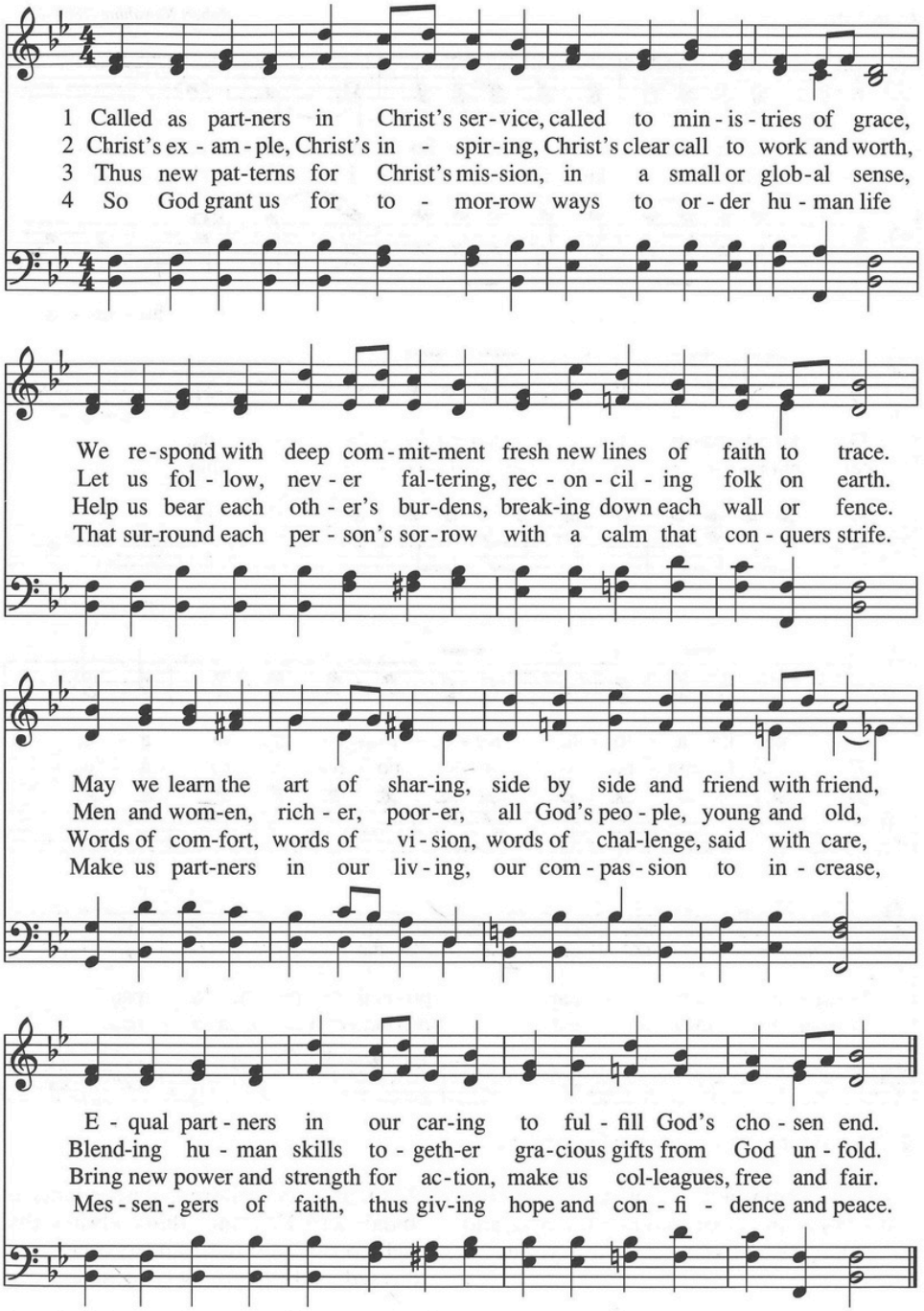
Eli'jah Carroll | Youth Coordinator
youth@stcroixunitedchurch.org, (920) 650-1225

Heather Kennedy-Bordeaux | Music Director
(651) 470-1502

CCREDITS & PERMISSIONS | **Gathering Prayer** Copyright 2020 Faith INFO Ministry Team, United Church of Christ, 700 Prospect Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44115-1100. Permission granted to reproduce or adapt this material for use in services of worship or church education. All publishing rights reserved. **Prayer of Confession & Longing** adapted by permission of the publishers from *Touch Holiness*, ed. Ruth C. Duck and Maren C. Tirabassi. Copyright © 1990 by The Pilgrim Press. **Prayer of Jesus**, First Nations Version: An Indigenous Translation of the New Testament. Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE with license #A-703858. All rights reserved.

Called as Partners in Christ's Service 495

Jane Parker Huber, 1981 *John 15:12–17; Gal. 6:2; Eph. 2:14–22*



One of Jane Parker Huber's most widely sung texts, this hymn was originally written for a women's breakfast at the 1981 Presbyterian General Assembly meeting to celebrate the partnership of women and men in service of the church.
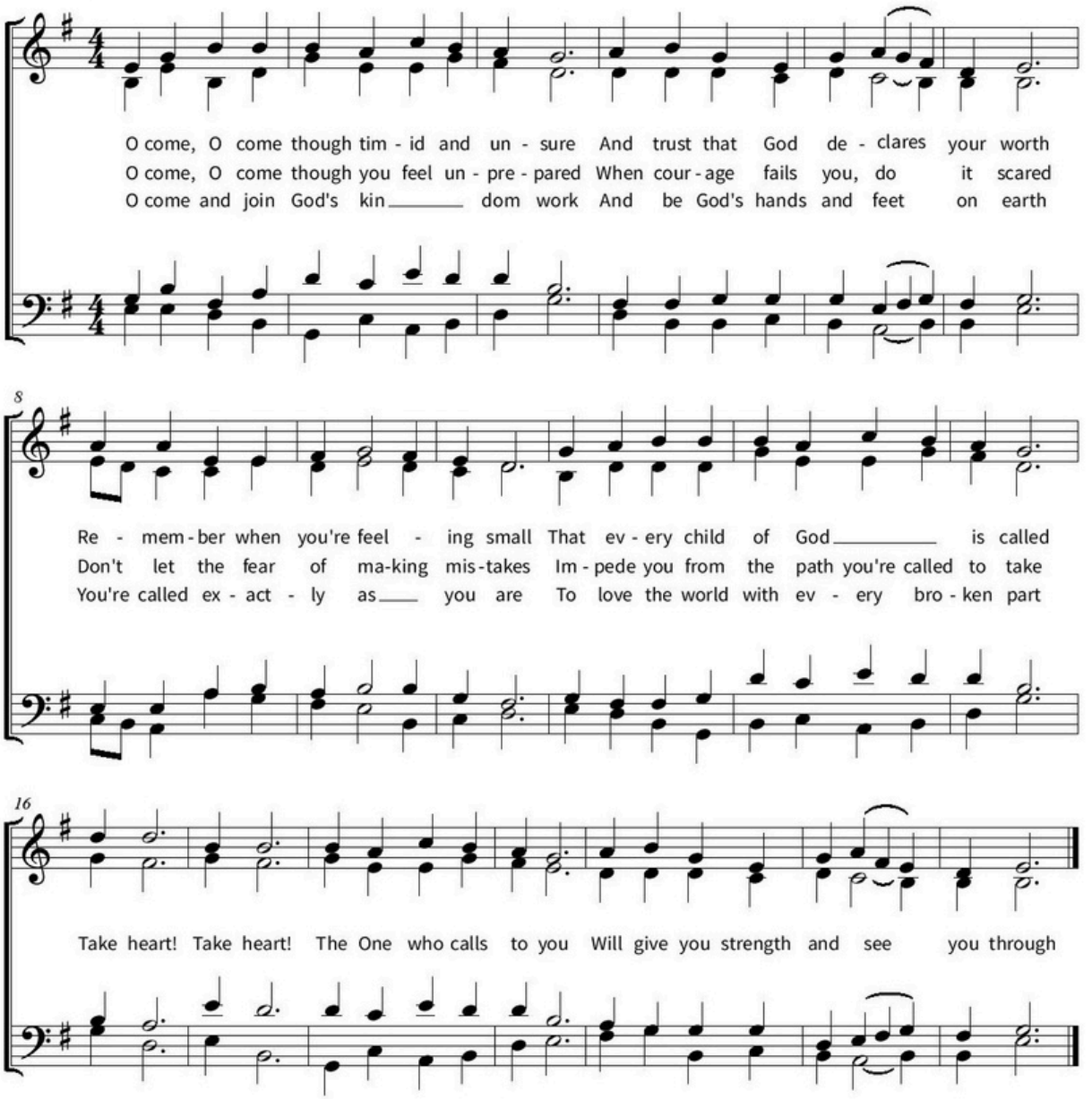
Tune: BEECHER 8.7.8.7.D.
John Zundel, 1855
For another key, see 43, 368

O Come, Take Heart

VENI EMMANUEL 8.8.8.8 with refrain
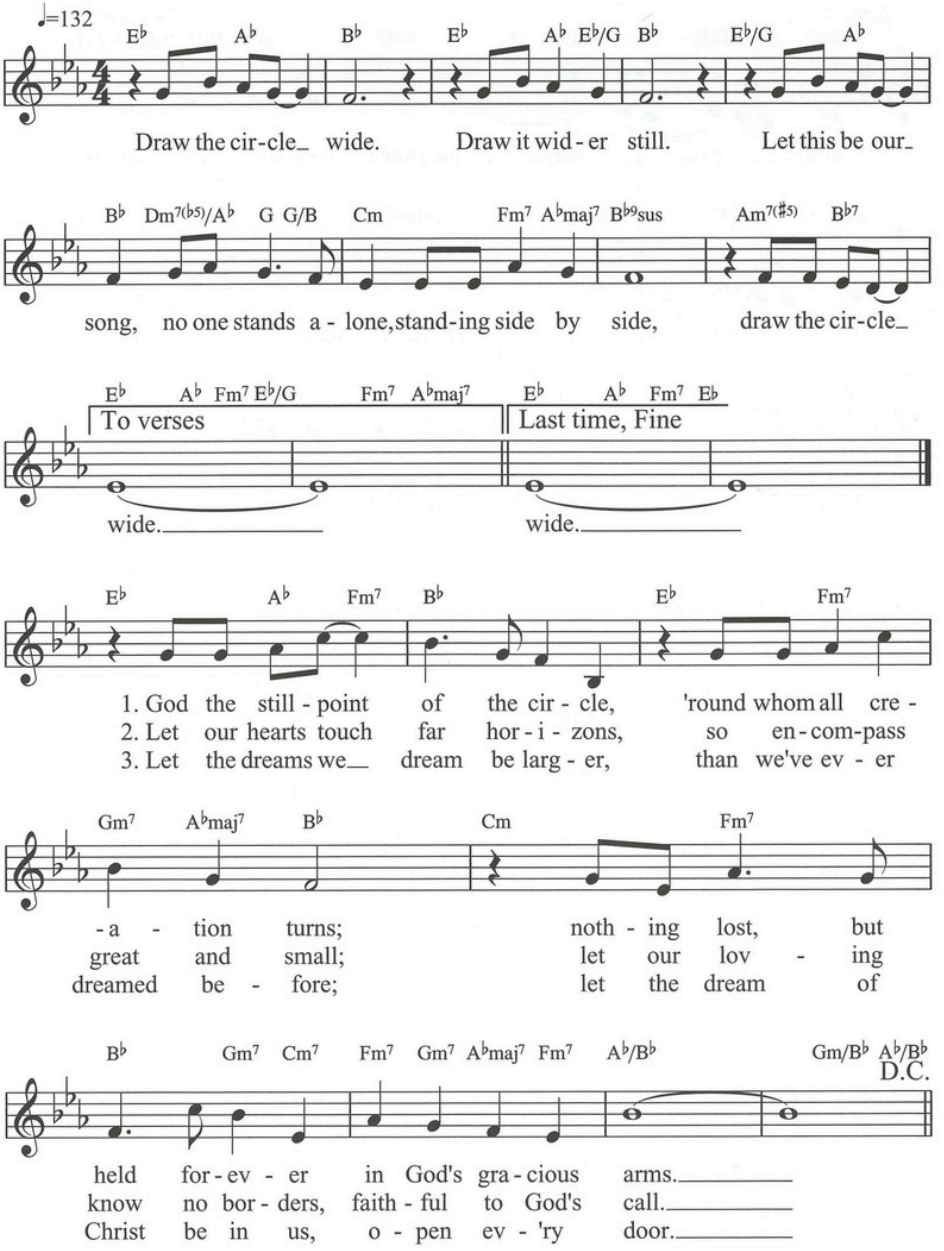
Words by Anna Strickland, 2025

Plainsong adapted by Thomas Helmore, 1854



© Anna Strickland, 2025. Commissioned by A Sanctified Art, LLC

123 Draw the Circle Wide



Words and Music: Gordon Light, Copyright ©1994 Common Cup Company, www.commoncup.com.
All rights reserved. Used by permission.
This arrangement: Michael Bloss, Copyright ©1998 Wood Lake Books. All rights reserved. Used by permission.