



*Everyone is welcome here*

# UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BINGHAMTON

ACT JUSTLY • PRACTICE KINDNESS • WALK HUMBLY WITH GOD



**Sunday**  
**July 6, 2025**  
**10:00am**

Fourth Sunday  
after Pentecost



📺 Our worship service is livestreaming on our YouTube Channel: [upcbgm.org/youtube](https://upcbgm.org/youtube)

Join via phone call on Zoom: (+1) 646-558-8656, Meeting ID 865 274 8433

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# ***Welcome to the Celebration!***

**July 6, 2025 • 10:00am**

*In today's lesson, the disciples continue the work of preaching, exorcism and healing at the Jerusalem temple, and they become so popular that crowds of people clog the way to Solomon's Porch. The temple authorities have the disciples arrested again, and summon the council to bring them to trial. When the council members arrive at the prison, they discover that the Spirit has freed the disciples, who have returned to the temple and continued their work. They are re-arrested and brought before the council, but a teacher named Gamaliel intercedes, pointing out that punishing the disciples may cause civil unrest, so the council flogs them and lets them go.*

## **We Gather as a Community of Faith**

**OPENING BELL** *The bell tolls to center our hearts and minds for worship.*

**GATHERING MUSIC** "America the Beautiful"

David Berti & Ken Mebert, *baritones*; Rebecca Mebert, *piano*

O beautiful for spacious skies, for amber waves of grain;  
for purple mountain majesties above the fruited plain! America! America!  
God shed his grace on thee, and crown thy good with brotherhood from sea to shining sea.

O beautiful for patriot dream that sees beyond the years thine alabaster cities gleam,  
undimmed by human tears! America! America! God shed his grace on thee,  
and crown thy good with brotherhood from sea to shining sea.

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## **WORDS OF WELCOME**

**CALL TO WORSHIP** (*responsive*)

One: Though the clouds of doubt and fear are gathering around us,

**All: God leads us into ways of peace.**

One: When the nations and their leaders rage and the deep pit of anger reaches toward us,

**All: God lifts and carries us through the darkness with hope and light.**

One: Lord of hope and life, be with us today.

**All: God of mercy and peace, lead our lives. Amen.**

**\*SONG OF GATHERING** "Lead Me, Guide Me" (see page 3)

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\* = Please rise in body or in spirit.

# Lead Me, Guide Me

## Refrain



Lead me, guide me, a - long the way, for if you lead me,



I can - not stray. Lord, let me walk each day with you,



lead me my whole life through. —

1. I am weak and I need your
2. Help me walk in the paths of
3. I am lost if you take your



strength and power to en - dure with grace my weak - est hour. Help me  
right - eous - ness; be my aid when Sa - tan and sin op - press. I am  
hand from me; I am blind with - out your light to see. Lord, for -

## to Refrain



through the dark - ness your face to see.  
trust - ing you what - e'er may be. Lead me, O Lord, lead me. —  
ev - er may I your ser - vant be.

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Holy God, Creator of Life,  
you call us out of our dark places,  
offering us the grace of new life.  
When we see nothing but hopelessness,  
you surprise us with the breath of your spirit.  
Call us out of our complacency and routines,  
set us free from our self-imposed bonds,  
and fill us with your spirit of life, compassion, and peace,  
in the name of Jesus, your anointed one, we pray. Amen.

TIME FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART

***We Gather at the Lord's Table, Where All Are Welcome***

INVITATION

*adapted from a prayer by Cheryl Lawrie*

It doesn't matter whether or not you claim to have faith;  
whether or not you are cynical or despairing,  
hope-filled or hope-less:  
what matters to God is simply that you are here.  
The bread and the fruit of the vine we share  
joins us to the people throughout history and across the world  
who have come to this meal in search of life.

And in our sharing, we find ourselves connected  
to the story of exodus and exile,  
the story of redemption and restoration,  
the story of God's amazing love,  
made known to us in covenant and cross,  
in resurrection and new beginnings.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

We remember the witness of Jesus to challenge the empires of the world, to stop at nothing to declare God's love for all people.

We remember how the world responded to Jesus's ministry and teaching, by killing him. And we remember God's bold challenge to the world in bringing Jesus back to life. And because of all this, we dare to remember the night when Christ was betrayed.

Gathered at table with his closest followers, Jesus took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to the disciples, saying, "Take this. Eat this. It is my body, given for you. Do this — and remember me."

After supper he took a cup, gave thanks, and offered it also, saying, "This is the cup of a new and everlasting covenant, poured out willingly and lovingly. Drink this — and remember me."

And so we remember, and we reconnect with one another in this season, and as we invite Christ anew into our hearts, so we rededicate ourselves to proclaiming in word and deed Christ's realm. Amen!

**PRAYER OF CONSECRATION** *(together)*

*adapted from Full to the Brim | sanctifiedart.org*

**And so we pray:**

**Come, Holy Spirit, come.**

**Bless this bread and**

**bless this cup.**

**Bless all of us in our eating and drinking that our eyes might be open,  
that we might recognize the risen Christ in our midst,  
indeed in one another.**

**Come, Holy Spirit, come.**

**We pray in Jesus's name, who taught us when we pray to say...**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER** *(together)*

**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!**

**SHARING OF THE ELEMENTS** *(responsive)*

*If your elements of Communion are with you at home, rest your hands lightly upon them. If you are here in person and they are in the front of the sanctuary, open your hands to be sacramental, filled with the power to change your heart and the world. We ask God's grace on us and on all those who are in our prayers this morning, and God's blessing on our elements and our hands.*

One: We are welcome to this gift of God, the Bread of Heaven.

**All: We are Christ's family in the Bread we share.**

One: We are welcome to this gift of God, the Fruit of the Vine.

**All: We are Christ's family in the Cup we share.**

**COMMUNION MUSIC** "Eat This Bread" (see page 6)

*Today all are invited to join in singing the meditative music during communion. Feel free to drop out of singing while you are taking the elements and join back in when you're ready to do so.*

**PRAYER AFTER THE MEAL** *(together)*

*by Julia Seymour*

**Holy God,**

**you have fed us all**

**out of your own generous and gracious hands.**

**From them, we have received welcome,**

**nourishment, hope, and consolation.**

*(continued on page 6)*

# Eat This Bread

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The musical score is written for a four-part setting (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in G major and 4/4 time. It consists of two systems. The first system contains the first line of the lyrics: 'Eat this bread, drink this cup, come to me and nev-er be hun - gry.' The second system contains the second line: 'Eat this bread, drink this cup, trust in me and you will not thirst.' The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a focus on the lyrics. The bass line provides a steady accompaniment.

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May these things grow in us,  
alongside the gift of faith,  
so that we may plant their seeds  
in the world around us.

Through the Holy Spirit,  
guide us in the days ahead  
to follow your light as you lead us  
in your great and ongoing story  
of resurrection, redemption, and restoration  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen!

## We Tell and Hear the Word

**FOCUS LESSON** Acts 5:12–42, CEB

*Summary of vv. 12–32: The apostles continued to preach and to heal in the temple, gaining in popularity, and crowds grew as people came from the surrounding areas. The religious leaders, particularly the Sadducees, were filled with jealousy and had the apostles arrested, but an angel freed them from prison. The apostles were brought before the Jerusalem Council, where they boldly declared their commitment to obeying God rather than human authorities.*

<sup>33</sup> When the council members heard this, they became furious and wanted to kill the apostles. <sup>34</sup> One council member, a Pharisee and teacher of the Law named Gamaliel, well-respected by all the people, stood up and ordered that the men be taken outside for a few moments. <sup>35</sup> He said, "Fellow Israelites, consider carefully what you intend to do to these people. <sup>36</sup> Some time ago, Theudas appeared, claiming to be somebody, and some four hundred men joined him. After he was killed, all of his followers scattered, and nothing came of that. <sup>37</sup> Afterward, at the time of the census, Judas the Galilean appeared and got some people to follow him in a revolt. He was killed too, and all his followers scattered far and wide. <sup>38</sup> Here's my recommendation in this case: Distance yourselves from these men. Let them go! If their plan or activity is of human origin, it will end in ruin. <sup>39</sup> If it originates with God, you won't be able to stop them. Instead, you would actually find yourselves fighting God!" The council was convinced by his reasoning. <sup>40</sup> After calling the apostles back, they had them beaten. They ordered them not to speak in the name of Jesus, then let them go. <sup>41</sup> The apostles left the council rejoicing because they had been regarded as worthy to suffer disgrace for the sake of the name. <sup>42</sup> Every day they continued to teach and proclaim the good news that Jesus is the Christ, both in the temple and in houses.

REFLECTIONS "Unexpected Allies"

Rev. Kimberly P Chastain

### **We Respond to the Word**

\*SONG OF RESPONSE "Surely It Is God Who Saves Me" (see page 8)

**WE SAY WHAT WE BELIEVE** (*together*)

*adapted from a prayer by Roddy Hamilton*

**We believe The Word is not bound by ink and paper  
but is set free in us  
to dream new dreams and unfold new adventures.**

**We believe the life God gives  
is not celebrated in rules  
but is celebrated in our diversity.**

**We believe that as the sun sets in one land  
it rises in another,  
handing over the prayers of the world  
from one to another.**

**We believe the story of faith comes alive  
in the communities we grow  
but is hurt by the barriers we build.**

**We believe transformation is a gift from God  
which is never complete  
and longs to be set free in us.**

*(continued on page 9)*

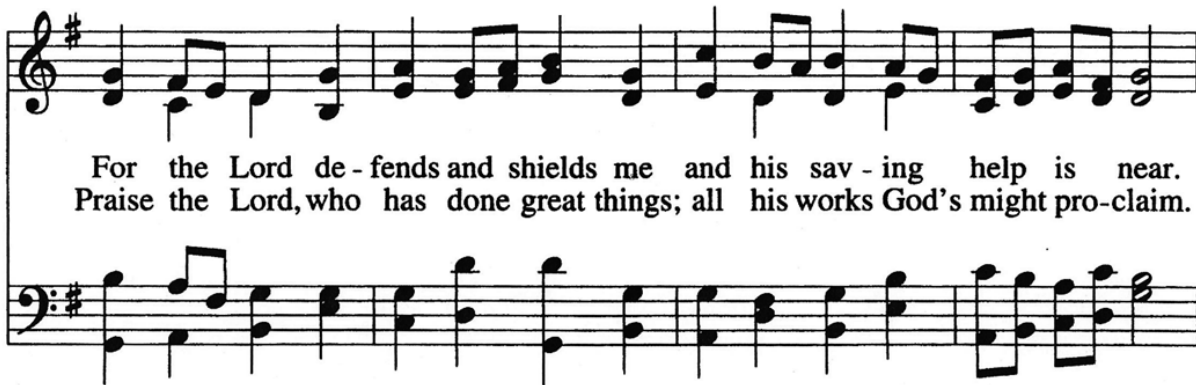
# 423 Surely It Is God Who Saves Me



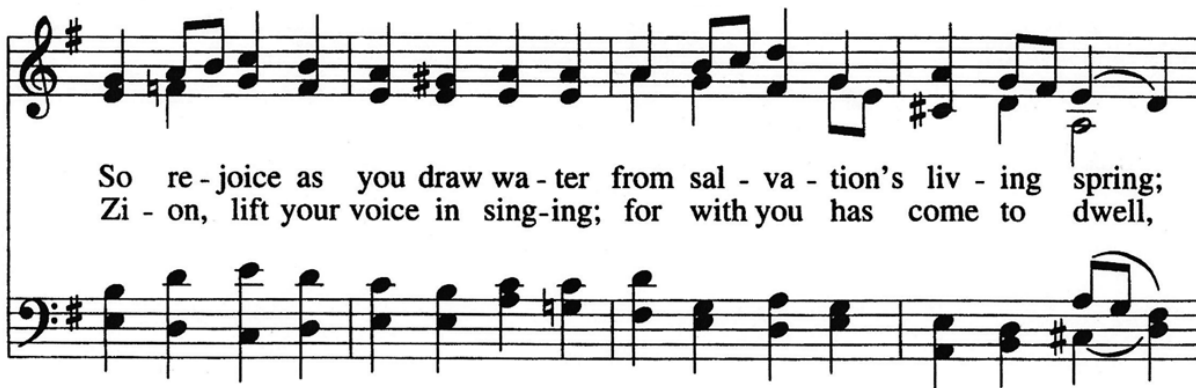
1 Sure-ly it is God who saves me; I shall trust and have no fear.  
2 Make God's deeds known to the peo-ples; tell out his ex - alt - ed Name.



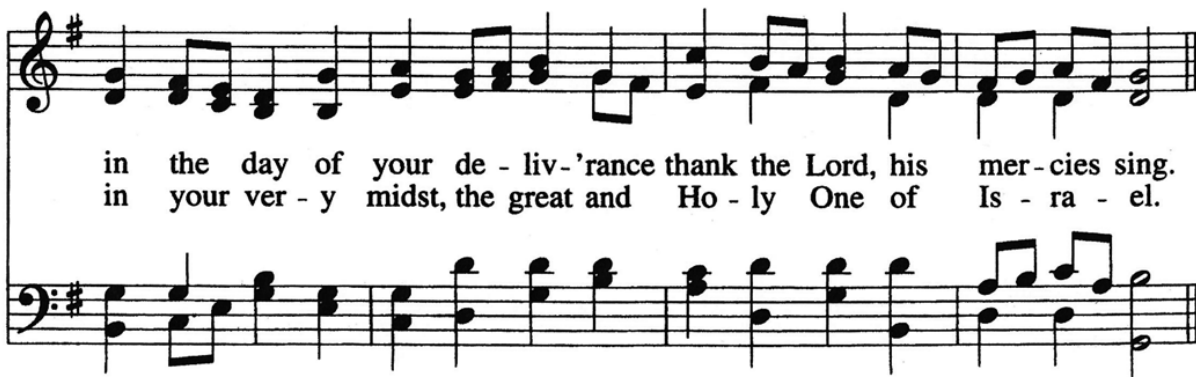
For the Lord de-fends and shields me and his sav-ing help is near.  
Praise the Lord, who has done great things; all his works God's might pro-claim.



So re-joice as you draw wa-ter from sal-va-tion's liv-ing spring;  
Zi-on, lift your voice in sing-ing; for with you has come to dwell,



in the day of your de-liv-'rance thank the Lord, his mer-cies sing.  
in your ver-y midst, the great and Ho-ly One of Is-ra-el.



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**We believe resurrection is heaven's conspiracy  
to redeem all that is evil  
and bring to life all that is good.**

**We believe justice is God's unraveling  
of all that hurts, oppresses, and dulls life in each other.**

**We believe that a spark lights a flame  
which kindles an idea  
that ignites a moment.  
We all have a spark within us.  
Amen!**

#### **WE OFFER OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS TO GOD**

*You are invited to support the ministry of this congregation through online giving at [upcbgm.org/give](https://upcbgm.org/give), or by sending a check to the church office or putting an offering in the plates by the door.*



**MUSICAL OFFERING** “God Bless America” David Berti & Ken Mebert, *baritones*; Rebecca Mebert, *piano*  
*The congregation is invited to join in singing the second chorus.*

While the storm clouds gather far across the sea, let us swear allegiance to a land that's free.  
Let us all be grateful for a land so fair, as we raise our voices in a solemn prayer.

*Chorus:* God bless America, land that I love.  
Stand beside her and guide her through the night with a light from above.  
From the mountains to the prairies to the oceans white with foam,  
God bless America, my home sweet home.

Words and Music: Irving Berlin, 1939.

#### **PRAYER OF DEDICATION** *(together)*

*by Thandiwe Dale-Ferguson*

**Holy God,  
Grant us a heart full of grace,  
and a soul generated by love,  
that we may serve you and your world.  
Thank you for all those who have shown us the way  
and all those who are showing us the way. Amen!**

#### **We Go Forth in Gratitude to Serve**

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS AND INVITATIONS**

**\*SONG OF SENDING** “Where Charity and Love Prevail” (see page 10)

# 316 Where Charity and Love Prevail

1 Where char-i - ty and love pre - vail, there God is ev - er found;  
2 Let us re - call that in our midst dwells Christ, God's ho - ly Son.  
3 Let strife a - mong us be un-known; let all con - ten - tions cease.  
4 Let us for-give each oth - er's faults as we our own con - fess,  
5 Love can ex-clude no race or creed if hon - ored be God's name;

brought here to - geth - er by Christ's love, by love we thus are bound.  
As mem - bers of each bod - y joined, in him we are made one.  
Be God's the glo - ry that we seek; be his our on - ly peace.  
that we may love each oth - er well in Chris-tian gen - tle - ness.  
our com - mon life em - brac - es all whose Mak - er is the same.

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## BLESSING

Go in peace.  
Be of good courage.  
Hold fast to what is good.  
Return to no one evil for evil.  
Support the weak, strengthen the frightened, help the suffering.  
Honor every person.  
Love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

## SHARING OF CHRIST'S PEACE

One: And may the peace that passes all understanding keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God and of God's son, Jesus Christ, and the blessing of God almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be with you this day and always.

Peace be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

## SENDING MUSIC "Let There Be Peace on Earth"

David Berti & Ken Mebert, *baritones*; Rebecca Mebert, *piano*

Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me;  
let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.  
With God our creator, children all are we. Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony.  
Let peace begin with me; let this be the moment now.  
With every step I take, let this be my solemn vow:  
to take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally.  
Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.

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

*After the service, everyone is invited to join us for a time of fellowship and refreshments.*



### ***Gathering at the Lord's Table — Our Communion Elements:***

We are celebrating communion during today's worship service. Our communion bread is gluten-free, and our shared cup is cherry juice, so that all may partake of the same elements during our communion. Please speak to one of the technicians at the back of the sanctuary if this creates any difficulties for you.

### ***Children in Worship: "Let the little children come to me..." —Matthew 19:14***

We are glad that your children are here today, and we hope that you know that they are welcome and encouraged to be in worship with you. We truly believe that a community of faith is made up of people of ALL ages. There is a PrayGround space with coloring sheets and quiet toys in the front of the sanctuary to use there or can be taken to another pew, if that suits your family's needs.



There is a nursery for infants through age four staffed with two nursery attendants, if that is a better choice for your family. The nursery is at the end of the hall past the bathrooms. Nursery staff are on duty from 9:00am to 12:00pm. Parents are welcome to stay in the room and listen to the service over the speaker, or to return to the sanctuary to worship. Please let us know if you have questions.

**PRAYER CREDITS:** **Invitation** adapted from a prayer by Cheryl Lawrie, posted on Pilgrim Worship Resources, [pilgrimwr.unitingchurch.org.au](http://pilgrimwr.unitingchurch.org.au). **Prayer of Consecration** adapted from prayers by Rev. Sarah Are Speed, © A Sanctified Art LLC | [sanctifiedart.org](http://sanctifiedart.org). **Prayer After the Meal** by Julia Seymour. **We Say What We Believe** adapted from a prayer by Roddy Hamilton, posted on Mucky Paws, reposted on re:Worship, [re-worship.blogspot.com](http://re-worship.blogspot.com). **Prayer of Dedication** by Thandiwe Dale-Ferguson, posted on Worship Words, [worshipwords.co.uk](http://worshipwords.co.uk).

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**Pastors** Rev. Kimberly P Chastain and Rev. Becky Kindig ~ **Reader** Charity Outman

**Musicians** Aimée Backus, *Music Coordinator*; Rebecca Mebert, *accompanist*; Austin Shadduck, *United Ringers director*; David Berti, Andrea Gilebarto, Robert Manners, Ken Mebert, Starletta Noll-Long

**Technicians** Matt Johnson, Scott Kindig, Sara Lieberman, Ken Mebert