

# OPENED

# Destroys





# UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, CONGREGATIONAL

217 E. Liberty St. Medina, Ohio 44256 330-725-4559 [www.uccmedina.org](http://www.uccmedina.org)

**\*\*\*Assisted Listening Devices Available – Please Ask Your Usher\*\*\***

LIVE STREAMING OF THE SANCTUARY SERVICE IS AVAILABLE AT [UCCMEDINA.ORG](http://UCCMEDINA.ORG)

- *During the service, Jesus Vibes Sunday School is available for ages 3-8<sup>th</sup> grade*

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## “WELCOMING, LOVING, SERVING, WHERE GOD HAS NO LIMITS”

*Please take a moment to sign the attendance pads, (located at the end of each pew) so that you know who is worshipping near you and you may greet them by name.*

*\*Those who are able please stand*

### RINGING OF THE BELL

**PRELUDE** “Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us” – arr. John Carter

Cathy Fafrak, piano

### WELCOME

Good morning, Church! We are Medina, United Church of Christ, Congregational, and no matter who you are or where you are on life’s journey,  
**You are welcome here!**

### PASSING OF THE PEACE

#### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

We who have lost our sense and our senses—  
**our touch, our smell, our vision of who we are;**  
we who frantically force and press all things,  
**without rest for body or spirit,**  
hurting our Earth and injuring ourselves: we call a halt.  
**We want to rest. We need to rest and allow the Earth to rest.**  
May this worship be a call to Sabbath,  
**For ourselves and our home sweet home.**  
We observe your Sabbath command, oh God, a space of quiet:  
**for simply being and letting be;**  
for recovering the great, forgotten truths;  
**for learning how to live again. Amen.**

#### \*OPENING HYMN

*Text & tune: Marty Haugen, b. 1950*

#### “Canticle of the Sun”

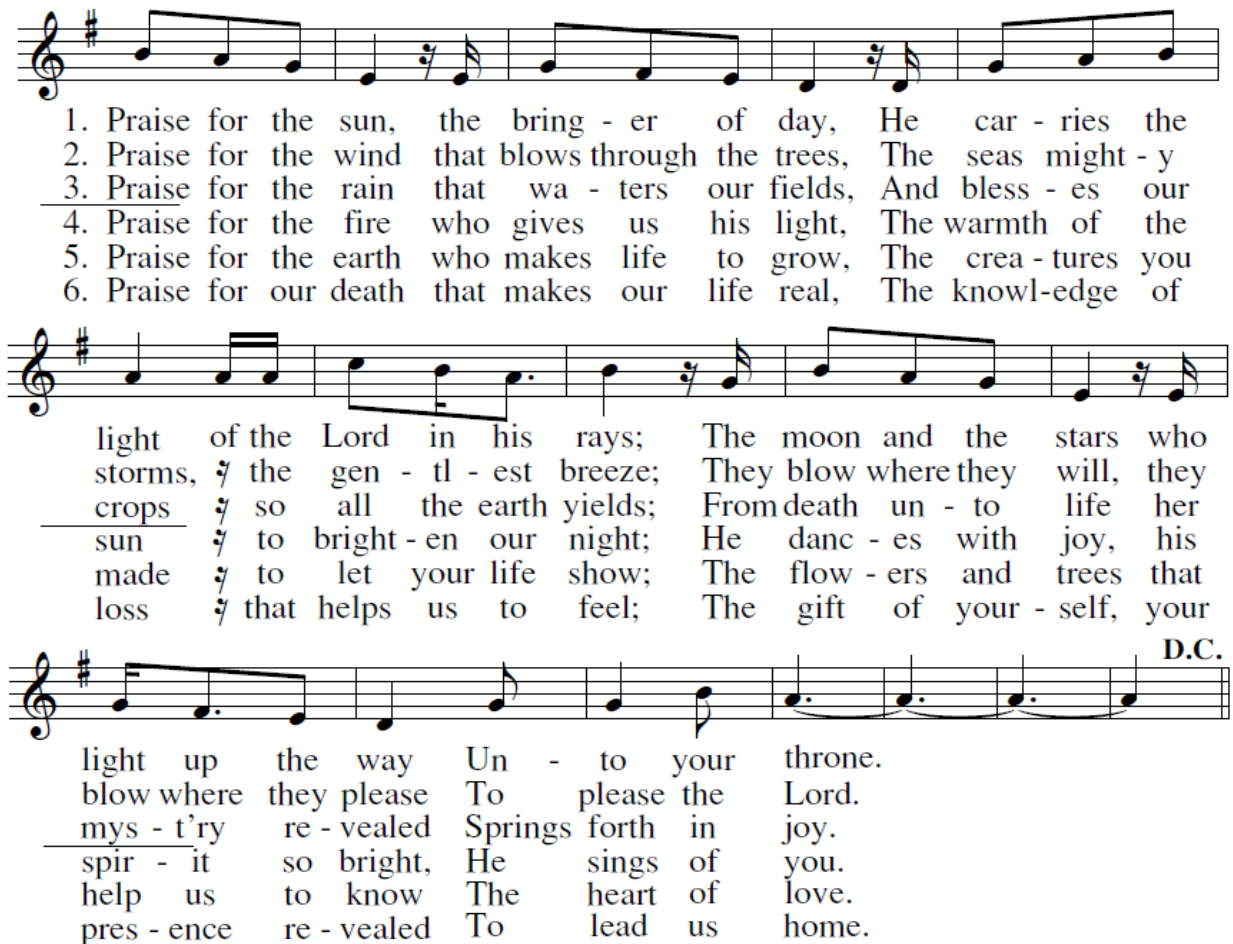
© 1980, GIA Publications, Inc.

Refrain



The heav - ens are tell - ing the glo - ry of God,  
and all cre - a - tion is shout - ing for joy. Come,  
dance in the for - est, come, play in the field, and  
sing, sing to the glo - ry of the Lord.

Verses



1. Praise for the sun, the bring - er of day, He car - ries the  
2. Praise for the wind that blows through the trees, The seas might - y  
3. Praise for the rain that wa - ters our fields, And bless - es our  
4. Praise for the fire who gives us his light, The warmth of the  
5. Praise for the earth who makes life to grow, The crea - tures you  
6. Praise for our death that makes our life real, The knowl - edge of  
light of the Lord in his rays; The moon and the stars who  
storms, the gen - tl - est breeze; They blow where they will, they  
crops so all the earth yields; From death un - to life her  
sun to bright - en our night; He danc - es with joy, his  
made to let your life show; The flow - ers and trees that  
loss that helps us to feel; The gift of your - self, your  
light up the way Un - to your throne.  
blow where they please To please the Lord.  
mys - t'ry re - vealed Springs forth in joy.  
spir - it so bright, He sings of you.  
help us to know The heart of love.  
pres - ence re - vealed To lead us home.

D.C.

**POETRY READING**

“Some Questions You Might Ask” by Mary Oliver  
from *New and Selected Poems: Volume 1*, Beacon Press, 1992. Page 65

**SCRIPTURES**

Amos 5:6-15 (O.T. pg. 804)  
John 10:1-10 (N.T. pg. 97)

Lori Ciulla Glover, Liturgist

**SPECIAL MUSIC**

“A Place in the Choir” by Paul Staines

Children’s Choir

**MESSAGE FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY OF GOD**

Stacie Yates

**The Lord’s Prayer**

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.

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Joys and Concerns, Pastoral Prayer

**SERMON**

“Home Sweet Home: Greed Destroys”

Rev. Dr. Luke Lindon

**HYMN**

**“Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us”**

*Dorothy A. Thrupp, 1836*

BRADBURY 8.7.8.7.D.  
*William B. Bradbury, 1859*

1. Sav-ior, like a shep-herd lead us, much we need thy ten-der care;  
 2. We are thine; do thou be- friend us; be the guard-ian of our way;  
 3. Ear-ly let us seek thy fa- vor; ear-ly let us do thy will;

in thy pleas-ant pas-tures feed us, for our use thy folds pre- pare.  
 keep thy flock; from sin de- fend us; seek us when we go a- stray.  
 bless-ed Lord and on-ly Sav-ior, with thy love our spir-its fill.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us". It consists of two systems of music, each with a treble and bass staff. The first system contains the first three lines of lyrics, and the second system contains the remaining lines. The music is in a 4/4 time signature with a key signature of one sharp (F#).

Bless-ed Je-sus, bless-ed Je-sus, thou hast bought us, thine we are;  
 Bless-ed Je-sus, bless-ed Je-sus, hear thy chil-dren when we pray;  
 Bless-ed Je-sus, bless-ed Je-sus, thou hast loved us, love us still;

bless-ed Je-sus, bless-ed Je-sus, thou hast bought us, thine we are.  
 bless-ed Je-sus, bless-ed Je-sus, hear thy chil-dren when we pray.  
 bless-ed Je-sus, bless-ed Je-sus, thou hast loved us, love us still.

## OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

*There is an offering plate if you feel led to deposit your envelope or an offering there. You can also give through our Realm app or get the link to give by texting UCCMEDINA to 73256. Thank you for your prayerful consideration!*

### Offertory Invitation

One question leads to another, Holy One.

**Help us see you within and among all things.**

Help us walk softly upon our home,

**Curb our greed and help us see, you provide more than enough for our need.**

Let us rise in body or spirit and sing out our praise!

*\*Doxology (words, Ruth Duck, ©2005, GIA Publications)*

**Praise God, the Source of life and birth; Praise God, the Word, who came to earth;**

**Praise God, the Spirit, holy flame; All glory, honor to God's Name! Amen.**

*\*Prayer of Dedication*

**Praise you, our Creator.**

**Thanks to you, our Sustainer.**

**All glory and honor to you, our Redeemer.**

**The giver of life, the conqueror of death. Save us from ourselves. Remind us that greed is not a virtue. Help us in our anxiety that we have enough, that we are enough.**

**We are dedicated to your ways of life and life abundant. Provide us inspiration anew and may we live into a new and balanced life you wish for all your people. Amen.**

**\*CLOSING HYMN**

**"For the Fruit of All Creation"**

AR HYD Y NOS 8.4.8.4.8.8.8.4.

Fred Pratt Green, 1970; © 1970 Hope Publishing Company

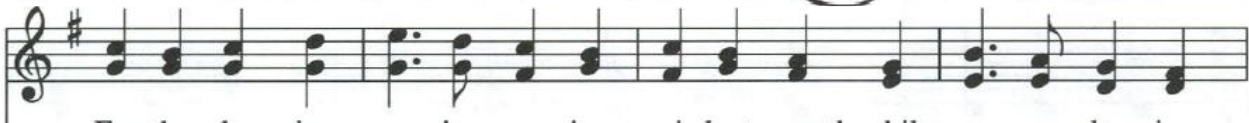
Welsh traditional melody; harm. L.O. Emerson, 1906



1 For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.  
2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will is done.  
3 For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God.



For God's gifts to ev - ery na - tion, thanks be to God.  
In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will is done.  
For the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God.



For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are sleep - ing,  
In our world - wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry and de - spair - ing,  
For the won - ders that as - tound us, for the truths that still con - found us,



Fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.  
In the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will is done.  
Most of all that love has found us, thanks be to God.



**\*ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**\*BENEDICTION** (St. Augustine, from UCC Daily Devotional from April 13, 2023 written by Mary Luti)

We are praising God now assembled here in church, but when we go our separate ways,  
**it might seem like we stop praising God.**

But if we do not cease to live a just life,  
**we shall always be praising God.**

You cease to praise God only when you swerve from the path of justice.

**If you never turn aside from that path,**  
your tongue may be silent,  
**but your life will cry, 'Alleluia!'"**

Having been blessed to be a blessing, go from here to cry Alleluia! For this service has ended,  
**And our service now begins. Amen!**

**\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**      **"God Be with You"**

**God be with you 'til we meet again; By His counsels guide uphold you;  
With His sheep securely fold you; God be with you 'til we meet again.**

**\*POSTLUDE**

**"For the Fruit of All Creation" – arr. Barry L. Bobb**

**Cathy Fafrak, Organ**

**"MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY"**

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**\*\*\*Please join us for Coffee Hour following the Annual Meeting in Fellowship Hall\*\*\***

**Coffee Hour is hosted this week by the Davies Family.**

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# THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

## APRIL 30, 2023

**“WELCOMING, LOVING, SERVING, WHERE GOD HAS NO LIMITS.  
MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY!”**

Live streaming of the Sanctuary service is available at [www.uccmedina.org/live](http://www.uccmedina.org/live)

**April 30, 2023 thru May 7, 2023**

### **WEEK AT A GLANCE**

**Sun** 8:15 am Chapel Worship  
9:00 am Gathering Worship  
9:45 am Children’s Choir  
10:30 am Sanctuary Worship  
5:00 pm Confirmation Rehearsal & Dinner

**Mon** Cook for Cups  
**2:00 pm Religion & Science Study**  
**6:00 pm Religion & Science Study**  
6:30 pm Women’s Bible Study

**Tues** 8:00 am Men’s Breakfast  
12:00 pm Book Club  
7:00 pm Bible Study

**Wed** 10:30 am Quilters  
6:15 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal  
6:30 pm Gathering Band rehearsal  
7:00 pm Evangelism Team Meeting  
7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal

**Thurs**

**Fri**

**Sat**

**Sun**

### **CONFIRMATION SUNDAY**

8:15 am Chapel Worship  
9:00 am Gathering Worship  
9:45 am Children’s Choir  
10:30 am Sanctuary Worship  
4:30 pm Men’s Group  
4:30 pm Youth Group

### **NEW ITEM OF THE MONTH**

This month the Mission Team is collecting crafting supplies for The Society of the Handicapped. This means things such as: markers, crayons, paper, construction paper, paints, glue sticks, hole punchers, etc. You can find a complete list of items by the donation drop off box.

**Worship Highlights:** 8:15, 9:00 & 10:30 am

Scriptures: Amos 5:6-15 and John 10:1-10

Sermon: “Home Sweet Home: Greed Destroys”  
Rev. Dr. Luke Lindon

**Communion Table:** The flowers are given by Beth & Craig Hari in memory of their parents.

### **SERMON SERIES: “HOME SWEET HOME”**

In our Worship Series HOME SWEET HOME, we’ll celebrate nature. From April 23<sup>rd</sup> to May 27<sup>th</sup>, we’ll journey with the poet laureate of nature Mary Oliver as we explore God’s first testament of Nature! We’ll examine our relationship with the earth and remind one another to love our home and take care of it and one another.

### **BOOK STUDY CONTINUES...**

**Religion and Science:**

#### **Tackling the Myths of Science vs. Religion**

The UCC is part of Mainstream Christianity. This term has been forgotten, but it has great impact for those who know. It means that we come from a stream that sees no divide between science and religion. Science and religion can be viewed as two ways of telling the same story. Science deals with the how and religion deals with the why. Science can tell us about the nature of things where religion can tell us about the nature of the universe.

This Monday class April 17<sup>th</sup> – May 8<sup>th</sup>, with identical sessions at 2 pm and 6 pm, requires no book or prior learning, just an open mind as Pastor Luke will tackle some of the myths of science vs. religion, how they came to be, and what the true stories are. All ages are welcome.



## **ANNUAL REPORTS DUE!**

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Teams, Committees and Leadership of the church were asked to submit their Annual Reports to be presented at the May 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting.

**If you have not yet turned your report in, please do so by tomorrow, May 1<sup>st</sup> !**

Please email or drop off your reports to me in the church office. Please inform me as to any changes on your team. Please email to: [office@uccmedina.org](mailto:office@uccmedina.org)

## **COMPASSION CAMP**

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This year's Vacation Bible School, "Compassion Camp" will be held June 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>. Registration has begun! So, mark your calendars and plan to be part of the fun. **Deadline to register is Tuesday, May 30<sup>th</sup>.**

## **LADIES & GIRLS TEA TICKETS**

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Tea will be held on **Saturday, May 20<sup>th</sup> from 11:30 am - 1:30 pm** in our Fellowship Hall. The menu will include scones, soup, tea sandwiches, fruit, fancy sweets, and of course, tea. It is truly a full lunch.

Tickets will be sold Sunday in the East Room after the services until May 13<sup>th</sup>. The price is \$10 for ladies and \$5 for girls under 10. **You may also register through REALM** here: <https://tinyurl.com/uccladiestea>

This year we will begin our tea with the program, "All the Tea In China" presented by Vicki Miller, with the luncheon following the program. PLEASE BE PROMPT.

If you have questions please contact Beth Hari, Darlene Fazekas, or Becky Weber.

## **QUILTS FOR KIDS**

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Expecting a new baby in your life? Want to be ready for the next baby shower? Have a special little one in your life? The Caring Team presents... "Quilts for Kids" a raffle fundraiser. Check out the quilts on display in the East Room. Money raised will be used to purchase highchairs/child friendly seating for Fellowship Hall. Tickets will be sold for \$2 each or 6 for \$10. The drawing will take place at the Ladies and Girls Tea on Saturday, May 20<sup>th</sup>.

## **SAVE THE DATE!**

**Our Annual Meeting follows  
ONE SERVICE ONLY at 10 a.m.  
on May 21<sup>st</sup>**

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We'll vote on new moderators and review the miles traveled this past year. Teams, please get your reports into the office ASAP. Let's show up and give of our time, ask good questions and discern together the direction of the church.

## **SOUP-ER LUNCH AFTER THE ANNUAL MEETING**

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After the Annual Meeting on May 21<sup>st</sup>, head to the Fellowship Hall for a soup and salad lunch served by our teens to raise funds for their trip to Back Bay Mission. You can sign up to bring soup, bread, or salad here: <https://tinyurl.com/2vbmjzws>

## **SUMMER MUSIC**

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We are looking for vocal and instrumental solos, duets, trios, quartets, etc. to provide special music this summer for the 8:15 and/or 10:30 services.

A sign-up sheet for all three months has gone on the music board outside of my office. Please sign up for interested date(s). Once you've signed up, an email will come to you in May with more specific information!

We are looking forward to wonderful music from the church this summer! **Sign-up by May 14th and thank you!**

Peace & Blessings, Jenny

## **MEDINA COMMUNITY GARDEN YARD SALE**

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On June 3<sup>rd</sup> at 9am Medina Community Garden will hold a yard sale in partnership with Main Street Medina Kids Day of Play to raise funds for a new driveway for the garden. Between now and May 20<sup>th</sup> you may drop off your donations of gently used kids toys/clothing by the mission table to contribute to their yard sale.

# CRAFT MAKERS GROUP

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SPRING crafts are ready for pick-up and delivery. The display table is located in the Welcome Area. On the sheet provided, write your name down beside the recipient's name. Please contact the recipient ahead to make arrangements for visitation. Thank you everyone for all your help.

## AMANDA FUND OFFERING MOTHER'S DAY MAY 7<sup>TH</sup>

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The Amanda Fund, founded by a Medina UCC member, provides assistance to families with medical bills and other related costs that arise during extended or frequent hospitalizations of their children. We have depleted this fund within the last year, so we would like to build it back up again to be able to assist others with this need. On May 7<sup>th</sup>, we ask that you be generous in supporting the Amanda Fund with your contribution.

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**The deadline for submission of articles for NEXT Sunday's *Messenger* is this Sunday at 11:30 am**  
**Please submit articles to the church office at [office@uccmedina.org](mailto:office@uccmedina.org)**  
**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: 9:00 am – 3:00 pm MONDAY THRU FRIDAY**

### **PASTORAL STAFF**

Rev. Dr. Luke Lindon, Senior Minister - [luke@uccmedina.org](mailto:luke@uccmedina.org)  
Rev. Meghan Malone, Associate Pastor of Youth & Mission - [meghan@uccmedina.org](mailto:meghan@uccmedina.org)  
Karen Brocco-Kish, Visitation Pastor – [karen@uccmedina.org](mailto:karen@uccmedina.org)  
Ryan Collins, Ministerial Intern - [ryan@uccmedina.org](mailto:ryan@uccmedina.org)

### **OFFICE STAFF**

Cindy Korecky, Office Manager - [office@uccmedina.org](mailto:office@uccmedina.org)  
Jeff Miller, Financial Director - [jeff@uccmedina.org](mailto:jeff@uccmedina.org)

### **PROGRAM STAFF**

Stacie Yates, Director of Christian Education – [stacie@uccmedina.org](mailto:stacie@uccmedina.org)  
Nicole Rubino, Co-Director of Youth – [nicole@uccmedina.org](mailto:nicole@uccmedina.org)  
Jennifer Cochran, Director of Music - [jenny@uccmedina.org](mailto:jenny@uccmedina.org)  
Cathy Fafrak, Organist – [cathy@uccmedina.org](mailto:cathy@uccmedina.org)  
Jennifer Vilimonovic, Director of Hobby Horse Preschool – [jen@uccmedina.org](mailto:jen@uccmedina.org)  
Jack Sharpe, Maintenance  
Sharon Perry, Custodian

Psalm 23

### Powerful Witness

*You are invited to pray deliberately through the 23rd Psalm, perhaps taking one line per day. How is new meaning revealed to you as you make your way slowly through this familiar psalm?*

God is my shepherd, I shall not want.

*Consider what it would be like to not "want." Pray for all those who are lacking.*

God makes me lie down in green pastures,

*Touch a piece of earth with your feet, hands, or entire body. How does being in literal touch with creation help you feel closer to the Divine?*

and leads me beside still waters;

*Remember times that God has brought you through rough waters. Give thanks.*

God restores my soul, and leads me in right paths

*Pray by walking. With each step, rejoice in God's renewing presence.*

for the sake of God's name.

*Pray using all the names of the Divine you can think of. Are there names that make you uncomfortable? Why? Which names are most meaningful to you?*

Even though I walk through the darkest valley,

*Pray for all those who have no one to pray for them. Ask God to help your prayers become acts of mercy and justice.*

I fear no evil; for you are with me;

*Remember times when you have felt afraid. What gave you courage?*

your rod and your staff--they comfort me.

*What are the tools you use in work or hobbies? Notice their shape and ask God to bless them and their use.*

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;

*As you eat, give special thanks for the land and the hands that produced your meals.*

you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

*Anoint yourself. Place a small amount of lotion or oil on your head or hand, giving thanks to God for the gift of your body.*

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,

*Give thanks for those who have shown you God's goodness and mercy.*

and I shall dwell in the house of God my whole life long.

*Imagine the house of God. Can you draw it, or describe it in writing?*