

Sunday, December 7, 2025
Second Sunday of Advent



Congregational Church
of San Mateo
Iglesia Congregacional de San Mateo



New to our church? We're so glad you're here! To celebrate, we'd love to pledge a \$5 donation on your behalf to a charity of your choice. Supporting other non-profits is something we do every week, and we'd love to include you in that practice. **Simply scan the QR code and fill out the form!**

God in the Kitchen

God in the Kitchen

I called home my first semester of college. I told my mom I was fine,
but I was homesick. She must have heard the truth in my voice.
The ache ate at me. It was a long, slow song, a million tiny ants
slurping the juice from a peach. I was tender and bruised,
in the doldrums of it all. But she could hear all of that. So three states away,
she preheated the oven. Three states away,
she tossed blueberries in a thin layer of flour. Three states away,
she dusted a layer of streusel over the soft peaks
of a dozen warm muffins. And three days later,
I unboxed a package from home—
a dozen blueberry muffins, a love letter with my name on it,
a reminder that I was not alone.
If you're running out of hope, count to three.
God is in the kitchen. She's just waiting for yeast to rise.

Poem by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

Because of who you are, and where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!

Assisted listening devices and service translation instructions (from English to Spanish) are available in the Narthex. Please speak to an usher for assistance/more information.

Preludes

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus
Broughy

Don Harper

People, Look East
Arranged by D. Wood

Welcome

Rev. Jessica Vacketta

↑Call to Worship

Tommy Occhiuto

Leader: Family of faith, God is at work!

All: God is healing and creating,

Leader: redeeming and dreaming,

All: calling and sending,

Leader: listening and loving.

All: Yes, indeed, God is at work!

Leader: So may we worship our God who never gives up.

All: May we worship our God who holds onto hope.

↑ Opening Song

Christians All, Your Lord Is Coming

v. 1, 2, & 4

Sheet music located at the back of your bulletin.

Advent Candle Lighting

Pablo and Nicholas Rubio

Leader: In a world full of fear, where do you see glimmers of peace?

All: We see glimmers of peace in the quiet of early morning, when people shake hands, when loved ones say they're sorry, and when the church sings together.

Leader: Yes, even in a fearful world, peace is all around us. (*Light Candle*)

Leader: Today we light the candle of peace as a reminder of this good news. May this flicker of light help us remember that even in a fearful world, peace is present. We only have to look for it.

All: Thanks be to God!

Advent Lighting Song

Christ Be Our Light

by Bernadette Farrell

Choir: Longing for Peace, our world is troubled; longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has pow'r to save us. Make us your living voice.

**All: Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light! Shine in our church gathered today.**

↑ Sharing the Peace

Rev. Álvaro Durán

*During the Peace, **children (4th grade and younger)** and **youth (5th-8th grade)** are invited to attend our faith formation programs in the Christian Education Building by exiting out the back door of the Sanctuary with our adult program leaders. Parents/guardians are welcome to accompany kids to help them get settled. Children and youth are most welcome to remain in the service if they would prefer. Activity baskets with goodies for our younger kiddos can be found in the entry hall (Narthex) at the Kids Table. After worship, kids can be picked up in their program room or Kloss Hall at Coffee Hour. We're glad you're here!*

Invitation to Offering

Portal Writing Workshop

Zoe Mullery & Watani Stiner

Portal Writing Workshop is an ongoing creative writing group for formerly incarcerated and system impacted writers, focused on stories (memoir, fiction, and creative nonfiction), and co-facilitated by longtime CCSM staff member Zoe Mullery and restorative justice advocate/community elder Watani Stiner. Zoe and Watani met in her creative writing group inside San Quentin and after he paroled, they created the workshop to continue supporting formerly incarcerated writers creatively and emotionally. Also, Portal has now expanded its vision to support the work of completion of some of the many worthwhile writing projects started in prison and needing editing help.

Website: <https://portalwritingworkshop.wordpress.com/>

Donation page: https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=5M8D2OTCCWHWE

Give to CCSM with ease!

- **Church Center App:** Download the new Church Center App, tap the "Give" icon at the bottom of the homescreen, add your amount, tap next and select "Plate."
- **Scan the QR code** to make a gift to the plate offering or the General Fund.
- **Offering Plate:** Place your cash or check in the offering plate.
For checks, note on the memo line where you'd like the funds directed.
- **Online Giving:** Visit CCSM's ccsm-ucc.org/give/ and click the blue "Give" button.
- **Mail:** Send a check to the church office. (225 Tilton Ave, San Mateo, CA 94401)



In addition to our plate offering, we gratefully accept gifts to our General Fund at any time.

Offertory*Savior of the Nations, Come*

Improvisation by Don Harper

Prayer of Illumination

Rev. Álvaro Durán

Scripture Readings

Isaiah 43:19-21

Tommy Occhiuto

I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth; do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. The wild animals will honor me, the jackals and the ostriches, for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people, the people whom I formed for myself so that they might declare my praise.

Matthew 11:1-11

Now when Jesus had finished instructing his twelve disciples, he went on from there to teach and proclaim his message in their cities.

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them,

"Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, those with a skin disease are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What, then, did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What, then, did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written,

'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you.'

"Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist, yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

Reflection

God is at Work

Rev. Jessica Vacketta

Congregational Prayer

Rev. Álvaro Durán

In Unison (*This beloved prayer, often referred to as the "Lord's Prayer," has been adapted and translated countless times over the centuries. While we've provided two options below, we encourage you to use any version that resonates with you.*)

Our Creator, Who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the Kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Padre nuestro que estás en el cielo, santificado sea tu Nombre, venga tu reino, hágase tu voluntad, en la tierra como en el cielo. Danos hoy nuestro pan de cada día. Perdona nuestras ofensas, como también nosotros perdonamos a los que nos ofenden. No nos dejes caer en tentación y libranos del mal. Porque tuyo es el reino, tuyo es el poder, y tuya es la gloria, ahora y por siempre. Amen.

Hymn of Response

All Who Hunger Gather Gladly

Sheet music located at the back of your bulletin.

All who hunger gather gladly; holy manna is our bread.
Come from wilderness and wand'ring. Here in truth, we will be fed.
You that yearn for days of fullness, all around us is our food.
Taste and see the grace eternal. Taste and see that God is good.

All who hunger, never strangers, seeker be a welcome guest.
Come from restlessness and roaming. Here, in joy, we keep the feast.
We that once were lost and scattered in communion's love have stood.
Taste and see the grace eternal. Taste and see that God is good.

Invitation to Communion

Revs. Álvaro Durán and Jessica Vacketta

ALL, and we really mean all, are welcome to share in the celebration of communion. Please join us in coming forward down the center aisle to receive bread (gluten-free available) and juice. For those unable to come forward, communion will be brought to you. Kindly dispose of empty cups in the small bins at the end of the first pew as you return to your seat (we recycle the cups).

TODAS LAS PERSONAS son bienvenidas a compartir de la celebración de la comunión. Por favor, acérquese por el pasillo central para recibir pan (disponible sin gluten) y jugo. Si no puede pasar al frente, la comunión le será traída a usted. Amablemente disponga las copas vacías en los cestos para basura al costado de cada banca en la primera línea al regresar a su asiento

Communion Meditation

Lo, How a Rose E're Blooming

Chancel Choir

↑ Closing Hymn

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

#131, vs. 1 & 3

It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold;
“Peace on the earth, good will to all, great news of joy we bring.”
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.

And you, beneath life's crushing load, whose forms are bending low,
Who toil along the climbing way, with painful steps and slow,
Look now, for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing;
O rest beside the weary road, and hear the angels sing!

↑ Benediction

Rev. Jessica Vacketta

↑ Choral Response*

Chancel Choir

**Please remain standing for the choral response*

Postlude

Lift Up Your Heads

Don Harper

Paul Fey

Music in today's bulletin printed with permission, CCLI #11035805. CCSM endeavors to use inclusive language in our worship services. Exceptions occur when we must be compliant with copyright laws.

Special Thanks to those helping with today's service:

Our “Advent elves” who decorate the sanctuary and our campus throughout the season

Our Coffee Hour Hosts: Teresa Gebler & Donna Lindsay

Our musicians leading worship: Don Harper, Dr. Ondine Young and the CCSM Chancel Choir

Worship Liturgy & Art | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

Join us in Dreaming God's Dream! Make your Estimate of Giving pledge today and help invest in CCSM's ministry and mission. We have **82 who have pledged so far, totaling \$374,444. Our 2026 Goal is \$560,000 in pledges. Scan the QR code or fill out a pledge card** (found in your pew or at the Welcome Table in the Narthex). *Cards may be returned to an usher or the CCSM office (Attn: Cheryle Matteo)*



Joys and Concerns

Each week, the pastoral care team gives prayerful attention to the congregation's joys and concerns. Many of these come with a request to hold the contents in confidence; therefore, they are not published below. The wonderful thing about prayer is one doesn't need a specific reason to lift another in the light of love and care. Join us in holding the named and unnamed in God's light and love. Prayers will be listed below for two weeks, unless otherwise requested.

Recent Prayer Requests:

Please keep **Matthew Bunn** in your prayers following the death of his **Grandma Marjorie** this week. Matthew shared she passed peacefully while listening to Christmas music, her favorite.

Please hold **Melanie Dresbach** and family in your prayers following the death of her brother, **Rev. Michael Dresbach**, on November 24.

Prayers for **Barry LaClair, Sue Hill's brother**, as he goes through treatment for cancer.

Genel Morgan asks for continued prayers for her family member **Lindsay** who had surgery on Dec 4th. Please pray for a good outcome and support for her family at this difficult time.

Please keep **Peter Pierson** in your prayers who remains in the hospital.

Ongoing prayer requests:

Continuing prayers for our beloved siblings: **Sue Ingles; Heather Morgan; Larry Anderson**, friend of Frank Garritano; **Joaquín**, Nadia Hernández father; **Paul Nieberding; Sanjana**, friend of Susan & Warren Long; **Mike and Lee Mullery's nephew, Wally; Lynn and Paul Nieberding; John**, Sharon Tobin's son; **Renato Floresca; Lynne and Peter**, friends of Lynn Nieberding; Chona Tendero's friend, **Feljohn Rancap; Aprille Espinuevas**, friend of Robert and Johann Leung; **Lani Leydig; Cheryl Granucci**; Allison Rock and Chris Wuthmann's friend, **Karen; Veril Phillips and Bev Knowlton; Mike and Lee Mullery; George Vail; Dottie Scott; Caroline Reinke**.


Bulletin Board

If you wish to have an announcement added to the "Bulletin Board," please email Kim Rey at kim@ccsm-ucc.org

Poinsettia Delivery TODAY! Meet Charlene Hogan on the Loggia to choose your poinsettia recipient(s) and pick up poinsettia(s) for delivery this week. Follow the simple step-by-step instructions on the easel. This is a great opportunity to spread some Advent joy!

Join CYF for Christmas Caroling TODAY! Spread Christmas cheer after service today, Dec 7th! Everyone is invited to join our kids and youth for pizza in the Community Room (CE Building) before we carol to three church members (12-2pm).

Gingerbread House Decorating TODAY! Get ready for sweet, festive fun! All ages are invited to decorate gingerbread houses today, December 7th, from 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM in Kloss Hall; please RSVP to Rev. Jessica (jessica@ccsm-ucc.org), so we are sure to have enough supplies.



	Dec 7	Dec 14	Dec 28
COFFEE HOUR CO-HOSTS			2 hosts needed to provide treats during Coffee Happy Hour
WISH LISTS W/ LIFEMOVES	Pick an ornament, purchase the requested item, and return to CCSM by Sun, Dec 14. <u>Where:</u> Wish List Tree on the Loggia after service on Sundays		
POINSETTIA VOLUNTEERS	Help distribute poinsettias after worship		

Sign up to Co-Host Happy Coffee Hour: Thank you Happy Coffee Hour hosts for strengthening our CCSM community! We still need 2 hosts for the 2025 schedule on: Dec 28 (2). Also, 2026 sign ups are open. Please sign up by emailing Melodie Lew (boygie.m2000@yahoo.com).

Wish Lists: CCSM is partnering with LifeMoves (First Step for Families & The Vendome) this holiday season to collect essential necessities for local families experiencing homelessness. Select an ornament from the WISH LIST Christmas tree on the loggia after the service, and **return your purchased gift to CCSM by Sunday, December 14.** Questions, contact: Melodie Lew (boygie.m2000@yahoo.com) or Siew Kang (internationalchoir@gmail.com).

Advent Flash Text Prayers: Throughout Advent, you'll receive one brief prayer sent by text at a random time between 8am–8pm, a gentle reminder that the holy can break through at any moment. **To sign up, text JOIN to 510-488-5810.**

Holiday Bell Choir: If you'd like to ring in the season—literally!—join our **Holiday Bell Choir** for the 11am Christmas Eve service. Rehearsals with Dr. Ondine Young will take place in the Choir Room from **12:00–1:00pm** on **December 7, 14, and 21.** To learn more or let her know you're coming, reach her at ondine@ccsm-ucc.org or catch her at coffee hour!

New Member Sunday: CCSM invites anyone interested in making this their church home to join us for New Member **Sunday on December 14.** Please contact the church office by **Tuesday, December 9,** if you are interested in becoming a member.

Pick-A-Vent Submission Form Live: We're excited to announce a new name and sign-up date for our annual fundraiser! Formerly called Pick-A-Party, we are rebranding to Pick-A-Vent (short for "Event") and shifting the sign-up date to February 22, but activity submissions are available now (<https://forms.gle/QsMBSPb6vcWas7h67> or clickable in Connections). This popular fundraiser connects members through unique hosted activities, with proceeds supporting CCSM's goals.

More info in the Children, Youth & Families bi-weekly newsletter. If you'd like to receive this email, please contact kim@ccsm-ucc.org.

SAVE THE DATE - ADVENT EVENTS

Masterworks Chorale Festive Family Fun (12/13 at 4pm) & Warm, Glowing & Joyful (12/14 at 4pm). For tickets and more information, go to masterworksbayarea.org/season

Music & Art Guild's Christmas Gathering 12/19 at 12pm Everyone is invited to bring a lunch and enjoy provided dessert at this festive gathering, which will feature a carol sing, accompanied by Don Harper, and a special reflection on Christmas stories by Rev. Polly Moore of College Heights UCC.

Longest Night: Christmas in a Time of Loss 12/20 at 7pm If the holidays feel heavy this year, you're not alone. On the eve of the Winter Solstice, we'll gather for a gentle worship service offering peace and hope to anyone finding the holiday season difficult due to grief, stress, or exhaustion.

Las Posadas 12/21 5-8pm This event brings together people from all ages, both Spanish-speaking and English-speaking. It begins with the candlelit procession around the church grounds, knocking at every "inn" door. Afterward, we will share a dinner together.

Christmas Eve Services 12/24

- 11am-12pm Traditional Service with Communion
- 5-6pm Bilingual Family Service
- 11pm-12am Candlelight Service

Calendar

visit CCSM-UCC.ORG/EVENTS for the full calendar of events and meetings

Sunday, December 7

9:30 -10:15 AM	Joyful Noise Choir Rehearsal , Music Room/ CE Bldg- contact Julie Berk
10:30 - 11:30 AM	Second Sunday in Advent Worship Service sanctuary and online (FB and YouTube)
10:30 -11:30 AM	60 minutes High School Discussion Group , Fireplace Room
10:45 - 11:30 AM	Children's Sunday Morning Faith Formation , CE Building
11:30 AM - 12:30 PM	Coffee Hour , Kloss Hall
12:00 - 1:00 PM	Bell Choir Rehearsal , Choir Room- contact Ondine Young ondine@ccsm-ucc.org
12:00 - 2:00 PM	Christmas Caroling and Pizza , CE Building and homes of CCSMers
4:00 - 5:30 PM	Sunday Afternoon Faith Formation & Supper , CE Building
4:00 - 5:30 PM	Peninsula Girls Chorus Concert , sanctuary
5:30 - 6:30 PM	Gingerbread House Decorating , Kloss Hall

Monday, December 8

11:00 AM - 12:30 PM	Women at the Well , Fireplace Room, contact Siew Kang at internationalchoir@gmail.com
4:00 - 6:00 PM	Samaritan House Meal Service , Kloss Hall

Tuesday, December 9

10:00 - 11:00 AM	Men's Coffee Group , Hillsdale Mall Terrace; contact Peter Held, paheld1417@gmail.com
4:00 - 6:00 PM	Samaritan House Meal Service , Kloss Hall
7:15 - 8:45 PM	MSJ Ministry meeting , ZOOM

Wednesday, December 10

4:00 - 6:00 PM	Samaritan House Meal Service , Kloss Hall
7:15 - 8:45 PM	Bilingual Worship Service , Kloss Hall

Thursday, December 11

9:00 - 11:00 AM
10:15 - 11:30 AM
4:00 - 6:00 PM
6:30 - 8:00 PM
7:30 - 9:00 PM

Casual Bike Riders, CCSM Parking Lot; contact John Ebnetter, jebnetter@aol.com
Women's Coffee Group, Fireplace Room; contact linda.skromme@gmail.com
TO GO Samaritan House Meal Service, Buckham Room
Finance Committee Meeting
Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room this week

Friday, December 12

1:00 - 2:00 PM
4:00 - 6:00 PM

Bella Voce Rehearsal, Choir Room
Samaritan House Meal Service, Kloss Hall

Saturday, December 13

8:30 - 10:30 AM
4:00 - 5:30 PM

CC Riders Weekly Bike Ride; contact Peter Held, paheld1417@gmail.com
Masterworks Chorale Concert and Reception - Festive Family Fun, Sanctuary/Kloss Hall

Sunday, December 14

9:45 - 10:15 AM
10:30 - 11:30 AM
10:45 - 11:30 AM
11:30 AM - 12:30 PM
12:00 - 1:00 PM
4:00 - 5:30 PM
4:00 - 5:30 PM
5:30 - 6:30 PM

Joyful Noise Children's Choir, Fireplace Room; contact Julie Berk, teacherjulie7@gmail.com
3rd Sunday in Advent Worship Service in person and online (FB and YouTube)
Children's Sunday Morning Faith Formation, CE Building
Coffee Hour, Kloss Hall
Holiday Bell Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room, contact online@ccsm-ucc.org
Sunday Afternoon Faith Formation & Supper, CE Building
Masterworks Chorale Concert and Reception - Warm, Glowing & Joyful, Sanctuary
Youth Group (6-12th grade) Las Posadas and Xmas Eve service prep



For Staff, CCSM Board, and Ministries leads, go to ccsm-ucc.org/welcome/#staff or scan the QR code. To contact your CCSM Board, email Board@ccsm-ucc.org. To contact anyone in the Council of Ministries, email COM@ccsm-ucc.org. To contact the church office, email cmontara@ccsm-ucc.org

If you didn't receive the Saturday Worship Links email, please contact kim@ccsm-ucc.org.

Learn More!



@ccsmucc



ccsm.ucc



ccsmMediaChannel



ccsm-ucc.org



136 Christians All, Your Lord Is Coming

1. Chris-tians all, your Lord is com-ing, draw-ing near in
 2. Chris-tians all, your Lord is com-ing, call-ing you to
 3. Chris-tians all, your Lord is com-ing, he will rise up
 4. Chris-tians all, your Lord is com-ing, hope for peace is

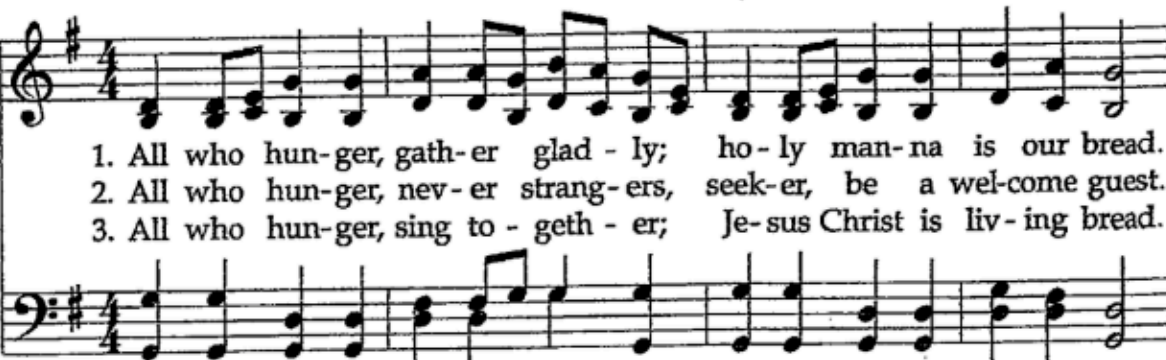
ho - ly birth. Ring the bells and sound the trum-pets,
 serve in deed. See the ones who hurt and suf - fer,
 from the dead. Lift the cup, of sin for - giv - en;
 now at hand. Let there be no hes - i - ta - tion,

let your mu - sic fill the earth. Dance and move to
 hear their cry and act with speed. Set all self - ish
 bless the host and eat his bread. Mend the ways where
 walk in faith where life de-mands. Bear the word that

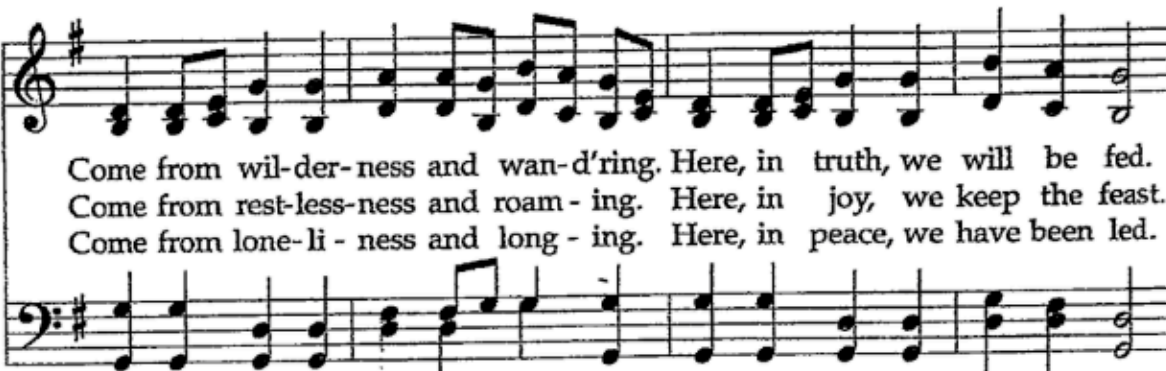
show God's glo - ry; kneel and pause to hear God's word.
 ways be - hind you. Purge your hearts of sin - ful greed.
 peace is bro - ken, give your - selves to true Sha - lom.
 God has giv - en; share the birth that stirs your soul.

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Rise and let your songs be heard.
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Christ in you will meet their need.
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Dwell as one in church and home.
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Christ will come and make you whole.

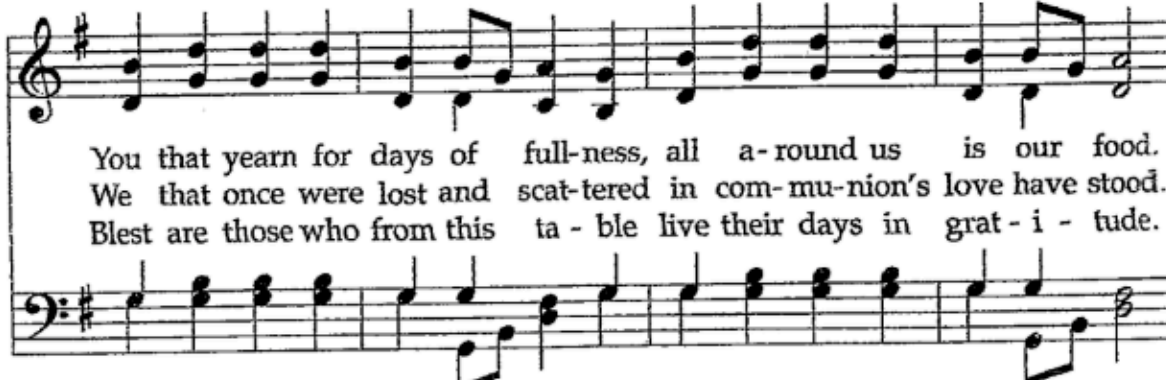
419 All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly



1. All who hun-ger, gath-er glad - ly; ho - ly man-na is our bread.
 2. All who hun-ger, nev - er strang-ers, seek-er, be a wel-come guest.
 3. All who hun-ger, sing to - geth - er; Je-sus Christ is liv-ing bread.



Come from wil-der-ness and wan-d'ring. Here, in truth, we will be fed.
 Come from rest-less-ness and roam - ing. Here, in joy, we keep the feast.
 Come from lone-li - ness and long - ing. Here, in peace, we have been led.



You that yearn for days of full-ness, all a-round us is our food.
 We that once were lost and scat-tered in com-mu-nion's love have stood.
 Blest are those who from this ta - ble live their days in grat - i - tude.



Taste and see the grace e - ter - nal. Taste and see that God is good.
 Taste and see the grace e - ter - nal. Taste and see that God is good.
 Taste and see the grace e - ter - nal. Taste and see that God is good.