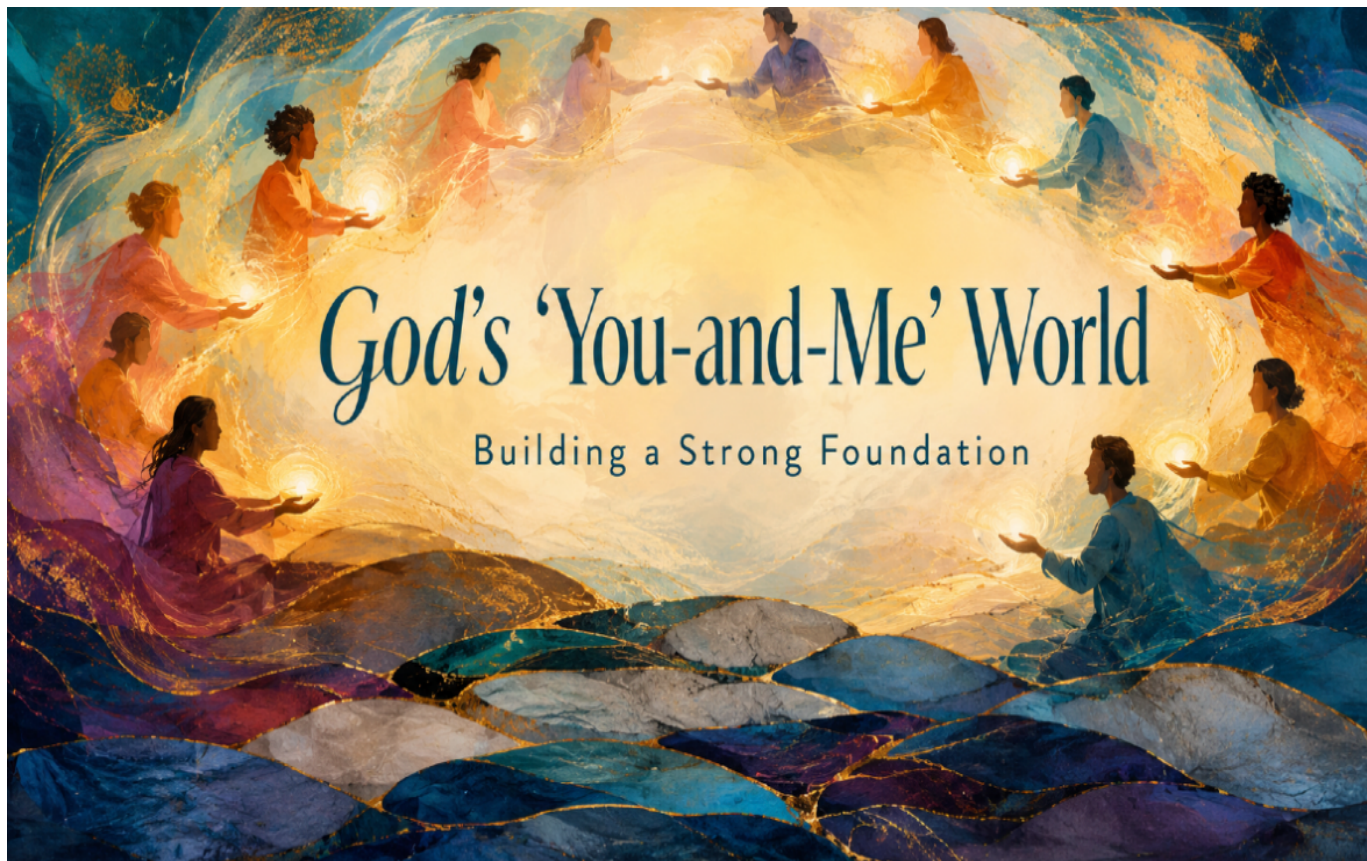




Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost
August 23, 2026

Dr. Rev. Barbara Dickason, BCC

United in Christ's love, a just world for all!

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 23, 2026

Singing Prelude

Walk with Me

Rice

**Walk with me, I will walk with you
and build the land that God has planned
where love shines through.**

Welcome and Announcements

We Approach God's Presence

Meditation/Bringing in the Light of Christ

Rock of Ages

Hastings

Responsive Call to Worship

John Yahres

Jesus asks, "Who do you say that I am?"

You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.

Christ calls us into relationship with one another—

to share the gifts entrusted to us,

and to build together a world where all may flourish.

We come to offer ourselves to God and to one another.

Christ is building a community where scarcity does not separate us

and difference does not divide us.

We come, choosing to be a part of God's "you-and-me" world.

Come, living stones, gifted and beloved — and give thanks to God!

***Hymn**

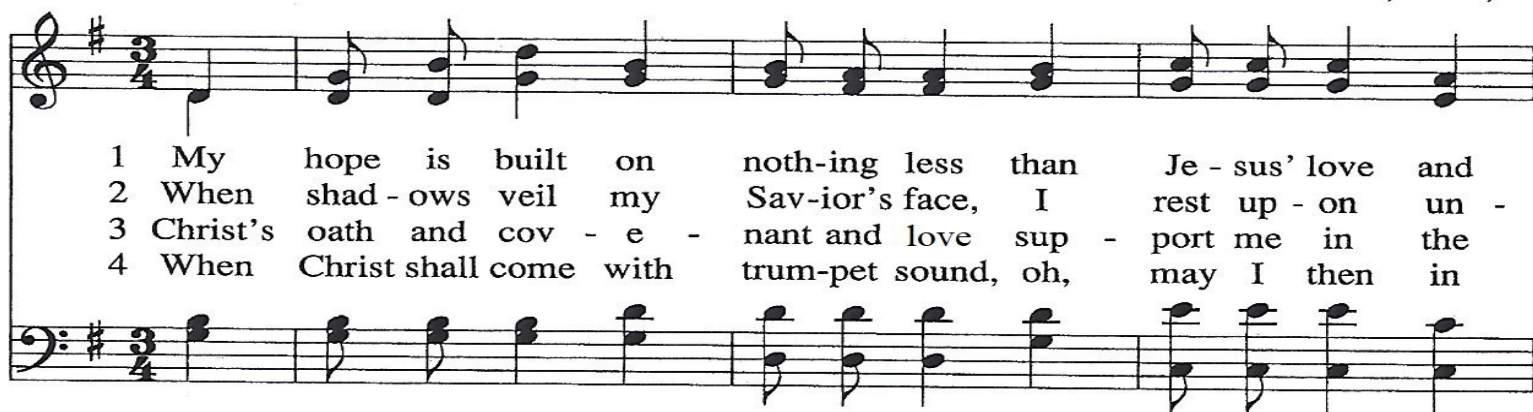
My Hope is Built on Nothing Less

Mote/Bradbury

My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

Matt. 7:24-27; 1 Cor. 3:11; Heb. 6:19; Rev. 11:15

Edward Mote, c. 1834; alt.



1 My hope is built on noth-ing less than Je - sus' love and
 2 When shad - ows veil my Sav-ior's face, I rest up - on un -
 3 Christ's oath and cov - e - nant and love sup - port me in the
 4 When Christ shall come with trum-pet sound, oh, may I then in

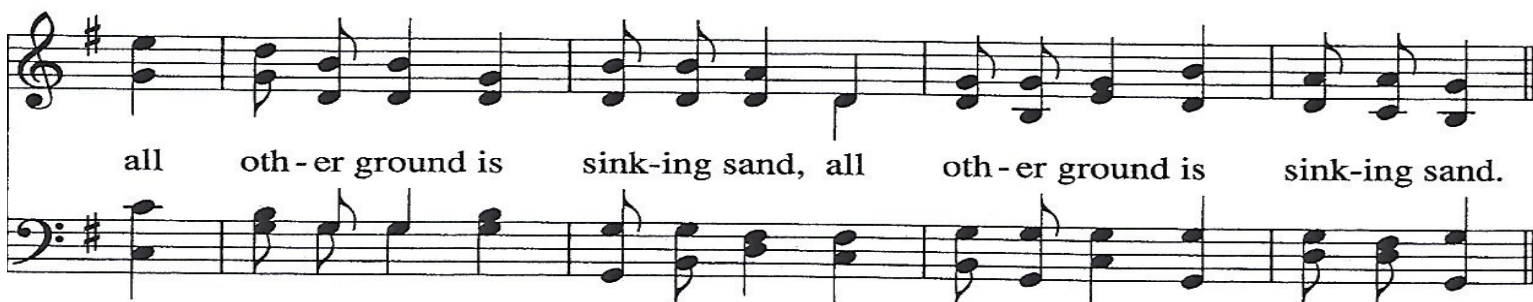


right - teous-ness; I dare not trust this earth - ly frame, but
 chang-ing grace; In ev - ery high and storm - y gale, my
 ris - ing flood; When all a - round my soul gives way, Christ
 Love be found, Dressed in God's right - teous - ness a - lone, fault -



Refrain

whol-ly lean on Je - sus' name.
 an-chor holds with - in the veil. On Christ, the sol - id Rock, I stand;
 then is all my hope and stay.
 less to stand be - fore the throne.



all oth - er ground is sink-ing sand, all oth - er ground is sink-ing sand.

William Bradbury met great success by composing hymn tunes and religious songs in a lively, popular style. He also helped establish music programs in New York public schools, served a church, and co-founded a piano company.

Tune: SOLID ROCK L.M. with refrain
 William B. Bradbury, 1863

CCLI License #11176734

***Prayer for Transformation and New Life**

Living God,

You have created each of us with gifts that can bring compassion, healing, and hope.....

Free us from the need to accumulate, compete, and control.

Teach us to recognize Christ among us, trusting that what we offer is a part of the community Christ is building. Re-member us as your people. Bring us again into relationship, that our lives may proclaim your love and our gifts may serve your world. Amen.

***Words of Grace**

Christ does not build the church from perfect people, but from people who are willing to be shaped by love. God receives us, renews us, and calls forth the gifts within us.

We are forgiven. We are beloved. We are being built together into a dwelling place for God's grace. Amen.

***Response**

My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less (reprise)

Mote/Bradbury

**On Christ the solid rock I stand,
All other ground is sinking sand.
All other ground is sinking sand.**

We Encounter God in the Word

Contemplative Reading

¹ *The Soul of Money*

Lynne Twist

God is still speaking. **Thanks be to God.**

Special Music

How Majestic Is Your Name

Smith

Jeff Cook and Phillip Munsey, Duet

Gospel Lesson

Matthew 16:13-20

NRSVue

The Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

² "God's 'You-and-Me' World"

Pastor Barb

We Respond to God's Grace

Congregational Prayers

Silent Prayers

Prayers of the People and Our Lord's Prayer

**Our Loving God who is above all, holy is your name.
May your kin-dom come and
your will be done here on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive the ways in which we have knowingly
or unknowingly caused harm to others,
as we forgive the harm done to us.
Protect us in our times of trial,
and keep us from retaliation.
For all that is, is Yours;
So we return all that we have claimed as our own
to your care.
And we Glorify You, Forever and Ever. Amen**

Musical Response

Prayers of the People

Johansen-Werner

**'Lord, let your kingdom come. Your will be done.
Lord, let your kingdom come. Alleluia.**

We Share God's Love

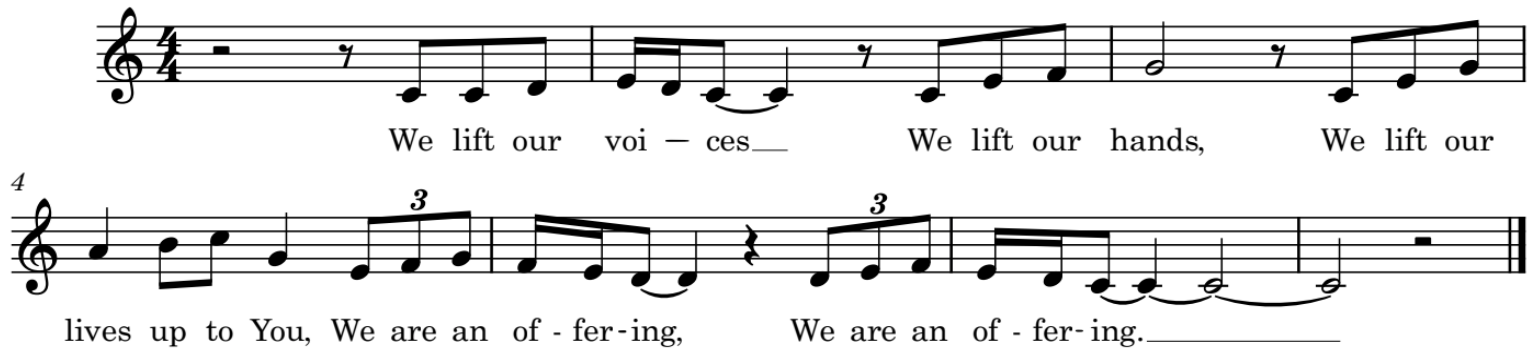
Invitation to Generosity

*(The offering plates are found by each doorway for your use.
For those of us online, please follow the QR code.)*

***Song of Gratitude**

³We Are an Offering

Liles



***Unison Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication**

Generous God,

Receive these gifts and receive our lives. Free us to offer the gifts that are uniquely ours to give. Use them to strengthen relationships, restore hope, and build your beloved community. Re-member us as your people, that together we may help create a world where all can flourish. Amen.

We Go to Carry the Light

***Hymn**

Take My Gifts (insert)

***Blessing and Benediction**

***Sending Blessing**

Go, My Children, with My Blessing

Vajda/Welsh Melody

**Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone;
waking, sleeping, I am with you, you are my own.
In my love's baptismal river I have made you mine forever.
Go, my children, with my blessing, you are my own.**

Postlude

The Church's One Foundation

Wesley

**Please remain seated in silence for the Postlude as the
Light of Christ is carried into the world.
The worship has ended; our service begins.**

Supporting Our Service Today

Liturgist: John Yahres **Song Leader:** Jeff Cook and Phillip Munsey

Acolyte: Bella Clapham **Welcome Table:** Linda Woodrum **Greeter:** Charlene Frick

Head Usher: Rev. Bob Zittel **Usher Team:** Fran Kulak, Wendy Seeley, John Yahres, Barbara Zittel

Technology Team

(Live Streaming, Camera, and Sound Technicians)

Gary Woodrum, Debra Mosely, Maria Groody, David Jack, Linda Newton, Wally Davis, Patty Fjetland, Scott Mellen, Gary and Sharon Leidheiser

The **Lord's Table** was decorated by Victoria Augustine.

The **Sanctuary Flowers** are given by the VUCC Flower Ministry

Sunday Librarian: Helen Markus

Fellowship Hosts: Sharon & Gary Leidheiser

1. Twist, Lynne. The Soul of Money: Transforming Your Relationship with Money and Life. W. W. Norton & Company, 2017. Pg 183, 182.
2. Boring, "The Gospel of Matthew," commentary on Matthew 16:13-20.
3. CCLI Song #16220. 1984 Curb Word Music. CCLI License # 11176734

U P C O M I N G C A L E N D A R

MONDAY AUGUST 24

12:00 PM SPIRITFED
(ZOOM BIBLE STUDY)
MEETING ID:83576594637
PASSWORD: 913882



TUESDAY AUGUST 25

9:00 AM STAFF MEETING
10:00 AM LEADERSHIP COUNCIL - CR

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 26

9:00 AM-12:00 PM LIBRARY OPEN
10:00 AM BIBLE STUDY - CR

FRIDAY AUGUST 28

8:30 AM MEN'S WEEKLY COFFEE-PANERA
9:00 AM KNIT WITS - P

SUNDAY AUGUST 23

9:00 AM LIBRARY HOUR
10:00 AM WORSHIP (IN SITU AND VIRTUAL)
AFTER WORSHIP FELLOWSHIP TIME -
NAAR HALL
11:00 AM - 11:15 AM LIBRARY OPEN



United in Spirit and by God's grace, we welcome all, love all, and seek justice for all. We are a Christian Fellowship of faith, building a community that supports each other to help feed the hungry, to clothe the naked and welcome strangers, while living a life that leads to deeper experiences walking humbly with God.

We believe all are welcome and united by God's love. Our daily worship is anchored by the belief that God is still speaking. The United Church of Christ (UCC) is a distinct and diverse community of Christians that come together as one church to join faith and action. With over 4,500 churches and nearly one million members across the U.S., the UCC serves God in the co-creation of a just and sustainable world. We believe in putting our faith into action as we follow Jesus' example to love one another.

Senior Minister:

Rev. Dr. Barbara Dickason, BCC

Music Staff:

Barbara Quinn: Music Director

Lynda Weston: Bella Handbell Director

Staff:

Gary Leidheiser: Custodian

Marguerite Long: Administrative Specialist

Natashia Laughnan: Social Media and Communications Specialist

620 Shamrock Blvd, Venice, FL 34293 | Office Hours: 9AM - 1PM Mon-Thurs. | (941) 493-6741 | veniceucc@gmail.com

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 [facebook.com/veniceunitedchurchofchrist](https://www.facebook.com/veniceunitedchurchofchrist)

SUPPORT VUCC BY DONATING TODAY!



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Weekly Offering



Cash, Check, or Credit Card:
call church office



Scan the QR Code

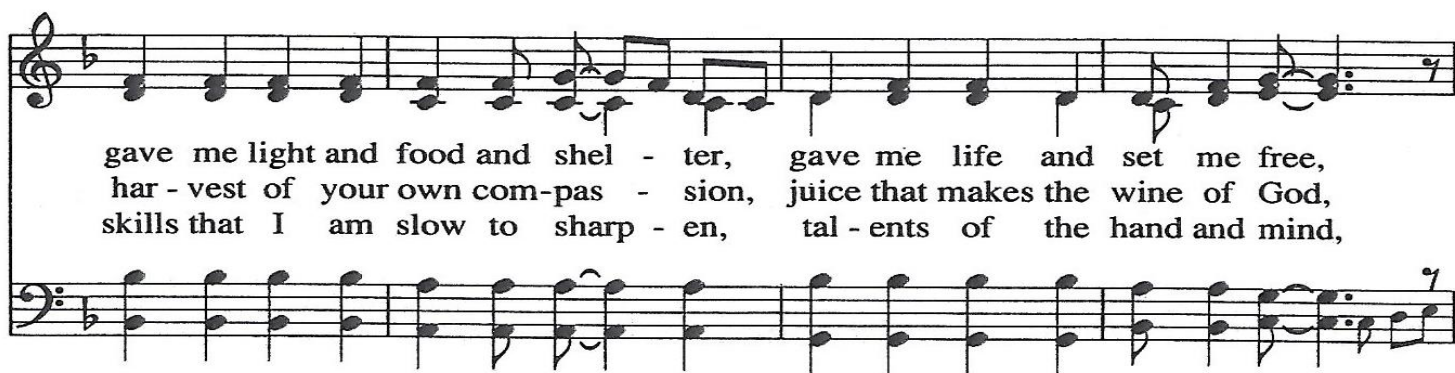
Take My Gifts

562

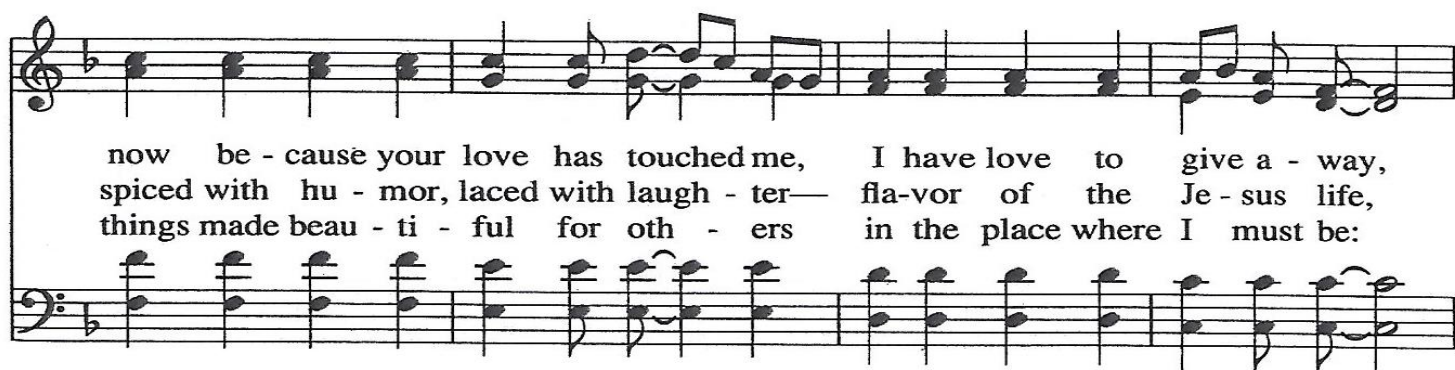
Shirley Erena Murray, 1991



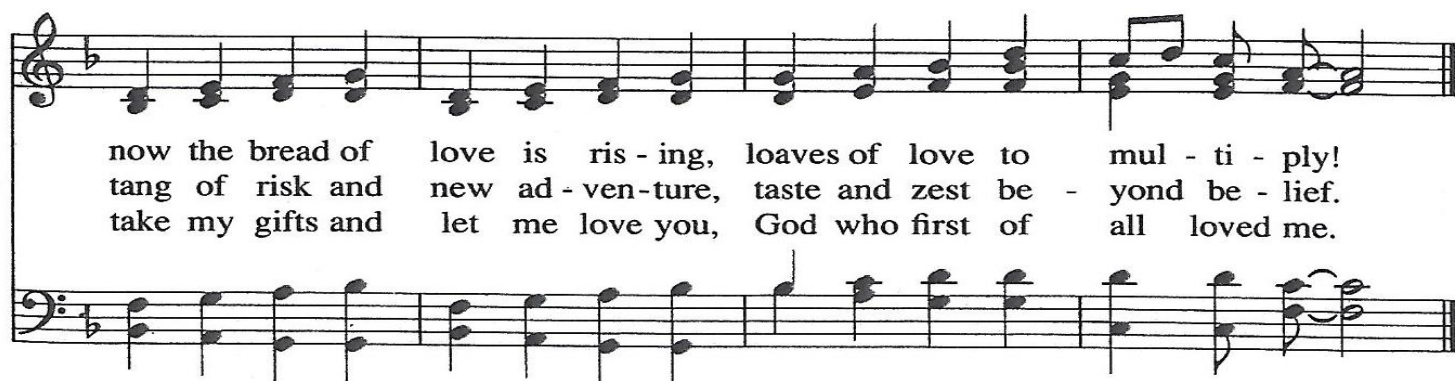
1 Take my gifts and let me love you, God who first of all loved me,
 2 Take the fruit that I have gath - ered from the tree your Spir - it sowed,
 3 Take what-ev - er I can of - fer— gifts that I have yet to find,



gave me light and food and shel - ter, gave me life and set me free,
 har - vest of your own com-pas - sion, juice that makes the wine of God,
 skills that I am slow to sharp - en, tal - ents of the hand and mind,



now be - cause your love has touched me, I have love to give a - way,
 spiced with hu - mor, laced with laugh - ter— fla-vor of the Je - sus life,
 things made beau - ti - ful for oth - ers in the place where I must be:



now the bread of love is ris - ing, loaves of love to mul - ti - ply!
 tang of risk and new ad - ven - ture, taste and zest be - yond be - lief.
 take my gifts and let me love you, God who first of all loved me.

Shirley Erena Murray recounted that Colin Gibson composed this tune for her stewardship text "almost instantaneously." Gibson has served as professor at the University of Otago, as well as organist and choir director in Dunedin, New Zealand.

Tune: TALAVERA TERRACE 8.7.8.7.D.
 Colin Gibson, 1991
 Alternate tune: HOLY MANNA
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