

ANSWERING GOD'S CALL

COURT STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

10:45 A.M. | 04.30.23 | WORSHIP IN PERSON | YOUTUBE LIVESTREAM

GATHERING

Gathering Song

El Shaddai

#123

WORDS & MUSIC: Michael Card and John Thompson, 1981

© 1981 Mole End Music

All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense # A-730966

El Shaddai, el Shaddai

El-el yonna Adonai

Age to age you're still the same

By the power of the name

El Shaddai, el Shaddai

Erkahn kana Adonai

I will praise and lift you high

El Shaddai

Through your love and through the rain

You saved the son of Abraham

Through the power of your hand

You turned the sea into dry land

To the outcast on her knees
You were the God who really sees
And by your might
You set your children free

El Shaddai, el Shaddai
El-elyon na Adonai
Age to age you're still the same
By the power of the name
El Shaddai, el Shaddai
Erkahm kana Adonai
I will praise and lift you high

Through the years you've made it clear

That the time of Christ was near
Though the people couldn't see
What Messiah ought to be
Your most awesome work was done
Through the frailty of Your son

El Shaddai, el Shaddai
El-elyon na Adonai
Age to age you're still the same
By the power of the name
El Shaddai, el Shaddai
Erkahm kana Adonai
I will praise and lift you high
I will praise and lift you high
El Shaddai

Gathering

One: We have gathered in this place to worship,

All: because Jesus invites us to come!

One: We come as we are, with our faith and our doubts,
with our successes and our failures,

All: because Jesus invites us to come!

One: We come with what we have, bringing with us
the events and experiences of this past week,

All: because Jesus invites us to come.

Song of Faith

The Summons

#2130

WORDS: John Bell MUSIC: Traditional Scottish

Words © 1987 WGRG The Iona Community (Scotland), admin. by GIA Publications, Inc.

All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense # A-730966

Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?

Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?

Will you let my love be shown

will you let my name be known,

will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?

Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?

Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?

Will you risk the hostile stare

should your life attract or scare?

Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?

Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?

Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same?

Will you kiss the leper clean,

and do such as this unseen,

and admit to what I mean in you and you in me?

Will you love the "you" you hide if I but call your name?

Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?

Will you use the faith you've found

to reshape the world around,

through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?

Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.

Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.

In your company I'll go
where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

ENGAGING

Prayer of Approach

The Word

Psalm 111:1-10 | Ecclesiastes 11:1-4 | Genesis 11:27-12:9

The Word in Song

Friends

Rev. Jim West

Words & Music: Michael W. Smith and Deborah D. Smith. Arranged by Stephen DeCesare. Contemporary, Praise & Worship, Sacred. Exultet Music #3512675.

Published by Exultet Music ©1982 Meadowgreen Music company

*Packing up the dreams God planted
In the fertile soil of you
I can't believe the hopes He's granted
Means a chapter of your life is through*

*But we'll keep you close as always
It won't even seem you've gone
'Cause our hearts in big and small ways
Will keep the love that keeps us strong*

*And friends are friends forever
If the Lord's the Lord of them
And a friend will not say never
'Cause the welcome will not end*

*Though it's hard to let you go
In the Father's hands we know
That a lifetime's not too long
To live as friends*

*And with the faith and love God's given
Springing from the hope we know
We will pray the joy you live in*

Is the strength that now you show

*But we'll keep you close as always
It won't even seem you've gone (it won't seem you're gone)
'Cause our hearts in big and small ways
Will keep the love that keeps us strong
Yeah, yeah*

*And friends are friends forever
If the Lord's the Lord of them
And a friend will not say never
'Cause the welcome will not end*

*Though it's hard to let you go
In the Father's hands we know
That a lifetime's not too long
To live as friends*

*And friends are friends forever (friends are friends forever)
If the Lord's the Lord of them (for all of them)
And a friend will not say never (a friend will not say never)
'Cause the welcome will not end (ooh, ooh)*

*Though it's hard to let you go
In the Father's hands we know
That a lifetime's not too long
To live as friends
To live as friends*

*Though it's hard to let you go
In the Father's hands we know
That a lifetime's not too long
To live as friends*

*No, a lifetime's not too long
To live as friends*

THANKSGIVING

Gathering at the Table of Christ

pg. 18

Invitation

The Great Thanksgiving

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

One: *It is right, and a good and joyful thing,
always and everywhere to give thanks to you,
Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth.*

You are a God of journeys

who has called, is calling, and will continue to call your people

at all times and all places

to follow you into a new way of living,

a new way of knowing,

a new way of relating to you,

Our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer.

You spoke to our ancestors, Abram and Sarai,

challenging them to a new life beyond their own imagination

in which your promises would be fulfilled

beyond their own lifetime.

Through them you have laid a foundation for us today

to follow your call—

a call that is greater than our own selves.

For this we rejoice!

And so, with your people on earth

*and all the company of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:*

Sung Response

One: Holy, holy, holy Lord,

All: Holy, holy, holy Lord,

One: God of power and might.

All: God of power and might.

One: Heaven and earth are full of your glory,

All: Heaven and earth are full of your glory,

One: Hosanna in the highest.

All: Hosanna in the highest.

One: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

All: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

One: Hosanna,

All: hosanna,

One: in the highest,

All: in the highest.

One: *Holy are you and blessed is your Son, Jesus Christ,
who called the 12 and still calls us today to come and follow.
In him we encounter the depths of your love;
a love that revealed your glory even in suffering and death.
When you raised him from the grave,
the strongholds of death were shake violently,
breaking off the chains of captivity
and freeing everyone to follow him into oneness with you.*

*On that night in which he gave himself up for us,
Jesus took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread,
gave it to the disciples, and said,
“Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.”*

*When the supper was over, Jesus took the cup,
gave thanks to you, gave it to the disciples, and said,*

*“Drink from this, all of you;
this is my life in the new covenant,
poured out for you and for many
for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it,
in remembrance of me.”*

*And so, in remembrance of these
your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving,
as a holy and living sacrifice,
in union with Christ’s offering for us,
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.*

Sung Response

One: Christ has died,

All: Christ has died,

One: Christ is risen,

All: Christ is risen,

One: Christ will come again!

All: Christ will come again!

One: *Pour out your Holy Spirit on all of us gathered here,
and on these gifts of bread and wine.*

*Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ,
that we may be for the world the body of Christ,
redeemed by his blood.*

*God of all, we also remember
all others whom we hold in our hearts today
especially those we name before you now... [PAUSE] ...*

*Knowing the needs of your children
more completely than we can ever understand—
we pray that you will be present today to bring
your peace, joy, comfort, and healing into their lives.
We praise you for opportunities*

*to be the hands and feet of Christ in this world.
We humbly pray that you will continue
to not only open us
to the needs of the those both near and far
but that you would also use our common gifts
to accomplish all that your will commands.*

By your Spirit make us one with Christ,
one with each other
and one in ministry to all the world,
until Christ comes in final victory,
and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit in your holy church,
all honor and glory is yours, almighty God,
now and for ever.

Sung Response

One: Amen, amen,

All: Amen, amen,

One: amen.

All: amen.

The Lord's Prayer

#895

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kin-dom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kin-dom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Breaking the Bread

Sharing the Feast

Returning Thanks

One: Let us pray ...

All: Generous God, you shower us with gifts, including the greatest gift of all, your own Son, Jesus Christ, whose grace is made real at this table. We have been abundantly blessed

through this holy feast. In thanksgiving and praise, we offer you our time, our money, our very selves. In these actions, we proclaim our intention to be a blessing in your world. Amen.

SENDING

Upcoming

The Rock

Introduce Rev. Jim as the interim pastor

An Order of Farewell

Pastor: I thank you, the members and friends of Court Street United Methodist Church, for the love and support you have shown me while I have ministered among you. I am grateful for the ways my leadership has been accepted. I ask forgiveness for the mistakes I have made. As I leave, I carry with me all that I have learned here.

People: **We receive your thankfulness, offer forgiveness, and accept that you now leave to minister elsewhere. We express our gratitude for your time among us. We ask your forgiveness for our mistakes. Your influence on our faith and faithfulness will not leave us with your departure.**

Pastor: I accept your gratitude and forgiveness, and I forgive you, trusting that our time together and our parting are pleasing to God. I release you from turning to me and depending on me. While I am no longer your pastor, I am happy to be your friend. I encourage your continuing ministry here in this community and will pray for you and Rev. Jim West. Let us pray.

All: **Eternal God, whose steadfast love for us is from everlasting to everlasting we give you thanks for cherished memories and commend one another into your care as we move in new directions. Keep us one in your love forever, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Song of Faith

Go Ye, Go Ye into the World

#2239

WORDS & MUSIC: Natalie Sleeth

© 1979 Choristers Guild

All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense # A-730966

**Go ye, go ye into the world,
and make disciples of all the nations.**

**Go ye, go ye into the world,
and I will be with you there!**

**Go ye, go ye into the world,
and take the gospel to all the people.**

**Go ye, go ye into the world,
and I will be with you there!**

Go ye, go ye into the world,
and tell the story to all believers.

Go ye, go ye into the world,
and I will be with you there!

Blessing

Postlude

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Rev. Jim West

MUSIC: William M. Runyan, 1923; arr. Jim West

All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense # A-730966

Today's altar flowers have been provided by the
Court Street UMC Family in honor and celebration of
Rev. Rebecca and her nine years at CSUMC.