





Almighty God, unto whom all hearts and minds are open and from whom nothing is hidden, grant us the grace to worship you in spirit and truth. Sanctify our worship and receive our praises and offerings of thanksgiving as a sweet-smelling savor. In Jesus' mighty name, we pray. Amen.

OPENING PRAYER





Announcements

1. The UPC midweek contemporary service resumes Thursday, September 14, @ 7:30 pm, via YouTube. The topic: Analyzing the Westminster Shorter Catechism, questions 49–52.

2. The UPC Book Club resumes Sunday evenings in September and continues through the end of November, via ZOOM, at 7: 30 pm. Our first reading is: When Bad Things Happen to Good People by Rabbi Harold Kushner.

3. Advent Study begins Sunday, December 3, and is held daily through the Advent Season at 7:30 pm via ZOOM. The daily devotional will be announced later.







RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP



We are gathered in God's name to worship him.

We glorify the Lord, for it is he who has made us.

We are the sheep of his pasture.

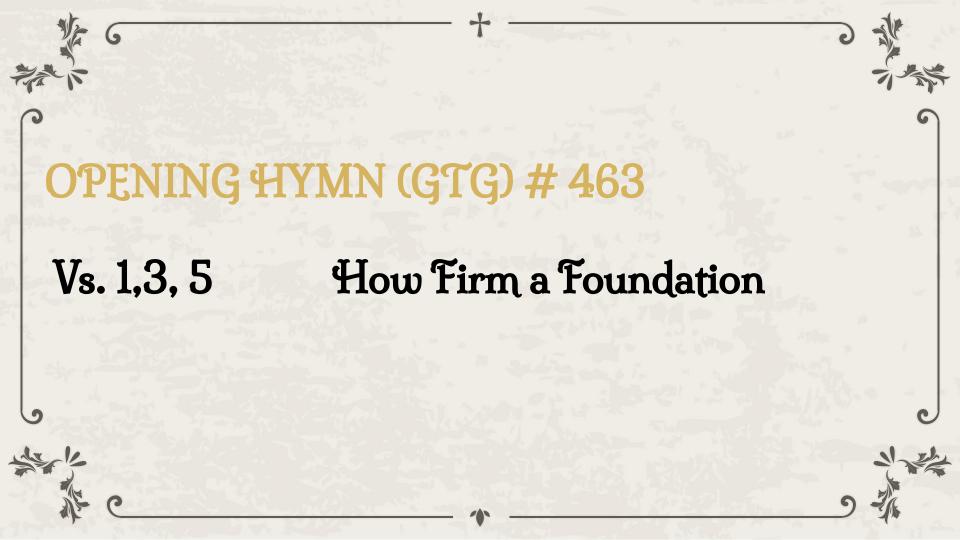
So we enter his gates with thanksgiving in our hearts and praises in our mouths.

God has made us glad.

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to everyone.









UNISON READING-Psalm 133



How wonderful and pleasant it is when God's people live together in harmony! For harmony is as precious as the anointing oil that was poured over Aaron's head, that ran down his beard and onto the border of his robe. Harmony is as refreshing as the dew from Mount Hermon that falls on the mountains of Zion. And there the Lord has pronounced his blessing, even life everlasting.







AFFIRMATION OF FAITH THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection







of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.



UNISON READING-Romans 10: 11-15



The scripture says, "No one who believes in Jesus will be put to shame." For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. For "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved." But how are they to call on one whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone proclaiming him? And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"









Eternal God, in whom we live and move and have our being, whose face is hidden from us by our sins, and whose mercy we forget in the blindness of our hearts; cleanse us from all our offenses, and deliver us from proud thoughts and vain desires, that with reverent and humble heart we may draw near to you confessing our faults, confiding in your grace, and finding in you our refuge and strength; through Jesus Christ, your Son. Amen.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION





Receive the good news. When we earnestly repent and confess our sins, God forgives us. Praise God for his grace and mercy.

THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON













Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. Lead us away from temptation and deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER



