

# East Parish United Methodist Church

Established 1834

*East Parish is a Church open to all, which nurtures and enables people to experience God's transforming love and serve others in Jesus' name.*



**September 26, 2021**  
**Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

*The Book of Remembrance is opened to the Glory of  
God, in loving memory of R. Scott Mullen.*

# WELCOME

## CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 124)

**P: The troubles of our world would have swallowed us whole.**

L: If it had not been God who was on our side,

**P:** The sorrows of our times would have swept us away.

L: Our help is in our God,

**P: The One who made heaven and earth.**

**A: Call upon God, creator and rescuer. God is on our side.**

## OPENING PRAYER (Unison)

**Eternal God, you create us and you rescue us. Be here with us now. Help us know how much we need you. Teach us that no other power can support us like your power. As you share your power with us, teach us to be Christ to the world, proclaiming your reign for all people. As you lavish your love upon us, help us receive that love and offer it to the world, in Jesus' name. Amen.**

## READINGS FROM SCRIPTURE

Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22

James 5:13-20

## Mark 9:38-50

# SERMON

## “If They Ain’t Against Us”

**Rev. Nancy Wichmann**

\* HYMN      *“When We Are Called to Sing Your Praise”*      TFWs#2216

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

You are invited to share your prayers of thanksgiving or petition. You may also send them to Pastor Wichmann at [nan\\_wich@bellsouth.net](mailto:nan_wich@bellsouth.net); indicate whether or not they should be shared.

### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)**

**Patient God, we know that you call us to service, but we often feel inadequate. We love to make excuses for not doing something or for doing something only half-heartedly. Remind us again of your loving and guiding presence. Forgive us when we stumble and falter. Turn us again to you, serving joyfully and confidently. In Jesus' Name, we pray. AMEN.**

## WORDS OF ASSURANCE

## PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

L. Please greet your neighbors with the blessing: "The peace of Christ be with you."

**P. And also with you.**

## GIVING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

## OFFERTORY

*"Chimes"*

## \* DOXOLOGY

No. 94

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts! Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

If you wish to become a member of our church family, or to be baptized, contact Pastor Wichmann at [nan\\_wich@bellsouth.net](mailto:nan_wich@bellsouth.net).

Our bishop encourages each church to help the Afghan resettlement efforts through the UM Foundation of New England <https://www.umfne.org/>

## \* HYMN

*"Jesus Loves Me, This I Know"*

#191

## \* BENEDICTION

## \* BENEDICTION RESPONSE

*"Make Me a Channel of Your Peace"*

**TFWS 2171 vs. 4**

*Make me a channel of your peace. It is in pardoning that we are pardoned. It is in giving of ourselves that we receive. And in dying that we are born to eternal life*

## POSTLUDE

*"Hymn to Joy"*

*arr. Wilbur Held*

*\*Indicates that we rise in body or in spirit.*

## Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22

1 So the king and Haman went in to feast with Queen Esther. 2 On the second day, as they were drinking wine, the king again said to Esther, "What is your petition, Queen Esther? It shall be granted you. And what is your request? Even to the half of my kingdom, it shall be fulfilled." 3 Then Queen Esther answered, "If I have won your favor, O king, and if it pleases the king, let my life be given me—that is my petition—and the lives of my people—that is my request. 4 For we have been sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be killed, and to be annihilated. If we had been sold merely as slaves, men and women, I would have held my peace; but no enemy can compensate for this damage to the king." 5 Then King Ahasuerus said to Queen Esther, "Who is he, and where is he, who has presumed to do this?" 6 Esther said, "A foe and enemy, this wicked Haman!" Then Haman was terrified before the king and the queen.

9 Then Harbona, one of the eunuchs in attendance on the king, said, "Look, the very gallows that Haman has prepared for Mordecai, whose word saved the king, stands at Haman's house, fifty cubits high." And the king said, "Hang him on that." 10 So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then the anger of the king abated.

20 Mordecai recorded these things, and sent letters to all the Jews who were in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus, both near and far, 21 enjoining them that they should keep

the fourteenth day of the month Adar and also the fifteenth day of the same month, year by year, 22 as the days on which the Jews gained relief from their enemies, and as the month that had been turned for them from sorrow into gladness and from mourning into a holiday; that they should make them days of feasting and gladness, days for sending gifts of food to one another and presents to the poor.

(New Revised Standard Version)

### **James 5:13-20**

13 If any of you are suffering, they should pray. If any of you are happy, they should sing. 14 If any of you are sick, they should call for the elders of the church, and the elders should pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of God. 15 Prayer that comes from faith will heal the sick, for God will restore them to health. And if they have sinned, they will be forgiven. 16 For this reason, confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous person is powerful in what it can achieve. 17 Elijah was a person just like us. When he earnestly prayed that it wouldn't rain, no rain fell for three and a half years. 18 He prayed again, God sent rain, and the earth produced its fruit.

19 My brothers and sisters, if any of you wander from the truth and someone turns back the wanderer, 20 recognize that whoever brings a sinner back from the wrong path will save them from death and will bring about the forgiveness of many sins.

(Common English Bible, adapted)

### **Mark 9:38-50**


38 John said to Jesus, "Teacher, we saw someone throwing demons out in your name, and we tried to stop him because he wasn't following us."

39 Jesus replied, "Don't stop him. No one who does powerful acts in my name can quickly turn around and curse me. 40 Whoever isn't against us is for us. 41 I assure you that whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you belong to Christ will certainly be rewarded.


42 "As for whoever causes these little ones who believe in me to trip and fall into sin, it would be better for them to have a huge stone hung around their necks and to be thrown into the lake. 43 If your hand causes you to fall into sin, chop it off. It's better for you to enter into life crippled than to go away with two hands into the fire of hell, which can't be put out. 45 If your foot causes you to fall into sin, chop it off. It's better for you to enter life lame than to be thrown into hell with two feet. 47 If your eye causes you to fall into sin, tear it out. It's better for you to enter God's kingdom with one eye than to be thrown into hell with two. 48 That's a place where worms don't die and the fire never goes out. 49 Everyone will be salted with fire. 50 Salt is good; but if salt loses its saltiness, how will it become salty again? Maintain salt among yourselves and keep peace with each other."

(Common English Bible, adapted)

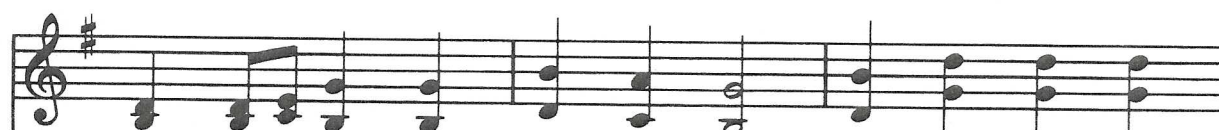
# 150 God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens



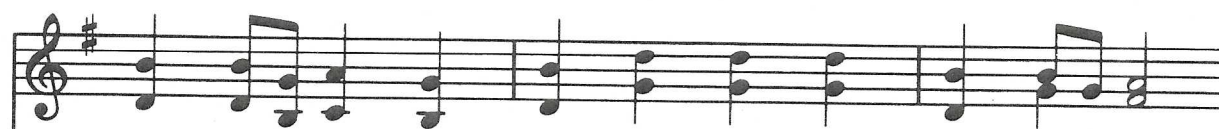
1. God, who stretched the span - gled heav - ens, in - fi - nite in  
 2. Proud - ly rise our mod - ern cit - ies, state - ly build - ings,  
 3. We have ven - tured worlds un - dreamed of since the child - hood  
 4. As each far ho - ri - zon beck - ons, may it chal - lenge



time and place, flung the suns in burn - ing ra - diance  
 row on row; yet their win - dows, blank, un - feel - ing,  
 of our race; known the ec - sta - sy of wing - ing  
 us a - new, chil - dren of cre - a - tive pur - pose,



through the si - lent fields of space, we your chil - dren,  
 stare on can - yoned streets be - low, where the lone - ly  
 through un - trav - eled realms of space; probed the se - crets  
 serv - ing oth - ers, hon - oring you. May our dreams prove



in your like - ness, share in - ven - tive powers with you.  
 drift un - no - ticed in the cit - y's ebb and flow,  
 of the at - om, yield - ing un - i - mag - ined power,  
 rich with prom - ise, each en - deav - or well be - gun.

# 150 cont

Great Cre-a-tor, still cre-at-ing, show us what we yet may do.  
lost to pur-pose and to mean-ing, scarce-ly car-ing where they go.  
fac-ing us with life's de-struc-tion or our most tri-um-phant hour.  
Great Cre-a-tor, give us guid-ance till our goals and yours are one.

## 2216 When We Are Called to Sing Your Praise

1. When we are called to sing your praise with  
 2. When we are called to sing your praise and  
 3. When we are called to sing your praise and

hearts so filled with pain that we would rath - er  
 can - not find our voice, be - cause our los - ses  
 life a - head looks grim, still give us faith and

sit and weep or stand up to com - plain, re -  
 leave us now no rea - son to re - jice, re -  
 hope e - nough to break forth in a hymn, a

mind us, God, you un - der - stand the bur - dens that we  
 mind us, God, that you ac - cept our sad la - ments in  
 thank - ful hymn, great God of Love, that you are ev - ery -

WORDS: Mary Nelson Keithahn

MUSIC: Trad. English melody; arr. by Ralph Vaughan Williams

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KINGSFOLD  
C&D

musical score for the first system of the hymn "Strength in Tribulation". It features a treble and bass staff in G major (one sharp). The treble staff contains the melody, and the bass staff provides harmonic support. The lyrics are: "bear; prayer; where; you, you, you; too, too, walk; have, have, the; walked, walked, shad - owed; the, the, owed".

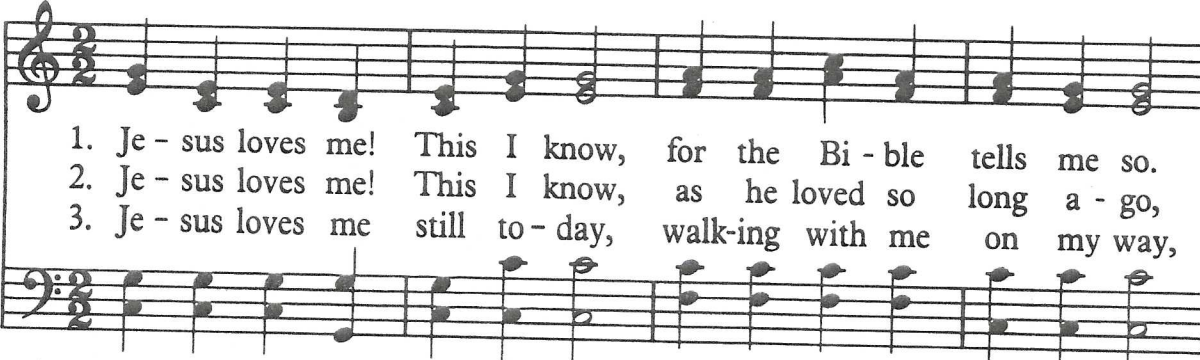
bear; prayer; where; you, you, you; too, too, walk; have, have, the; walked, walked, shad - owed; the, the, owed

musical score for the second system of the hymn "Strength in Tribulation". It continues the melody and harmony from the first system. The lyrics are: "shad - owed way and known our deep de - spair. shad - owed way and known our deep de - spair. way with us and keep us in your care." The system concludes with a double bar line and repeat signs.

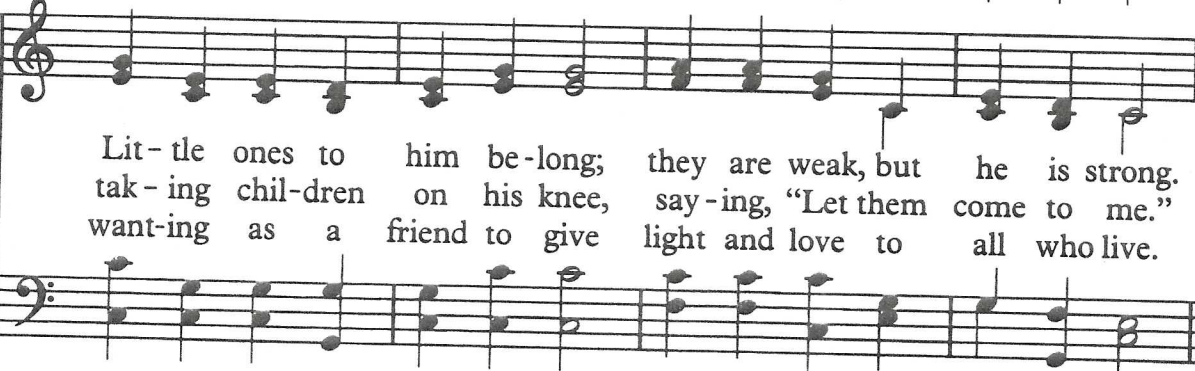
shad - owed way and known our deep de - spair.  
shad - owed way and known our deep de - spair.  
way with us and keep us in your care.

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# Jesus Loves Me

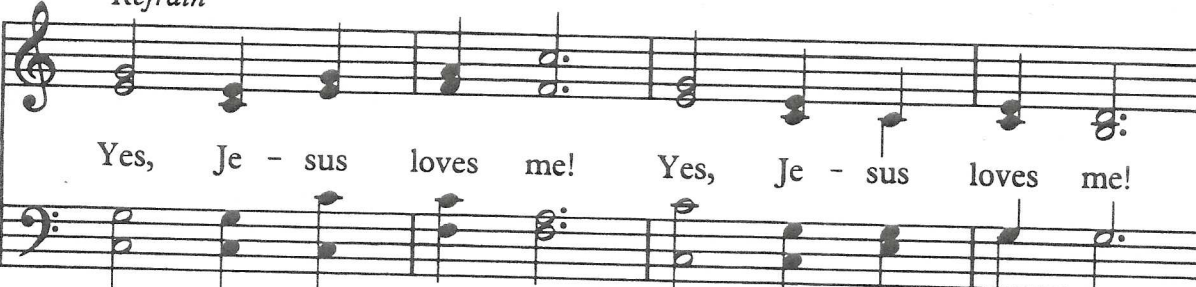


1. Je - sus loves me! This I know, for the Bi - ble tells me so.  
 2. Je - sus loves me! This I know, as he loved so long a - go,  
 3. Je - sus loves me still to - day, walk - ing with me on my way,

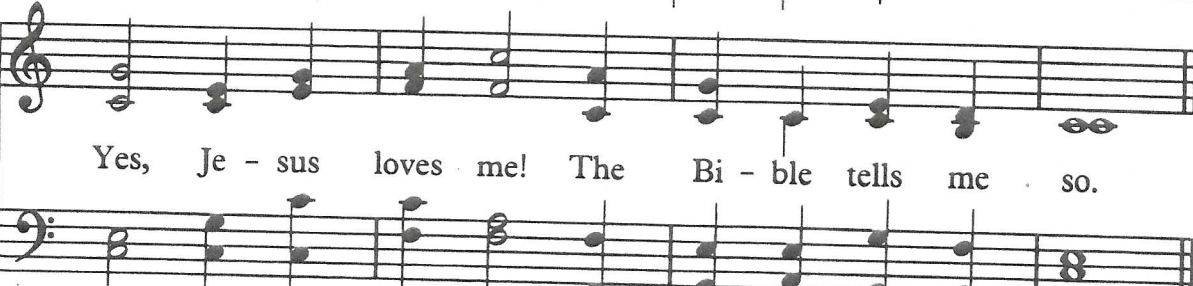


Lit - tle ones to him be - long; they are weak, but he is strong.  
 tak - ing chil - dren on his knee, say - ing, "Let them come to me."  
 want - ing as a friend to give light and love to all who live.

## Refrain



Yes, Je - sus loves me! Yes, Je - sus loves me!



Yes, Je - sus loves me! The Bi - ble tells me so.

WORDS: St. 1 Anna B. Warner, 1860; Sts. 2-3 David Rutherford McGuire; trans.:  
 Cherokee, Robert Bushyhead, 1962; German, *Psalter und Harfe*, 1876; Japanese  
 phonetic transcription, Mas Kawashima, 1988; Spanish, *Himnario Metodista*, 1968  
 MUSIC: William B. Bradbury, 1862

JESUS LOVES ME  
 77.77 with Refrain

Cherokee phonetic transcription © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House; Japanese  
 phonetic transcription © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House

### Prayer List

Church of Christ  
Ministries of East Parish United  
Methodist Church  
For the slain everywhere  
Friends and Family of Vicki Hall  
Friends and family of Ashley Fowler,  
(Craig's brother)  
Friends and family of Deb McAdams  
Mike Gilbert Steve Smith  
Candice Short  
Joni McPhee  
Ken Eaton  
Julie Allred  
Corey Amlin (BIL of Martha Murray)

Victims of sexual abuse and assault  
Victims of natural disasters  
Division in the United Methodist Church  
Deplorable treatment of refugees and  
asylum-seekers on the southern border of  
the US  
For those whose voices are so often  
ignored  
All who have suffered with, because of, or  
died from COVID-19  
All who have suffered with, because of, or  
died from addiction.  
For our country, desperately in need of  
unity and humanity

### United Methodist Church Staff and Worship Leaders

Pastor.....Pastor Nancy Wichmann (781)697-6344 (C)  
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Lay Leader.....Jan Juntunen 978- 518-7881  
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