

Welcome to the Celebration!

March 22, 2020 • 10:00am

Today's songs are from the green "Worship and Rejoice" book.

**Please rise in body or in spirit.*

We Gather as a Community of Faith

GATHERING MUSIC

WORDS OF WELCOME

LIGHTING THE LENTEN CANDLE (*responsive*)

One: We are called to be children of light.

**All: There should be no darkness, no shame, no guilt —
everything we do ought to reveal the light of Christ to the world.**

One: We do not always live up to this, but it is what we strive for.

**All: And part of that work is being careful of who we might leave in the dark,
or that we ourselves may not be embracing the children of God
as fully as we ought to.**

One: We light this candle as a symbol of Christ's healing,
that opens our eyes to see everyone as a child of God, whole and beloved.

**All: Loving God, open our eyes to see as you see, so that we may love
as you love. As we journey towards the cross this Lenten season,
help us to see better than ever before and follow your way
with anticipation and joy.**

The fourth Lenten Candle is lit.

***SONG OF GATHERING #93** *Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness*

PRAYER FOR WHOLENESS (*together*)

**Everlasting God, we know so little. Our lives are but a blink in the light of the
universal calendar. Our experience is only of this world, this small tiny part of
Your created universe. We think we know it all, but we know so little. Help us
to know that You created us in love, and called us to love and care for others.
Let us trust in this knowledge: You have given us this life so that we might
make our world a little better, and show Your light a little brighter. Help us to
do this work You have called us to do. In the name of Christ, we pray. Amen!**

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE (*responsive*)

One: With the whole church,

**All: we affirm that we are made in God's image,
befriended by Christ, and empowered by the Spirit.**

One: With people everywhere,

**All: we affirm God's goodness at the heart of humanity,
planted more deeply than all that is wrong.**

One: With all creation,

**All: we celebrate the miracle and wonder of life and the unfolding
purposes of God, forever at work in ourselves and in the world.
Thanks be to God. Amen!**

Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness 93

D A7 D A D G D $\frac{D}{A}$ A7 D

1 Praise the One who breaks the dark-ness with a lib - er - at - ing light.
 2 Praise the One who blessed the chil - dren with a strong yet gen - tle word.
 3 Praise the one true love in - car - nate: Christ, who suf - fered in our place.

D A7 D A D G D $\frac{D}{A}$ A7 D

Praise the One who frees the pris - oners, turn - ing blind - ness in - to sight.
 Praise the One who drove out de - mons with a pierc - ing two - edged sword.
 Je - sus died and rose for man - y that we may know God by grace.

$\frac{D}{F\#}$ $\frac{A7}{E}$ D F#m G D $\frac{G}{D}$ D $\frac{D}{F\#}$ $\frac{A7}{E}$ D F#m G A7 D

Praise the One who preached the gos - pel, heal - ing ev - ery dread dis - ease,
 Praise the One who brings cool wa - ter to the des - ert's burn - ing sand.
 Let us sing for joy and glad - ness, see - ing what our God has done.

D A7 D A D G D $\frac{D}{A}$ A7 D

calm - ing storms and feed - ing thou - sands with the ver - y bread of peace.
 From this well comes liv - ing wa - ter quench - ing thirst in ev - ery land.
 Praise the one re - deem - ing glo - ry; praise the One who makes us one.

OUR WORK IN THE WORLD: CHALLENGING CONVERSATIONS

Each Sunday in Lent, we lift up one of the themes of our work in the world at UPC. This week, our theme is Challenging Conversations and we have invited Rozann Greco, caseworker for our Walk With Me program, to tell us about their work assisting citizens returning from incarceration to rejoin the community.

We Hear the Word

SCRIPTURE LESSON *John 9:1-41* (Readers Theatre)

TIME FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART

REFLECTIONS

Rev. Kimberly P Chastain

We Respond to the Word

*SONG OF RESPONSE #416 *God! When Human Bonds Are Broken*

The image shows a musical score for a song. It consists of two systems of music, each with a vocal line and a bass line. The key signature is B-flat major (two flats) and the time signature is 4/4. The first system includes five lines of lyrics. The second system includes five lines of lyrics. Chord symbols are written above the notes in both systems.

1 God! When hu-man bonds are bro-ken and we lack the love or skill
2 Through that still-ness, with your Spir-it come in-to our world of stress,
3 You in us are bruised and bro-ken: hear us as we seek re-lease
4 Send us, God of new be-gin-nings, hum-bly hope-ful in-to life;
5 Give us faith to be more faith-ful, give us hope to be more true,

to re-store the hope of heal-ing, give us grace and make us still.
for the sake of Christ for-giv-ing all the fail-ures we con-fess.
from the pain of ear-lier liv-ing; set us free and grant us peace.
use us as a means of bless-ing: make us strong-er, give us faith.
give us love to go on learn-ing: God! En-cour-age and re-new!

WORDS: Fred Kaan (1929-)
MUSIC: William H. Monk (1823-1889)

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MERTON
8.7.8.7.

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OFFERING

OFFERTORY

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (*together*)

We bring a wide variety of gifts to the table, O God,
gifts that we have received by your grace.

Take all we offer —

our money, our time, our talents,

our dreams, our hands, our hearts —

and use them to make your Spirit's presence
felt in all the world. Amen!

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

As each petition is concluded, the prayer leader and congregation respond:

One: Lord, in your loving kindness,

All: Hear our prayer.

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER (*together*)

New Zealand Prayer Book version

Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,

Source of all that is and that shall be,

Father and Mother of us all,

Loving God, in whom is heaven:

The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!

The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!

Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!

Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope

and come on earth.

With the bread we need for today, feed us.

In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.

In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.

From trials too great to endure, spare us.

From the grip of all that is evil, free us.

For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and for ever. Amen!

We Go Forth in Gratitude to Serve

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND INVITATIONS

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

*SONG OF SENDING #502 *Be Thou My Vision*

E \flat $\frac{E\flat}{G}$ A \flat B \flat A \flat $\frac{E\flat}{G}$ Cm B \flat E \flat

1 Be thou my Vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
 2 Be thou my Wis - dom, and thou my true Word,
 3 High King of heav - en, my vic - to - ry won,

B \flat $\frac{F7}{C}$ $\frac{B\flat}{D}$ E \flat $\frac{E\flat}{G}$ A \flat $\frac{E\flat}{G}$ Cm B \flat

naught be all else to me, save that thou art—
 I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord;
 may I reach heav - en's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!

A \flat $\frac{A\flat}{C}$ $\frac{A\flat}{E\flat}$ E \flat $\frac{Gm7}{D}$ Cm7 Cm Gm7 A \flat B \flat

thou my best thought, by day or by night,
 thou and thou on - ly, first in my heart,
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

E \flat $\frac{B\flat}{D}$ Cm $\frac{E\flat}{B\flat}$ $\frac{E\flat}{G}$ $\frac{Fm}{A\flat}$ A \flat Fm7 E \flat

wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
 high King of heav - en, my Treas - ure thou art.
 still be my Vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

WORDS: Irish hymn, 8th c.; tr. Mary E. Byrne (1880-1931); versed Eleanor H. Hull (1860-1935)
 MUSIC: Irish melody; arr. Jack Schrader (1942-)

SLANE
 10.10.10.10

***WE BLESS EACH OTHER ON THE WAY** (*responsive*)

One: The pieces of our lives are all held in God's hands,
and we are blessed with new life through God's forgiveness and grace.

**All: We are called to hold each other in love and compassion —
and to cherish the pieces we each hold in our relationships —
with others, with Creation, and with our God.**

One: May we all find wholeness and new life in this season.

**All: Let us journey together in compassion and understanding,
recognizing that our God reclaims us in love, again and again. Amen!**

***THE SHARING OF CHRIST'S PEACE**

One: The Peace of the Risen Christ be with you.

All: And also with you!

(Please exchange a greeting of peace with those around you as our worship concludes.)

Pastors Rev. Kimberly P Chastain and Rev. Becky Kindig

Music Rebecca Mebert, *Music Coordinator*; Aimee Backus, *Choral director*;
Andy Chadwick, *accompanist* ~ ***Technicians*** Scott Kindig and Shawn Landon



Everyone is welcome here
**UNITED PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH OF BINGHAMTON**
DO JUSTICE • LOVE KINDNESS • WALK HUMBLLY WITH GOD

