



**25 Year Celebration & Worship Service**  
**Rockford United Methodist Church**

Rockford, OH 45882

**Sunday, July 6th, 10:30 AM**

**Location: New Church Site, Market St.**

*Celebrating 25 Years of Vision,  
Faith, and Commitment*

# Order of Service

## Gathering Music

## Welcome and Opening Remarks

**Emily Jackson:** Church Historian

- Acknowledgment of the 25-year journey
- Brief introduction of the significance of the moment

## Call to Worship

### Responsive Reading

(based on Psalm 127:1; Isaiah 28:16):

**Courtney Painter**

**Leader:** Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it  
labor in vain.

**People:** **We come with joy, for God is the architect of our  
dreams.**

**Leader:** See, I am laying a foundation—a tested stone, a  
precious cornerstone.

**People:** **Our faith rests on Christ, the solid rock.**

**All:** Let us worship with thanksgiving and praise!

## Opening Hymns

"Jesus Love Me"

"Amazing Grace"

## Jesus Love Me (2xs)

1. Je-sus loves me! this I know, For the Bi - ble  
tells me so; Lit - tle ones to Him be - long;  
They are weak, but He is strong.  
Yes, Jesus loves me, Yes, Jesus loves me, The Bible tells me so.

The musical score for 'Jesus Love Me (2xs)' is written in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a 2/4 time signature. It consists of four staves of music. The first staff begins with a measure rest, followed by a series of eighth and quarter notes. The second staff continues the melody with similar note values. The third staff features a measure rest followed by a half note and a quarter note. The fourth staff concludes the piece with a final cadence. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with line numbers 1, 4, 7, and 11 indicating the start of each line.

## Amazing Grace

1. A - maz - ing grace! how sweet the sound, That  
When we've been there ten thou- sand years, Bright  
saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but  
Shin-ing as the sun, We've no less days to  
now am found, Was blind, but now I see.  
Sing God's praise Than when we'd first be-gun.

The musical score for 'Amazing Grace' is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 3/4 time signature. It consists of three staves of music. The first staff begins with a measure rest, followed by a series of quarter and eighth notes. The second staff continues the melody with similar note values. The third staff features a measure rest followed by a half note and a quarter note. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with line numbers 1, 5, and 11 indicating the start of each line.

**Recognition of the Building Committee:**

**John Butler & Casey Nuttle**

**Litany of Dedication for the New Church**

**Ryan Twigg**

**Leader:**

Today we stand on sacred ground—land chosen, prayed over, and entrusted to us by the grace of God. For twenty-five years, vision has been cast, prayers have been offered, and faith has been tested.

**People:**

**We give thanks for those who dreamed, planned, persevered, and believed. Their faith has laid the foundation for what we now begin.**

**Leader:**

For the labor of the Building Committee, past and present—for every meeting held, every obstacle overcome, and every act of service offered with love:

**People:**

**We give thanks and honor their work. May their faithfulness inspire generations to come.**

**Leader:**

For the ground beneath our feet, which will hold walls of worship, classrooms of learning, and spaces of sacred fellowship:

**People:**

**We dedicate this land to the glory of God, that it may be a place where love is taught, lives are transformed, and hope is renewed.**

(Continued)

**Leader:**

For the children who will grow in faith here, the seekers who will find Christ, and the weary who will find rest:

**People:**

**We dedicate this future church to welcome all, serve all, and proclaim the Gospel with joy.**

**Leader:**

For the work that now begins—for the architects, builders, volunteers, and supporters:

**People:**

**We ask God's blessing on every hand that labors, every heart that gives, and every soul that prays.**

**Leader:**

Let this place not be merely bricks and mortar, but a living witness to the love and power of Jesus Christ.

**All Together (Unison Prayer):**

**Gracious God, we dedicate this site to You. May it rise as a beacon of hope, a shelter of grace, and a home for all who seek You. Bless the work ahead, protect those who build, and guide us as we continue to be the Church in the world. Let all that is done here bring You glory, now and always. Amen.**

**Scripture Reading Psalm 119:41-48 NLT**

<sup>41</sup> LORD, give me your unfailing love,  
the salvation that you promised me.

<sup>42</sup> Then I can answer those who taunt me,  
for I trust in your word.

<sup>43</sup> Do not snatch your word of truth from me,  
for your regulations are my only hope.

(Continued)

<sup>44</sup> I will keep on obeying your instructions  
forever and ever.  
<sup>45</sup> I will walk in freedom,  
for I have devoted myself to your commandments.  
<sup>46</sup> I will speak to kings about your laws,  
and I will not be ashamed.  
<sup>47</sup> How I delight in your commands!  
How I love them!  
<sup>48</sup> I honor and love your commands.  
I meditate on your decrees. Ω

### **Isaiah 43:15-21**

<sup>15</sup> I am the LORD, your Holy One,  
Israel's Creator and King.  
<sup>16</sup> I am the LORD, who opened a way through the waters,  
making a dry path through the sea.  
<sup>17</sup> I called forth the mighty army of Egypt  
with all its chariots and horses.  
I drew them beneath the waves, and they drowned,  
their lives snuffed out like a smoldering candlewick.  
<sup>18</sup> "But forget all that—  
it is nothing compared to what I am going to do.  
<sup>19</sup> For I am about to do something new.  
See, I have already begun! Do you not see it?  
I will make a pathway through the wilderness.  
I will create rivers in the dry wasteland.  
<sup>20</sup> The wild animals in the fields will thank me,  
the jackals and owls, too,  
for giving them water in the desert.  
Yes, I will make rivers in the dry wasteland  
so my chosen people can be refreshed.  
<sup>21</sup> I have made Israel for myself,  
and they will someday honor me before the whole world.

**Sermon**

**"What is Snew??"**

**Pastor Bill Halter**

**Hymn of Celebration**  
**"Holy, Holy, Holy"**

# Holy, Holy, Holy

*vv. 2,3*

1 Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al-might - y!

ear - ly in the morn - ing our song shall rise to

thee; ho-ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! mer - ci - ful and

might-y! God in three per-sons, bless-èd Trin - i - ty!

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**Prayer of Thanksgiving**

**Pastor Bill Halter**

**Holy Communion**

**Closing Prayer & Benediction**

**Postlude / Fellowship Time**

Walk the grounds, fellowship, guided reflection and prayer

# **Family Reflection Book: God Is Building Something Big!**

## **1. Let's Say Thank You**

Look Around:

Who helped make this day happen?

Who do you want to say thank you to?

Talk About It:

Who are you thankful for today?

What part of today made you smile?

Prayer:

Thank You, God, for the people who worked hard to help build this church.

Thank You for today! Amen.



# **Family Reflection Book: God Is Building Something Big!**

## **2. This Is Holy Ground**

Stand Still:

Take a deep breath. Feel your feet on the ground. Look up. Listen.

Talk About It:

What do you feel when you stand here? -

How is this place already special?

Prayer: God, this is Your place. Help us remember You are always with us, even before the building is finished. Amen.

## **Family Reflection Book: God Is Building Something Big!**

### **3. You Can Help Build**

Activity:

Draw or imagine your future church. What do you see?

Talk About It: -

What do you want to help build? -

What are your gifts?

Prayer:

God, show me how I can help. I want to be part of building Your church with my hands, my heart, and my love. Amen.

## **Family Reflection Book: God Is Building Something Big!**

### **4. Dream Big! Imagine:**

What will this church be like in the future? -

Who will come? -

What will happen here?

Optional Activity:

Write or draw a letter to someone in the future who will come here.

Prayer:

God, we pray for everyone who will come to this church. Help them feel Your love and find a place to belong. Amen.

## **Family Reflection Book: God Is Building Something Big!**

### **5. Make a Promise**

Each Person Can Say: -

I want to pray for this church. -

I will help however I can. -

I will keep showing up and loving others.

Final Family Prayer:

God, thank You for letting us be part of something big and beautiful.  
Help us love our church, serve with joy, and follow You every step of  
the way. Amen.