



Service of Worship June 1, 2025 9:30am
Seventh Sunday of Easter

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

“Largo”
Geri Allcorn, organist

Mark Thomas

*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

Rev. Karen Wright

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Emily Nelson Dixon

ONE: Jesus prayed, “May they all be one, as you, Father, are in me, and I am
in you.”

ALL: We come to worship the God who binds us together in love.

ONE: In prison, Paul and Silas prayed and sang hymns to God.

ALL: Even in the darkest night, we trust in God’s saving power.

ONE: Earthquakes may shake foundations, but God's grace stands firm.

**ALL: Let us worship the God who opens prison doors and hearts alike. With joy
and unity, we worship the God who makes us one.**

*HYMN 301

“Let Us Build a House”

TWO OAKS

Let Us Build a House

All Are Welcome

Capo 3: (A7) (D) (A) (D) (G) (A) (Bm)
C7 F C F B^b C Dm



1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can
2 Let us build a house where proph - ets speak, and words are
3 Let us build a house where love is found in wa - ter,
4 Let us build a house where hands will reach be - yond the
5 Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and

(D) (A) (D) (Bm7) (Em) (A)
F C F Dm7 Gm C



safe - ly live, a place where saints and chil - dren tell
strong and true, where all God's chil - dren dare to seek
wine, and wheat; a ban - quet hall on ho - ly ground
wood and stone to heal and strength-en, serve and teach,
vi - sions heard and loved and trea - sured, taught and claimed

(Em) (A7) (G) (D) (F#m) (Bm)
Gm C7 B^b F Am Dm



how hearts learn to for - give. Built of hopes and dreams and
to dream God's reign a - new. Here the cross shall stand as
where peace and jus - tice meet. Here the love of God, through
and live the Word they've known. Here the out - cast and the
as words with - in the Word. Built of tears and cries and

(Em) (A) (D) (G)
Gm C F B^b



vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the
wit - ness and as sym - bol of God's grace; here as
Je - sus, is re - vealed in time and space; as we
strang - er bear the im - age of God's face; let us
laugh - ter, prayers of faith and songs of grace; let this

Although it was written for a church dedication, this text is not about a physical structure but a spiritual one. The building is at best only a vessel for the essential love and hope, life and faith, peace and justice, hospitality and nurture that form the worshipping community.

THE CHURCH

Refrain

love of Christ shall end di - vi - sions:
 one we claim the faith of Je - sus:
 share in Christ the feast that frees us: all are wel - come;
 bring an end to fear and dan - ger:
 house pro-claim from floor to raf - ter:

all are wel - come; all are wel - come in this place.

Chords: (D) F, (G) B^b, (F#7) A7, (Bm) Dm, (Em) Gm, (Bm) Dm, (F#m) Am, (Em) Gm, (D) F, (Em) Gm, (A7) C7, (D) F, (G) B^b, (D) F

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.)

CALL TO CONFESSION

Rev. Karen Wright

Christ calls us to live in unity and love, yet we often choose division, fear, and silence. Let us come before God, confessing our brokenness, that we might be made whole.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(Together)*

Gracious God, You call us to be one, to live in unity as the body of Christ, but we confess how quickly we divide ourselves — by status, belief, and fear. Like the jailer in Philippi, we do not always recognize your Spirit moving in unexpected places. Like the crowd, we are quick to judge, slow to listen, and hesitant to act in love. Forgive us, O Lord. Break open the doors we build around our hearts. Shake loose our apathy, and free us to live with courage, compassion, and joy. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Hear the good news: Even when we are imprisoned by our past, God's mercy opens the doors. Even when we are weighed down by guilt or fear, God's grace lifts us up. Just as the jailer was transformed by the presence of Christ, so too are we made new by God's love. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

People: Thanks be to God!

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

ONE: May the peace of Christ be with you.

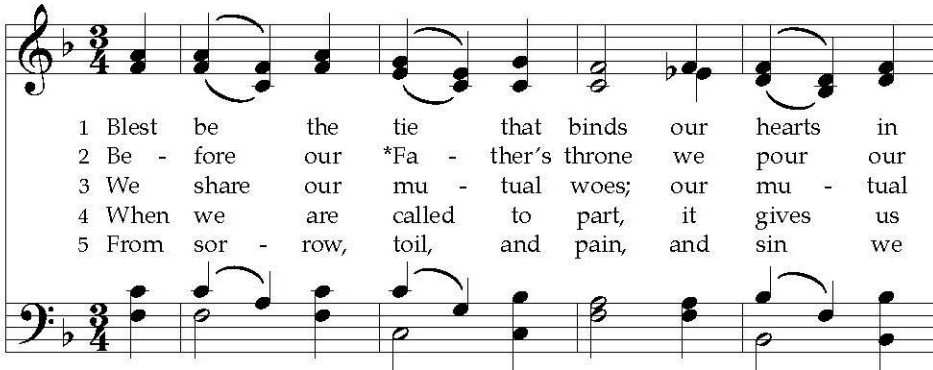
ALL: And also with you and all others!

*HYMN 306

“Blest Be the Tie That Binds”

DENNIS

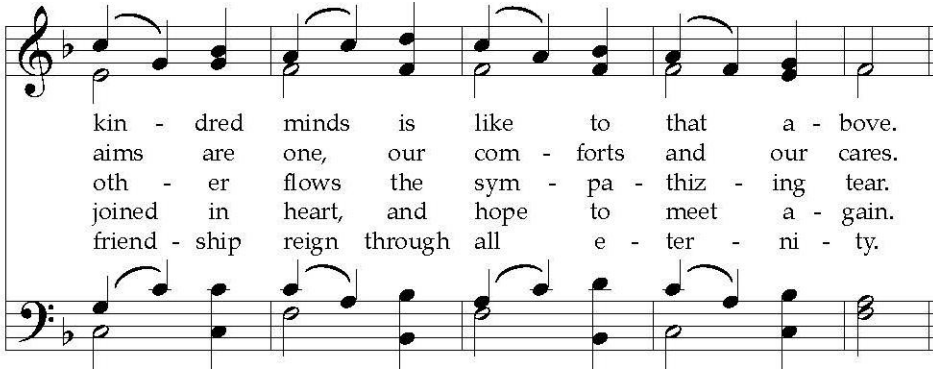
Blest Be the Tie That Binds 306



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.

Equipping

SCRIPTURE LESSON

John 17:20–26 (NRSVue)

Harold Frye

“I ask not only on behalf of these but also on behalf of those who believe in me through their word, that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. Father, I desire that those also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world. “Righteous Father, the world does not know you, but I know you, and these know that you have sent me. I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them and I in them.”

ANTHEM

“Ride On, King Jesus”

arr. Philip Kern

Chancel & Exaltation! Singers

*Ride on King Jesus,
no man can hinder me.*

*For He's the King of Kings,
He's the Lord of Lords.
Jesus Christ, the first and last,
no man works like him.*

*King Jesus rides a milk white horse,
no man works like him.
The river of Jordan He did cross,
no man works like him.
King Jesus rides in the middle of the air,
no man works like him.
He calls the saints from everywhere
no man works like him.*

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Acts 16:16–34 (NRSVue)

One day as we were going to the place of prayer, we met a female slave who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners a great deal of money by fortune-telling. While she followed Paul and us, she would cry out, “These men are slaves of the Most High God, who proclaim to you the way of salvation.” She kept doing this for many days. But Paul, very much annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, “I order you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her.” And it came out that very hour.

But when her owners saw that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace before the authorities. When they had brought them before the magistrates, they said, “These men, these Jews, are disturbing our city and are

advocating customs that are not lawful for us, being Romans, to adopt or observe.” The crowd joined in attacking them, and the magistrates had them stripped of their clothing and ordered them to be beaten with rods. After they had given them a severe flogging, they threw them into prison and ordered the jailer to keep them securely. Following these instructions, he put them in the innermost cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.

About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was an earthquake so violent that the foundations of the prison were shaken, and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone’s chains were unfastened. When the jailer woke up and saw the prison doors wide open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, since he supposed that the prisoners had escaped. But Paul shouted in a loud voice, “Do not harm yourself, for we are all here.” The jailer called for lights, and rushing in, he fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. Then he brought them outside and said, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” They answered, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.” They spoke the word of the Lord^[c] to him and to all who were in his house. At the same hour of the night he took them and washed their wounds; then he and his entire family were baptized without delay. He brought them up into the house and set food before them, and he and his entire household rejoiced that he had become a believer in God.

Holy Wisdom, Holy Words
Thanks be to God!

SERMON

“Finding Freedom”

Rev. Karen Wright

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

A CALL TO STEWARDSHIP

OFFERING OF GIFTS AND MUSIC

“Deep River”
Geri Allcorn, organist

Spiritual

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

Invitation to the Table

The Great Thanksgiving 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.

The Words of Institution

The Sharing of the Bread and Cup
Music During Communion
Prayer After Communion


Sending

*HYMN 265

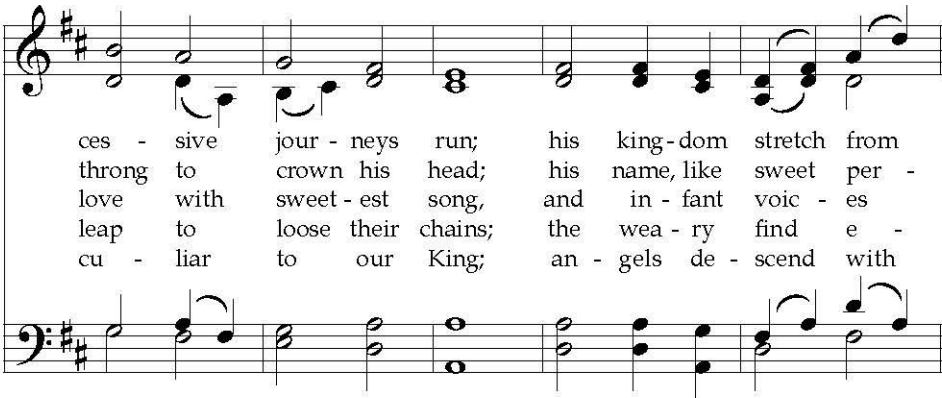
"Jesus Shall Reign Where 'er the Sun"

DUKE STREET

265 Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun



1 Je - sus shall reign wher - e'er the sun does its suc -
 2 To him shall end - less prayer be made, and prais - es
 3 Peo - ple and realms of ev - ery tongue dwell on his
 4 Bless - ings a - bound wher - e'er he reigns: the pris - oners
 5 Let ev - ery crea - ture rise and bring hon - ors pe -



ces - sive jour - neys run; his king - dom stretch from
 throng to crown his head; his name, like sweet per -
 love with sweet - est song, and in - fant voic - es
 leap to loose their chains; the wea - ry find e -
 cu - liar to our King; an - gels de - scend with



shore to shore, till moons shall wax and wane no more.
 fume, shall rise with ev - ery morn - ing sac - ri - fice.
 shall pro - claim their ear - ly bless - ings on his name.
 ter - nal rest, and all who suf - fer want are blest.
 songs a - gain, and earth re - peat the loud A - men!

This hymn is a classic example of how Isaac Watts Christianized the Psalms, in this case Psalm 72:5–19, by turning their messianic language to New Testament equivalents. The tune was at first nameless and anonymous, but is now called by the address of the supposed composer.

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Rev. Karen Wright

POSTLUDE

“Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation”

Neander

Geri Allcorn, organist

**Stand in body or spirit*

GOD’S PEACE TO YOU

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GRACE COVENANT

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