

October 18, 2026

Thessalonians 1:1-10

Living Messages

Today is Laity Sunday, the day we celebrate the many astounding gifts of people who are not authorized or ordained ministers and yet serve the church in manifold ways. On this day, we remember that the priesthood of all believers means that every person has a vital part to play in the life of local congregations.

Laity Sunday is a day of joy, a day to remember that when we focus on standing with one another, even as we maintain a variety of perspectives or behaviors, we are living God's dream for us. Laity Sunday is a day to remember the gladness of giving into the spaciousness of God's call and purpose for all people. Laity Sunday is a day to focus on, as the letter writer exhorts in the epistle to the Philippians, "whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise."

Laity Sunday is a day to remember that this journey can be full of wonder and bursting with possibility. In short, Laity Sunday is a perfect day to play together. If you haven't already, it's a good day to check out *"Grow Your Church: A Board Game for Engaging the Marks of Faithful and Vital Local Congregations"*.

This game is designed to get people talking about church vitality through the Marks of Faithful and Vital Local Churches. It will help deepen relationships with each other and with the congregation's covenantal partners while laughing, thinking creatively and having critical conversations.

This game is for the decision makers and strategic thinkers. It's for the board room and the dining room table. It's for the flower arranging committee and the deacons. This game is for people who love their church and want to experience it grow in vitality and faithfulness. Roll the dice and move about a garden path with your church friends!

You can learn more about the *"Grow Your Church: A Board Game for Engaging the Marks of Faithful and Vital Local Congregations"*, and order one for your own congregation at uccresources.org.



BUC0107

8 1/2" x 11" UCC SUNDAY BULLETIN SERVICE
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OCTOBER 18, 2026



TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



1200 E Highland Acres Rd, Bismarck, ND 58501

701-223-2915 www.uccbismarck.org

October 18, 2026 at 10 AM Worship

Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost

Pastor: Rev. Gretchen Deeg | Liturgist: Carrie Mandigo

Music: Connie Sjostrom | Video: James Mandigo

NO MATTER

Sing! 35

No matter who, no matter what
No matter where you are on the journey of life;
You're welcome, welcome in this place.
Accepted and welcomed by God's grace.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

All: God, teach us to love.

*OPENING PRAYER

*HYMN I Sing the Praise of Love Almighty NCH 50 v. 1, 2, 4

SCRIPTURE

John 21:15-17

TIME WITH CHILDREN

Children are invited to remain in worship or attend Sunday School after the Offering. For Sunday School today, the kids will be outside delivering fliers for Trick-or-Treat So Others Can Eat.

OFFERING

*DOXOLOGY

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

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty God, there are times when the words of our mouth have not matched the actions of our lives. Forgive us for the times when we have failed to care for our neighbor and for the times when we have given reluctantly. Renew our spirits so that we may know the joy of cheerful giving and the abundance found in a caring community. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

*GLORIA

Glory be to the Creator, and to the Christ, and to the Holy Ghost:
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
World without end. Amen. Amen.

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 96:1-9

CHOIR ANTHEM

Leaning on the Everlasting Arms

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 22: 15-22

SERMON

Rev. Gretchen Deeg

HYMN

Take My Life, God, Let It Be

NCH 448

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*HYMN O God, We Bear the Imprint of Your Face NCH 585

CARRY GOD'S LOVE

Permission to stream the music in this service obtained from [ONE LICENSE](#), License #732302-A.



Thank You for Worshiping with Us!

Your offerings are essential for the ongoing ministry of this congregation. Donations can be made using this QR code, online at www.uccbismarck.org/donate, mailed to the church, or placed in the offering box.

Sponsor a Sunday

October 25, November 1, 22, and 29 are available. If you would like to sponsor a future Sunday, contact the church office at 223-2915 or visit uccbismarck.org/donate. Sponsorships are \$500.

Neighbors in Need - Today

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. When you give to Neighbors in Need, you help build a just world for all. Thank you!



Trick-or-Treat So Others Can Eat

During Sunday School today the kids are delivering fliers and the youth group will collect food from the neighborhood on Wednesday, Oct. 28 for hungry families in Bismarck through the work of Jack's Food Pantry & Adopt-a-Block.

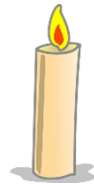
Fall Clean-Up - Oct. 24

Join the Trustees as we tidy up our grounds on October 24 at 9am. Some of the tasks include leaf raking, tree & shrub trimming, weed pulling, and indoor organizing. Bring work gloves and a friend!



All Saint's & Soul's Worship - Nov. 1

Please submit names of deceased loved ones by Wednesday, Oct. 28 and bring photos of deceased loved ones to church to place on the altar during our service of remembrance on Nov. 1 at 10am.



Prayer Vigil for Peace - Nov. 2

Ease your election tensions and ground yourselves in love. On Monday, Nov. 2 at 7pm we will have a prayer vigil in the sanctuary for peace in this election season. This sacred space of prayer, harp, guitar, and singing is open to all and is co-hosted with United Church of Christ, Lord of Life, Legacy UMC, Lutheran Church of the Cross, and Heart River Lutheran.

Following the election, the sanctuary will also be open for private prayers on Wednesday, Nov. 4 from 8:30am – 7pm.

THIS WEEK'S OPPORTUNITIES: October 18 - 25

Sunday:	11 AM Fellowship & 12 Noon Online Fellowship
Tuesday:	1 PM Threads of Love: Quilting & Knitting
Wednesday:	7 PM Youth Group Lock-In 7 PM Choir Practice
Thursday:	6 PM Book Study "Blood Brothers" (on-site & online) 7 PM Bismarck Game Club playing Mahjong
Friday:	9 AM Bible Study (on-site & online)
Saturday:	9 AM Fall Clean Up
Sunday:	10 AM Sunday Worship 10:20 AM Sunday School 11 AM Council Retreat 11 AM Fellowship & 12 Noon Online Fellowship

Día de los Muertos & Taizé Worship - Nov. 1

Join us at St. George's Episcopal Church for a light dinner and a Day of the Dead educational program at 5pm, followed by Taizé Worship at 6pm as we honor the lives of those who have died. Everyone is welcome and invited to bring photos of deceased loved ones to display during dinner.



Faith & Film Movie Night - Nov. 6

Join us in the fellowship hall at 6pm for a screening of "Flowers of the Earth" a 67-minute film about the Indigenous Guarani-Kaiowa people of Brazil, their spiritual connection to the Earth, and their struggle to reclaim and protect their ancestral lands. Popcorn will be provided you may bring your owns snacks, drinks, or some to share.

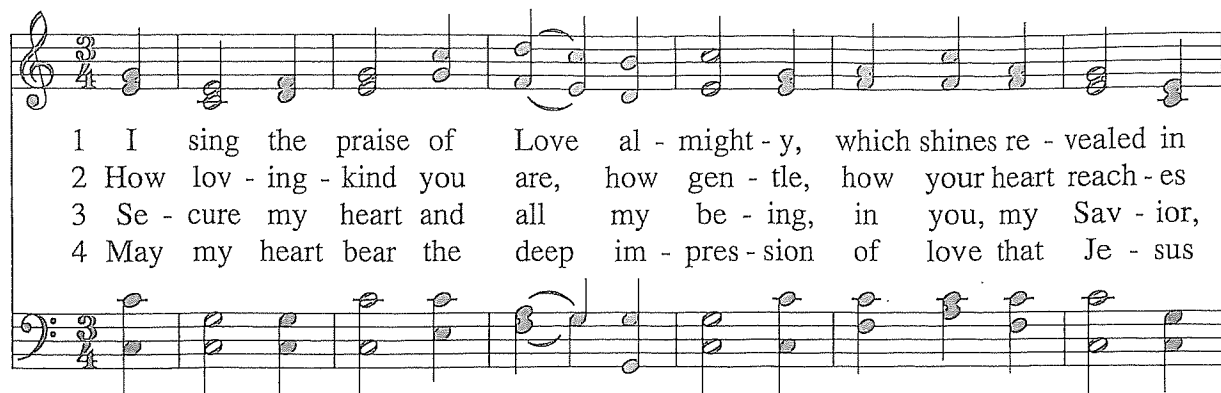
OUR PRAYER LIST

Family of Ben Moch, Family of Taylor Fisher, Family of Dana Brandenburg (plowed snow for UCC), Sharlotte Reddick (Jenna Williams' grandmother), Tove Mandigo, Jerry Lydeen, Evan Mandigo, Ivan Sadlier (Autum's uncle), Jody Miller, Kayla Bruning, Bella Bruning, Matthew Nitschke, Cooper (Brandon & Tasha Domagala's son), Amanda Wilson, Frank Picard, Carla Christenson (Monica Klein's mother), Fredrick Krause (Kerri Kraft's grandfather), Robyn Richter (Kyle Eisenbraun's aunt), Doretta Reule, Howard Etson, East Timor, Refugees

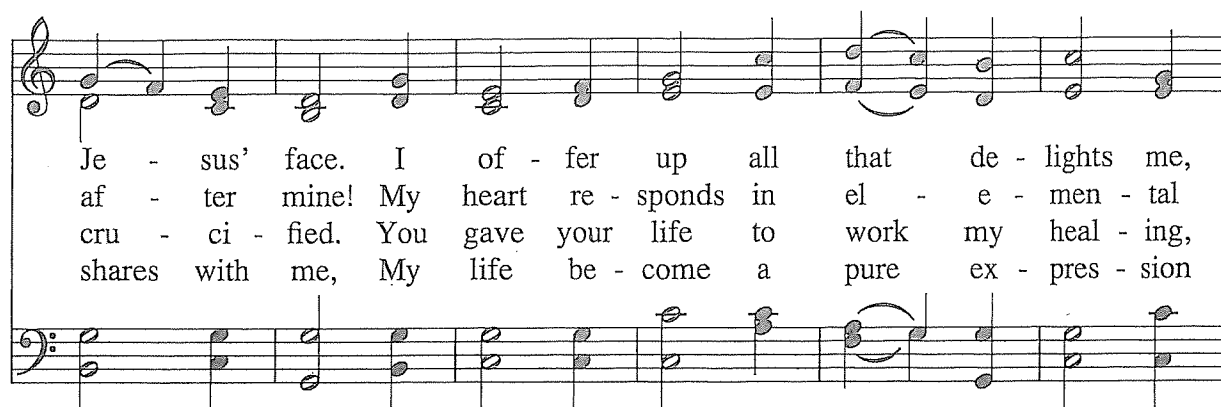
*Contact the church office to be added to our weekly prayer list.

I Sing the Praise of Love Almighty

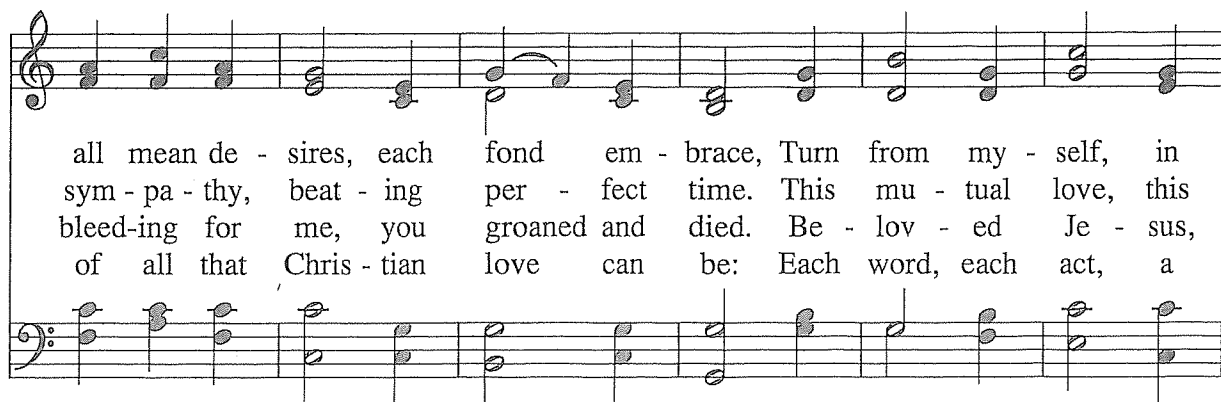
Gerhard Tersteegen, 1757
 Transl. Madeleine Forell Marshall, 1993



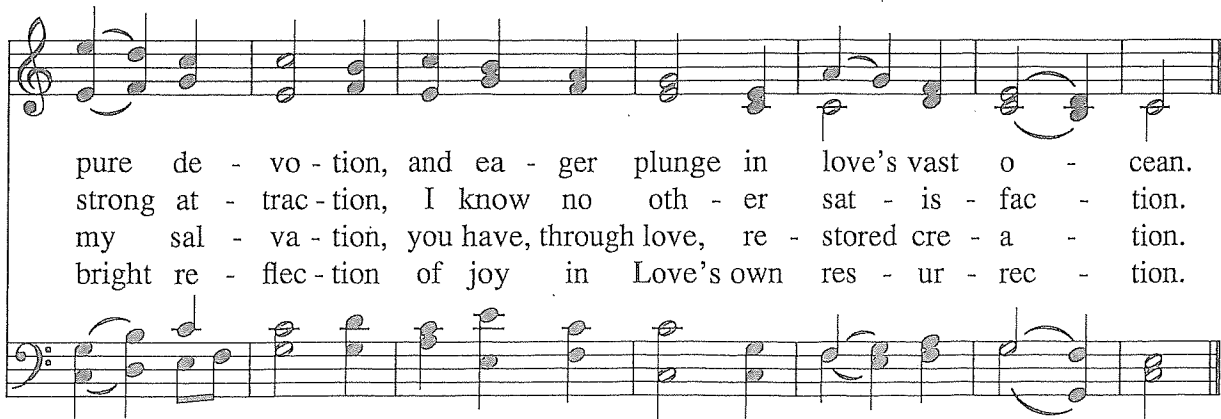
1 I sing the praise of Love al - might - y, which shines re - vealed in
 2 How lov - ing - kind you are, how gen - tle, how your heart reach - es
 3 Se - cure my heart and all my be - ing, in you, my Sav - ior,
 4 May my heart bear the deep im - pres - sion of love that Je - sus



Je - sus' face. I of - fer up all that de - lights me,
 af - ter mine! My heart re - sponds in el - e - men - tal
 cru - ci - fied. You gave your life to work my heal - ing,
 shares with me, My life be - come a pure ex - pres - sion



all mean de - sires, each fond em - brace, Turn from my - self, in
 sym - pa - thy, beat - ing per - fect time. This mu - tual love, this
 bleed - ing for me, you groaned and died. Be - lov - ed Je - sus,
 of all that Chris - tian love can be: Each word, each act, a



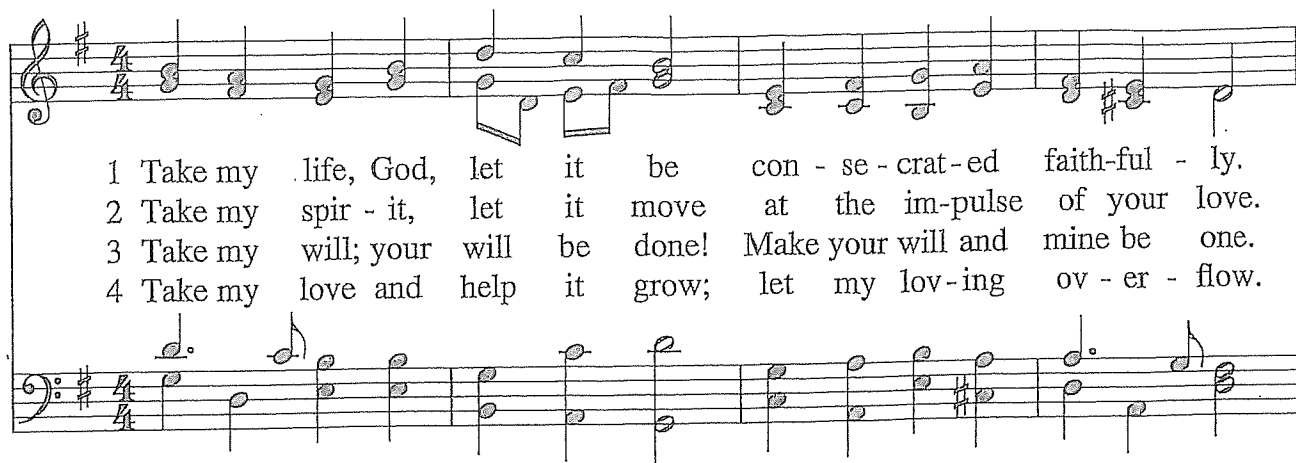
pure de - vo - tion, and ea - ger plunge in love's vast o - cean.
 strong at - trac - tion, I know no oth - er sat - is - fac - tion.
 my sal - va - tion, you have, through love, re - stored cre - a - tion.
 bright re - flec - tion of joy in Love's own res - ur - rec - tion.

Gerhard Tersteegen was an eighteenth-century hymnwriter and mystic, nurtured in the German Reformed Church. The four stanzas that comprise "Ich bete an die Macht der Liebe" were drawn from a longer poem and became popular in this form

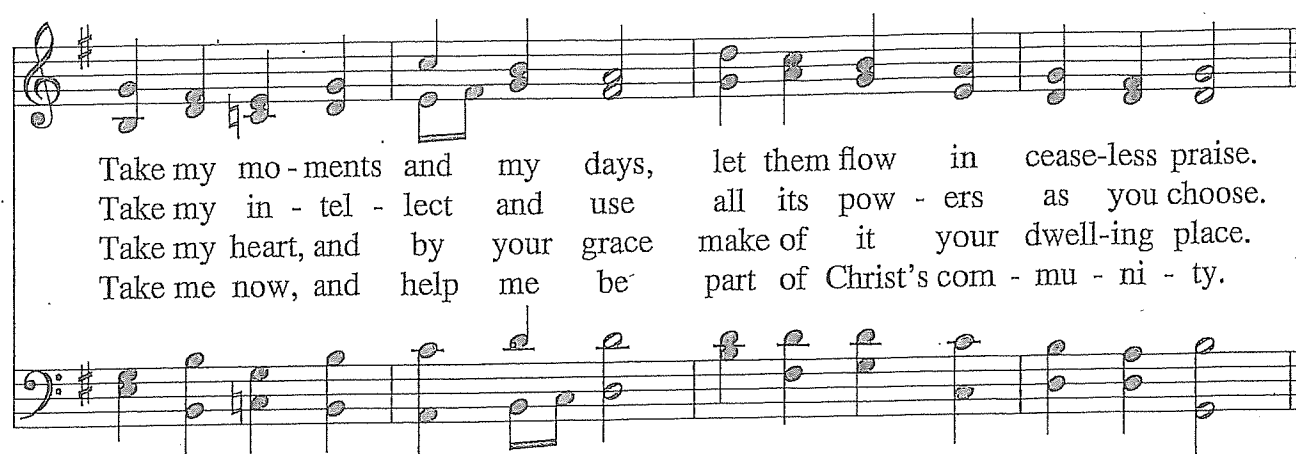
Tune: ST. PETERSBURG 9.8.9.8.9.9.
 Dimitri Bortniansky, 1825

Take My Life, God, Let It Be

448

*Frances R. Havergal, 1874; alt.**Rom. 12:1*

1 Take my life, God, let it be con - se - crat - ed faith - ful - ly.
2 Take my spir - it, let it move at the im - pulse of your love.
3 Take my will; your will be done! Make your will and mine be one.
4 Take my love and help it grow; let my lov - ing ov - er - flow.



Take my mo - ments and my days, let them flow in cease - less praise.
Take my in - tel - lect and use all its pow - ers as you choose.
Take my heart, and by your grace make of it your dwell - ing place.
Take me now, and help me be part of Christ's com - mu - ni - ty.

Frances R. Havergal wrote her hymn following a visit to Areley House in Worcestershire, England. Among the ten persons at the house were "some unconverted . . . some converted but not rejoicing." Before she left, "everyone had got a blessing."

Tune: VIENNA 7.7.7.7.
Justin H. Knecht, 1797
Alternate tune: HENDON

Unison

1 O God, we bear the im-print of your face: the col - ors
 2 Where we are torn and pulled a - part by hate be - cause our
 3 O God, we share the im-age of the One whose flesh and

of our skin are your de - sign, and what we have of
 race, our skin is not the same, while we are judged un -
 blood are ours, what-ev - er skin; in Christ's hu - man - i -

beau-ty in our race as man or wom-an, you a -
 e - qual by the state and vic-tims made be - cause we
 ty we find our own, and in his fam - i - ly our

lone de - fine, who stretched a liv - ing fab - ric on our
 own our name, hu - man - i - ty re - duced to lit - tle
 prop - er kin: Christ is the broth - er we still cru - ci -

frame and gave to each a lan - guage and a name.
 worth, dis-hon - ored is your liv - ing face on earth.
 fy; his love the lan - guage we must learn, or die.