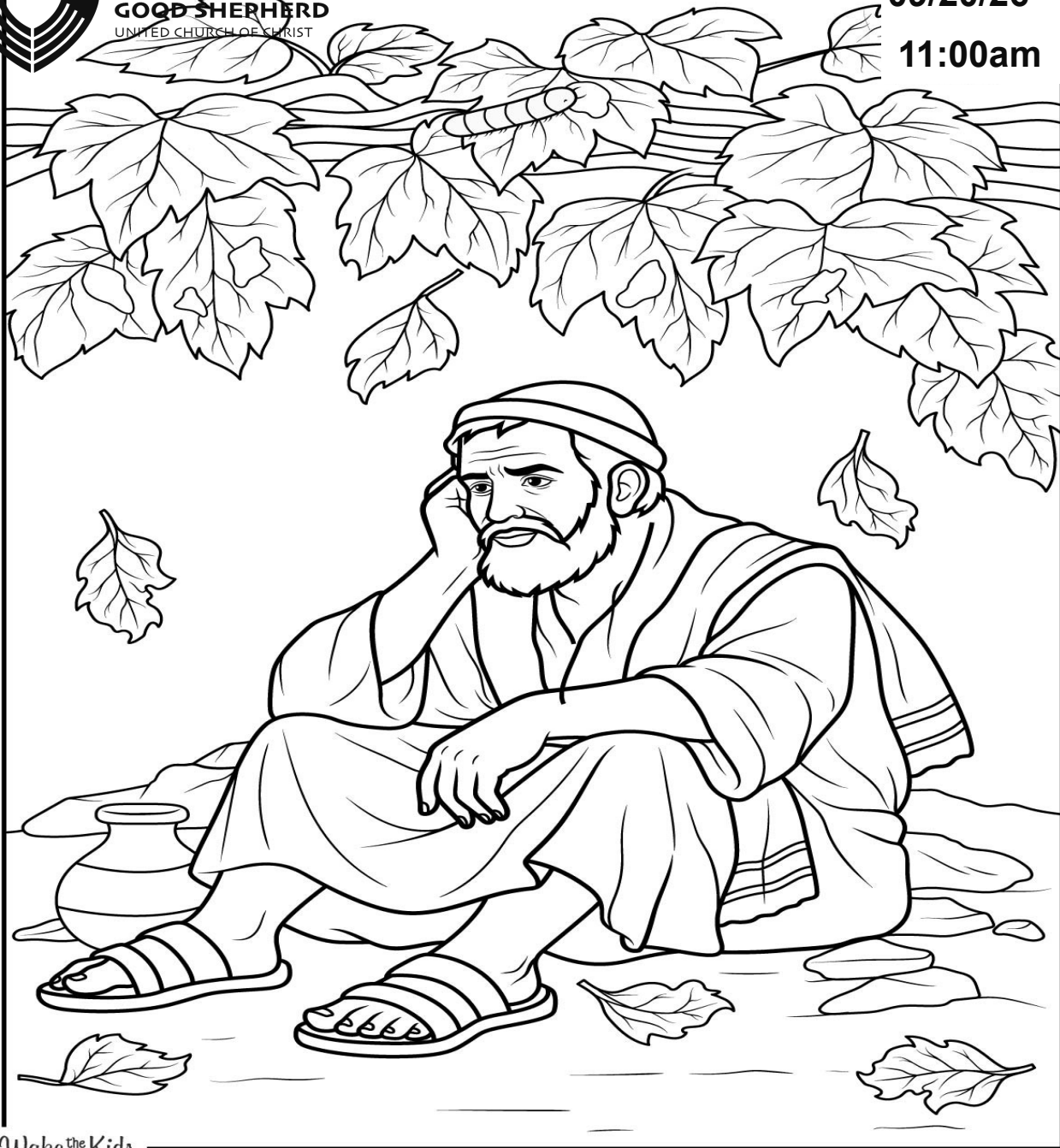




CHURCH OF THE
GOOD SHEPHERD
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

09/20/26

11:00am



Wake the Kids
...com

No matter where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

September 20, 2026

WELCOME.....

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: The word of God came to Jonah, calling him to rise and go.

Many: The word of God comes to us today: “Go, despite your fears.”

One: When Nineveh changed their ways, God relented and met their repentance with mercy.

Many: God opens our hearts and meets us with mercy too.

One: God challenged Jonah’s narrow-heartedness with boundless compassion.

Many: May God teach us to love our neighbors and our enemies alike.

One: May we receive grace upon grace, overflowing from the fullness of God's heart.

Many: Come, let us celebrate God’s love.

HYMN #307 Glorious Things of You are Spoken 1,2,4

1 Glorious things of you are spoken,
Zion, city of our God;
One whose word cannot be broken
formed you for a blessed abode.
On the Rock of Ages founded,
what can shake your sure repose?
With salvation’s walls surrounded,
you may smile at all your foes.

2 See! the streams of living waters,
springing from eternal Love,
Well supply your sons and daughters,
and all fear of want remove.
Who can faint while such a river
ever will their thirst assuage?
Grace which, like our God, the Giver,
never fails from age to age?

4 Savior, if of Zion’s city
we through grace a part may claim,
Let the world deride or pity,
we will glory in your name.
Fading is all worldly pleasure,
all earth’s boasted pomp and show;
Solid joys and lasting treasures,

none but Zion’s children know.

OPENING REFLECTION.....

“Welcome to God’s Love” Music by Mark A Miller, Text by Lindy Thompson - Chancel Choir

*Families of all shapes and kinds, love the only tie that binds
this gathering of open minds, welcome to God’s love.
Every person has a place in this holy, sacred space,
Earth’s entire human race, welcome! Welcome! Welcome! Welcome!
Welcome! Welcome! Come and feel God’s love!
No proof required of your worth, a gift to you before your birth
from God, who made the heavens and earth. Welcome to God’s love.
We’ll love each other and take care of every need encountered there,
within God’s heart there is room to spare. Welcome! Welcome! Welcome! Welcome!
Welcome! Welcome! Welcome to God’s love!
Come, and live God’s love!*

JOYS AND CONCERNS.....

PRAYER.....

SCRIPTURE.....

Jonah 3-4, adapted from the New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

3 [After the giant fish spit Jonah out onto the shore], the word of God came to Jonah a second time, saying, 2 “Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you.” 3 So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of God.

Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days’ walk across. 4 Jonah went into the city a day’s walk and then cried out, “Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!” 5 And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth.

6 When the news reached the king of Nineveh, he rose from his throne, removed his robe, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in ashes. 7 Then he had a proclamation made in Nineveh: “By the decree of the king and his nobles: No human or animal, no herd or flock, shall taste anything. They shall not feed, nor shall they drink water. 8 Humans and animals shall be covered with sackcloth, and they shall cry mightily to God. All shall turn from their evil ways and from the violence that is in their hands. 9 Who knows? Maybe God will relent and change God’s mind; God may turn from fierce anger, so that we do not perish.”

10 When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed God’s mind about the calamity that God had said would come upon them, and God did not do it.

4 But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. 2 He prayed to God and said, “O God! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning, for I knew that you are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from punishment. 3 And now, O God, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.” 4 And God said, “Is it right for you to be angry?” 5 Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city and made a shelter for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

6 God appointed a plant and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort, and Jonah was very happy about the plant. 7 But at dawn the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the plant, so that it withered. 8 God prepared a hot east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and he said, “It is better for me to die than to live.”

9 But God said to Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry about the plant?” And he said, “Yes, angry enough to die.” 10 Then God said, “You are concerned about the plant, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. 11 And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left and also many animals?”

Jonás 3-4, Nueva Versión Internacional

3:1 [Después de que el pez gigante escupiera a Jonás en la orilla] La palabra del Señor vino por segunda vez a Jonás: 2 «Levántate y ve a la gran ciudad de Nínive y proclámale el mensaje que te voy a dar».

3 Jonás se levantó y se encaminó a Nínive, como el Señor le ordenó. Nínive era una ciudad tan grande que se necesitaban tres días para recorrerla. 4 Jonás entró en la ciudad y la recorrió todo un día, mientras proclamaba: «¡Dentro de cuarenta días Nínive será destruida!». 5 Y los ninivitas creyeron a Dios, proclamaron ayuno y, desde el mayor hasta el menor, se vistieron con ropa áspera en señal de arrepentimiento.

6 Cuando el rey de Nínive se enteró del mensaje, se levantó de su trono, se quitó su manto real, se vistió con ropa áspera y se sentó sobre ceniza. 7 Luego mandó que se pregonara en Nínive:

«Por decreto del rey y de su corte:

»Ninguna persona o animal, ni ovejas ni vacas, probará alimento alguno, ni tampoco pastará ni beberá agua. 8 Personas y animales vestirán telas ásperas y clamarán a Dios con todas sus fuerzas. Ordena así mismo que cada uno se convierta de su mal camino y de sus hechos violentos. 9 ¡Quién sabe! Tal vez Dios cambie de parecer y aplaque el

ardor de su ira, y no perezamos».

10 Al ver Dios lo que hicieron, es decir, que habían abandonado su mal camino, cambió de parecer y no llevó a cabo la destrucción que había anunciado.

4:1 Pero esto disgustó mucho a Jonás y lo hizo enfurecer. 2 Así que oró al Señor de esta manera:

—¡Oh Señor! ¿No era esto lo que yo decía cuando todavía estaba en mi tierra? Por eso me anticipé a huir a Tarsis, pues bien sabía que tú eres un Dios misericordioso y compasivo, lento para la ira y lleno de amor, que cambias de parecer y no destruyes. 3 Así que ahora, Señor, te suplico que me quites la vida. ¡Prefiero morir que seguir viviendo!

4 —¿Tienes razón de enfurecerte tanto? —respondió el Señor.

5 Jonás salió y se sentó al este de la ciudad. Allí hizo un cobertizo y se sentó bajo su sombra para ver qué iba a suceder con la ciudad. 6 Para aliviarlo de su malestar, Dios el Señor dispuso una planta, la cual creció hasta cubrirle a Jonás la cabeza con su sombra. Jonás se alegró muchísimo por la planta. 7 Pero al amanecer del día siguiente Dios dispuso que un gusano la hiriera y la planta se marchitó. 8 Al salir el sol, Dios dispuso un abrasador viento del este. Además, el sol hería a Jonás en la cabeza, de modo que este desfallecía. Con deseos de morirse, exclamó: «¡Prefiero morir que seguir viviendo!».

9 Pero Dios dijo a Jonás:

—¿Tienes razón de enfurecerte tanto por la planta?

—¡Claro que la tengo! —respondió—. ¡Me muero de rabia!

10 El Señor dijo:

—Tú te compadeces de una planta que, sin ningún esfuerzo de tu parte, creció en una noche y en la otra pereció. 11 Y de Nínive, una gran ciudad donde hay más de ciento veinte mil personas que no distinguen su derecha de su izquierda y tanto ganado, ¿no habría yo de compadecerme?

A TIME FOR ALL AGES.....

HYMN #170 Your Ways Are Not Our Own 1,4,5

1 Your ways are not our own,
O gracious God most high
Yet we would follow in your paths
And on your love rely.

4 How shall we show your love,
Your pardon to believe?
You bid us share as we are blessed

And give as we receive.

5 Forgiveness is our joy,
Receiving, giving too.
Keep us from judgements hard and cruel,
That we may dwell with you.

SERMON.....Rev. Dr. Sarah Townes

PASTORAL PRAYER.....

PRAYER OF JESUS

Life Giver,
Who is in Heaven, Holy be Your name,
Your Kin(g)dom come, Your 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 do not lead us into temptation,
But deliver us from evil,
For yours is the Kin(g)dom and the
Power and the glory,
Now and forever, Amen.

SHARING OUR GIFTS.....

OFFERTORY.....

“What a Friend We Have in Jesus,” by Charles Converse, arr. By Cindy Berry. Dorenda Morse, piano

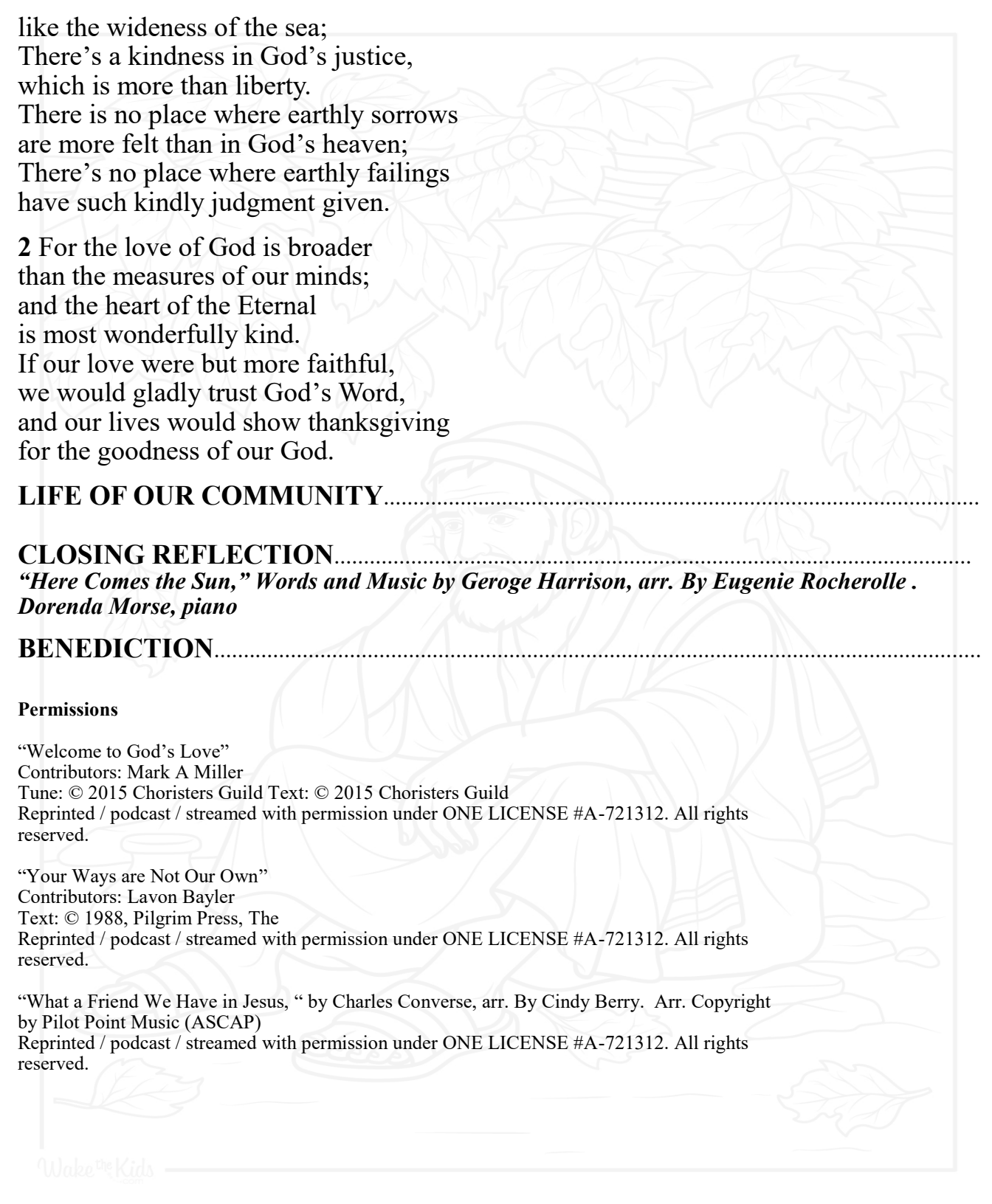
DOXOLOGY

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! Alleluia!

PRAYER OF DEDICATION.....

CLOSING HYMN #23 “There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy”

1 There’s a wideness in God’s mercy,



like the wideness of the sea;
There's a kindness in God's justice,
which is more than liberty.
There is no place where earthly sorrows
are more felt than in God's heaven;
There's no place where earthly failings
have such kindly judgment given.

2 For the love of God is broader
than the measures of our minds;
and the heart of the Eternal
is most wonderfully kind.
If our love were but more faithful,
we would gladly trust God's Word,
and our lives would show thanksgiving
for the goodness of our God.

LIFE OF OUR COMMUNITY.....

CLOSING REFLECTION.....

*“Here Comes the Sun,” Words and Music by Geroge Harrison, arr. By Eugenie Rocherolle .
Dorenda Morse, piano*

BENEDICTION.....

Permissions

“Welcome to God's Love”

Contributors: Mark A Miller

Tune: © 2015 Choristers Guild Text: © 2015 Choristers Guild

Reprinted / podcast / streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-721312. All rights reserved.

“Your Ways are Not Our Own”

Contributors: Lavon Bayler

Text: © 1988, Pilgrim Press, The

Reprinted / podcast / streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-721312. All rights reserved.

“What a Friend We Have in Jesus, “ by Charles Converse, arr. By Cindy Berry. Arr. Copyright
by Pilot Point Music (ASCAP)

Reprinted / podcast / streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-721312. All rights reserved.



Thank you for joining us in worship today

We are delighted to have you worshipping with us today!



Church of the Good Shepherd, UCC is a dynamic congregation with a rich history and vibrant ministry in the community. Our church is a part of a blend of five major Protestant denominations that united together in 1957 to form the United Church of Christ: Congregational, Christian, Afro-Christian, German Evangelical and Reformed. We celebrate the words of Pastor John Robinson, who in his farewell remarks to the Pilgrims as they were leaving for the "new world," said, "There is still more light and truth to break forth from God's holy word." We say at our church that "God is still speaking!" "There is still more light and truth to break forth from God's holy word."

- We are a church that:
 - Centers our faith and practice in the life and ministry Jesus Christ.
 - Takes the Bible seriously, not literally.
 - Builds community partnerships across differences.
 - Worships God with joyful hearts and open minds.
 - Includes children in the life and ministry of the church.
 - Celebrates creativity and the arts.
 - Encounters Christ in Creation, community, sacraments, music, scripture, and service.
 - Listens and responds to the movement of the Holy Spirit.
 - Celebrates an open table and seeks to be inclusive of ALL people.
 - Seeks to live out our faith in the world as we build God's reign of love and justice on earth.
 - Believes that growth in wisdom and understanding happens at all stages of life.
 - Embraces solidarity, not just charity.
 - Is committed to work for justice for all people and for the environment.
 - Cares for one another, laughs easily, and rests in God's love.

Vision Statement

Church of the Good Shepherd desires to be an

Mission Statement

The mission of Church of the Good

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

7834 Tennyson Street NE, Albuquerque, NM 87122

Office: 505-856-1004

www.ucccogs.org

No matter where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.