



Twenty-First Sunday
after Pentecost
October 18, 2026 – 9:45 AM

THE APPROACH TO GOD

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

*SONG OF WORSHIP

#32 "Creating God, Your Fingers Trace"

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God,

we confess we struggle to connect, to invest in community.

Relationships are hard.

They require effort,

but we are busy and tired.

Community can become messy.

We're not sure we're ready

to take the risk of being a part of something

fraught with the dangers of discord and division.

Lord, have mercy upon us and forgive us.

Please use this period of silence for personal reflection.

Merciful God,

empower us by your Spirit to invest in connection,

to give ourselves to the work of creating community.

Remind us of our need for others.

We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

"Your Love Is Strong"

Jon Foreman

Kellee Van Hemert, Guitar & Vocals

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Friends, the truth of the Gospel is this:

**in Christ, God's love is strong—
so strong it reaches out to us in our brokenness
and reconciles us to God and one another.**

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

Mark 3:13-19 & Acts 1:12-14

Choosing Connection: Community

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

#388 "O God in Whom All Life Begins"

*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

CCLI #11312016; One License #742124-A

THANK YOU

We welcome Marshall Fynaardt 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!

Creating God, Your Fingers Trace 32

N.C. G $\frac{B7}{F\#}$ Em Am D $D_2^{\#}$ D G $\frac{G}{B}$

1 Cre - at - ing God, your fin - gers trace the
2 Sus - tain - ing God, your hands up - hold earth's
3 Re - deem - ing God, your arms em - brace all
4 In - dwell - ing God, your gos - pel claims one

C $\frac{F\#dim}{A}$ $\frac{G}{B}$ $\frac{A}{C\#}$ D A7 D N.C. G B E Am7

bold de - signs of far - thest space; let sun and moon and
mys - teries known or yet un - told; let wa - ter's frag - ile
now de - spised for creed or race; let peace, de - scend - ing
fam - ily with a bil - lion names; let ev - ery life be

D $D_2^{\#}$ D G $\frac{G}{B}$ C $\frac{F\#dim}{A}$ $\frac{G}{B}$ C+ $\frac{Am}{C}$ $\frac{G}{D}$ D7 G

stars and light and what lies hid - den praise your might.
blend with air, en - a - bling life, pro - claim your care.
like a dove, make known on earth your heal - ing love.
touched by grace un - til we praise you face to face.

388 O God in Whom All Life Begins

F C F $\frac{Gm}{Bb}$ $\frac{F}{A}$ $\frac{C7}{G}$ F C $\frac{C}{Bb}$ $\frac{F}{A}$ F $\frac{Bb}{D}$ Bb F

1 O God in whom all life be-gins, who births the seed to fruit,
 2 U - nite in mu - tual min - is - try our minds and hands and hearts
 3 Through tears and laugh-ter, grief and joy, en - large our trust and care;

C Dm Bb F C F Dm $\frac{F}{A}$ $\frac{F}{C}$ C7 F

be - stow your bless-ing on our lives; here let your love find root.
 that we may have the grace to seek the power your peace im - parts.
 so bind us in com - mu - ni - ty that we may risk and dare.

Dm $\frac{A7}{E}$ $\frac{Dm}{F}$ Gm6 A7 Dm $\frac{A7}{D}$ Dm Dm6 $\frac{C}{E}$ $\frac{Dm}{F}$ $\frac{C}{G}$ G7 C

Bring forth in us the Spir - it's gifts of pa-tience, joy, and peace;
 So let our var - ied gifts com-bine to glo - ri - fy your Name
 Be with us when we gath - er here to wor-ship, sing, and pray,

$\frac{F}{A}$ C7 D7 Gm $\frac{F}{A}$ C Dm $\frac{F}{A}$ F $\frac{F}{C}$ C7 F

de - liv - er us from numb-ing fear, and grant our faith in-crease.
 that in all things by word and deed we may your love pro-claim.
 then send us forth in power and faith to live the words we say.