"Faith, Hope, and Charity"
Bas relief sculpture of the three theological virtues
in St. Giles, the High Kirk of Edinburgh, Scotland

The 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time
A Service of the Word

July 19, 2020 ✦ 10:00 a.m.

The 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

"It is important to remember that 'hope is a piece of work, not a state of mind'. Much of our ministry in the future, as in the past, will consist of the nurturing and sustaining of hope in the midst of unutterable pain and anguish. It has been said that real ministry occurs when the skin of the soul is rubbed raw. Yet it is here, at the heart of pain and apparent emptiness, that the community of the resurrection often emerges. ... When confronted by the horror of death and destruction, of despair and desolation, we need to hold one another firm in the faith that, in the words of the [Eastern] Orthodox liturgy of Easter, 'Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life."

— *Kenneth Leech, in* The Sky is Red: Discerning the Signs of the Times

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit gathers us in unity on the first day, the day of Christ's resurrection

Prelude *Dr. Patricia Snyder*

Welcome

Greeting

One: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Many: **And also with you.**

Call to Worship

One: We come to celebrate God's presence in our lives.
Many: **Surely God is with us!**
One: We come to open ourselves to God's guidance and love.
Many: **Surely God's wisdom and heart is for us!**
One: We come to see more clearly God's hope for all creation.
Many: **Surely God has planted good seed!**
One: We come to see God in this community of seekers.
Many: **Surely God has made us to be fertile soil!**
One: We come to pray, praise, and offer ourselves to God.
Many: **Surely God is in this place!**
ALL: **Let us worship!**

Hymn — "Let Us Hope when Hope Seems Hopeless" *this bulletin,* **pg. 6**

Prayer of the Day

One: Let us pray.

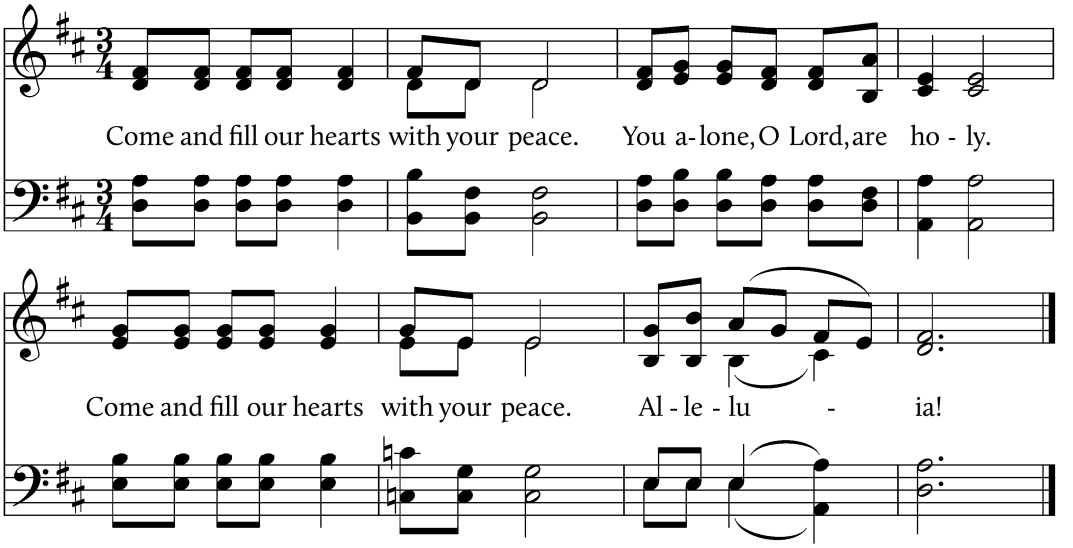
Many: **Holy One, you know us already.**
Let us see you all around us.
Fill our worship with your Spirit
so that we may learn to recognize your presence in all places.
Our failures and shortcomings may be like stubborn weeds.
God, help us to clear away anything
that could affect our nourishing connection.
Help us be vigilant about the errors in our own lives
and the injustices all around us.
Fill us with hope so that we can produce the lives you call us to live,
assured in the knowledge that we are yours,
adopted, forgiven, and free. Amen.

News from our Life Together

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song

Refrain — "Come and Fill Our Hearts" CONFITEMINI DOMINO



Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading — Romans 8:12-25

For Paul, true spirituality means that we experience the reality of the Spirit, which enables us to pray as God's children, keeps us in solidarity with creation, and gives us unseen hope that God will liberate us and creation from bondage to death and decay.

*The **refrain** ("Come and Fill Our Hearts" – music above) is repeated.*

Sermon — "Resting Fallow?" *Kate Alexander, ordinand*

RESPONSE

We begin our lives of responding to the gospel in prayer and offering

Responding with our Gifts

Give online: *Go to www.storrscongchurch.org and click the green "Give now..." button.*
Text: *Text "StorrsCongChurch" to 73256, followed by your gift amount (i.e. "StorrsCongChurch $100") to access online giving via text message.*

During the offertory music, while reflecting on the gifts we have to offer, those participating via Zoom are welcome to submit prayer petitions—joys and concerns—via the "Chat" feature in Zoom. These petitions will be collected together and transmitted to Pastor Matt for inclusion during the time for prayers of the people.

An Offering Thought

We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. — Romans 8:22-23

Is the world about to turn? Look at what's happening. God is leading us toward the reign of Christ, where the scales of justice will balance, where every beloved child of God has voice and place, and all of creation breaks free of the sin that binds us.

OFFERTORY MUSIC *Dr. Patricia Snyder*

The Prayers of the People, *ending with* The Lord's Prayer

Many: **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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and glory forever. Amen.**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us forth in mission for the world

Hymn — "For the Fruit of All Creation" *this bulletin,* **pg. 8**

Benediction

Postlude *Dr. Patricia Snyder*

Following the postlude, the Zoom Meeting will remain open for those who wish to connect and chat—a bring-your-own-coffee "coffee hour"! We look forward to connecting with you!

Notes and Acknowledgements

Acknowledgements:

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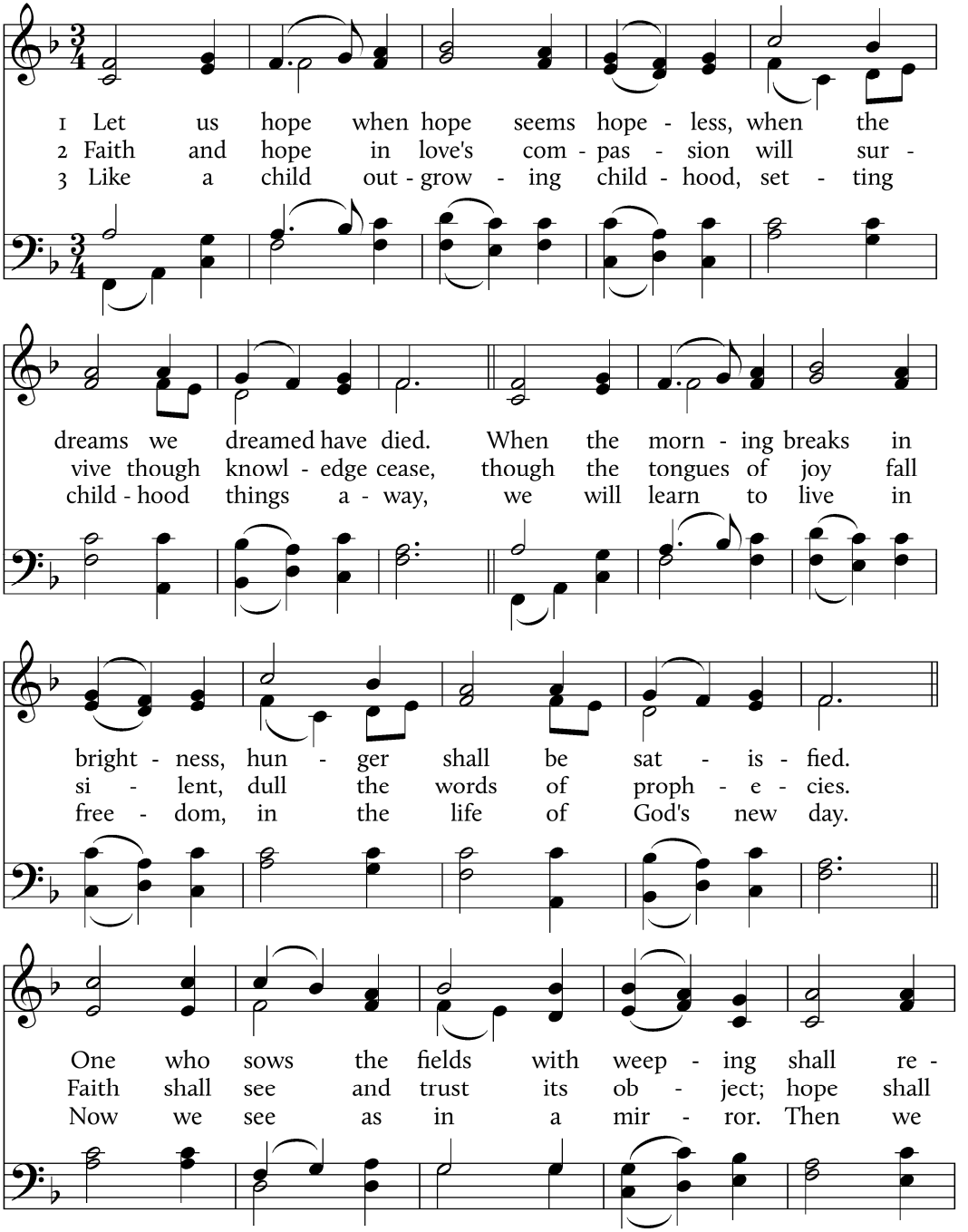
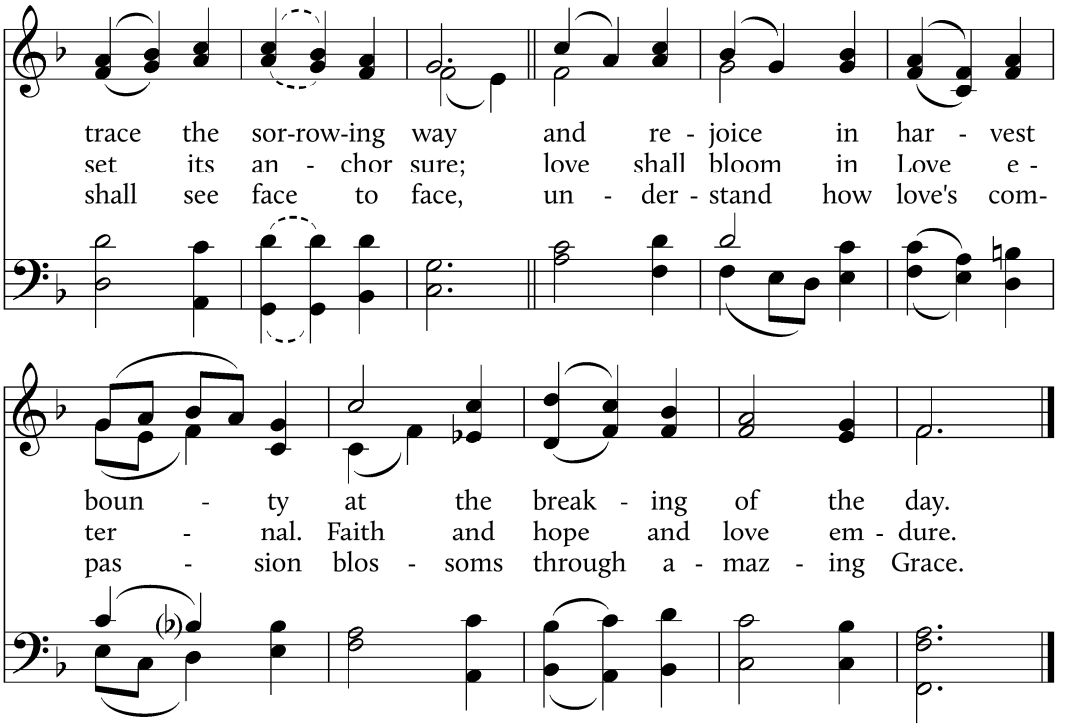
"Let Us Hope when Hope Seems Hopeless"

HYFRYDOL

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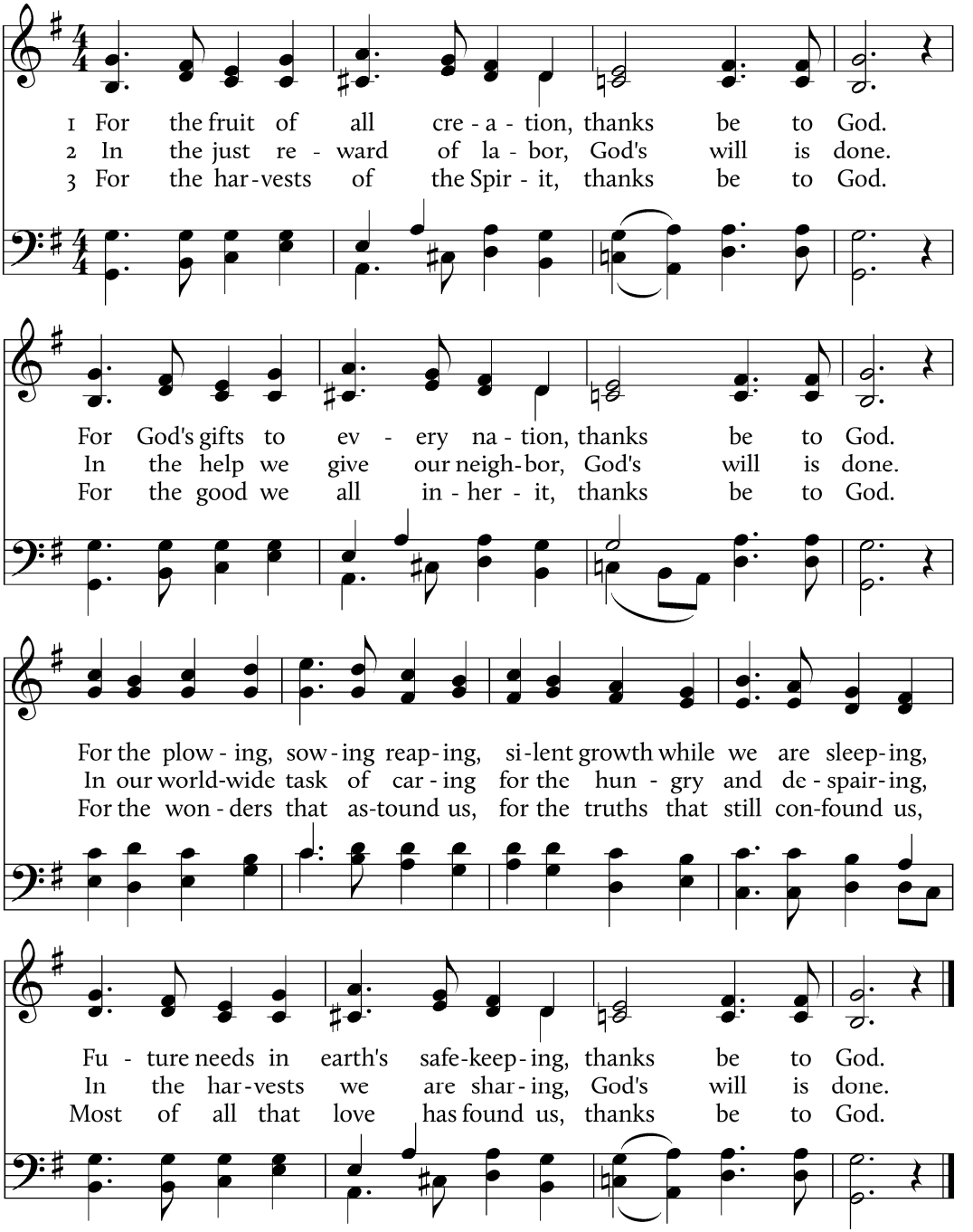
“For the Fruit of All Creation” AR HYD Y NOS



A Note on Giving: We welcome and encourage your financial generosity in support of the Storrs Congregational Church UCC and our mission to share in God's love by growing in faith, courageously seeking justice, and generously caring for all people! Your giving back to God and God's mission through the life of this church is a part of your gratitude towards God and your faithful stewardship of all that God has entrusted to you.

There are a number of ways you can make a financial contribution during this season of online-only worship services:

- **Mail**: You can mail your check or money order to us at the church office: Storrs Congregational Church UCC, 2 North Eagleville Rd., Storrs Mansfield, CT 06268.
- **Drop-off:** You can drop off cash, checks, or money orders at the church office during the week.
- **Online Bill Pay:** Most banks and credit unions offer an "online bill pay" function as part of their online account access website. All you need to do is set up the church as another payee in that system, and your bank or credit union will take care of printing a check and mailing it to us—you don't even need to find a stamp! There is no cost, either to you or to the church, for using this option! Even better, you can set up your contribution as an "automatic" or "recurring" payment, so that your generosity keeps flowing even when matters slip your mind. Many SCC congregants (including our pastor) already contribute this way... feel free to join them!
- **Online or text via ACH debit from a checking or savings account:** By using our website giving portal (go to www.storrscongchurch.org and click the green "Give now..." button), you can have *Realm*, our church management software, make an auto-debit from your checking or savings account. (Note that we are assessed a small processing fee, 1% of the contribution, plus 35¢ per transaction. You will be given the option—and it *is* optional—when you make your contribution to add a small amount to offset the 1% processing fee.)
- **Online or text via Debit Card or Credit Card:** By using our website giving portal (go to www.storrscongchurch.org and click the green "Give now..." button), you can have *Realm*, our church management software, charge your contribution to a debit card or credit card. (Note that we are assessed a small processing fee, 3% of the contribution, plus 35¢ per transaction. You will be given the option—and it *is* optional—when you make your contribution to add a small amount to offset the 3% processing fee.) Please note, if using a *credit* card: we as a church do *not* want you to add to any debt load in order for you to contribute, as that's not good stewardship for any of us! If using a *credit* card, please make sure for your own sake that it is a card for which you pay off the balance each month.

If you have any questions about how to make a contribution, or about your giving history, feel free to contact our Collector, Donna Latincsics (contact info available through the church office).