



Twentieth Sunday
after Pentecost
October 11, 2026 – 9:45 AM

THE APPROACH TO GOD

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

*SONG OF WORSHIP

#90 "Jesus! What a Friend for Sinners!"

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God who reveals yourself in Jesus,
we confess we struggle to follow in his footsteps.
We are people who are prone to give up "self,"
to succumb to the pressure that comes from friends and family,
neighbors and coworkers,
to think the same things, to believe the same ideas,
to speak the same way.
In doing so, we fail to embody the call
you place on each of our lives
as individuals who are defined
in our own unique values, beliefs, and convictions,
while at the same time remaining connected
to those who are different than us.

Led by sanctuary choir:

Kyrie. **Kyrie.** Lord have mercy. **Lord have mercy.**

Christe. **Christe.** Christ have mercy. **Christ have mercy.**

Kyrie. **Kyrie.** Lord have mercy. **Lord have mercy.**

Kyrie. **Kyrie.** Eleison. **Eleison.**

Please use this period of silence for personal reflection.

God who reconciles the world in Jesus,
**empower us to be the individuals you call us to be,
so that we might make connections with others as they are,
creating community that reflects
the beautiful diversity of your world. Amen.**

CHORAL ASSURANCE

"You Are My All in All/Fairest Lord Jesus"

Words & Music by D. Jernigan | Choral Setting by L. Shackley

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

"Taking my sin, my cross, my shame; rising again I bless your name."

**In Jesus Christ, our brokenness has been taken from us,
and we are at peace.**

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

THE WORD OF GOD

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Congregation, bless your children.

You are God's beloved child. With you, God is well pleased.

*SONG OF PREPARATION

"Bind Us Together"

Isaac Wardell | Kate Bluett | Leslie Jordan | Nick Chambers | Paul Zach

Bind us together within your love

Bind us together within your holy love

As we shared in our sorrows

We will share in your joy

Bind us together in love

**Bind us together and be our peace
Bind us together and be our perfect peace
Though the tempest may rage
We will rest in your joy
Bind us together in peace**

**Bind us together and give us hope
Bind us together and give us endless hope
Though our tears were our bread
We will feast in your joy
Bind us together in hope**

**Bind us together and make us one
Bind us together and make us truly one
In your love in your peace
In your hope in your joy
Bind us together as one**

SCRIPTURE & SERMON

John 3:22-30

Choosing Connection: Individuality

THE RESPONSE TO GOD

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Adapted from Our World Belongs to God, 34

**In our world,
where many journey alone,
nameless in the bustling crowd,
evil forces seek to scatter and isolate;
but God, by his gracious choosing in Christ,
gathers a new community—
those who by God's gift**

**put their trust in Christ.
In the new community
all are welcome:
the homeless come home,
the broken find healing,
the sinner makes a new start,
the despised are esteemed,
the least are honored,
and the last are first.
Here the Spirit guides and grace abounds.
So let it be. Amen.**

***SONG OF THANKSGIVING**

Tune: OLD HUNDREDTH

**Praise God, whose image we all bear;
Praise Christ, whose mercy we all share;
Praise Spirit, making justice grow—
One God from whom all blessings flow! Amen.**

Tithes/offerings placed in the baskets at the entrance of the sanctuary are brought forward as a sign of our response to God's call on our lives.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

*SONG OF RESPONSE

#581 "Called as Partners in Christ's Service"

vv. 1, 3, & 4

Tune: NETTLETON #68

*ANNOUNCEMENTS

*BENEDICTION

*SENDING SONG

"My Friends, May You Grow in Grace"

*The congregation is invited to stand and turn toward
the center aisle, blessing one another in song.*

**My friends, may you grow in grace,
and in the knowledge of our Lord, and Savior.**

**My friends, may you grow in grace,
and in the knowledge of Jesus Christ.**

To God be the glory, now and forever, now and forever, amen.

To God be the glory, now and forever, now and forever, amen.

*POSTLUDE

THANK YOU

We welcome Greg Dieleman as our guest worship accompanist and organist this morning. Thank you for leading us in worship and for sharing your gifts with our faith community!

90 Jesus! What a Friend for Sinners!

F C F B $\flat$ D C7 G F C Dm C F A Gm F F A

1 Je - sus! what a Friend for sin - ners! Je - sus! Lov - er
 2 Je - sus! what a Strength in weak - ness! Let me hide my -
 3 Je - sus! what a Help in sor - row! While the bil - lows
 4 Je - sus! what a Guide and Keep - er! While the tem - pest
 5 Je - sus! I do now re - ceive him, more than all in

Gm Dm C F C F B $\flat$ D C7 E F C Dm C

of my soul; friends may fail me, foes as - sail me,
 self in him; tempt - ed, tried, and some - times fail - ing,
 o'er me roll, e - ven when my heart is break - ing,
 still is high, storms a - bout me, night o'er - takes me,
 him I find, he has grant - ed me for - give - ness,

F A Gm F F A Gm Dm C F Refrain Am Am C Dm7 Gm Gm B $\flat$

he, my Sav - ior, makes me whole.
 he, my Strength, my vic - tory wins.
 he, my Com - fort, helps my soul. Hal - le - lu - jah! what a
 he, my Pi - lot, hears my cry.
 I am his, and he is mine.

C7 Dm C E F F E Dm Gm B $\flat$ F A G $\sharp$ Gm B $\flat$ maj7 Csus C F A

Sav - ior! Hal - le - lu - jah! what a Friend! Sav - ing,

JESUS CHRIST

Gm $\frac{C7}{E}$ F $\frac{G9}{D}$ $\frac{C}{E}$ $\frac{Bb}{D}$ $\frac{C}{Bb}$ $\frac{F}{A}$ F $\frac{F}{Eb}$ $\frac{Bb}{D}$ $\frac{F}{A}$ Gm $\frac{F}{C}$ C7 F

help - ing, keep - ing, lov - ing, he is with me to the end.

581 Called as Partners in Christ's Service

A $\frac{D}{A}$ A E7 A D($\frac{1}{2}$) D $\frac{A}{E}$ E7 A

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

A $\frac{D}{A}$ A E7 E $\sharp$ dim7 F $\sharp$ m D $\frac{A}{E}$ E7 A

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.

F $\sharp$ m $\frac{F\sharp m}{A}$ $\frac{F\sharp m}{C\sharp}$ C $\sharp$ 7 $\frac{F\sharp m}{C\sharp}$ C $\sharp$ A $\frac{D}{A}$ A $\frac{E}{B}$ B7 E7

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,

A $\frac{D}{A}$ A E7 E $\sharp$ dim7 F $\sharp$ m D $\frac{A}{E}$ E7 A

e-equal 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.

WORDS: Jane Parker Huber (1926-)

MUSIC: John Zundel (1815-1882)

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BEECHER

8.7.8.7.D.