



Welcome to the Congregational Church on Mercer Island

We strive to be a forward-looking community.

Where God is all-loving and inclusive.

Where people are welcomed and accepted as they are.

Where our minds are nourished as much as our souls.

Where Jesus the healer meets Jesus the revolutionary.

Where together we grow a just and peaceful world.

**ALL HYMNS INCLUDED AT THE END OF THIS
BULLETIN**

Sunday, July 12, 2026, 10:30 a.m.

Prelude

Mark Rabe

Introit

Come To My Garden from The Secret Garden
by Marsha Norman & Lucy Simon

Call to Worship

Rev. Jennifer Castle

Come, people of God, and receive again the good news: God is always sowing seeds of love, hope, mercy, and new life.

We come, not because we have perfect hearts, but because God never stops planting grace within us.

The Holy One scatters blessing without measuring worthiness, without calculating success, without withholding love.

God's mercy falls on every landscape of our lives.

Whether we come joyful or weary, confident or uncertain, ready or reluctant—
God welcomes us with extravagant love. Let us worship together.

Opening Hymn

#684

We Cannot Own the Sunlit Sky

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Jennifer Castle

Passing of the Peace

Rev. Jennifer Castle

Hymn

#245

Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song

Reading

Matthew 13: 1-9

Read by Barb Miller

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on a path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched, and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. If you have ears, hear!"

Reading *Blessing for the Sower* by Kate Bowler Read by Barb Miller

Blessed are we who scatter seed into uncertain soil,
who labor without guarantees.

Blessed are we who trust God with tomorrow,
and keep sowing anyway.

Sermon “Keep Sowing Anyway” Rev. Jennifer Castle

Anthem Garden Song David Mallett

Prayers

Loving Creator we honor you, and we honor all that you have made. Renew the whole world in the image of your love. Give us what we need for today, and a hunger to see the whole world fed. Strengthen us for what lies ahead; heal us from the hurts of the past; give us courage to follow your call in this moment. For your love is the only power, the only home, the only honor we need, in this world and in the world to come. Amen.

Closing Hymn #714 For the Fruit of All Creation

Blessing Rev. Jennifer Castle

Upcoming Events:

July 11, 10:30 am – 3:00 pm – Summer Celebration
Mercerdale Park

July 15, 8:30 am – Book Talk with Suzanne via Zoom

July 15, 7:00 pm – Wild Church

July 19, after service – Sandwich making for Operation Nightwatch

July 20, 7:00 pm – Council Meeting

July 30, 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm Pride Night in the Park

PLEASE NOTE THAT CHILDCARE IS AVAILABLE UPSTAIRS

Bring your children up, we'd love to look after them during worship!

To make a gift to the church, scan the QR code below with the camera on your smartphone and you will be directed to the appropriate link on the church website. Thank you!



Pastor

Rev. Jennifer Castle

Music Director

Deeji Killian

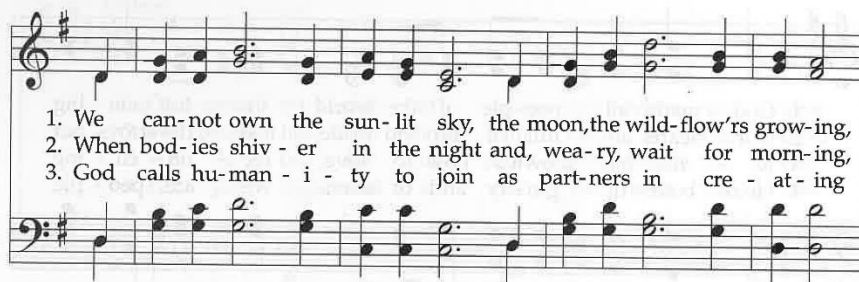
Administrator

Janet Morris

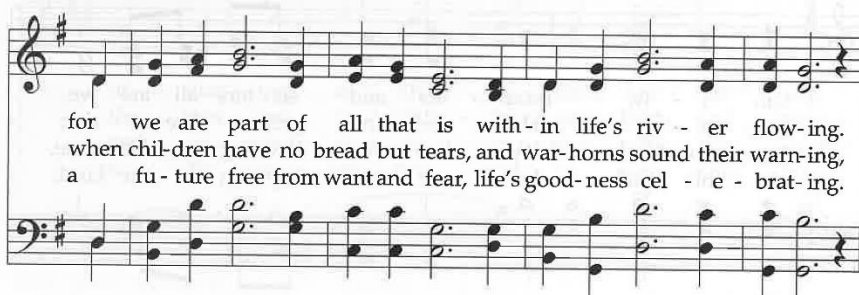
4545 Island Crest Way, Mercer Island, WA 98040

office@ucc-ccmi.org 206-232-7800 www.ucc-ccmi.org

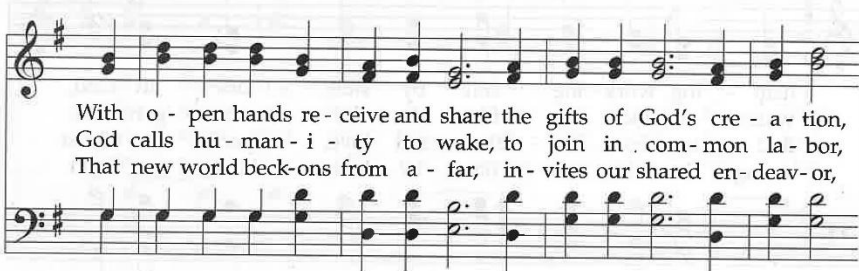
We Cannot Own the Sunlit Sky 684



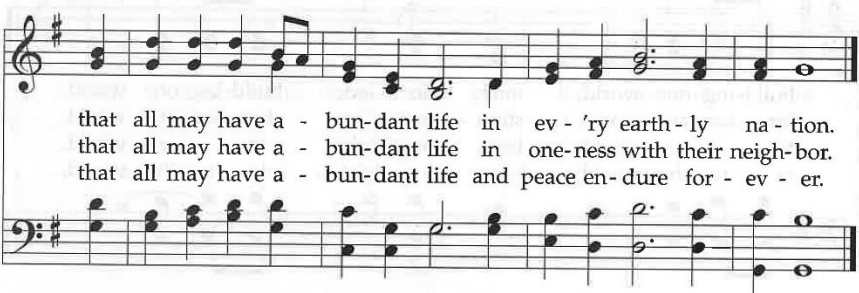
1. We can-not own the sun-lit sky, the moon, the wild-flow'rs grow-ing,
 2. When bod-ies shiv - er in the night and, wea-ry, wait for morn-ing,
 3. God calls hu-man - i - ty to join as part-ners in cre - at - ing



for we are part of all that is with-in life's riv - er flow-ing.
 when chil-dren have no bread but tears, and war-horns sound their warn-ing,
 a fu - ture free from want and fear, life's good-ness cel - e - brat-ing.



With o - pen hands re - ceive and share the gifts of God's cre - a - tion,
 God calls hu - man - i - ty to wake, to join in com-mon la - bor,
 That new world beck-ons from a - far, in - vites our shared en-deav-or,



that all may have a - bun-dant life in ev - 'ry earth - ly na - tion.
 that all may have a - bun-dant life in one-ness with their neigh-bor.
 that all may have a - bun-dant life and peace en-dure for - ev - er.

WORDS: Ruth Duck, 1984, 1989
 MUSIC: Robert Lowry, 1869, alt.

HOW CAN I KEEP FROM SINGING
 87.87D

Words © 1992 GIA Publications, Inc.

245 Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song

Unison

1. Like the mur - mur of the dove's song, like the chal - lenge of her
 2. To the mem - bers of Christ's bod - y, to the branch - es of the
 3. With the heal - ing of di - vi - sion, with the cease - less voice of

WORDS: Carl P. Daw, Jr., 1981
 MUSIC: Peter Cutts, 1968

BRIDEGROOM
 87.87.6

Words © 1982, music © 1969, Hope Publishing Co.

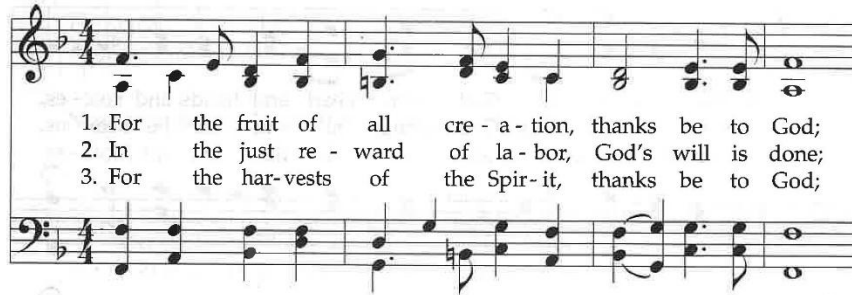
♩=86-90

flight, like the vig - or of the wind's rush, like the
 Vine, to the church in faith as - sem - bled, to our
 prayer, with the power to love and wit - ness, with the

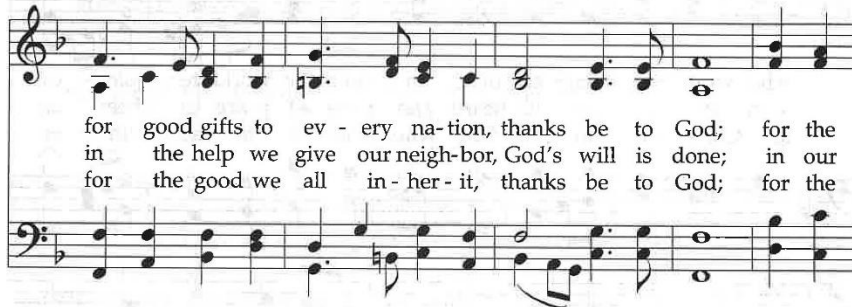
new flame's ea - ger might: come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.
 midst as gift and sign: come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.
 peace be - yond com - pare: come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.

For the Fruit of All Creation

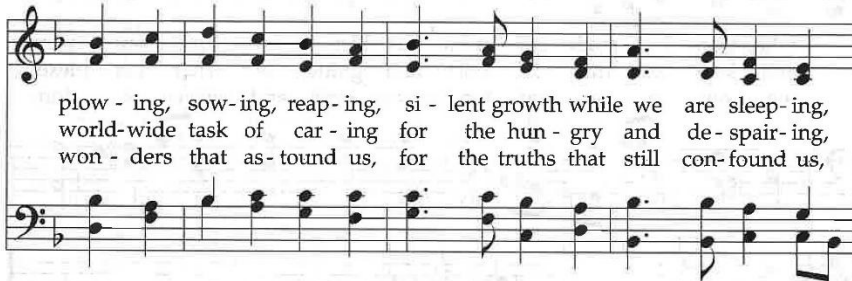
714




1. For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God;
 2. In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will is done;
 3. For the har-vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God;



for good gifts to ev - ery na - tion, thanks be to God; for the
 in the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will is done; in our
 for the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God; for the



plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are sleep - ing,
 world - wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry and de - spair - ing,
 won - ders that as - tound us, for the truths that still con - found us,



fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.
 in the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will is done.
 most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.

WORDS: Fred Pratt Green, 1970
 MUSIC: Traditional Welsh melody; harm. Luther Orlando Emerson, 1906

AR HYD Y NOS
 84.84.888.4

Words © 1970 Hope Publishing Co.