



Hope UCC Weekly Update: March 15, 2026

There is always something happening at Hope UCC, so we thought we would add a weekly announcement feature to the bulletin that is mailed and emailed out to everyone. This Weekly Update will provide you with announcements, information, and updates on all that is going on in our community – at church and beyond.

Order Easter Lilies and Flowering Bulb Plants

Order Easter Lilies and Flowering Bulb Plants in memory or in honor of a loved one for Easter morning. All orders are due to church office by Monday, March 23rd. Please fill out the information below and return with your payment. Please note 'Easter Flowers' either on the memo of your check or on the envelope. All plants are \$15 each and you are welcome to take your plant home with you following the Easter Service on April 5th. Thank you!



Easter Lily and Flowering Plant Order Form
Order your Easter Lily and Flowering Plants
in memory of and/or in honor of a loved one.
All orders are due by Monday, March 23rd.

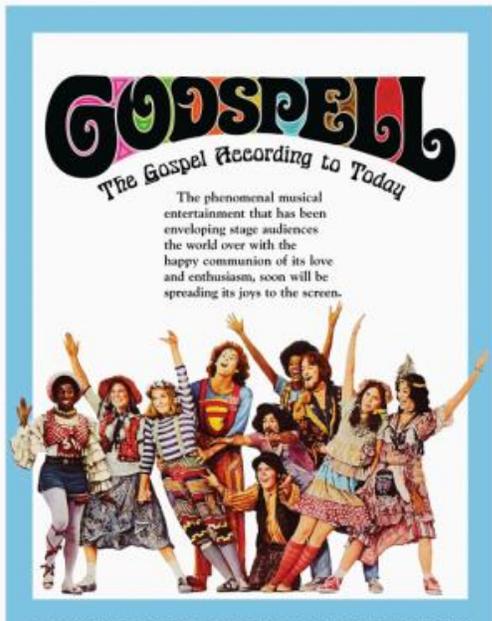
Quantity (\$15 each) _____

Your Name _____

In honor of/in memory of (please circle one):

QC Senior Expo Friday, March 27

The QC Senior Expo is returning to Davenport on Friday, March 27 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Golden Leaf Banquet Center (2902 E Kimberly Rd, Davenport, IA 52807)



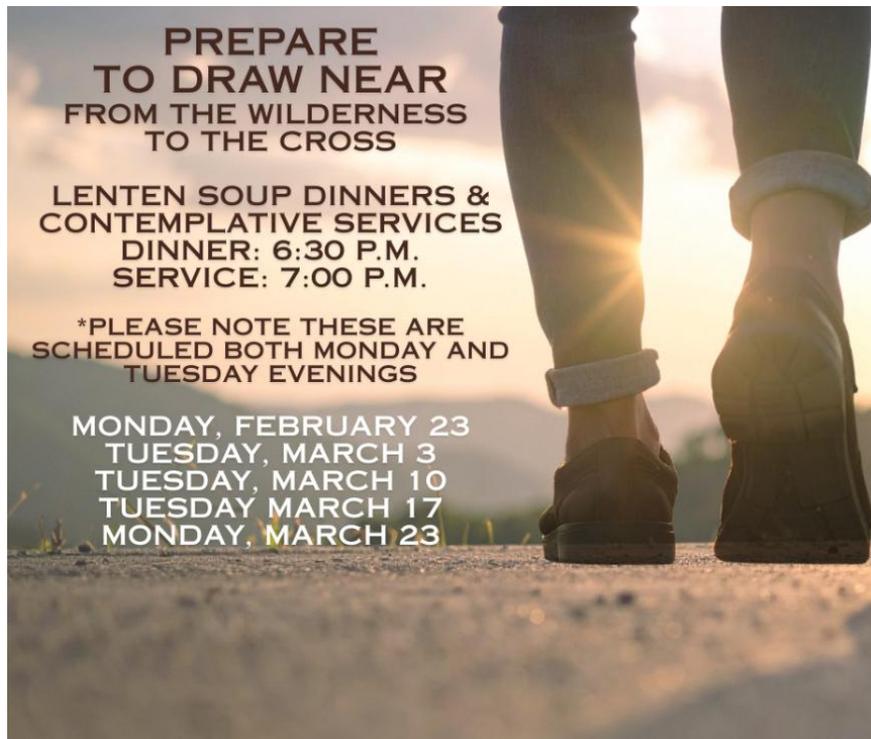
Reel Theology March 13: Godspell

Dust off your favorite pair of bell bottoms and join us to watch, sing along with, and discuss the CLASSIC musical film, Godspell. This musical from 1973 is a modern-day (hooray for the 70's!) retelling of the Gospel of Matthew and features some of the best sing along numbers for us all to sing together. And guess what? Godspell is rated G!! All ages are welcome to join the viewing, singing, and discussion. If you would like to eat together before the film, please bring your own dinner at 5:30. The film will begin at 6:00 with the discussion and dessert to follow.

Lent Weekly Soup Dinners and Contemplative Service

Join us to spend time in fellowship and quiet contemplative prayer and worship together during Lent. We begin with a soup dinner at 6:30 P.M. and then transition to the sanctuary contemplative style service, engaging our senses through prayer, music, meditation, scripture, and movement. The service begins at 7:00 P.M. If you choose to skip the dinner, you are welcome to join the service at that time.

Please join us and share this time in community and deepening of our commitment to a Lenten spiritual practice. Here is the schedule for these gatherings *Please note: there are 2 weeks that our gatherings are on Monday and 3 weeks we will meet on Tuesdays.

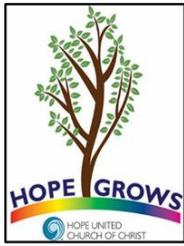


Ruth Circle: March 16 at 1pm

Ruth Circle will be meeting Monday, March 16 at 1pm in Fellowship Hall. All women of the church are invited to come and enjoy food, fun and fellowship.

Hope UCC Book Club: March 30, 2:30pm at Hope UCC

Join the Book Club to discuss this month's selection **Apples Never Fall** by Liane Moriarty. We meet on March 30th at 2:30 P.M. at Hope UCC and all are welcome. See you there!



**Hope United Church of Christ Moline, IL
Worship Bulletin March 15, 2026**

**Prepare to Draw Near
Learning To See**

Rev. Santina Poor, Pastor

Thank you for joining us for worship today.

We are glad you are here!

*Because you are who you are,
you are welcome here!*

***Those who are able, please stand.**



PRELUDE

Just As I Am, I Come

by Mary McDonald

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THRESHOLD HYMN *O Lord Hear My Prayer*

**O Lord Hear My Prayer
O Lord, hear my prayer,
O Lord, hear my prayer;
when I call answer me.
O Lord, hear my prayer,
O Lord, hear my prayer;
come and listen to me.**



*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: God summons us to wake up and see.
Light has come to lead us to all that is good.

**Many: Our eyes have been opened to God's goodness.
We seek to live as children of light.**

One: God sees beyond our outward appearance.
God knows the intent of our hearts.

**Many: We are here to find out what is pleasing to God.
We want to know what is right and true.**

One: God listens to all who worship sincerely.
Praise God with openness and obedience.

**Many: We seek to know and follow God's will.
This is a day to do the works of God.**



OPENING HYMN

Savior Like a Shepherd Lead Us

NCH #252



*PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Holy God, we sense your involvement in our lives. Like a shepherd, you watch over us and provide abundantly beyond our needs. You lead us in right paths when we are tempted to go astray. You refresh us with living water that overflows with your generosity. Let your light shine on us now to reveal truth we have not seen and open our eyes to possibilities we may not have realized. May we be receptive to learn from you and from one another. Amen.



*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Great Shepherd, we thank you for finding us and bringing us to this time of prayer. We have wandered far from the paths of integrity, justice, and peace that you have set before us. We are ashamed of some things we do when we think no one will find out. We are quick to judge others and to excuse ourselves. We want to decide who is acceptable to you and who is not. Surely, we persuade ourselves, you prefer people like us and not those who appear, believe, or act differently. Even as we say those words, we know we are not in tune with your way. Forgive us, we pray, and help us to change. Amen.

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

*SHARING GOD'S PEACE

BELL ANTHEM:

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

by Jefferey A. Hall



PASTORAL PRAYER/LORD'S PRAYER (debts)

One: The Lord be with you.

Many: And also, with you.

One: Let us pray: ...

With the assurance Jesus offers, together we pray the words Jesus taught us:

Our Father, who is 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 forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.



HEBREW SCRIPTURE

1Samuel 16:1-13

¹ The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." ² Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the LORD said, "Take a heifer with you and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.'" ³ Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do, and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." ⁴ Samuel did what the LORD commanded and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling and said, "Do you come peaceably?" ⁵ He said, "Peaceably. I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

⁶ When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely his anointed is now before the LORD." ⁷ But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him, for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart." ⁸ Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." ⁹ Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." ¹⁰ Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen any of these." ¹¹ Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him, for we will not sit down until he comes here." ¹² He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. The LORD said, "Rise and anoint him, for this is the one." ¹³ Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

Psalm 23

¹ The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

² He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters;

³ he restores my soul.

He leads me in right paths
for his name's sake.

⁴ Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I fear no evil,

for you are with me;
your rod and your staff,
they comfort me.

⁵ You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.

⁶ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD
my whole life long.

*GOSPEL LESSON

John 9:1-41

¹ As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. ² His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" ³ Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. ⁴ We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. ⁵ As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." ⁶ When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, ⁷ saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. ⁸ The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" ⁹ Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am he." ¹⁰ But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" ¹¹ He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." ¹² They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

¹³ They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴ Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵ Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." ¹⁶ Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the Sabbath." Others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. ¹⁷ So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet."

¹⁸ The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight ¹⁹ and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" ²⁰ His parents answered, "We know that this is our son and that he was born blind, ²¹ but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." ²² His parents said this because they were

afraid of the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. ²³ Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

²⁴ So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." ²⁵ He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." ²⁶ They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" ²⁷ He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" ²⁸ Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. ²⁹ We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." ³⁰ The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. ³¹ We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. ³² Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. ³³ If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." ³⁴ They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out.

³⁵ Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" ³⁶ He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." ³⁷ Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." ³⁸ He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him. ³⁹ Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see may see and those who do see may become blind." ⁴⁰ Some of the Pharisees who were with him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" ⁴¹ Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains.

SERMON

SERMON HYMN

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

NCH #160

Please scan this QR Code for a link to Hope UCC's donations page.



INVITATION TO OFFERING

God has given us all that is good and right and true. What a joy to share these gifts with one another in the life of this community and far beyond our own reach. In this offering, we return to God with eager response to all we have received.

Hope UCC thanks you for the gifts you share with this congregation. Your offering enables us to live into our mission. Offering plates are located near the Sanctuary doors.

*UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION



Loving God, as you illuminate our lives with fascinating insights and possibilities, we reach out to share your love through our tithes and offerings and our investment of time and energy in tasks to which you call us. All this we offer now for your blessing, for apart from you, the light goes out of our lives and we slip into meaningless existence. Let us, rather, dwell with you and serve you wherever we go. Amen.



*CLOSING HYMN

Light Is Kindled in the Darkness

***BENEDICTION**

One: God has drawn us out of the shadows of shame.
In the brightness of God's love, we are transformed.

**Many: We see much that we had not seen before.
We have glimpsed others from God's point of view.**

One: God has challenged the way we label others.
We are invited to learn from them, not judge them.

**Many: Not all disciples of Jesus are like us.
Yet all of us are welcomed by God.**

One: God will lead us daily by still waters.
We will be guided along the right paths.

**Many: God restores our souls and keeps us from evil.
We can count on God's goodness and mercy. Amen.**



*POSTLUDE As we transition into the postlude of our service, please feel free to remain seated, or if you prefer, you are welcome to exit or head into the Fellowship Hall at this time. Blessings to you as we go forward into the world sharing God's love.

Precious Lord, Take My Hand

arr. by Stephen DeCesare

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Serving in Worship Today: Reverend Santina Poor, Pastor Hope UCC

Liturgist: Stacy Demarest

Ministers of Music: Laurel Filzen Etzel, Greg Etzel

Accompanist: Robyn Carter

Song Leader: Julie Bustard

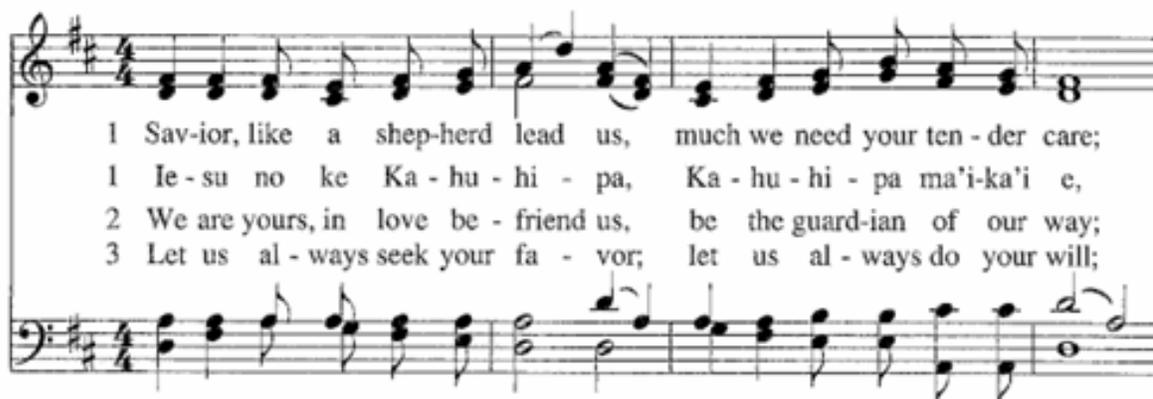
Greeter: Nanc Kinley

Fellowship Hour: Kathy Hobson

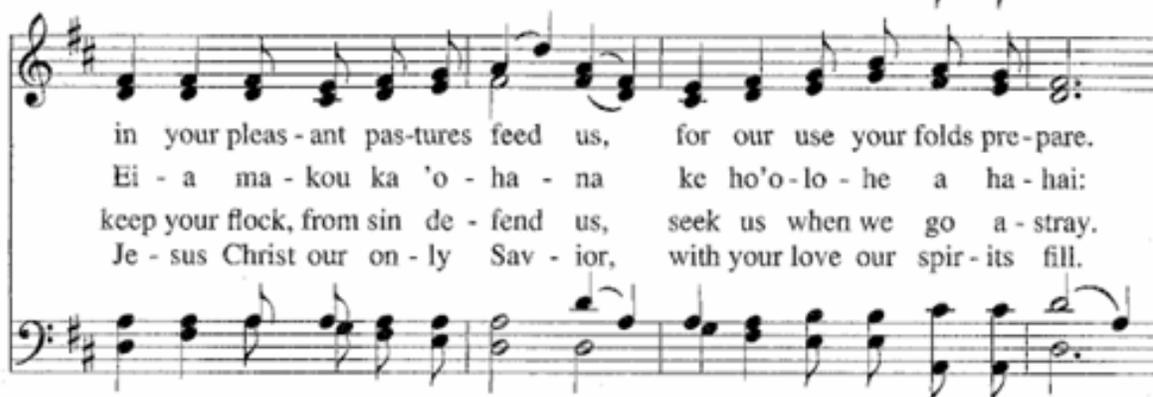
Audio-Visual Ministry: Jenny Hookey, Donna Werner, Bob Tallitsch, Kathy Hobson,
Bob Poor, Bek Svetlick

Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us

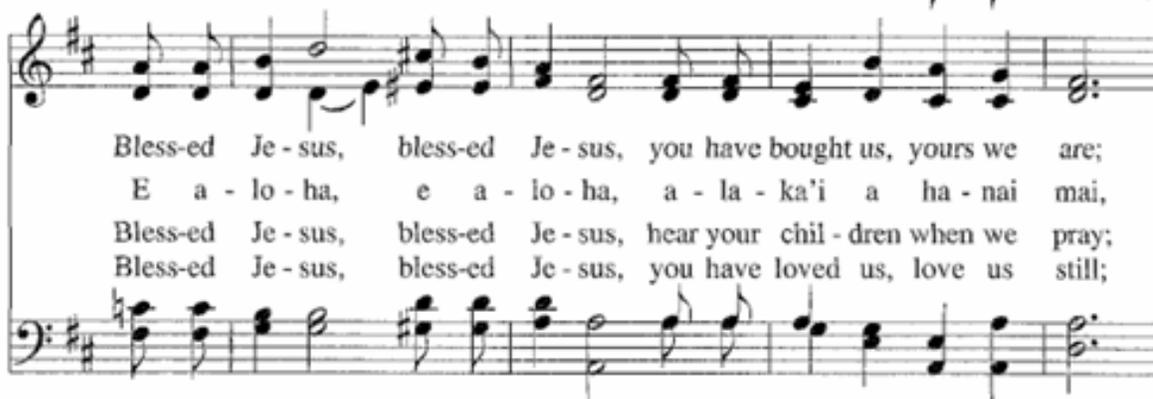
252

*Attrib. to Dorothy A. Thrupp (1779-1847)**John 10:1-29**From Hymns for the Young, 1836; alt.**St. 1 transl. to Hawaiian by Laiana (1807-1886)*


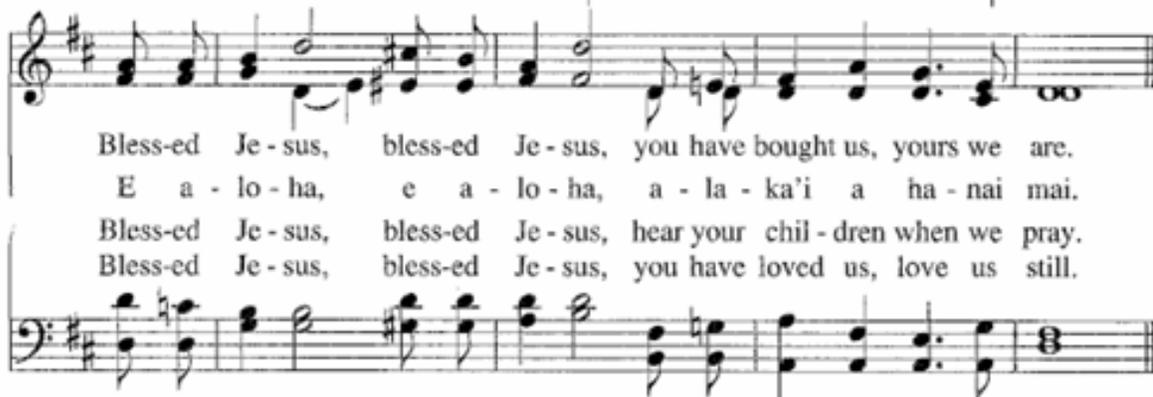
1 Sav-ior, like a shep-herd lead us, much we need your ten - der care;
 1 Ie - su no ke Ka - hu - hi - pa, Ka - hu - hi - pa ma'i-ka'i e,
 2 We are yours, in love be - friend us, be the guard-ian of our way;
 3 Let us al - ways seek your fa - vor; let us al - ways do your will;



in your pleas - ant pas-tures feed us, for our use your folds pre-pare.
 Ei - a ma - kou ka 'o - ha - na ke ho'o-lo - he a ha - hai:
 keep your flock, from sin de - fend us, seek us when we go a - stray.
 Je - sus Christ our on - ly Sav - ior, with your love our spir - its fill.



Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have bought us, yours we are;
 E a - lo - ha, e a - lo - ha, a - la - ka'i a ha - nai mai,
 Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, hear your chil - dren when we pray;
 Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have loved us, love us still;



Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have bought us, yours we are.
 E a - lo - ha, e a - lo - ha, a - la - ka'i a ha - nai mai.
 Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, hear your chil - dren when we pray.
 Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have loved us, love us still.

The theme of Christ as shepherd is familiar and beloved to Christians. Emma Lyons Doyle, granddaughter of Laiana (translator Lorenzo Lyons), once said, "If you want to know the full beauty of this hymn, hear it sung in Hawaiian."

Tune: BRADBURY 8.7.8.7.D.
 William B. Bradbury, 1859

160

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

(Jesus, the Light of the World)

*John 8:12; 9:5**Charles Wesley, 1739; alt.; adapt. George D. Elderkin; alt.*

1 Hark! the her-ald an-gels sing, Je-sus, the light of the world;
 2 Joy-ful, all you saints a-rise, Je-sus, the light of the world;
 3 Christ, by high-est heaven a-dored, Je-sus, the light of the world;
 4 Hail the Bear-er of God's peace! Je-sus, the light of the world;

Glo-ry to the Christ-child bring, Je-sus, the light of the world.
 Join the tri-umph of the skies, Je-sus, the light of the world.
 Christ, the ev-er-last-ing Word, Je-sus, the light of the world.
 Hail the Sun of righ-teous-ness! Je-sus, the light of the world.

Refrain

We will fol-low the light, beau-ti-ful light, come where the

dew-drops of mer-cy are bright, Shine all a-round us by

day and by night, Je-sus, the light of the world.

The original version of Charles Wesley's hymn has received various alterations throughout the years. This adaptation by George Elderkin utilizes a repeated ascription, "Jesus, the light of the world," and a refrain to create a rousing carol of praise.

Tune: ELDERKIN 7.7.7.7. with refrain
 George D. Elderkin
 Arr. Jeffrey Radford, 1993

Light Is Kindled in the Darkness

1. Light is kindled in the dark-ness when our hope seems
 2. Though the wrong ap-pears vic-to-ri-ous—vio-lence, prej-u-
 3. Raise your can-dle in the dark-ness though the wick of

Capo 1: C Am⁷ F³
 D^b B^bm⁷ G^b3

most ab-surd, bea-cons through a shroud-ed fu-ture,
 dice, and pride—hope still ris-es from the wreck-age;
 faith burns low. Feed the fire with grace and jus-tice

G^{SUS2} C Am⁷
 A^bSUS2 D^b B^bm⁷

pledg-es of Christ's stead-fast word: gifts of good-ness yet en-
 joy and grief stand side by side. We will feel both pain and
 and in won-der watch it grow. As we gath-er flames to-

F³ G^b3 G^{SUS2} Dm⁷ CADD2/E
 A^bSUS2 E^bm⁷ D^bADD2/F

fold us— all a - round, be - neath, a - bove— signs of beau - ty
 prom - ise, ter - ror's sting and love's new birth, as we walk in
 geth - er, till they shine with warmth and light, God dis - pels the

Fmaj⁹(♯11) *Dm⁷*
G♭maj⁹(♯11) *E♭m⁷*

still per - sist - ing, sym - bols of God's con - stant love.
 light and shad - ow on God's blessed and bleed - ing earth.
 night of ha - tred, and the blaze of love burns bright.

CADD2/E *Fmaj⁹(♯11)* *GSUS4* *C*
D♭ADD2/F *G♭maj⁹(♯11)* *A♭SUS4* *D♭*