



GRACE COVENANT

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Service of Worship July 26, 2026 9:30am
Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Gathering

*The prelude, the first act of worship, sets the tone for what is to follow.
So, we invite you as worshipers to gather, to transition from your busy lives
into a sacred place of communion with God and with each other. – Dr. Kimo Smith, adapted*

PRELUDE

“The Peaceable Things”
Chris Krug, organ

Clay R. Christiansen

*In worship following reflective music, we are requesting a response of quiet or a
contemplative “amen.” Any music that elicits a response of applause is to the glory of God.*

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: Come, people of God, gathered by grace and called into community.

**ALL: We come to worship the One who bears our burdens and teaches us to
bear one another's.**

ONE: Christ calls us to restore the weary with gentleness, to strengthen the
weak with compassion, and to serve one another in love.

**ALL: We are one body, united by the Spirit and gifted for ministry. We come
to worship the God who equips us to love, to serve, and to care for one
another.**

*HYMN 644

“Give Thanks, O Christian People”

ES FLOG EIN KLEINS WALDVÖGELEIN

Give Thanks, O Christian People 644

1 Give thanks, O Chris-tian peo - ple, for work-ers of our day
 2 Give thanks, O Chris-tian peo - ple, for lead - ers of our years
 3 Give thanks, O Chris-tian peo - ple, for all who love the Lord,
 4 Give thanks, O Chris-tian peo - ple, for life in fel - low - ship

who heed the call to ser - vice and make it their life's way
 who live to share with oth - ers our joy when Christ ap - pears,
 who live each day be - liev - ing in God's e - ter - nal Word:
 with all who trust our Sav - ior their serv - ing to e - quip:

to go to feed the hun - gry, to tend to those in need,
 to teach the ones who seek light, to guide the fal - tering feet,
 to share Christ's love in liv - ing, to wit - ness with each deed,
 to ease an - oth - er's bur - dens, to cope in joy and stress,

to work for e - qual jus - tice, till all God's folk are freed.
 to lead the fol - lowers for - ward our liv - ing Lord to meet.
 to use the tal - ents giv - en to plant the gos - pel seed.
 to mag - ni - fy God's mes - sage and Christ's great love con - fess.

This text was written by a Presbyterian director of Christian education in Washington, DC, to honor the ministry of a colleague who was leaving the area. It is an effective reminder that God's people serve in many vocations and ministries. The tune adapts a secular German song.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Emily Nelson Dixon

We are called to bear one another's burdens, yet too often we choose convenience over compassion, judgment over grace, and isolation over community. Trusting in God's abundant mercy, let us confess our sins together.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(Together)*

Merciful God, You have called us to reflect Christ's love, yet we confess we have often failed to care for one another as you have cared for us. We have been slow to answer needs around us — expecting others to carry burdens that belong to us all. Forgive us for neglecting your call to bear one another's burdens. Renew our hearts with your Holy Spirit. Give us humility to receive care and courage to offer it. Strengthen all who serve through acts of mercy, and fill us with Christ's compassion, that together we may build a community where every person is welcomed, valued, and loved. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

In Jesus, our sins are forgiven, our burdens are lifted, and we are made new. The God who calls us into community also restores us with grace and equips us to serve one another in love. Through Christ, we are forgiven and empowered by the Holy Spirit to live as faithful servants of God's people.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

(Awakening to Worship, our child-friendly worship time, is on summer hiatus. Our Nursery welcomes young children, and our ushers can assist families to the nursery located in the children's wing. Worship bags are available for children who stay in worship.)

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

ONE: May the peace of Christ be with you.

ALL: And also with you and all others!

*RESPONSE 582 "Glory to God Whose Goodness Shines on Me"

GLORY TO GOD

582

Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me

Capo 3: (G) (D) (G) (D) (G) (D) (Em) (D)
B $\flat$ F B $\flat$ F B $\flat$ F Gm F



1 Glo - ry to God, whose good - ness shines on me,
2 World with - out end, with - out end. A - men.

(D) (G) (C) (G) (Em7) (A7)
F B $\flat$ E $\flat$ B $\flat$ Gm7 C7



and to the Son, whose grace has par - doned me,
World with - out end, with - out end. A - men.

(A7) (D) (F#) (Bm)
C7 F A Dm



and to the Spir - it, whose love has set me free.
World with - out end, with - out end. A - men.

(Bm7) (D) (Bdim7) (Em7) (Dm)(A7) (D)
Dm7 F Ddim7 Gm7 Fm C7 F



As it was in the be - gin - ning, is now and ev - er shall be. A - men.

Equipping

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Acts 6:1–6 (NRSVue)

Jane Knoche

Now during those days, when the disciples were increasing in number, the Hellenists complained against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution of food. And the twelve called together the whole community of the disciples and said, “It is not right that we should neglect the word of God in order to wait on tables. Therefore, brothers and sisters, select from among yourselves seven men of good standing, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may appoint to this task, while we, for our part, will devote ourselves to prayer and to serving the word.” What they said pleased the whole community, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, together with Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. They had these men stand before the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.

ANTHEM

“Come Away”

Ken Medema

Chancel Choir

Chris Krug, accompanist

*Come away for a little time apart,
for the changing of the heart;
come away.*

*Come away to a taste so bittersweet,
where hope and heartache meet;
come away.*

*Here is light to light the darkest maze.
Here is song to fill the pathless days.
Here is call among the crowded ways.*

*Bread of Life, of happiness and tears,
faithfulness and fears,
this feast awaits you here;
come away.*

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Galatians 6:1–2 (NRSVue)

My brothers and sisters, if anyone is detected in a transgression, you who have received the Spirit should restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness. Take care that you yourselves are not tempted. Bear one another’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ

Holy Wisdom, Holy Words

Thanks be to God!

SERMON

Rev. Karen Wright

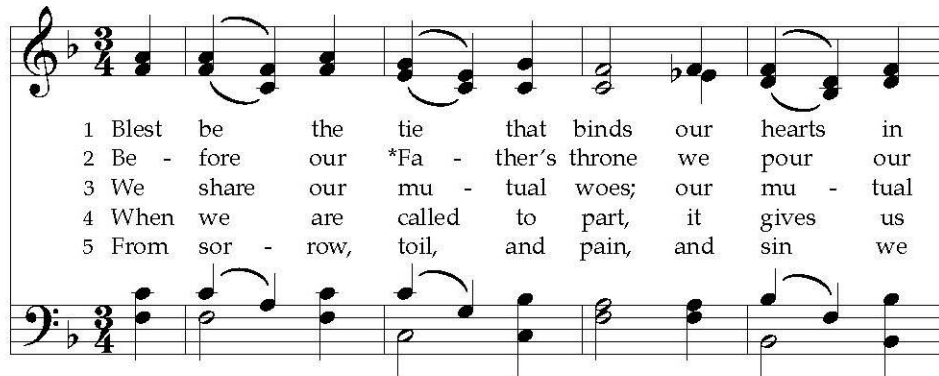
“Reports from the Field: Bearing with One Another”

HYMN 306

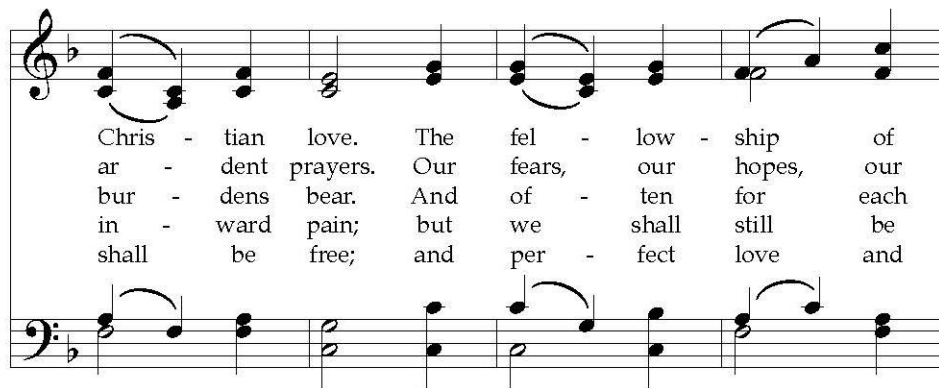
“Blest Be the Tie that Binds”

DENNIS

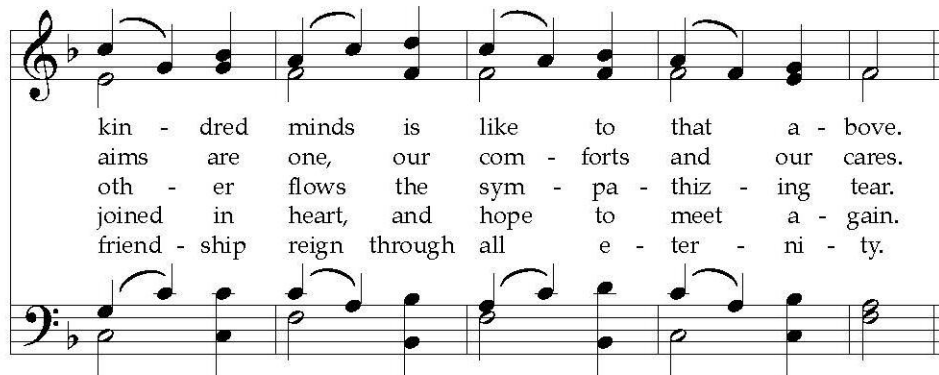
Blest Be the Tie That Binds 306



1 Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in
 2 Be - fore our *Fa - ther's throne we pour our
 3 We share our mu - tual woes; our mu - tual
 4 When we are called to part, it gives us
 5 From sor - row, toil, and pain, and sin we



Chris - tian love. The fel - low - ship of
 ar - dent prayers. Our fears, our hopes, our
 bur - dens bear. And of - ten for each
 in - ward pain; but we shall still be
 shall be free; and per - fect love and



kin - dred minds is like to that a - bove.
 aims are one, our com - forts and our cares.
 oth - er flows the sym - pa - thiz - ing tear.
 joined in heart, and hope to meet a - gain.
 friend - ship reign through all e - ter - ni - ty.

*Or "Maker's"

Written to express a pastor's unwillingness to leave a beloved congregation, this hymn is frequently used as an expression of Christian fellowship, especially at the conclusion of the Lord's Supper. The tune is attributed to an influential Swiss musician and publisher.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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.

A CALL TO STEWARDSHIP

OFFERING OF GIFTS AND MUSIC

"Shall We Gather at the River"

arr. Joel Raney

Katie Hearn, flute & Chris Krug, piano

[Sending](#)

*HYMN 761

"Called as Partners in Christ's Service"

BEECHER

Called as Partners in Christ's Service 761

1 Called as part-ners in Christ's ser-vice, called to min-is-tries of grace,
 2 Christ's ex-am-ple, Christ's in-spir-ing, Christ's clear call to work and worth,
 3 Thus new pat-terns for Christ's mis-sion, in a small or glob-al sense,
 4 So God grant us for to - mor-row ways to or-der hu-man life

we re-spond with deep com-mit-ment fresh new lines of faith to trace.
 let us fol-low, nev-er fal-tering, rec-on-cil-ing folk on earth.
 help us bear each oth-er's bur-dens, break-ing down each wall or fence.
 that sur-round each per-son's sor-row with a calm that con-quers strife.

May we learn the art of shar-ing, side by side and friend with friend,
 Men and wom-en, rich-er, poor-er, all God's peo-ple, young and old,
 Words of com-fort, words of vi-sion, words of chal-lenge, said with care,
 Make us part-ners in our liv-ing, our com-pas-sion to in-crease,

e - qual part-ners in our car-ing to ful-fill God's cho-sen end.
 blend-ing hu-man skills to-geth-er gra-cious gifts from God un-fold.
 bring new power and strength for ac-tion, make us col-leagues, free and fair.
 mes-sen-gers of faith, thus giv-ing hope and con-fi-dence and peace.

This hymn is a celebration of mutuality and diversity as well as a challenge to the Christian community to live out a ministry of reconciliation and inclusion. This 20th-century text is set to a 19th-century tune named for the noted pastor and preacher Henry Ward Beecher.

TEXT: Jane Parker Huber, 1981

MUSIC: John Zundel, 1870

Text © 1981 Jane Parker Huber (admin. Westminster John Knox Press)

BEECHER

8.7.8.7.D

(alternate tune: EBENEZER)

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“Festival Finale”
Chris Krug, organ

Malcolm Archer

**Stand in body or spirit*

GOD’S PEACE TO YOU

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