



Everyone is welcome here

UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BINGHAMTON

ACT JUSTLY • PRACTICE KINDNESS • WALK HUMBLY WITH GOD



Sunday, August 17, 2025 • 10:00am

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

📺 Our worship service is livestreaming on our YouTube Channel: 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!

August 17, 2025 • 10:00am

Our story today from the Book of Acts continues with a pair of healing stories in Luke's typical fashion. Luke turns from the story with Saul's conversion to the work Peter is doing. We hear that Peter heals two people, Aeneas and Tabitha — a man who is lame, and a beloved woman in the community who helped many other people who has died. We also get to see in the original Greek that Tabitha is named as a disciple, the first woman to be named as one. Even though Jesus is removed from their physical presence, Jesus's power through the Holy Spirit is working among the disciples. And we see that Peter and Tabitha's acts of caring for others ripples out into the community telling others of Jesus's story and about the amazing love of God.

We Gather as a Community of Faith

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

GATHERING MUSIC "We Have Come to Join in Worship"

Andrea Gilebarto, Starletta Noll-Long, Austin Shadduck, *vocals*; Phil Westcott, *guitar*

We have come to join in worship and adore the Lord our God.
Let us come in prayer, expecting God to speak his mighty Word.
All is vain unless the Spirit of the Holy One comes down.
Christians, pray and holy manna will be showered all around.
See them gather all around you, those he bought at such a cost;
see the weary, see the hurting, see the lonely, see the lost.
Be his hand, and touch the needy; be his gospel, let it sound!
Be his body, and sweet manna will be showered all around.
Let us love our God supremely; let us love each other too.
Let us care for all his people 'til our God makes all things new.
Christ will call us home to heaven; at his banquet we'll sit down;
Christ himself will rise and serve us living manna all around.

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WORDS OF WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP (*responsive*)

Psalm 111

One: Come, and praise God!
In the company of the God's people,
let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All: Great are the works of God,
full of glory and majesty.**

(continued)

* = Please rise in body or in spirit.

Come Away from Rush and Hurry



1. Come a - way from rush and hur - ry to the still - ness of God's peace;
2. In the pas-tures of God's good - ness we lie down to rest our soul.
3. Come, then, chil-dren, with your bur - dens—life's con - fu - sions, fears, and pain.



from our vain am - bi - tion's wor - ry, come to Christ to find re - lease.
From the wa - ters of God's mer - cy we drink deep - ly, are made whole.
Leave them at the cross of Je - sus; take in - stead his king-dom's reign.



Come a - way from noise and clam - or, life's de - mands and fren-zied pace;
At the ta - ble of God's pres - ence all the saints are rich - ly fed.
Bring your thirsts, for he will quench them— he a - lone will sat - is - fy.



come to join the peo - ple gath - ered here to seek and find God's face.
With the oil of God's a - noint - ing in - to ser - vice we are led.
All our long - ings find at - tain - ment when to self we glad - ly die.

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One: Our God is gracious and compassionate;

All: our God is merciful and forgiving;

One: our God is faithful and trustworthy;

All: our God is just and good.

One: So come, let's worship God together.

All: God's praise will last forever.

***SONG OF GATHERING** "Come Away from Rush and Hurry" (see page 3)

Christ Jesus,
we come into your presence
from many different places.
We come with songs of joy
and shouts of gratitude.
We come carrying heavy burdens
and sighs of suffering.
As you welcome us into your house,
lift our burdens
and receive our praise.
Salt us with your grace
and flavor us with your mercy.
Bind us together,
that we may be at peace with one another
and be strengthened to go forth
in service to the world.
In your holy name, we pray. Amen.

We Tell and Hear the Word

TIME FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART

FOCUS LESSON Acts 9:32–43, CEB

³² As Peter toured the whole region [of Judea, Galilee, and Samaria], he went to visit God’s holy people in Lydda. ³³ There he found a man named Aeneas who was paralyzed and had been confined to his bed for eight years. ³⁴ Peter said to him, “Aeneas, Jesus Christ heals you! Get up and make your bed.” At once he got up. ³⁵ Everyone who lived in Lydda and Sharon saw him and turned to the Lord.

³⁶ In Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha (in Greek her name is Dorcas). Her life overflowed with good works and compassionate acts on behalf of those in need. ³⁷ About that time, though, she became so ill that she died. After they washed her body, they laid her in an upstairs room. ³⁸ Since Lydda was near Joppa, when the disciples heard that Peter was there, they sent two people to Peter. They urged, “Please come right away!” ³⁹ Peter went with them. Upon his arrival, he was taken to the upstairs room. All the widows stood beside him, crying as they showed the tunics and other clothing Dorcas made when she was alive.

⁴⁰ Peter sent everyone out of the room, then knelt and prayed. He turned to the body and said, “Tabitha, get up!” She opened her eyes, saw Peter, and sat up. ⁴¹ He gave her his hand and raised her up. Then he called God’s holy people, including the widows, and presented her alive to them. ⁴² The news spread throughout Joppa, and many put their faith in the Lord. ⁴³ Peter stayed for some time in Joppa with a certain tanner named Simon.

We Respond to the Word

*SONG OF RESPONSE “Called as Partners in Christ’s Service” (see page 6)

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.**

**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.**

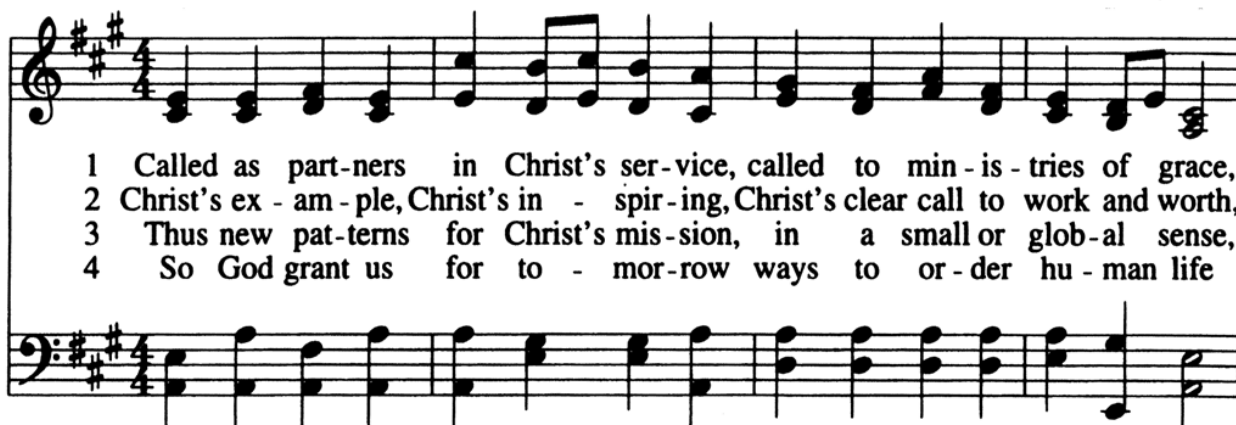
**We all have a spark within us.
Amen!**

WE OFFER OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS TO GOD

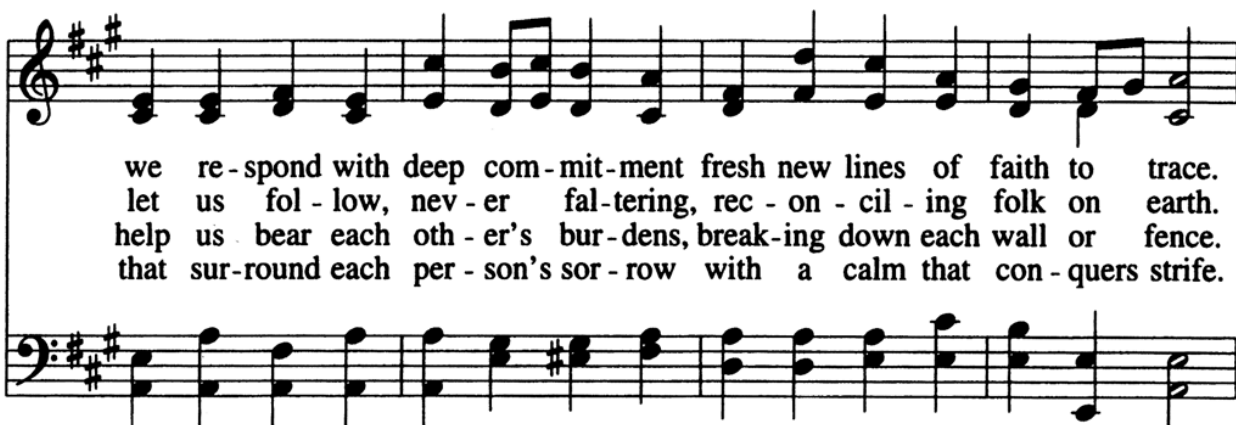
You are invited to support the ministry of this congregation through online giving at upcbgm.org/give, or by sending a check to the church office or putting an offering in the plates by the door.



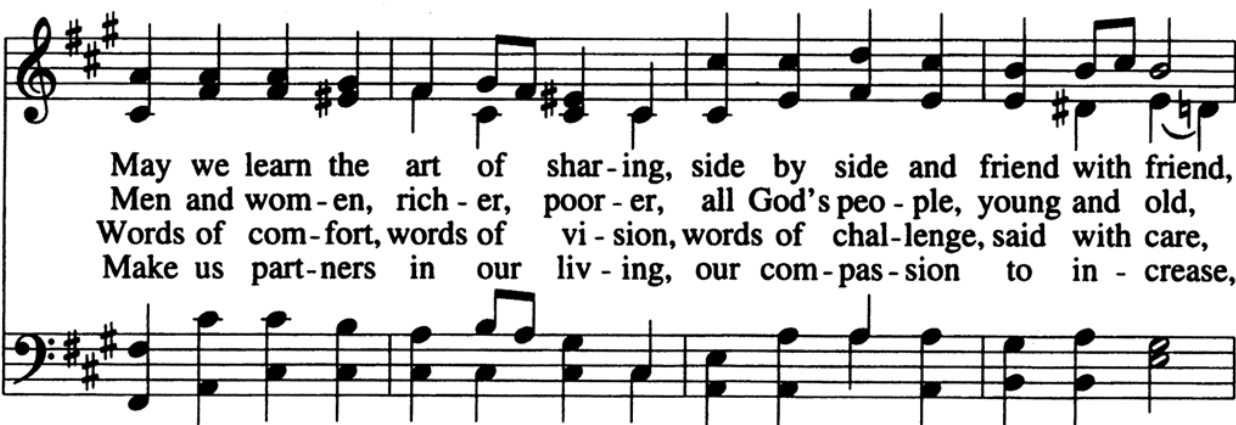
581 Called as Partners in Christ's Service



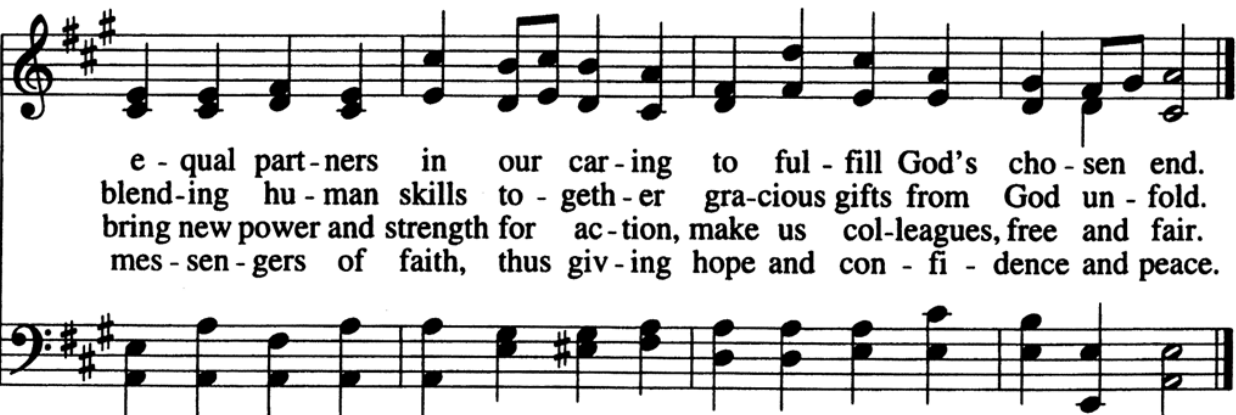
1 Called as part-ners in Christ's ser-vice, called to min-is-tries of grace,
 2 Christ's ex-am-ple, Christ's in-spir-ing, Christ's clear call to work and worth,
 3 Thus new pat-terns for Christ's mis-sion, in a small or glob-al sense,
 4 So God grant us for to-mor-row ways to or-der hu-man life



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-quests strife.



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,



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.

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MUSICAL OFFERING “I’ll Fly Away”

Phil Westcott, *vocals & guitar*

Some glad morning when this life is o’er, I’ll fly away;
to a home on God’s celestial shore, I’ll fly away (I’ll fly away).

Chorus: I’ll fly away, oh Glory, I’ll fly away (in the morning);
When I die, Hallelujah, by and by, I’ll fly away (I’ll fly away).

When the shadows of this life have gone, I’ll fly away;
like a bird from prison bars has flown, I’ll fly away (I’ll fly away). [*Chorus*]

Just a few more weary days and then, I’ll fly away;
to a land where joy shall never end, I’ll fly away (I’ll fly away). [*Chorus*]

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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!**

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS (*responsive*)

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

One: Lord, in your loving kindness,

All: hear our prayer.

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

by Jeff Shrowder

Holy and compassionate God,
in you is hope:
hope which has endured throughout every age.
In that hope we remember now
those we have named on our lips
and in the silence of our hearts...
By the light of your Word
and the warmth of your Spirit
help us bring consolation to those known to us,
return to our memory those whom we have forgotten
and be present to those who have no one;
we pray in the name of the good and gracious shepherd...

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!

We Go Forth in Gratitude to Serve

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND INVITATIONS

*SONG OF SENDING "When We Are Living"

When We Are Living 822

1 When we are liv - ing, it is in Christ Je - sus,
2 Through all our liv - ing, we our fruits must give.
3 'Mid times of sor - row and in times of pain,
4 A - cross this wide world, we shall al - ways find

and when we're dy - ing, it is in the Lord.
Good works of ser - vice are for of - fer - ing.
when sens - ing beau - ty or in love's em-brace,
those who are cry - ing with no peace of mind,

Both in our liv - ing and in our dy - ing,
When we are giv - ing, or when re - ceiv - ing,
wheth - er we suf - fer, or sing re - joic - ing,
but when we help them, or when we feed them,

we be-long to God; we be-long to God.

Words: Stanza 1, anonymous; trans. Elise S. Eslinger; stanzas 2-4, Roberto Escamilla, © 1983 Abingdon Press (admin. The Copyright Company); trans. George Lockwood. English trans. © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House (admin. The Copyright Company). Music: SOMOS DEL SEÑOR, Spanish melody. All rights reserved. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE, License #A-727560. All rights reserved.

BLESSING (*responsive*)

One: As we leave this place, remember,
It is not enough to acclaim Jesus Christ
as our Lord and King.

**All: Our mission in life is
to make his kingdom a reality among us
and to bring it to those around us
by our words and deeds.**

One: The way to do this is to live as he lived:
for others, in love and service.
May almighty God bless us for this task.

SHARING OF CHRIST'S PEACE

One: And now may the Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God,
and the Fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you, now and always.

Peace be with you.

All: And also with you.

SENDING MUSIC (*together*) "We Have Come to Join in Worship" verse 3 (see page 10)

(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.

647 We Have Come to Join in Worship

The musical score is written for a four-part setting (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in G major, 4/4 time. It consists of four systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are: '3 Let us love our God su - preme-ly; let us love each oth - er, too. Let us care for all his peo - ple till our God makes all things new. Christ will call us home to heav-en; at his ban-quet we'll sit down; Christ him - self will rise and serve us liv - ing man - na all a-round.' The piano accompaniment features a steady eighth-note bass line and chords in the right hand. Chord symbols (G, D, G, G/D, D7, G) are placed above the vocal lines to indicate the harmonic structure.

G D G $\frac{G}{D}$ D7 G

3 Let us love our God su - preme-ly; let us love each oth - er, too.

G D G $\frac{G}{D}$ D7 G

Let us care for all his peo - ple till our God makes all things new.

G D G D

Christ will call us home to heav-en; at his ban-quet we'll sit down;

G D G $\frac{G}{D}$ D7 G

Christ him - self will rise and serve us liv - ing man - na all a-round.

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Being Prepared if ICE Comes to Worship

We have been hearing news reports of Immigration & Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents showing up at worship services across the country to round up and “disappear” people they think might not be citizens. While we think the chances are low that they will come to our worship service since it seems they’re mostly targeting Catholic churches, we still want to be prepared with an action plan.

Why have we added “PRIVATE” signs to some of our doors? ICE can come into any public area, including the sanctuary, lobby, hallway, Fellowship Hall, and hallway bathrooms. They cannot go into any areas marked with a **PRIVATE** sign unless they have a warrant signed by a judge to look in private areas. So we have several areas marked with red **PRIVATE** signs where people can shelter if ICE doesn’t have a warrant.

What should we do if ICE does show up here? Here are the steps that we have put together in case ICE should come to UPC’s worship.

1. The pastor who is preaching will turn on their microphone and approach the officers to welcome them to the space and ask how we can help them. If they say they want to search the building, the pastor will ask to see their warrant signed by a judge.
2. The worship technicians will turn the mic on and will turn the camera onto the agents and pastor to continue livestreaming the encounter.
3. Anyone who is not at risk should feel free to also approach and surround the agents at a safe distance, and kindly offer them a worship guide or something. Be courteous, but also try to be a barricade between them and the doors at the front of the sanctuary so those at risk can leave.
4. Others who are further away can get out your cell phone and start video recording. The more recordings, the better.
5. If you feel at risk by the ICE agents — due to the color of your skin, your nationality, because you are LGBTQIA+, or any other reasons — the second pastor or a tech team member with keys will escort anyone who feels in danger around ICE to the office and lock the doors. Any parents can take children of any age to the nursery or office and close the door and lock it.
6. Be aware if that if some ICE agents come inside the building, they are probably also outside the building at the exits. So if you don’t want to encounter ICE, going to an area marked **PRIVATE** may be your safest option until they leave.

To know your rights if you encounter ICE, there are what they call “Red Cards” with your rights in the pew racks. Red Cards are printed in English on one side and in another language on the back side. We printed English/Spanish cards, but other languages are available, so if you or someone you know would like a Red Card with another language, please inquire with one of the pastors.

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: **Call to Worship** posted on re:Worship, re-worship.blogspot.com. **Gathering Prayer** adapted from *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2009*, © 2008 Abingdon Press, posted on Ministry Matters, ministrymatters.com.

We Say What We Believe adapted from a prayer by Roddy Hamilton, posted on Mucky Paws, reposted on re:Worship, re-worship.blogspot.com. **Prayer of Dedication** by Thandiwe Dale-Ferguson, posted on Worship Words, worshipwords.co.uk. **Prayer of the People** by Jeff Shrowder, posted on The Billabong, thebillabong.info.

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Pastors Rev. Kimberly P Chastain and Rev. Becky Kindig ~ **Reader** Sally Menges
Musicians Aimée Backus, *Music Coordinator*; Phil Westcott, *accompanist*;
Austin Shadduck, *United Ringers director*; Andrea Gilebarto, Starletta Noll-Long
Technicians Chris Burger, Matt Johnson, Scott Kindig, Sara Lieberman