



Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost
October 18, 2026

Rev. Dr. Barbara Dickason, BCC

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

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

October 18, 2026

Singing Prelude

Be Now My Vision v. 1

Irish text and tune

**Be now my vision, O God of my heart;
nothing surpasses the love you impart –
You my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, your presence my light.**

Welcome and Announcements

We Approach God's Presence

Meditation/Bringing in the Light of Christ

Give of Your Best to the Savior

Barnard

Responsive Call to Worship

Wendy Seeley

We gather as people created in God's image.

Our lives belong to the One who loves us.

We bring the prayers of our hearts.

God draws us together in compassion and care.

Christ calls us to give back to God what is God's.

We offer our voices, our choices, and our lives.

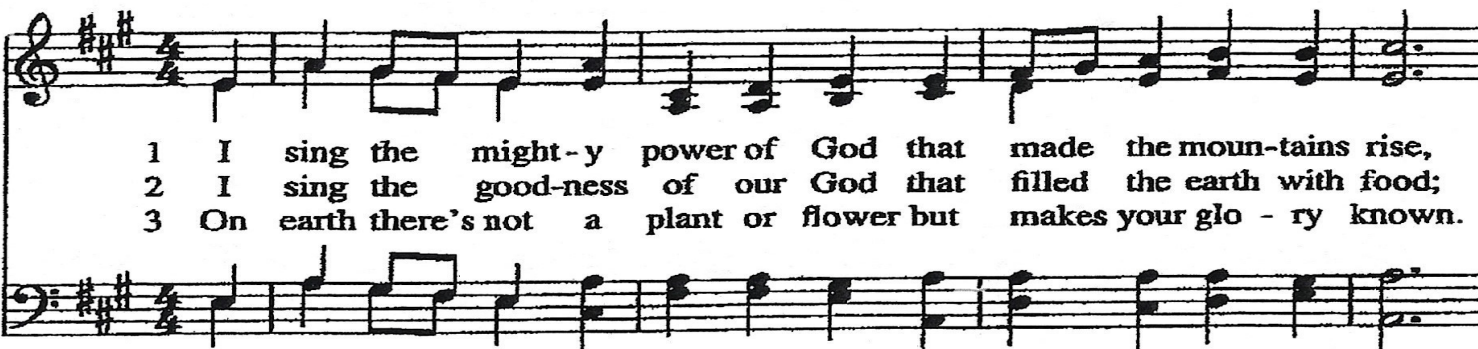
Come, let us worship the God of steadfast love.

May that love shape all we do.

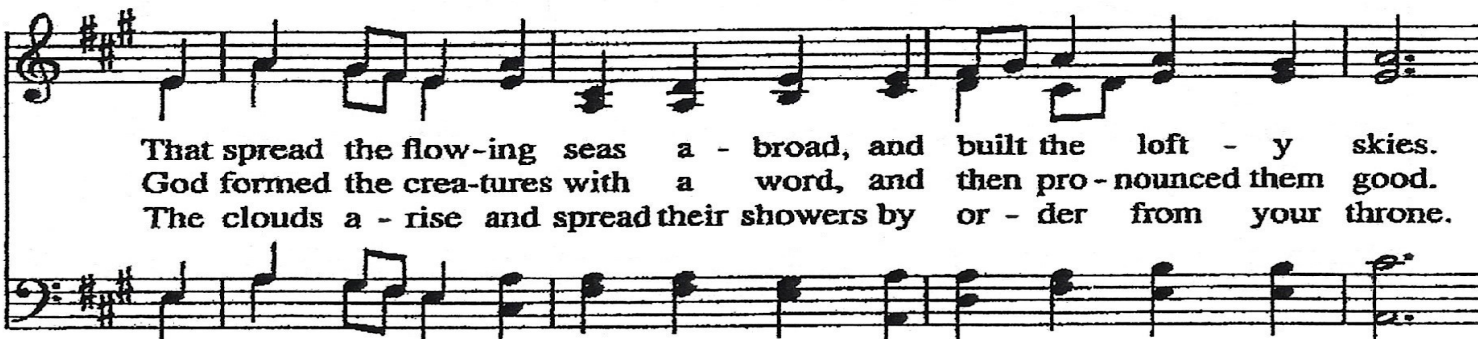
***Hymn**

I Sing the Mighty Power of God¹

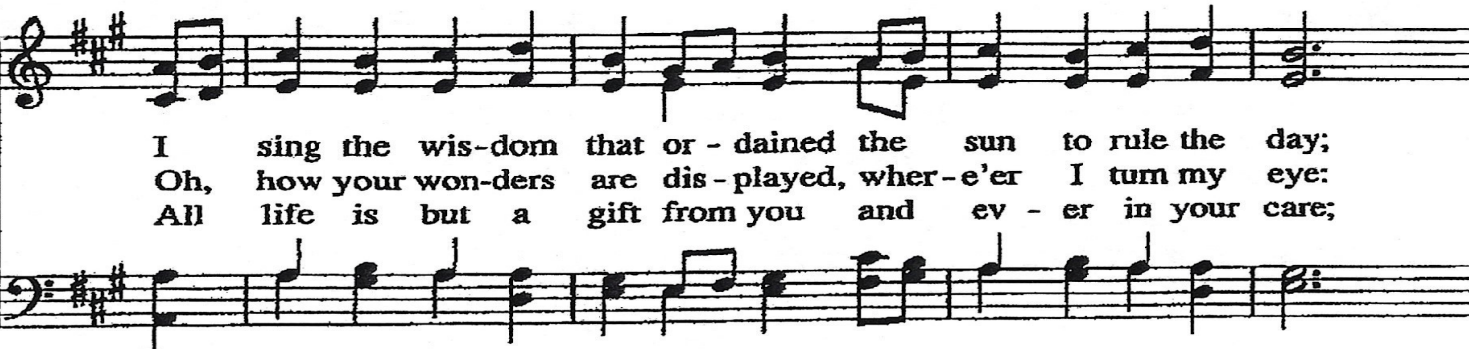
Watts



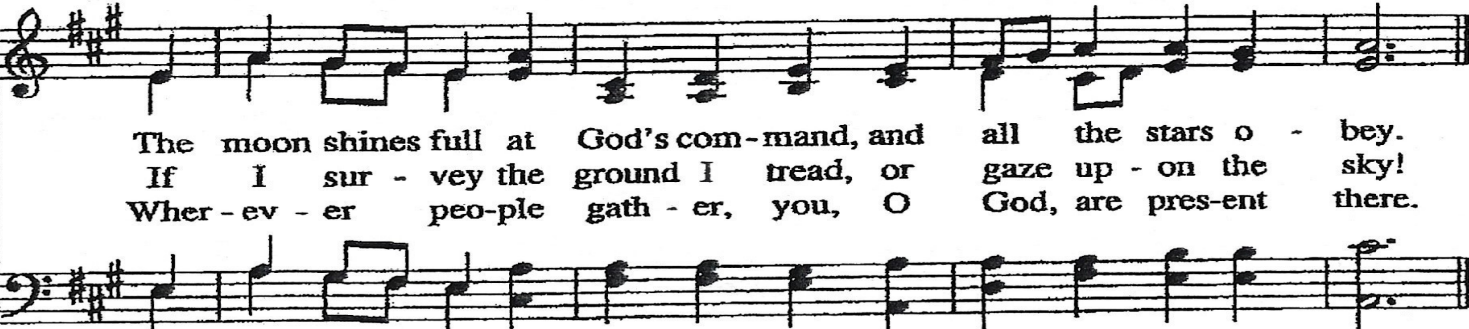
1 I sing the might-y power of God that made the moun-tains rise,
 2 I sing the good-ness of our God that filled the earth with food;
 3 On earth there's not a plant or flower but makes your glo - ry known.



That spread the flow-ing seas a - broad, and built the loft - y skies.
 God formed the crea-tures with a word, and then pro - nounced them good.
 The clouds a - rise and spread their showers by or - der from your throne.



I sing the wis-dom that or - dained the sun to rule the day;
 Oh, how your won-ders are dis - played, wher - e'er I turn my eye:
 All life is but a gift from you and ev - er in your care;



The moon shines full at God's com-mand, and all the stars o - bey.
 If I sur - vey the ground I tread, or gaze up - on the sky!
 Wher - ev - er peo-ple gath - er, you, O God, are pres-ent there.

The tune Ellacombe was named for a place in Devonshire, England. It was first published in a collection of tunes used in the private chapel of the Duke of Wirtemberg, and was possibly sung with the text "Ave Maria, klärer."

CCLI License #11176734

Tune: ELLACOMBE C.M.D.
 Gesangbuch der herzoglichen
 Wirtembergischen katholischen Hofkapelle, 1784
 Descant, The New Century Hymnal, 1993

***Prayer for Transformation and New Life**

God of steadfast love,

You have placed your image within us and entrusted us with one another. We confess that competing loyalties divide our hearts. We seek security in what we possess and approval from those who hold power. We overlook your image in people whose needs interrupt our comfort. Forgive us.

**Gather our hearts again in your love. Give us courage to examine our choices,
wisdom to discern what love requires, and generosity to respond.**

Through Christ, who calls us to love. Amen.

***Words of Grace**

God's love never lets go of us. Our failures do not erase God's image within us.

**Through mercy, we are forgiven; through grace, we are renewed
to love God and care for one another. Amen.**

***Response**

Be Now My Vision v. 3

Irish text and tune

**Riches I need not, nor life's empty praise,
you, my inheritance, now and always;
You and you only are first in my heart,
great God, my treasure, may we never part.**

We Encounter God in the Word

Contemplative Reading

*Heart of a Stranger*²

Angela Warnick Buchdahl

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

Special Music

Seek Ye First

Lafferty

Chancel Choir

Scripture Lesson

Matthew 22:15-22

NIV

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

Sermon

"So, Give Back"

Pastor Barb

We Respond to God's Grace

Congregational Prayers

Silent Prayers

Prayers of the People and Our Lord's Prayer

**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.**

Response

I Am Praying [with] You

Cluff/Sankey

**With you I am praying, with you I am praying,
with you I am praying, I'm praying with you.**

We Share God's Love

Mission Moment

Neighbors in Need

Invitation to Generosity

*The offering plates are found by each doorway for your use.
For online donations, please scan the QR code.*



***Song of Gratitude**

Doxology

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

***Unison Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication**

God of generous love,

Receive these gifts and the intentions of our hearts. Use them to nourish our neighbors, strengthen our community, and advance the work of compassion and justice. May our resources and our lives serve your loving purpose. Amen.

We Go to Carry the Light

***Hymn**

Here I Am, Lord ³ (insert)

Schutte

***Blessing and Benediction**

***Sending Blessing**

God Be with You

Dorsey

God be with you, God be with you,
God be with you till we meet again. (repeat)

Postlude

I Sing the Mighty Power of God

ELLACOMBE

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: Wendy Seeley

Acolyte: Bella Clapham **Welcome Table:** Deb Woudenberg **Greeter:** Jenny Steindam

Head Usher: Nancy Bennett

Usher Team: Sue Atkinson, Leslie Chabek, Jim Daugherty, Don Jones, Nancy Knudson

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** were given by Linda Newton & Patty Fjetland
for Sandy Barrie: "Happy Heavenly Birthday".

Sunday Librarian: Helen Markus

Fellowship Hosts: Church Family Life and Volunteers

1. Words: Isaac Watts, Music: Ellacombe. Public Domain.

2. Angela Warnick Buchdahl, *Heart of a Stranger: An Unlikely Rabbi's Story of Faith, Identity, and Belonging* (New York: Pamela Dorman Books/Viking, 2025), 145, 147, 150.

3. Words and Music: Daniel L. Schutte and New Dawn Music. Used with permission. One License #A-743301

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

MONDAY OCTOBER 19

12:00 PM SPIRIT-FED

(ZOOM BIBLE STUDY)

MEETING ID: 83576594637

PASSWORD: 913882

6:30 PM BRIDGE - P



TUESDAY OCTOBER 20

9:00 AM STAFF MEETING

2:00 PM VISION TEAM MEETING - P

6:00 PM AUDUBON - NAAR HALL

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 21

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM LIBRARY OPEN

10:00 AM BIBLE STUDY - CR

10:30 AM FINANCE MEETING - P

1:00 PM CUT UPS - P

6:30 PM CHOIR

THURSDAY OCTOBER 22

6:00 PM GIRL SCOUTS - ED ROOM

FRIDAY OCTOBER 23

8:30 AM MEN'S WEEKLY COFFEE - PANERA

9:00 AM KNIT WITS - P

6:00 PM SOLAS CANDLELIGHT CONCERT

8:00 PM SOLAS CANDLELIGHT CONCERT

SATURDAY OCTOBER 24

8:30 AM MEN'S BREAKFAST - NH

10:30 AM SOCIAL JUSTICE ALLIANCE - NH

SUNDAY OCTOBER 25

9:00 AM LIBRARY HOUR

9:00 AM CHOIR

10:00 AM WORSHIP (IN SITU AND VIRTUAL)
AFTER WORSHIP FELLOWSHIP TIME - NAAR

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)

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Weekly Offering



Cash, Check, or Credit Card:
call church office



Scan the QR Code

Interested in becoming a member? Scan the QR code to fill out our member interest form.



HERE I AM, LORD

Dan Schutte

VERSES *Majestically*



1. I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.
 2. I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain.
 3. I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.



1. All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save. I who
 2. I have wept for love of them. They turn a-way. I will
 3. I will set a feast for them. My hand will save. Fin-est



1. make the stars of night, I will make their dark-ness bright.
 2. break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love a-lone.
 3. bread I will pro-vide till their hearts be sat-is-fied.



1. Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?_____
 2. I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?_____
 3. I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?_____

REFRAIN *a tempo*



Here I am, Lord.____ Is it I, Lord?____ I have heard you



call-ing in the night.____ I will go, Lord,____ if you



lead me.____ I will hold your people in my heart.____

Mission Moment

Neighbors in Need



What is the “Neighbors in Need” special mission offering? Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Two-thirds of this offering is used by the UCC’s justice ministries to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through grants. Neighbors in Need grants are awarded to UCC churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities. These grants fund projects whose work ranges from direct service to community organizing and advocacy to address systemic injustice.

How is the offering used? Through this offering we express our deep commitment to reaching out and touching our neighbors with justice and compassion.

Where and how are the funds dispersed? Not only are NIN funds shared with CAIM, they are utilized by staff to develop curated and created social justice resources, i.e. webinars, bible studies, curriculums, advocacy tools, etc. within the program areas of environmental justice, racial justice, LGBTQ justice, economic justice, women’s justice, immigration justice, and more. Additionally, a portion of the monies collected are used to fund grants at the following levels and needs:

- Direct Service (\$1,000 – \$3,000) – provides funding to meet the immediate needs of an individual or group (i.e. food, clothing, utilities).
- Advocacy (\$3,001 – \$5,000) – offers funding to assist communities who wish to change policy on a state or federal level via an advocacy campaign.
- Grass Top (\$5,001 – \$10,000) – is a highly competitive tier which seeks to award uniquely innovative programs which can be replicated in other settings.

What percentage of NIN donations are used directly to fund our commitment to service and mission? At present, we are pleased to state that nearly 100% of the monies raised from are used to fund our mission projects and programs which include our largest commitments to NIN grants and CAIM.

