



Everyone is welcome here

UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BINGHAMTON

ACT JUSTLY • PRACTICE KINDNESS • WALK HUMBLLY WITH GOD



Sunday, October 12, 2025 • 10:00am

Eighteenth 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!

October 12, 2025 • 10:00am

Today we're going to look at the story of God's call to Abraham and Sarah, as a way of thinking about endings and beginnings. God made a covenant with Abraham when he was already 75 years old, sending him and Sarah into a new place, far away from where they had lived most of their lives. God does not promise that it will be easy, but that he will be with them and that they will be blessed to be a blessing. God's promises, and Abraham and Sarah's willingness to make the journey, give us a kind of pattern for how to live a life of faith. Today we are honoring Ken and Becky Mebert as they follow the promises of God to a new place, and entrust them to God's care knowing that they have been a blessing to us and will continue to bring blessing in their new place.

We Gather as a Community of Faith

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

GATHERING MUSIC "Thank You for Being a Friend"

United Ringers handbell choir

Music: Andrew Gold; additional music by George Aliceson Tipton. © 1978 Luckyu Music. All rights reserved.

WORDS OF WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP *(responsive)*

by Richard Bott, inspired by 1 Samuel 3:1–20

One: What do you do, when God calls?

All: Wake up. Listen. Act.

One: What do you do when God asks you
to do something difficult?

All: Wake up. Listen. Act.

One: What do you do when God asks you
to do something impossible?

All: Wake up. Listen. Act.

One: Because, with God,
nothing is impossible.

All: Even changing ourselves?

One: Even changing the world.

All: Wake up. Listen. Act.

One: And, with all this living,

All: we worship God.

***SONG OF GATHERING** "Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness" (see pages 4–5)

* = Please rise in body or in spirit.

God of Love,
You are with us in every transition and change.
As we prepare to respond to your call in new ways
we recall your deep compassion, presence,
and abounding love.
We thank you for the gifts, talents, and skills
with which you have blessed us.
We thank you for the experiences
that have brought us to this moment.
We thank you for the work of everyone around us
that gives breadth and depth to our own work.
Be with us as we move forward,
rejoicing with you and supporting one another.
We ask this in your Holy Name.
Amen!

We Tell and Hear the Word

TIME FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART

FOCUS LESSON *Genesis 12:1–9, CEB*

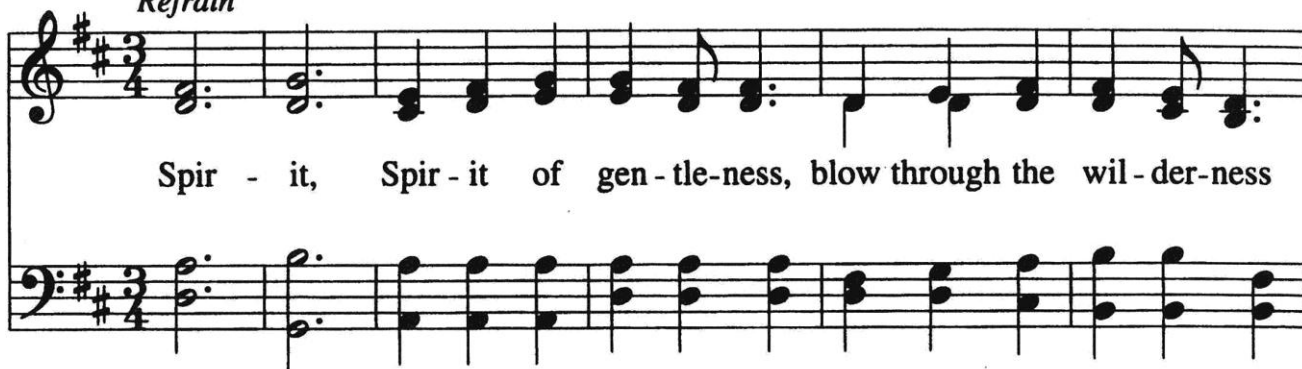
¹ The LORD said to Abram, “Leave your land, your family, and your father’s household for the land that I will show you. ² I will make of you a great nation and will bless you. I will make your name respected, and you will be a blessing.

³ I will bless those who bless you,
those who curse you I will curse;
all the families of the earth
will be blessed because of you.”

⁴ Abram left just as the LORD told him, and Lot went with him. Now Abram was 75 years old when he left Haran. ⁵ Abram took his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot, all of their possessions, and those who became members of their household in Haran; and they set out for the land of Canaan. When they arrived in Canaan, ⁶ Abram traveled through the land as far as the sacred place at Shechem, at the oak of Moreh. The Canaanites lived in the land at that time. ⁷ The LORD appeared to Abram and said, “I give this land to your descendants,” so Abram built an altar there to the LORD who appeared to him. ⁸ From there he traveled toward the mountains east of Bethel, and pitched his tent with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. There he built an altar to the LORD and worshipped in the LORD’s name. ⁹ Then Abram set out toward the arid southern plain, making and breaking camp as he went.

REFLECTIONS “Endings and Beginnings”

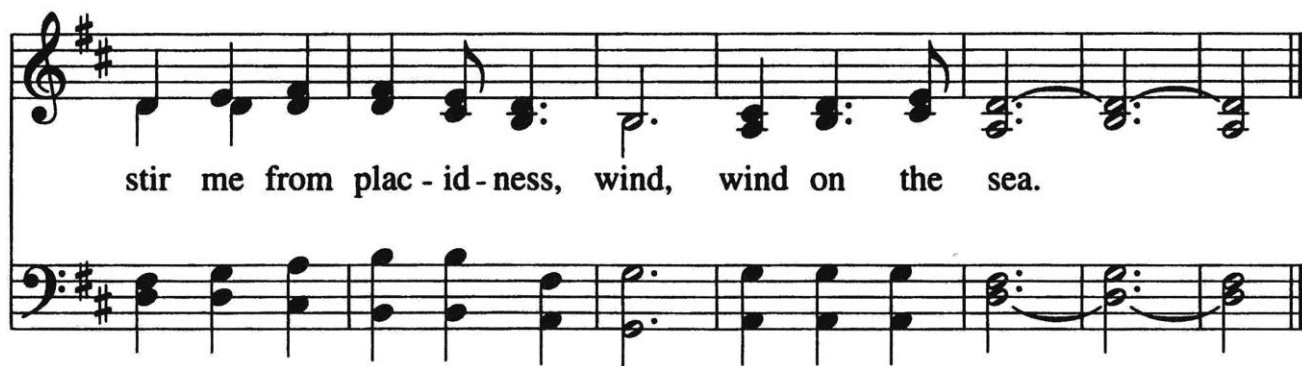
Rev. Kimberly P Chastain

Refrain


Spir - it, Spir - it of gen - tle-ness, blow through the wil - der-ness



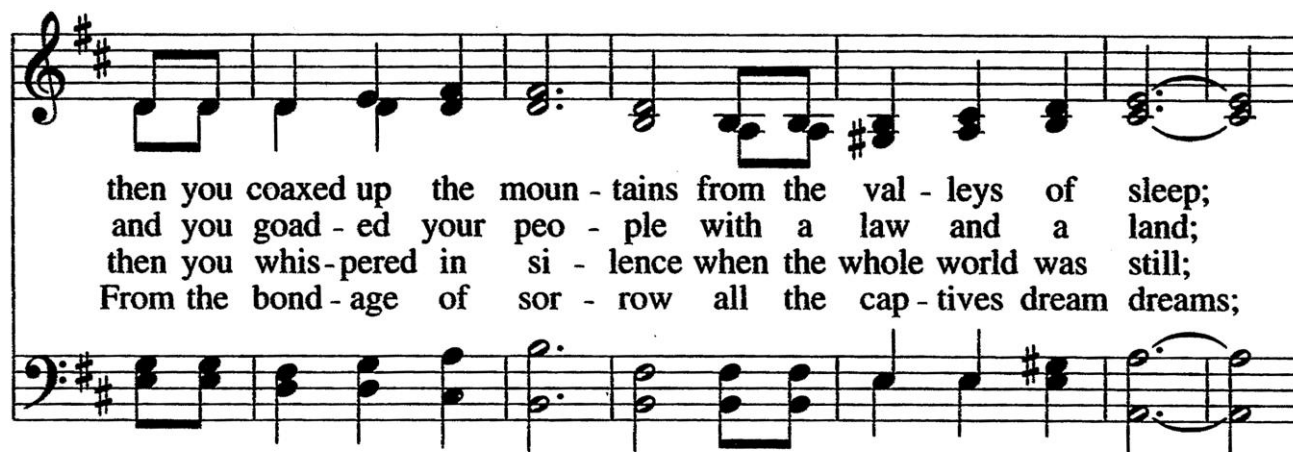
call - ing and free; Spir - it, Spir - it of rest-less-ness,



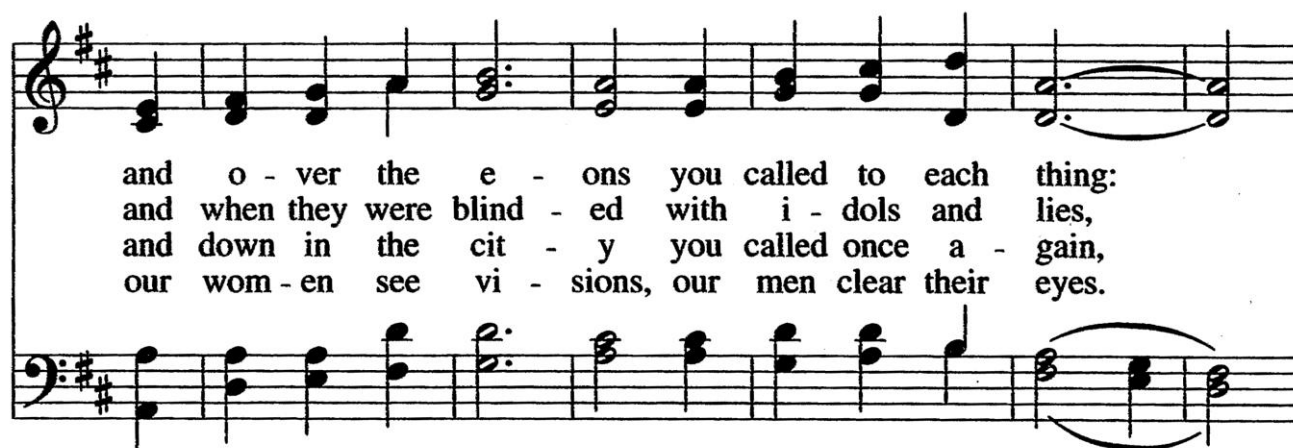
stir me from plac - id - ness, wind, wind on the sea.



1 You moved on the wa - ters, you called to the deep,
 2 You swept through the des - ert, you stung with the sand
 3 You sang in a sta - ble, you cried from a hill,
 4 You call from to - mor - row, you break an - cient schemes.

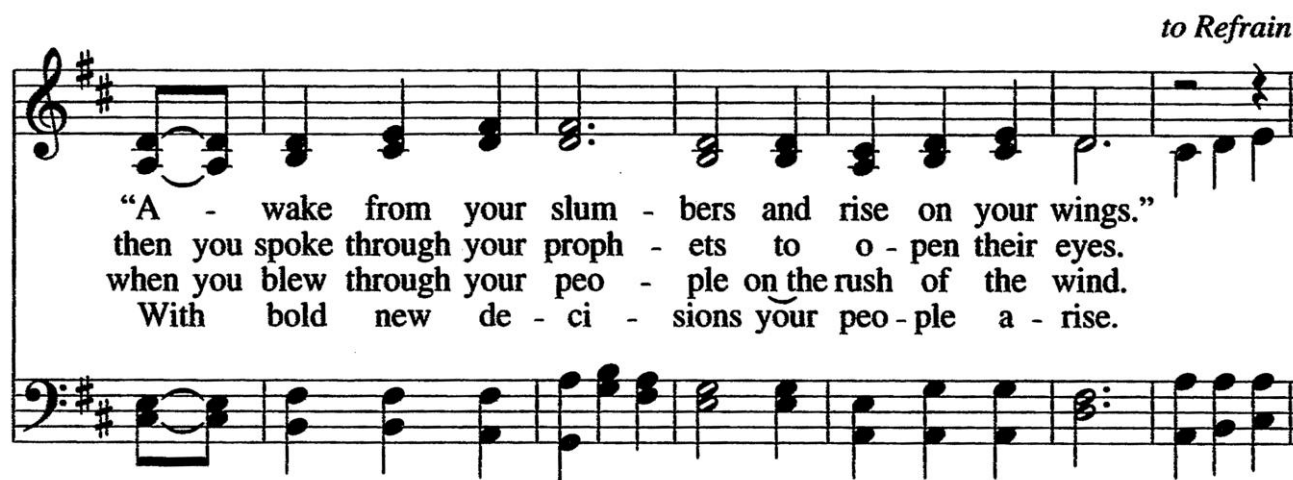


then you coaxed up the moun - tains from the val - leys of sleep;
 and you goad - ed your peo - ple with a law and a land;
 then you whis - pered in si - lence when the whole world was still;
 From the bond - age of sor - row all the cap - tives dream dreams;



and o - ver the e - ons you called to each thing:
 and when they were blind - ed with i - dols and lies,
 and down in the cit - y you called once a - gain,
 our wom - en see vi - sions, our men clear their eyes.

to Refrain



"A - wake from your slum - bers and rise on your wings."
 then you spoke through your proph - ets to o - pen their eyes.
 when you blew through your peo - ple on the rush of the wind.
 With bold new de - ci - sions your peo - ple a - rise.

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We Respond to the Word

***SONG OF RESPONSE** “My Soul Proclaims with Wonder” (see page 7)

WE SAY WHAT WE BELIEVE (*together*) “A New Creed”
We are not alone, we live in God’s world.

The United Church of Canada, rev. 1995

We believe in God:
 who has created and is creating,
 who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh,
 to reconcile and make new,
 who works in us and others by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church:
 to celebrate God’s presence,
 to live with respect in Creation,
 to love and serve others,
 to seek justice and resist evil,
 to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
 our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death,
 God is with us.

We are not alone.

Thanks be to God. Amen!

We Offer Ourselves and Our Gifts to God

CALL TO OFFERING

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.



MUSICAL OFFERING “Old Irish Blessing”

UPC Choir

May the road rise to meet you, may the wind be always at your back, the sun shine warm upon your face,
the rains fall soft upon your fields, and until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of his hand.

May the Lord bless you and keep you, may the Lord cause his face to shine upon you, and give you peace.

Words: Traditional Irish, and para. Numbers 6:22–26. Music: Denes Agay. © 1970 WB Music Corp. All rights reserved.

WE OFFER OUR PRAYERS (*responsive*)

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

One: Lord, in your loving kindness,

All: hear our prayer.

My Soul Proclaims with Wonder

Refrain



My soul pro-claims with won - der the great-ness of the Lord,



re - joic - ing in God's good - ness, my spir - it is re - stored.



1. To me has God shown fa - vor, to one the world thought frail,
2. God's mer-cy shields the faith - ful and saves them from de - feat,
3. The might-y have been van-quished, the low - ly lift - ed up.
4. To A - bra-ham's de - scend-ants, the Lord will stead-fast prove,

to Refrain



and ev - ery age will ech - o the an - gel's first "All hail!"
 with strength that turns to scat - ter the proud in their con - ceit.
 The hun - gry find a - bun-dance, the rich, an emp - ty cup.
 for God has made with Is - rael a cov - e - nant of love.

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PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

adapted from a prayer by John van de Laar

Long before the change of name,
before the first signs of new life
showed the beginnings of promises fulfilled,
you asked Abram to make his home in a faraway land,
and share the blessing that was to come.

And now, O God, you ask the same faith of us:
the faith to count ourselves among the least;
the faith to trust in your mercy and your promises,
and to share what we have received;
the faith to wait expectantly for your reign of justice and equity,
together with those who most need its gifts.

Teach us to be children of Abram, sharers of the blessings we enjoy:
the blessing of plenty shared with those who have need;
the blessing of healing shared with those who are sick and wounded;
the blessing of joy shared with those who celebrate
and of tears shared with those who grieve;
the blessing of friendship shared with those who are excluded,
and of solidarity with those who fight injustice;
the blessing of peace shared with those in conflict,
and of confrontation shared with those who bring harm;
and in some small way, may our faith and our sharing
help to bring your promises into being
in our world.

We pray these things in the name of Jesus Christ,
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!**

We Go Forth in Gratitude to Serve

FAREWELL AND GODSPEED TO KEN AND BECKY MEBERT

Becky and Ken are on their way to a new chapter of their lives in Colorado, and we want to bid them farewell and ask God's blessing on their way.

A Time of Sharing

Prayer of Recognition

adapted from the Book of Occasional Services

One: In baptism
our Lord Jesus Christ put his name on you
and claimed you as his own.
We have been grateful for your presence
and your part in building this family of faith.
In this community of faith
you have been nurtured
as you have heard the good news of God's saving love.
You have been nourished at Christ's table
and sent out to be Christ's witness in the world.
God has blessed you
and made you a blessing in our life together.

**All: You have deepened our joy
and lightened our sorrow.
We will miss your love and support,
yet we rejoice that you will now bless others
as you have blessed us.**

One: Let us pray:

**All: Faithful God,
keep, preserve, and protect Ken and Becky
all their days.
By the power of your Holy Spirit,
may they be salt of the earth
and light for the world.
Lead them as they find their way in a new place
and a new community,
secure in the faith
that binds us together in the body of Christ.**

One: Go in the peace of Christ.

All: Amen!

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND INVITATIONS

***SONG OF SENDING** "This Is a Time to Remember" (see page 10)

This Is a Time to Remember



1. This is a time to re - mem - ber the great - ness of the Lord;
2. This is a time to re - mem - ber the glo - ries that have been;
3. This is a time to re - mem - ber the Church is his, not ours;



he has so faith - ful - ly led us as prom - ised in his Word;
this is a time to press on - ward to vis - tas yet un - seen;
this is a time to sur - ren - der our - selves, our wealth, our powers;



he has so boun - ti - fully giv - en his grace like fresh - ening rain;
Christ is a - live in his peo - ple, he meets us face to face;
this is a time to be ser - vants to give our - selves a - way,



he has so lov - ing - ly par - doned and made us whole a - gain.
grant - ing the power of his Spir - it to serve him in this place.
build - ing the Church of the fu - ture un - til the com - ing day.

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

adapted from a prayer by Nora Vedress

One: So now we leave this space of worship,
and while so much of the road ahead is uncertain,
the path constantly changing,
we know some things are as solid and sure
as the ground beneath our feet,
and the sky above our heads.

All: We know God is love.

We know Christ's light endures.

One: We know the Holy Spirit is there,
found in the space between all things,
closer to us than our next breath,
binding us to each other,
until we meet we again.

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 and abide with you,
today and always.

Peace be with you!

All: And also with you.

SENDING MUSIC "Go Tell It on the Mountain"

Rebecca Mebert, *organ*; Aimée Backus & Cathy Ciganek, *flutes*; Sara Lieberman, *trumpet*;
Elikem Nyamuame & Ellis Nyamuame, *drums*; Ethan Nyamuame, *alto saxophone*;
Nathan Raboy, *trombone*; Austin Shadduck, *shakuhachi*; Phil Westcott, *tenor saxophone*

Music: African-American spiritual.

(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 as we celebrate all the birthdays in the month of October and wish Godspeed to the Meberts.

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** by Richard Bott, posted on Sharing Liturgy, reposted on re:Worship, re-worship.blogspot.com. **Gathering Prayer** adapted from a prayer by Joe Shadle, posted on JesuitResource.org. **We Say What We Believe** from The United Church of Canada, united-church.ca. **Prayer of the People** adapted from a prayer by John van de Laar, posted on Sacredise.com. **Prayer of Recognition** reprinted by permission from the *Book of Occasional Services*, © 1999 Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), a Corporation, for Congregational Ministries Division, Office of Theology and Worship. **We Bless Each Other on the Way** adapted from a prayer by Rev. Nora Vedress (Calvary United Church, Prince Albert, Saskatchewan), posted on unitedinchristlutheran.net.

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Pastors Rev. Kimberly P Chastain and Rev. Becky Kindig ~ **Reader** Phil Westcott

Musicians Aimée Backus, *Music Coordinator*; Rebecca Mebert, *accompanist*;
Austin Shadduck, *United Ringers director*; Cathy Ciganek, Andrea Gilebart, Robert Manners,
Sara Lieberman, Starletta Noll-Long, Elikem Nyamuame, Ellis Nyamuame, Ethan Nyamuame,
Nathan Raboy, Phil Westcott, the United Ringers handbell choir, and the UPC Choir

Technicians Andy Chadwick, Matt Johnson, Scott Kindig, Sara Lieberman, Ken Mebert