The Big Red Church

Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

November 15, 2026
Rev. Simon Biasell-Moshrefi, Pastor
United Church of Christ

(*Congregation may stand | Responses: Liturgist/**Congregation/Many**)

Prelude Scott Horton, organ

Welcome Rev. Simon Biasell-Moshrefi, Pastor

***Call to Worship (inspired by Psalm 123)** Lindsey Pugsley, liturgist

One: Lift up our spirits to the God enthroned in the heavens!
Many: The Holy One is our dwelling place from generation to generation.
One: Lift up our hearts to the God who shapes us and guides us.
Many: The Holy One is God, forming the earth, the world, and the universe.
One: Lift up our worship before the Holy One who is God.
Many: The Holy One teaches us to count our days that we may gain a wise heart. Praise God!

Hymn** **"O God, Our Help in Ages Past"** ****See Hymns

Prayer of Transformation Lindsey Pugsley

Righteous God, too often, we seek positions of privilege and power for our own benefit. We accept the ways of the world in order to receive validation, acceptance, and temporary satisfaction. Transform our hearts and our ways to reflect your kingdom. Grant us courage to live as you demonstrate and empower us for your glory and honor.

Words of Grace

Passing of the Peace

Greeting: The Peace of Christ be with you.
Response: And also with you.

***Response of Praise (Sung)** **Gloria Patri**

Glory to the Creator, the Christ, the Holy Spirit Three in One;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
World without end. Amen. Amen.

Baptism of Clara & Caroline Weaver



BAPTISM OF CLARA & CAROLINE WEAVER
THE BIG RED CHURCH, UCC
NOVEMBER 15, 2026

Pastor: There is one body and one Spirit,j ust as you were called to the one hope of your calling.

Church: One Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.

Obeying the word of our Lord Jesus, and confident of his promises, we baptize those whom God has called.
In baptism, God claims us and seals us to show that we belong to God.
God frees us from sin and death, uniting us with Jesus Christ in his death and resurrection.
By water and the Holy Spirit, we are made members of the church, the body of Christ, and joined to Christ's ministry of love, peace, and justice.
Let us remember with joy our own baptism, as we celebrate this sacrament.

Questions for Clara and Caroline

Putting your whole trust in the grace and love of Jesus Christ, Clara and Caroline, do you desire to be baptized?
I do.

Questions for Friends & Family

Will you, in time, encourage Clara and Caroline to discover the freedom of new life in Christ and to know Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, Friend and Companion?
We will, with God's help.

Will you, by your prayers and witness, support Clara and Caroline on their faith journey?
We will.

Questions for Children

Today, we celebrate that Clara and Caroline are a part of our church family. We are all God's children. These questions are for us, the children of The Big Red Church. Each time we say, "We will," we make a promise to God as well as to Clara and Caroline.

Will we help Clara and Caroline remember that God loves her and we do too?
We will.

Will we share the stories of Jesus with Clara and Caroline?
We will.

Questions for Congregation

Do you, as members of the church of Jesus Christ, promise to guide and nurture Clara and Caroline by word and deed, with love and prayer?
We do.
Will you encourage them to know and follow Christ and to be faithful members of their church?
We will.

Clara and Caroline's Profession of Faith

Trusting in the gracious mercy of God, do you turn from the ways of sin and renounce evil and its power in the world?
I do.
Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Lord and Savior, trusting in his grace and love?
I do.
Will you be Christ's faithful disciple, obeying his word and showing his love?
I will, with God's help.

Baptism of Clara and Caroline

Laying on of Hands and Anointing

O Lord, uphold Clara and Caroline by your Holy Spirit.
Give them the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord,
the spirit of joy in your presence,
Both now and forever. **Amen.**

Clara and Caroline, children of the covenant, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit in baptism, and marked as Christ's own forever. **Amen.**

Welcome

Clara and Caroline, you have been received into the one holy catholic and apostolic church through Baptism. By the power of the Holy Spirit, you are members of the household of God, to share with us in the ministry of Christ and the priesthood of all believers. With joy and thanksgiving, we affirm that you are in the body of Christ.
Alleluia! Amen!

Live as children of the light and let your light shine before others. **Amen.**

Choral Anthem "How Firm a Foundation" - Larson Chancel Choir

Time for Discovery Vanessa Valdez-Johnson

Draw the circle wide, draw it wider still;
let this be our song — no one stands alone,
standing side by side. Draw the circle wide.

Gordon Light,©1994 Common Cup Company. OneLicense.net License#A-711732

The Lord's Prayer

Our Creator, 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever.
Amen.

Hymn** **"We Cannot Own the Sunlit Sky"** ****See Hymns

Scripture Matthew 25:14-30 Lindsey Pugsley

"For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his servants and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. At once the one who had received the five talents went off and traded with them and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy servant; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master. 'And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy servant; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow and gathering where you did not scatter, so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.'

But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy servant! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance, but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless servant, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Liturgist: For the Word of God in Scripture, for the Word of God within us, and for the Word of God amongst us.
Congregation: Thanks be to God.

Sermon Rev. Simon Biasell-Moshrefi

Sung Call to Prayer

Lord, listen to your children praying:
Lord send your Spirit in this place.
Lord, listen to your children praying:
Send us love, send us power, send us grace.

1973, Hope, Publishing CO., All rights reserved OneLicense.net License #A-711732

Prayers Of The Church Rev. Simon Biasell-Moshrefi

Invitation to Generosity Lindsey Pugsley

Here at the Big Red church, everyone counts, and every gift counts! There are two donation boxes and giving envelopes for your gifts in the Narthex (the area where an usher handed you an Order of Worship). You can also give through the Aplos app by scanning the QR code. BigRedChurch.org/giving/ has more instructions, links, and information about giving to the church. Thank you for supporting and joining in the ministry of this church.

Offertory "I Carry You In My Heart"- Butler and Burdette Chancel Choir

***Doxology (*Tune: OLD HUNDREDTH*)**

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.

***Dedication** Rev. Simon Biasell-Moshrefi

Closing Hymn** **"God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending"** ****See Hymns

***Benediction** Rev. Simon Biasell-Moshrefi

***Blessing Song** **"Go Now In Peace"**

Go now in peace, never be afraid;
God will go with you each hour of ev'ry day.
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true;
know God will guide you in all you do.
Go now in love and show you believe.
Reach out to others so all the world will see
God will be there, watching from above.
Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.
Amen. Amen. Amen.

1988, Harold Flammer Music. All rights reserved. OneLicense.net License # A-711732

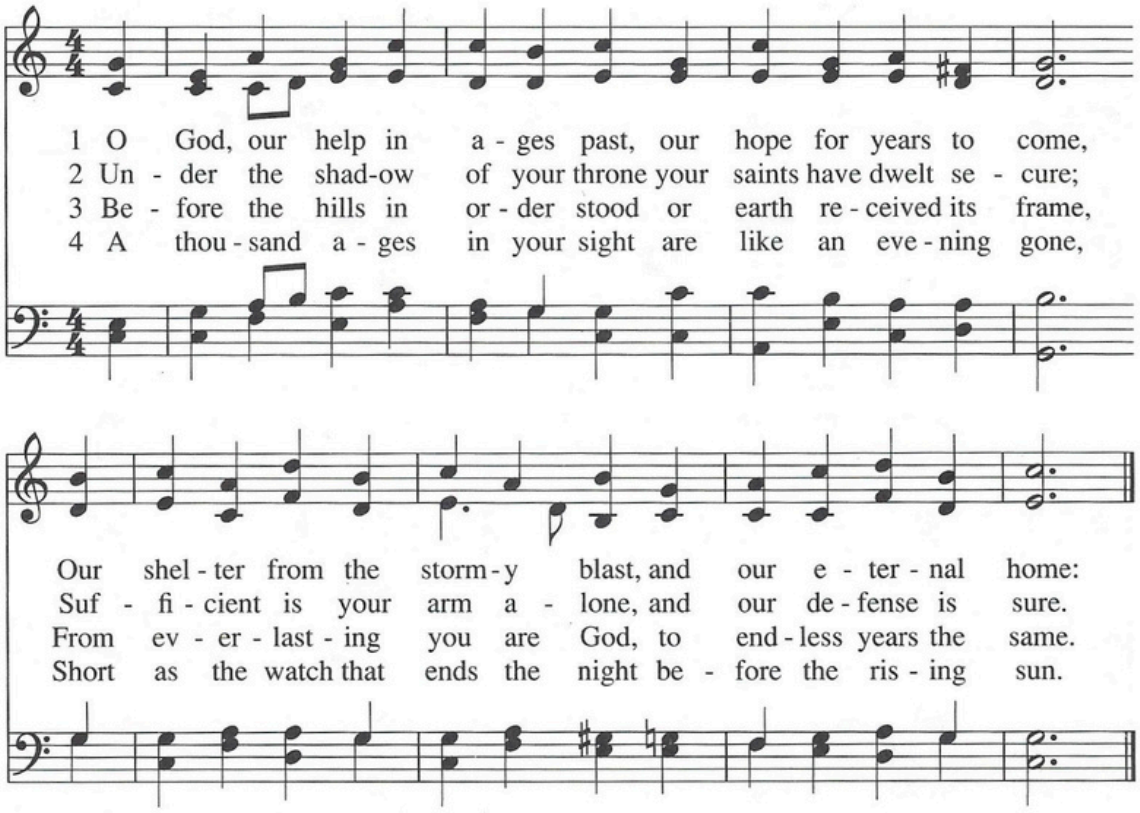
Postlude "Toccata on OLD HUNDREDTH" - M. Burkhardt Scott Horton, organ

(It is our tradition to be seated for the Postlude.)

Notes & Doodles

O God, Our Help in Ages Past 25

Isaac Watts, 1719; alt. *Ps. 90:1–2, 4–5*



5 Time, like an ev-er-roll-ing stream,
soon bears us all away;
We fly for-got-ten, as a dream
fades at the o-pening day.

6 O God, our help in a-ges past,
our hope for years to come,
Still be our God while trou-bles last,
and our e-ter-nal home!

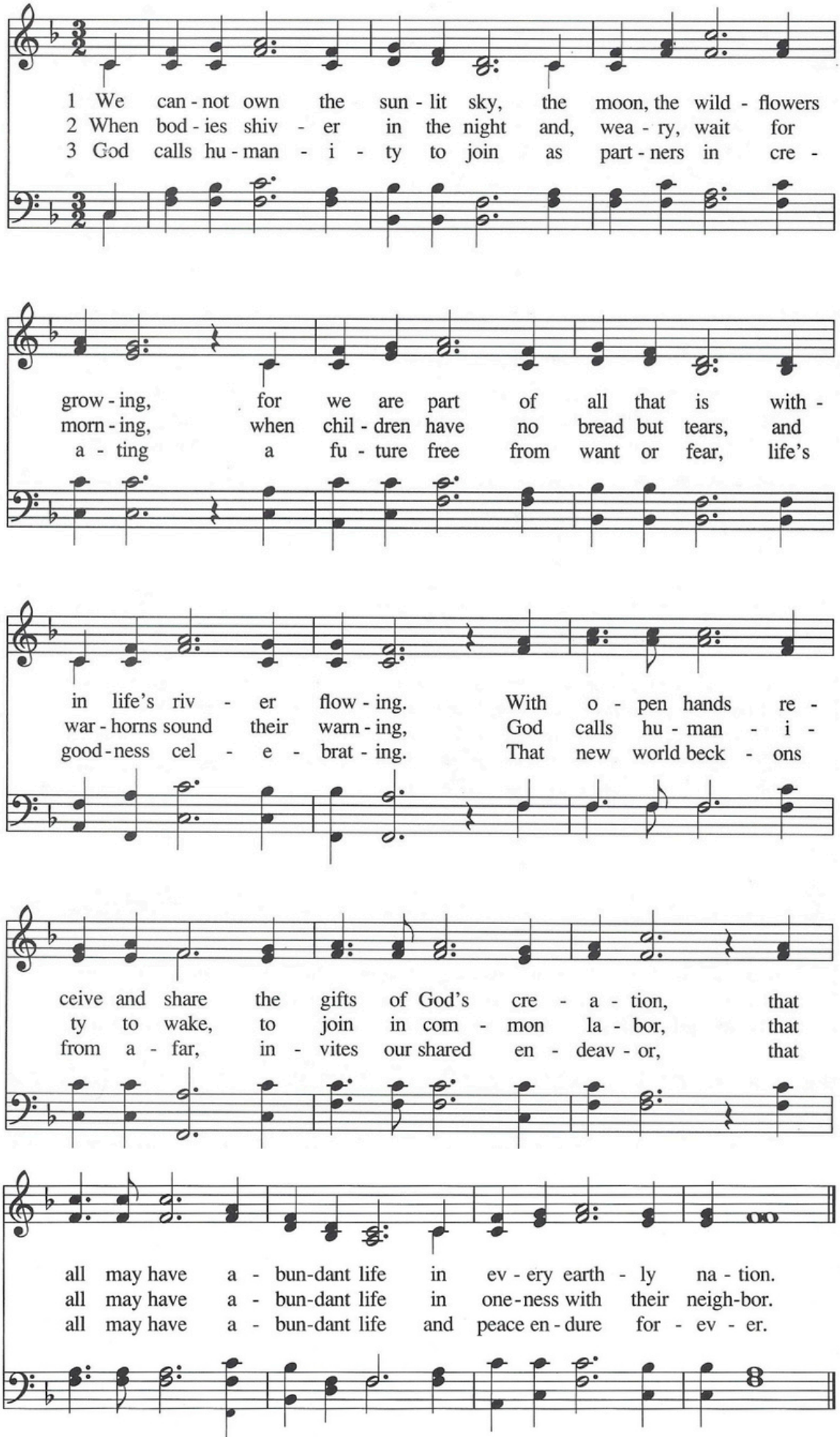
Watts, minister of a Congregational church in London, wrote theological and philosophical works and hundreds of "hymns of human composure" (everyday language). He augmented the congregational singing of psalms with a new style of hymnody.

Tune: ST. ANNE C.M.
William Croft, 1708

563 We Cannot Own the Sunlit Sky

John 10:10

Ruth Duck, 1984; rev. 1989



Tune: ENDLESS SONG 8.7.8.7.D.
Attrib. to Robert Lowry in Bright Jewels for the Sunday School, *New York, 1869*

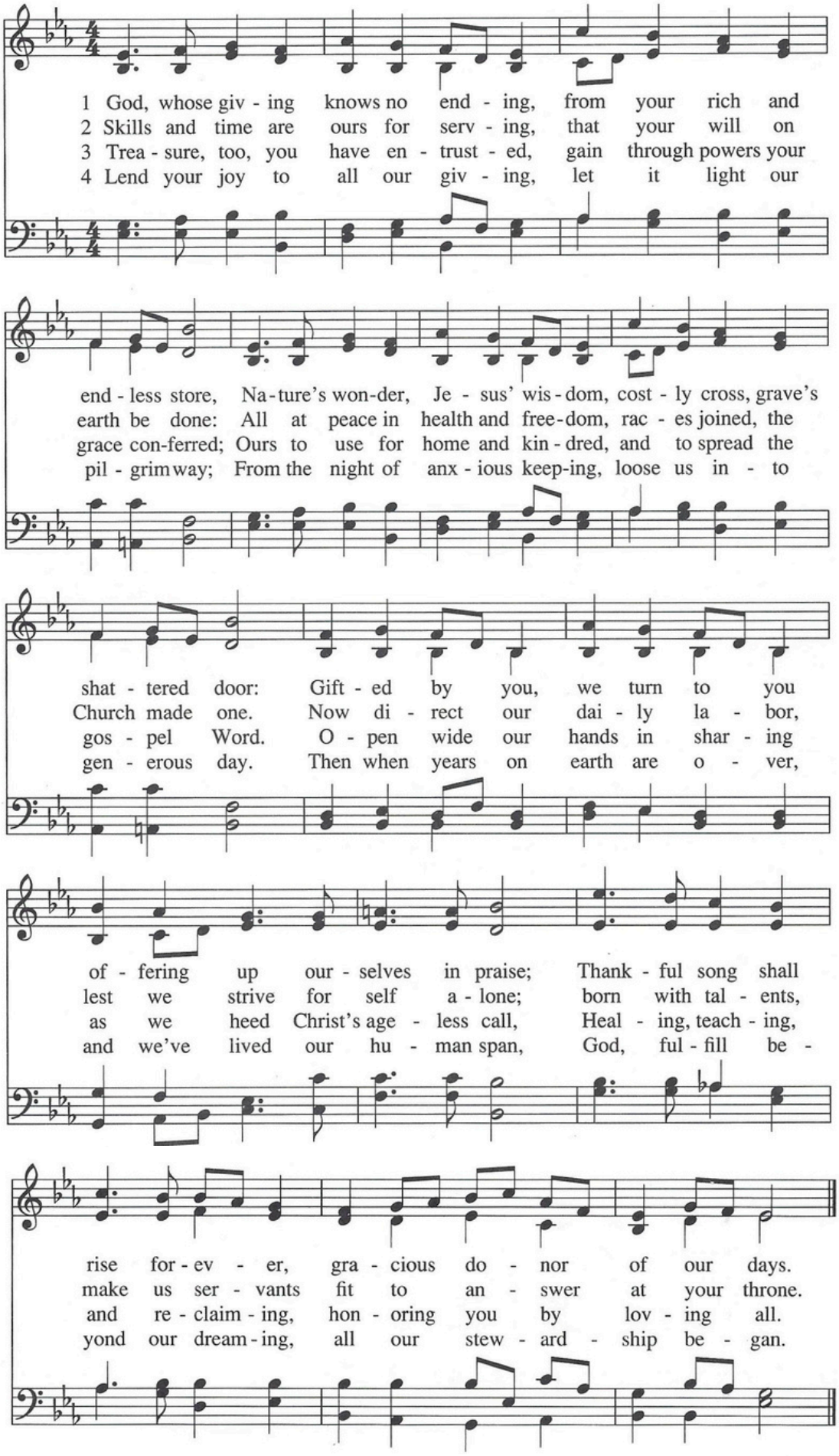
Ruth Duck wrote this text while she was serving as a corporate member of the United Church Board for World Ministries. In it, she wanted to "emphasize humanity's shared partnership with God in caring for one another and the whole creation."

Words Copyright © 1983, rev. 1992 by G.I.A. Publications, Inc.

OneLicense.net License #A-711732

565 God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending

Robert L. Edwards, 1961; alt.



Tune: AUSTRIAN HYMN 8.7.8.7.D.
Franz Joseph Haydn, 1797
Alternate tune: HYFRYDOL

Robert L. Edwards, an ordained United Church of Christ minister, has served several churches in Connecticut. He wrote this text for a competition of The Hymn Society, and it was subsequently published in Ten New Stewardship Hymns *in 1961.*

Words Copyright © 1961, renewal 1989 by The Hymn Society

OneLicense.net License #A-711732

Coming Up at Big Red

Sunday, November 15

- **9:00 AM:** Roots and Branches – Fireside
- **10:00 AM:** Sunday Worship – Sanctuary
- **11:00 AM:** Coffee Hour – Fellowship Hall

Monday, November 16

- **4:00 PM:** Yoga With Rosalie – Room 1

Tuesday, November 17

- **12:30 PM:** Unhoused Feeding Project – Kitchen

Wednesday, November 18

- **12:00 PM:** Bible Study – Zoom
- **4:00 PM:** Yoga With Rosalie – Room 1
- **6:00 PM:** Handbells Rehearsal – Music Room
- **7:00 PM:** Chancel Choir Rehearsal – Sanctuary

Friday, November 20

- **9:00 AM:** Food Distribution Prep – Fellowship Hall

Saturday, November 21

- **9:00 AM:** Food Distribution – Fellowship Hall

Sunday, November 22

- **9:00 AM:** Roots and Branches – Fireside
- **10:00 AM:** Sunday Worship – Sanctuary
- **11:00 AM:** Thanksgiving Dinner – Fellowship Hall

Monday, November 23

- **4:00 PM:** Yoga With Rosalie – Room 1

Tuesday, November 24

- **5:30 PM:** Big Red Bingo – Fellowship Hall

Thursday, November 26

- ***"Happy Thanksgiving" – Office Closed***

Friday, November 27

- ***Office Closed***

Sunday, November 29

- ***First Sunday of Advent***
- **11:15 AM:** Council Meeting – Parlor

Assisting in Today's Service

Greeters: Nathalie and Dan De Roo
Ushers: Cliff Dodd, Richard van Wyhe, and Donna Hudson
Acolytes: Karsyn and Makenna
Liturgist: Lindsey Pugsley
Technician: Karisa Garza
Coffee Hour: Church Life

THE BIG RED CHURCH UCC

2131 N. Van Ness Blvd.
Fresno, CA 93704
(559) 227 – 8489
bigredchurch.org

STAFF

Pastor
Rev. Simon Biasell-Moshrefi
(simon@bigredchurch.org)

Office Manager
Sarah Delgado
(Office@bigredchurch.org)

Music Director/Organist
Scott Horton

Caretaker/Event Coordinator
Pat Morales

Director of Christian Education
Vanessa Valdez-Johnson
(Vanessa@bigredchurch.org)

Accountant
Lacie White
(accounting@bigredchurch.org)

Christian Education Assistant
Leslie Avedesian

Technicians
Karisa Garza and Brad Jenkins

"Room For More"



Giving toward our goal **52%**

$163,180 $315,000

$163,180
of $315,000 goal

29 of 75
household pledges (the dome)

Notes & Doodles