TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

November 22, 2026 Reigning Compassion

Devotional from Rev. Dr. Elyse Berry of CHHSM

In Northeast Ohio where I live and the UCC National Ministries is located, there is an annual sheep festival in the spring. Over the weekend activities, there are two special time slots for folks to participate in sheering a sheep with the shepherd. As I gathered in the barn for the event, I noticed one sheep was with the shepherd and the other, who would be sheered the next day, was in a pen a few feet away. Suddenly, everyone heard this gut-wrenching bleat from the sheep in the pen. Some people looked concerned, others laughed, and many of us asked what was going on. The shepherd told us that the sheep was crying out for her fellow sheep out of concern and worry that she was being taken away. Over generations, sheep have learned that a sheep missing from the flock could mean it is lost, hurt, or taken to be slaughtered. Like humans, sheep are a deeply social species. It turns out that the behavior of the penned-up sheep did not mean it was stupid, as the insulting stereotype tries to make us believe. She was not stupid, she was separated. She was not scared not for herself, but for the one missing. We humans call this feeling "compassion" when we can recognize it, in ourselves at least. The shepherd then shared how deeply relational tending to sheep truly is.

In the final chapter of her book The Salt Stones, shepherd Helen Whybrow invites all of us to be shepherds—that to be a "shepherd" is to belong and to care. "Belonging requires participation. We need to step toward something and care for it and find something outside of ourselves that will ultimately make us whole. Not just wait for others to accept us. But to devote yourself to something, some place, some people, some sense of wholeness." Active devotion to the greater whole. Loving attention to the ground and creatures and people and rocks right beneath you. Where is Spirit asking your loving attention to be drawn to today?

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

BUC0112

8 1/2" x 11" UCC SUNDAY BULLETIN SERVICE
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NOVEMBER 22, 2026



REIGN OF CHRIST
TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Bismarck-Mandan Area UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

1200 E Highland Acres Rd, Bismarck, ND 58501
701-223-2915 www.uccbismarck.org

November 22, 2026 at 10 AM Worship

Reign of Christ/Thanksgiving Sunday

Pastor: Rev. Gretchen Deeg | Liturgist: Carrie Mandigo
Music: Boram Chern | 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: We give thanks for God's abundance!

*OPENING PRAYER

*HYMN Come, O Thankful People, Come NCH 422

SCRIPTURE 2 Corinthians 9:6-15

TIME WITH CHILDREN

Children are invited to remain in worship or attend Sunday School after the Offering.

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

Generous God, you have given us more than we need, yet we cling to what we have. You call us to trust in your abundance, yet we live as though there is never enough. Forgive us when gratitude fades into entitlement, when generosity gives way to fear, and when compassion is replaced by indifference. Renew our hearts, that we may share freely, serve joyfully, and reflect your love in the world. 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 Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

CHOIR ANTHEM Ceaseless Praise

SCRIPTURE Matthew 25: 31-46

SERMON Rev. Gretchen Deeg

HYMN O Great Spirit Sing! 91

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*HYMN Now Thank We All Our God NCH 419

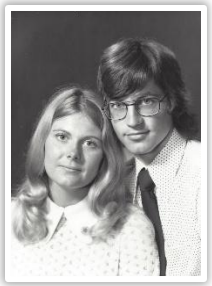
CARRY GOD'S LOVE

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.

Sponsored in Honor of Bill & Marcia Patrie



We are happy to sponsor this Sunday in honor of our parents, Bill and Marcia Patrie, on their 53rd wedding anniversary. We are immensely proud to be their children and invite our church community to join us in celebrating them and the union that has made two incredible people a combined force of nature.

Sponsored by Rachel & Katie Patrie

December 20 is available and the 2027 Sponsorship calendar is up. It is a great time to choose your Sunday in 2027! If you would like to sponsor a future Sunday, contact the church office at 223-2915 or visit uccbismarck.org/donate. Sponsorships are $500.

Fellowship Board Game - Today at 11:15am

You're invited to play a conversation board game next Sunday after worship at the rear tables in the fellowship hall. This game is about our core values and exploring how to speak to our community while reflecting these values. Led by Faith Schwartz.

Joyful December

- **Gift Fair & Advent A'Fair: Dec. 6 at 11am** – celebrate Christmas around the world as we enjoy a free-will donation lunch, artisan gift fair, cookie decorating, and more!
- **Quilt Silent Auction: Bids close Dec. 6 at 12:30pm** – Make a bid on the last quilt that Camille Grothier made.
- **Christmas Sing-a-long: Dec. 8 at 6pm** - meet at Haycreek Lodge (1144 College Dr, Bis), second floor. All are welcome
- **Christmas Choir Cantata: Dec. 13** – Enjoy the gift of music in this choir-led Advent worship.
- **Mayflower Circle Christmas Lunch: Dec. 17 at Noon** – All are welcome for this social gathering at Broadway Grill.
- **Kid's Pageant "The First Christmas": Dec. 20 –** Hear the Christmas story through rhyme and song from our kids.
- **Christmas Eve Worship: Dec 24 at 5:30** – Invite family, friends, and neighbors to celebrate the birth of Christ with lessons, carols, and candlelight.

THIS WEEK'S OPPORTUNITIES: November 22 - 29

Sunday:	11 AM Fellowship & 12 Noon Online Fellowship
Tuesday:	1 PM Threads of Love: Quilting & Knitting
	6 PM Girl Scouts
	7 PM Community Thanksgiving Worship
	(Legacy United Methodist Church)
Wednesday:	1:30 PM Edgewood Ministries
Thursday:	**Thanksgiving**
	Church Office Closed
Friday:	**Native American Heritage Day**
	Church Office Closed
	9 AM Bible Study (online)
Sunday:	10 AM Worship & Baptism
	11 AM Fellowship
	12 Noon Online Fellowship

Community Thanksgiving Worship - Nov. 24, at 7pm

Our annual Thanksgiving Worship will be held at Legacy UMC, 4600 Durango Dr, Bismarck. Seven local churches and Fr. Tom Graner from CATCH will be joining us! Of course, we'll also have pie after worship.

Share the Warmth this Winter

We're collecting winter coats, hats, gloves, and socks for the Youth and Women's Correctional Facility and Ministry on the Margins. Please place items in the bins in the welcome area.

OUR PRAYER LIST

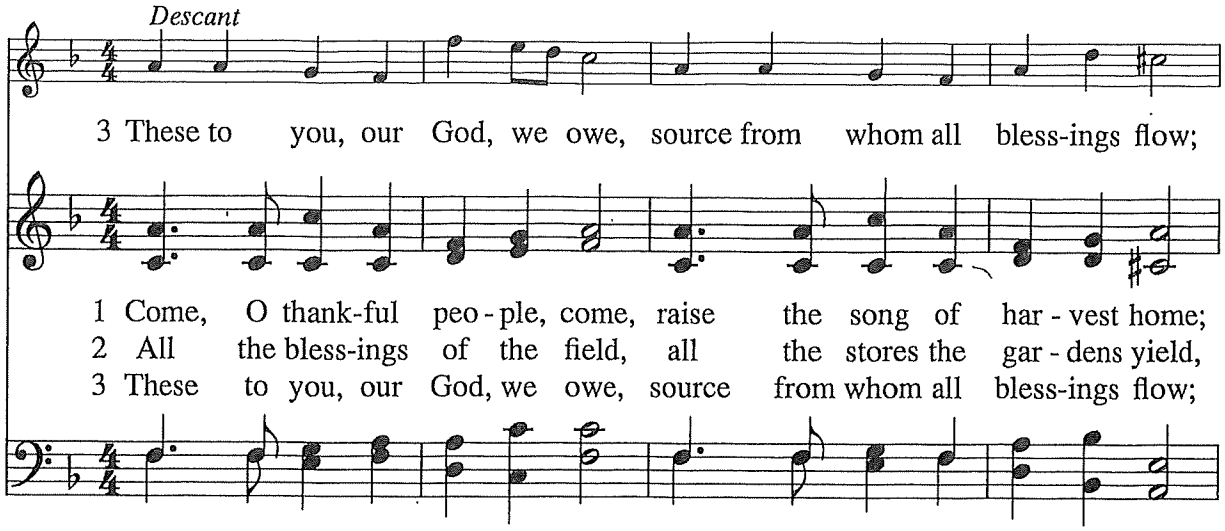
Sharon Derby (Louise Zuern's relative), Leona Staiger (Helen Lindgren's sister), Family of Larry Westerman (Monica Klein's father-in-law), Kingston Adorno, Family of Carol Hoveskeland (Friend of Lonna Augustadt), Louise Zuern, Sharlotte Reddick (Jenna Williams' grandmother), Tove Mandigo, Evan Mandigo, Ivan Sadlier (Autum's uncle), 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.

422 Come, O Thankful People, Come

Exod. 23:16
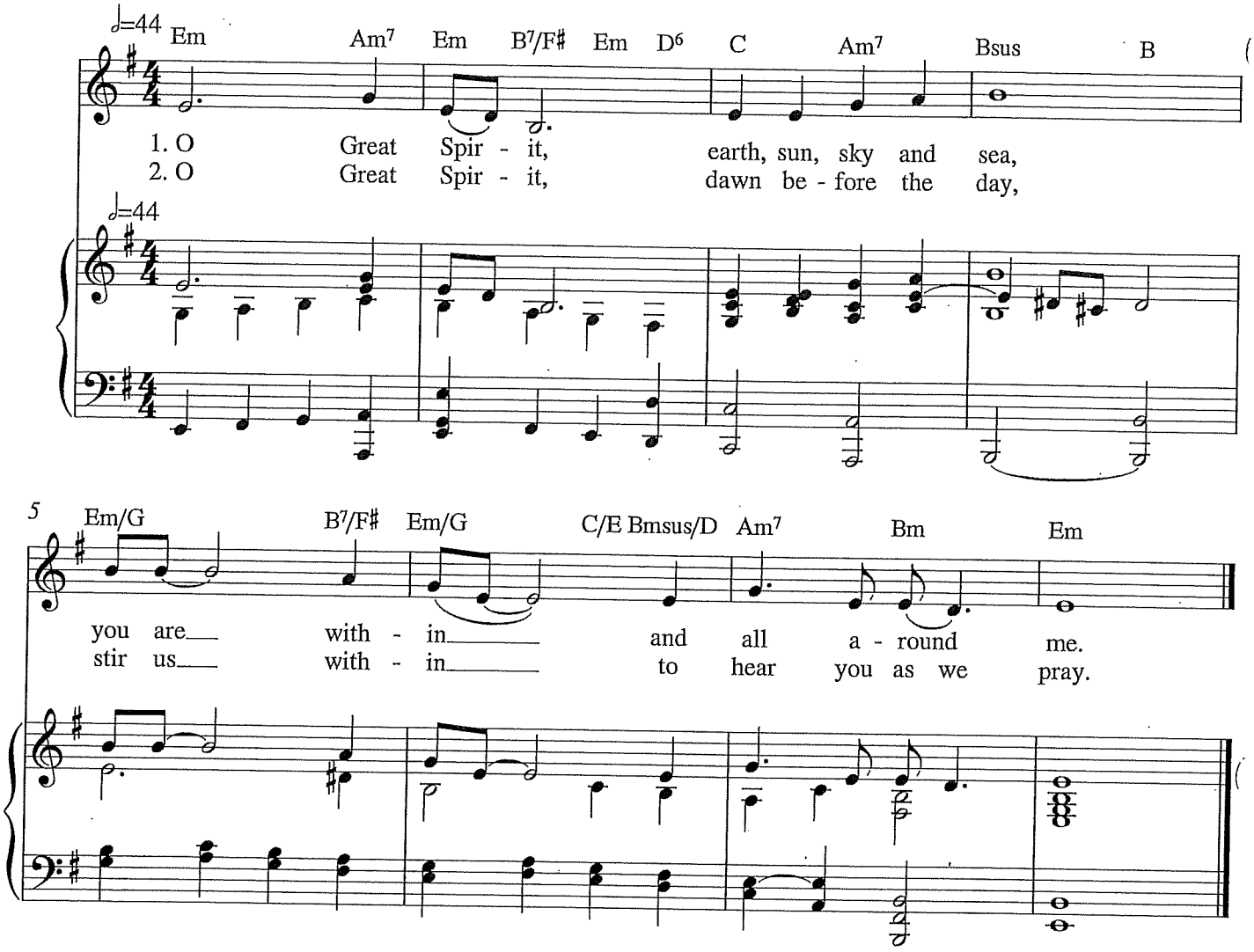
St. 1, Henry Alford, 1844; alt.
St. 2, Anna Laetitia Aiken Barbauld, 1772; alt.
St. 3, composite of Alford and Barbauld; alt.



This hymn represents the joining of two Thanksgiving hymns by nineteenth-century poet Henry Alford and eighteenth-century poet Anna Laetitia Aiken Barbauld. The creator of this combined form, which appeared early in the twentieth century, is not known.

Tune: ST. GEORGE'S WINDSOR 7.7.7.7.D.
George J. Elvey, 1858
Descant: H. A. Chambers, 1931

O Great Spirit



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Words (verse 2): Scott A. Ressman, Copyright ©2009. All rights reserved. Used by permission.
Piano Arrangement: Thomas Fosnocht, Copyright ©2009. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

419 Nun danket alle Gott
(Now Thank We All Our God)

Sir. 50:20–24; 39:35; Ps. 67
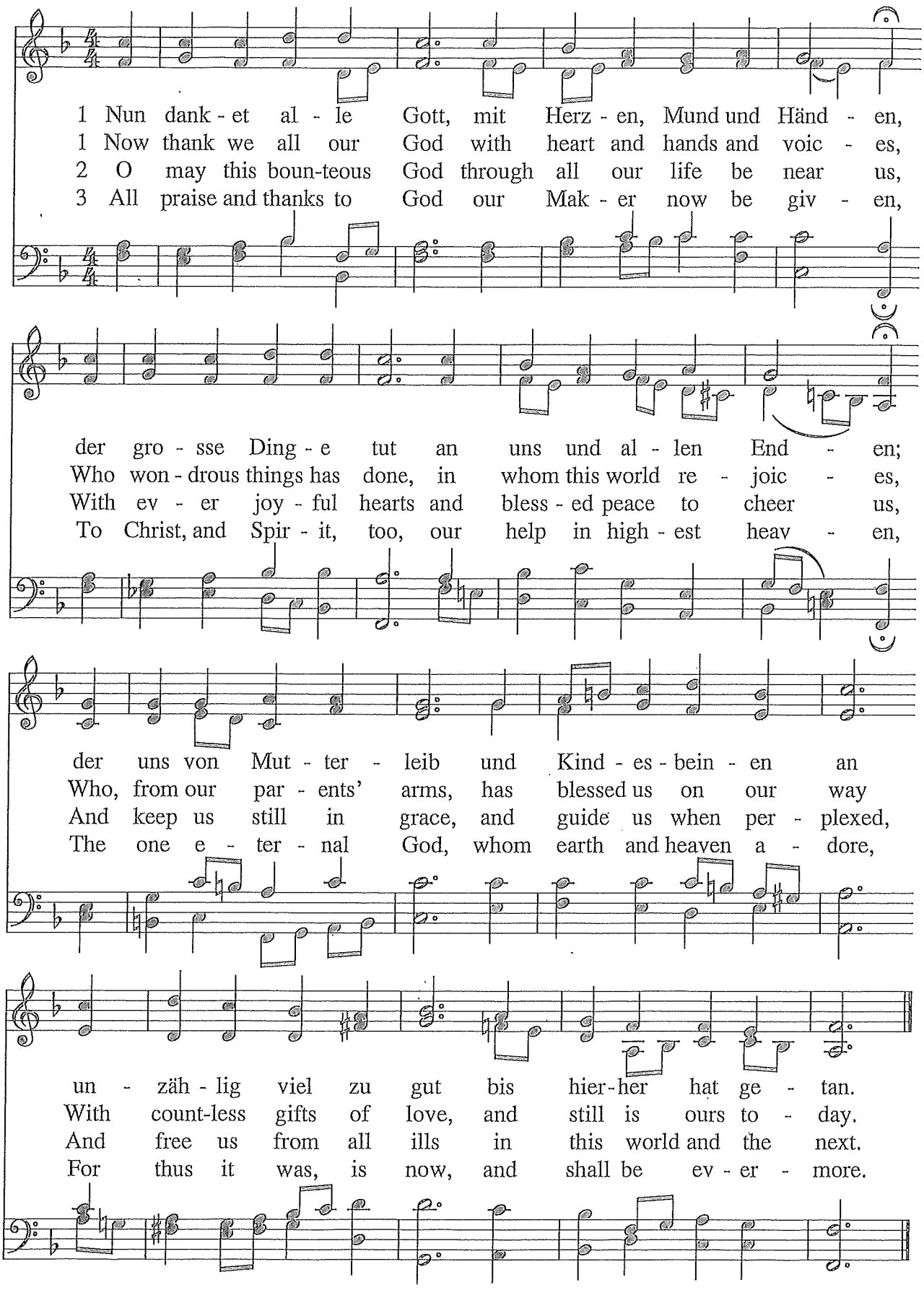
Martin Rinkart, 1647; transl. Catherine Winkworth, 1858; alt.

