

*“Love first. Love always,  
and we’ll figure out the rest of it as we go along.”<sup>i</sup>*



*February 1st, 2026  
11:00 a.m.*

*North Chevy Chase Christian Church is an Open and Affirming Congregation  
Connecting Faith with Community.*

## *The People of God Gather*

*If you're new to North Chevy Chase Christian Church, please consider filling out the Feedback Card you will find in the Pew pocket. We'll follow up with a brief phone call or email to say thank you for worshipping with us and to answer any question you may have.  
We are glad you're here with us today!*

**WELCOME**

Rev. Stephen Tickner

**PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP**      Glenn Pearson, Pianist/Organist

*Congregation standing in body or spirit*

**Call to Worship and Opening Prayer<sup>1</sup>**

Charlene Smith  
Worship Leader

One:      Beloved, what worship does God desire of us?

**ALL:      To do justice, love kindness, and live humbly with God.**

One:      In our life together as the body of Christ, what worship does God desire of us?

**ALL:      To do justice, love kindness, and live humbly with God.**

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<sup>1</sup> Call to Worship and opening prayer provided by the Discipleship Ministries of the United Methodist Church ([umcdiscipleship.org](http://umcdiscipleship.org))

One: When we share the good news with all creation,  
what worship does God desire of us?

**ALL: To do justice, love kindness, and live humbly with  
God.**

One: Come, let us worship God with justice, kindness,  
and humility!

**ALL: We come to worship God with our voices and our  
lives. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

One: Now with our hearts open to God, let us pray...

**OPENING HYMN**

**“Gather Us In”  
verses 1-3**

**CH 284**

## 284

## Gather Us In

Unison D A C G Gm/B $\flat$  Dm

1. Here in this place, the new light is stream-ing, sha-dows of doubt are  
 2. We are the young—our lives are a mys-tery; we are the old, who  
 3. Here we re-ceive new life in the wa-ters; here we re-ceive the  
 4. Not just in build-ings, small and con-fin-ing, not in some heav-en,

C G D A C G

van-ish-ed a-way. See in this space our fears and our dream-ings,  
 yearn for your face. We have been sung through-out all of his-tory,  
 bread of new birth; here you shall call your sons and yourdaugh-ters,  
 light years a-way, here in this place the new light is shin-ing;

Gm/B $\flat$  Dm C Am7 D

brought here to you in the light of this day.  
 called to be light to the whole hu-man race.  
 call us a-new to be salt for the earth.  
 now is God pres-ent, and now is the day.

WORDS and MUSIC: Marty Haugen, 1981

GATHER US IN  
Irr.

© 1982 GIA Publications, Inc.

♩=54-60

A C/G D/F# G A C/G

Gath-er us in, the lost and for - sak - en; gath-er us in; our  
 Gath-er us in— the rich and the haugh-ty; gath-er us in— the  
 Give us to drink the wine of com-pass-ion, give us to eat the  
 Gath-er us in and hold us for - ev - er; gath-er us in and

D/F# G A D A C G

spir - its in-flame. Call to us now, and we shall a - wak - en;  
 proud and the strong; give us a heart so meek and so low - ly;  
 bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash-ion  
 make us your own; gath-er us in, all peo-ples to-geth-er,

Gm/Bb Dm C Am7 D C/D Gm/D D

we shall a - rise at the sound of our name.  
 give us the cour-age to en - ter the song.  
 lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true.  
 fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

## PASSING OF THE PEACE

Worship Leader: Please take a moment and pass the peace of Christ with those around you.

## PASTORAL PRAYER & PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Stephen Tickner

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

**ALL:** Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy 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 thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

## Choral Response "Steal Away"

African American spiritual, arr. Nicholas White

NC4 Choir

## *Proclaim*

## A READING FROM THE HEBREW BIBLE

Micah 6:1-8

**6** Hear what the Lord says:

Rise, plead your case before the mountains,  
and let the hills hear your voice.

**2** Hear, you mountains, the case of the Lord,  
and you enduring foundations of the earth,  
for the Lord has a case against his people,  
and he will contend with Israel.

**3** "O my people, what have I done to you?  
In what have I wearied you? Answer me!



<sup>4</sup> For I brought you up from the land of Egypt  
and redeemed you from the house of slavery,  
and I sent before you Moses,  
Aaron, and Miriam.

<sup>5</sup> O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab  
devised,  
what Balaam son of Beor answered him,  
and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,  
that you may know the saving acts of the Lord.”

<sup>6</sup> “With what shall I come before the Lord  
and bow myself before God on high?  
Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,  
with calves a year old?

<sup>7</sup> Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams,  
with ten thousands of rivers of oil?  
Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,  
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”

<sup>8</sup> He has told you, O mortal, what is good,  
and what does the Lord require of you  
but to do justice and to love kindness  
and to walk humbly with your God?

**5** When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. <sup>2</sup> And he began to speak and taught them, saying:

<sup>3</sup> “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>4</sup> “Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

<sup>5</sup> “Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

<sup>6</sup> “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

<sup>7</sup> “Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

<sup>8</sup> “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

<sup>9</sup> “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

<sup>10</sup> “Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>11</sup> “Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. <sup>12</sup> Rejoice and be glad, for your



reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

## MESSAGE

Rev. Stephen Tickner

## HYMN

### "Purer in Heart, O God"

CH 573

*Matthew 5:8* PRAYER AND GUIDANCE

**Purer in Heart, O God 573**



1. Pur - er in heart, O God, help me to be; may I de -  
2. Pur - er in heart, O God, help me to be; teach me to  
3. Pur - er in heart, O God, help me to be; that I thy

vote my life whol - ly to thee. Watch thou my way - ward feet,  
do thy will most lov - ing - ly. Be thou my friend and guide,  
ho - ly face one day may see. Keep me from se - cret sin,

guide me with coun - sel sweet; pur - er in heart, help me to be.  
let me with thee a - bide; pur - er in heart, help me to be.  
reign thou my soul with - in; pur - er in heart, help me to be.

WORDS: Fannie Estelle Davison, 1877  
MUSIC: James H. Fillmore, 1877

PURER IN HEART  
64.64.66.44

## *We Give and Receive*

*Communion is the central act of community within the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in remembrance of the life, death and resurrection of Christ. The invitation to the Table is extended to all who wish to follow Jesus and to share in the community of God's people.*

*Everyone is invited to eat from this Table.*

**THE INVITATION TO GIVE AND RECEIVE**

Rev. Stephen Tickner

**PRAYER BY THE ELDER**

Richard Sherman

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

### ***COMING FORWARD TO GIVE, AND TO RECEIVE THE BREAD AND THE CUP***

*We come forward to bring our physical bodies and our financial gifts to God. You are invited to come forward down the center aisle to place your tithes & offerings in the trays available; and to receive the elements of bread and cup, taking them and returning to your seats down the side aisle, to consume the elements in silent reflection.*

**MUSIC FOR REFLECTION**

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

*...And Go Forth to Serve*

**SHARING OF JOYS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Congregation standing

CLOSING HYMN

"The Gift of Love"

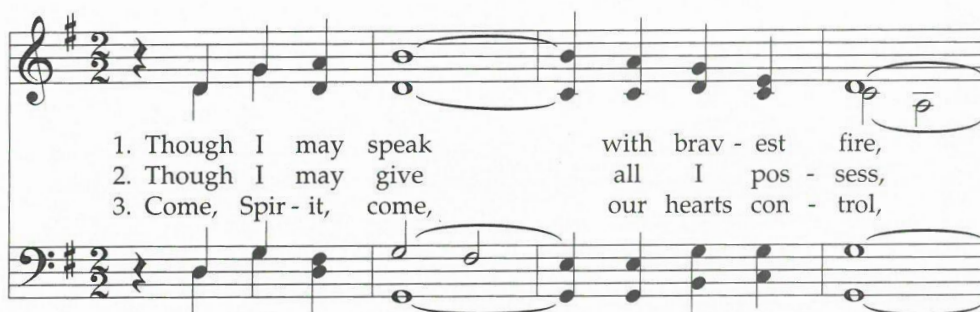
CH 526

1 Corinthians 13:1-3

LOVE AND GRATITUDE

## The Gift of Love

526



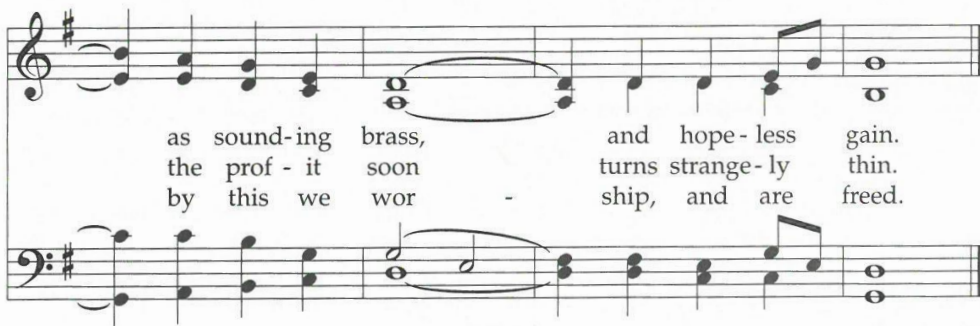
1. Though I may speak with brav - est fire,  
2. Though I may give all I pos - sess,  
3. Come, Spir - it, come, our hearts con - trol,



and have the gift to all in - spire,  
and striv - ing so my love pro - fess,  
our spir - its long to be made whole.



and have not love, my words are vain,  
but not be given by love with - in,  
Let in - ward love guide ev - ery deed;



as sound - ing brass, and hope - less gain.  
the prof - it soon turns strange - ly thin.  
by this we wor - ship, and are freed.

WORDS: Hal H. Hopson, 1972

MUSIC: Traditional English melody; adapt. Hal H. Hopson, 1972

GIFT OF LOVE  
LM

© 1972 Hope Publishing Co.

Alt. tune: O WALY WALY

## BENEDICTION

### CHORAL BENEDICTION “What Does the Lord Require of You?” NC4 Choir

Hymn can be found in our hymnal CH 661  
Congregation will repeat verses 1 & 2  
While choir sings verse 3

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*Please join us for coffee hour in Harlow Hall  
following the conclusion of the Postlude*

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#### **SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY**

Rev. Stephen Tickner, Minister  
Glenn Pearson, Pianist/Organist  
NC4 Choir  
Charlene Smith, Worship Leader  
Richard Sherman, Elder at the Table  
A/V Team - Yvonne McGee, Lydia Oladapo,  
Devi Rambarran

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*HEARING ASSISTANCE HEADPHONES are available in the Narthex.*

*Please set all pagers and cell phones to vibrate at this time.*

*CH = Chalice Hymnal (found in the pew racks)*

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#### **Acknowledgment of Native Americans: A Statement toward Reconciliation**

For thousands of years indigenous people have walked in this land, on their own country. Their relationship with the land is at the center of their lives. We gratefully acknowledge them, past and present, and their stewardship of this land on which we stand.

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<sup>i</sup> Quote from Chaplain Owen Chandler at the 2023 General Assembly. Attribution for Cover Art: Latimore, Kelly. Dorothy Day with Homeless Christ, from **Art in the Christian Tradition**, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-image/act-link.pl?RC=57122> [retrieved January 27, 2026]. Original source: Kelly Latimore Icons, <https://kellylatimoreicons.com/>.